



**“IMPROVED NUTRITION FOR BETTER LIFE” IN SWAHILI
“BORESHA LISHE KWA MAISHA BORA”**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, posts this notice to inform you that following the Grant Notice Number USAID-621-TMSN-FY2018, Synopsis 1, Improved Nutrition Activity (formerly Multi-sectoral Nutrition Activity) posted on January 26, 2018 and Grant Notice USAID-621-TMSN-FY2018, Synopsis 2, Nutrition Program Stakeholders Meeting held at Double Tree Hotel, Wednesday April 25, 2018 2:30-5:00pm, below are Minutes, Question and Answers to that meeting.

I. Minutes of USAID/Tanzania Nutrition Stakeholders’ Meeting

Summary

USAID/Tanzania introduced the purpose of the meeting, which was to solicit feedback from prospective applicants that would improve the new nutrition activity Program Description and overall Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

David Charles (Agriculture and Nutrition Team Lead), Ayana Angulo (Contracting Officer), Temina Mkumbwa (Nutrition coordinator) and (Janeth Said Nutrition specialist) addressed comments submitted in response to Request for Information (RFI) and questions raised during the meeting.

Based on the comments received in response to the RFI, the Program Description’s structure will change slightly from the draft that was sent out. USAID/Tanzania wants to leave it flexible enough for applicants to provide creative responses.

Interested applicants will submit concept papers that will be rated pass/fail by USAID/Tanzania based on the evaluation criteria articulated in the NOFO. The length of the Concept Papers will be determined and stated in the NOFO. It is hoped that this will reduce transaction costs, aid in making a stronger award process, and speed the process of making the award.

If a concept paper passes, the applicant would be invited to deliver a more comprehensive oral presentation to a USAID/Tanzania merit review committee. The NOFO will include guidance on the format and applicant’s key personnel required to be present for oral presentations. Following presentations, the apparently successful applicant would then be requested to provide a full application for USAID/Tanzania’s review.

This will be a 4-year \$19 ~ 20 million dollar activity, and will be a cooperative agreement.

It is expected that the activity will be implemented in the districts under the following four regions: a) Rukwa (all districts); b) Morogoro (all districts); c) Iringa 3 districts where USAID/Tanzania currently has nutrition efforts under its Mwanzo Bora activity; and Dodoma, 5 districts. This will be stated in the NOFO.

The two primary objectives of this activity are: 1) Reduction of Stunting; improve minimum acceptable diet for children 6 – 24 months; and 2) increase in women’s dietary diversity. The NOFO will state clearly objectives of the activity. USAID/Tanzania recommends that applicants review the Global Food Security Strategy, as it will illustrate the alignment of the activity and demonstrate the high level indicators the agency has adopted to measure these outcomes.

USAID encourages applicants to review the unique contexts of each of these regions as well as current USAID investments in the nutrition sector.

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II. Questions and Answers session

Q 1: How will the activity engage with particular Government of Tanzania (GOT) entities or organizations?

A: While USAID/Tanzania intends this to be a cross-sectoral, integrated activity, applicant’s technical approach should propose how they would ensure this would take place to assist in carrying out multi-sectoral nutrition.

Q 2: Is May 31st (as stated in the business forecast) still the deadline for the NOFO posting?

A: Yes. USAID/Tanzania is still hoping to post the NOFO on May 31st.

Q 3: Is there a limit to the number of concept papers that will be selected for presentations?

A: No. No pre-determined limit will be set. Each concept paper will be reviewed on its merits, and the USAID/Tanzania intends to consider all qualified submissions.

Q 4: Will a detailed budget be required at concept paper stage?

A: A full budget will not be required (as the purpose of the Concept Paper is technical in nature). A budget overview may be required, but this will be made clear in the NOFO.

Q 5: Once the NOFO is posted, how long before Concept Papers will be due?

A: For the concept papers, when released on grants.gov, if no significant changes are done to the Program Description (PD), three weeks is considered to be a reasonable timeframe for turnaround.

Q 6: Why is USAID investment in nutrition moving to Rukwa?

A: After pivotal discussions with the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO, the coordinating nutrition within the country) and donors, and given the high incidences of stunting in the region, USAID/Tanzania will be starting nutrition activities there under this activity, and will operate in Rukwa for all four years.

