

AMENDMENT No. 01

APS-OFDA-14-000008

Community-based Resilience Programming in the Arid Lands of Kenya

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question 1: We have noted on pg. 26 and 27 of the APS, that if “an awards to PIO resulted from this APS, it will be administered in accordance with ADS 308.” As a CGIAR center, we are listed as a PIO in the ADS 308maa_092011, and additionally, we have a signed a framework funding agreement with USAID since 2011 where the 15 CGIAR centers and USAID have agreed on terms and conditions which govern all USAID’s funding through CGIAR Window 3. Should our application be successful, can we expect the award to come through this established Window 3 CGIAR funding mechanism?

Response: No. CGIAR Window 3 is a different award mechanism and will not apply to this award.

Question 2: As a non US organization, without a NICRA, are we subject to an indirect rate ceiling rate?

Response: Per the 2012 OFDA Guidelines for Unsolicited Proposals, any organization without a NICRA must use Direct Cost line items to address indirect costs. There is no ceiling for these costs, however these budgetary line items will be evaluated for cost realism.

Question 3: Must the applicant’s proposal cover all the 4 sectors listed under the APS?

Response: Applicants may choose one or more of the sectors or subsectors listed in the APS.

Question 4: If quantitative baseline data cannot be provided by the applicant in the proposal narrative, can the applicant propose to carry out an assessment for baseline data during the first month of the award and provide the findings within 3 months?

Response: OFDA award conditions would allow for baseline data to be submitted within 90 days of the program start date.

Question 5: Can the applicant’s proposal cover all the 5 Counties listed under the APS?

Response: Per page 6 of the APS, under program goals: “resilience programming in one or more of the following counties: Turkana, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera and Marsabit”

Question 6: Indicatively, what is the expected award amount per County?

Response: This solicitation does not have an expected award amount per county.

Question 7: Page 20 of the above referenced APS requests for applicants to include a “Safety and Security Assessment of the applicants consideration of the security situation in the proposed area of implementation and if the planned program and budget and structured accordingly.” In addition, OFDA’s 2012 Guidelines for Proposals request a location specific safety and security plan for proposed program sites as an annex. Can USAID/OFDA kindly confirm that applicants can submit both the safety and security assessment and safety and security plan as an annex to the technical proposal?

Response: All Safety and Security Plans should be submitted in accordance with the 2012 OFDA Proposal Guidelines.

Question 8: Can USAID/OFDA confirm that applicants can submit a detailed performance monitoring and evaluation plan as an annex in addition to discussing the monitoring plan and evaluation plan as part of the technical narrative?

Response: All Monitoring and Evaluating plans should be submitted in accordance with the 2012 OFDA Proposal Guidelines.

Question 9: Can we submit a concept paper or do we have to submit a full proposal? (Reference to page 3: “(2) describes the program aim, results, and types of activities for which concept papers and/or applications will be considered”) If it’s possible to submit a concept paper by June 30, 2014, what would be the deadline concerning the submission of the full proposal?

Response: The solicitation will consider full applications only which must be submitted on or before June 30, 2014.

Question 10: Regarding the partnership with a Kenyan NGO: the resilience programming has to be fully implemented by the local partner or can the project be implemented by both teams (Kenyan NGO and international NGO)?

Response: The solicitation states “It is anticipated all of activities would be implemented and overseen by Kenyan NGOs through a subawardee mechanism, with technical assistance and guidance by relevant INGO staff”.

Question 11: Due to the short notice of this APS, can we include in the project the selection of the local partner? For instance, can we finalize the due diligence of the local partners during the two first months of the project? Consequently, the Kenyan NGO would be selected during the second month of the project.

Response: The solicitation states, “Applicants must include criteria for selection of national partners in their proposal, and may suggest subawardees in the proposal design if known and appropriate.”

Question 12: The APS states that “all activities should be implemented and overseen by Kenyan NGOs through a subawardee mechanism, with technical assistance and guidance by relevant INGO staff. OFDA wants to engage with local communities and institutions.” Should only local NGOs be identified in the proposal? What is the expected percentage of local contribution? Is the time utilized by the community in attending projects training and meetings considered as a local contribution?

Response: The solicitation states, “Applicants must include criteria for selection of national partners in their proposal, and may suggest subawardees in the proposal design if known and appropriate.” It is unclear what you mean by contribution, but there no requirement for cost matching from a national organization. The solicitation states “It is anticipated all of activities would be implemented and overseen by Kenyan NGOs through a subawardee mechanism, with technical assistance and guidance by relevant INGO staff”.

Question 13: Rehabilitation of water structures requires a very detailed needs assessment in order to determine the extent of the damage of the water structure/point. Will OFDA support this activity OR refund the expenses of the assessment after approval.

