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**Amendment No. 2 to Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Request for Application (RFA) Number 72016522RFA00010**

Issue Date: October 7, 2022

Program Title: Private Sector Led Growth, Resilience and Response Activity
Subject: Amendment No. 2 – Questions and Answers

The purpose of the Amendment 2 is to provide answers to questions received with respect to the Private Sector Led Growth, Resilience and Response Activity. Please find below the answers to the questions below:

Question 1: Page 8, Section IV. *Program Objectives, Objective 1. Increased productivity of MSMEs: Illustrative Indicators*, includes: “# of jobs retained and/or created as a result of market driven training and certification programs.”

The applicant respectfully requests USAID to confirm that the indicators listed are illustrative, and the offeror should develop their own indicators.

Answer 1: **The illustrative indicators are given for descriptive purposes and may be used, but also, the applicant has a freedom to propose/develop its own indicators that measure the change and represent progress that the interventions are making.**

Question 2: Page 12, Section VI, *Core Team, Key Personnel Qualifications and Duties*, states: “This activity includes the following required key personnel positions: Chief of Party (CoP), Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP), and component leads.”

The applicant respectfully requests USAID to confirm that each Objective requires a Component Lead.

Answer 2: **Yes, each objective requires Component Lead. In addition, the applicant has to design one of the component lead positions to serve also as the Deputy Chief of Party.**

Question 3: Page 12, Section VI, *Core Team, Key Personnel Qualifications and Duties*, states: “This activity includes the following required key personnel positions: Chief of Party (CoP), Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP), and component leads.”

The applicant respectfully requests USAID to confirm that not each Component Lead must be key personnel.

Answer 3: The Chief of Party (CoP), Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP) and Component Leads are key personnel positions. In this phase only the Chief of Party should be listed/named with a provided CV. In addition, the applicant has to design one of the component lead positions to serve also as the DCoP and should explain specific skills, knowledge and experience each component lead will possess. In this phase, the DCoP's and the Component Lead's positions should not be named and should not provide CVs, but will be subject of an approval as a key personnel once the award is granted.

Question 4: Page 13, Section VIII, *Local Partner for Objective 4*, states: "The applicant must identify a local partner under Objective 4: Improve Regional Economic Integration."

The applicant respectfully requests USAID confirm exclusive teaming arrangements with local partners are not in the best interest of the agency and thus are not permitted.

Answer 4: Under USAID's localization initiative, USAID champions local problem solvers through local systems. Nothing contained in this Notice of Funding Opportunity calls for exclusive partnerships or teaming arrangements. Nonetheless, identification of a local partner remains a requirement.

Question 5: Page 13, Section VIII, *Local Partner for Objective 4*, states: "The applicant must identify a local partner under Objective 4: Improve Regional Economic Integration."

We respectfully request USAID to confirm that applicants must name the selected local partner organization in the technical application.

Answer 5: Yes, the applicant must list the local partner responsible for Objective 4.

Question 6: Page 22, Section D.5, *Application Submission Information: Technical Application Format*, states:

- a) Cover Page (up to 2 pages), (See Section D.3 above for requirements)
- b) Table of Contents (up to 2 pages)
- c) Technical Approach, Management Approach & Staffing Plan, and Draft Activity Monitoring & Evaluation Plan. The technical application alone must not exceed 21 pages in length, which includes Technical Approach (15 pages maximum), the Management Approach & Staffing Plan (3 pages maximum), and Draft Activity Monitoring & Evaluation Plan (3 pages maximum).

We respectfully request USAID to confirm that applicants may include a list of acronyms which does not count against the page limit.

Answer 6: Applicants may include a list of acronyms. This list of acronyms will not be counted against the page limitation.

Question 7: The NOFO for North Macedonia features a private sector led approach to promoting a more resilient economy in the country and makes various references to the USAID Private Sector Engagement Policy, under Guiding Principles. Does the Mission have an approved PSE Plan or related documents as required by said Policy? If so, could it be shared with offerors? Similarly, could the Mission please confirm who the PSE Point of Contact is within the Mission?

Answer 7: **USAID as an agency publishes online an Agency-wide Private Sector Engagement Policy. As noted in the NOFO, this document should inform an applicant's submission under this funding opportunity. At present, there is no Mission-specific Private Sector Engagement for public distribution. During a competitive funding opportunity, USAID's procurement integrity principles bar sharing points of contact at USAID/North Macedonia.**

Question 8: On page 7 under Section A III of the NOFO, reference is made to the Mission PMP and the fact that as this activity moves forward it may be updated. Please provide a copy of the Mission's current PMP so that offerors can accurately reflect its focus on their technical approach and M&E Plans.

