



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Request for Information (RFI)

Subject: USAID/Kyrgyz Republic Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program

Reference: RFI-72011518RFA00003

Issued: March 1, 2018

Due Date: March 30, 2018, 09:00 AM Almaty Time

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Kyrgyz Republic, is seeking input from interested organizations and individuals who may provide comments, opinions and recommendations in response to the proposed project approach and questions outlined in the RFI.

This Request for Information (RFI) notice is issued to obtain input related to interest, capabilities, and market information from potential applicants. Responses to this notice are not applications and will not be accepted by the Government; only the information requested in this RFI will be reviewed. Responses received may be used for planning and design purposes. The full RFI can be viewed and downloaded at www.grants.gov.

Release of this RFI in no way obligates the United States Government or USAID to release a funding opportunity for this proposed activity, nor are either responsible for any costs incurred in preparing responses to this RFI.

Responses must be submitted electronically to AlmatyAASolicitations@usaid.gov with a copy to Aliya Baioralova, Acquisition and Assistance Specialist, via e-mail at abaioralova@usaid.gov under the title: RFI-72011518RFA00003, USAID/Kyrgyz Republic Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program. The deadline for submissions is 09:00 AM Almaty time on March 30, 2018. Submissions will receive an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt. USAID will not provide feedback or responses to questions submitted in response to this RFI and no applications or resumes will be accepted or considered. Your responses will not be made public.

Thank you for your interest in the subject request for information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jonathan Chappell
Supervisory Regional Agreement Officer

Request for Information

I. Summary

This Request for Information (RFI) is a preliminary call for expressions of interest to partner with the USAID/Kyrgyz Republic Mission in its work to support the Kyrgyz Republic to improve long-term detection, treatment, and prevention of Tuberculosis (TB), especially drug resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB). The responses from this RFI will aid USAID in the follow-on design of its Defeat TB Program.

Interested parties should provide a short (3-7 pages) expression of interest, addressing the issues and questions discussed below, and offering initial ideas (not in detail) of 1) how they would propose expanding TB detection, treatment, and prevention successes in the Kyrgyz Republic and support implementation of the WHO End TB Strategy; and 2) help achieve the strategic goals of the USG Global TB Strategy (2014-2019), and the National Action Plan for Combating MDR-TB (NAP).

II. Background

Keeping the United States safe from life-threatening infectious diseases is a priority for USAID's TB investments. USAID plays a key role in controlling transnational health threats such as drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB), which do not respect national boundaries and pose a threat to all countries, including the U.S. via travel. In the Kyrgyz Republic, DR-TB remains a significant challenge. Kyrgyzstan rank among the 30 countries with the highest burden of multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB globally. Drug resistant TB poses a major barrier to achieving the USG Global TB Strategy, NAP, and the WHO End TB strategic goals and objectives. USAID supports the overall goal of the National TB Program to reduce TB incidence and TB mortality, and conduct activities to improve detection and appropriate treatment of DR-TB. Our activities help the Kyrgyz Republic to meet their objectives by supporting the introduction of new and effective approaches for DR-TB treatment and care, expanding outpatient treatment models, optimizing TB system, introducing new incentivizing financing and other related health reform activities, and improving laboratory capacity to ensure high quality and assess efficaciousness.

III. Strategic Results

As a whole, our current TB activities work towards eight strategic results:

1. More equitable access to comprehensive and appropriate TB diagnostic and treatment services for vulnerable populations increased;
2. More timely, quality TB and MDR-TB diagnosis provided by laboratories;
3. Patient centered system for TB and MDR-TB implemented across the region;
4. Enhanced enabling environment promoting TB services that meet international standards;

5. Human and institutional capacity of health system to manage TB and MDR-TB services strengthened;
6. Coordination and linkage of TB with other health services and civil society organizations (CSOs) improved;
7. TB service providers and managers using electronic TB management information systems (MIS) and using quality data for evidence based decision making at all levels; and
8. Improved TB surveillance including collection, analyzing, and use of data for decision making.

IV. What USAID Does

- **TREATMENT AND CARE:** USAID works with health care providers from the primary health care to the highest levels of government to ensure that TB patients in the Kyrgyz Republic receive treatment and care in line with the World Health Organization's recommendations.
- **STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY:** USAID has worked with TB hospitals and clinics to improve their laboratory equipment, diagnostic and treatment methods, and infection control with governments to put reforms into law; and with medical universities to ensure that the progress made on fighting TB is continued by the next generation of doctors and nurses.
- **IMPROVE ACCESS TO DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT:** USAID identifies barriers to diagnosis and treatment, including stigma and misinformation, as well as the social and economic costs of TB. USAID works with community leaders to raise awareness about TB and to mobilize communities to identify potential TB patients and provide support for patients and their families affected by the disease to ensure adherence to and successful completion of treatment.

