



To All Applicants:

From: USAID/CA Regional Mission
Acquisition and Assistance Office
Park Palace Building 41 Kazibek Bi Street,
Almaty, Kazakhstan 050010

Date: July 12, 2022

Subject: Amendment No. 01 to Notice of Funding Opportunity
(NOFO) No.: 72011522RFA00006
Countering Violent Extremism in Central Asia activity

The purpose of this Amendment No.01 to the above referenced NOFO is to incorporate changes in the NOFO, provide answers to questions received (Attachment No. 01 to this Amendment).

Accordingly, the changes are as follows:

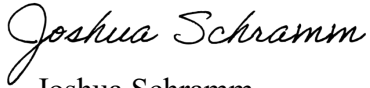
- 1) **Page 25 – SECTION D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION, subsection 4. Application Submission Procedures**, add the following in the end: “The maximum file size per email submission is 25MB.”
- 2) **Page 24 – SECTION D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION, subsection 3. General Content and Form of Application**, delete the following sentence “10-point font can be used for graphs and charts.” and replace to read as follows: “The font size for graphs and charts shall not be less than 10 points”.
- 3) **Page 24 – SECTION D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION, subsection 3. General Content and Form of Application**, delete the following sentence “Should we request for ex-DUNS Number here?” and insert the following: “Unique Entity Identification Number”.
- 4) **Pages 25 – SECTION D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION, 5. “Technical Application Format”**, add the following: “List of Acronyms (not included in 20-page limit)”.
- 5) **Page 30 - SECTION D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION, 5. “Technical Application Format”, Annex 6: Past Performance (up to 5 pages; not included in the 20 pages limit)**, remove in its entirety.
- 6) **Page 11 – SECTION A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, GENDER Equality and Women’s Empowerment**, in the end of this section please include the following sentence: “There is a specific amount designated for WPS activities within the total amount of the award, and currently USAID recommends allocate \$2,500,000 in the total budget for WPS activities. This amount may change in the course of activity implementation, subject to availability of funds.”
- 7) **Page 12 – SECTION A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, RESULTS FRAMEWORK, Intermediate Result (IR) 1.3 Monitoring of VE trends in Central Asia**, add the following: “This monitoring is intended to monitor context and emerging risks, evolving trends, significant shifts in patterns of

VE recruitment and mobilization involving Central Asia with the aim to adjust programming accordingly and implement corrective measures as needed. The results of this monitoring shall be reported on a quarterly basis as part of Quarterly Progress Reports.”

- 8) **Page 17 – SECTION A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, D. Women, Peace and Security, Enhance the roles of women as decision makers, community leaders, and activists to support CVE within the family, local community and through regional networks, bullet (c),** revise the following sentence “c. Amplify the voices of women previously involved in VE in Central Asia or abroad.” to read as follows: “c. Amplify the voices of women previously involved in VE in Central Asia.”
- 9) **Page 11 – SECTION A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, GENDER Equality and Women’s Empowerment,** remove the following sentence “While informative, the aforementioned research was conducted before 2020 and given the rapid changes in Central Asia, the Activity is expected to conduct a new gender analysis to better understand changes that have happened since for both men and women.” and insert the following: “While informative, the aforementioned research was conducted before 2020 and given the rapid changes in Central Asia, the Activity is expected to conduct a new gender analysis to better understand changes that have happened since then for both men and women and to inform development of the WPS activities.”
- 10) **Page 44 – SECTION F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION, i. Annual Work Plans (AWP),** please remove the following sentence “The annual work plans must also highlight how gender will be effectively addressed in the activity, using learning and information from the initial gender analysis and subsequent implementation.” and insert the following: “The annual work plans must also highlight how gender will be effectively addressed in the activity, using learning and information from the initial gender analysis, which should be conducted within three months of the award start date in close consultation with the AOR and USAID/CA Gender Advisor, and subsequent implementation.”
- 11) **Page 17 – SECTION A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, D. Women, Peace, and Security, IV. Target research to better understand women’s resilience against VE Influence,** bullet points “b, c, d” shall be replaced with “a, b, c”.
- 12) **Page 17 - SECTION A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, paragraph IV. Target research to better understand women’s resilience against VE influence,** in the end of the section please add the following: “USAID does not expect this research component to be part of the ongoing monitoring of VE trends in Central Asia under IR 1.3. This research component should be regarded as a standalone activity which is conducted by the IP itself or by a third party.”
- 13) **Page 24 – SECTION D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION, 3. General Content and Form of Application,** please revise the following sentence “Any erasures or other changes to the application must be initiated by the person signing the application. Applications signed by an agent on behalf of the applicant must be accompanied by evidence of that agent’s authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.” to read as follows: “The application submitted to USAID and, consequently any changes to the application, if appropriate, must be signed by the authorized person.”
- 14) **Page 55 - SECTION A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, after sentence “All selected indicators must be in line with the activity as well as the Mission-wide Performance Management Plan (PMP).”** add the following: “The list of standard indicators is attached (please see Attachment 3 “USAID List of Standard Indicators”). The custom ones are developed in case the standard

