



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ARMENIA

DATE: July 25, 2013

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT # 1 to RFA-111-13-000002, NK Humanitarian Mine Clearance Program

ISSUANCE DATE: July 8, 2013

CLOSING DATE: August 7, 2013, 10:00AM Yerevan Time

The purposes of this Amendment #1 to RFA-111-13-000002 are to:

- (i) Revise the total estimated amount of the program and decrease it from \$6,000,000 to \$5,000,000;
- (ii) Revise the estimated length of the program and reduce it from 4 years to 2.5 years;
- (iii) Provide revised RFA pages (Attachment A.)
- (iv) Provide answers to the request for clarifications (Attachment B.).

All other requirements, instructions, terms and conditions of the RFA remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Chappell
Agreement Officer

ATTACHMENT A.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Issuance Date: July 8, 2013
RFA Clarification Questions Due: July 18, 2013, 10:00AM Yerevan time
Closing Date and Time for Application Submission: August 7, 2013, 10:00AM Yerevan time

Subject: Request for Applications (RFA) Number: RFA-111-13-000002

RFA Title: NK Humanitarian Mine Clearance Program

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for Assistance Agreements from U.S. organizations for funding to support a program entitled “NK Humanitarian Mine Clearance Program.” The authority for the RFA is found in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. Please refer to the Program Description for a complete statement of goals and expected results.

While for-profit firms may participate, pursuant to 22 CFR 226.81, it is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments such as cooperative agreements. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the grant program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (22 CFR 226, OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit organization, OMB Circular A-21 for universities, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for-profit organizations), may be paid under the LWA Cooperative Agreement.

Applicants under consideration for an award that have never received funding from USAID will be subject to a pre-award audit to determine fiscal responsibility, ensure adequacy of financial controls and establish an indirect cost rate.

Subject to the availability of funds, Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to provide approximately \$~~65~~5,000,000 in total USAID funding to be allocated over the ~~42~~5 years period. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

Award will be made to that responsible applicant(s) whose application(s) best meets the requirements of this RFA and the selection criteria contained herein. Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

This RFA and any future amendments can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov>. Select “Find Grant Opportunities,” then click on “Browse by Agency,” and select the “U.S. Agency

SECTION II

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

I.1 Award Information

USAID expects to award one Cooperative Agreement based on this RFA. The anticipated total federal funding amount is \$~~65~~5,000,000. The funding for assistance to the people of NK is notified under the USAID Eurasia Regional Program and administered by the USAID Mission to Armenia (USAID/Armenia) due to location and logistics. The period of performance is ~~42.5~~ years with an anticipated start date of September 30, 2013.

USAID will be substantially involved during the implementation of this Cooperative Agreement in the following ways:

1. Approval of the recipient's annual work plans, reports, monitoring and evaluation plan, and all modifications that describe the specific activities to be carried out under the Cooperative Agreement;
2. Approval of and any changes to specified key personnel; and
3. Agency and recipient collaboration or joint participation (collaborative involvement in selection of advisory committee members, concurrence on selection of sub-award recipients, and/or the substantive provisions of the sub-awards).

The Government may issue one or more awards resulting from this RFA to the responsible applicant(s) whose application(s) conforming to this RFA are the most responsive to the objectives set forth in this RFA. The Government may (a) reject any or all applications, (b) accept other than the lowest cost application, (c) accept more than one application, (d) accept alternate applications, and (e) waive informalities and minor irregularities in applications received.

The Government may make award on the basis of initial applications received, without discussions or negotiations. Therefore, each initial application should contain the applicant's best terms from a cost and technical standpoint. The Government reserves the right (but is not under obligation to do so), however, to enter into discussions with one or more applicants in order to obtain clarifications, additional detail, or to suggest refinements in the program description, budget, or other aspects of an application.

Neither financial data submitted with an application nor representations concerning facilities or financing, will form a part of the resulting agreement(s).

The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed award may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed cooperative agreement or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

ANNEX C

1. metal. The manual teams should be equipped with appropriate detectors, blast protection clothing and basic hand tools.
2. Large Loop Detector (LLD) Mineclearance, which is used to clear metal bodies and anti-tank mines and allows ground containing AT mines only to be cleared quicker than when traditional manual deminers are employed (without compromising safety). In the areas where there is a risk of plastic anti-tank mines, this method of clearance should be supplemented with prodding.
3. Mechanical Mineclearance – this method when special mine protected machinery/vehicles is being used in the situations where other methods are not appropriate or safe.

The implementing partner is free to use any other innovative techniques and methods, as well as advance technologies and tools.

