



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

APS Issuance Date: November 13, 2014

APS Closing Date: November 11, 2015

Funding Opportunity Title: Annual Program Statement APS-OAA-15-000002
Social Science Research in Population and Reproductive Health

Deadline for Submission of Concept Papers:

January 12, 2015 by 12:00pm EST

Submit Concept Papers electronically to:

Mr. Terry Vann Ellis
Agreement Specialist
tellis@usaid.gov

Ms. Alisa J. Dunn
Agreement Officer
adunn@usaid.gov

Dear Interested Applicants:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking concept papers from qualified U.S and other non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for a program titled "Social Science Research in Population and Reproductive Health."

The purpose of this APS is to publicize the United States Government's (USG) intent to fund one award through USAID Washington's Office of Population and Reproductive Health (PRH) to support a broad range of social science and behavioral research and technical assistance on a focused set of population, family planning, and reproductive health (FP/RH) issues. The award under this APS will address social and normative change, at scale, focusing on gender-related factors and other social issues that affect key family planning and reproductive health outcomes, including increasing use of modern contraception and improving healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies.

Applicants will first submit a *Concept Paper* that will be reviewed for responsiveness to the objective of this APS. **If an applicant is successful in the concept paper stage, USAID will request the submission of a full application, with content and format to be provided in greater detail by the Agreement Officer.**

USAID anticipates awarding one Cooperative Agreement, with a period of performance

of five years. The award ceiling shall not exceed \$30 million. Applicants are required to provide a 10% cost share.

Please submit any questions regarding this APS electronically to Mr. Terry Vann Ellis at tellis@usaid.gov by November 26, 2014 by 12:00pm EST.

This APS is issued under the authority of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. Awards to U.S. organizations will be in accordance with 22 CFR 226, Mandatory Standard Provisions for U.S. Non-governmental Recipients, and the as applicable additional Standard Provisions for U.S. Non-governmental Recipients. The mandatory and other applicable standard provisions for U.S. Non-governmental Recipients are available on the USAID internet site: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303maa.pdD>.

Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for the costs incurred in the submission of an application. Further, the U.S. Government reserves the right to reject any or all applications received, or to negotiate separately with an applicant if such an action is considered to be in the interest of the U.S. Government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alisa J. Dunn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alisa J. Dunn
Agreement Officer
Office of Acquisition and Assistance
M/OAA/GH/POP

Annual Program Statement (APS) Number: APS-OAA-15-000002

Social Science Research in Population and Reproductive Health

SECTION I: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Statement of purpose: The purpose of the APS is to publicize the United States Government's (USG) plan to fund one award through USAID/Washington's Office of Population and Reproductive Health (PRH) to support a broad range of social science and behavioral research and technical assistance on a focused set of family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) issues. The objective of the APS is described below. Funds may support activities that develop and test scalable interventions to achieve social and normative change for FP/RH outcomes; build on existing activities to test evidence-based practices/interventions in new settings; provide technical assistance for replication and scale up of successful interventions; and monitor and evaluate the impact and sustainability of scale up of evidence-based interventions, including evaluation of current or previous activities funded by USAID or other donors.

The award under this APS will contribute to PRH's strategic objective of advancing and supporting FP/RH programs worldwide and health objectives of reducing unintended pregnancies, abortion, and improving maternal and child health. This APS will address two cross-cutting issues for PRH, gender and youth, which are also Agency-wide focal areas as highlighted in USAID's Youth in Development Policy and Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy.

The key objective of this award is to address a broad range of social and normative issues, at scale, to achieve family planning and reproductive health outcomes, such as increasing use of modern contraception and improving healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies. Topics should focus on social and normative factors that affect FP/RH outcomes and could include, but are not limited to: increasing effective male engagement to improve FP/RH; reducing intimate partner violence; and decreasing child marriage. Target populations may include newly married couples; very young adolescents; older adolescents; and other key populations identified by applicants.

This APS is issued under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. The award shall be made in accordance with federal regulations and agency policy. For U.S non-governmental organizations, awards shall be administered according to 22 CFR 226. OMB Circulars and USAID Standard Provisions will apply <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303maa.pdf>; for non U.S. non-government organizations, USAID provisions for non-government organizations will apply <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.pdf>. The funding is provided through the Office of Population and Reproductive Health, and the awardee will be expected to comply with USAID regulations governing family planning and

reproductive health programs.

Period of performance: The proposed period of performance for the award as a result of this APS will be five (5) years.

SECTION II: AWARD INFORMATION

Funding: Pending the availability of funding, USAID anticipates awarding one cooperative agreement for the objective described above.