indicators are not applicable to the activity. PMP indicators will be shared during the development of the AMELP.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Schramm". The script is cursive and fluid.

Joshua Schramm
Agreement Officer
USAID/Central Asia

Attachment 1 “Questions and Answers”

Attachment 2 “PMP Baseline Assessment Report”

Attachment 3 “USAID List of Standard Indicators”

Attachment No. 01 – Questions and Answers:

Question 1: In section A on page 12, the NOFO lists IR 1.1: *Increased support services facilitated by community leaders to vulnerable individuals and families* as part of Objective 1: *strengthened local CSOs capacity to engage with CVE*. However, it would seem this IR may fit more seamlessly under Objective 2: *improved resilience of vulnerable individuals and families*, as it speaks to services that may not be solely delivered by CSOs and aligns with the two IRs listed currently under Objective 2. Could USAID kindly confirm if this IR may be considered as part of Objective 2 instead of Objective 1?

USAID Response to Question 1: Yes, USAID confirms that the Applicant may revisit the relationship and arrangement between intermediate results and objectives, if that is deemed to be in the best interest of the Activity. All deviations from the activities described in the Program Description should be sufficiently justified and prudent.

Question 2: Referring to section D.4, what is the maximum file size per email for submission?

USAID Response to Question 2: The file size per email should not exceed 25MB. Please see **Change # 1** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 3: Referring to section D.4, as with graphs and charts, may applicants use a smaller and different font for textboxes?

USAID Response to Question 3: Section D.3 “General Content and Form of Application” has been revised to correct the information on the font size requirements for graphs and charts, which shall not be less than 10-points, and for tables the applicant must comply with the 12-points Times New Roman requirement. Please see **Change # 2** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 4: Referring to section D.3, page 24, the NOFO states that *"the estimated start date identified in Section B of this NOFO must be used in the cost application"* however section B.2 on page 19 states *"the estimated start date will be determined at the time of the award"*. Can USAID kindly clarify what date they would like offerors to use as the start date, if any?

USAID Response to Question 4: USAID cannot provide the information on the start date of the project at this time. It will be determined at the time of the award. For budget purposes, the applicant should use the information on the estimated period of performance of the project, which is five (5) years, as provided in the solicitation.

Question 5: Referring to section D.3, page 24, there is a requirement for the cover page that states *"should we request for ex-DUNS Number here?"*. Would USAID like offerors to include their most recent DUNS number on the cover page?

USAID Response to Question 5: Requirement for DUNS number was replaced with the requirement for the Unique Entity Identifier. Each applicant must indicate Unique Entity Identifier as specified in the NOFO. Please see **Change #3** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 6: Referring to sections D.3 and D.5, please confirm that technical applications may be submitted in PDF format.

