



DATE: December 6, 2022

TO: Interested Applicants

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 01
Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 72044223RFA00001
Program Title: USAID Enhancing Quality of Healthcare Activity II

Background

The subject Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was issued on November 10, 2022. Questions from interested applicants were received on or before November 30, 2022. As indicated in the NOFO, answers will be posted as an amendment to the NOFO to provide all prospective applicants with the same information.

Purpose of the Amendment

The purpose of this Amendment is to make specific changes to the NOFO and provide answers to questions submitted by interested applicants.

Sincerely,

Francis Hall
Agreement Officer
USAID/Cambodia

Specific changes to the NOFO are stated below:

1. In Section A, II, A. Country Context, Cross-Cutting Health System, page 5, **DELETE** the third and fourth sentences that read:

“Given the rapid growth of private providers with insufficient regulation measures, and although MoH support will continue to focus on advancing safety and quality of healthcare through public health systems. To maximize the health outcomes of the Cambodian people, the interventions should consider strengthening quality of healthcare in the private sector where the majority of care seeking occurs.” and **REPLACE** with below sentence:

“Given the rapid growth of private providers with insufficient regulation measures, to complement the existing support in advancing safety and quality of healthcare through public health systems, the interventions should strengthen the quality of healthcare in the private sector where the majority of care seeking occurs.”

2. In Section D. 5, a. Cover Page, last bullet, page 28, **DELETE** “DUNS” and **REPLACE** with “UEI”.
3. In Section D. 5, f. Annexes, page 29, **DELETE** the section in its entirety and **REPLACE** with the following:

“f. Annexes

- i. Draft Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan (5 pages)
- ii. Organizational Chart and Staffing Plan Matrix (no page limit, not included in the overall page limit)
- iii. Key Personnel Resumes/CVs and Letters of Commitment (no page limit, not included in the overall page limit)
- iv. Draft work plan Gantt chart (no page limit, not included in the overall page limit)
- v. Opportunity Module Planning (no page limit, not included in the overall page limit)”

4. In Section D.5, (4) Institutional Capacity, page 32, **ADD** below sentence to paragraph 2 of the section:

“Major sub-partner is a sub-partner with cost expected to exceed 20% of the proposed effort; and/or a sub-partner that is deemed critical by the prime applicant in achieving the proposed tasks under the award.”

5. In Section D.6, Business (Cost) Application Format, page 34, **DELETE** the word “Evidence of Responsible” and **REPLACE** with “Evidence of Responsibility”.
6. In Section D. 6, Business (Cost) Application Format, page 34, b) SF-424, SF-424A, and SF-424B and c) Required Certifications and Assurances, **DELETE** the word “Applicant(s)” and **REPLACE** with “Prime Applicants and major sub-partners”.
7. In Section D. 6, d) Budget, Personnel, page 35, **DELETE** “unburdened daily rate(s)” and

REPLACE with “unburdened daily or monthly rates”.

- 8. ADD** Attachment 2, Cambodia Mission Local Compensation Plan (40 Hours Workweek) as below:

GRADE	MINIMUM RATE	MAXIMUM RATE	SAMPLE POSITION TITLES
FSN 12	42,609	66,053	Senior Project Management Specialist
FSN 11	35,902	55,634	Human Resource Specialist, Computer Management Specialist, Supervisory Financial Analyst
FSN 10	28,409	44,028	Project Management Specialist, Development Assistance Specialist, Financial Analyst, Accountant
FSN 09	20,764	32,190	Supervisory Voucher Examiner, Computer Operations Assistant
FSN 08	16,024	24,824	Project Management Assistant
FSN 07	12,178	18,878	Administrative Assistant
FSN 06	10,974	17,004	Secretary
FSN 05	9,995	15,507	Clerical
FSN 04	8,184	12,670	Driver
FSN 03	6,421	9,947	Guard (Embassy)
FSN 02	4,753	7,367	Guard (Resident)
FSN 01	4,229	6,545	Janitor

Questions received related to NOFO No. 72044223RFA00001 and corresponding USAID answers as follows:

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answers as follows:**

1. My group [XXX], wishes to apply for this grant but I am having trouble accessing it. I need your help. The page is not allowing me to apply.

Answer: Based on Section D, Part 1, Agency Point of Contact, and Part 3. General Content and Form of Application, please submit your application by email to Ms. Honey Sokry, Acquisition and Assistance Specialist at hsokry@usaid.gov, and cc fhall@usaid.gov.

2. I want to apply for this grant but I get the following message:
To apply for a grant opportunity, your Organization must authorize you to Create Workspace or add you to an existing Workspace. I'm not sure what that means. Is there anyone who can help me?

Answer: Please refer to the answer to question number one above.

3. We are a Non Profit research organization dedicated to conducting research on "Misdiagnosis," "Error in Treatment," "Malpractice," and overall, all errors happening in the healthcare and medical fields. Through our work and our publications, we aim to remove the limitations and boundaries placed on healthcare and improve quality of life by providing excellent and equitable care to all. We are looking for govt grants available for our research. I am unable to apply it on the grants.gov website. Please kindly assist me with how to apply for the eligible grants.