Q 7: The RFI Program Description mentions that both Dodoma and Morogoro are transitioning regions. Does this still hold true?

A: No. Based on the PMO's priorities, current situation and continued nutrition support needed, both Dodoma and Morogoro will no longer be transitory regions. Full coverage is expected in both these regions, as will be the case in 3 districts in Iringa and all of Rukwa, as noted above.

Q 8: Does USAID/Tanzania expect operational research to be conducted through the activity or will there be an emphasis on strengthening of local capacity, themselves, to carry out nutrition operational research?

A: USAID/Tanzania is not expecting local government authorities (LGAs) to do operational research; rather, the applicants should think about how operation research can help the implementer to implement and adjust the activity when needed. It will be important to identify salient challenges then tailor operation research to answer the questions. Continuous learning and adaptation process is very important for USAID/Tanzania; how this will be done in the context of three IRs within the activity, USAID/Tanzania will leave that to the applicants to decide and articulate within the applications. It could be internal or external operation research, in which USAID/Tanzania hopes the applicant would build the capacity of LGAs and other organizations.

Q 9: Can the activity course correct?

A: Yes. USAID/Tanzania encourages course changes during the implementation that are thoughtful and responsive to evolving contexts.

Q 10: Should measuring anemia be included?

A: This remains to be determined and will be decided by the time the NOFO is issued.

Q 11: Who are the target beneficiaries?

A: Women of reproductive age, children under-five years (with a clear emphasis on the first 1000 days), and adolescent girls.

Q 12: Will Water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) be a component of the activity?

A: Yes, under IR 2; WASH is fundamental to nutrition gains. Thus, USAID/Tanzania expects the applicant to promote hygiene and the use of WASH services. Within the application, applicants will explain how they will link into ongoing GOT, USAID, or other donor-supported WASH activities.

Q 13: Does USAID/Tanzania support adolescent nutrition education?

A: Yes 100%. Applicants should explain their strategies for conducting adolescent nutrition education.

Q 14: Has the activity's name been finalized?

A: No. The current name is just a placeholder, as Applicants may suggest another Swahili name to this activity.

Q 15: Is USAID/Tanzania seeking a reduction of stunting in numbers or in percentages?

A: A percentage reduction. USAID/Tanzania is still determining the answer to what percentage reduction is feasible under this award.

Q 16: What will the presentation process be like?

A: USAID/Tanzania has yet to define selection criteria or the process. USAID/Tanzania will likely request roughly 30 slides covering the technical approach; monitoring, evaluation and learning; and management and staffing plans. A 60-90 minute presentation is likely. The review team would then ask only clarifying questions. It would not be an opportunity to negotiate. Should USAID have a set of questions, the Agreement Officer will clear them before we proceed to a Q&A follow-up session.

Q 17: Will other existing activities move to Rukwa?

A: This is unknown at the moment.

Q 18: Will exclusivity agreements be required/permitted for subs? (Consensus in the room seemed to oppose exclusive agreements especially with local organizations).

A: USAID/Tanzania is open to what the applicants prefer. While USAID/Tanzania discourages primes from requiring such agreements from subs especially with local organizations, if a sub and prime want to have such an agreement it is within their rights to have one. Partnerships between international organizations exclusively is not a requirement. USAID/Tanzania anticipates making one award under this activity

Q 19: As the Mwanzo Bora Nutrition Program is closing, will applicants have access to documentation of the activity?

A: Africare, as the prime award holder of Mwanzo Bora, is required to post non-sensitive activity documents such as work plans, monitoring and evaluation plans, assessments, quarterly progress reporting and annual reports on USAID's public Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) at <http://dec.usaid.gov>. In addition, on May 9th, Africare delivered a presentation of a recent assessment on their Social and Behavior Change strategy at the Coral Beach Hotel. Please refer to their website.

Q 20: What is USAID/Tanzania aiming for within the activity's agriculture development component IR3?

A: USAID/Tanzania recognizes the role that incomes play in nutrition, dietary diversity, and livelihood diversification, and hopes applicants will consider this relationship. USAID/Tanzania does not expect the development of a whole new value chain. Production, though, is a key pathway, and as such, applicants should think creatively around how small scale agriculture at the household level can increase food diversity—and think about ways to increase animal source protein for targeted populations, and perhaps can link to food fortification.