Answer 8: **The indicators from the Mission's current PMP's that are relevant for this Activity are included in the NOFO. The applicant may propose/develop its own indicators that will better reflect the impact of the interventions on the ground. The indicators set in the new activities will drive the update/revision of the Mission's PMP.**

Question 9: Section B 5, page 22, under Section D Application Information provides a summary of the page limits per section and in total under Technical Application Format with the total pages listed as 25. However, on page 24, the plain language summary indicates a total page limit of 28. This difference appears to be due to the inclusion of the COP CV as a separate annex, but we would appreciate your clarification of which instructions are considered final.

Answer 9: **The summary table on page 24, indicating a total of 28 pages, is the final guidance. Section B 5, on page 22, under Section D Application Information provides a summary of the page limits per section with the total pages listed as 25, because it does not incorporate the CoP's CV (which limits are indicated on page 14). In addition, see answer to question 6.**

The summary table is hereby revised to include all accountable sections and their page limits that will be counted against the 28-page limits, as follows:

SUMMARY TABLE FOR THE TECHNICAL APPLICATION

a. Cover Page	Not to exceed 2 pages.
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b. Table of Contents	Not to exceed 2 pages.
c. Technical Approach	Not to exceed 15 pages.
d. Management Approach & Staffing Plan	Not to exceed 3 pages.
e. Chief of Party's <i>Curriculum Vitae</i> (CV) (to be submitted as Annex to Technical Application)	Not to exceed 3 pages.
f. Organizational Chart (to be submitted as Annex to Technical Application)	No page limit applies.
g. Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	Not to exceed 3 pages.
h. List of Acronyms	No page limit applies.
TOTAL TECHNICAL APPLICATION	Not to exceed 28 pages.

Question 10: Please clarify whether rates for local short term technical assistance specialists are capped by the Local Compensation Plan (LCP), even if said specialists have significant experience/expertise and are thus compensated for services above the LCP Maximum on a consistent basis?

Answer 10: The rates for local short term technical assistance specialists are not capped by the Local Compensation Plan (LCP). Instead, they are guided by the cost principles of allocable, allowable, and reasonable market costs, in accordance with the [U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, 2 CFR 200, Subpart E](#).

Question 11: Section B 6, Business (Cost) Application Format, provides a series of guidelines for preparing and submitting the required information per the USAID Template included as an Annex, with Subsection D in particular on pages 25-28 outlining different options for capturing and presenting costs.

- a. Please clarify whether offerors may build up their budget spreadsheet using a CPFF (Cost Plus Fixed Fee) methodology, with zero fee included, then transfer said Business Application to the provided template?
- b. Similarly, in the case of offerors who have a NICRA in process, but not yet finalized, will the Mission accept Indirect Rates based on audited financials for the most recent calendar year as is standard practice across USAID?
- c. Furthermore, please confirm that any local subawardees included in the offer may utilize Method 3 - "De minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC)" outlined on page 17 – in capturing their indirect costs?

Answer 11a: The utilization of a particular methodology is at the applicant's discretion so long as any and all applicable Code of Federal Regulations and NOFO requirements are adhered to. USAID does not raise a specific objective to the CPFF methodology, but due caution should be exercised as no profit or fee is allowable under this funding opportunity. USAID's operational policy at [ADS 303sai](#) explains that profit or fee is not allowable for recipients or subrecipients under this award.

Answer 11b: Yes, applicants who have a NICRA in process but not yet finalized, may submit Indirect Rates based on audited financials for the most recent calendar year.

Answer 11c: Yes. In addition, any non-Federal entity that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in [appendix VII, paragraph D.1.b](#), may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time (see [2 CFR 200, Subpart E](#) for additional information).

Question 12: Section A I, page 4 states that "the applicant should prioritize for technical assistance the sectors and/or subsectors mentioned in the... Smart Specialization and Export Strategies" with other sectors considered based on justification. The sectors are listed on page 5. Section A, I, Objective 4 on page 10 states that the project will "build up competitive value chains..." Are these two statements connected, i.e., are the value chains to be built up under Objective 4 to be within the sectors or subsectors to be focused on? In developing activities and partnerships, should bidders take a sector approach and focus on the sectors in the strategies?

