

Amendment No.2

Questions and Answers

- 1) **QUESTION:** Please confirm the project is able to engage with and target the Ministry of Health in the West Bank for the purpose of this project?

ANSWER: USAID confirms

- 2) **QUESTION:** When engaging NGOs and private sector actors, please confirm they are not required to sign the ATC if they are only receiving in-kind donations (non-cash support such as: medical equipment, stocks, supplies, training, etc.)?

ANSWER: The ATC applies to all first-tier recipients of assistance (i.e. under grants or cooperative agreements), other than individuals or Public International Organizations or government units, regardless of whether they are receiving cash, in-kind or training.

With regard to second-tier recipients, it only applies to recipients of cash.

Note that if the first-tier award is a contract but the second-tier award is a grant, then the grant is treated as a first-tier grant so the ATC applies to all types of assistance.

- 3) **QUESTION:** As per USAID regulations, is it necessary for the vendors (contractors) or sub-contractors to sign the Anti-Terrorism Clause (ATC)? Or are they just the provisions related to anti-terrorism clauses as part of the agreement/contract?

ANSWER: The ATC does not apply to contractors or subcontractors.

4) QUESTION: Is there a preference for where the key personnel are to be based?

ANSWER: Please see USAID’s answer to Question #7, in Amendment #1.

5) QUESTION: Section D.5, Section g on page 39 states “The cost/business application should contain the budget categories as shown on the SF-424A form” but then the solicitation proceeds to provide a breakdown of the categories as follows: Direct Labor, Fringe Benefits, Supplies and Equipment, Travel and Per Diem, Other Direct Costs (including sub), and Partner Contracted Audit (PCA). However, the SF-424A major categories are broken out slightly differently. Would USAID please clarify whether the cost/business application should be organized in accordance with the SF-424A or what has been provided in the solicitation?

ANSWER: We prefer if applicants use the SF-424A form as a guide to what budget categories the application should contain. However please add the category for Partner Contracted Audit, or otherwise make clear it has been budgeted.

6) QUESTION: For budgeting purposes regarding to the Crisis Response Fund on page 12, is this \$10 mil fund inclusive of direct AND indirect costs (e.g. NICRA)?

ANSWER: The \$10 million in the Crisis Response Fund will be inclusive of ALL costs directly allocable to the specific emergency response directed by USAID.

7) QUESTION: Will USAID obtain an OFAC license and flow them down to implementing partners?

ANSWER: Please see USAID’s answer to Question #3 in Amendment #1.

- 8) **QUESTION:** B3. Accountability on page 23: Will the selected recipient and significant sub-recipients be subject to two annual audits: (i) the USG Single Audit as required in 2 CFR 200 and (ii) an additional financial (program-specific) audit? For the second audit, it also seems to reference old audit thresholds (\$500,000 for US-based NGOs and \$300,000 for Non-US NGOs). May USAID please clarify what the audit requirements and applicable audit thresholds are?

ANSWER: There is one required annual audit. Please see Section F.6.X of the NFO for information on the required annual audit.

- 9) **QUESTION:** D.4 Technical Application Format, Section h. Past Performance and i.1 Appendix A: There seem to be two conflicting requirements for past performance references. *H. Past Performance* states that applicants shall describe all programs in which they and their significant partners implemented similar programs over the past three years. A few paragraphs later, *section i.1 Appendix A- Relevant Past Performance Information* states that the applicant must submit a list of the five most recent US government awards. May USAID kindly clarify what the Past Performance requirements are?

ANSWER: AMENDMENT TO THE NFO. USAID thanks you for your question. Section D.4.h is hereby amended: the first paragraph is hereby removed in its entirety and replaced with the following: "Applicants shall describe the five most recent projects in which the primary Applicant (as well as any partners substantially involved in implementation i.e. receiving 25% or more of the total proposed project cost) implemented similar activities."

- 10) **QUESTION:** Certificate of Compliance page 41: mentions a required "Certificate of Compliance" which is separate and in addition to the usual certifications & assurances. May USAID please clarify what this certificate is and where applicants can access a copy of it?