USAID Response to Question 6: As specified in the NOFO, in section D.3, applications can be submitted in PDF format or Word format, as appropriate, except for budget files which must be submitted in Microsoft Excel.

Question 7: Referring to section D.5, may applicants include an acronym list that does not count toward the 20-page limit?

USAID Response to Question 7: Yes, the applicants may include an acronym list, which will not count toward the 20-page limit. Please see **Change #4** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 8: Referring to sections D.5 and D.6, the information requested in Technical Application Annex 6 (Past Performance) and the Cost Application section on History of Performance have differing requirements, kindly confirm that both are required and that they are distinct requirements?

USAID Response to Question 8: Section D.5 has been revised to remove the requirement for Past Performance. Please note that the requirement for History of Performance in section D.6 is not part of Merit Review Criteria. Please see **Change #5** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 9: The NOFO references the potential to work in Turkmenistan, with a monitoring requirement for now. In order to conduct monitoring work from within Turkmenistan, it is required to have the approval of the government. To inform this approach and risk management, can USAID kindly confirm if there is currently an agreement between USAID and the Government of Turkmenistan which authorizes monitoring activities from within the country?

USAID Response to Question 9: USAID currently does not have a formal agreement in Turkmenistan that would specifically state that monitoring is allowed. Therefore, monitoring and analysis should be performed from outside the country through using publicly available data and information to the maximum extent possible.

Question 10: The cost application section requests applicants to ensure that costs are budgeted for the implementation of the Branding Strategy and Marking Plan. This section also notes the B&MP will be asked of the apparently successful applicant, please confirm applicants are only to budget for the costs, but are not required to submit a Branding and Marking Plan as part of the cost application.

USAID Response to Question 10: As provided in section D “Application and Submission Information”, sub-section (h) Branding Strategy and Marking Plan of the subject NOFO, the apparently successful applicants will be asked to provide a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan. As specified in the same section, the applicant must include in the budget and budget narratives all estimated costs associated with branding and marking of the activity.

Question 11: In Section A, page 10, the NOFO refers to the State Committee on Religious Affairs in Kyrgyzstan. How does USAID envision the State Committee on Religious Affairs as a reliable partner in the Activity?

USAID Response to Question 11: The Kyrgyz Republic’s CVE/countering terrorism (CT) strategy “Program of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for 2017–2022” will end in 2022 and the development of a new five-year program is in progress. The State Committee of Religious Affairs is a key partner and member of the drafting committee for the new 5-year program and will play a key role in its implementation.

Question 12: In Section A, page 10, does the term “preparedness” refer to natural disasters?

USAID Response to Question 12: This term refers to the ability and readiness to quickly respond to unpredictable situations.

Question 13: In Section A, page 12, Intermediate Result (IR) 3.3 refers to increased number of interventions targeting and led by women (with funds from Women, Peace, and Security). Is there a specific amount designated for such activities within the total amount of the award?

USAID Response to Question 13: Yes, there is a specific amount designated for WPS activities within the total amount of the award, and currently USAID recommends allocate \$2,500,000 in the total budget for WPS activities. This amount may change in the course of activity implementation, subject to availability of funds. Please see **Change #6** to the subject NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 14: In Section A, page 12, IR 1.3 requires monitoring of VE trends in Central Asia. The Department of State, Bureau of Counterterrorism (DOS/CT) monitors trends on a general level. Can USAID please provide more information about what additional monitoring is requested and how often it will need to be reported?

USAID Response to Question 14: This monitoring is intended to monitor context and emerging risks, evolving trends, significant shifts in patterns of VE recruitment and mobilization involving Central Asia with the aim to adjust programming accordingly and implement corrective measures as needed. The results of this monitoring shall be reported on a quarterly basis as part of Quarterly Progress Reports. Please see **Change #7** in the previous section of this document.

Question 15: In Section A, page 13, IR 1.3, can USAID please clarify if the monitoring of VE trends in Central Asia will be undertaken by local CSOs, given it falls under Objective 1?

