



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ARMENIA

DATE: June 21, 2016

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT 000001 to RFA-111-16-000004, Participatory Utilization and Resource Efficiency of Water (PURE-Water) Activity

The purpose of this Amendment 000001 to RFA-111-16-000004 is to provide answers to the questions received per Attachment A to this Amendment 000001.

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



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ATTACHMENT A to AMENDMENT 000001

Questions/Answers under RFA-111-16-000004

Participatory Utilization and Resource Efficiency of Water Activity (PURE-Water)

No	Questions/Comments	Answers
1	Are there any competition guarantees (under what conditions the competition will take place, how many organizations shall apply as a minimum, for the competition takes place)?	Competition takes place when a funding opportunity is notified to the public and announced on Grants.gov with any number of applications received.
2	Can we apply as an Association / Consortium of several organizations and which organizations can apply for the announced grant project (LLC, CJSC, NGO)? Can LLC act as a leading company, and others as members of the consortium, or sub-consultants?	Yes, the interested organizations can form a consortium and apply as a consortium; it is up to the consortium members to decide a prime organization for this funding opportunity. However, please note that a prime organization should meet all the definitions for a “local organization” as specified in the RFA (see Section C, page 14). USAID will enter into an agreement with a leading/prime organization.
3	Section “Results area 4” says that by the end of Year 1, PURE will provide the ASPIRED Project a list of at least five contractible projects, for implementation by the latter. In this connection, when the project is scheduled to start? We think that if the best start is in January-March 2017, the 5 pilot projects should be submitted by January-March 2018. In this case, will the remaining period for completion of the ASPIRED project be enough for implementation of those 5 projects?	The project is scheduled to start in o/a October /November, 2016. The period of performance is expected to be in coordination with the period of performance of the ASPIRED project (09/28/2015 – 03/22/2019).
4	Who pays the USD 300 000 for the implementation of the pilot projects – this grant project, USAID, or the ASPIRED?	USAID will provide the USD 300,000 for the implementation of the pilot projects through the ASPIRED project.
5	How many experts are planned for the project, are there key experts and non-key experts staffing lists? Are there strict requirements for staff, related to the restriction of engagement in other organizations / assignments?	The number of experts – both key and non-key – depends on the applicant’s proposed approach appropriate for the effective implementation of the activity. However, the key staff should not exceed 4-5 persons. The restriction of staff engaged in other assignments is that the total time involved in other projects should not exceed 100% of time.
6	Is medical insurance required to be provided for the staff, if yes, are these costs to be	Medical insurance can be provided to the staff. However, in order to propose medical insurance coverage in the

	included in the budget and what type of medical insurance may be included?	budget, it should be, first of all, a regular practice of the organization included in the organization's internal policies.
7	Are office rent, communication means, transport and utility payments planned for the project?	Yes, if those costs relates to the implementation of the activity. Also, these costs can be proposed as cost share from an applicant.
8	Of what nature of the required minimum of 5 percent of the proposed budget to be generated as a cost-share of the applicant can be? Can this be considered as office renting, provision of means of communication, transport or utility payments?	Yes, see also Answer #7 above.
9	Please clarify the STIP project (page 9)	The STIP portfolio referenced on p. 9 of the Project Description refers to USAID/Armenia's Science, Technology, Innovation, and Partnership (STIP) approach, which is integrated in the ASPIRED project. PURE-Water will in turn complement this approach.
10	Will audit be implemented in the beginning and at end of the project? Who will carry out the audit and shall the audit costs be included in the project budget?	There will be annual audits for a prime organization. Therefore, prime applicants should include annual costs for audits in their cost applications. There is a list of eligible auditing firms which will be provided to the Recipient after the award.
11	Is the grant project exempted from the VAT, and if yes, the whole consortium (all members equally) or only the leading company?	A prime organization, as well as all sub grantees under the prime will receive tax exception letters from USAID following the award.
12	Can an international NGO (for example a US-based NGO) be eligible as sub-grantee?	Yes, also see the Answer #13 below.
13	We understand that the eligibility for this award is restricted to Local (Armenian) organizations. However, can we involve in the project international expert, experts' team or an international organization?	Yes, international organizations can be involved as sub-awardees. Please note that an international organization is not eligible to apply for this funding opportunity as a prime/leading organization.
14	One of the specific objectives is "Support development of and advocacy for an enabling policy and regulatory framework for improved participatory use of water". We would like to know how far the expected "support" have to go: -Advocacy among stakeholders and NGOs for development of policies and regulatory framework? Expecting that interested and active stakeholders and NGOs will develop the policies and regulations.	The expected outputs and outcomes of the referenced objective are detailed on p. 5 of the Project Description. The extent of and methodology of advocacy effort and engagement in development of regulatory framework will be depend on the applicant's proposed approach. It is USAID's expectation that the implementation of such efforts, however, be closely coordinated with the ASPIRED project.

