



Restoring Our Future Activity
Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 72051422RFA00001
Questions & Answers (Q&A) Document

Technical:

1. Section D.3.1. Phase 1 – Concept Paper Contents and Form: May the concept paper's “Relevant Experience and Capacity to Implement” section include examples from partners (in addition to those from the prime applicant)?

If proposed partners evidently are a key part of implementation and the applicant wants to include them, then they may be included.

2. Section C.2 Cost Sharing or Matching: Given the nature of this activity, its inception phase for finalizing the design, and the limited time for Applicants to identify, capture and validate cost-share commitments prior to submitting their concept notes, will USAID/Colombia please consider either removing the cost share requirement, or reducing the required cost share to approximately \$3 million? Requiring that applicants commit to \$11 million in cost share may limit the competition as the requirement will serve to discourage many otherwise capable implementing partners from applying.

USAID developed the \$11 million cost share target based upon the programmatic and technical context of this activity, and will not remove/reduce the current target in the NOFO.

3. Section C.2 Cost Sharing or Matching: May the prime implementer establish a cost-share contribution as a requirement for local subawards?

USAID discourages cost share as a requirement for local subawards, as this may limit the pool of potential local partners, but the prime implementer may consider encouraging cost share for subawards where appropriate.

4. Under IR1.1 Expected Results: *Government actors, such as the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), implement reconciliation processes in targeted geographies.*

Question: Do the targeted geographies correspond only to “Espacios Territoriales de Capacitación y Reincorporación” – ETCR - or do they correspond to any zone that has presence of accredited demobilized individuals?

Not necessarily - other zones may apply - hopefully, individuals working with the support of the ARN umbrella as well as conflict victims in very vulnerable municipalities. USAID and the implementer will refine the targeted geographies during the inception period and through adaptation during implementation.

5. Under IR3.2 Expected Results: Market-led and long-term economic opportunities are created that target victim employment and entrepreneurship to simultaneously increase incomes and support their linkages with other members in communities to promote cooperation and reconciliation.

Question: Does ROFA contemplate direct economic assistance to individual entrepreneurship opportunities or does USAID seek to develop local strategies within the productive economic and entrepreneurship ecosystem?

Unless otherwise indicated economic assistance can take different formats depending on the implementer assurance of feasibility and sustainability of interventions.

6. “¿Es posible presentar una propuesta para la región Caribe colombiana?” Translation: ¿Is it possible to present a proposal for the Colombian Caribbean Region?”

USAID is seeking proposals from applicants whose approaches will address all the regions and objectives listed in the program description.

7. “¿Cuáles son los referentes presupuestales para establecer la dimensión de la implementación de la propuesta?” Translation: What are the budget referents to establish the dimension of the proposal’s implementation?

As per Section B, USAID anticipates awarding one award of up to \$70 million to the successful applicant. Budgets will only be required from applicants invited to participate in the Phase 2 evaluation, and those budgets will conform to the Section D requirements.

8. What is USAID's definition for the concepts of non-repetition and reconciliation? What is the scope of each of these concepts?

Non-Repetition and Reconciliation aligns with the Victims Law and Peace Accord conceptualization. In the RFA there are reference to this concepts i.e. “disseminating and implementing its recommendations will require nationwide support to lay the groundwork for non-repetition” and “Concrete SIVJRN advancements will contribute to national reconciliation..... Reconciliation is a process.....Reconciliation requires intentionality”, etc.

9. Under this Activity, ¿It is possible to develop projects and activities with former combatants?

All activities must comply with the various OFAC sanctions regimes as well as any other applicable legal restrictions. As a result of recent revocations of special designations by the Department of State and Department of Treasury, former FARC combatants who demobilized collectively pursuant to the 2016 Peace Accord, unless subject to individual sanctions or otherwise part of a currently sanctioned group, are eligible to be beneficiaries of our assistance. Please note that other sanctioned individuals and groups remain active in Colombia, and it is the responsibility of the implementing partner to understand and abide by the prohibition on transactions with, or the provision of

resources or support to, any individual or entity that is subject to sanctions administered by OFAC or the United Nations (UN).

10. ¿Under Objective 2, it is possible to strengthen former combatants' organizations? ¿ Can these organizations receive grants under the grants fund?

See question 9 above.

11. RFA p. 15 – Private Sector Engagement. In the NOFO, Private Sector is mentioned as a key player within Objective 3. However, in the guiding principles of the NOFO it is stated that “Private Sector Engagement throughout the Activity is key [...]”. Does USAID expect the Private Sector to be engaged in all 3 objectives?

In as much as it is feasible and activities can be supported by PSE; “PSE as a strategic approach to planning and programming through which the Activity consults, strategizes, aligns, collaborates, and implements with the private sector for greater scale, sustainability, and effectiveness of development.”

