



May 17, 2011

Reference: Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) RFA #:RFA-OAA-11-000008

Subject: Amendment 02

Dear Applicants,

The purpose of this Amendment 02 is to make the following changes:

- 1) Publish Questions and Answers submitted via email by April 28, 2011 5pm local time.
- 2) Other administrative changes
- 3) Re-open question and answer period from May 17, 2011 to May 20, 2011
- 4) Extend closing date from May 26, 2011 to June 3, 2011 11:00 am EST
- 5) Update eligibility criteria

Please see the following pages for the changes this Amendment makes to the specific section. Please direct any questions to myself at skrause@usaid.gov.

Sincerely,

Shanon Krause
Agreement Officer
US Agency for International Development
Office of Acquisition and Assistance
M/OAA/GH

Administrative Changes:

- 1) Cover Page Questions Due Date: Delete Thursday April 28, 2011 5:00 pm EST and replace with May 20, 2011 5:00 pm EST
- 2) Cover Page Closing date and time: Delete Thursday May 26, 2011 and replace with June 3, 2011 11:00 am EST.
- 3) Page 16, Section I. Program Description, C.3, Newborn and Child Health, delete:

The Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) strategy promotes six priority interventions: immediate and exclusive breastfeeding for six months; appropriate complementary feeding from the age of six months through two years, with continued breastfeeding; nutritional care of sick children, including feeding during illness; recuperative feeding; care of severely malnourished children; and adequate intake of vitamin A, iron, and iodine. The contact points for ENA are predominantly in the health system, and are strongly linked to efforts to improve maternal, newborn, and child health overall.

Replace with:

The Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) promotes seven priority interventions: 1) optimal maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation; 2) optimal breastfeeding during the first six months of life; 3) optimal complementary feeding from 6 months of age, with continued breastfeeding until 2 years of age and improved hygiene practices; 4) Appropriate nutritional care of sick and severely malnourished children; 5) Adequate intake of vitamin A for women and children; 6) Adequate intake of iron and folic acid for women and children; and, 7) Adequate intake of iodine by all members of the household.

- 4) Page 17, Section I. Program Description, D. SPRING: Results Framework, Delete IR1 (LOE 60%) and IR2 (LOE 40%) and replace with IR 1 (LOE 75%) and IR2 (LOE 25%).
- 5) Page 26, Section II, Award Information, D. Substantial Involvement, Delete number 4 “ Approval of sub-award recipients, and concurrence on the substantive provisions of the sub-awards; and coordination with other cooperating agencies” Replace with “Approval of sub-awards in accordance with 22 CFR 226”
- 6) Page 28, Section III, Eligibility Criteria, Delete “a. Be a U.S based institution, for-profit, non-profit, or private voluntary organization registered with USAID.” Replace with “a. Be a U.S and Non-US non-governmental institution, for-profit, non-profit, or private voluntary organization registered with USAID. Must be able to meet the eligibility criteria in 22 CFR 228 sub-part D.”
- 7) Page 30, Section IV. Application Submission Information. A. Submission Information, Delete “An applicant’s complete application consists of the grants.gov submission and receipt of

hardcopies.” And replace with “ An applicants complete package consists of the grants.gov submission **OR** the receipt of hardcopies by the closing date”

- 8) Page 35, Section IV. Application and Submission Information. C. Technical Application Guideline, 2. Key Personnel Qualifications and Staffing Capabilities, Number 5, Paragraph 3, **Delete** “Please provide a roster of all senior core staff and at least up to ten non-U.S.-based experts who are likely to assist with program activities and can address the broad range of nutrition programming envisioned in the RFA.” and **Replace** with “Please provide a roster of all senior core staff and up to 10 non-U.S. based experts who are likely to assist with program activities and can address the broad range of nutrition programming envisioned in the RFA”
- 9) Page 35, Section IV. Application and Submission Information. C. Technical Application Guideline, 2. Key Personnel Qualifications and Staffing Capabilities, Number 2, **Delete**: “Resumes and letters of intent to participate should also be included in the annexes” **Replace** with “Provide resumes and letters of intent for core staff only. Additional resumes may be requested for the ten non-US based experts who will assist with the programs.”