Response: 2012 OFDA Proposal Guidelines maintains that assessed needs are required in order to consider a proposal. Additionally, OFDA does not backdate funding to refund expenses incurred before a program start date.

Question 14: The key goals of the APS refer to partnerships with Kenyan NGOs (#1 goal) and capacity building of national organizations (#2 goal) Can you further clarify and provide the criteria for organizations qualifying as a Kenyan NGO? (i.e. does this include local institutions, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), etc.?)

Response: The definition of “Kenyan NGO” is broad could include local organizations or CBOs. The solicitation states, “Applicants must include criteria for selection of national partners in their proposal, and may suggest subawardees in the proposal design if known and appropriate.”

Question 15: Page 7 of the APS states *“it is anticipated all of the activities would be implemented and overseen by Kenyan NGOs through a sub-awardee mechanism, with technical assistance and guidance by relevant INGO staff.”* What level of technical assistance and guidance would be anticipated? Would the international NGO be encouraged to have field staff to monitor, support and mentor local partner staff?

Response: The level of technical assistance and guidance is up to the discretion of the applicant.

Question 16: Page 7 also states that: *“Applicants must include criteria for selection of national partners in their proposal, and may suggest sub-awardees in the proposal design if known and appropriate.”* Does this mean that national partner sub-awardees do not need to be identified for the proposal submission?

Response: See response to Question 11.

Question 17: Is it expected that proposals will cover all of the sectors and sub-sectors included in the APS? (listed on p.7)

Response: See the response to Question 3.

Question 18: The APS guidance for activities under Market System Rehabilitation sub-sector does not include infrastructure rehabilitation (market places, roads, storage, etc.) as per the OFDA Guidelines. Will OFDA accept proposals that include infrastructure rehab activities per the OFDA guidelines or should activities be limited to what is outlined in the APS?

Response: Sectors and subsectors not appearing in the solicitation will not be considered.

Question 19: Page 11 of the APS states that “*OFDA anticipates that up to approximately US \$3,000,000 may be available to support the program(s) or activity(ies) described herein...*” and later that “*OFDA plans to make multiple awards under this APS.*” Please clarify whether each award can be up to \$3mill or the total funding available for this APS is \$3mill (to be divided between the multiple awards)?

Response: Per the solicitation, total funding available for this APS is “up to approximately US \$3,000,000”

Question 20: For submission of proposals, is submission to OFDA_APS_FY14_008@ofda.gov sufficient or is it expected that applicants will also submit on grants.gov?

Response: Submission to OFDA_APS_FY14_008@ofda.gov is sufficient.

Question 21: Is an individual program application expected to be able to reach all 5 named geographic counties?

Response: See the response to Question 5.

Question 22: Can USAID kindly clarify if the proposed project areas must address each of the various sectors/sub-sectors outlined in the ‘Program Scope and Objective(s) of this APS’ in Section 1 from page 6-12, or can the mix of interventions be determined based on local conditions? That is, is it necessary to include all chosen sub-sectors in every area of proposed intervention, or can this depend on context?

Response: See response to Question 3.

Question 23: In the ‘Program Scope and Objective(s) of this APS’ in Section 1 on page 6, under the ‘Approach, Expected Outcome and Illustrative Activities’, the document reads “Geographic priorities should focus on the most vulnerable and underserved areas and communities as identified by the applicant.” In the context of this APS, could USAID kindly clarify the specific criteria, if any, used to identify ‘vulnerable’ and ‘underserved areas’?

Response: The APS states “Geographic priorities should focus on the most vulnerable and underserved areas and communities as identified by the applicant.”

Question 24: What, if any, relationship should programs proposed under this APS have with other resilience-based projects in the region, including existing USAID and/or non-USAID funded programs?

Response: This solicitation does not require coordination with another USAID or non-USAID program, however it also does not exclude linkages.

Question 25: In the context of this APS, is it possible for multiple INGOs to co-apply?

Response: This solicitation does not prevent multiple INGOs to co-apply. If a co-application is received there must be a clearly identified lead agency who will be the prime recipient of the award.

Question 26: On page 6 the APS states the second of two main goals is to, “build the capacity of national organizations”. Could USAID/OFDA please clarify, is the explicit intent of this to target “national” (i.e. NGOs working at the national level), rather than locally-based organizations?

Response: See response to Question 14.

Question 27: On page 20 the APS states that “...applicants are strongly encouraged to identify such teaming arrangements and sub-recipients in the technical / programmatic and cost/budget/management sections of their application”. Could USAID/OFDA please clarify if exclusive arrangements with these firms are requested or preferred?

Response: As is stated in the APS: “...applicants are strongly encouraged to identify such teaming arrangements and sub-recipients in the technical/programmatic and cost/budget/management sections of their application, if any, to the maximum practicable extent.