12. RFA p. 31 – Management, Staffing Plan and Key Personnel. The applicant “must include as part of the management plan any proposed sub-recipients and their respective roles in relation to the program objectives”. Can the sub-recipients included here be reviewed during the Agreement signature or the Activity’s implementation?

Subrecipients may be included as TBD if the applicant has not identified the organization or is not able to gather the required information for approval prior to award. If USAID has questions about a sub-recipient named in the application, additional information may be requested from the apparently successful applicant/awardee prior to signing or during activity startup.

13. RFA p. 38 Budget and Budget Narrative – Cost sharing. “Applicants must also provide a breakdown of the cost share (financial and in-kind contributions) of all organizations involved in implementing the resulting award”. Can information related to the organization or cost-share amount be included here as TBD? Can these organizations be reviewed during the Activity’s inception phase or implementation?

USAID ADS 303.3.10.3 requires the Agreement Officer to review proposed cost share contributions for cost realism. If an organization cannot be identified during the proposal process, TBD information is acceptable so long as USAID can review the cost share approach for realism.

14. RFA p. 38 – Budget and Budget Narrative – Approval of Subawards. The Applicant “must submit information for all subawards that it wishes to have approved at the time of award”. Can the organizations included here be reviewed during the Agreement signature or the Activity’s implementation?

See question 12.

15. Under this funding opportunity, will the USG provide the recipient legal permission to: 1) Work directly with ex-combatants on reconciliation efforts, including economic support and building cohesion with communities and victims and/or 2) Work with the GOC to provide institutional strengthening to entities working with ex-combatants? What specific types of engagement with ex-combatants who demobilized collectively with the FARC will be legally permitted?

See question 9.

16. In section C. 2 Cost sharing or matching, USAID mentions that this new activity intends to strengthen private and public sector engagement even further. Will USAID recognize contributions from the Colombian government to the recipient of this activity towards cost share (including cash or in-kind contributions specific to project goals to increase the coverage, scope, and effectiveness of this activity)?

Cost share that meets the requirements outlined in 2 CFR 200.306 will be acceptable.

17. Section D – 3.1 Technical Application Format: Can you please confirm that a cover page should not be included for the Phase 1 concept note?

The Phase 1 Concept Paper, outlined in Section 3.1, includes a 1-page Applicant Information page (not counted against the page limit) that fulfills the role of a cover page.

18. As the NOFO includes a specific cost share requirement of 10%-25% as allowed under ADS 303.3.10.2, and as noted in ADS 303.3.10.1 the Activity Planner will have made a determination of the appropriate amount of cost share in support of the requirement to include the determination in the financial analysis of the program prior to issuance of a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), we respectfully request a copy of that determination (written a memorandum to the AO documenting the factors that were considered when determining the amount of cost share) as the range is greater than our initial assessment of 5-10% of possibilities and opportunities for cost share and therefore any additional information would be most helpful.

The cost share determination is an internal USAID document, and will not be shared publicly. The \$11 million cost share figure reflects USAID's consideration of the factors mentioned in the NOFO, such as Colombia's vibrant private sector already partnering with other USAID activities, and the goal of promoting sustainability.

19. “En los TDR se indica la necesidad de compartir los costos del proyecto (ver imagen), consulta ¿esto se puede hacer por medio de aportes en especie?” Translation: The terms of reference indicate the need to share the costs of the project (see image below). Question: Can this be done through in-kind contributions?

2. COST SHARING OR MATCHING

This activity will require a cost share of \$11,000,000.00 from interested applicants. The cost share requirement will strengthen local ownership of the program and sustainability of results. Colombia is a middle-income country with a vibrant private sector already partnering with USAID under numerous Global Development Alliances, and this new activity intends to even further strengthen private and public sector engagement.

[See question 16.](#)

Cost/Business:

1. Annex 1 – Budget Guidance and Template includes CLIN categories and ceiling rates for certain positions that do not correspond to the RFA. Can the Mission please clarify the budget template versus the RFA and issue any necessary corrections to the RFA and/or the template itself?

[Please find the new template in the Attachments section of the NOFO in grants.gov.](#)

2. Would USAID consider responding to questions on a rolling basis, rather than waiting until the questions deadline has passed, so applicants can have more time to fully incorporate the guidance from USAID's answers?

[We cannot respond to questions on a rolling basis because we must share all the questions and their answers with all the interested applicants.](#)

3. Annex 1 Budget Guidance and Template. Question: Is budget information required at concept paper stage and if so in what format?

[Budget information is not required at the Concept Paper stage. The concept paper submission is limited to the format and requirements described in Section D.3.1.](#)

4. Annex 1 Budget Guidance and Template. Question: We note the Excel spreadsheet is organized as if for a contract, with CLIN and Labor Categories. Will USAID require applicants to use this spreadsheet at concept and/or full proposal phase?

[Please refer to the revised budget format template posted to the Attachments section of Grants.gov. Budget information will be required at the full proposal phase.](#)