



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number: 72038620RFA00001, Amendment #1
Project Title: USAID's India Development Partnership Activity
Amendment Date: April 30, 2020

The NOFO is amended to incorporate the Question and Answers as below. Note that USAID will not accept any further questions:

1. Page 16, Evaluation: Please confirm whether any external evaluations of DPA will be funded through a third-party arrangement with USAID.

USAID Response: The “external evaluations of DPA” mentioned above mean external evaluations of the India Development Partnership Activity, not India’s Development Partnership Administration itself. Performance monitoring, evaluation and learning will be conducted by the implementing partner in accordance with the approved activity monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan. USAID may conduct additional monitoring and evaluation of the activity through external parties.

2. Page 27, Section D.5(a): In addition to tables, please confirm whether 10 point font may be used for any text boxes, graphs, charts, exhibits, etc. included in Offerors’ concept notes.

USAID Response: Yes

3. Page 28, Section D.5(a), Technical Approach: Would USAID consider treating the Program Summary as an Executive Summary that is not included in the Technical Approach’s 7 page limit?

USAID Response: Program Summary will be treated as Executive Summary and is part of the 7 page limit.

4. Page 28, Section D.5(a), Technical Approach, Timeline: Please confirm that while the concept note should include the proposed duration of project activities, the detailed timeline for activities will be presented in the Timeline Annex (referenced on page 29) in the form of a Gantt chart.

USAID Response: The instructions on Page 30 of the NFO mentions that it can be presented in the form of a Gantt chart in the Timeline Annex.

5. Page 28, Section D.5(a), Technical Approach: Please confirm whether USAID only expects to see the Offerors expected results in the concept note's technical approach and that a detailed description of the Offeror's monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan will be shared at the Oral Presentation and Full Technical Application stage.

USAID Response: The concept note submission requirement lists "expected results" and not a detailed description of the Offeror's monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan (MELP). MELP is for those applicants who make it to Phase 2.

6. Page 29, Section D.5(a), Annexes, Proposed Notional Budget: Is it acceptable for the Offeror to show an estimated aggregate allocation for sub-awardees/partners under direct costs? At this stage, without having engaged in the co-design process with USAID, it may be difficult to determine specific budget estimates for sub-awardees/partners, including their indirect rates.

USAID Response: Yes

7. Page 29, Section D.5(a), Annexes, Organizational Chart and Staffing Plan: Please clarify whether USAID expects Offerors to describe the roles and expected qualifications of Key Personnel as part of this annex or if the Offeror should submit CVs for proposed Key Personnel as well.

USAID Response: In section D on page 29, it states that applicants should describe their approach to coordination and sub-awardees in the organization and staffing plan section of the concept paper. Also, applicants should include a general org chart as an annex. Also, in the org chart annex, please indicate the proposed key personnel positions and describe the type of skills each key personnel will need to succeed. CVs of the key personnel will be submitted during the final Technical Application stage.

8. Page 29, Section D.5(a) states: *The Applicant will coordinate the strategic approach on two levels. The first level of coordination will be at the Mission level where the program coordinates with relevant current and upcoming Activities managed by USAID/India to increase synergies and leverage existing programs.* Would USAID/India provide additional information about the units within USAID/India with which the implementer would coordinate?

USAID Response: USAID/India currently operates programs that have a regional focus in the following technical areas: energy, agriculture, health, disaster risk management and digital connectivity. We also have a variety of bilateral programs that could be leveraged to share lessons learned in the region and globally.

9. Page 39, Section D.5(d)(2)(v)c., Proof of Business Registration to conduct business in India: Please confirm that only the Offeror must provide proof of Business Registration to conduct business in India in its Cost Application and not sub-awardees/partners, since it will be incumbent on the prime awardee to ensure that sub-awardees/partners are able to legally operate in India.

USAID Response: The requirement to submit proof of business registration is applicable only to the Prime. However, that does not absolve the prime of the responsibility to ensure that it's sub-awardees are able to legally operate in India.

10. Page 76, Annex 2, Past Performance Questionnaire: Please clarify whether this Annex should be included as part of the Concept Note or Full Technical Application. If so, should Offerors submit forms for each project referenced in its Past Performance Section or if there would be a limit? Since this questionnaire is different from a Past Performance Reference Form, would Offerors need to have it completed by the Donor for each project? Would these be required only for the Prime Offeror?

USAID Response: In accordance with Section D.5 of the NOFO, on page 29 and 30, the NOFO states that a one page summary of institutional capability and past performance be included as part of the concept paper. Additionally, the NOFO states that a past performance, one pager per offeror and proposed sub awards be included in the Annex. The Past Performance Questionnaire should be submitted in the full technical application in phase 3.

11. As a PIO, we would like to confirm that should CIP be successful, the applicable funding mechanism to receive the award could be the Project / General Contribution type subject to ADS 308 rules, in which funds are channeled through the CGIAR System (Trust Fund Contribution USAID – IBRD as Trustee of CGIAR Trust Fund). We also would like to verify that should CIP participate as a sub-awardee under a prime applicant, in accordance with ADS 303.3.21 (d) “for subawards to PIOs”, it would be subject to the terms and conditions contained in the “Standard Provisions for Cost-Type Awards to PIOs in ADS 308”.