USAID Response to Question 15: USAID leaves this decision to be made by the Applicant. The fact that IR 1.3 falls under Objective 1 is not a decisive factor to be relied upon in deciding whether or not to have a local CSO/CSOs do this monitoring.

Question 16: In Section A, page, 13, USAID states that USAID/Central Asia will be unable to engage in programming benefiting FTFs or any family members that traveled with them to Syria or Iraq. Meanwhile, in Section D, page 17, section III a. identifies "support women and men who have been through the de-radicalization process as peace messengers." Can USAID please clarify if the activity is able or expected to work with those that were radicalized but did not travel to Syria or Iraq?

USAID Response to Question 16: Yes, it is expected that the Implementing Partner will be able to work with de-radicalized individuals, as long as the programing does not benefit FTFs or any family members that traveled with them to Syria or Iraq.

Question 17: In Section A, page 14, the NOFO references CASSS research reports "will be made available." Can USAID please confirm if referenced CASSS research reports are available on the DEC, and if not, when will they be made available?

USAID Response to Question 17: Yes, all referenced CASSS research reports are available on DEC's website <https://dec.usaid.gov>

Question 18: In Section A, page 14, the NOFO references CASSS research reports "will be made available." Can USAID confirm what will be released from CASSS post award?

USAID Response to Question 18: All referenced CASSS research reports are available on DEC's website at <https://dec.usaid.gov>

Question 19: In Section A, page 14, can USAID please confirm if "identified vulnerability criteria" refers to the six risk factors identified in the CASSS project: age, marginalized communities,

perceived injustice, family and personal crisis, lack of religious freedom, and lack of strong family and social support?

USAID Response to Question 19: Yes, USAID confirms that the “identified vulnerability criteria” refers to the six risk factors identified in the CASSS project.

Question 20: In Section A, page 15, the NOFO states that “this Activity will not include programming for FTF returnees and their families,” but on page 17, it notes that one of the focuses under the Women, Peace, and Security activities will be to “amplify the voices of women previously involved in VE in Central Asia or abroad.” Can USAID please clarify if the activity is expected to work with those FTF returnees, including women?

USAID Response to Question 20: As provided on page 15, this activity will not include programming for FTF returnees whether women or men, and their families. The sentence on page 17 has been revised to remove “abroad”. Please see **Change #8** in the previous section of this document.

Question 21: In Section A, page 17, USAID identifies the need for a gender assessment. Can USAID please clarify at which stage of the activity the gender assessment is expected?

USAID Response to Question 21: The gender assessment for this activity should be conducted within first three months of the award being issued in close consultation with the AOR and USAID/CA Gender Advisor. The results of this assessment then should be integrated into the annual work plan. Please see **Changes #9 and 10** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 22: In Section A, page 17, Section IV, USAID identifies a research component for the activity to cover several topics (b, c, d). Can USAID please include a?

USAID Response to Question 22: This was a typo. The research component described in Section IV, page 17 includes three topics and should be numbered from a to c. Please see **Change #11**.

Question 23: In Section A, page 17, Section IV, USAID identifies a research component for the activity. Can USAID please specify what expectations are regarding personnel or award amount for this research component?

USAID Response to Question 23: USAID leaves this decision to be made by the Applicant. USAID has no specific expectations regarding personnel or award amount for this research component.

Question 24: In Section A, page 17, Section IV, USAID identifies a research component for the activity. Can USAID please specify if this will be a standalone activity or as part of ongoing monitoring of VE trends in Central Asia under IR 1.3?

USAID Response to Question 24: USAID does not expect this research component to be part of the ongoing monitoring of VE trends in Central Asia under IR 1.3. This research component should be regarded as a standalone activity which is conducted by the Implementer itself or by a third party. Please see **Change #12** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 25: Section F, pages 55-56, can USAID please confirm and share any established baseline reports related to proposed IR elements? If established baselines are not available, can USAID please clarify expectations for timing to conduct baseline assessments?