ANSWER: As stated, this is certificate is only required if your organization's systems have been certified by USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA).

- 11) **QUESTION:** Additional requirements for personnel compensation on page 59: In accordance with 2 CFR 200.430 *Compensation-personal services*, it is our understanding recipients and sub-recipients would follow their own established personnel policies and salary scales. What is the basis for the annual 5% salary increase cap? It looks similar to FAR requirements which should only apply to USAID contracts.

ANSWER: As stated on page 59, the basis for salary considerations in cooperative agreements shall include both an organization's established personnel policies AND US cost principles pertaining to cost reasonableness as determined by the cognizant USAID Agreement Officer.

12) QUESTION: In light of the restrictions from working with the de facto authorities (DFA), can the Recipient use USAID funds to support a local NGO who is also receiving separate support from a DFA?

ANSWER: This would have to be assessed based on the specific facts.

As an initial matter, the NGO would have to pass vetting.

In addition, this would depend very much on the specifics of what support the NGO is receiving from the DFA. For example, if the USAID support replaces the DFA support such that it essentially relieves the burden of the DFA, this could be deemed indirect support to the DFA, which would be impermissible. But if the USAID support supplements the DFA support, this could be permissible.

It would also depend on the relationship between the NGO and the DFA. For example, if the NGO could be viewed as controlled by, or an affiliate of, the DFA, then USAID assistance to the NGO would be prohibited as this could be deemed assistance to the DFA.

13) QUESTION: Please confirm the Cover and TOC do not count in the 25 page limit.

ANSWER: AMENDMENT TO THE NFO. USAID thanks you for your question. The following paragraph is hereby inserted into Section D.4, after the third paragraph. "The Cover Page, Acronym List and Table of Contents DO NOT count towards the 25 page limit for the technical application. Please refrain from numbering the cover page, acronym list and the table of contents."

14) QUESTION: Please expand on what is expected to be included in the Staffing Plan (as differentiated from the content requested under the narrative section: Staffing Plan and Key Personnel).

ANSWER: The staffing plan information requested in the last paragraph under the Staffing Plan and Key Personnel section on page 35 may be included as Annex E.

15) QUESTION: Please clarify if a security plan is required at application stage and, if yes, the elements required.

ANSWER: Per Section D.8, the Applicant will provide for the costs associated with its security plan and budget for security costs as part of its application. Security considerations may be described as the applicant sees fit in the Management Plan section of the Technical application, the Gantt Chart in Appendix C, or the Staffing Plan in Appendix E. A detailed security plan will be required of the awardee prior to mobilization of staff.

16) QUESTION: Please share a link to the Gaza 20/20: Mission Strategy

ANSWER: All information relating to the Health Matters component of Gaza 2020 is reflected in the NFO.

17) QUESTION: On page 39 of the NFO, section f, can you please clarify if this information should be presented as part of the Budget Narrative or as a separate Annex?

ANSWER: Applicants should make the required information apparent to the Section Committee. This can be accomplished with a combination of a well designed cost application and efficiently using the appendices as described in the NFO.

18) QUESTION: Page 15, Section 6 of ADS 303mav: Certifications, Assurances, Other Statements of the Recipient and Solicitation Standard Provisions (which addresses section D.7 of the NFO) asks to provide past performance information. As such, can you please confirm whether or not USAID would like Past Performance References included in both the Technical and Cost Applications.

ANSWER: Please include past performance information in Appendix 1 as indicated in the NFO and information relating to responsibility as indicated in the NFO in the cost application.

19) QUESTION: On Page 6 the NFO refers to a "Gaza 2020 Mission Strategy." Is this a document that USAID can share with applicants?

ANSWER: See answer to question 16.

20) QUESTION: We kindly request that USAID allow for both the Technical and Cost Applications to be submitted in PDF only with accompanying Microsoft Excel workbooks (as opposed to submitting applications in both PDF *and* Microsoft Word as stated in the NFO) given that the pdf versions of the applications will be the only versions presented to the Technical Evaluation Panel.

