

Subject: Amendment 1 RFA-623-16-000001

Program Title: Engaging Somalis in Peaceful Political Processes (ES3P)

Date: October 30, 2015

Amendment 1 incorporates the questions and corresponding answers as well as the following changes:

1. Under Section A: Program Description, Part 4, include the following subpart after the "Relationship between Objectives" subpart:

Coordination

In the Background and Context section of this Program Description, other USAID activities working in the democracy and governance space in Somalia were highlighted. It is important that the recipient coordinate closely with the implementers of these activities to ensure that ES3P activities build on relevant USAID activities rather than duplicating them. Similarly, the recipient should coordinate with implementers of programs supporting electoral and political processes funded by other donors to ensure complementarity of activities and avoid duplication.

2. Under Section D: Application and Submission Information , Part 4 "Technical Application Format," delete the "Required Annexes" paragraph and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

6. Required Annexes

- a. Illustrative risk assessment and risk monitoring methodology*
- b. Draft monitoring and evaluation plan*
- c. CVs of key personnel*
- d. Summary organizational chart*

3. Under Section D: Application and Submission Information, Part 4, delete subpart i "Technical Approach" in its entirety and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

i. Technical Approach

The technical approach must provide a clear and succinct overview of the applicant's proposed plan for achieving the outlined objectives and results in a manner which promotes local ownership and strengthened capacity among local partners and stakeholders. The applicant should present a Theory of Change that provides the logic of the proposed technical approach, including a logical justification for why the proposed activities can be expected to achieve the proposed higher-level outcomes. This should include articulating the logical assumptions being made about how proximal outcomes can be expected to lead to the higher-level outcomes and contribute to achieving project objectives. If these assumptions are based on existing evidence, it should be cited. A successful application will demonstrate an understanding of the political economy, and incorporate approaches and illustrative activities that are hallmarked by the integration of gender issues, innovation, feasibility considerations, synergies between stakeholders, and a focus on generating sustainability beyond the performance period. Applicants should present strategies for flexible, iterative program management to adapt and respond to changing country context and emerging needs.

The applicant should provide two annexes as part of the technical approach: 1) an illustrative risk assessment and risk monitoring methodology, including an illustrative risk matrix that discusses key risks and mitigating factors in the current context; and 2) a draft monitoring and evaluation plan designed to adequately evaluate performance and to provide information for project planning. This

draft M&E plan should connect to the Theory of Change and propose appropriate custom and standard indicators to measure progress against the expected results and objectives. It should be structured to monitor for the assumptions articulated in the Theory of Change as appropriate. Applicants should provide a logical framework as part of the draft M&E plan. This logical framework should build on the beginnings of the logical framework provided in Section A of the RFA and provide the logical connections between the proposed activities, the expected results, and the objectives of the program. The M&E plan should be aligned with this logical framework.

4. Under Section D, Part 4 “Technical Application Format”, subpart ii “Key Personnel”, delete the “Chief of Party” paragraph and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

a. Chief of Party

- o Minimum ten (10) years of experience working on democracy and governance programming for developing countries, with experience in elections and political processes, governance, civic engagement/civil society, institutional development or directly related technical areas;*
- o Minimum seven (7) years of progressively responsible management experience (which may be concurrent with the above ten (10) years of technical experience), with significant experience as a development professional administering donor-funded programs, preferably in Sub-Saharan Africa;*
- o Demonstrated capacity to develop solid working relationships with senior government officials, local governments, non-governmental institutions, and coordination with other donors. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are required. Demonstrated record of success in politically sensitive environments;*
- o Appropriate and relevant university degree;*
- o Fluency in written and spoken English*

5. Under Section D, Part 4 “Technical Application Format”, subpart ii “Key Personnel”, delete the “Grants Manager” paragraph and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

c. Grants Manager

- o Minimum six (6) years of experience in a management position;*
- o Minimum four (4) years of experience (which may be concurrent with the above six (6) years of experience) working in a developing country managing grants to local organizations, preferably in sub-Saharan Africa or a fragile context;*
- o Appropriate and relevant university degree;*
- o Fluency in written and spoken English*

6. Under Section D, Part 5 “Cost Application Format”, delete the cost share and matching paragraph and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost share contribution is not required under this program. However, any cost share proposed will be evaluated as part of cost effectiveness and must be in accordance with 2 CFR 200.306.

7. Under Section D, Part 5 “Cost Application Format”, delete the note regarding pre-award costs and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

NOTE: Pre-award expenses will only be considered if they meet the requirements of 2 CFR 200.458 and receive prior Agreement Officer Approval.

8. Under Section D, Part 5 “Cost Application Format”, delete the sentence “*Also include in the cost application:*” replace with the following in lieu thereof:

Also include in the following other administrative documentation in the cost application:

9. Under Section D, Part 8 “Required Certification” add the following to the end of paragraph (1):

The SF 424 forms may be downloaded from the Grants.gov website at <https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>

10. Under Section E, Part 1 “Review and Selection Section,” subpart A “Technical Evaluation,” delete paragraph 1 “Technical Approach” in its entirety and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

1. Technical Approach

The technical approach will be evaluated in terms of the extent to which it:

- Clearly articulates and justifies the proposed strategies and activities and how they will contribute to achievement of the expected results and objectives, including capacity-building of local organizations and institutions.*
- Integrates flexibility and an understanding of the local context to allow the program to adjust and respond to unforeseen circumstances or unexpected results.*
- Presents an illustrative risk analysis and monitoring methodology and risk matrix that are clear, relevant, and demonstrate a strong understanding of the context.*
- Presents monitoring, evaluation and learning methodologies that are capable of capturing the full extent of the results and impacts and appropriate to flexible, demand-led, and complex change processes.*

11. Under Section F, Part 3 “Reporting Requirements,” subpart H “Final Report,” delete the first sentence and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

“The final report that covers the entire five-year period of the award will be submitted 90 calendar days after the expiration of the award and will include:”

For ease of reference, the revised NFO based on the above changes has been attached to this amendment with the changes highlighted.

Issuance of this NFO amendment 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 comments/suggestions or an application. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant’s expense.

Sincerely,



Maria Televantos
Agreement Officer
USAID/Kenya and East Africa