Answer 12: The applicant should not be focused solely on the sectors mentioned in the strategies. The applicant should prioritize sectors that are identified in the aforementioned strategies as the strongest and promising domains for growth. However, the applicant should not disregard initiatives or interventions in other sectors that may contribute to the Activity goals and expected results.

Question 13: Section A VI, page 12 states that if the Chief of Party is an expatriate, s/he must mentor a locally hired Deputy Chief of Party/Component Lead to take over management from the expatriate CoP by the end of the second year of the activity. On page 13 the NOFO reads that the DCoP will take over leadership at the beginning of year three. Can offerors propose alternative arrangements, e.g., the local DCoP taking over management before the beginning of year three?

Answer 13: Yes, the applicant may propose a different timeline within the first two years.

Question 14: Can offerors include a List of Acronyms that is outside the 15-page limit for the Technical Approach?

Answer 14: Yes. See answer 6.

Question 15: Section VI, page 13 states that applicants “should maintain a non-exclusivity and should not provide CVs for the DCOP and Component Leads”. Can offerors name the persons to be proposed for these positions and include their particular rates in the budget as long as they are not exclusive, and their CVs are not included?

Answer 15: In the application phase the names of the DCoP and Component Leads are not to be indicated. Instead, the technical and cost submission must indicate their position (component) in the activity structure, explain their specific skills, knowledge and experience each component lead will possess, along with the related daily rates (budget).

Question 16: Section VI, page 13 gives guidance on requirements regarding COP, DCOP, and Component Leads. However, there is no specific guidance regarding consultants and technical advisors. Can offerors name short-term consultants and technical advisors in explaining how they complement key staff?

Answer 16: Applicants are not required to name short-term consultants and technical advisors. Nonetheless, there is no prohibition on naming them if the applicant has already determined short-term consultants and technical advisors.

Question 17: Section IV, Page 11, describes the Partnership Fund that is to be established under the Activity at US\$1 Million. Please clarify the following items:

- a. Can the Partnership Fund be used for training and technical assistance to be provided by Macedonian organizations for MSMEs, assuming contributions by said MSMEs? Does USAID have any guidance for contribution amounts, and whether in kind contributions can be considered?
- b. Can the Partnership Fund be used for co-investment in investment funds, loan guaranties, or other sources of finance or investment for MSMEs?
- c. Could the Partnership Fund be used to finance a technical assistance from foreign business support organizations to Macedonian MSMEs?

Answer 17a: Yes, the Partnership Fund can be used for training and technical assistance. The specifications of the fund will be co-developed with the successful applicant.

Answer 17b: No.

Answer 17c: Yes, as long as it includes private sector or other stakeholder contributions, and it is intended to achieve Activity goals and expected results.

Question 18: Please clarify and specify the region or sub-region that is to be the focus on Objective 4, Improved Regional Integration (page 9). Is this limited to the EU and Western Balkans as implied in the footnote around USAID's partnership with the ECNM or can it be viewed more expansively to encompass CEFTA countries, North American Markets, or more?

Answer 18: **Improved regional integration should focus primarily on Western Balkans, but may also include EU and CEFTA countries.**

Question 19: Footnote #1 on the bottom of page 4, Section A: Program Description, I) Introduction which refers to the "Smart Specialization" and "the Export strategies documents," states, "According to the government officials both documents will be adopted by the end of 2022." Could USAID/N. Macedonia please confirm whether these documents are available to share with Applicants?

Answer 19: **The final documents are yet to be adopted by the Government, and according to the government officials will be adopted and available by the end of 2022. The relevant analysis for the Smart Specialization Platform in North Macedonia can be found here:**
<https://konkurentnost.mk/index.php/smart-2/>, and more details for the process here: <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/north-macedonia>.

Question 20: At the bottom of page 5 it states "The latest Government of North Macedonia initiative supported by the World Bank (WB) is the ongoing establishment of the MSME Investment Fund that will invest in start-ups in the green/digital sectors." Could USAID/N. Macedonia please provide the URL associated with this specific initiative?

