



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Amendment Issuance Date:

October 8, 2021

Closing Date and Time for Submission of Applications:

**November 2, 2021
16:00 pm Local Kyiv Time**

Subject: Amendment No. 01 NOFO No. 72012121RFA00004

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The purpose of Amendment No. 01 is to:

1. Provide answers to the questions received to the Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: No. 72012121RFA00004; and
2. Revise NOFO No. 72012121RFA00004.

Thank you for your interest in USAID projects.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Woody
Regional Supervisory Agreement Officer

PART I OF THE AMENDMENT NO. 01

Answers to Questions submitted for NOFO No. 72012121RFA00004 Public Health System Recovery and Resilience Activity

Q.1 Reference: Section IV, C.2.j) Past Performance; page 29.

Could USAID please clarify what counts as a “major partnering organization?”

USAID ANSWER: The NOFO does not provide a definition of a “major partnering organization.” Whether an organization is a “major partner” should be based on the Applicant’s approach, relative roles and responsibilities, and proposed costs.

Q.2 Reference: Section I, 4. Description of the Goal, Objectives, Activities and Expected Results; page 11. Following paragraphs describing Objective 4 and its expected results, the NOFO states, "Implementation of activities under Objective 3 may lead to the following Illustrative Results" Please confirm that this is a typo and should say "Objective 4."

USAID ANSWER: Confirmed, this is a typo. USAID meant to say “"Objective 4."

Q.3 Reference: Section IV, C.1. General Application Format; page 24. Kindly confirm that font and size requirements (Times New Roman 12-font size) do not apply to tables and graphics.

USAID ANSWER: USAID confirms that the font and size requirements (Times New Roman 12-font size) do not apply to tables and graphics.

Q.4 Reference: Section IV, C.2.j) Past Performance; page 29. The NOFO states that "Applicants must list all contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements which the organization, both the primary applicant as well as any major partnering organization, has implemented involving similar or related programs over the past five years." However, the pages allowed for this requirement is limited to two pages maximum. Kindly confirm that we are to include only the most similar contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements that can fit within the allowed page space *OR* kindly eliminate the page restrictions to allow for all similar contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements undertaken by the primary applicant and major partnering organization to be included.

USAID ANSWER: Please follow NOFO requirements. The NOFO calls for a list.

Q.5 Reference: Section IV, D. Risk Assessment Prior to Any Award; pages 33-34. Please clarify if USAID prefers for the documentation requested in this section (NICRA, Certifications, Assurance and other Statements of the Applicant, Additional Information, Certificate of Compliance) as attachments in the budget narrative OR as individual attachments to the Cost Proposal email.

USAID ANSWER: Documents listed in Section IV, D. RISK ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO ANY AWARD, should be submitted as part of Cost Application.

Q.6 Reference: Section IV, D.1. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement; page 33. Kindly confirm that NICRA or financial statements are only required for the applicant and not all sub-grantees.

USAID ANSWER: At the application stage, USAID requires the NICRA or financial statements for the Prime Applicant and /or Major Partners.

Q.7 Reference: Section IV, D.3. Additional Information.
Kindly confirm that additional information for evidence of financial responsibility is only required for the applicant and not all sub-grantees.

USAID ANSWER: Confirmed.

Q.8 Reference: Section I, 4. Description of the Goal, Objectives, Activities and Expected Results; page 9. The NOFO states under Objective 2 illustrative results that a minimum of 5 new regional public health entities are fully operational. Can USAID please define what "fully operational" means in this indicator?

USAID ANSWER: USAID means by this indicator that these new public health entities are established, funded, and staffed within Government of Ukraine structures in line and have the necessary capacities and systems to perform essential public health functions that advance health security in Ukraine - with specific emphasis on preparedness, surveillance and response to public health threats, and immunization functions.

Q.9 Reference: Section IV, C.2.f) Implementation Plan; page 27. The NOFO states that the implementation plan should at minimum include "proposed geographic focus and program beneficiaries (to be modified during start-up as appropriate based on consultations with the MOH, USAID and partners." Is there a minimum number of regions that must be proposed?

USAID ANSWER: USAID anticipates that the geographic focus and coverage may vary depending on availability of funds, need, GoU commitment, and the applicant's technical approach, but generally that some interventions may be national in scope and some may need to focus in a subset of regions

given limited resources and to demonstrate impact within regions. Under objective 2, as noted on p. 9, we anticipate that the activity should have the capacity to work at the subnational level with at least 5 regional public health entities.

Q.10 Reference: Section I, 4. Description of the Goal, Objectives, Activities and Expected Results; page 7. Footnote 5 on page 7 states that "this project will focus mostly on improvement of non-medicalized mental health services provision for trauma-affected groups at the community level," whereas the Victims of Torture funds will be for veterans and conflict-affected people. What level of effort should be directed toward community mental health and what percentage for conflict-affected/veterans? If the Victims of Torture funds do not materialize, how would this impact the mental health component?