ANSWER: USAID allows for the submission of the application in the manner described. Please use PDF or MS Word compatible for all narrative with accompanying Excel workbooks for budgets.

21) QUESTION: May the applicant include an acronym list that does not count toward the page limit?

ANSWER: Yes, please see USAID's answer to Question 13 in this amendment.

22) QUESTION: May the applicant include a transmittal letter that does not count toward the page limit?

ANSWER: A transmittal letter is unnecessary.

23) QUESTION: Will USAID please confirm that the Executive Summary does not count toward the page limit?

ANSWER: The Executive Summary does indeed count towards the page limit.

24) QUESTION: Will USAID please provide the LCP (Local Compensation Plan) for Gaza?

ANSWER: Applicants should look to their own personnel policies and prevailing labor rates to calculate anticipated salaries for the cost application. Direct salaries, wages and annual increases for all personnel proposed under the application shall be in accordance with the Applicant's established personnel policies.

25) QUESTION: Will USAID please share the meeting notes from Pre-Application Conference?

ANSWER: Amendment #1, which contained meeting notes from the Pre-Application Conference, was published on Grants.gov on July 28, 2015.

26) QUESTION: Page 19 of the NOF/RFA, under Section C, the qualifications for the key personnel position of Grants Manager states: "*S/he must have an advanced degree in a related administrative or public health field and at least 7 years prior experience working as a grants manager or related field ...*" Would USAID please confirm that a professional degree in health, administration, or general fields will be acceptable for this position? Would USAID also accept 9 years of experience in lieu of an advanced degree for this position?

ANSWER: The Applicant may propose any individuals that they feel possess the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully implement the project. However, proposed key personnel will be evaluated against the criteria laid out in the NFO.

27) QUESTION: Page 19 of the NOF/RFA, under Section C. the qualifications for the key personnel position of Emergency Management Specialist states: "*S/he shall have an advanced degree in emergency management of health services, crisis response, or related field.* Would USAID accept 9 years of experience in lieu of an advanced degree for this position?

ANSWER: The Applicant may propose any individuals that they feel possess the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully implement the project. However, proposed key personnel will be evaluated against the criteria laid out in the NFO.

28) QUESTION: Please confirm the project is able to engage with and target the Ministry of Health in the West Bank for the purpose of this project?

ANSWER: Confirmed.

29) QUESTION: When engaging NGOs and private sector actors, please confirm they are not required to sign the ATC if they are only receiving in-kind donations (non-cash support such as: medical equipment, stocks, supplies, training, etc.)?

ANSWER: See #2 above

30) QUESTION: As per USAID regulations, is it necessary for the vendors (contractors) or sub-contractors to sign the ATC? Or are they just the provisions related to anti-terrorism clauses as part of the agreement/contract?

ANSWER: See #3 above

31) QUESTION: Page 1-2: The cover page list the title of the program as “Gaza 2020: Health Matters”, and headers in the NFO refer to as “Gaza 20/20: Health Matters”. Can USAID please clarify the title of this Program?

ANSWER: Gaza 2020: Health Matters

32) QUESTION: Page 6: The NOFO references the “Gaza 2020 Mission Strategy”.

Since, the Gaza 2020 Mission Strategy is directly related to the work set forth in the NOFO and coordinating within USAID/WBG’s framework is crucial, this document is key to providing the government with responsive bids in response to the NOFO. Would USAID please provide access to the strategy document to all applicants?

ANSWER: See answer to question 16.

33) QUESTION: Page 7: There are 32 hospitals in Gaza - 29 provide secondary care (standard inpatient services) and 3 provide tertiary care (highly specialized services). The MOH runs 14 hospitals, NGOs run 15, and the MOI runs 3 hospitals.

Out of 32 hospitals only 15 are not run by MOH or MOI. Is the scope of the work therefore restricted to just these 15 hospitals or is the Recipient required to build capacity and improve quality of services at those hospitals also run by MOH and MOI?

ANSWER: Assistance to MOH hospitals, clinics, or staff in Gaza is prohibited. As laid out in the NFO, this project seeks to increase access to and the quality of emergency and essential health services provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and private providers in Gaza.