All clearance work shall be performed in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

Following are the expected results from demining and BAC activities:

- Elimination of mine and unexploded ordnance contamination in NK.
- Elimination of AT accidents by tractor drivers.
- Additional land is freed up for the planting and cultivation of wheat with an obvious positive impact on rural NK.
- Increased grape production.
- Traditional NK territory (as defined above) is declared a mine-clear zone.

To reach those results by the end of the project the following tasks must be completed:

1. Clearance of all the remaining anti-personnel (AP) minefields.
2. Clearance of all the remaining anti-tank (AT) minefields.
3. Surface clearance of the entire remaining cluster munition in strike zones.

In the chart below an estimate of the remaining clearance area is presented (provided by HALO Trust, based on polygon survey results):

Remaining Contaminated Area in Traditional Nagorno Karabakh (Hectares Remaining as of 08.05.13)	
Anti-Personnel (AP) Minefield Area	108
Anti-Tank (AT) Minefield Area	80
Total Mined Remaining Area	188
Total Surface BAC Area Remaining	4,163

We expect completion of the mine clearance activities within ~~four~~two years and six months with a funding level up to \$~~65~~65,000,000 USD.

The figures relating to estimated remaining areas in this document and predicted clearance times for those areas are provided for guidance purposes only and should not be regarded as

ATTACHMENT B.

#	Question	Answer
1	I.3, sub-section 8 refers to applicants providing information on “Estimated costs of communications products that are anticipated under the Cooperative Agreement.” Does this refer to publications produced and distributed by the successful applicant or to communications hardware such as mobile phones and radios purchased for operational purposes?	Communication products are defined as “any printed material [other than non-color photocopy material], photographic services, or video production services”. Please see the following detail on Estimated Costs of Communications Products under sub-section 8 on page IV-12. 8. Estimated Costs of Communications Products The following are the estimate(s) of the cost of each separate communications product (i.e., any printed material [other than non-color photocopy material], photographic services, or video production services) which is anticipated under the grant. Each estimate must include all the costs associated with preparation and execution of the product. Use a continuation page as necessary.
2	The RFA states that the total amount of federal funding anticipated is \$6,000,000 over a period of four years; is there an expected limit on the amount available in any one year?	This information was incorrect. The anticipated total amount of the program is \$5 million over 2½ years period with an estimated funding level not to exceed \$2 million per year.
3	There is no mention of Mine Risk Education in the RFA. Although USAID is not currently funding this activity it is our belief that it remains a necessary activity in Nagorno Karabakh. Is this deliberately excluded from USAID’s priorities for next four years?	With approximately 94% of the mines cleared, and 100% clearance the projected goal, Mine Risk Education is not a priority. This does not imply that no funds should be spent on Mine Risk Education, but simply that it is not of high priority.
4	In section III.4 (page III-5) the following expected results are listed (HALO’s numbering): i. Elimination of mine and unexploded ordnance contamination in NK. ii. Elimination of AT accidents by tractor drivers. iii. Additional land is freed up for the planting and cultivation of wheat with an obvious positive impact on rural NK. iv. Increased grape production.	Expected result i. should read “Elimination of mines and unexploded <i>surface</i> ordinance contamination....”

	v. Traditional NK territory (as defined above) is declared a mine-clear zone. Whilst we believe ii, iii, iv, v and the first part of i (elimination of mine contamination in NK) are achievable we do not believe that it is realistic for USAID to aim for the elimination of UXO contamination (the second part of point i). There are two reasons for this: 1) USAID is not proposing the sub-surface clearance of cluster munition strikes, and consequently cluster munitions will continue to be found in NK. 2) There is also a randomly distributed unexploded and abandoned ordnance problem across NK. It is not feasible to deal with this by systematic clearance – it is best dealt with by call out to items as they are found (which is included in the RFA). Items of ordnance will continue to be found long after the end of this planned project. We suggest that the elimination of unexploded ordnance is removed from the expected results (after all, this would not be a realistic expectation in Belgium or eastern Germany).	
5	It is stated in the RFA that USAID will not fund activities in “green villages.” Where a minefield crosses the boundary between “traditional” NK and “green villages” and the majority of the minefield lies in “traditional” NK, will USAID allow the clearance of the whole minefield?	USAID can only fund work carried out in traditional NK. Where minefields cross the boundaries of traditional NK, only those sections of the mine fields in traditional NK can be cleared using USAID funding.
6	Whilst HALO agrees that the aim of a mine free NK is achievable with the resources that are potentially available, minefields that are not currently known may be discovered over the life of any grant that is awarded. These may have an impact upon the successful applicant’s ability to make NK mine free. We presume that any contract arising from this RFA will take account of this.	Agree. Nevertheless, USAID does not currently expect any additional funding beyond the amount included in this RFA (\$5 million) to be allocated to humanitarian demining in NK.