Answer 20: **You can find more about this in the Government's [Growth Acceleration Plan 2022 - 2026](#).**

Question 21: Page 11, Section A: Program Description, IV) Program Objectives, regarding the Partnership Fund, it states, "Partnership fund. One million USD (\$1 million) from the total estimated budget will be dedicated to partially funding the joint interventions and/or enterprise-driven solutions under all four objectives. This will be contingent on the private sector and other stakeholder contributions. The successful applicant will be responsible for developing a plan that describes the type of entities that qualify for funding, the type of interventions/enterprise-driven solutions proposed, the eligibility criteria, the contribution percentages, and the overall management of the fund in the first three months of implementation. The Agreement Officer will approve the plan."

- a. What level of detail is the Applicant required to provide in describing the plan for the Partnership fund, given that the extent of funding, eligibility criteria, etc. is contingent on the private sector and other stakeholder contributions?
- b. Are grants envisioned to be used under the Partnership Fund?

c. Is the Partnership Fund envisioned to be a co-investment funding source?

Answer 21a: In this phase, the applicant should provide a very brief explanation on how the applicant intends to utilize the Partnership Fund to achieve Activity goals and expected results.

Answer 21b: Yes, the Partnership Fund is a grant scheme with a strong emphasis on a co-investment. USAID's intention is to leverage ongoing efforts and to identify new initiatives, across the Activity objectives, where USAID's assistance will make a lasting impact.

Answer 21c: Yes, the Partnership Fund is envisioned to be a co-investment funding source.

Question 22: Page 13, Section A: Program Description, VI) Core Team, Key Personnel Qualifications and Duties, states, "The applicant should maintain a non-exclusivity and should not provide CVs for the DCoP and the Component Leads at the application phase. The applicant, though, will have to explain the skills, knowledge and experience each component lead will possess. The DCoP/Component Leads should be seasoned subject matter experts who have adequate experience and qualifications to successfully carry out the work and achieve the expected results listed in the RFA under the three Activity objectives. Once the activity is awarded, the applicant will identify the component leads who will be subject to approval by the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR)."

- a. Can Applicants still name the DCoP and Component Leads at the application phase without providing CVs for them?
- b. Will any listed DCoP and Component Leads be evaluated at the application phase, per Section E: Application Review Information, Criterion 2: Management Approach and Staffing Plan, page 37 which states, "Key personnel, i.e., listed Chief of Party (CoP), Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP), and Component Leads' knowledge and qualifications, will be evaluated within the Management Approach and Staffing Plan according to the criteria specified in section A.VI and D.5.c."?

Answer 22a: No. See answer 15.

Answer 22b: Yes. As stated in Section A: Program Description, VI) Core Team, Key Personnel Qualifications and Duties, the applicant will have to explain the skills, knowledge and experience each component lead will possess. USAID will then evaluate Component Leads' and the DCoP's knowledge and qualifications, within the Management Approach and Staffing Plan according to the criteria specified in section A.VI and D.5.c.

Question 23: Page 13, Section A: Program Description, VI) Core Team, Key Personnel Qualifications and Duties: Would Applicants be allowed to propose a COP that

would also serve as a Component Lead, i.e., Chief of Party/Component Lead in addition to a DCoP/Component Lead?

Answer 23: Yes.

Question 24: Page 13, Section A: Program Description, VII) Local Partner for Objective 4, states, “The Activity applicant must identify a local partner under Objective 4: Improved Regional Economic Integration.” Can the local partner that is required to implement Objective 4 be one of the proposed sub-applicants/sub-recipients of the Applicant’s proposed consortium team members?

Answer 24: Yes.

Question 25: Page 16, Section B: Federal Award Information, 2. Start Date and Period of Performance for Federal Awards, states “The anticipated period of performance is sixty (60) months. The estimated start date will be at or around December/January 2022.” Could USAID North Macedonia please clarify which period of performance start date Applicants should use?

Answer 25: The period of performance of the anticipated award is 60 months (5 years). The activity start date is estimated in good faith to be towards at or around the end of December 2022, or in the course of January 2023.

Question 26: Page 21, Section D: Application Submission Information, 3. General Content and Form of Application: It is stated Applications must use “standard 8 ½” x 11” (A4)”. Could USAID N. Macedonia clarify whether Applications should use 8 ½” x 11” (Letter-size paper) or 8 ¼” x 11 ¾” (A4-size paper)?

Answer 26: USAID will accept applications submitted on either of the two (letter or A4-size) formats.

