



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Date: October 13, 2022

Subject: NOFO Amendment 1

The purpose of this amendment is to respond to the following questions received in Answer to **NOFO: 72067422RFA00009 for ACCELERATE 1**

1. It appears from the detail in the summary of the NOFO that the expectation is that this is primarily a TA role to build capacity and build/strengthen resilient sustainable health systems; however the NOFO also makes specific reference to direct service delivery (DSD). Can we request clarity on the estimated allocation of DSD to TA? Assume it is 20% or less DSD (particularly with regards to the community outreach work) to 80% DSD but any further information with assist in understanding expectations in implementation

Answer : The ACCELERATE 1 activity will implement a program model which provides approximately 80% technical assistance (TA) at facility, district, provincial and national level. Limited direct service delivery (DSD) at 20% will be provided through roving teams at facility and community level. The estimated allocation between facility vs. community DSD should be determined by the Applicant based on understanding of the context and contribution of community interventions to overall results of the Activity. The Applicant should describe parameters which would determine when DSD would be provided.

2. Some of the NOFO's recommendations on support are currently not South African practice e.g., LTBI testing, household initiations of DS TB treatment etc. Will the Activity support the implementation of these in a research setting to provide evidence for wider rollout?

Answer: The ACCELERATE 1 activity aims to generate evidence for the National Department of Health/National TB Program on implementation of WHO recommended interventions under programmatic conditions. Interventions which are not yet included in the TB policy and guidelines in South Africa will be implemented as part of operational research in collaboration with the Department of Health. Additionally, USAID has been conducting several studies on TB interventions which are currently not South African practice e.g. LTBI testing among healthcare workers. The ACCELERATE 1 activity will support the National TB Program to use findings from such studies to revise policy and scale up these interventions.

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3. There are several challenges with TB data access and the responsiveness of existing data systems to newer interventions. Will the Activity support the development and implementation of a parallel reporting and recording system which will complement existing systems and with the longer-term aim of ensuring NDoH systems are strengthened and can eventually include the newer reporting requirements?

Answer: No. The ACCELERATE 1 activity aims to provide technical support to improve existing Department of Health data systems to be more responsive to newer interventions and enable the National TB Program to report accurate data within South Africa and globally to WHO.

4. Please clarify at the Provincial and National level the coordination expectations between USAID investments and the Global Fund investments.

Answer: USAID collaborates with other development partners in implementing the TB program. At provincial and national level, the ACCELERATE 1 activity will play an active role in supporting the Department of Health to activate a TB donor coordination forum or use existing platforms to engage regularly with development partners to maximize synergies and avoid duplication.

5. With regards to activities related to roll-out new rapid molecular diagnostics based on WHO recommendations, will there be an expectation of any upstream market access work in this area- business cases for financing, regulatory approval processes, cost benefit or other product entry activities to enter new diagnostic tools over the 5 years period?

- This question not only applies to diagnostics but also to products- roll-out of child-friendly treatment formulations and other therapies mentioned.
- This goes beyond quantification and supply chain management under Ir4.1

Answer: No. The ACCELERATE 1 activity will focus on quantification and supply chain management.

6. The NOFO refers to a list of skills expected of the key personnel. Are there particular required positions? Is there a level of education and years of experience expected for key personnel?

Answer: As indicated in section A.8 of the NOFO, the Applicant should propose key personnel with the relevant skills and experience to successfully implement the Activity and achieve results.

7. Could USAID confirm if this is a follow on to TB Lon?

Answer: No. It is not a TB LON follow on.

8. Does the donor have a preference for the LoE to support the three levels of intervention (district, provincial and national)? IR1

Answer: The Applicant should propose LOE which demonstrates understanding of the required technical support at district, provincial and national level based on the interventions and results to be achieved.

9. The 25-page limit for technical applications may be too brief to sufficiently respond to USAID's detailed instructions and evaluation criteria. Would USAID consider increasing the page limit for technical applications to allow for complete and comprehensive Answers from applicants?

Answer: No. USAID will not increase the page limit for technical applications.