USAID Response to Question 25: There is a PMP baseline assessment attached (please see **Attachment 2 “PMP Baseline Assessment Report” to this Amendment**), which can be useful. However, once the AMELP is developed, the baselines should be established for the selected indicators in coordination with the AOR. There is no specified deadline, it depends on the selected indicators.

Question 26: In Section D, page 24, can USAID please specify what constitutes evidence of the agent's authority?

USAID Response to Question 26: Section D, sub-section 3. General Content and Form of Application has been revised to remove the requirement for the submitting evidence of agent's authority. Please see **Change #13** in the previous section of this document.

Question 27: In Section D, page 24, can USAID please clarify if the UEI number should be included in the cover page?

USAID Response to Question 27: Yes, USAID confirms that Unique Entity Identification Number (UEI) must be included on the cover page. Please see **Change #3** in the previous section of this document.

Question 28: In Section D, can USAID please clarify if an acronym list will count towards the 20-page limit?

USAID Response to Question 28: The applicants may include an acronym list, which will not count toward the 20-page limit. Section D has been revised accordingly. Please see **Change #4** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 29: In Section D, page 29, the NOFO states under D. Annex 4 that the draft MELP must include USAID standard indicators as well as custom indicators. Are there specific standard indicators USAID wishes to see collected, or is this completely at the discretion of the applicants?

USAID Response to Question 29: The list of standard indicators is attached as **Attachment 3 "USAID List of Standard Indicators"** to this Amendment). The custom ones are developed in case the standard indicators are not applicable to the activity. PMP indicators will be shared during the development of the AMELP. Please see **Change #14** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 30: In Section D, page 30, can USAID please clarify if it requires an institutional capacity statement and three past performance references or only three past performance references?

USAID Response to Question 30: Annex 6. Past Performance has been deleted by this Amendment. Please see **Change #5** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 31: Can USAID please clarify whether the gender research component is intended to be a standalone technical activity or if it can be incorporated into ongoing project learning and M&E?

USAID Response to Question 31: This gender research is part of a standalone Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) component. However, the results of this research should be integrated into the project learning and M&E plan.

Question 32: Can USAID please share a full list of the partners on CASSS?

USAID Response to Question 32: All CASSS quarterly and annual reports are available on DEC's website at <https://www.dec.usaid.gov> Information on CASSS partners can be found in these reports.

Question 33: In Section D. 3, page 24 of the NOFO states that "the estimated start date identified in Section B of this NOFO must be used in the cost application." However, Section B. 2, page 19 of the NOFO states, "estimated start date will be determined at the time of the award." Can USAID please provide a start date to use in the cost application?

USAID Response to Question 33: USAID cannot provide the information on the start date of the project at this time. It will be determined at the time of the award. For budget purposes, the applicant

should use the information on the estimated period of performance of the project, which is five (5) years, as provided in the solicitation.

Question 34: Can we apply, because we are in the active registration status on Sam.gov?

USAID Response to Question 34: As provided in Section D “Application and Submission Information”, f. Unique Entity Identification Number and Sam Requirements, each applicant is required to be registered in SAM before submitting its application.

Question 35: How many MB should be in the application?

USAID Response to Question 35: The file size per email should not exceed 25MB. Please see **Change # 1** to the NOFO in the previous section of this document.

Question 36: Is it possible to attach additional documents (letters, memorandums, certificates, etc.)? In this case, the letter will weigh more.

USAID Response to Question 36: The applicant should submit the application in accordance with the requirements for technical and business application submission provided in **SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**.

Question 37: At what email we should send an application? The deadline is July 29, does that mean after 12 midnight on that date you don't accept it?

USAID Response to Question 37: As provided in **Section D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**, the application must be submitted by email at AlmatyAASolicitations@usaid.gov. As provided on the first page of the solicitation, the deadline for submitting applications under the subject NOFO is **July 29, 2022, 10AM, Almaty Time**.

[END OF AMENDMENT 01]