	-Development of the policies and regulatory framework on participatory basis with NGOs and stakeholders? -Development of the policies and regulatory framework on participatory basis and lobbying it at the parliament of RA?	
15	Is it expected to implement quality (risk) assessment framework for the ground waters being used for the irrigation purposes?	No such assessment is expected.
16	The other specific objective is “Identify small-scale infrastructure pilot projects (SSIP) to complement local water needs.” We need more details about the financing of this activity. How many SSIPs or the density of coverage of SSIPs, what is the maximum budget for SSIPs, etc.?	As detailed on p. 7 of the Project Description, the maximum budget for the small-scale infrastructure projects is USD 300,000. While PURE-Water will identify these projects, the implementation will be financed through USAID’s ASPIRED project. As indicated, at least five such projects are expected to be implemented in the target communities proposed by the applicant. The final number and density will depend on the applicant’s proposed approach.
17	In addition, for SSIPs we need clarification if the community has to participate on co-financing base, participate with their private business, etc.?	The small-scale infrastructure projects will be financed and implemented through the ASIPRED project. The specific cost share requirements will be defined by the ASPIRED project. However, it is general practice that communities provide cost-share (in kind or monetary) to ensure community buy-in.
18	The evaluation and assessment of the project implementation is anticipated to be held by local experts or by International? What is the budget to be allocated for international experts?	It is up to the applicant to include local or international experts for evaluation purposes: USAID has no such requirement. There is no budget allocated for international experts.
19	Is it anticipated development of the list of crops and plans applicable for the soil types and irrigation potentials, in the scope of this project?	There is no expected focus on crops; however, applicants are free to consider such efforts should these be in support of water saving and sustainable management practices.
20	This project is a one year project so our proposal will be based on the historical data of the ground water balances. However, systematic monitoring of ground water performances and analyzing of the collected data is a vital point for sustainability of the project. Is there any specific budget allocated for capacity building?	As indicated on p. 1 of the Project Description, PURE-Water is a three-year project. It is up to the applicant(s) to determine the need and level of funding needed for capacity development, if any.
21	Our previous experience proves that control over fisheries on water extraction is difficult with the locally existing equipment and devices. What is your point on this issue?	Water resource use monitoring and oversight is the function of the Ministry of Nature Protection. However, USAID’s ASPIRED project will provide the Ministry of Nature Protection the SCADA system to support water monitoring, assist in data management, and ensure public access to open data. Once available, PURE-Water can

		sensitize the public to the availability of open data.
22	The Ararat valley ground water basin consists of three main segments that vary from each other by in- charge sources and other parameters. From this three sections (Etchmiadzin, Masis; Hoktemberyan and Ararat) the first one (Etchmiadzin, Masis) is the most negatively affected and stressed one. Q: PURE-Water aims to address the entire Ararat Valley water management issues or we can have a segmental approach and develop a project for a one of the above mentioned segments of the basin?	Depending on their technical approach, applicants can adopt a segmental approach for project interventions; however, the resource management and technological solutions should be scalable for the overall Ararat basin.
23	The water management includes and surface and ground water management issues. Q: In the scope of this project do we need to disregard the surface water management issues and develop the proposal only for the ground waters?	The focus of USAID's STIP portfolio implemented through the ASPIRED project is on ground water resources; however, considering the strong interdependence of the ground water and surface water, PURE-Water project can also address surface water management issues in relation to ground water.