



USAID | GUINEA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Subject: Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Reference: Notice of Funding Opportunity No. RFA-675-17-000003

Program Title: Guinea Malaria Bilateral

Date: August 11, 2017

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) wants to thank you for submitting questions in response to the referenced Request for Application (RFA). Your questions were reviewed, and we hereby provide answers/clarifications enclosed herewith as ATTACHMENT A.

The deadline for the submission of technical and cost application remains August 25, 2017 at 14:30PM (GMT) Local Guinea Time.

Issuance of this Q&A does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government nor does it commit the Government to pay for any costs incurred in preparation or submission of application. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

//s//

Yves Koré
Regional Agreement Officer

Enclosed: **ATTACHMENT A – Question & Answers**

ATTACHMENT A
RFA-675-17-000003: Guinea Malaria Bilateral

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Page 23 - IR 2, Sub IR 2.4, “Sub-IR 2.4: Increased availability of ancillary supplies and SP” Will USAID kindly define ancillary supplies?

USAID Response: The ancillary supplies are defined as materials needed for the controlled, observed intake of SP in the health facilities. These materials include cups, buckets, water filters and other similar types of materials as maybe determined by the NMCP and the stakeholders.

2. Are there any plans in place or contingencies to address the projected lack of RDTs (in the PMI MOPS) available to sufficiently equip the targeted number of health workers and facilities?

USAID Response: In Guinea, PMI and Global Fund, in collaboration with the NMCP, have created a common basket for malaria commodities. PMI always plans the procurement of RDTs in the MOP based on the latest consumption and epidemiological data. At the time of the drafting of the MOP, the contribution of Global Fund was unknown. Any shortage of RDTs not covered by the Global Fund would likely be covered by PMI through reprogramming at the time of placing an order (when more up-to-date consumption and stock data are available).

3. The Key Personnel section lists five positions, but does not give any information on minimum qualifications for each one. In the Evaluation section the RFA states that one criterion for the proposal evaluation will be the extent to which the individuals proposed for Key Personnel meet the minimum qualifications. Are there minimum qualifications for each position, and if so, what are they?

USAID Response:

Chief of Party: The Chief of Party must have at least a Master’s degree in a relevant discipline and at least 15 years of demonstrated experience in designing and/or managing public health programs. Fluency in English and French are required. Relevant experience in Guinea and/or the West African sub-region is desirable. The Chief of Party is expected to have the strategic vision, leadership qualities, depth and breadth of technical expertise and experience, professional reputation, management experience, interpersonal skills and written and oral presentation skills to fulfill the diverse technical and managerial requirements of the program description. S/he will also have experience interacting with other development projects, the host country government and international agencies.

Senior Technical Advisor: The Senior Technical Advisor must have at least a degree in health or a master's degree in a relevant to public health, at least 6 years of experience in

ATTACHMENT A
RFA-675-17-000003: Guinea Malaria Bilateral

successfully implementing and managing public health programs and specific experience in designing or overseeing malaria programs. (S)he must be fluent in French (spoken and written) and have basic competency in English, demonstrate the leadership qualities, skills in management, program coordination, and communication, and relevant technical expertise and experience, professional reputation, strong management experience and written and oral communication and interpersonal skills to fulfill the technical requirements of this position.

The senior technical advisor may be located in the Recipient's main office, but will need to travel extensively among the different regions. The person filling this role must be able to collaborate with a range of counterparts in the regions and districts as well as at the national level in a way that leads to effect implementation of technically sound malaria interventions.

Director of Finance/Administration: The Director of Finance/Administration must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in a relevant field (Master's Degree in Business or Public Administration preferred) with a focus on Accounting or Finance – and at least 6 years' experience managing finances for large NGO programs. In the absence of a business or public administration degree, the candidate should have proven extensive experience in project financial management, including financial controls and audit, as well as reporting on accruals, pipeline, and expense validation and reimbursement to service providers. S/he should have experience with large donor organizations. Knowledge of International organization and/or donor organizations' policies/procedures is desired. The candidate must be fluent in French (spoken and written) and have basic competency in English. It is necessary that s/he have a thorough understanding of and experience using accountability and accounting practices.

SBCC Advisor: The SBCC advisor must have at least a Master's degree in social and behavior change and communication or other relevant course of study and at least 5 years of experience in malaria SBCC implementation. The SBCC advisor oversees programmatic and technical aspects related to SBCC activities and will therefore be responsible for developing, designing and implementing all behavior change and communication activities under this agreement in collaboration with PMI, the NMCP and other malaria implementers and stakeholders (e.g. for the Global Fund). The SBCC advisor will ensure the delivery of systematic and consistent technical assistance to the NMCP, at all levels. The SBCC advisor will coordinate efforts with other stakeholders to ensure that resources are efficiently used and to minimize duplication of efforts. The candidate must be fluent in French (spoken and written) and have basic competency in English.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist: The M&E Specialist should have a Master's degree in public health, or a relevant discipline. S/he should have a minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible professional experience in a performance monitoring and/or evaluation role with an international development organization. S/he must also be able to demonstrate ability in data analysis, project design, monitoring, and evaluation of

ATTACHMENT A
RFA-675-17-000003: Guinea Malaria Bilateral

development activities. Experience developing results frameworks, logical frameworks, or similar tools for project design, is required. Experience developing and/or using performance management plans, or similar tools is required. The M&E specialist must have demonstrated knowledge of and experience in monitoring and evaluating programs—including indicator development, study design, and data analysis—in multiple sectors (including malaria). Experience using knowledge management software or database is highly desired. The candidate must be fluent in French (spoken and written) and have basic competency in English.