Please submit any questions regarding this APS, electronically to Terry Vann Ellis at tellis@usaid.gov by November 26, 2014 at 12:00pm.

Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the U.S. Government, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a concept paper or an application. USAID reserves the right to make no awards through this APS.

Criteria for Award Selection: A Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) will evaluate the concept paper responsiveness to the specifications outlined in this APS. **Additional instructions and criteria will be provided after evaluation of concept papers and when full applications are requested.** Applicants must have a long-standing history and expertise in improving women's health and empowerment, with a focus on family planning and reproductive health, research, working with men and communities, and an extensive network within and across countries to maximize impact.

Background and Program Description: The strategic objective of USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health (PRH) within the Global Health Bureau is to advance and support voluntary FP/RH programs worldwide. These programs are intended to enhance women's ability to choose the number and spacing of their children, thereby preventing unintended pregnancies and reducing abortion. In addition, PRH seeks to achieve its objectives by strengthening in-country collaboration among community development organizations, other PVOs/NGOs, the commercial private sector and host government authorities.

Social and normative factors have been shown to affect family planning outcomes. For example, practices such as marriage of girls before the age of 18 years and intimate partner violence affect FP/RH outcomes such as use of modern contraception, healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies, and unmet need for contraception. Gender norms, defined as social expectations of appropriate roles for men, women, boys, and girls, have been shown to influence gender equality, thus affecting sexual and reproductive health behaviors. (References in Appendix 1)

Addressing these and other social factors over the long term remains challenging. More than 200 million women in developing countries have an unmet need for contraception. Surveys reveal that, in addition to factors related to quality of services and financial barriers, complex social factors contribute to unmet need, including perceived lack of exposure to risk of pregnancy risk, societal opposition to family planning, and lack of knowledge of methods and sources. The ability to access contraceptive methods, even when they are available, is affected by gender roles and power dynamics, which can limit women's mobility and use of household resources to purchase contraception. Gender norms also influence communication and the decision-making process for contraceptive use among men and women. Research suggests that gender-equitable engagement of men and boys can improve health behaviors and outcomes, and decrease gender-based violence. (References in Appendix 1)

To address complex social norms affecting FP/RH, evidence-based interventions that can be implemented and reproduced at scale in multiple contexts over the long term are needed. While innovative interventions have been piloted to address social factors and gender norms related to family planning and reproductive health, questions still remain about effective processes to implement interventions at large scale so that they are sustainable over the long term.

The purpose of this APS is to support activities in developing country settings to address social and normative change at scale. The applicant should build upon the existing evidence base of effective interventions in the field, as well as ongoing studies. In addition, the applicant should incorporate lessons from projects that have not worked or have not been effective at changing FP/RH outcomes of interest.

Funds may support activities that develop and test scalable interventions to achieve social and normative change for FP/RH outcomes; build on existing activities to test evidence-based practices/interventions in new settings; provide technical assistance for replication and scale up of successful interventions; and monitor and evaluate the impact and sustainability of scale up of evidence-based interventions, including evaluation of current or previous activities funded by USAID or other donors.

The awardee should aim to measure final outcomes and behaviors related to FP/RH such as use of modern contraception and healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies. The PRH Office focuses its family planning efforts in countries of high need, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen, and Zambia and has been recently engaged in additional Ouagadougou Partnership countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Mauritania, and Togo). It is envisaged that the awardee will complement the FP/RH work in these countries and focus within regions of these countries where prevalence of behaviors of interest are the highest.

Precursors to this APS, supported by PRH's Research, Technology, and Utilization Division, include the Gender Roles, Equality and Transformations (GREAT) Project/The Responsible Engaged and Loving (REAL) Fathers Initiative; the Tékpouon Jikuagou (TJ) Project; the Impact on Marriage: Program Assessment of Conditional Cash Transfer (IMPACCT) Project; and Building an Evidence Base of Effective Programs that Increase the Age at Marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa. Details about these projects are available on websites referenced in Appendix 1.

SECTION III: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligibility Criteria: To qualify for funding, organizations must: (1) be US organizations or non-US organizations registered and working in USAID priority countries; (2) have documented experience in implementing research and providing technical assistance to improve programs in developing countries with a focus on improving FP/RH outcomes and gender equity; and (3) have links with community based support systems and non-government organizations, and have a strong and documented track record in working with these organizations. Partnerships across organizations, especially with organizations in developing countries, are strongly encouraged to submit a concept paper.

COST SHARING

A cost share minimum of 10% is required for any Cooperative Agreement resulting from this APS. Please provide your cost share information as a part of the Concept paper submission. Cost share can include cash or in-kind contributions, and will be determined subject to the requirements of 22CFR 226.23.