V. Current USAID Activities

USAID/Kyrgyz Republic Defeat TB Project (DTB), a cooperative agreement led by Abt Associates, supports the Kyrgyz Government to strengthen and improve detection, treatment, and care for TB. Activities include improving access for vulnerable groups to high quality diagnosis and treatment for TB; training health workers; and shifting services from in-patient hospital care to outpatient treatment involving CSOs, communities, and family members allowing people to work and resume normal lives. The DTB project helps laboratories to improve how they work to diagnose both regular and drug-resistant TB faster so that those who are sick get on the right treatment quicker. Treatment for TB takes six months or more - treatment for MDR-TB takes much longer; up to two years - so the project also focuses on getting people back home more quickly to be treated within their communities. The DTB project also helps to improve the enabling environment for TB services to meet international standards, to strengthen human and institutional capacity of the health systems to manage TB and MDR--TB services, as well as to improve utilization of electronic TB MIS and quality data for evidence--based decision making at all levels.

Challenge TB, a Cooperative Agreement led by KNCV, and a coalition that includes the World Health Organization, works across the globe to prevent the spread of TB through: better infection control; improved patient-centered systems for finding and treating all types of TB, including universal access to appropriate treatment and care; strengthened links between laboratory services and health facilities; and the integration of all health care providers to improve access and support the transition to outpatient treatment. Challenge TB provides support to the National TB Program to strengthen their health systems to detect and treat DR-TB, and introduce and scale up new TB drugs and shorter treatment regimens. These will help reduce system expenses and help people with the most difficult types of TB to get better much quicker.

VI. Questions

USAID is interested in gathering information on the following specific questions:

1. Do USAID's current eight strategic results areas adequately capture the response needed to accelerate the Kyrgyz Republic's path to TB elimination? If not, what is missing or what should be prioritized with limited resources?
2. What are the main country-specific challenges to TB and DR-TB where you would be interested in working? How would you maximize the impact of your interventions?
3. What are the specific challenges to improve treatment outcomes? Describe any approaches your organization would employ to improve treatment outcomes.
4. What are the major obstacles in expanding TB outpatient treatment? Explain what interventions should be taken to overcome them.
5. What are the main challenges in the implementation of electronic TB MIS? Describe how your organization would address these challenges.
6. What role does migration play in the TB epidemic in the Kyrgyz Republic? What are possible interventions to address TB as a transnational threat?
7. Describe how stigma against TB patients and providers inhibits progress in controlling the disease. What could your organization do to reverse stigma?
8. What is the capacity/experience of your organization to address these challenges?
9. How would you measure the impact of your work?
10. How would your organization effectively engage international organizations like WHO and Global Fund for higher country-level impact?
11. What is your organization's experience in health programs in the Kyrgyz Republic?

VII. How to Submit a Response

All comments must be submitted electronically to AlmatyAASolicitations@usaid.gov with a copy to Aliya Baioralova, Acquisition and Assistance Specialist, via e-mail at abaioralova@usaid.gov under the title: RFI-72011518RFA00003, USAID/Kyrgyz Republic Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program. Responses to this RFI will be accepted through March 30, 2018, 09:00 AM (Almaty Time). You will receive only an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt of your response, but will not receive individualized feedback or suggestions. No basis for claims against the U.S. Government shall arise as a result of a response to this request for information or from the U.S. Government's

use of such information. Specific questions about this RFI should be directed only to the email addresses identified above. This office will not respond to any telephone or other inquiries regarding this notice.

The submitted information must not exceed 7 pages, including annexes/attachments. The submitted response should include the following information:

Reference Number: RFI-72011518RFA00003

Date:

Affiliation/ Organization:

Business Address:

Representative Name / Email:

A short technical narrative that includes:

- the capabilities, strengths, and expected contributions that your organization could provide to address TB challenges in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- responses to the Questions in the RFI; and
- documents that support your answers to the RFI questions as attachments.

Please note USAID is not seeking technical or cost applications at this time. Do not submit any application in response to this RFI. Only the information requested above will be considered. Issuance of this notice does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation of comments.