Question 27: Page 21, Section D: Application Submission Information, 3. General Content and Form of Application states, “A 10-point font can be used for graphs and charts. Tables, however, must comply with the 12-point Times New Roman requirement.” Would USAID North Macedonia kindly allow for 11-point Times New Roman to be used for Tables?

Answer 27: Yes.

Question 28: Would local sub-applicants/sub-recipients be eligible to receive funds from the Partnership Innovation Fund?

Answer 28: No. Subawardees (local or other), are not eligible to receive funds from the Partnership Fund.

Question 29: Page 22, Section D: Application Submission Information, 5. Technical Application Format: Will USAID allow for a List of Acronyms (up to 2 pages) to be included in the Application, and not to be counted against the technical application total page limit?

Answer 29: Yes. Also see answer 6 for an additional explanation.

Question 30: Page 24, Summary Table for the Technical Application:

- a. Does USAID/N. Macedonia want the Organizational Chart and the Chief of Party's CV to be submitted as Annexes to the Technical Application, or contained within the Management Approach & Staffing Plan section within the main body narrative of the Technical Application?
- b. It appears that the Total Technical Application should not exceed 32 pages, instead of the specified 28 pages. I.e., Assuming one-page for the organizational chart, and with the 3-page CV for the COP, the Total Technical Application would not exceed 32 pages. Could USAID N. Macedonia please clarify?
- c. In addition, if USAID/N. Macedonia approves for a List of Acronyms to be included in the Technical Application (up to 2 pages), could USAID/N. Macedonia please confirm that the resulting overall Total Technical Application would not exceed 34 pages?

Answer 30a: Please submit the Organizational Chart and the Chief of Party's CV as Annexes to the Technical Application.

Answer 30b: The summary table on page 24 of the RFA accounts for a total of 28 pages. This limit also includes the not-to-exceed 3 pages CV of the CoP. In addition to these documents, applicants are required to submit an organizational chart. The number of pages of this chart is not specified nor will these pages be counted against the indicated 28-page limit.

Answer 30c: See answer 6.

Question 31: Annex 1 – Summary Budget Template: Could USAID please confirm that the applicant may edit the budget template and categories provided, as necessary?

Answer 31: Yes. The budget template is illustrative, thus it may be edited by adding, renaming or removing items (as the applicant finds it necessary and appropriate). The listed items, however, must be segregated having in mind the major cost categories as listed in the Budget Summary tab, i.e., by Salaries, Fringe Benefits, Consultants, Travel, etc., retaining the manner of clarity, truthfulness, and correctness of the budgetary data.

Question 32: Page 29, g) SAM and UEI Requirements: Could USAID please confirm that local sub-recipient/sub-applicant organizations are not required to be registered in SAM?

Answer 32: The subrecipients/subawardees are not required to obtain a full registration into the System for Awards Management (SAM). They are, however, required to obtain the Unified Entity Identifier (UEI), which is a registration component nested within the SAM web portal.

For additional information please also see the recently published [AAPD 22-04](#) ("UEI/SAM Registration Exception for Assistance Awards: 2 CFR 25.110(c)(2)(iii)")

Question 33: On page 34: Personal and organizational conflict of interest: Can USAID provide a link to the form that should be used for confirming the applicant has no conflict of interest or confirm what information should be provided when doing so?

Answer 33: There is no specific form to be used.

Each applicant is expected to do its due diligence on the conflict of interests (as stated in the [ADS 303.3.6.7](#), and associated Standard Provisions for [U.S.](#) or [Non-U.S.](#) Nongovernmental Organizations, respectively), and notify USAID of any actual or potential conflict of interest that they are aware of, and propose an approach for resolving them.

Question 34: Page 42, Annex 3: Certifications, Assurances, Representations and Other Statements of the Recipient:

- a. Could USAID please clarify if these certifications are required only by the Applicant or also for Sub-recipients/sub-applicants?
- b. Additionally, are the anti-narcotics trafficking certifications required only by the authorized negotiator of the Applicant or by any other individuals proposed?

Answer 34a: The Annex 3 - Certifications, Assurances, Representations and Other Statements, are required to be submitted only for the prime applicant, as part of the application documentation. The applicant, however, must make sure the proposed sub-recipients/sub-applicants are in compliance with all listed requirements under Subsection f) Approvals of Subawards, page 28-29 of the RFA.

Answer 34b: In accordance with ADS 303 may the anti-narcotics trafficking certifications for key individuals may also be required as per the [ADS 206](#).

