

QUESTIONS ON NOFO#72038624RFA00002

Strengthening Economic and Socio-Cultural Resilience of

Tibetan Communities in South Asia

Deadline for Submission: April 26, 2024

1. Do all direct awardees in the consortium require a UEI?

USAID Response: Yes, all the recipients of USAID awards and/or subawards are required to obtain the Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number. In addition, the Prime recipient of the award is required to obtain and maintain the valid active SAM Registration. For information regarding how to obtain the UEI and SAM registration, please visit www.sam.gov.

2. Would USAID advise to include information about partnership coordination under the DPD Program Description Template, or under Organizational Structure and Management Approach?

USAID Response: The applicant must describe the partnership coordination in both sections; Draft Program Description and the Organizational Structure Management. Please refer Sections D.4.2.2 and D.4.2.3 of the NOFO.

3. Can you provide more information about what is expected in Annex 1: Situation Model?

USAID Response: The Program Description Template is attached as an example. The applicant can decide on the relevant Annexes, if any.

4. Should direct awardees expect they will be responsible for SF424 and narrative quarterly reporting, in parallel with the prime's overall reporting responsibilities?

USAID Response: Yes, all the partners who receive the direct funding from USAID are responsible for the SF424. The reporting on the financial and performance of the activity and/or milestones stated under the direct award is the primary responsibility of the direct awardees.

5. Will the consortium members be accountable to USAID through the prime or directly for activities like reporting, approvals, etc.?

USAID Response: Consortium members will be accountable directly to USAID, for any reporting requirements/approvals that are included in their direct award. However, the Prime Implementing Partner is expected to be available to assist consortium members per capacity strengthening requirements of Section A.

6. If any consortium partner is requesting a direct award from USAID, will they be receiving funds directly from USAID and also other reporting requirements should submit by partner directly to USAID?

USAID Response: Direct awards are limited to one Prime Implementing Partner and three CTA Prime Partners for a total of four awards. Only these partners will receive direct awards. The Prime Implementing Partner can subaward to other partners, however, these will not receive direct awards. See above response for 5 on, reporting requirement

7. Under a proposed consortium with CTA partners receiving direct fixed amount awards, will the prime recipient be responsible and accountable for quarterly financial reporting to USAID on activities funded under fixed amount awards?

USAID Response: No, the Prime recipient will not be responsible for any quarterly financial reporting that is included in CTA's direct award. The CTA will be responsible for reporting requirements included in their awards. However, the Prime Implementing Partner may be called on to assist the CTA Partners with some of their reporting requirements per capacity strengthening requirements of Section A.

8. Under a proposed consortium with CTA partners receiving direct FAAs, will the prime recipient be responsible and accountable for performance indicator and activity reporting to USAID on activities funded under fixed amount awards?

USAID Response: CTA will be responsible for any performance indicators included in their awards. The prime will be accountable for performance indicators included in the Prime's direct award. However, the Prime Implementing Partner may be called on to assist the CTA Partners with some of their reporting requirements.

9. Is there a possibility to reconfigure partnerships during the co-creation phase? Or are partnerships proposed in the first round of applications definite?

USAID Response: Co-creation will include those partners identified in the application, lines of communication and management of the entire activity will be discussed during co-creation. Therefore, proposed partnerships are considered definite at time of submission of application.

10. Is CTA bound to pair with partners proposed by the prime? How should CTA deal in such a situation?

USAID Response: CTA is not bound to pair with partners proposed by the Prime. However, each partner of the consortium is expected to clearly describe lines of communications and approach in collectively delivering all the expected outcomes described in the NOFO. Therefore, any and all partner arrangements will be communicated and solidified during co-creation.

10. Can there be sub-recipients under a consortium partner who is a direct recipient?

USAID Response: Sub-awards must comply with the host country laws.

11. We understand prime + consortium members' arrangement but can the members be sub-recipients to start with and later be direct recipients, say year 2nd or 3rd?

USAID Response: Please refer to Amendment #2, Section A.2 for information pertaining to transition awards for sub-recipients that have not received any direct awards from USAID. Transition awards are subject to availability of funds and programmatic needs of USAID.

12. How many COP and DCOP are expected in one consortium arrangement? From which partners should the COP & DCOP be from?

USAID Response: Each consortium partner is responsible for identifying personnel necessary to implement their proposed activity. Therefore, each partner may have a COP or DCOP as determined necessary by the partner..

13. What will the plan submission and execution be like? AWP basis or 5 year or combination of both?

USAID Response: The applicant may present an activity for a period of up to five years. The Annual Work Plan is due after award and is for activities planned to be implemented during the year.

14. Can a prime apply for only one of the NOFO objectives? Can a prime candidate later be a sub-recipient?

USAID Response: A Prime Partner; an entity that receives a direct award, may also be a sub-recipient as long as the proposed approach is clear, contains no duplication of efforts, and has sufficient staffing to avoid any double dipping (utilizing the same staff to implement separate activities/awards simultaneously).

