



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Amendment Issuance Date:

April 17, 2019

Closing Date and Time for Submission of Applications:

**May 10, 2019
10:00 am Local Kyiv Time**

Subject:

Amendment No. 01 NOFO No. 72012119RFA00002

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The purpose of Amendment No. 01 is to:

1. Provide answers to the questions received to the Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: No. 72012119RFA00002; and
2. To extend to the receipt of applications until NLT 10:00 am local Kiev time, Friday, May 10, 2019.

Thank you for your interest in USAID projects.

Sincerely,

Daniel Harter
Supervisory Agreement Officer

PART I OF THE AMENDMENT NO. 01

Answers to Questions submitted for NOFO No. 72012119RFA00002:

Q1. Could you please inform us if the activities within the potential projects could be implemented throughout Ukraine or only in PEPFAR regions? We believe that such a global project should be implemented throughout Ukraine due to the epidemiological situation in the country. Therefore, the comprehensive activities should be performed to reduce the global burden of tuberculosis in Ukraine.

A1. The proposed activity should be initially implemented in the eleven oblasts listed in Section I – Program Description of the NOFO: Dnipro, Mykolayiv, Odesa, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Poltava, and Donetsk (in the Government of Ukraine controlled portion) and 3 training centers.

Q2. Can USAID please confirm that consultants are excluded from the geographic code requirements?

A2. Per ADS 310 and 22 CFR 228, the USAID Principal Geographic Code(s) applies only to direct Agency contracts and procurements of commodities and services under contracts and grants/cooperative agreements. Therefore, the answer to your question depends on how the Applicant classifies consultants.

Q3. On page 29, USAID requires a minimum of three references for each proposed key personnel. Can USAID please confirm that these references are excluded from the 3-page resume requirement?

A3. Yes. USAID confirms that references are excluded from the 3-page resume limitation.

Q4. In order to provide the level of detail required for an implementation plan, would USAID consider allowing applicants to move the implementation plan to an annex?

A4. No, the implementation plan is a section of the Technical Application and should be included in the page limitation.

Q5. Can USAID please provide a copy of the Ukraine Local Compensation Plan, mentioned on page 37?

A5. Please be advised that the maximum daily rate for senior locally hired specialists is \$251 under USAID contracts. However, Applicants are expected to conduct their own market research for determining the salary scale for locally hired positions in Ukraine.

Q6. On page 29 Under Section F: Implementation Plan, USAID states that “Applicants must present a detailed explanation for the first year, with illustrative key activities, benchmarks, and results for the remaining years.” Would USAID clarify if a table format is acceptable?

A6. Yes, a table is acceptable if the Applicant deems that the most appropriate way to present the requested information.

Q7. Secondly, will USAID allow a table format be presented in an Annex?

A7. No, the implementation plan is a section of the Technical Application and should be included in the page limitation.

Q8. On page 16 under Mandatory Cross-Cutting Considerations for Gender, USAID states that “The project should strive for at least 30/70% women/men or men/women participation in all project activities (not less 30%

and not more 70% of each sex) in all aspects.” Given the proportion of men and women infected with TB differs according to target population and age group, achieving a 30/70% gender split for women/men would limit the reach of the project among age groups and different key populations. Would USAID re-consider the gender split requirement?

A8. The percentages stated in the NOFO are percentages to strive toward and subject to negotiation during the implementation of the eventual award. As the proportion of TB cases that occur among females is ~30%, we would look for an overall proportion among 30% as an overall cumulative average across activities but the proportion could go outside these boundaries within any specific subpopulation.

Q9. Due to pending Presidential Elections in Ukraine, can USAID extend the submission deadline 2 weeks?

A9. An extension to the receipt of applications has been granted until NLT 10:00 am local Kiev time, Friday, May 10, 2019.

Q10. Page 3 of the RFA states the eleven priority oblasts where the activity will be implemented at the primary health care level and TB facilities; however, there are other oblasts that also represent the high TB burden within Ukraine. Would USAID please consider revising the geographic priority oblasts to reflect the highest need?

A10. The NOFO states “The Activity will be implemented at the primary health care level and in TB facilities initially in eleven oblasts of Ukraine with the highest TB, DR-TB and HIV/TB co-infection rates.” It is intended that the Activity will *initially* work in all 11 of the named oblasts. We do not envision much work outside of these oblasts, but we acknowledge things change and the project must be flexible should the need arise in later years.

