

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS - NOFO # 72062121RFA00003 - JULY 16, 2021

	Question	USAID Response
	Section A: Activity Description	
1	Are all the districts in the targeted specific zones to be covered or some?	Yes. All the districts with targets mentioned in the zone must be covered as identified in the NOFO.
2	Given that funding for OVC Next Generation is expected to be awarded in early 2022 and that Kizazi Kipya's end date is July 2021, what is the anticipated process for the interim period to ensure continued/seamless service delivery -- and also to coordinate a transition between program implementing primes?	The existing ACHIEVE activity implemented by Pact Inc. will be providing services and facilitate transitions to ensure no services interruptions.
3	Can USAID confirm when the final COP21 will be available and publicly posted?	The final COP 21 guidance will be publicly posted once it becomes available.
4	Will the OVC Next Generation project have access to electronic data for all OVC previously served by Kizazi Kipya, both for the Comprehensive Package and the Preventive Package?	All OVC served beneficiaries and data will be transitioned to the successful applicants
5	Can the OVC who were previously graduated from Kizazi Kipya be re-enrolled into the OVC Next Generation Activity?	Yes, however, only if the OVCs fall back to their HIV vulnerability situation/benchmarks.
6	Will USAID provide an OVC M&E system, or are Applicants expected to develop one from scratch?	USAID through ACHIEVE who is the Technical Assistance (TA) provider will provide the TA for the development of the M&E system and ensure alignment with the GOT M&E system.
7	Will USAID provide a Household Vulnerability Assessment tool, or are applicants expected to develop one?	The successful applicants will receive TA from ACHIEVE on Household Vulnerability Assessment tool.
8	Will USAID Tanzania provide a standard curriculum adapted for Tanzania, and Master Trainers, for the specific interventions proposed to address Objective 2 (e.g. Furaha, Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM), IMPower (also known as No Means No) or IMSafer (which is adapted to the COVID context), and/or Families Matter Program (FMP))? Or, or are applicants expected to seek from existing users and adapt?	Successful applicants will seek the curriculum and other relevant information from existing users and adapt with support from the TA partner (ACHIEVE).

9	Where can applicants find more information about each of the curricula mentioned in Objective 2?	Please see responses to question #8.
10	What is the anticipated length of overlap between the Kizazi Kipya CSOs and the OVC New Generation award to allow for complete beneficiary transition?	Please see response to question #12. ACHIEVE activity will be providing OVC services after Kizazi Kipya activity is ended. There will be three months overlap between ACHIEVE CSOs and OVC New Generation.
11	What is the expected partnership relationship between the OVC Next Generation project and ACHIEVE?	Please see response to question #12.
12	What direct support can be expected from ACHIEVE to the OVC Next Generation project?	ACHIEVE will provide technical assistance, however, extent of support will depend on the organizational and technical need of the apparent successful applicants.
13	Is there any above-site donor support from USAID (or other donors) to the government's social welfare system that will complement the OVC Next Generation project (such as M&E systems support, M&E forms printing, CCW training, etc.)?	Successful applicants are expected to print their own tools. USAID through ACHIEVE will provide specific agreed support to the Government social welfare system to complement the OVC Next Gen, along with other DPs.
14	USAID expresses the need for the applicants to have existing OVC Case Management Systems which are aligned to the National Integrated Case Management System (NICMS) which are electronic or hard copy. If applicants have trained Community Case workers (CCWs) who are using NICMS reporting tools (including NICMS form number 3) which is submitted at council level does this qualify as a system that is aligned to NICSMS?	Yes, this qualifies.
15	On P.6 the NOFO says that the Activities' "primary purpose is to seamlessly continue the delivery of high-quality services for OVC, and their caregivers currently served by Kizazi Kipya in North Eastern and Southern zones, while refining OVC service packages and support". Does this allow for the expansion of services that Kizazi Kipya beneficiaries are receiving? Or are the activities intended to only maintain their current level of services unless a change in vulnerability status indicates they need additional services?	OVC services are based on household vulnerability needs assessment which inform family case management plans. PEPFAR has provided guidance on the age-based standard package of services.

