



USAID | EAST AFRICA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

August 02, 2012

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT ONE (1) – RFA NO. RFA-623-12-000005
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FOR THE KENYA ARID LANDS DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION-WASH PROGRAM**

REF: RFA-623-12-000005, DATED JULY 20, 2012

The subject Request for Applications is amended as follows:

1. Page 4 of the RFA states that “one half of the funding is through the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 – these funds must be utilized to improve human health through the rehabilitation/improvement of existing water sources...increasing access to improved water supply, hygiene behavior and improved sanitation”. The other half comes from OFDA and should “seek to improve resilience to future drought and/or reduce the need for future emergency WASH response activities”. Is the 50:50 distribution between the two funding agencies equal in both years of the program or will the distribution of funds vary by year? In other words, should applicants expect that \$2 million in the first year will come from Water for the Poor Act (and should be programmed for activities covered by the Act) and \$2 million from OFDA (and should be programmed for disaster risk reduction activities) or is the distribution of funds different in year 1 and potentially year 2, thus impacting the distribution of funds to certain types of activities? Also, should the budget allocations be divided by donor in the application?

USAID RESPONSE: The 50:50 is equal in both years. USAID/Kenya will contribute \$4million Water Earmark funds and USAID/OFDA will contribute \$4million (disaster funds).

2. Are applicants required to implement activities in all of the counties listed on page 5 (Isiolo, Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit (including Moyale) and Turkana)?

USAID RESPONSE: Applicants will propose.

3. Are applicants required to specifically identify the targeted communities or just the criteria by which they will be selected?

USAID RESPONSE: To the extent possible at application.

4. On Pages 11 &12, USAID describes a ‘targeted approach’ and ‘targeting strategy’ that must be completed before any infrastructure construction is started. How long does USAID anticipate the targeting strategy planning phase to last? When does USAID expect infrastructure construction activities to begin?

USAID RESPONSE: Applicant will propose the schedule.

5. Should the targeting strategy planning phase done in Year 1 cover activities that could be implemented in year 2 if anticipated funds are received? Or should there be another separate targeting phase in year 2?

USAID RESPONSE: Targeting to be complete in year one.

6. Because the funding for Year 2 is anticipated but not guaranteed, should applicants plan all intervention activities in specific communities (planning, infrastructure construction, hygiene and sanitation promotion) to be completed within a 12 month time frame? In other words, all applicants need to plan that all activities started with communities in year 1 must be complete in year 1?

USAID RESPONSE: The project is anticipated to run for two years subject to availability of funds.

7. Given the type of the infrastructure to be constructed should be determined by the targeting strategy, is it sufficient for applicants to describe illustrative/expected activities in their 12 work-plan rather than listing specific outputs/deliverables?

USAID RESPONSE: Provide 12 month work plan with specific outputs/deliverables.

8. Page 18 lists the format for the technical applications. Page 35 lists the technical evaluation criteria and states that applicants must organize the narrative sections of their applications with the same headings and in the same order as the selection criteria. How should the Technical Criteria 1-8 on page 35 be integrated into the Sections I-VI listed on page 18?

USAID RESPONSE: The applications should follow the format on page 18. Page 35 only gives the criteria on how the applications will be rated.

9. What level of detail is expected for the mapping activities to be undertaken during the targeted strategy planning phase (i.e., narrative geographic maps or detailed cartographic maps? Will there be any assistance available to applicants from the USGS, FEMA, Army Corps, NASA, or other USG agencies that already conduct this type of mapping work?

USAID RESPONSE: As much details as the applicant can provide. USAID will not arrange assistance by the stated.

10. Page 20, Items (h) & (i) refer specifically to cost share. Can USAID provide additional details on if cost share is required, the level of cost-share that may be required, and whether cost-share is mandatory?

USAID RESPONSE: Cost share is required under this RFA, the level is not prescribed.

11. Page 5 lists the program objectives. Can applicants rephrase the program objectives based on the developed results framework? Also, can USAID share key required indicators for the program? Should the applicants plan to use OFDA specified indicators where applicable?

USAID RESPONSE: The summarized indicators are listed below and include indicators from OFDA.

Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene	Baseline Value	2Year Target
Outcome Indicators		
1. Percent of the population using an improved drinking water source		
2. Percent of households using an improved sanitation facility		
Output Indicators		
1. Number of people in target areas with access to improved drinking water supply as a result of USG assistance.		
2. Number of people in target areas with access to improved sanitation facilities as a result of USG assistance.		
Maternal and Child Health Output Indicators		
Household Level Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Environment		
1. Number of liters of drinking water disinfected with point-of-use treatment products as a result of USG assistance		
2. Number of communities certified as “open defecation free” (ODF) as a result of USG assistance		
OFDA WASH Output Indicators		
Hygiene Promotion/Behaviors		
1. Percent of target population demonstrating good hand-washing practices		
2. Percent of population demonstrating correct water usage and storage		
3. Number and percent of clean water points functioning three months after completion		
Sanitation		
1. Number and percent of household latrines completed that are clean and in compliance with Sphere standards.		
2. Number and percent of household disposing of solid waste appropriately.		

3. Number and percent of household hand-washing facilities completed and in use.		
Water Supply		
1. Average water usage of target population in liters per person per day prior to and after interventions.		
2. Number and percent of household water supplies with 0 coliform bacteria per 100ml.		
3. Number and percent of water points with measurable chlorine residual exceeding 0.2 mg/l.		

12. Do the Environmental Screening Criteria (IEE) on page 13 need to be identified in the proposals?

USAID RESPONSE: No. USAID/Kenya has an approved IEE that includes WASH.

13. Is there a target number of beneficiaries that USAID expects applicants to meet?

USAID RESPONSE: This is for the applicant to propose

14. For consortium applicants, will all consortium partners have the authority to make sub-grants to other organizations such as local implementing partners?

USAID RESPONSE: Yes.

15. Should applicants' budget for both baseline and final evaluations or will the final program evaluation be independently contracted by USAID?

USAID RESPONSE: Budget for the Baseline evaluation. The final evaluation will be done by USAID.

16. The cover page of the RFA says that USAID East Africa is seeking applications to fund one organization through a Cooperative Agreement. Page 4, however, states that USAID anticipates awarding at least one assistance instrument. Grants.gov indicates that the expected number of awards is 3. Please clarify

USAID RESPONSE: At least one and a maximum of two.

17. What is the minimum amount a proposal can request?

USAID RESPONSE: Please refer to the RFA.

18. Are smaller budget proposals (say, those less than \$1 million total) less competitive than larger budget proposals (say, those in the \$2 million to \$4 million range) that provide a more comprehensive set of program activities and geographic scope?

USAID RESPONSE: No. Merit will be based on evaluation criteria.

19. Could USAID please clarify whether one or more Cooperative Agreements will be awarded?

USAID RESPONSE: See response to No. 16 above.

20. Does a combination of USA (Michigan State University and NGO) and Kenyan (KARI and the ILRI based Climate Change for Sustainable Food Production) agencies would be appropriate combinations of agencies to best administer the addition of subsurface water retention technology (SWRT) and water purification options for this new RFA-623-12-000005? The SWRT is an amazing long-term water and nutrient saving membrane technology which increases vegetable, maize, and many other crops by 40 to 150%. Additionally, the sand dam concept established in at least 47 locations along dry river beds in Kenya, also stops flooding and losses of soil while retaining large quantities of water within highly porous sands that protect it from contamination. Please note attached integration of these new long term approaches for expanding food security and continuous water supplies to humans, animals, and plants.

Therefore, we are wondering whether these combinations of water storage in sand dams between rainfall events, which provides potable water for animals and further filtered for human consumption; plus water storage in the root zones of many food crops are appropriate for successful competition in this exciting RFA? (see attachment).

USAID RESPONSE: Refer to the RFA

21. Could USAID please clarify whether the deadline for submission is 9:00 am Nairobi time on August 31 (as per page 1) or 8:00 am (as per page 17)?

USAID RESPONSE: 09:00 a.m. Nairobi-Kenya Time.

22. Could USAID please confirm that the Water for the Poor Act Funding and the OFDA funding are evenly split and will remain in a 1:1 ratio throughout the life of award?