- 10) Page 37, D. Cost/Business Application Guideline

Delete link to SF 424 http://www.usaid.gov/procurement_bus_opp/procurement/forms/ and replace with <http://www.usaid.gov/forms/>.

Pre-Application Conference Questions and Answers submitted before closing time of April 28, 2011 5pm Eastern Standard Time

- 1) Iraq geographically is in Asia, but people tend to define Asian countries differently. So, is Iraq included in the listed geographic mix on page 31 of the SPRING RFP?

Within USAID, Iraq is considered geographically within the Middle East. USAID priority countries for nutrition are listed in Annex A.

- 2) Could you please send me SF 424 and SF 424A attached to the email because I cannot save it in my computer from www.usaid.gov/procurement_bus_opp/procurement/fprms/

See application package which includes the SF 424 and SF 424A documents. Also, see above administrative changes number 7 above for website change.

- 3) Please clarify if REACH/WFP is eligible to apply as a prime awardee for this funding. The eligibility requirements (page 28) state that “To be eligible for the Cooperative Agreement under this RFA, an organization must: a. Be a U.S. based institution, for-profit, non-profit or private voluntary organizations registered with USAID”. WFP is considered a “public international organization (PIO)” in USAID contracting language and normally applies for funding that specifies PIOs may apply, but REACH/WFP is very much interested in applying to this RFP.

22 CFR 228 Subpart D sets forth the conditions governing the nationality of suppliers of services for USAID financing

- 4) The short lead time (about 30 days) for such a large and complex program is of concern. Can USAID please examine and consider whether such a short turn-around time on this RFA allows an unfair advantage to the incumbent? Is there an opportunity to extend the due date?

Closing date has been extended to June 3, 2011 11:00 am EST.

- 5) On page 35 of the RFA, can USAID please clarify the statement “Please provide a roster of all senior core staff and at least up to ten non-U.S.-based experts...” Does USAID want applicants to provide at least ten, or up to ten non-US based experts?

See administrative changes to RFA

- 6) Given the sizable core budget for this project, what is the basis on which 5% of **total costs** including core is required as a cost share amount? This seems to discourage new partners and smaller businesses who may not be able to assure up to \$10 million from the beginning of the project.

Please refer to Section III.B on page 28 of the RFA which notes that ‘USAID has established a cost share minimum of 5% of the USAID-funded or obligated amount up to the projected maximum ceiling of (\$200 million) for the recipient of the award. The recipient will provide cost share based on the actual obligated amount each year (not the total ceiling) and this will depend on the availability of funding.

- 7) In planning for the budget, can USAID please clarify what amount can be expected from core funding for year 1?

Year 1 core funding will be determined based on availability of funding and will be finalized during the work-plan phase.

- 8) In the results framework on page 18 of the RFA, IR1 indicates Field Support and IR2 indicate Core Support. Can USAID please clarify if core funding can be used for country-level activities such as activities that provide evidence for scale-up?

It may be possible for core funding to supporting country level activities that will contribute to the global evidence base. However, this will be determined on a country-by-country basis during the annual work-plan phase.

- 9) From page 35 of the RFA, do resumes need to be included for core staff only or for long and short term technical assistance as well?

Provide resumes and letters of intent for core staff only. Additional resumes may be requested for the ten non-US based experts who will assist with the programs.

- 10) From page 35 of the RFA, do letters of intent to participate need to be submitted for core staff only, or also for short-term technical assistance?

Letters of commitment are only required for key personnel.

- 11) One of my clients is a foreign NGO that has International PVO status and also formed a U.S.-based limited liability company to undertake certain U.S. based activities. The client has asked me to confirm with you whether either (1) the parent organization (the IPVO) or (2) the U.S.-based LLC would be eligible to respond to this RFA. Based on a plain reading of the eligibility criteria on page 28 (Section III(A)(a)), it appears that both IPVOs and U.S.-based LLCs ought to be eligible to respond; however, we weren't entirely certain how to interpret the relevant sentence and wanted to confirm with you.