4. It is not clear in how many districts PMI will be funding SMC implementation in 2019. This information is critical for accurate costing and budgeting.

USAID Response: PMI will support 8 districts for SMC in 2019. The following information has been provided by the NMCP for the PMI districts (with population figures for 2018):

Expected targets per health district				
Districts	Year: 2018			
	Total Population	Children < 5	3-11 months	12-59 months
Gaoual	225,124	45,025	9,005	36,020
Koundara	149,506	29,901	5,980	23,921
Mali	336,980	67,396	13,479	53,917
Tougue	137,042	27,408	5,482	21,927
Koubia	111,533	22,307	4,461	17,845
Labé	364,437	72,887	14,577	58,310
Lelouma	202,593	40,519	8,104	32,415
Dinguiraye	218,880	43,776	8,755	35,021
Total	1,746,095	349,219	69,844	279,375

5. One of the USAID Indicators listed on page 30 of the RFA includes an “assessment of the extent of progress made against recommendations of assessment/organizational audit of NMCP”. Is this “organizational audit” referring to the one done by the Global Fund in 2016, or is conducting a new organizational audit of the NMCP included in the Awardee’s scope of work?

USAID Response: Global Fund conducted a financial audit of the program and its recommendations continue to be implemented with support from the Global Fund. In addition, PMI has supported an organizational audit that was conducted jointly by MSH/LMG and RTI/StopPALU whose results are yet to be validated/disseminated. Therefore, the awardee will be responsible for assessing the extent of progress made against recommendations from this organizational audit. However, since the awardee will also be responsible for the continued support of the NMCP’s capacity development during the life of

ATTACHMENT A
RFA-675-17-000003: Guinea Malaria Bilateral

the award, applicants should propose how they intend to assess progress in this area after all the recommendations from this audit have been addressed.

6. The RFA mentions non-health facility sources of IPTp as an area of work for this project. Is it the intent of this RFA that the Awardee conduct operations research into non-health facility options for IPTp services in the Guinean context? Or is it the intent that the Awardee should await the results of ongoing research studies and issuance of new WHO and /or PMI Technical Guidance on non-health facility IPTp services before undertaking these activities?

USAID Response: Although WHO recommends that IPTp be delivered at routine ANC visits, it also does support exploring alternate implementation approaches to increase uptake of IPTp. Currently, IPTp delivery in Guinea is only health facility-based. However, the new NMCP strategy is open to other IPTp approaches that have proven to be effective in increasing IPTp uptake. Applicants should propose proven alternate approach(es) that would increase IPTp uptake in the Guinea context. As such, if during the life of this award, Guinea decides to explore their implementation, following discussions and approval from PMI, the awardee will support the country to assess the option with an Operation Research (OR) study before moving to wide scale implementation.

7. IR.1.2 states that “The partner will work closely with the supply chain mechanisms to set up effective supply chain, including Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) and quality control systems to ensure quality ITNs are available for continuous and mass distribution (primary responsibility of another IP).” Does this mean that we should not include activity descriptions or budget for transport, storage or delivery to community level of ITNs in our proposal and budget?

USAID Response: Correct, ITN transportation, storage or delivery to community level will not be part of this agreement and therefore activity description and budget for this component should not be included in the application. In the event that the need to include it arises at a later date during the life the award, it will have to be part of the agreement re-negotiation and modification.

SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

8. Section 5.D, page 39 references Annexes being excluded from the page limitation, in addition to referencing the Annexes as a standalone section. However, the Technical Instructions do not specify what specific Annexes can be included in the proposal. Will USAID please clarify what specific Annexes will be required?

USAID Response: The technical proposal annexes shall contain resumes, letters of commitments from personnel or partners, teaming agreements, past performance references, letters of recommendation, awards, testimonials and any other supporting documentation requested in the RFA such as M&E plan and the organizational chart.

- a. For Example: Will USAID allow the M&E plan (PMP) to be included in an Annex?
Will USAID allow CVs to be included as an Annex?

ATTACHMENT A
RFA-675-17-000003: Guinea Malaria Bilateral

USAID Response: Yes, see response above.

9. Page 40 of the RFA states that the Acronym Page is limited to one page. Would USAID permit a two-page limit for the acronym list? This would bring the total number of pages to 42.

USAID Response: USAID would permit a two-page limit for the acronym list, bringing the total number of pages to 42.

10. Please clarify what is expected in the Annexes from partners, key personnel and other technical personnel.

USAID Response: The technical proposal annexes should contain resumes, letters of commitments from personnel or partners, teaming agreements, past performance references, letters of recommendation, awards, testimonials and any other supporting documentation requested in the RFA such as M&E plan and the organizational chart.