

RESPONSE TO ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR PREDICT

QUESTION:

I am in need of some commentary and guidance from you regarding one important point, which is regarding the role of PREDICT in the sample testing process. I believe that the RFA is a bit ambiguous regarding this point. For example, in Objective III, one part states "There are several strategies to consider for developing surveillance capacity to detect disease among wild animals. These include analysis of pathogens, . . ." and the second paragraph starts off with "This objective will detect disease outbreaks, . . ." ... we certainly can't detect disease outbreaks without a laboratory component. However, at several other points in the RFA, it is more or less clear that USAID expects that PREDICT will interact closely with IDENTIFY for these purposes, and that PREDICT should simply worry about safe and cold-chain transportation of samples to the diagnostic laboratories.

Could you possibly clarify these points for me? Should we simply state that samples will be shipped to IDENTIFY-designated diagnostic labs, or should we provide some idea of the network that we envision for this task?

ANSWER:

The following questions have been posted in response to previous questions asked concerning the relationship between PREDICT and IDENTIFY as well as the successful applicant's responsibility for sampling, transportation, testing, etc.

Question:

Developing surveillance systems, particularly in resource limited settings, can entail purchasing and maintaining very specific technical and laboratory equipment and supplies. To what extent is this project intended to procure equipment and supplies for the surveillance sites?

Answer:

The recipient of PREDICT is expected to cover the costs associated with sample collection and transport. The Applicant should propose and budget for all necessary equipment and technical supplies it would require to develop the proposed surveillance system.

Question:

Please confirm that budgets for sample testing for the pathogens identified in the PREDICT RFA and for which we are primarily designing our surveillance system will be contained in IDENTIFY.

Answer:

No. The Applicant should budget for all costs related to the collection, transport, and sample testing of samples obtained as part of the PREDICT surveillance system.

Question:

The PREDICT application will include details on an optimal wildlife surveillance scheme. Can it be assumed that sample analysis capacity for the pathogens listed in the RFA and the sample scope and scale detailed in the selected PREDICT application will be accommodated through IDENTIFY? We understand that if our application is successful

and our team is selected, the final details will be refined in the workplan development process.

Answer:

IDENTIFY will be building capacity of laboratories and laboratory networks, however, the Applicant should not assume that sample analysis, scope, and detail will be handled by IDENTIFY for the samples collected as part of the PREDICT surveillance system.

Question:

Can human samples collected in tandem with wildlife samples, as part of the sampling design to identify sharing of pathogens of pandemic potential, also be analyzed through IDENTIFY?

Answer:

The Applicant should account and budget for all costs related to sample collection, transport, testing, and analysis of samples collected as part of the PREDICT surveillance system.

Question:

Will IDENTIFY primarily support the testing of samples and improved capacity in veterinary laboratories, human laboratories, laboratories that do both, or all types as appropriate for the designated regions?

Answer:

The Applicant should account and budget for all costs related to sample collection, transport, testing, and analysis of samples collected as part of the PREDICT surveillance system.