22 CFR 228 Subpart D sets forth the conditions governing the nationality of suppliers of services for USAID financing.

- 12) We are seeking clarification regarding the eligibility criteria applicable to RFA Number: RFA-OAA-11-000008 (Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally). Please confirm whether either or both of the following organizations would be described in Section IIIA(a) on page 28 of the RFA: (1) a foreign-based organization that is registered with USAID as an international private voluntary organization ("IPVO"); or (2) a U.S.-based limited liability company that is wholly owned by a foreign-based IPVO.

22 CFR 228 Subpart D sets forth the conditions governing the nationality of suppliers of services for USAID financing.

- 13) We are seeking clarification regarding the results framework applicable to RFA Number: RFA-OAA-11-000008 (Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally). We recognize that there is specific reference on page 18 to improving and scaling up micronutrient supplementation in IR 1.2 (Country-specific approaches to improve dietary quality and diversity). However, there is no reference to micronutrient supplementation in the accompanying text for IR 1.2. Please confirm that micronutrient supplementation is a specific element of IR 1.2 and what is expected here.

Micronutrient supplementation is a component of USAID's strategic approach to nutrition, as noted on pages 12-13. Vitamin A, iron, iodine, zinc, and folate are the key micronutrients that profoundly affect child survival, women's health, educational achievement, adult productivity, and overall resistance to illness. Ideally, these micronutrients are consumed through a person's diet—but this is difficult to achieve in developing countries.

To save lives and reduce morbidity, food-based approaches and prevention programs should be coupled with targeted micronutrient supplementation when and where necessary. This strategy will target the most vulnerable, namely women and young children, with micronutrient supplementation programs. These include vitamin A supplementation for

children 6-59 months and iron folic acid supplementation for pregnant women and children as part of anemia reduction packages (that include malaria prevention and treatment and deworming). These are delivered most effectively through strong health systems and through community platforms. In response to country needs and demands, SPRING may support strengthening and integrating systems responsible for planning, budgeting, and cost analysis of micronutrient programs and service delivery and logistics.

- 14) The RFA anticipates 25% of funding from GH core funds and 75% from field support under a ceiling of \$200million. For application purposes, what can bidders realistically expect in the dollar amount for core funding for the first year of the project, as guidance for knowing how best to program and budget for year 1 activities?

Year 1 funding levels will be based on availability of funding and be finalized during the workplan phase.

- 15) Annex A identifies 31 countries along with check marks that identify FTF, BEST, and GHI priority countries. Can you provide any additional guidance on interpreting USAID's expectations regarding country priorities and selection? For example, are countries with 3 check marks more important than those with only two or one check mark? Are GHI priority countries weighted more heavily than others? Based on past experiences, what are the likely levels of demand (numbers of countries) for field support in the start-up year?

SPRING's country program activities will be demand driven efforts based on country needs, priorities, and, opportunities. The countries listed in Annex A provide a summary of current focus countries by USG initiative with nutrition objectives.

- 16) Given the short time available for proposal development, the complexity of designing a global project and the likelihood that responses to questions will provide important additional insight for program design and proposal development, would USAID consider a two week extension of the submission date?

See Q4.

- 17) How will the actual amount of funding available from the core funds and field support for SPRING be determined? When might this occur?

Actual amounts of core and field support funding will be based on availability of funding and be confirmed during the work-plan phase.

- 18) Is USAID expecting that applicants will propose countries in which to work and anticipated scopes of work for those countries around which to develop the technical approach and budget?

In preparation of the technical application, the Applicant may include illustrative country examples to support their proposed technical approach. Actual project implementation at the country level will be determined in the workplan phase in coordination with the USAID/W

AOTR and USAID/Mission staff. The countries listed in Annex A provide a summary of current focus countries by USG initiative that has nutrition objectives.

19) What are expected criteria for country prioritization?

See Q18.

20) To what extent is it expected that SPRING will be required to support country-level demonstration and pilot projects from an implementation perspective?

This will depend on the country context and needs.

21) How is the country level scale up going to work from an obligation perspective – will money be made available through USAID/Washington or by local Missions; or both?

Funding for country level scale-up would be supported primarily from Mission Field Support funds.