USAID ANSWER: As noted on p. 10, mental health interventions under Objective 4 are expected to be supported with funds from USAID's Victims of Torture earmark (estimated \$1 - 1.2 million annually), which is expected to focus on conflict-affected populations including veterans. Mental health interventions under other objectives may be supported in the context of building state capacity to mitigate COVID secondary impacts and build a more resilient public health system at the community and PHC level. This is expected to be relatively minor focus under objectives 1-3, building opportunistically on VOT-funded investments, and driven by evidence around severity and need of mental health challenges arising from the COVID pandemic. As noted on p. 17, the level of funding and effort across objectives may vary annually based on availability of funds.

Q.11 Reference: Section I, 4. Description of the Goal, Objectives, Activities and Expected Results; page 10, 17, 18. USAID states that "Activities under Objective 4 will be specifically subject to availability of funding from USAID's Victims of Torture earmark." However, earlier references to the earmark state that funding for activities depends "in part" on its funding and that the funding will be blended with other sources. Please clarify whether USAID anticipates fully funding Objective 4 throughout the life of the program, or whether prospective implementers should budget and plan as though that objective will see a reduction in funding during implementation if the relevant earmark is closed.

USAID ANSWER: As noted on p. 17, the availability of funds may vary on an annual basis. At this time, we expect that approximately \$1-1.2 million in VOT funding will be available annually starting in FY2021 (Y1). VOT funds may not be provided immediately upon award; without VOT funds, there may be minimal or no effort under objective 4, given that the majority of funding is expected to be focused on improving good governance of the public health system under the AEECA account.

Q.12 Reference: Section I, 4. Description of the Goal, Objectives, Activities and Expected Results; page 17. USAID states that "the level of effort under [Objective] 1 may depend in part on the availability of dedicated USAID funding for COVID." The objective specifically refers to the COVID-19 pandemic, which we certainly hope is over long before the conclusion of the project. However, we

expect that secondary impacts of the pandemic will remain after the pandemic is closed, and that other pandemics or major disease outbreaks may occur during implementation. Please clarify whether USAID anticipates activities under Objective 1 to last the life of the program or whether prospective implementers should plan for a shorter period of implementation on this objective.

USAID ANSWER: USAID agrees the activities under Objective 1 may not necessarily last for the whole life of the new project. As the secondary impacts of COVID19 pandemic are mitigated and essential health services are restored, the relative level of effort could logically shift toward objectives 2 and 3. As noted on p. 17, the majority of funding for this award will be from the Good Governance program area (AEECA), entailing a focus on strengthening governance and functioning of the public health system; COVID supplemental funds, if available, would increase the level and duration of effort under objective 1.

Q.13

Q.13a May I know if the following document should be submitted in Technical Application's Annexes? evidence of that signing official/agent's authority unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

USAID ANSWER: Applications signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office. Evidence confirmation may be included in the Cost Application.

Q.13b Also, may I know if we should submit the following documents as a single pdf file for cost application, or submit as separate attachments? If those should be submitted as a single pdf, please confirm if a TOC is required.

Cover letter

Budget Narrative

SF424 forms (SF424, SF424A, SF424B)

NICRA,

reviewed financial statements report,

audited financial statements report,

303mov,

additional information (for positive risk assessment to manage USG funds), and

certificate of compliance

USAID ANSWER: Applicants' Cost Application should be submitted in compliance with the instructions and requirements described in SECTION IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION, 3. COST/BUSINESS APPLICATION FORMAT AND CONTENT of this NOFO. The Applicant may submit required documents as separate attachments.

Q.14 On page 32, USAID states that “the maximum daily rate for senior locally hired specialists is \$251 under USAID contracts”. Kindly clarify if this rule is applicable to USAID cooperative agreements as well and share the latest USAID Local Compensation Plan for USAID/Ukraine. In addition, kindly clarify if the applicant can apply their own compensation plans based on the latest labor market rates available for Ukraine.

USAID ANSWER: *The current* maximum daily rate for senior locally hired specialists is \$265 under USAID contracts. Applicants are expected to conduct their own market research to determine the appropriate salary scale for locally hired positions in Ukraine.

Q.15 On Page 32 under 3, USAID requests to “provide annual salary history for at least the three most recent years for all proposed key personnel.” The salary history information is now removed from the latest USAID biodata form. Kindly clarify on how the Offeror should collect and communicate this information in our cost proposal.

USAID ANSWER: Page 32 has been updated to exclude this requirement. Applicants are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible to justify the proposed compensation in their cost applications and to allow USAID to determine the reasonableness of proposed salaries.

Q.16 On page 42, 2nd paragraph USAID mentions that “Implementing partner should report on the USAID PMP and PPR indicators in DIS.” Can USAID/Ukraine provide the list of relevant PMP and PPR indicators which are currently reported in DIS by USAID/Ukraine and its implementing partners?

USAID ANSWER: The DIS serves as USAID’s platform for all PMP and PPR indicators from implementing partners. Required indicators for this activity will be developed as part of the activity MEL plan after award.

Q.17. On page 27, under section 2.g, USAID requires Annex B. Resumes for Proposed Key Personnel to contain resumes for “all key personnel listed in NOFO”. Example of key personnel positions are listed in the NOFO and USAID has requested that applicants propose up three out of five key personnel positions. Would USAID consider changing the wording to “key personnel proposed by the applicant”?