USAID Response: PIOs may submit applications, proposals, or concept papers in response to USAID Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO), and enter into agreements in accordance with the requirements and procedures established in the NOFO and based upon the PIO's eligibility to be considered as stated in the solicitation. Please review the NOFO for a detailed description of the procedures and requirements of the solicitation. In brief, this NOFO intends to make an award allowing for the substantial involvement of USAID in supporting specific activities. A Project contribution grant does not fund specific goods or services. A General contribution grant to a PIO is a mechanism based only on an express statutory authority through

which USAID provides contributions to a PIO for its overall operation and support. This NOFO is not based on such a statutory authority.

For subawards to PIOs, in accordance with ADS 303.3.21.d, the recipient must use the Standard Provisions for Cost-Type Awards to PIOs in ADS 308, Awards to Public International Organizations.

12. Is it possible to get a copy of USAID/India's 2020-2024 Country Development and Cooperation Strategy (CDCS)

USAID Response: The relevant portion of the CDCS has been provided in the NOFO. A public version of the CDCS will be posted on USAID's public website in the near future.

13. The document mentions that "The main sectors of India's development cooperation are health, education, energy and information technology". Whereas, the proposed focus areas for this engagement are wider "energy; natural resource management; digital technology and connectivity; trade and competitiveness; democracy and governance; agriculture; health; gender and social equality; and disaster risk management". Are the additional focus areas agreed between USAID and DPA or getting an agreement on the additional areas be part of the selected agency.

USAID Response: USAID and DPA will prioritize focus areas. The apparently successful applicant is not responsible for obtaining agreement between USAID and DPA.

14. It is mentioned that objective 2 focuses on supporting USAID and DPA to provide technical assistance to third countries (regionally and globally) in a variety of areas. Please advise that whether USAID/India will provide additional funds for the technical assistance to third countries, or will that need to be part of this award.

USAID Response: As mentioned under section B.1, USAID intends to provide up to US\$18 Million in total USAID funding for this activity.

15. Is it envisaged that the selected agency will have substantial travel to Indo-Pacific Region under the award to fulfil the objectives or most of the work will need to be done remotely from India.

USAID Response: Most of the work will be based in India, but international travel will also be required. While USAID requires a notional budget to be submitted with the concept note, programmatic budget levels will be determined during the co-creation workshop in Phase 3 and

further developed by the apparently successful applicant when they prepare the cost application during preparation of the full technical application.

16. Can you please provide the list of Indo-Pacific region countries that will be covered under this NOFO. Will it include only developing countries or also middle and advanced developing countries.

USAID Response: The main focus of this activity is working with the Government of India (GOI) and its Development Partnership Administration (DPA), as well as potentially other GOI institutions, to strengthen joint U.S. - India support for shared development objectives in the Indo-Pacific region and globally. An initial list of focus countries may be drafted during Phase 3 of the selection process, and refined throughout the period of performance with input from the GOI.

17. What is the level of leverage expectation from the programme.?

USAID Response: Please refer to Section C.4 of the NOFO. Under this NOFO leveraging of resources is welcome. It is up to the applicant to propose the leverage.

For clarification purposes for this NOFO, the term “leverage” describes non-U.S. Government resources, including cash and in-kind gifts and services provided through private-sector partnerships, with the exception of cost-share. Leverage directly contributes to a USAID project or activity, or augments its results by making it more sustainable or effective. Leverage must meet all of the following criteria:

- It is verifiable from the records of the contributor, the recipient, or other entities that access and use the resources;
- It is measurable;
- It creates a tangible and intended impact under a project;
- Its availability is attributable to USAID’s engagement; and
- It is not counted in the approved budget as cost-share, as defined in 2 CFR 200.29.

Leverage can originate from any non-U.S. Government source, including, but not limited to, private-sector entities, foundations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), universities, or other donors. (Source: USAID Office of Acquisition and Assistance and ADS Chapter 303)

18. For Concept Note stage, in the Staffing Plan, is there also a requirement to present the profiles of the Key Personnel proposed. Can these profiles be provided as Annexure or they need to be part of the 7 page Technical Approach.

USAID Response: Refer to question 7 above for the response.

19. For Concept Note, should the Technical Approach section cover Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Methodology or will that only be required at the oral presentation stage

USAID Response: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Methodology shall be addressed by the applicants during Phase 2, i.e., the Oral Presentation stage. This will only be for those applicants that are selected for Phase 2.

20. Does the Concept Note Submission only to be done through email to indiarco@usaid.gov, with a copy to smadan@usaid.gov or also through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) platform.

USAID Response: The concept note needs to be submitted electronically only to indiarco@usaid.gov, with a copy to smadan@usaid.gov. Please do not submit applications through Grants.gov.

21. On page 32, it is indicated that “This funding opportunity is unrestricted and open to all eligible U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations (other than those from foreign policy restricted countries), including foundations, institutions of higher education, consortiums and public international organizations, etc.”

- Can this program be led by a US Land Grant University?

USAID Response: Yes, these institutions fall into the higher education classification

- Can a private sector partner lead the programme?

USAID Response: Yes, a private sector partner can be the prime

22. NOFO mentions that activities under the programme will be done in Indo-Pacific Region.

- Are there any specific countries of the region that the activity will be focused on or is it across all countries of the region?

USAID Response: Refer to Question 16 above for the response

- Do we require the letters of support from prospective partners at Phase I of the Activity?

USAID Response: No

23. NOFO doesn't specify any sectors for which activities need to be planned/proposed.

- Are there any sector that we need to focus on while developing our Concept Note?

USAID Response: The NOFO states that the main sectors of India's development cooperation are health, education, energy and information technology. It is up to the Applicant to decide which sector they need to concentrate on for the concept note.