Answer: Please refer to the answer to question number one above.

4. On NOFO page 18, in the "Sustainability" section, it reads, "The proposed interventions should provide clear strategies for making quality improvement efforts initiated by the Activity sustainable, with a sustainability plan and milestones." Can USAID kindly clarify if a "sustainability plan and milestones" is expected during the application phase or will be developed post-award? If USAID requires a sustainability plan and milestones at application stage, please clarify where in the application it should be included (for example, in the technical section, as a technical annex, etc.) and if additional pages will be allotted to accommodate this information.

Answer: Applicants are expected to address sustainability in the technical proposal, but no formal plan is required during the application phase. A final comprehensive sustainability plan will be required after the award is made.

5. On NOFO page 23, in the "Cost Sharing or Matching" section, it reads, "The proposed cost share will not be rated but its amount and composition will be reviewed by the Merit Review

Committee (MRC) for potential impact on the implementation and sustainability of the project's outcomes, and it may become a deciding factor in identifying the apparently successful application, in case two or more applications are equally rated." Similarly, on page 37, the NOFO reads "If cost share is proposed, applicants should state the proposed amount of cost-sharing resources to be mobilized over the life of the agreement and specify the sources of such resources..." At application stage however, the precise amount, composition, and sources of anticipated cost share are not generally known; rather flexibility is needed in determining, identifying, and seizing cost share sources, amounts, and opportunities over the life of an activity. Given this, could USAID reconsider its above expectations regarding specificity at application stage of proposed cost share amounts, composition, and sources?

Answer: Applicants should propose a representational cost share proposal in the application. Details on fulfilling cost share requirements will be discussed and finalized after award.

6. Would USAID please provide the page limit for the "History of Performance" requirement (page 39-40)?

Answer: There is no page limit for this section.

7. Would USAID please clarify whether cover pages should include the UEI (SAM) in lieu of DUNS?

Answer: Cover pages should include the UEI. This change is reflected in the RFA amendment.

8. In Section A.II, page 5, USAID writes, "Given the rapid growth of private providers with insufficient regulation measures, and although MoH support will continue to focus on advancing safety and quality of healthcare through public health systems." Could USAID please clarify this sentence?

Answer: This sentence has been revised, please see RFA Amendment.

9. In Section A.II, page 10, USAID refers to its current support for quality improvement focusing on improved quality of preservice training. Could USAID please clarify if EQHA II will support both preservice and in-service training of health workers across all vertical programs listed under Objective 3?

Answer: Capacity building of healthcare professionals (including in-service training) remains one of USAID's priorities to support health system strengthening in Cambodia. However, EQHA II will not include support of pre-service training as a primary focus.

10. In Section A.IV, page 12, USAID writes, "EQHA II will also support expanding professional

networks in the public and private sectors that can foster technical exchange among healthcare professionals, and compile information as a technical resource center from which healthcare institutions of both sectors can refer and seek technical assistance or services when needed for their quality improvement efforts.” Does USAID intend for EQHA II to create a technical resource center?

Answer: EQHA II will support professional networks as a source of technical exchange. USAID does not intend EQHA II to create a physical technical resource center. In addition to its support of professional networks, EQHA II may support knowledge management efforts and dissemination of lessons learned during the course of implementation.

11. Can USAID confirm that, in addition to the cover page, applicants may include a cover letter with their submission that would not count against the 25-page limit for the technical Application?

Answer: Applicants do not need to submit a cover letter, only a cover page.

12. Would USAID allow applicants to use 10-point font for text boxes, tables, and graphics?

Answer: No, please follow Section D, Part 5.

13. In Section D.5f, page 29, USAID writes, “Annexes (no page limit, not included in the overall page limit)”. However, in Section D.5(1) page 30, USAID writes, “A draft monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan, including a logical framework, not exceeding five pages.” Could USAID please confirm there is no page limit for the MEL plan?

Answer: The draft MEL plan should not exceed five pages. Please see the revision in the RFA Amendment.

14. In Section D.5(1), page 30, USAID writes, “A draft workplan Gantt chart providing an overview of the key activities envisioned during the first project year...”. Could USAID please confirm that Annex IV. Draft work plan Gantt chart is only for the first project year and not for the duration of the project?

Answer: Yes, the draft workplan Gantt chart is only for the first project year.

15. In Section D.5(2), page 31, USAID writes, “Letters of commitment from sub-partners, if applicable, must be included as an annex.” Could USAID please confirm if these letters should be included as Annex VI?

Answer: Please include them in Annex iii.

16. In Section D.5(4), page 32, USAID writes, “major sub-partners”. Could USAID kindly define major sub-partners?

Answer: A sub-partner with cost expected to exceed 20% of the proposed effort; and/or a sub-partner that is deemed critical by the prime applicant in achieving the proposed tasks under the award.