22) How will SPRING be presented to country programs by the Agency and to what extent is it expected that the awardee will need to provide resources to support outreach to missions? The awardee will not need to provide resources to support outreach to USAID Missions. Country level technical assistance and activities will directly respond to USAID Mission and country demand and in coordination with USAID/W AOTR.

23) Given the implicit complexity of the budgeting task, can USAID share a budget template to ensure a standardized approach across bidding partners? If not, please name the mandatory categories for the presentation of the budget.

The budget categories are included in the Cost Application Instructions on page 37.

24) In the absence of selected countries and scopes of work for those countries, can USAID offer additional guidance on how to develop the budget?

Guidance for developing the cost application and budget are included in the Cost Application Instruction on page 37. Please see Q18 for guidance on country selection.

25) Page 35 of the RFA references “up to 10 non US-based experts”. Can this include US citizens who reside abroad?

Yes, this may include US citizens that reside abroad.

26) Page 33 of the RFA states that “SPRING will include personnel with an appropriate balance of managerial, technical and operational skills sufficient to achieve its objective and sub-objectives including the identification of in-country professionals.” Could USAID provide guidance on country selection, or otherwise guidance on naming in-country professionals while the specific countries are unclear?

See Q18.

- 27) Page 31 of the RFA states “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 meeting the applicable standards of this RFA, and (e) waive informalities and minor irregularities in the application(s) received.” Does this imply that USAID will look favorably upon cost proposals for less than the \$200M award ceiling?

If two applicants are scored the same cost could be a determining factor for award. It is in the applicant’s best interest to verify that their budget is sufficient for the work they plan to perform and are realistic and reasonable. They should propose actual costs no greater than \$200 mil and not create a budget to just meet the \$200 mil amount.

- 28) Would USAID like past performances references as part of both the technical and cost proposals?

Per Section D., the past performance references are a component of the Cost/Business Application.

- 29) The LOE guidance on page 17 (60% country specific and 40% global) and the ceiling guidance on page (25% core and 75% field support) appear contradictory. Could USAID offer further clarification?

The breakdown between core and field support should be consisted throughout the document as 25% Core to support the global activities and 75% field support for country level activities.

- 30) Could USAID please provide further guidance as to the expected level budget to devote to monitoring and evaluation expenses?

Please refer to the USAID Evaluation Policy: <http://www.usaid.gov/evaluation/>

- 31) We note and appreciate the commitment to social protection as a means to reduce undernutrition. Can USAID please provide a more specific definition of the types of activities that would be categorized as social protection for this award?

Please see diagram on p.11 of the RFA

- 32) Would it be appropriate for SPRING to build in expenses for activities that will directly support the SUN Framework Initiative at country level?

SPRING will be part of the USG contribution to global efforts to scale up nutrition. However, country level activities will again be demand driven and coordinated with the

USAID/W AOTR and USAID/Mission staff in order to appropriately meet country needs, priorities, and demands.

- 33) In the case of an organization that submits a bid, and then is acquired by a company that did not submit a bid, can USAID award the project to the acquiring company even though they did not submit a bid?

The Agency generally follows FAR Subpart 42.12 novation procedures for both acquisition and assistance awards. Whether a novation can be entertained will depend upon the facts and circumstances presented.

- 34) How would the scoring for the management plan, the institutional capability and the past performance sections be applied in the case of a bid that is submitted by an organization that is subsequently acquired?

The management plan, institutional capacity, and past performance will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFA.

- 35) For budget purposes, please clarify the number of anticipated field offices for this activity. Should the applicant estimate that there will be eight potential field offices based on the GHI+ countries referenced in Annex A, page 57?

The establishment of field offices will depend on USAID/Mission and country needs and requests. Therefore the need for field office will be determined on a country-by-country basis. The Applicant may refer to the guidance on country prioritization and illustrative activities described in Q18.

- 36) For budget purposes, should the applicant budget for field offices or will they be funded from field support?
See Q35.

- 37) Section 4, Part B.2. (pg 30) The RFA states "all information shall be formatted in either Microsoft Word 2010 and Microsoft Excel 2010." Are Microsoft Word 2003 and Microsoft Excel 2003 acceptable?