SECTION IV: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Overview

Concept papers and applications received under this APS will be reviewed based on full and open competition and in accordance with the procedures and selection criteria identified in this APS. Competition under this APS will consist of a two-step process where applicants first submit a concept paper for an initial competitive review. All concept papers received will be evaluated by a USAID Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) for responsiveness to the objective outlined in this APS. Applicants successful in the concept paper stage will then be invited by USAID to submit a full application. The full application will offer the applicant an opportunity to explain their technical approach outlined in the concept paper in more detail. Applicants will also be provided more detailed instructions and evaluation criteria for the full application submission.

B. Concept Paper Instructions

This section provides information on preparing concept papers.

Organizations that wish to be considered for funding must submit a concept paper. The concept paper must be written in English and must not exceed five (5) pages (not including the cover sheet, summary budget, or attachments), using 8-1/2 x 11 paper size and Times New Roman 11-point font, with 1-inch margins. The narrative should include:

1. **Strategy** — An explanation of the problem(s) to be addressed, the expected goals to be achieved, and a short description of the theoretical basis and approaches to be used to achieve the goals.
2. **Beneficiary Population and Site Selection** — A summary of the characteristics and details of the target population(s) and site(s) selected for research, and/or technical assistance for scale up and a brief explanation of the rationale for selection.
3. **Activity Description** — A description of potential activities that will be undertaken, including a brief discussion of potential research questions and methodologies and plans for broader scale up/utilization as applicable.
4. **Project monitoring and evaluation** — A short outline of expected results, outcomes and impact, potential indicators, and mechanisms to monitor progress.
5. **Technical/Administrative Capabilities in Proposed Work Area** — A description of the applicant's technical and administrative experience and capabilities and the expertise of proposed key personnel.

Summary Budget

Provide a one-page budget that clearly identifies the major costs by line items, such as personnel, travel, training, commodities, etc. Cost sharing of at least 10% is

required. Please provide information on your cost share as part of the summary budget.

Reference Materials and Annexes

Applicants may provide brochures and/or other previously prepared material that describes the applicant's organization, operating history, membership and management structure. The reference materials and annexes should not exceed four (4) pages and are not considered as part of the concept paper page count of five (5) pages.

Annex 1. List of Illustrative References

Adams MK, Salazar E, Lundgren R (2013). Tell them you are planning for the future: Gender norms and family planning among adolescents in northern Uganda. *Int J Gynecol Obstet* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijgo.2013.07.004>.

Boender, C., D. Santana, D. Santillan, K. Hardee, M.E. Greene and S. Schuler. 2004. The “So What?” Report: A Look at Whether Integrating a Gender Focus Into Programmes Makes a Difference to Outcomes. Accessed at: <http://www.who.int/gender/documents/SoWhatReportSept.05.pdf>

Bongaarts J, Bruce J (1995). The causes of unmet need for contraception and the social content of services. *Studies in Family Planning* 26(2):57-75.

Lee-Rife S, Malhotra A, Warner A, Glinski AM (2012). What Works to Prevent Child Marriage: A Review of the Evidence. *Studies in Family Planning* 43(4): 287–303.

Raj A, Saggurti N, Balaiah D, Silverman JG (2009). Prevalence of child marriage and its effect on fertility and fertility-control outcomes of young women in India: a cross-sectional, observational study. *The Lancet* 371 (9678): 1883 – 1889.

Rottach, E., S. Schuler and K. Hardee. 2009. Gender Perspectives Improve Reproductive Health Outcomes: New Evidence. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2003. It Takes 2: Partnering with Men in Reproductive & Sexual Health. New York: UNFPA

World Health Organization (2007). Engaging men and boys in changing gender-based inequity in health: Evidence from programme interventions. Geneva.

World Health Organization (2009). Practical guidance for scaling up health service innovations. Geneva.

Weblink for Building an Evidence Base of Effective Programs that Increase the Age at Marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa: <http://www.popcouncil.org/research/building-an-evidence-base-to-delay-marriage-in-sub-saharan-africa>

Weblink for GREAT Project: http://irh.org/projects/great_project/

Weblink for IMPACCT Project: <http://www.icrw.org/where-we-work/evaluating-power-conditional-cash-transfers-ccts-delay-marriage-india>

Weblink for REAL Fathers Initiative: <http://irh.org/projects/real-fathers-initiative/#sthash.02178uQy.dpuf>

Weblink for TJ Project: http://irh.org/projects/tekponon_jikuagou/