16	Is USAID's expectation that the Activities should provide all enrolled AGYW and OVC caregivers with economic strengthening interventions appropriate to their age and level of vulnerability?	This will depend on the household vulnerability need assessment report. Please see response to question #15.
17	Would USAID confirm that the only DREAMS funding will be for programming with 9-14 year-old AGYW in Mufindi DC, and that ES activities for 9-14 and 15-17 year-olds are not considered DREAMS programming?	Mufindi, DC is the new DREAMS expansion district beginning in COP20. The DREAMS program in this district includes all interventions and services per the layering table (attached) for all age bands, i.e 9-14, 15-19 and 20-24. All DREAMS participants in Mufindi receive all services and interventions per their age band. DREAMS Mufindi currently has participants in all age bands enrolled in the program. Economic Strengthening is considered a DREAMS program for all DREAMS participants. For the 9-14 year olds ES is financial literacy. It is also included in the attached layering table which I have attached to this email for your reference.
18	If ES activities for 9-14 and 15-17 year-old AGYW will be DREAMS programming, would OVC New Generation implementers need to be prepared to accept 15-17 year-old AGYW from other DREAMS implementers solely for the purpose of receiving economic strengthening interventions? If so, would the OVC New Generation activities be expected to provide safe spaces specifically associated with those ES activities, or would safe spaces provided by their "home" project be sufficient?	USAID is expecting the applicants to explain how they are planning to address specific needs of AGYW in alignment with the Tanzania policy and guidance.
19	Could USAID please further clarify the anticipated role of ACHIEVE in capacity strengthening at the above site and site levels?	ACHIEVE will provide specific social welfare system strengthening services support to the Government, and at the site level, will provide OVC and technical organizational capacity to the successful applicants.
20	Can you please clarify the planned role of PACT with regards to the Next Gen program? Is it that USAID are expecting PACT to provide any TA support or M&E support to the two programs through their other programs?	Please see response to question #4, #6 and #12

21	Can you please clarify the role that ACHIEVE will play in terms of providing technical support to the implementers vs. what another INGO could provide in a consortium?	Please see response to question #12.
22	Given the continued involvement of PACT in OVC in Tanzania, does there become less of a need for prime applicants to consider the inclusion of additional Health INGOs as sub-primes within their consortium? Will primes expect to receive TA support from PACT?	Yes. The existing ACHIEVE activity implemented by Pact Inc. will provide OVC and technical organizational capacity to the prime. Please response to question #12.
	SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY	
23	Since our annual budget for the past 3 years is approximately 75% of the requirement, can we apply as a Consortium?	Applicants must have an overall operating budget of at least US\$1 million per year for the last three years, as evidenced by audit reports. Please see section C.1.3
24	Since we are current partners of the existing USAID funded project present in some of the proposed Target areas with past experience working in other target areas, can we still qualify?	USAID does not provide directions on the organization's decision to apply. It is the organization's responsibility to review for themselves and provide sufficient justification that they meet the eligibility criteria if they choose to apply.
25	Our OVC intervention experience is on OVC counseling through our project in coordination with international entities, tracking of their development, shelter construction (96) OVC houses in the 2 SNUs in the proposed target regions, school HIV Prevention project in 12 Primary Schools(for all children orphaned and non-orphaned) but with life skills training, children participation activities through mute courts and children's parliaments (2016-2020) OVC school sponsorship for few children; all interventions in the in the 2 SNUs of target region. Can we still apply?	Please see response on question #24
26	From October we will start OVC HIV Prevention, Care, Treatment and support interventions in the proposed region on the existing project. Can we still apply?	Please see response on question #24
27	We were part of the first ever multi-site Longitudinal OVC Study in the world coordinated by an international entity which generated a lot of outcomes on OVC experience. We are the co-author of the publications which have helped our projects 'planning. Can we still apply?	Please see response on question #24

