



USAID | MOZAMBIQUE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REFERENCE: Request For Application (RFA) Number: 72065623RFA00005
Fortifying OVC services, Empowering adolescents, and youth, and Leveraging and
Incorporating community feedback in Zambezia (FELIZ) Activity

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 02

DATE: December 1, 2023

Dear Potential Recipient:

The purpose of this amendment is to provide answers to questions submitted by the applicant;

Please review the enclosed Amendment 02, Attachment 1 – Questions and Answers
Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the original RFA issued on October 27, 2023
remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

Patrice Lopez
Agreement Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION 1: The RFA does not mention a List of Acronyms as a section in the Technical Application Format. Can USAID please confirm if applicants can include a List of Acronyms as a section of the technical proposal? And, if so, that these pages do not count towards the page limit?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 1: The List of Acronyms can be included in the technical proposal. These pages will not count towards the page limit.

QUESTION 2: On page 8, the RFA mentions that " Given the unique attributes of the beneficiaries, this activity will consider strong emphasis on innovation from the outset and the inclusion of implementation science research." However, no further mention of implementation science research is made in the RFA. Could USAID please confirm whether the applicant is expected to undertake research as part of the Activity, and if so, whether additional guidance can be provided on the scope of this research, and the share of funds that can be used for research?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 2: It is not expected that formal implementation science research will be conducted under this award. However, it is expected that applicants are innovative and continuously use programmatic data to identify best-practices to reach the target population in an efficient manner.

QUESTION 3: On page 17, the RFA states: "DREAMS activities should include school-based HIV and violence prevention programs in school health corners where participants can obtain scientifically accurate information, appropriate referrals to health centers for services not provided in school, and skill-building related to prevention among young people in the community." However, during the past few years school health corners have been managed by the clinical partner. Can USAID please confirm whether the FELIZ Activity is expected to manage and finance school health corners?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 3: Under this Activity, the awardee will be expected to manage and finance school health corners in conjunction with the clinical IP.

QUESTION 4: On page 17, the RFA mentions community awareness programming among men (under Sub-IR 1.3). Can USAID please advise whether the applicant is free to suggest a curriculum to be used in this intervention, or is there existing guidance on this?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 4: The curriculum is pre-approved and will be provided to the Awardee.

QUESTION 5: On page 17, the RFA mentions meaningful inclusion and engagement of male sexual partners of AGYW under Sub-IR 1.4, but does not mention any group activities for them, while COP23 guidance indicated that group activities specific to this target group should be implemented. Can USAID please clarify whether group activities should be implemented with male sexual partners of AGYW as part of the FELIZ Activity and if so, whether any guidance on these activities exist?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 5: Group activities for male sexual partners of AGYW should be included as part of the FELIZ Activity. Guidance and curricula will be provided to the Awardee.

QUESTION 6: The RFA mentions on pages 18 and 35 the indicator GEND_GBV as a mandatory PEPFAR indicator. However, as per MER 2.6.1, the description of this indicator is: "Number of people receiving post-gender-based violence (GBV) clinical care based on the minimum package", and it further states that: "This indicator DOES NOT include GBV prevention activities or non-clinical community-based GBV

response." Can USAID please confirm whether the community partner is really expected to report on this indicator, i.e., report on services provided by the clinical partner?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 6: The community partner is not required to report on the GEND_GBV indicator as it is the responsibility of the clinical IP.

QUESTION 7: Please confirm whether the Position Descriptions are, or are not to be included as a permitted Annex?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 7: The Position Descriptions can be included as annex.
(see Section D.5 – Technical Application Format, paragraph (g))

QUESTION 8: Page 31 of the RFA describes that the local partner is encouraged to propose its team of sub-awardees as a consortium. We have the following question about the sub-awardees' consortium partners: Can a sub-awardee/consortium partner be the prime partner in another proposal?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 8: The sub-awardee/consortium partner can be the prime partner for another proposal as long as there is no conflict of interest.

QUESTION 9: Page 31 furthermore describes that the local prime applicant "(...) will consider provision of grants to District government entities (...)" . If the prime applicant decided to do so, should detailed budgets of these G2G grants be presented in the cost proposal?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 9: No detailed budget for sub-grants is required, however it is expected that the relevant diligence is performed amongst these parties.