15. Can the prime suggest fixed amt award or cost reimbursement in the DPD?

USAID Response: The Prime can suggest the type of award, however, the type of award will be decided by the Agreement Officer.

16. Is it possible for a CTA partner to participate as a member of one consortium while simultaneously serving as a sub-awardees' and prime partner in another consortium?

USAID Response: A Prime CTA Partner; an entity that receives a direct award, may also be a sub-recipient as long as the proposed approach is clear, contains no duplication of efforts, and has sufficient staffing to avoid any double dipping (utilizing the same staff to implement separate activities/awards simultaneously).

17. Will the cooperative agreement be signed for a full upfront period of five years, or are the available funds allocated for a specific period with the potential for renewal after a few years?

USAID Response: The cooperative agreement will be for a period of five years subject to available funding. Please refer to Section B of the NOFO which states; “**USAID intends to provide US\$35,000,000 in total USAID funding over a five-year period. USAID reserves the right to change funding amounts and terms of the resulting Cooperative Agreement as a result of availability of funds and U.S. Government requirements.**”

18. Since the consortium partner for direct award must have active SAM registration upon submission of the full application, could we list certain potential partner names along with their clear roles and responsibilities in the DPD or AWP as placeholders, and subsequently engage directly in the direct award process once SAM registration is successfully completed?

USAID Response: SAM registration is required at Phase 3 Request for Full Technical and Cost Application. Any complications experienced with SAM registration can be discussed during co-creation, Phase 2.

19. Is NUPAS mandatory consortium partners who had been sub-recipient of USAID support to receive funds?

USAID Response: A NUPAS is required for cost-reimbursement awards for any partner that has not received a direct U.S. award.

20. Can a non-prime consortium partner that is a direct award recipient also be a sub grant recipient at the same time. For example, a CTA Department that receives a direct fixed amount award for some program activities, and a sub grant from the prime for other activities.

USAID Response: A Prime CTA Partner; an entity that receives a direct award, may also be a sub-recipient as long as the proposed approach is clear, contains no duplication of efforts, and has sufficient staffing to avoid any double dipping (utilizing the same staff to implement separate activities/awards simultaneously).

21. Under a proposed consortium with CTA partners receiving direct FAAs, is it permissible to propose a phased approach for one of the four consortium partners to begin as a sub grantee of the prime in the first year, and then begin receiving a direct FAA under the program in a later year?

USAID Response: Please refer to response at #12.

22. Under a proposed consortium with CTA partners receiving direct FAAs, will the consortium prime be required to submit a single annual work plan (AWP) for AOR

approval each year for all consortium program activities, including the budgets, activities, and deliverables under FAAs?

USAID Response: No, the consortium prime will not be required to submit a single annual work plan “for all consortium program activities”. Payment for FAAs will be based on the completion of milestones (deliverables) which are fixed amounts tied to each milestone as negotiated prior to award. Workplan for FAAs will be based on and tailored to the milestones.

23. Under a proposed consortium with CTA partners receiving direct FAAs, will the consortium prime be required to submit an MEL plan for all consortium program activities, including those under FAAs?

USAID Response: No, the Prime Implementing Partner will not be required to submit a MEL plan for all consortium program activities. However, the Prime Implementing Partner may be called on to assist the CTA Partners with developing their MEL plan.

24. Is there a recommended limit to the amount of a single FAA for a one (or three) year period?

USAID Response: The Fixed Amount Awards (FAA) is restricted to a three year period. However, if additional time is required, then the fixed amount award may be structured to include a “renewal award” of two additional years. This structure can be sorted out during co-creation.

25. Is there a recommended limit or percentage of the total proposed award amount to be expended as direct funding to non-prime consortium partners over the life of the award.

USAID Response: Amounts for direct awards are to be based on what is required to achieve the intended results of the proposed activity, consideration given to past experience in implementing similar activities. Therefore, it is important that the Prime Implementing Partner be provided with the proposed information from CTA partners seeking direct awards to ensure no duplication of efforts. Also, to allow the Lead Prime Implementing Partner to submit an application in accordance with the requirements of Section D for the remaining components that are not being proposed to be implemented by the CTA. Those applicants seeking to serve as the Lead Prime Implementing Partner are to contact Mr. Thupten Rinzin, Senior Programme Manager, Social And Resource Development Fund (SARD) Department of Finance, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) at pc@tibet.net to obtain the required information for the CTA’s consortium awards.

26. What is the standard definition of “secondary education” – does this include middle-secondary grades or only senior secondary grades.

USAID Response: Under this NOFO, the broader definition of secondary education includes students from grade 6-12. In accordance with the National Education Policy of

the Government of India (2020), Middle school students are those aged between 11-14 years and are in Grades 6-8, While secondary education refers to students who are aged between 14-18 years and are in Grades 9-12.