USAID ANSWER: The wording on page 27 has been revised.

Q.18. On page 24, Section C USAID states that “Technical Applications (electronic copy) must be in MS Word or PDF format, single spaced, utilizing Times New Roman 12-font size, typed on standard 8½"x11" sized paper with 1" margins on top, bottom, left and right, numbered consecutively, and not exceed 30 pages.”

Kindly provide the information on the font type and size for tables, charts, and graphs.

USAID ANSWER: The font and size requirements (Times New Roman 12-font size) do not apply to tables, charts and graphics.

Q19. Regarding font size, we seek additional clarification beyond what is contained on page 25, section C.2. Can USAID provide additional guidance on whether it would be possible to use a smaller font for charts, tables, and exhibits?

USAID ANSWER: See answer to Q.18 above.

Q.20 In Section C.2.f (p. 26-27), USAID is asking for an Implementation Plan. Would USAID consider allowing us to include a timeline table as an annex that will not count against the page limit?

USAID ANSWER: No.

Q.21 Can USAID confirm that a major partnering organization (as mentioned in C.2.i and on pages 29, 30, 31, and 33) is one that performs a significant technical role in the program?

USAID ANSWER: See answer to Q.1 above.

Q.22 Will the project be able to make sub-awards and/or grants to local organizations?

USAID ANSWER: Please read NOFO, PD, Section 7. Self-Reliance for details.

Q.23 Does the USAID expect the project to support direct risk communication/health promotion/behavior change communication campaigns and interventions (particularly related to COVID-19)?

USAID ANSWER: Risk communication for COVID-19 response and for disease prevention and control falls within the scope of Objective 1 and Objective 3. HS R&R is expected to utilize approaches that build systems and capacity in the public health sector around these functions.

Q.24 Section I.4 (p.8) references four (4) objectives and the illustrative level of effort for each. Is it expected that the detailed budget will be broken down by each of these four objectives? Or is an explanation of how the budget has allocated funds to the four objectives to be addressed in the budget narrative only?

USAID ANSWER: Per the NOFO, the cost application should contain the budget categories as shown on the SF-424A.

Q.25 Section IV.D (p.33-34) identifies documents that need to be submitted as part of the risk assessment. As this section does not fall under the format and content of either the technical or cost application (ie. Section IV.C), we request that USAID please clarify the following:

Q.25a Are the requirements outlined in items 1-5 of Section IV.D to be considered part of the cost application?

USAID ANSWER: Yes.

Q.25b Item 5 of Section IV.D states that a signed and dated printout of Required Certifications is to be submitted as an attachment to the cost proposal.

Is the signature requirement referring to items 2 &/or 3 under section IV.D? Items 1 & 4 would already be signed by the relevant agency. As this will be an electronic submission, please also confirm that electronic signatures are acceptable.

USAID ANSWER: USAID confirms that electronic signatures are acceptable.

Q.26 For cost application documentation required from partnering organizations, we request that USAID please clarify the following:

Q.26a Is partner-related cost application documentation required from major partnering organizations only?

USAID ANSWER: Yes.

Q.26b Does USAID want Applicants to submit only detailed budgets, budget narratives, and NICRAs (if applicable) on behalf of partnering organizations? Please confirm that no other documents such as financial statements (in the absence of a NICRA) or any of the documents under Section IV.D. are required from either major or non-major subcontractors.

USAID ANSWER: Per the NOFO, major partnering organization(s) financial plans should follow the same cost format as submitted by the applicant. USAID encourages Applicants to read this NOFO thoroughly to understand requirements related to submission of Cost Applications.

Q.27 In section C.2.j, (p. 29) USAID asks for a list of all contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements completed in the last 5 years that are similar or related to the present activity. Would USAID consider allowing the inclusion of a list of contracts as an annex?

USAID ANSWER: No.

Q.28 Under this award, what percent of the total budget is intended or required to be earmarked for the issuance of local small grant awards?

USAID ANSWER: The role of sub-grants will be a function of the applicant's technical approach toward achievement of the project goal, and the amount allocated to subgrants and rationale for this decision should be discussed in the technical application. It is up to the Applicant's Technical Approach how to allocate/distribute funds in its Cost Application.

Q.29 Could you please also advise the indirect cost rate for international/foreign subcontracts?

USAID ANSWER: For organizations with no negotiated indirect cost rate, any proposed indirect cost rates should be justified and should be based on the Audited Financial Statements Report provided as part of Cost Application and Budget Narrative.

Q.30 Are construction and or remodeling cost applicable for this NOFO?

USAID ANSWER: No.

Q.31 Are patient room beds and equipment covered in this NOFO?

USAID ANSWER: No.

Q.32 Will the award be "All or Nothing" or will the USAID select specific items from our application that will meet one or more of NOFO four objectives?

USAID ANSWER: Subject to available funding, USAID anticipates awarding one (1) Cooperative Agreement based on the merit review criteria found in Section V. of the NOFO.

[End of Amendment No. 01]