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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

August 30, 2016

Comments Due Date: September 16, 2016, 12:00 pm (Pakistan Time)

Subject: Health Systems Strengthening Project (II)
Maternal Neonatal Child Health Project (II)

Dear Partners:

The United States Government, represented by the Agency for International Development (USAID), Office of Health, Population and Nutrition (OHPN) is seeking feedback in the areas of Health System Strengthening (II) and Maternal Neonatal Child Health (II): Integrated Health Service Delivery and Behavior Change Communications (SD/BCC) under USAID/Pakistan health program.

USAID/Pakistan's health development hypothesis is: if key health systems are strengthened, this will lead to increased equity, sustained coverage, and improved quality in the provision of integrated, high-impact health services, including family planning, maternal and child health services, nutrition, and water and sanitation services. This, in turn, will lead to reduced maternal and child mortality. Below is a description of the Results Framework (RF) from a recent Mission's M&E plan. Both of the activities will contribute to all three sub-intermediate-results (IRs). At a lower level, HSS-II will contribute to the governance, logistics management, finance, health information, HR, and quality improvement sub-sub IRs. SD/BCC will contribute to governance, health information, and demand IRs:

IR5.1: If domestic government resources are mobilized for health at the decentralized level, and expended appropriately for services to the underserved; and if essential health commodities are made available at all health service delivery points, then equity in the delivery of FP and MNCH services will be increased.

IR 5.2: If health information systems are strengthened, and if demand for health services is increased, this will lead to improved coverage of FP and MNCH services.

IR 5.3: If the human resources for health system is improved (if trained staff are available and deployed at the facility and community levels, and if and if monitoring systems for the quality of health service delivery are strengthened), and if sub-national quality improvement units are established, then the quality of FP and MNCH health service delivery will improve.

IR 5.1.3: Improvements in health governance underlying all three sub-IRs.

1. Health Systems Strengthening II

The purpose of the HSS II activity is to provide key technical assistance in the area of HSS in an integrated and coordinated manner at federal, provincial and community levels in an effort to reach the below-mentioned objectives and to ultimately help improve the health and wellbeing of people

in Pakistan. This activity seeks to support the GOP in strengthening the national health system to increase financial protection of beneficiaries and promote the delivery, quality, and use of health services by underserved populations. In so doing, this activity aims to strengthen and expand performance of the overall health care system, inclusive of GOP and USAID priority health programs.

ACTIVITY GOAL

The overall goal of this activity is to have ***strengthened and expanded performance of the Pakistan health system at federal, provincial and community levels***. The activity will contribute to the achievement of USAID/Pakistan's goal of reduced maternal and child mortality; the GOP's Call for Action Child Survival and Development to accelerate child survival and development; USAID's global goals to end preventable maternal and child deaths.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The four key objectives of the activity are to have:

1. Institutionalized health systems thinking approaches and practices to strengthen structural and process attributes towards increased advocacy, leadership and stewardship at federal and provincial levels of Pakistan's health care system (***Leadership and Advocacy***). This objective will contribute to Intermediate Results (IR) 5.1.3 Improved governance at the federal, provincial and district health departments through better management of resources, increased transparency in decision-making and accountability.

2. Improved multi-level GOP policy, planning, and implementation capacity with broad based participation, and decentralization plan effectively implemented beyond provincial level. (***Governance, and Policy & Planning***). This objective will contribute to IR 5.1.3 and IR 5.3.2 Improved human resources system.

3A. Increased revenue mobilized by the health sector through Pakistan domestic and private sector sources to identify and expand coverage of equitable, evidence-based, and cost-effective health financing for the urban and rural poor, especially women, infants and children. (***Management, Coordination and Implementation***). This objective will contribute to IR 5.1.2 Improved advocacy for domestic resource mobilization (financing) at provincial and lower levels.

3B. Improved and expanded quality health services through more effective and efficient use of existing resources in the health system, achieving better value for money (***Management, Coordination and Implementation***). This objective will contribute to IR 5.1.3, IR 5.2 Improved coverage of high-impact practices, and IR 5.3 Improved quality of high-impact health services.

4. Improved M&E, Health Systems Research Agenda, learning and knowledge based practices to facilitate evidence-based decision-making using improved quality of and use of data. (***M&E, Learning, and Knowledge-Based Practices***). This objective will contribute to IR 5.2.2 Improved health information system.

2. Maternal Neonatal Child Health Project (II): Integrated Health Service Delivery and Behavior Change Communications

USAID intends to support the integrated delivery of high-impact health services at the household and clinic levels through the public and private sectors in one or more districts/provinces in Pakistan. This

service delivery will be complemented by integrated, multi-channel behavior change communications campaigns and messaging related to care-seeking for high-impact health services, as well as the practice of healthful behaviors. USAID's overall objective in health is to end preventable child and maternal deaths, therefore the objective of this activity will be to build capacity to deliver health services and conduct behavior change communications that will reduce mortality among children and mothers. The activity should also focus on improving the coverage, equity, and quality of health service delivery and behavior change communications.

Coverage: The activity should reach new, previously unreached users, or those who face significant barriers to accessing health care. Particularly in family planning, attention should be paid to ensuring that activities reach true "new users" and not users who have switched from another project/donor supported clinic.

Equity: The activity should focus on providing health services and behavior change communications to those in the bottom wealth quintile, as well as other disadvantaged populations.

Quality: The activity should build the capacity of health and behavior change communications professionals and systems to provide high-quality health services and communications.

Please note that responding to this RFI will not give any advantage to any organization or individual in any subsequently issued notice of funding opportunity, as comments are strictly for information gathering purposes. Therefore providing comments on the RFI will not preclude respondents from later being able to submit an application. Issuance of this RFI does not constitute a notice of funding opportunity, which is issued through a separate process. The RFI does not represent any award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it obligate the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any comments. Information received as part of this RFI shall become the property of USAID therefore proprietary information that cannot be shared should not be sent.

This RFI can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov>. Interested parties who are not able to retrieve the RFI from the Internet can request a copy by contacting the Office of Acquisition and Assistance via email only at pkcontract@usaid.gov.

The Mission plans to hold a meeting during the last week of September 2016 for all potential interested parties to provide feedback on both the Service Delivery and HSS procurements. The meeting date, time and location will be communicated in the near future.

Comments should be submitted to USAID via email to pkcontract@usaid.gov with a subject line "Response to RFI-AID-OAA-16-HSS/SD" no later than September 16, 2016, 12:00 pm Pakistan Time.

Thank you for your interest in our program. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,



Nadeem Shah
Agreement Officer