Yes, all Microsoft Office versions compatible with Microsoft 2010 are acceptable. This includes Microsoft 2003.

- 38) Section I, Part J (pg 25) of the RFA states that the authorized geographic code under the award is 000. Would USAID consider changing the code to 935 as procurement of services and commodities in the field are expected to be a key component of the program?

A waiver is in process but has not been approved.

- 39) Section IV, Part B. General Application Instructions, 3b. (pg 30) The RFA states that the technical application “shall not exceed thirty (30) pages.” Please confirm whether or not this includes the Executive Summary.

Section C. details the components of the technical application. Yes, an executive summary would count toward the 30 page limit.

- 40) Section IV, Part B.3.e. (pg 31) states that "any graphs, charts, exhibits, tables, etc. contained in the body of the technical application shall be numbered and included in the 30 page limit." Can these figures be placed in the annex?

The Applicant may choose to include graphs, charts, and figures in an Annex. Please label and reference clearly.

- 41) Section IV, Part C.5. (pg 35) For budget purposes, do the “ten non-U.S.-based experts who are likely to assist with program activities” (page 35) need to be affiliated with agencies, companies, and/or universities?

No, it is not required for the non-US experts to be affiliated with an agency, company, or university.

- 42) Section IV, Part C.5. (pg 35) Please clarify the following statement: Please provide a roster of all senior core staff and AT LEAST UP TO ten non-US based experts who are likely to assist with program activities..." Please confirm that only a maximum of ten non-US based experts are required.

See Q5.

- 43) For budget purposes, do the “ten non-U.S.-based experts who are likely to assist with program activities” (page 35) need to be affiliated with agencies, companies, and/or universities?

See Q41.

- 44) Section IV, Part A.7 (pg 30) states that "an applicant's complete application consists of the grants.gov submission and receipt of the hard copies." Will USAID consider waiving the requirement of submitting hard copies?

The application instructions have been amended above. The submission requirement on grants.gov has removed.

- 45) Section IV, Part C.5 (pg 35) Please confirm that letters of commitment and intent are only required for full-time, long-term personnel.

See Q10.

- 46) Page 18: SPRING Results Framework – The third bullet under IR 1.2 reads “evidence base for food based approached expanded.” Please clarify what is meant by “food based.”

SPRING is intended to support USAID’s strategic approach to nutrition which emphasizes an integrated approach that includes addressing and improving diet diversity and quality.

- 47) Page 25: Authorized Geographic Code – Given than 75% of activities will likely be carried out in the field, is it possible to authorize geographic code 935 for the (sub) procurement of services and commodities?

See Q38.

- 48) Page 26: Estimate Funds Available and Type of Award – The RFA states that *“Applicants should assume the ceiling for the Cooperative Agreement of \$200 million over five years – 25% Global Health (GH) Core funds and 75% Field Support (FS). Pending the availability of funds, USAID expects to award one cooperative agreement as a result of this RFA.”* Please clarify if a) the 75% of Field Support will be Mission funded or b) the entire award will be funded centrally from the Global Health Bureau and the 25/75 breakdown is to be used for budgeting purposes only.

The proposed Field Support to Core breakdown implies that 75% of total obligated funds are expected to come from Mission field support. The remaining 25% will be funded by GHCS-Nutrition Core funding.

- 49) Page 26: Substantial Involvement – As outlined in ADS 303.3.11, Substantial Involvement and Cooperative Agreements, USAID substantial involvement is limited to four specific elements. The approval of sub-award recipients, and concurrence on the substantive provisions of the sub-awards is not one of these elements. USAID is not a party to any potential sub-award. Please remove point 4 from the list of ways in which USAID will be substantially involved in the implementation of this cooperative agreement.

Point 4 has been removed please see amendment above. However, **22 CFR 226.25** already requires recipient to obtain the AO’s prior approval for the sub-award, transfer, or contracting out of any work under an award.

- 50) On page 29 the RFA states: “Hand delivery applicants must provide 24 hour email notice of the time in which they will be arriving to deliver applications.” Please confirm that email notification to Shannon Krause will suffice for meeting this notification requirement.