28	We are a local organization which was initiated and capitalized by USAID to create an Endowment Fund through which the earnings and interests generated support OVC and other community projects through grassroot CSOs in Tanzania. We started implementations in 1998, and we now support 16 regions in Tanzania mainland. We have been under the support of USAID and have recently (last year, 2020), received PEPFAR funds through the Ambassador’s Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief (AFHR) for one-year support of the OVC project in XYZ. We intend to apply for OVC_ NEXT GEN as prime, partnering with BBB who have more than 3 years’ experience in implementing PEPFAR funded projects. We seek clarification on the following: - As to above explanation, do we meet criteria 2; ‘The entity must have at least 3 years previous experience implementing PEPFAR interventions (funded by any USG department/agency, for example CDC, DoD, State, etc.), either as a prime recipient, contractor, sub-recipient, or subcontractor. - Does a sub-recipient partner experience contribute/compliment to meeting the eligibility criteria?	Eligibility requirements are applicable to the prime applicants and is restricted to local organizations per PEPFAR definition as detailed in Section C.1 of the NOFO As an approach to foster stable, resilient, and prosperous countries that are more self-reliant, and prioritizes enduring partnerships, USAID is reorienting its strategies, partnership models, and program practices to achieve greater development outcomes and work toward a time when foreign assistance may no longer be necessary. As partners on this journey, USAID is working with host country governments and our partners to achieve locally-sustained results, helping countries mobilize public and private revenues, strengthening local capacities, and accelerating enterprise-driven development. The established criteria is aligned with this approach to create readiness for ownership of the program. If USAID allows for applicants to meet the requirements through the international subrecipient, then any local entity can apply, and the purpose of the requirements essentially becomes mute.
29	In this consortium a Prime partner has been reporting through the government system (DHIS2) while the proposed subrecipient have a strong M&E team experienced with PEPFAR DATIM reporting through past PEPFAR funded projects. Does this qualify us under eligibility criteria3? “Must have established a M & E team with demonstrated PEPFAR DATIM reporting experience, either directly to DATIM as a	Please see response on questions #28 and #46

	prime recipient/contractor or indirectly as a sub-recipient or subcontractor through the prime recipient/contractor’.	
30	Our Headquarter is based in Dar es salaam. We work through Implementing partners' offices at a regional level. Our staff are accommodated in the Implementing partner’s offices in all the regions we are intending to apply. Does this qualify us under criteria 4?; Must have at least one established physical office in one of the regions in the zone for which the applicant is applying. Must be currently implementing activities or interventions in at least 25% of the councils in the zone for which the applicant is applying.	Please see response on question #35. The applicant would be the prime if they become the successful applicants
31	Is a faith-based organization eligible for this application?	Please review Section H: Other Information Subsection H.3(c) – Conscience Implementation (Assistance) (February 2012) “In responding to the solicitation, an applicant with a religious or moral objection may compete for any funding opportunity as a prime partner, or as a leader or member of a consortium that comes together to compete for an award. Alternatively, such an applicant may limit its application to those activities it can undertake and must indicate in its submission the activity(ies) it has excluded based on religious or moral objection. The offeror’s proposal will be evaluated based on the activities for which a proposal is submitted, and will not be evaluated favorably or unfavorably due to the absence of a proposal addressing the activity(ies) to which it objected and which it thus omitted. In addition to the notification in paragraph (b) above, the applicant must meet the submission date provided for in the solicitation.” Also, review the Standard Provision Number M17 regarding

		Equal Participation By Faith-Based Organizations (June 2016) incorporated in the solicitation by reference
32	The eight additional criteria in the NOFO 72062121RFA00003 appear to restrict the eligibility to such an extent that only organizations with prior experience in implementing specific programs are eligible to apply. The criteria so effectively limit the opportunity to organizations that have already been directly involved in the implementation of particular programs. This does not honor federal regulation for full and open competition.	This is not a full and open competition but a restricted competition as per the established criteria.
33	The eight additional criteria in NOFO 72062121RFA00003 have not been used in other comparable PEPFAR solicitations. What is the rationale for USAID to include this restrictive eligibility criteria?	Please see response on question #32
34	We encourage USAID to share detailed eligibility criteria in the forecast in the future in an effort to provide greater transparency of funding opportunities.	The Business Forecast provides information about potential funding and partnership opportunities at USAID and offers partners the opportunity to engage with us early in the procurement process. The Business Forecast is issued while activities are still in the planning phase. The information in the forecast changes over time whereas the solicitation provides information on the confirmed planned procurement.
35	On page 21 under initial eligibility requirements, USAID says, “Must have at least one established physical office in one of the regions in the zone for which the applicant is applying. Must be currently implementing activities or interventions in at least 25% of the councils in the zone for which the applicant is applying.” Can USAID confirm if the prime recipient having a shared office space with another organization as part of the consortium member in one of the regions of the zone or if any consortium member other than the prime recipient has an office in one of the regions of the zone for which we are applying would be sufficient to meet this requirement?	The prime applicants must have at least one established office in the zone they are submitting an application for.
36	On page 21 under initial eligibility requirements, USAID says, “Must have an existing, functioning OVC case management system that is aligned to the Government of Tanzania’s Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children’s National Integrated Case Management System. System may be electronic or hard-	Please see response on question #28 and #46