34) QUESTION: Page 7: “UNRWA’s mandate is the provision of health services to Palestinian refugees. Up to 800,000 people (over 50 percent of the 1.8 million people) in Gaza are classified as refugees and are eligible to seek primary health care services at UNRWA clinics. The U.S. Department of State supports the UNRWA program through its Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and thus this program will not focus on UNRWA clinics or its dedicated beneficiaries.”

Will USAID confirm the target population is therefore only the remaining 50% not currently served by UNRWA? Should this be the case, are there methods for distinguishing between

refugees (and thus being helped by UNRWA) and non-refugees (thus eligible to be covered under this program)?

ANSWER: As a general matter, applicants should try to focus on activities not covered by UNRWA. If there is to be an UNRWA component, the Recipient will be required to discuss the activity in advance with USAID so it can be coordinated with PRM.

35) QUESTION: IR 1: Page 12: “The Recipient and USAID will cooperate to reallocate funds in this category in accordance with the program description, should the Agreement Officer determine that conditions warrant a change in budget allocations under this award. In addition, the Recipient may request budget realignment.”

How do the permissions, procurement, planning, outlay, and tracking for the Crisis Respond Fund differ from the rest of the money which is “Non-Crisis Response Fund”?

ANSWER: Pages 12-13 describe the Crisis Response Fund. This Fund will be 20% of the total estimated amount (\$10,000,000). All applicants shall budget the Fund as a separate and distinct line item in the award. Funding availability will determine actual obligation in the Fund.

However 20% of the total estimated amount will be fully reserved for the Fund. If an emergency occurs for which the Mission determines action is required under the award, the Agreement Officer will take steps to activate the Fund as indicated in the Program Description (and as will be clarified in the award document). As the award matures, the Recipient may discuss with the Mission utilization of unused mortgage and/or funds from the Fund. If the Mission and Recipient agree, a bilateral budget realignment may allow for the Recipient to realign unused resources or ceiling from the Fund to support new activities which fit within the program description.

36) QUESTION: IR 1: Page 13: “Activities will include; Provide training courses on various emergency response topics”.

Will the Recipient be responsible for setting up a training site for emergency preparedness?

ANSWER: It is up to the Applicant to propose training activities that it feels best meets the objectives of the project.

37) QUESTION: IR 2: Page 14: “The total amount of the small grants program under this IR is anticipated not to exceed \$1 million each year given that the awards will be for small NGOs and CBOs whose absorptive capacity is likely limited. And P. 17: The total amount of the subaward program under this IR is anticipated not to exceed \$5 million each year. As part of the application process, the Recipient will propose criteria for identifying what type of awards it would consider through this process.”

Does this mean the Recipient must make awards of up to \$1 million per year or is this optional? Are the requirements, stated on P.28, Section C.3. Risk Assessment, applicable to the potential grant recipients?

ANSWER: Under IR2, the Recipient must implement a small grants program with limits of \$300,000 per organization per award not to exceed \$1 million total for the program per year. Under IR3, the Recipient must implement a sub-awards program with limits of \$1 million per organization per award not to exceed \$5 million total for the program per year. The Risk Assessment detailed in section C.3 applies to the prime Recipient, not the sub-grantees.

38) QUESTION: IR 2: Page 15: Note that all USAID procurement regulations must be strictly adhered to and all prior approvals, specifically to include all pharmaceuticals, must be obtained prior to procurement by the Recipient or its sub-awardees. As part of the application submitted to USAID, the Recipient will propose its preferred procurement management model which should inform whether the Recipient intends a central procurement process be used by the prime Recipient or by the sub-award.

As per USAID/OFDA Proposal Guidelines Pharmaceutical Annex A:

“FDA - Licensed Products: Products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for market use in the United States, and the product manufacturing facility has been inspected and licensed by the FDA to produce such product. Note: FDA-approved products may be manufactured in a non-U.S. facility provided that the facility has been inspected and meets the FDA requirements.”