QUESTION 10: On page 48, the RFA describes the submission of "history of performance", which includes "Reports and findings from any audits performed in the last 3 years". Our question is whether these audit reports can be submitted in Portuguese or whether they need to be translated to English?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 10: The audit reports can be submitted in English or Portuguese.

QUESTION 11: Page 43 of the RFA mentions the "Authorized Annexes", which include a "Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (not to exceed 5 pages)". Could USAID provide a template for this annex, as to assure the applicant provides within the page limit the necessary information, in line with USAID expectation?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 11: No draft template is available for this purpose.

QUESTION 12: What is the font that should be used – Calibri or Times New Roman (discrepancies on page 40).

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 12: The correct font is Calibri.

QUESTION 13: On page 62, the RFA describes "Applicants must provide resumes and proposed position descriptions for the candidates proposed for all key personnel. The resumes should indicate the names of the proposed personnel and demonstrate that the proposed key personnel and long-term professional staff possess the skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their proposed responsibilities." whereas the authorized Annexes on page 43 mentions only "Resumes of Key Staff" (Annex 2). Should the applicant provide Resumes of Long-term professional staff also, and if so authorized under Annex 2?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 13: Only resumes for Key Personnel as prescribed in the RFA. (see pages 61-62).

QUESTION 14: Page 43 mentions “List of Past Performance Information (not to exceed 1 page per award)” there a limit to how many Past Performance Awards can be included?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 14: There is no limit on the number of Past Performance awards. However, applicants must provide a list of all its contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs during the past three years as stated in the RFA.

QUESTION 15: Is there any constraint on having a technical assistance partner that is not local?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 15: The consortium can be with local and/or international partners as long as the local partner is the Prime. (Refer to the NOFO Section A.7. STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS, paragraph 10 - Sub-Awards)

QUESTION 16: Is there any limited no. of words for the Key personnel resume?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 16: Resumes of Key Personnel (each resume must not exceed 3 pages) as an Annex.

Question 17: The OVC program is expected to incorporate CLM, allowing local communities, particularly PLHIV, to engage with frontline health service providers to monitor and improve the quality of and access to ART services in a multi-step cycle from mobilization to joint planning and advocacy, will this be done in collaboration with PLASOC-M or there is an expectation to initiate independent program CLM activities?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 17: Community Led Monitoring (CLM) is a program on its own, that will be implemented alongside the OVC and other interventions. CLM can be done in collaboration with civil society, including PLASOC-M. Expectation is to see strong, inclusive, and sustainable CLM interventions aligned with national approaches.

Question 18: Is there an intended start date you’d like us to include (pg. 40 says we must use it in the cost application)?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 18: The estimated start date will be upon the signature of the award, or other effective date determined by the Agreement Officer. Cost applications should address the anticipated Period of Performance which is five years from date of award.

Question 19: Is the Chief of Party (COP) mandatory, or can consortiums propose and justify alternative program oversight positions?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 19: Applicants must have a Chief of Party/Project Director who is responsible for the achievement of the overarching goal of this activity. The roles and responsibilities of this position are further described in the RFA in Section H. Key Personnel. In the case of a consortium, a Chief of Party or Project Director is required to perform the role as indicated. However, applicants are encouraged to propose a management structure that best suits their application and ensures programmatic results. The proposed management structure should outline the roles of key personnel and their contribution to the overall goal of this activity.

Question 20: In the Tech Application for the Institutional Capacity section, we are instructed to include both prime and any consortium member/partner experience, can or should we include subs/consortium members' history of performance in the cost application or in the past performance information in the technical application?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 20: This should be included in the past performance information as described in the technical application.

Question 21: Are there any indications for targets available including the separation of (OVC/DREAMS) priority districts.

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 21: Targets are not available for this period.

Question 22: Should the proposal include sub-award partners Letters of Commitment, if so, as an Annex?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 22: Letters of Commitment are required only for Key Personnel. (refer to Section D.5 Technical Application Format, paragraph (g) of the NOFO)

Question 23: What is the font size to be used for footnotes?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 23: Font size for footnotes should be clear enough to read but not to exceed 10-point Calibri font.