	copy or a combination of both.” Can USAID confirm if instead of the prime recipient meeting this requirement, a local consortium member who is a subrecipient with a functioning OVC case management system through PACT would meet the requirement on behalf of the consortium?	
37	On page 21 under initial eligibility requirements, USAID says, “Must have a current, established referral system with local Care and Treatment Centers in the applicant’s operating areas.” Please confirm if instead of the prime recipient meeting this requirement, a local consortium member who is a subrecipient with a current, established referral system would meet the requirement on behalf of the consortium?	Please see response on question #28 and #46
38	On page 21 under initial eligibility requirements, USAID says, “Must have at least 3 years experience implementing differentiated OVC service packages.” Please confirm if instead of the prime recipient meeting this requirement, a local consortium member who is a sub-recipient with at least 3 years experience implementing OVC service packages would meet the requirement on behalf of the consortium?	Please see response on question #28 and #46
39	At this stage, is it possible to apply a concept as a consortium with a specific lead/prime?	Yes
40	Are CSOs eligible to be part of the consortium?	Yes, as long as eligibility criteria for the prime applicants are met and they have technical organizational capacity.
41	How many organizations are eligible to be part of one consortium? Or is there a limit of how many organizations can be in one consortium. a. Is it allowable to describe the role of an international technical sub-partner in the Concept Paper? b. Can an international technical sub-partner be included in the Concept Papers of more than one local prime partner and/or in more than one zone? c. Can a local CSO submit a Concept Paper as a prime applicant, and also be listed as a sub or consortium partner on a second application?	Please see responses to question #24 a. Yes. However, please see response on question #46, #47 and #48 b. Yes, however, please see response on question #46, #47 and #48. Exclusivity agreements imposed by prime applicants will be disallowed. USAID has no objection to exclusivity agreements sought by local subrecipient. c. Yes

	d. What if a prime applicant does not meet all the eligibility criteria-- but they have an identified partner that will satisfy a criteria gap? Can an application meet the eligibility criteria through a consortium involving other partners? Or is it required that the prime applicant alone meets all eligibility requirements directly? e. Regarding #4: “Must have at least one established physical office in one of the regions in the zone for which the applicant is applying. Must be currently implementing activities or interventions in at least 25% of the councils in the”	d. The prime applicant must meet eligibility criteria. Please see response to question #46, #47 and #48 e. Please see response to question #35
42	Can USAID clarify whether this requirement means that an applicant must be implementing only OVC-specific activities in at least 25% of the councils in the proposed zone? Or can the applicant meet the criteria through a combination of OVC and other types of programming in those councils? - Additionally, can this requirement be fulfilled by a combination of one or more consortium partners — or must it be met by the prime applicant alone?	Applicants implementing OVC activities, and a combination of interventions are acceptable. Please see responses to question #46, #47 & #48
43	Kindly assist - we are the newly Tanzanian registered Local NGO registered March 2021. We are curious to confirm if we are eligible to apply for this NOFO.	Please see #24
44	Is it allowable for prime applicants to ALSO be sub-applicants to other prime applicants?	Yes, if the SCOs meet eligibility criteria and have the organizational capacity.
45	Can an organization apply to be a Subgrantee in one zone and also be a lead partner in another zone?	Yes. However, an applicant must not be a prime in both zones
46	Can USAID clarify whether the term “applicant(s)” is referring to the prime only or is inclusive of consortium members? On page 21 of the NOFO “Eligibility Requirements” Does the Prime partner need to meet all these requirements on its own to be eligible to submit a concept paper? Will the application be considered if Consortium partners meet all the requirements but not the Prime partner on its own?	Eligibility requirements apply to Prime applicants or a Leader in the consortium
47	Can we be allowed to fill this NOFO as a consortium?	Yes, however, a leader of the consortium must meet the eligibility criteria
48	Can we be allowed to fill this NOFO with an International organization as a partner in the consortium?	An international organization can be allowed to be a subrecipient but not a consortium member.