Would USAID please confirm that the Recipient can procure generic or other brand named medicines from manufacturers in other countries certified as meeting US FDA requirements?

ANSWER: Pharmaceuticals procurement is subject to ADS 312.3.3.3. We suggest that the applicant reverts to the referenced ADS for full details. Also, we encourage you to refer to the following link for additional help regarding 'restricted commodity' approval of pharmaceuticals:

<http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/ADS312AdditionalHelpDocument.pdf>

- 39) QUESTION: IR 3: Page 16: “Target areas may include but are not limited to trauma and emergency care, rehabilitation and orthopedic services, emergency cardiovascular services, mental health services, and advanced medical imaging solutions and treatment”.
Will the Recipient be responsible for supporting laboratory services?**

ANSWER: It is up to the Applicant to propose activities that best address the objective of the project.

- 40) QUESTION: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan**

Page 18: “The Mission will rely on the Recipient to conduct an independent, third-party mid-term evaluation while the Mission will support the final evaluation to evaluate the performance of the program”

Will USAID describe the restrictions for this independent third-party?

ANSWER: The Agreement Officer Representative (AOR) for this project will work with the Recipient to design the mid-term evaluation. The Recipient will be expected to procure the services of an independent third-party with no fiduciary relationship with the Recipient to conduct evaluation.

- 41) QUESTION: Page 19: “Prior work experience in Gaza and the Middle East region is highly desirable.”**

Would USAID clarify its position: is it “Gaza AND the Middle East region” or “Gaza OR the Middle East region”? Supposing someone does not have experience in Gaza but has experience in Iraq, Syria, or Jordan, would that person be eligible?

ANSWER: USAID clarifies this sentence to read “Gaza or the Middle East region.”

- 42) QUESTION: Page 21: The USG Contact Policy and Restriction on Travel to Gaza: The USG maintains a strict policy of no contact with members of terrorist organizations including Hamas. Furthermore, individuals under Chief of Mission authority (including US Direct Hires, Personal Service Contractors and Locally Employed Staff) are not currently permitted to travel to Gaza. US Citizens working under Cooperative Agreements or Grants are permitted to travel to Gaza and US Citizens working under Contracts are also permitted after the submission of a security plan to USAID.**

Would USAID confirm that this means that international consultants and TCNs are not permitted to travel to Gaza but only authorized US citizens can, upon the submission of a security plan?

ANSWER: For Recipients/grantees, subrecipients: all nationalities may continue to travel to Gaza in accordance with their employer’s policies and procedures.

For contractors and subcontractors: while this may change without warning, all nationalities are now permitted to travel to Gaza after a security plan has been submitted to USAID. In addition, all expatriate staff require prior USAID approval to enter Gaza.

43) QUESTION: Page 21: “Prohibition of Assistance to Hamas and the Hamas-controlled PA respectively: These laws prevent the provision of any assistance to the de facto authorities (DFA) (e.g., ministries), entities affiliated with the DFA (public schools, hospitals, and other state public service providers at the national and municipal level) and most municipal governments in Gaza.”

Is the Recipient permitted to help children/adults that attend or work at government affiliated facilities?

ANSWER: Proposed activities such as these need to be examined by USAID on a case-by-case basis. It will depend on whether the USAID assistance benefits the DFA or not - either directly or indirectly. For example, if USAID assistance replaces assistance that the DFA normally provides to such children/adults, this could be deemed indirect assistance to the DFA, which would be impermissible.

44) QUESTION: Page 21: GOI restrictions on importing “dual-use” items.

With the restrictions of dual-use goods in place, will USAID/WBG help the Recipient receive the necessary clearances from the GOI to enable the import of generators, medical equipment, refrigeration for blood supply, etc. into Gaza that have dual-use potential?

ANSWER: USAID will assist the Recipient with regards to facilitation in any way it is able, appropriate and allowed to do so.

45) QUESTION: Page 22: Infrastructure: As a matter of policy, USAID will only consider support to water and sanitation infrastructure under the control of the CMWU or small-scale infrastructure that have high-level buy in (water and sanitation programs) or involve rehabilitation, renovation and upgrades of existing structures to meet critical needs that are clearly identified.