Yes, an email to Shanon Krause will suffice. Please make sure the RFA number is in the subject line of the email

- 51) How does USAID define going to scale in a country? What is the minimum coverage of vulnerable groups expected? Are there a minimum set of Lancet interventions you expect to be scaled-up?

The country level approaches and activities to be supported by SPRING should be country tailored and specific to country needs. Under this award, there is no standard requirement for minimum coverage of vulnerable groups or set of evidence-base interventions. Reaching an appropriate scale will be determined through a consultative process with country programs in coordination with USAID/W AOTR and USAID/Mission staff.

- 52) Effective scale up may require concentrating funds and activity in a small number of countries. What is the minimum number of countries for scale-up with core funds?

There is no minimum number of countries, but core funding should not be the sole funding for supporting country scale-up.

- 53) What is the total number of countries SPRING is expected to work in with core funds?

The total number of countries in which SPRING will be active will depend on Mission interest and demand, as well as availability of funding.

- 54) This RFA does not mention impact. May we assume that this means that results will not be measured in terms of change in nutritional status?

Given the focus of SPRING to provide technical assistance in support of country nutrition programs, its results will not be measured in terms of change in nutritional status. How will we measure results?

- 55) What is the composition of SPRING's core funding? What percent comes from nutrition, PEPFAR, Feed the Future, Food for Peace, and other sources?

SPRING's core funding comes from the GHCS-Nutrition account. Other accounts which can contribute to SPRING include: DA; PL 480; ESF; GHAI. The final breakdown of funding will be based on availability of funding and demand from USAID operating units.

- 56) Scale-up to include all vulnerable groups may not be feasible with USAID funding alone. Can we use SPRING funding to give technical assistance to other donors to improve their investments/programs to ensure the highest quality of their work in nutrition? For example, could SPRING staff and funding be used to participate on a World Bank mission to design a World Bank-funded nutrition project

Although funding cannot be provided to other donors, it will be essential for SPRING to

collaborate with other donors and stakeholders in order to meet country needs and demands. Collaboration with other partners will be coordinated with the USAID/W AOTR and USAID/Mission staff (as needed), and will be finalized during the workplan phase.

- 57) Does USAID consider micronutrient powders for children a best practice for improving dietary diversity and quality?

The approaches implemented by SPRING should consist of the most appropriate package of interventions to meet country-specific needs and context.

- 58) Malnutrition is concentrated in about ten countries. Of these, does USAID envision SPRING working in those countries with large populations (reach) or is USAID more interested in scale?

See Q51.

- 59) USAID has put substantial funding into Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) and yet it is only mentioned on page 16 under “other USAID Health Activities.” Will the ENA menu and approach be promoted under SPRING?

See Q57.

- 60) Would the food fortification activities under the RFA allow for capital investments in private sector entities along the relevant agricultural value chain, for instance with food manufacturers and/or rice or wheat millers?

USAID would consider certain capital investments on a case-by-case basis. This type of activity would be done in coordination with the USAID/W AOTR and OAA.

- 61) Does USAID envision research and development of new and improved fortified food products falling within the scope of this RFA?

In general, USAID prioritizes operations and implementation research to address program implementation and service delivery challenges. Based on country context, R&D of new food products may be possible, but we would first focus on improving delivery and use of existing products and approaches.

- 62) On page 36 the RFA states: “Applicants shall: provide an illustrative performance monitoring plan for SPRING that includes the indicators that will be used for the project objective and two IRs.” Please confirm that this performance monitoring plan can be included as an annex.

Yes, the performance monitoring plan can be included as an annex.

- 63) On page 37 the RFA states: “As an appendix, please complete the Past Performance Report – Short Form (Annex D) for three past performance references which describe any contracts, grants or cooperative agreements which the Applicant organization, as well as any sub recipients, partners or consortia has implemented involving similar or related programs over the past three years.” Please confirm that applicants should include three past performance references per partner/sub-recipient.

Yes, applicants should include three past performance reference for each partner and/or sub-recipient.

- 64) Does USAID envisage funding impact evaluation studies through core funding?

Yes, as this is a priority of the new USAID Evaluation Policy.