		In addition, please see response to question #28.
49	As per your Tanzania Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Next Generation grants opportunity, is there any way to consider our organization as its a new NGO, eligible to apply for the said grants opportunity?	Please see #24
50	Would USAID be amenable to a third-tier sub arrangement whereby a subrecipient is managing additional local implementing partners?	No. The prime should manage the subrecipients
51	For the Northern Zone, can the Chief of Party and Programme Office be based in Dar es Salaam?	The program office is expected to be based in the zone of implementation
52	Is each individual institution in a Consortium Application expected to meet all the eight eligibility criteria, or can this be a collective eligibility as a Consortium (i.e., some institutions do not meet all eight criteria, but together the institutions meet all eight criteria)?	Please see responses to questions #47 and #48
	Section D: Application and Submission Information	
53	With reference to the Call for Concept Paper released by you (USAID), we would like to know if there is a Template for Writing a concept note and Budget. If it is available kindly share with us	Organizations are allowed to utilize their format and templates. USAID will review applications based on the submission instructions.
54	Bear with us that we didn't come across with the template (format) for Concept Papers. May you please help us if there is a special template (format) so that we adhere to it?	Please see response to question #53
55	Is there a specific format for writing the Concept Note?	Please see response to question #53
56	Does USAID have a preferred template/format for the development of the concept paper?	Please see response to question #53
57	Page 24 of the NOFO states that “Applicants can submit a concept paper only for one of the implementation areas: the South Zone or North Eastern Zone. Applicants cannot apply for both Zones.” Does this limitation also apply to subrecipients? For example, can a subrecipient apply as a part of one consortium in the South Zone and as a part of another consortium in the North Eastern Zone?	No. Subrecipient could be in both zones if they have the capacity to do so.

58	I would like to know if the D.U.N.S Number can it being requested twice for the same Organization but in a different Project?	Organizations can utilize the existing registered and active DUNS number
	Section E: Application Review Information	
59	Can USAID clarify on submission of key personnel CVs (10 days prior to the submission of the concept note) including weekend and holidays?	This requirement for prior submission of key personnel and CVs will apply on Phase II of the merit review. Please see Page 36 of the NOFO Amendment #1
60	The RFA says "10 days prior to the due date of the concept papers, applicants must submit a key personnel annex proposing key personnel candidates to be included in the award by email." However, this is contained in the "Interview" guidance section and not the "Concept Paper" guidance section of the NOFO. Can you please confirm if CVs are due 10 days prior to the concept paper deadline or 10 days prior to the interview date?	Please see response on question #59
61	On page 36 under requirements for Phase 2 oral presentations, USAID says, "10 days prior to the due date of the concept papers, applicants must submit a key personnel annex proposing key personnel candidates to be included in the award by email. The applicant must include a three-page CV for each proposed key personnel with a list of three references (at least one superior, one subordinate, and one peer), and signed commitment letters from the proposed candidates. USAID/Tanzania may seek reference information from individuals in addition to those submitted by the applicant. Prime applicants must not sign exclusivity agreements with any proposed key personnel." Please confirm this should read "10 days prior to the oral presentation" instead of "10 days prior to the due date of the concept papers." a. If more than one Concept Paper submission scores a "pass" on all four rating criteria, will USAID still restrict an invitation to present in Phase II to only one prime? And if yes, how will that determination be made? b. On page 36, <u>a. Instructions to the Applicant</u>, it states that "10 days prior to the due date of the Concept Papers, applicants must submit a key personnel annex."	Please see responses on question #59 a. No. All applicants who receive a "pass" rating qualify for oral presentation in Phase II. Please see Section E.1 b. Please see responses on question #59
62	Please clarify whether this requirement is related to the submission of the Concept Paper, or to the Phase II Presentation step. The statement appears in the Phase II Merit Review Process section but refers to the Phase 1 deliverable (Concept Paper).	Please see responses on question #59