17. On page 34, Section C, USAID notes that the applicant must complete required certifications and assurances including: 1) “Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient”, 2) Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B), and (3) Certificate of Compliance. Could USAID please confirm that this requirement is for the prime applicant only and that proposed sub-recipients are not required to submit the required certifications and assurances prior to award?

Answer: This requirement is for prime applicants and major sub-partners. Please see specific changes in the RFA amendment above.

18. On page 33, Section 6, USAID requests for applicants to provide detailed budget notes/narrative for all costs associated with the Opportunity Module writing, “Potential contributions of non-USAID or private commercial donors to this Cooperative Agreement, and the composition of the proposed cost share.” Could USAID please confirm if the minimum cost share requirement of \$2,000,000 is inclusive of the \$5 million Opportunity Module?

Answer: The total cost share of the award is \$2 million; regardless of if the Opportunity module is exercised or not.

19. Could USAID please provide the most recent Cambodia Mission Local Compensation Plan?

Answer: Included as an attachment in the amended RFA.

20. Could USAID please provide a list of assets that will be transferred from EQHA to EQHA II or provide guidance on which new assets should be budgeted in cost applications?

Answer: For the purpose of this RFA, please budget the new assets needed for the project. At the end of EQHA, USAID will decide on the disposition plan with the current incumbent later.

21. In the personnel section, the NOFO indicates that a recipient should budget per daily rate. Would USAID allow using monthly rates (as the majority of our staff's contracts/employment agreement salaries are per month and not day)?

Answer: Please see specific changes in the amendment above.

22. Could USAID please share progress updates from EQHA (quarterly/annual reports or special reports) for the period June 2021 to date? We are interested in the progress made in the following areas noted in the EQHA midterm performance evaluation report : 1) support to H-EQIP -2 and incorporating accreditation standards in the NQEM-2 tool, 2) national-level advocacy on facility-level QI, 3) support provided to updating the legal instruments related to the accreditation process, and 4) support provided to the health professional councils in implementing their strategic plans.

Answer: USAID cannot provide any additional information, outside of what is included in the RFA, at this time.

23. On Page 13, the RFA states “Accessibility and availability of long-term methods at health facilities is still challenging, especially in remote areas where the skill of midwives is limited. The proposed interventions can include building the capacity of those providers to provide high-quality family planning services.” Does USAID expect the project to procure commodities and supplies, such as long lasting FP methods?

Answer: No, USAID does not envision procuring family planning commodities and supplies through EQHA II.

24. On page 16, the RFA states “Focus provinces should be selected in consultation with USAID based on RGC and PHD interest and commitment; potential to increase equitable outcomes for indigenous and ethnic minority populations; presence and organization of the private health sector; and EQHA focus provinces that could benefit from further investment.” Does USAID expect applicants to propose provinces in the RFA?

Answer: Yes, applicants should propose provinces in the technical application.

25. For equity across applicants, we kindly request an updated FSN scale for Cambodia.

Answer: Please see the response to question number nineteen.

26. Could USAID please clarify the weights of the 4 different technical evaluation criteria listed on page 48 of the RFA?

Answer: The proportion of the weights could be interpreted as 50/20/20/10.

27. Can USAID please allow applicants to use font smaller than 12 pt and other than Times New Roman in graphics, charts, graphs and text boxes?

Answer: No, please follow Section D, Part 5.

28. Can USAID please confirm that on page 34, in Section D.6 that the “The Cost Application must contain the following sections: Evidence of Responsible the Agreement Officer can use to determine the Applicant” requirement is the Evidence of Responsibility? If not, can USAID please provide further clarification?

Answer: Yes, it is the Evidence of Responsibility. Please see the RFA Amendment.

29. Can USAID please confirm that the 20% subgrants and small grants mentioned in Section D.6d should be calculated using the \$30 million total award amount?

Answer: Yes, the 20% should be calculated using the \$30M total award amount.

30. Can USAID please confirm that local partner budgets will be considered part of the 20% subgrants and small grants figure?

Answer: Any subgrant or subaward, whether local or international, will count towards the subgrants and small grants figure.

31. Can USAID confirm the UEI number should be listed on the cover instead of the DUNS number?

Answer: Please see the response to question number seven.

32. Can USAID please confirm that the requirement for “All rates must be proposed as unburdened daily rates exclusive of benefits and/or fees (if any).” does not apply to fixed amount subawards that will have a deliverables-based payment schedule post-award?

Answer: This requirement does not apply to fixed amount subawards.

33. On page 31, USAID asks for the DCOP “to plan and oversee the implementation of this activity” and requires “project operations and management experience”. Can USAID please clarify if they expect this individual to provide direct oversight to project finance and administration?

Answer: USAID leaves this to the applicant to propose.

34. On page 31, USAID asks that “The COP must have at least 10 years of experience managing large health quality improvement projects in developing countries” would USAID consider

adjusting that to “the COP must have 10 years of experience managing health programs including quality improvement activities”?

Answer: No, the current wording accurately reflects the requirement.

35. Can USAID please confirm that references can be included in the Key Personnel resumes?

Answer: Yes, references can be included.

- End of Amendment #1 -