10. On page 26, USAID advises that applications should be submitted in Microsoft Word **and** PDF, noting that in case of any discrepancy the PDF version will be considered over the Word version. Can you please confirm that USAID would like applicants to submit two separate copies of their proposals – one in Word form and one in PDF form? This would increase the volume of documents and overall size of files being transmitted considerably.

Answer: Yes. As indicated on page 26, applications should be submitted via Microsoft Word and PDF formats, except budget files which must be submitted in Microsoft Excel. Prospective applicants are requested to follow the Application Submission Procedures in Section D3.2 of the NOFO.

11. On page 29, USAID requests information for three past performance references for each key personnel candidate's most recent supervisors. Confidentiality is important to candidates and most, if not all, prefer that their current supervisors not be notified until they have a (non-contingent) offer in hand. We would not wish to violate candidate confidentiality by alerting their current employers of their wish to seek alternative employment. Would USAID consider changing this requirement?

Answer: Bullet #3 of Section D.4 H "Technical Annexes" on page 29 of the NOFO states the following: Annex C – Proposed Key Personnel CVs and Letters of Commitment: Applicants are required to submit the following documents: current resume (maximum 4 pages per key personnel), listing chronologically the candidates' education and work experience and describing his/her responsibilities for each position; names and contact information of three professional references for each candidate; and signed letter of commitment.

A professional reference can be from any individual that the candidate would have worked with in a professional capacity who can attest to their capability in terms of skills, knowledge and professionalism and not necessarily the candidate's current supervisor.

12. When is Accelerate 2 expected to drop?

Answer: Please continue to monitor the USAID Business Forecast for any updates on ACCELERATE 2. If USAID/SA issues a solicitation or funding opportunity, it will be posted on www.sam.gov or at www.grants.gov. It is the potential offeror or applicant's responsibility to monitor these sites.

13. Could USAID please provide further information around the potential selection process for sub-recipients? E.g. Will USAID primarily leave it to the PRs discretion, or will it need to be a public and transparent process?

Answer: At this stage, the process is at the discretion of the Prime Applicant. Post award, all new sub-recipients proposed will require USAID approval.

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14. Is the 1" margins for the proposal AND annexes as well?

Answer: Yes, it does.

15. Will USAID include the % amount of cost share the applicant can leverage for this application as part of the merit criteria?

Answer: Cost share is not included in the merit review criteria but a requirement for the application which will be reviewed for compliance with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.306, 2 CFR 700.10 and the Standard Provision "Cost Share" for non-U.S. entities

16. Kindly clarify if applications are limited to the geographic districts listed “namely Gauteng (Tshwane and Sedibeng districts), KwaZulu Natal (Uthukela and Amajuba districts), and Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Bay, Joe Gqabi and Sarah Baartman districts)”. Our NGO is located in Umzinyathi, KZN – are we eligible to apply to support district or provincial KZN TB programmes?

Answer: The ACCELERATE 1 activity will support the provinces and districts listed in section A.6. Organizations which meet the eligibility criteria described in section C.1 can apply to implement this Activity.

17. Please clarify for Annex C if there is any page limit on resumes 4 and letters of commitment 1page outside of 4 page limit per resume? Is there a total limit? Is it 5X4=20 (including a letter of commitment or is it 5x4 (resume)+1(letter of commitment) = 25?

Answer: Each 4-page resume must be accompanied by a letter of commitment from the proposed Key Personnel candidate.

18. If the organization plans to work with international organizations as consultants on a short-term basis, do we need to include their detailed budget ?

Answer: All costs that will be incurred for the implementation of the ACCELERATE 1 Activity must be included in the cost application.

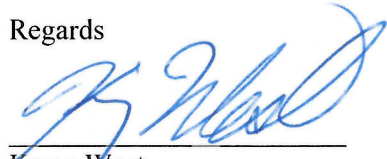
19. The following opportunity was posted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov): Accelerate TB Elimination (Accelerate 1) activity in South Africa. With [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) down until next week, could you please send me the documents that were attached to the opportunity? I haven't been able to find them on other sites.

Answer: The NOFO and all its supporting documents are currently available on: www.grants.gov

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All other terms and conditions of the NOFO remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kerry West', is written over a horizontal line.

Kerry West
Regional Agreement Office