Question 24: Is there a page limit for the Position Descriptions of the key personnel (in Annex)?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 24: Please summarize as precisely as possible.

Question 25: In the amendment, we noted that the email for Patrice has been updated to Patrice Lopez, Agreement Officer Email: patlopez@usaid.gov. For the final proposal submission, do we email it to patlopez and still cc Judite Caetano and Joyce Mbele on our submission?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 25: Yes. Final proposals must be submitted to all of the following Agency Point of Contacts:

- Patrice Lopez; Agreement Officer; Email: patlopez@usaid.gov
- Judite Caetano; Senior Acquisition & Assistance Specialist; Email: jcaetano@usaid.gov
- Joyce Mbele; Acquisition & Assistance Specialist; Email jmbele@usaid.gov

Question 26: In the NOFO (pg. 17) it is written that “IR1 Illustrative activities include but are not limited to: Update and locally contextualize DREAMS curriculum in line with best practices, national guidelines, and PEPFAR DREAMS technical guidance”. Similarly for IR 3 (pg. 22) it is written that “IR3 Illustrative activities include but are not limited to: Update and locally contextualize OVC prevention curriculum in line with best practices, national guidelines a, and PEPFAR DREAMS technical guidance.” However, in the Pre-Application Conference it was shared that we are to use pre-approved curricula.

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 26:

- I. Is there a list of the pre-approved curricula for both OVC and DREAMS specific to Mozambique, that you can share with applicants?
 - There is a list of pre-approved curricula for both OVC and DREAMS, the curricula are available for Partners implementing this initiative.

II. Are we allowed to update, contextualize and/or adapt local curricula for use in this Activity?

- The process of curricula updates and contextualization is managed by the PEPFAR Coordinating Office (PCO) responsible for oversight supported by the interagency Technical Working Group (TWG).

Question 27: During the Pre-Application Conference, we were informed that districts and targets have not yet been determined for this Activity. For budgeting purposes, should we use last year's Zambia targets, and will these targets be shared with applicants?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 27: No targets have been planned for this activity; however, applicants can refer to FY2023 targets for planning purposes

Question 28: Will there be another Q&A session for this application.

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 28: The deadline for Questions and Answers was November 20, 2023, and cannot be extended.

Question 29: Based on the following Statement: "The local prime is encouraged to propose its team of sub-awardees as a consortium. The mechanism for a proposed sub-awardee (consortium of local and/or international partners) can be with an international NGO, local national NGO or CBO, or a private company. If a consortium is formed, at least 50 percent of the budget should be executed by the local prime Recipient- Page 31."

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 29:

- I. Is there a limit to the number of organizations to take part in the Consortium submitting the proposal and to implement activities under this Notice of Funding Opportunity?
 - There is no limit. Local organizations can be part of several funding sources or consortiums; however, it is advised that they meet the following conditions:
 - Have appropriate internal governance structure functioning in a way that promotes accountability and transparency within and with other stakeholders.
 - Have appropriate internal controls and financial management systems that guarantee proper segregation of duties, tracking of funding per source, proper use of funds and reporting to each donor in line with the agreement terms.
 - Key personnel positions are full time and must not be shared with other activities.
- II. Is there a limit to the number of Consortiums a certain Non-Exclusive Partner can take part in under this Notice of Funding Opportunity?
 - There is no limit to non-exclusive partners, however applicants need to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

Question 30: The RFA talks specifically about Zambia Province as the implementation location, the districts are not specifically mentioned. Does this NOFO consider key districts, or this will be selected by the applicant in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders based on the epidemiological profile?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 30: The Geo-focus is Zambezia Province with the possibility of expansion to other geographic regions. USAID will consider maximum District coverage.

Question 31: Could other interventions be implemented in other provinces?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 31: USAID will make the determination if required.

Question 32: If yes, which one? It is clear that HIV testing will be implemented in Zambezia Province and later on expanded.

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 32: At this moment USAID is unable to determine whether further Geo-expansion will be needed.

END OF ATTACHMENT 1