Question 35: Section VI. Core Team, Key Personnel Qualifications and Duties (p. 12) states that "The applicant should maintain a non-exclusivity and should not provide CVs for the DCoP and the Component Leads at the application phase." Please clarify whether the proposed COP candidate should be exclusive or non-exclusive.

Answer 35: The CoP should be non-exclusive.

Question 36: Please confirm that the NOFO number listed on p. 20 regarding instructions for the Cover Page should read “72016522RFA00010”.

Answer 36: Yes, USAID confirms this.

Question 37: To promote readability, would USAID consider allowing a 10-point font to be used for tables, text boxes, and call-out boxes?

Answer 37: USAID allows usage of 11-point, and they must be readily visible, and not hidden.

Question 38: On NOFO p. 23, the Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan requirements include impact indicators. Generally, impact is established and measured through an impact evaluation. Could USAID please confirm that only output and outcome indicators are expected at this stage?

Answer 38: In accordance with the proposed interventions and the technical approach, the applicant may exercise its independent judgment as to which type of performance indicators will be presented in the application.

Question 39: On NOFO p. 23, the Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan requires “targets for the overall objectives.” Could USAID please specify which indicator should have a target for each objective?

Answer 39: The indicators that the applicant presents in the Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan should have relevant, measurable and achievable targets.

Question 40: When specifying targets for indicators, please confirm that only Life of Project (LOP) targets are required.

Answer 40: For the application purposes only, life of project targets are required, while the annual targets will be set during the development of MEL plan and the annual work plans.

Question 41: Per the Summary Table on NOFO p. 24, please confirm that the Organizational Chart and Chief of Party’s Curriculum Vitae (CV) shall be presented before the Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

Answer 41: As stated under Subsection C) on page 23 of the RFA, the Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan shall be presented along with the application, and so should the CoP’s CV and the Organizational Chart. The summary chart on page 24 indicates that the CoP’s CV and the Organizational Chart are excluded from the 3-pages limit the Management Approach & Staffing Plan is to be addressed/explained on.

Question 42: NOFO p. 24 indicates that the Total Technical Application is “not to exceed 28 pages.” However, this total does not include an allotment for the Organizational Chart. Please confirm that the Organizational Chart does not count against the 28-page limit.

Answer 42: **The Organizational Chart does not count against the 28-page limit. Also see answer 30b.**

Question 43: May applicants include an Abbreviation or Acronym list that does not count against the Technical Application page length restrictions?

Answer 43: **Yes. See answer 6.**

Question 44: In order to evaluate the past performance of applicants, would USAID consider allowing History of Performance (as described on p. 29 of the NOFO) to be submitted at the initial application stage?

Answer 44: **In accordance with Subsection h) on page 29 of the RFA, only the apparent successful applicant will be required to submit a history of performance. Thus, the history of performance will be evaluated, but only for the apparent successful applicant. As the apparent successful applicant will be known at the later stage of the evaluation, the applicants are not required to submit their performance history along with the applications, but may do so should they choose to do so.**

Question 45: In line with the merit review criteria on NOFO p. 36, please confirm that the Draft Activity Monitoring & Evaluation Plan is to be submitted as Part III of the Technical Application, following the Technical Approach (Part I), and the Management Approach & Staffing Plan (Part II).

Answer 45: **Yes, USAID confirms this.**

Question 46: Are the line-items provided in the budget template illustrative or required? Can applicants alter the budget template to add or delete rows or columns?

Answer 46: **See answer 31.**

Question 47: Are there any restrictions under this opportunity to offer subawards to international organizations?

Answer 47: **This opportunity is not restricted. However, do be mindful of the requirement in Section A, Subsection VII. Local Partner for Objective 4, as outlined on page 13 of the RFA under which the identification of a local partner remains a requirement.**

For additional clarity see Amendment 1 of the NOFO, from September 21, 2022.

Question 48: Are local organizations registered in neighboring organizations eligible for subawards?

Answer 48: See answer 47.

Please note that in addressing this question, USAID assumes that the submitter intended to state “local organizations in neighboring countries”, and not “local organizations in neighboring organizations”. Furthermore, please also note that in accordance with Section E of the RFA, an organization from neighboring countries is not considered “local” for purposes of this funding opportunity.

Question 49: Are international business organizations like the American Chambers of Commerce eligible for subawards?

Answer 49: See answer 47.