Q 21: The RFI didn't seem to include environmental health as a role in addressing nutrition.

A: The activity should be cognizant of the role that environmental health, WASH, proper disposal of animal and human feces, behavior change, etc., play in nutritional outcomes. Addressing resilience and WASH are key components of USAID's approach to nutrition. USAID/ Tanzania will bring WASH out more in the NOFO especially in terms of expected results. The applicant is expected to demonstrate how they will provide opportunities and strategies to address environmental health.

Q 22: Can USAID/Tanzania provide more information on whether the emphasis will be more on the community – level or facility based nutrition service delivery, or if there will be a balance between the two?

A: USAID/Tanzania will leave it to the applicants to propose which approach or combination of approaches would be optimal.

Q 23: How long will it take to make the award?

A: 150 days from receipt of an acceptable request in the “procurement system of record”, is the standard. USAID/Tanzania anticipates a total of approximately 9 weeks from the concept paper preparation to making the selection of an apparently successful applicant as follows: 3 weeks concept paper preparation, 3 weeks USAID/Tanzania to review concept papers, and 3 weeks for applicants to complete their oral presentations. From there it will depend on how fast the apparently successful organization will be able to put the PD together.

Q 24: Will The Concept Paper be returned with simply a pass or fail rating; will comments be provided for the organization?

A: No additional information will be provided to applicants with fail rating, but comments may be provided to successful applicants to strengthen their oral presentations.

Q 25: Is there a cost-share requirement? Is there a visa issue?

A: There is no cost share required. The visa-related language was just a caveat for applicants to be aware of the challenges that can come with proposing personnel who will be expats.

Q 26: Please elaborate on the Family Planning (FP) component.

A: FP plays a crucial role in nutrition; this will be strengthened within the NOFO. This activity will not receive FP funds, rather Global Health Funds, which have some restrictions in regards to FP. Additional clarity will be provided in the NOFO.

Q 27: Who do you anticipate will deliver the presentation? Will a number of presenters be allowed, or specific positions be requested? Applicants will need to know ahead of time to confirm the availability of presenters.

A: This information should be provided to applicants in the NOFO.

Q 28: Can a grant or budget support be provided to LGAs to roll out their implementation? Is this allowed and/or desirable?

A: In exceptional circumstances a recipient may enter into subawards with partner government entities after meeting the necessary conditions, requirements and approval. However, this will be addressed in the NOFO.

Q 29: How many key positions are expected?

A: USAID/Tanzania anticipates 3-5, but TBD with additional clarity provided in the NOFO.

Q 30: Will Key Personnel CVs be required with the concept paper?

A: No.

Q 31: Should activities within all IRs be implemented in all districts?

A: Ideally, yes, but reasons for not doing so can be certainly provided/justified, and may be extremely valid.

Q 32: Does USAID/Tanzania anticipate the expected scope to include technical assistance to national and sub-national institutions to improve planning, implementation and evaluation of nutrition interventions? And, will the activity be expected to provide support to national level and how it will link with national level coordination?

A: USAID/ Tanzania is not expecting local government authorities (LGAs) to do operational research, rather the applicant should think about how to help build capacity of LGAs and other local organizations *to do operation research*. ASPIRES is another USAID/Tanzania -supported activity that is currently providing technical assistance for nutrition coordination at national level, with key linkages to PMO, Tanzania food and nutrition center (TFNC) and PO-RALG. Like any other nutrition activity, the activity is expected to participate in national level thematic group meetings for national multi-sectoral nutrition action plan (NMNAP), for example maternal infant and young child nutrition MIYCN, governance, etc.

Q 33: Was there consideration of including Mbeya and Songwe?

A: Yes. But after discussions with PMO and donors, certain factors make it more efficient for DFID to continue to fund work in Mbeya and Songwe, while USAID/ Tanzania focuses on other regions.

Q 34: Will the Program Description support pre-service training of nutrition professionals?

A: No.

Q 35: Will the project be expected to give sub grants to CSOs and have a separate budget for all grants?

A: This is not mandatory; it will be up to the Applicant to propose in their applications.

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