



READ ALLIANCE RFA-386-13-000001, Amendment #1

Amendment Date: March 28, 2013

The RFA is amended to include the following Questions and Answers:

QUESTION 1: Can the READ Alliance funding be exclusively used for research, advocacy, incubation of new ideas, etc. rather than implementation? Many organizations may already have independent funding for a reading program which already reaches over 1 million children a year. So the goal of reaching 5 million children in 5 years can be met without additional funding. Additionally, it may be difficult to separate the additional number of children reached thru this funding if we were also to be an implementing agency.

ANSWER: The activities and intended results of the READ Alliance are explained in the RFA and USAID does not plan to make changes to it. The READ Alliance will add to the work being done in India on early literacy, however, the READ Alliance is a new project with new targets and goals separate from activities already being implemented.

Organizations interested in having their innovations supported by the READ Alliance can apply for funding once the alliance has been established.

QUESTION 2: Does USAID want the READ Alliance to be a new organizational entity, registered separately?

ANSWER: It is not envisioned at this time that the READ Alliance will involve the creation of a new organization.

QUESTION 3: Will USAID insist on branding? We have multiple donors who together give more than \$4 million without branding and may have a problem with USAID branding. Also, governments can be sensitive to branding in the absence of substantial funds.

ANSWER: USAID has a policy regarding branding. However, there are exceptions when branding is not feasible or when branding might violate established rules or norms.

USAID will consider the proposed branding strategy submitted by the READ Alliance implementing partner.

QUESTION 4: Will DIV funds be separately available for Alliance partners to scale up?

ANSWER: A READ Alliance partner may seek DIV funds for their activities, but this would be separate from the READ Alliance.

QUESTION 5 : Innovation Challenge: We request clarity on the criticality of the proposed program to qualify as a stage 1 innovation (as defined in USAID's Global Development Innovation Ventures Program), i.e. is it imperative for the lead partner to manage a competition (web-based; in line with the "All Children Reading Grant Challenge") inviting applications for sub-grants. Would it be acceptable if the lead partner proposes implementing "tested" innovations through a multi-stakeholder model (private, NGOs and Government partners, identified locally by the lead partner) and creating evidences for up-scaling?

ANSWER: The READ Alliance innovations challenge is not limited to stage 1 innovation. In fact, we would like the READ Alliance to support the testing and/or scale up of innovations at stage 2 and 3. However, choosing the innovations to be supported by the READ Alliance will be done through a competitive process to ensure that the best and most promising innovations are chosen in a fair manner with an opportunity to consider a variety of proposals. The implementing partner will not be able to designate the innovation(s) for support and scale-up.

Organizations interested in having their innovations supported by READ can apply for funding once the alliance has been established.

QUESTION 6: The target of 5 million primary school children should be covered from all 27 (except Bihar), one NCP & 7 Union Territories? Or can we go priority basis from the selected states and within states selected districts where needs are identified?

ANSWER: First, to clarify, there are no geographical limits as to where READ Alliance innovations can be implemented in India. Innovations may be implemented in Bihar. Second, the five million children goal is not a firm target and represents the kind of scale that the READ Alliance will strive for and hopefully surpass. Innovations supported by the READ Alliance can be limited to any state or territory in India and do not have to reach all areas within India. However, we do hope to find effective innovations that could eventually be scaled throughout all states and territories in India.

QUESTION 7: Will there be any extension in the project life span of 5 years, if there are unavoidable reasons restricting our achievement but within the allocated funds?

ANSWER: Although the funding for the READ Alliance is for over a period of five years, we anticipate that the implementing partner will draw in additional partners and resources to sustain it beyond the USAID funding period. With respect to whether the

USAID support for the READ Alliance can be extended for longer than five years, we expect applicants to submit plans for how they would use USAID resources to achieve the goals of the READ Alliance within the five year period and that those plans can be implemented on time and at cost.

QUESTION 8: The target number of 5 million to be reached out throughout the life span of the project or in spread across the life span with cumulative standard?

ANSWER: The 5 million is not a firm target but rather is an indication of the type of impact we believe the READ Alliance can have in five years.

QUESTION 9: Can we focus only on the most backward states and couple of so called developed states for this intervention for better impact or achievement?

ANSWER: There is no geographical limitation as to where the READ Alliance innovations can be implemented, tested, and scaled. However, the READ Alliance is first and foremost a platform to bring together a diverse group of partners interested in improving early literacy in India. Where innovations are implemented may be determined by the alliance partners collectively, the innovators whose programs are chosen to be supported by the READ Alliance, or other factors.

QUESTION 10: Other than financial aid from USAID/India, is there a provision to extend technical, HR & other needed support?

ANSWER: No. The \$3.2 million for the five-year implementation is meant to cover all administrative, overhead costs, and technical support costs associated with running the READ Alliance as well as the activities undertaken by the READ Alliance, including the innovations challenge grants.

QUESTION 11: Is there any application package available for submitting RFA?

ANSWER: There is no application package; however, detailed instructions for submitting the application are included in Section IV and V of the RFA.

QUESTION 12: it is mentioned in the RFA that the opportunity is meant for the Indian NGOs. My query is that can an American firm (for profit organization) join with an Indian NGO or become its sub and jointly bid for this opportunity? Mine is an American firm and we are not registered in India.

ANSWER: The opportunity is limited to Indian organizations, as defined in the RFA. The implementing organization may sub-award certain aspects of the READ Alliance to another entity. However, the implementing partner, i.e. the Indian organization, would receive and control the funds for the READ Alliance and ultimately be responsible for all aspects of the READ Alliance.

End of Amendment #1