Q11. The RFA identifies 4 target populations (p. 5), then lists an additional 3 “higher-risk subgroups”. Can USAID please clarify if the high-risk subgroups (PWID, sex workers and prison populations) are to be perceived as primary or secondary target priority, even if not PLHIV.

A11. The listing of these groups (PWID, sex workers and prison populations) on page 5 is in the context of being subgroups at greater risk of HIV infection. However, PWID and prisoners are at higher risk of TB infection and disease, even if non HIV-infected, than the general population. Anticipated Activity results for these subgroups are included on page 9 under Objectives 3 (Strategy or improved models for early detection and diagnosis of TB cases, especially for people at high risk for TB disease implemented) and Objective 5 (coverage among people at high-risk for LTBI with TPT increased). Therefore, activities should be developed for these higher risk groups.

Q12. Page 16 states “According to the (Gender Analysis) Report, in 2014 the TB incidence for males was 89.2 per 100,000 as compared to 35.4 per 100,000 for females” however, the cross-cutting gender requirements are centered on female engagement, empowerment, and decision making. Can USAID please clarify if they only want gender-specific activities aimed at women, despite male populations being higher risk for TB?

A12. The primary objective is included in the last paragraph on page 16 that extends onto page 17: “ensuring that men and women both benefit from project results and are treated without discrimination”. While the gender-specific activities listed focus on women, USAID would consider other activities if a convincing case can be made that they are needed to address a gender-discriminatory situation.

Q13. Page 34 of the RFA states: “Applicants must list all contracts, grants and cooperative agreements which the organization, both the primary applicant as well as any partnering organization(s) (if proposed), has implemented involving similar or related programs over the past five years.” Given that this could be a very

large list, could USAID please consider providing a maximum number of programs that Offerors should reference (ex. 6 PPRs)?

A13. We leave it to Applicants to provide the most relevant list of awards the Applicant has implemented over the past five years that are programs or program elements of similar size and scope, and ability to achieve results. Applicants must abide by the 2-page limitation for past performance information.

Q14. Page 36 of the RFA states "Major partnering organization(s) financial plans should follow the same cost format as submitted by the applicant." Can USAID please clarify what is the definition of Major Partnering Organization?

A14. Applicants are responsible for defining this term. Please see page 34 where we state that a major partnering organization is one that is that will have significant role in the implementation of the program.

Q15. With the recent changes to USAID's Payment Management system, USAID awards are now including the following language: "The Recipient must use funds obligated under this award and any subsequent modifications from the specific Operating Units (OU) and Program areas (PA) for activities approved in the award and detailed in the work plan, as applicable. Program disbursements for each OU/PA must not exceed the amounts specified in the Accounting and Appropriations data for each Operating Unit (OU) and Program area (PA)." Given this limitation of funding, which could impact the ability to carry out proposed activities based on actual obligations, is there any information USAID can provide at this stage of the competitive process regarding anticipated levels and/or percentages of Operating Unit and Program Area accounts.

A15. There is no further information that we can provide at this time. The cited language will be determined at the time of award based on USAID funding and payment instructions.

Q16. Would USAID please give an extension to the submission deadline?

A16. Please see our response to Q9.

Q17. To participate in the project, the grant recipient needs to implement all 4 objectives, which are listed in your instructions or we can select only one project objective?

A17. The Applicant should propose activities to achieve all four objectives, as stated in NOFO.

Q18. Are there any preferences for the presence of certain partners for the project?

A18. The Applicant shall propose the partners that it deems necessary for achieving the stated goals of the activity keeping the priorities from the NOFO in mind.

Q19. Is there a priority for USAID in the participation of an NGO or a profitable company?

A19. USAID has no preferences for eligible Applicants and there are no restrictions to eligibility for this NOFO. As stated on p. 25 of the NOFO, we expect applications from qualified U.S. or Non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other qualified non-USG organizations.

Q20. At the initial stage of submission of documents, the project should be fully described, including partners and the financial part, or should we send a brief summary - goals and objectives that we should achieve during the implementation of this project?

A20. Please refer to the Section IV subsections B –G (pages 24-40) on content, format, and documentation required for a complete application package. Only full and complete applications that meet the NOFO criteria will be considered.

Q21. In what form should the project be submitted (WORD, PDF or another one)?

A21. Please see the instructions on format and content of Technical Applications that starts on p. 25 of the NOFO. Technical Applications (electronic copy) must be in MS Word or PDF format.

[End of Amendment No. 01]