

AMENDMENT #02 - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FEED-THE-FUTURE NIGERIA RURAL RESILIENCE (NOFO #72062019RFA00006)

1. Would USAID kindly consider expanding the Key Personnel Education Requirements to include “or other related fields of study”?

USAID Response: No changes will be made to the Key Personnel Education Requirements. All requirements remain as stated in the NOFO.

2. Would USAID kindly consider accepting candidates who have a Bachelor’s Degree with an additional five years of relevant technical experience in lieu of an Graduate Degree?

USAID Response: No changes will be made to the Key Personnel Education Requirements. All requirements remain as stated in the NOFO.

3. Given the geographic priorities described in Section 6.1 of the NOFO, other than the clearance of landmines or other explosive remnants of war (ERW), are there other criteria that USAID has in mind for determining which areas provide sufficient security to allow for medium- to long-term development efforts?

USAID Response: In consultation with USAID-funded and other donor-funded activities in the region, applicants shall select areas that are secured for medium to long-term development efforts.

4. Section F, part 7(e)(1) requires the implementing partner to provide USAID with an initial list and then quarterly lists of all personnel, including subrecipient personnel, fully or partially funded under the award. Can USAID clarify what it intends to do with this information? Other than name and position title, is there any other information that is expected to be included on this list?

USAID Response: The requested information from the applicant is in line with the security operation plan requirement. The requested information will enable USAID to monitor or know the recipient’s employees (including sub-recipient employees) on ground for the purpose of security accountability in the event of any security/emergency occurrence. The listed information under the referenced NOFO section is only what is required to be submitted to USAID by the applicant.

5. On page 11 of the NOFO, USAID indicates that “the implementing partner will have to demonstrate an understanding of the risks of terrorist financing in working in Boko Haram and ISIS-WA-affected communities in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe States and present a plan to mitigate any such risk associated with the proposed activity.” Is this information required in the application and, if so, can it be submitted as an Annex?

USAID Response: Yes, this information is required in the application.

6. On page 38 the NOFO states that the estimated start date identified in Section B must be used in the cost application, however that estimated start date is not identified in Section B. It states only that, "The estimated start date will be on or about the date the award is signed." Can USAID indicate what the estimated start date of the program is?

USAID Response: The cost application should be based on a 5-year period of performance at the time of submitting the application. The estimated start date will be on or about the date the award is signed and covers a 5-year period of performance.

7. Can the program plan for an inception or refinement phase built into the first year of the program, as with other major USAID Activities that incorporate resilience and adaptive management principles?

USAID Response: Applicants shall submit applications that best describe how they will implement the activity to achieve USAID's activity objectives.

8. Section D, part 5 (e)(1), Key Personnel, states that each of the Key Personnel positions must have a Master's degree or higher. Could USAID kindly consider making the Master's requirement preferred, but not required - accepting relevant work experience in lieu of an advanced degree, for example? This will allow more flexibility in proposing candidates of diverse ethnicities and professional backgrounds, including from the private sector.

USAID Response: No changes will be made to the Key Personnel Education Requirements. All requirements remain as stated in the NOFO.

9. While Section E, Application Review Information, lists the various categories that will be considered during the merit review, it does not include the maximum potential points for each criteria to see how they will be weighted against one another. Can USAID provide this information?

USAID Response: Applications review will not be scored on points. Adjectival rating system will be utilized in the rating of applications received under the NOFO.

10. Related to the information provided in section 4.3 in the RFA, can USAID provide additional details, including which LGAs are covered, of current or anticipated USAID-funded programs in the target areas with which this Activity would coordinate for SLI?

USAID Response: In consultation with USAID-funded and other donor-funded activities in the region, applicants shall select appropriate LGAs within which the Activity will be implemented and for *Sequencing, layering, integrating (SLI)*.