Would the Recipient be prohibited from adding or improving infrastructure for hospitals or medical facilities under the above rule?

ANSWER: Yes - assistance to MOH hospitals or medical facilities is prohibited in Gaza.

46) QUESTION: Page 22: “However, if there are clearly identified needs that cut across the general and refugee population, a specific USAID program may include refugees as beneficiaries and include activities in UNRWA run schools, health clinics and camps, in addition to non-UNRWA institutions.”

Would USAID provide guidance as to what constitutes a clearly identified need?

ANSWER: See answer to #34.

47) QUESTION: Page 33: “The technical application shall include the following sections...”

Would USAID clarify the absence of part “b.” from the technical application? Does USAID request a list of acronyms to be included in the technical application?

ANSWER: Please see USAID’s answer to Question 13 in this amendment.

48) QUESTION: Page 36: Section D.4.h, USAID states that “Applicants shall describe all programs in which the primary Applicant (as well as any partners substantially involved in implementation i.e. receiving 25% or more of the total proposed project cost) implemented similar programs over the past three (3) years.” However, in Section D.4.i.1, USAID states, “Applicants must submit a list of the five most recent U.S. Government or other donor funded contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, etc.”

Could USAID please clarify whether applicants should submit past performance references for all similar programs in the last three (3) years, or the five (5) most recent relevant programs?

ANSWER: Yes, please see USAID’s answer to Question 9 in this amendment.

49) QUESTION: Page 41: “Certificate of Compliance: Please submit a copy of your Certificate of Compliance if your organization's systems have been certified by USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA)”.

Please confirm that USAID is referring to a Self-Certificate of compliance form.

ANSWER: That is correct.

50) QUESTION: Can USAID confirm that full-page graphics, charts, and figures, such as the organizational chart, results framework, and personnel matrix are excluded from the overall page count?

ANSWER: USAID confirms that such documents described may be included in the applicable Appendices, which are excluded from the page limit. If the Applicant includes graphics, charts and figures within the body of the Technical Application, they will be subject to the page limit.

51) QUESTION: As is frequently allowed in USAID RFPs, will USAID please consider allowing 8 point font for tables, charts, graphics, and other exhibits?

ANSWER: AMENDMENT TO THE NFO. USAID thanks you for your comment. The following paragraph is hereby inserted into Section D.4, after the fourth paragraph. “Minimum 8 point font is allowed only for tables, charts, graphics, and other exhibits included in the technical application. USAID advises applicants to use such small font sparingly. Applicants may include tables, charts, graphics and other exhibits in applicable appendices without restrictions to font size.”

52) QUESTION: Would USAID consider increasing the level of funding for the NOFO given the comprehensive scope of work involved?

ANSWER: The total estimated amount for this project is set at \$50 million.

53) QUESTION: In light of the complex nature of the work, would USAID consider extending the deadline for submission for this NOFO?

ANSWER: USAID appreciates the time and effort that go into developing a proposal, however in light of the urgency of this requirement, the deadline cannot be extended.

54) QUESTION: Page 14 of the NFO - Please confirm that the underlined text [included in question #56 below] correctly identifies the priority areas referred to in the last sentence of this paragraph.

ANSWER: Correct. Please also, see answer to question #55 below regarding key speciality care services.

55) QUESTION: Page 14 of the NFO - If correct, priority (4) could cover a broad range of services. Is the list of services included in the highlighted sentence comprehensive, meaning that any additional services identified as a priority would need to be approved by USAID?

ANSWER: With regards to key specialty care services that are most frequently referred outside of Gaza, the specific examples cited here (rehabilitation and orthopedics services, mental health services, advanced imaging services, and cancer screening) are not an exhaustive list and the Applicant may propose others in addition to or instead of the ones listed here.

56) QUESTION: Page 14 of the NFO - PSS and GBV related support services are not ordinarily provided through the primary health care system in Gaza. The range of organizations that are active in the provision of services in this area is very wide as is the need for these services. A 1M/year program will not go very far in covering the needs, especially, if the program is intended to cover the specialty care areas identified here.

