



TO: Interested Applicants

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1 to APS-OFDA-17-000002
“Leveraging Academic Partnerships in Operational Humanitarian Environments”

A. Background

The subject APS was issued on June 6, 2017. Questions were required to be submitted on/or before June 19, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). As indicated in Section V of the APS, following this date, questions received before the deadline, if any, and answers will be posted (without attribution to the organization) as an amendment to this APS to provide all prospective applicants with the same information.

B. Purpose of this Amendment

The purpose of this amendment is to provide answers to questions raised by interested applicants.

Question 1: Is the proposal narrative length single or double-spaced?

Response to Question 1: Proposals need to conform to OFDA’s Guidelines for Proposals as referenced in the APS.

Question 2: Is there is any sort of pre-application submission or should the initial submission move forward with the full technical application?

Response to Question 2: Applicants need to follow the submission requirements reflected in the OFDA Guidelines for Proposal, website: (<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/crisis-response/resources/guidelines-proposals>). There is no pre-application submission.

Question 3: Please specify if organizations can submit more than one application?

Response to Question 3: Organizations should submit one application.

Question 4: Can each of member of a large network such as an international organization (federation), but are separate legal entities and are registered with USAID as a PVO organizations submit an application?

Response to Question 4: Applicants need to follow the submission requirements reflected in the OFDA Guidelines for Proposal, website: (<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/crisis-response/resources/guidelines-proposals>).

Question 5: Will OFDA accept and consider funding multiple applications from one organization?

Response to Question 5: See response to question # 3.

Question 6: Does the prime applicant need to be an academic institution or can NGOs apply to be the prime with academic institutions as sub-awardees?

Response to Question 6: Partnerships with universities are encouraged. It is up to the Applicant and the university to determine who the lead organization will be.

Question 7: Is it possible to extend the deadline for submissions until July 19, 2017 at 16:00?

Response to Question 7: All submitted proposals past the given deadline of July 12, 2017 at 16:00 will not be considered.

Question 8: Is it reasonable to apply to this Request for Proposals (RFP) to work in both countries in community-based protection of refugees (i.e. Jordan and Rwanda)?

Response to Question 8: The application needs to respond to the objectives and criteria stated in the APS.

Question 9: If an applicant does not have a NICRA, would OFDA accept an applicant's indirect costs as an overall percentage applied to the budget (as per OFDA's budget example using a NICRA) providing the latest audited financial statements and an explanation of how the rate was calculated is also submitted?

Response to Question 9: If your organization has never received a NICRA, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) in accordance with 2 CFR 200.414(f). Refer to USAID/OFDA's Proposal Guidelines Website: (<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/crisis-response/resources/guidelines-proposals>)

Question 10: What is the average amount contributed by successful teams given the required minimum cost share is 10%?

Response to Question 10: The required minimum cost share is 10%. It's up to the applicant to determine the actual amount to meet the minimum cost share.

Question 11: Can the cost-sharing requirement be covered by a funding source that provides resources for the existing research upon which this proposal is being structured?

Response to Question 11: Cost-sharing can be both financial and in-kind. Applicants are required to provide at least 10% of the total program cost of in-kind and/or cash contributions from non-USG sources. Applicants also need to show actual dollar value of in-kind cost sharing; the merits of the in-kind cost sharing will be evaluated by USAID to reflect appropriateness to the proposed program and USAID priorities.

Question 12: Does the cost-sharing need to come directly from the academic institution(s) or just from the overall consortium of partners being proposed?

Response to Question 12: The cost share can be allocated in any fashion the consortium deems appropriate to meet the 10% minimum requirement.

Question 13: Is cost-share only for the lead applicant or do sub-awardees also have to show cost-share?

Response to Question 13: The cost share applies to the whole consortium. It’s up to the consortium to decide on how to meet the minimum requirement.

Question 14: If an NGO is applying to be the prime with an academic institution as a sub-awardee, does the cost match apply to the academic institution or only to the prime applicant?

Response to Question 14: The cost share applies to the application as a whole, and it’s up to the prime to determine how they want to allocate the 10% cost share.

Question 15: Can USAID provide a list of qualifying countries?

Response to Question 15: There are no priority countries or regions identified for the “Leveraging Academic Partnerships in Operational Humanitarian Environments” APS. Countries that have an expanded pool of humanitarian workers due to a recently experienced UN designated “Level 3” emergency or a public health emergency of international concern can be targeted if the activities can clearly show global application.

Question 16: Will regional programs containing qualifying countries be considered?

Response to Question 16: There are no priority countries or regions identified for the “Leveraging Academic Partnerships in Operational Humanitarian Environments” APS.

Question 17: Does the proposed location for implementation of the pilot activity(ies) need to be a current OFDA emergency or are locations experiencing chronic vulnerabilities sufficient if the study outcomes will impact potential approaches to humanitarian responses? If study outcomes are applicable to humanitarian contexts, does the project location need to be a current humanitarian context?

Response to Question 17: It is up to the organization to determine which location(s) will be used in this program. For additional details, See Section 1: A. in the APS.

Question 18: Would such an arrangement regarding working on the same issue (i.e. community-based protection of refugees), but in different countries be preliminary evidence of scalability?

Response to Question 18: OFDA does not fund humanitarian programs that benefit refugees. The expectation of this APS is to leverage existing or emerging academic research through partnerships with operational humanitarian assistance partners working in chronically vulnerable environments.

Question 19: If the M&E plan is not fully developed will this count against the applicant?

Response to Question 19: The application needs to conform to OFDA’s Guidelines for Proposals and specific scoring criteria listed in the APS. See Section V of the APS.

Question 20: Understanding that the primary activities and outputs of the project are under the Humanitarian Studies sector, if operational research questions pertain to other OFDA sectors can those sectors be included or should indicators from those sectors be placed under the Humanitarian Studies sector as custom indicators?

Response to Question 20: Specific thematic indicators can be placed under the Humanitarian Studies sector as custom indicators with appropriate justification.

Question 21: Is a Teaming Agreement necessary, or encouraged (if not necessary)?

Response to Question 21: It is up to the organization to determine whether they want to be part of a team or submit the application as the sole Prime.

Question 22: Do subawardees/subcontractors also need to provide standard certifications?

Response to Question 22: Subcontracting arrangements need to be clearly explained in the proposal. Refer to USAID/OFDA’s Proposal Guidelines Website: (<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/crisis-response/resources/guidelines-proposals>)

Question 23: Should we provide an MOU instead of a statement of work for subcontractors?

Response to Question 23: Subcontracting arrangements need to be clearly explained in the proposal. Refer to USAID/OFDA’s Proposal Guidelines Website: (<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/crisis-response/resources/guidelines-proposals>)

Question 24: Are collaborations with other US government agencies (i.e., science agencies such as NOAA or USGS) allowed or encouraged, with the understanding that project funds will support the other partners, and not go to the collaborating US government agencies?

Response to Question 24: Please refer to Section I: A. of the APS.

Question 25: Since our collaboration is one-on-one, is it recommended for a university to apply alone with a letter from UNHCR indicating its willingness to participate?

Response to Question 25: USAID/OFDA will prioritize programs that demonstrate a partnership with operational UN agencies, international NGOs, national NGOs and community-based organizations.

C. Applicability of Original APS

Except as specifically amended herein, all terms and conditions of the APS published on June 6, 2017, remain unchanged as originally stated and in full force and effect.