11. On page 45 of the NOFO, USAID indicates that applicants must submit a Security Plan as an attachment and includes a sample format for the Security Plan as Annex 4 to the NOFO. However on page 40 of the NOFO, the Security Operational Plan is listed not among the accepted attachments for the proposal, but as a section of the technical

approach. Can USAID confirm that the Security Plan should be included as an Annex and not within the body of the 20 page technical approach document?

USAID Response: The Security Operational Plan must be included as a part of the technical application package and will be part of the 20 page limit. However, a detailed security plan must be submitted as Annex 4.

12. Can some of the funds set aside for the grant facility be used to finance equity investments in private businesses to the same end as grants will be used - to catalyze new investment in viable economic opportunities? In addition, can the funds be used to support financial institutions in providing credit to private enterprises or as credit facilities through the banks supported by the Development Credit Authority (DCA)?

USAID Response: USAID has clearly stated what the Grant Facility will be used for on pages 27-28 of the NOFO.

13. Can USAID clarify the meaning of “a flexible approach for the selection and identification of the 60,000 households” (page 11, Section 6.2)? Does USAID anticipate the identification of eligible households to be updated/revised regularly, and if so, at what frequency or in response to what change in circumstances?

USAID Response: Flexible approach means an approach that will respond to the dynamic situation of the target locations. USAID anticipates that the identification and selection of eligible households will be updated on a quarterly basis thereafter.

14. In section 7, page 21, it notes that, “This Activity is designed to work closely with and link to humanitarian efforts.” To what extent does USAID support direct ‘overlap’ of Nigeria Rural Resilience interventions with ongoing EFSP activities at the community and household levels?

USAID Response: The Activity is expected to collaborate and coordinate with humanitarian assistance activities in the region towards strengthening the humanitarian-development assistance nexus.

15. Can USAID clarify its thoughts regarding the “rolling work plans” (section 7, page 24)? Does USAID anticipate specific timelines for formative research and design revisions?

USAID Response: Page 24, paragraph 3, line 6. Please delete the sentence “Rolling work plans could support this process”. The rest of the paragraph is explanatory enough.

16. For the Grant Facility component, section 9, does USAID have specific anticipations or preferences related to the overall size, periodicity, and/or number of grants?

USAID Response: USAID will defer to the applicant to propose specific anticipations or preferences related to the overall size, periodicity, and/or number of grants based on market assessment.

17. In section D, page 38, the NOFO suggests the budget narrative should include arithmetic in reaching the cost figures. Would USAID accept arithmetic calculations in the Excel budget instead?

USAID Response: Yes. Arithmetic calculations, in Excel budget spreadsheet is acceptable.

18. Under performance objective 3.2, the RFA states that the program design should consider: “The unique situations of ex-combatants in different re-integration strategies to maximize opportunities to engage economically and not be further disenfranchised. Any proposed intervention that would provide benefits to ex-combatants or other former affiliates of BH or ISIS-WA will face a higher level of scrutiny for risks of terrorist financing” and section 6.2.1 states that agencies must ensure beneficiaries “do not include any Boko Haram and ISIS-WA affiliates.” Clarify what USAID considers to be an affiliate of Boko Haram and/or ISIS-WA? Does it include family members like wives, children, widows, parents, etc? Does it include wives or children who have been abandoned by fighters? Additionally, how long does a potential beneficiary have to be an ex-combatant to be considered no longer an affiliate of Boko Haram or ISIS-WA? Or is it not a time sensitive issue but one of verification and community attestation that they are no longer a combatant?

USAID Response: Affiliate of Boko Haram and/or ISIS-WA in this case refers to anyone who has a relationship with Boko Haram and/or ISIS-WA members. The status of ex-combatant will be based on community attestation that they are no longer combatants.

19. **NOFO Section A, 5.3 Sequencing, Layering and Integrating, Pg. 10 refers.** Given there has been ongoing discussion and lessons learned within the emergency-to-development and resilience community of practices of this approach, can USAID/Nigeria provide precise definition for each of the terms (sequencing, layering, and integrating) to ensure full clarity?