USAID RESPONSE: Yes, however this will be subject to availability of funds.

23. On pages 1 and 5 of the RFA, the project duration is stated as “two years” and “24 months” respectively. However, on page 15, the program dates are stated as October 15, 2012 to September 14, 2014. Could USAID please confirm that the program duration is a 24 month period and that the programs dates should be October 15, 2012 to October 14, 2014?

USAID RESPONSE: The project period will be two years from the date of award.

24. Could USAID clarify the scale of beneficiary coverage expected in the targeted districts?

USAID RESPONSE: The applicants will propose.

25. The population is nomadic. Are there places where wastewaters are generated which can be treated for potable use?

USAID RESPONSE: The applicants will propose where they plan to target.

26. Is there a list of NGOs in Kenya already working in the proposed area?

USAID RESPONSE: There are both international and local NGOs working in the target area. The list can be obtained from the Kenya's Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

27. Can we only do recharge demonstration at one or two places rather than the whole integrated activities that the RFA mentions?

USAID RESPONSE: The applicant will propose where the recharge demonstrations are to be done.

28. Health promotion and improvement in hygienic conditions at health and nutrition centers is also a requirement. Are health records (diseases relating to sanitation) already available from government agencies or one has to collect that from individual clinics?

USAID RESPONSE: The health records of diseases relating to sanitation and hygiene are available at relevant government agencies and individual clinics.

29. We would like to extend the scope of objective 2 and 3 to include health and nutrition outcomes and impacts as a result of improved wash activities. Would this interpretation be acceptable within the scope of the particular project?

USAID RESPONSE: Stick to the stated objectives. The successful applicant will collaborate with other initiatives in the areas in health, nutrition and agriculture program.

30. What is the total area coverage (in square kilometer) of the study site as delineated by the red color? Turkana, Isiolo, Marsabit (including Moyale), Wajir, and Garissa (map marked RED)

USAID RESPONSE: Approximately 260,000 square kilometers.

31. Are the newly developed methodologies to be approved by USAID-Kenya or local authorities?

USAID RESPONSE: New methodologies will be approved by USAID and the Government of Kenya.

32. How is accountability and implementation of the methodologies guaranteed? Who oversees these projects other than our M&E team?

USAID RESPONSE: Accountability and implementation is the responsibility of the implementer. USAID will monitor and evaluate the project.

33. We will be proposing to utilize an engineering design firm from Nepal as a sub-contractor, besides we will have offices in Kenya, and in Atlanta, Georgia. As per the region 935, Nepal is not listed as one of the restricted regions; however, we would like to make sure of any misreading.

USAID RESPONSE: This is correct

34. Regarding the following three objectives, is there any required/desired percentage in terms of utilization of the funding:

- a) Increase water storage capacity in arid lands, through improving natural and artificial storage.
- b) Improve WASH conditions at health facilities and nutrition centers frequently utilized during emergency response.
- c) Improve access to safe drinking water sources, improve access to and usage of point of use water treatment products, promote good hygiene behaviors and use of sanitation facilities as a means of reducing diarrheal disease in areas with recurrent emergency levels of malnutrition and around areas of improved water storage.

USAID RESPONSE: No.

35. The RFA project requirements can be categorized in the following components:

- a) Research: Climate/Weather Modeling, Drought/Flood Forecasting, Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptation
(The focus of the proposed projects should be to reduce vulnerability to drought. However, if proposed drought resilience project locations overlap with areas that are flood prone, programs should also attempt to reduce vulnerability to flash flooding – pg. 5).
- b) Data Collections: Geospatial, Textual, Tabular, Non-spatial
- c) Public Policies: General Health, Water/Sewage, WASH, Pastoralism, School System, etc.
- d) Innovative Engineering Design & Construction: Pilot Areas
- e) Direct Support to Farmers: Small Constructions/Entrepreneurship Development

What percentage of funding would be desired/required for the above 5 categories?

USAID RESPONSE: Please propose.

36. The page limit of 25: does it include the cover page, acronyms, and table of contents?

USAID RESPONSE: Yes.

END OF AMENDMENT ONE (1)