- 65) **Cost Application Questions:** Please confirm that the budget notes/narrative should be structured to follow the same budget categories listed on pages 38-39 of the RFA (i.e. salary and wages, fringe benefits, travel and transportation, equipment, supplies, contractual, other direct costs, and indirect costs).

Yes

- 66) Will USAID be open to alternative procurement geographic codes other than 000?

See Q38.

- 67) **Cost Application Questions:** On page 38 the RFA states: “If the applicant has established a consortium or another legal relationship among its partners, the Cost/Business application must include a copy of the document establishing the parameters of the legal relationship between the parties.” Please clarify whether this requirement applies to:

- a. Applicants that have formed a joint venture among partners for the purposes of submitting an application as a single entity, and if so, whether a Joint Venture Partnership Agreement would suffice as evidence of this legal relationship;

Yes, one contractor should take the lead as prime.

- b. Applicants that have entered into prime and sub-recipient arrangements, and if so, whether Teaming Agreement(s) between the prime and each of its sub-recipient would suffice as evidence of this legal relationship.

The agreements between a sub and prime is their relationship. A letter from the sub that they are entering into such relationship is acceptable as proof.

- 68) SPRING has a core component and a field component. Given that various USAID Missions have recently released their individual procurement plans for bilateral nutrition programs (with current solicitations, for example, from USAID Missions in Zambia, Tanzania, and Ethiopia), can you please address the anticipated field buy-in for SPRING?

It is anticipated SPRING can provide technical assistance to bilateral programs. In regards to anticipated Mission buy-in, please see Q15.

- 69) Could you please clarify the intent in the RFA's estimated LOE and funding splits between SPRING's field and core components? In Section I.D., page 17, the RFA notes 60% LOE for IR1 and 40% LOE for IR2. In Section II.B., page 26, the RFA indicates 75% field funds and 25% core funds. Can you please clarify the intent of these percentage splits?

See Q29.

- 70) Can you please address the role of evaluation in the planned project and specifically whether evaluation is expected to be funded entirely out of core funds?

See Q30.

- 71) In Section IV.C.2., page 35, in a discussion of instructions for how to present staffing, the RFA variously refers to staffing letters of intent and letters of commitment. What is the difference between the two letters? What type of proposed staff should provide a letter – whether of intent or commitment?

See Q10.

- 72) In Section IV.C.2., page 37, requests Past Performance information to be included in the proposal, and specifically requests three Past Performance Reports. Can you please clarify whether the intent is for major consortium partners to each provide individual Past Performance Reports, up to a maximum of three per major partner?

See Q63.

- 73) Can graphics and charts be included within the main body of the proposal but not count as part of the 30-page limit? Specifically, please confirm whether the organizational chart and illustrative performance monitoring plan may be excluded from the 30-page limit.

See Q40.

- 74) Can a company under "suspension" bid on this project?

No

- 75) Given that one of the objectives of the project is to "develop and expand approaches for increasing community and household production of staples and quality foods like fruits, vegetables and animal sources through local production in homes, communities and/or schools" is it anticipated that the project would be providing resources and technical expertise for agriculture (in the broad sense of the word--including animal husbandry) OR would these resources and technical expertise be found through other USAID and/or other-donor projects/efforts? If the answer is yes, can USAID provide an order of magnitude of the investment it anticipates in this particular sectoral area?

Depending on the country context and other existing programs, it is possible SPRING could provide resources (technical and/or financial) in support of complementary agriculture efforts OR coordinate with a program in the target project site. It is anticipated SPRING will support a multisectoral approaches to country nutrition programming.

- 76) The definition of the ENA strategy provided on page 16 includes recuperative feeding. Would USAID please provide a short explanation of what is included in recuperative feeding in the context of ENA?

See above amended language.

- 77) Will this be the primary funding mechanism for the FTF initiative? Will other FTF RFA's be issued for the focus countries, such as in Haiti, Malawi and Rwanda? It is not entirely clear in the RFA.

SPRING is not the primary funding mechanism for FTF, but is expected to contribute to FTF objectives and goals. Any other mechanisms that contribute to FTF objectives will be determined on a country-by-country basis.