USAID Response: USAID definition for sequencing, layering, and integrating is shown below:

Sequencing - Using a logical, sequenced phasing of humanitarian relief and development programming to maximize long-term impact.

Layering - programming of multiple humanitarian and development assistance in targeted geographic areas, in layers across sectors and funding.

Integrate - Humanitarian assistance programming integrated into development programs and vice versa to address multidimensional challenges.

20. **NOFO Section A, 7. COMPONENTS, Pg. 13 refers.** Can USAID clarify what are the Performance Objectives expected for Component 1? Unlike the other components, we do not see them provided in the NOFO.

USAID Response: Component 1 has no performance objectives.

21. **NOFO Section A, 6.4.2. Applying a conflict lens to market systems development, Pg. 12** (see Annex B for implementation principles). Can USAID share where is Annex B?

USAID Response: Page 12, Section 6.4.2., lines 1-2: Please delete “(see Annex B for implementation principles).”

22. **NOFO Section A, Performance Objective 2.3: Increase access to finance and financial services, Pg. 19** “Before the ongoing security crisis, populations in the Northeast had lower access to formal or informal financial services than other regions. Survey data show that financial exclusion rates in the Northeast are the highest in Nigeria, increasing between 2008 and 2014 from 59% to 68% (Table 1, Annex J).” Can USAID share where is Annex J or which document referenced in “Section J (pg. 78) is this statement in reference to?

USAID Response: The referenced section has been revised thus:

Before the ongoing security crisis, populations in the Northeast had lower access to formal or informal financial services than other regions. Survey data show that financial exclusion rates in the Northeast are the highest in Nigeria, increasing between 2012 and 2014 from 59.5% to 68.4%. Among people who use bank services, a majority has saving accounts but very few use loan services. Debit cards are used by 76% of people with bank accounts, but very few people are even aware of mobile money. In general, financial literacy related to awareness and use of a range of financial services is low.

23. **NOFO Section A. Performance Objective 3.1: Build the resources and capacities of individuals and households to engage in market systems, pg. 21.....** “Efforts to increase women’s decision-making in production, control over income, access to financial resources and other assets, time use, and leadership roles has been shown to empower women in the marketplace as farmers, entrepreneurs, and employees (see Annex E).” Can USAID share where is Annex E?

USAID Responses: Page 21, paragraph 2, line 15: Please delete “(see Annex E)”.

24. **NOFO Section A, 10. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL), Pg. 30.....d)** A proposed approach to harmonizing USAID monitoring activities; Can USAID clarify the above statement and which USAID monitoring activities are referred to here?

USAID Responses: Page 30: Please delete item (d)

25. **NOFO Section D: 5. Technical Application Format, Pg. 40....** The format and presentation of technical approach is.....(A) Can USAID clarify whether the Draft Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan is required at proposal submission or at award stage? (B) Can USAID make available the IEE referenced on pg. 68?

USAID Response: A draft Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) is required at the proposal submission stage and this will be finalized after award. The finding of the IEE is reported as a Negative Determination with Conditions for one or more of the proposed interventions. Therefore, the EMMP should be prepared based on this finding.

26. **NOFO Section D, h) History of Performance, Pg. 51.....** (A) Can USAID clarify how many past performance references it requires? (B) Can USAID confirm if it will accept past performance references from partners, and if so how many per partners, and total number of past performance references for the consortium?

USAID Response: Applicants are to submit 3 – 5 past performance references implementing similar projects. Applicants can also submit past performance references of their major sub-awardees.

27. (A) In accordance with ADS 308 provisions, what is the applicable funding mechanism if this award is issued to a PIO?
(B) For sub-award to a PIO, what will be the type or applicable Standard Provisions?

USAID Response: The applicable ADS section or provision for the award will be determined at the time of award, depending on the type of organization being considered for award.