*“Priority health areas include (1) improved awareness and prevention for nutritional status, (2) psychosocial support (PSS), (3) gender-based violence (GBV) and (4) key specialty care services that are most frequently referred outside of Gaza. These referrals are not only difficult to secure due to border crossing issues but are much more costly than if performed within Gaza. Activities that improve the continuum of care either between service providers or between the levels of service delivery for these priority areas will be especially important for this program. (4) Treatment of specialty services such as rehabilitation and orthopedics services, mental health services, advanced imaging services and cancer screening is highly vulnerable with limited access to adequate equipment and medical supplies needed for follow-up care. Given the repeated incidences of crisis and conflict that have affected Gaza, community and/or school psychosocial support and programs that address gender-based violence (GBV) will also be an important piece of the program’s support to primary health care. This project will develop a level of capacity to address these concerns in times of calm and times of crisis. **Additional priority areas that are identified by the Recipient require approval by USAID.**”*

ANSWER: Thank you for your comment. Note that the sub-grant limits are per grantee, not per priority or specialty care area.

57) QUESTION: The assessments and mapping exercises to determine priorities under all IRs will be incomplete if the MoH facilities and services are not covered. Will partners be allowed to reach out the MoH in Ramallah for information? Will USAID facilitate the collection of information from the MoH?

ANSWER: Information on MoH facilities and services in Gaza might be obtained from the Ministry of Health in Ramallah. It will be the responsibility of the Recipient to gather such information.

58) QUESTION: Sub-grantees that are medical institutions have reporting obligations, mandatory registration and approval processes, etc., that require contact with local authorities. Will USAID consider special waivers to the contact policy for these organizations?

ANSWER: All grantees and sub-grantees (regardless of their sector) must comply with the Contact Policy and its very limited exception for administrative matters. There are no special waivers.

Many other prior USAID grantees, including those in the medical field, have reporting and approval processes, but have still been able to comply with the Contact Policy.

59) QUESTION: The technical assistance to sub-grantees is included in or additional to the annual budget maximum of 1M/5M for IRs 2 and 3? Is the technical assistance counted towards the maximum allowable per recipient?

ANSWER: Technical assistance can be provided in addition to the sub-grants and does not have to be counted towards the sub-grant limits.

60) QUESTION: Will USAID support multiyear sub-awards to targeted organizations in Gaza? Understanding the annual limitations for the sub-award program for IRs 2 and 3, will they be applied to the overall approved budgets for the sub-awards or the total obligated funds for sub-awards? (For example, a program may have 7 sub-awards for 1M each under IR3 but with initial obligation of 300,000 each (2.1M total), and implemented over 3 years.)

ANSWER: See answer to #37

61) QUESTION: Will USAID expect that the sub-awards be awarded through RFAs or will other mechanisms be acceptable?

ANSWER: The Applicant should propose whatever acceptable method of issuing subawards that it deems is allowable under its policies and procedures and effective per the program description.

USAID/West Bank and Gaza

NFO -294-15-000001

Gaza 2020 – Health Matters

62) QUESTION: Could USAID please confirm that the Table of Contents and Cover Page are excluded from the Technical Application 25 page limit?

ANSWER: Please see USAID’s answer to Question 13 in this amendment.

63) QUESTION: May the applicant exclude infographics, organization charts, tables, and charts from the 25 page limitation?

ANSWER: Please see USAID’s answer to Question 50 in this Amendment.

64) COMMENT: There are a lot of goals and we are concerned not to be on time, we are concerned to delay the process, we request a general understanding on how this may work.

ANSWER: USAID believes that the goals stated in the NFO are achievable if the project is properly designed and effectively implemented.

65) COMMENT: The threshold not only for the small grants program but the program itself is not sufficient to realize the objectives of the NFO.

ANSWER: From what the Mission understands of what is practicable and achievable and provided what we know about the capacities of organizations and potential partners in the West Bank and Gaza, we feel the ceilings and limits indicated are appropriate.