



# USAID | CAMBODIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**DATE:** December 30, 2019

**TO:** Interested Applicants

**SUBJECT:** Amendment No. 02 under Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 72044220RFA00001, Program Title: USAID Cambodia Integrated Early Childhood Development Activity

The purpose of this Amendment is to respond to questions from interested parties and make resulting changes throughout the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Specific changes are as follows:

In Section “D.6.1.3 Cover Page” add the following at the end”

“vi. The Applicant’s DUNS Number”

Sincerely,

Julie Ota  
Agreement Officer

List of Attachments:

1. Questions submitted by interested parties and USAID’s answers

## Attachment 1 – Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** The first two objectives mention the target age group, but the 3rd objective on developmental delays/disability does not provide a clear target age group. What is target age group for objective 3? Should all three objectives be targeting the same age group?

**Answer:** On page 5 of the NOFO under the section ‘Purpose’ it states, “Focus will be on the early childhood years, with an emphasis on the first 1,000 days for more intensive nutrition, psychosocial, and physical stimulation interventions.” Yes, all three objectives should be targeting the same age group.

2. **Question:** Is a phased implementation approach allowed?

**Answer:** USAID is open to creative technical and implementation approaches that best address the goal and objectives of the activity. Any approaches proposed will be further developed in the subsequent phases.

3. **Question:** Can we include a research component into the application summary content, and if yes, what's the max % we can spend on it?

**Answer:** Please see the Learning paragraph under section A.2.8. “Guiding Principles”.

4. **Question:** Does USAID have any preferences for academic partners? E.g. USA based universities?

**Answer:** No.

5. **Question:** Does USAID assess the organizational capacity of each partners individually or does it assess how the capacity of the partners complement each other?

**Answer:** USAID will review the combined experience and capability of the Applicant and any proposed partners.

6. **Question:** Is a letter of intent required by all partners, including Ministry partners, during the application summary phase?

**Answer:** Letters of commitment are not required for the summary application phase. As stated on page 16, “The use of exclusive teaming arrangements is discouraged.”

7. **Question:** Does USAID have specific targeted indicators they would like to see in the application summary content?

**Answer:** The monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed during subsequent phases.

8. **Question:** Are appendixes allowed and if so, what type? Can additional explanations of project activity methodologies be included as appendix? Can the MEL plan be submitted as an appendix? Can the theory of change graphic be submitted as an appendix?

**Answer:** Appendices are not requested as part of the Summary Application submission. Per Section D.6.1.1 “Information not specifically required by this NOFO will not be accepted or

evaluated.” Please note that Applicants may choose to include graphics within the page limitation for the Summary Application.

**9. Question:** What is USAID definition of child development and Disability (DD/D)?

**Answer:** As stated in footnote 19, “Per Cambodia’s National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018, Persons with Disabilities refers to those who lack, lose or damage any physical or mental functions, which results in a disturbance to their daily life or activities, such as physical, visual, hearing, intellectual impairments, mental disorders and any other types of disabilities toward the insurmountable end of scale.”

As stated on pages 5-6, “The early childhood development (ECD) is defined as an orderly, predictable process along a continuous path in which a child learns progressively more complicated levels of moving, thinking, speaking, feeling, and relating to others. Physical growth, literacy and numeracy skills, socio-emotional development, and readiness to learn are vital domains of a child’s development, which is a basis for overall human development.”

Also, Developmental Delay is defined as “A delay in achievement of the expected milestones for a certain age.”

**10. Question:** Does USAID requires a gender, a rights based approach, or environmental analysis in the application summary context?

**Answer:** As stated on page 21, “The Applicant’s summary application must also consider the Agency’s priorities and guiding principles described in the program framework.”

**11. Question:** Do potential geographic areas of focus need to be included in the application summary content? If so, how many provinces are expected to be covered? Is there a preference to cover the whole province or selected districts within the selected provinces?

**Answer:** Applicants should include proposed areas of focus along with the rationale of that focus based on what is stated on pages 9-10. See Section A.2.5 of the NOFO.

**12. Question:** Does the DUNS number need to be included in the application summary content? If so, is it required for all consortium partners or just the prime applicant?

**Answer:** Section D.6.1.3 of the NOFO is amended to require the Applicant’s DUNS number. See Section D.8 for eligibility requirements for the Applicant. For proposed subawardees and partners, this information is not required at this stage.

**13. Question:** Can a proposed sub-recipient that has not received a DUNS number yet still be included in the application summary phase?

**Answer:** Yes, however, before the prime recipient may enter into a subaward with any entity, the proposed subawardee must obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and must maintain a current registration in the System of Award Management (SAM), except in the following instances:

- (1) Awards to individuals

(2) Awards less than \$25,000 to foreign recipients to be performed outside the United States (based on a USAID determination)

(3) Awards where the Agreement Officer determines, in writing, that these requirements would cause personal safety concerns.

**14. Question:** Should the proposal specifically state geographic target provinces?

**Answer:** See answer to Question No. 11.

**15. Question:** Are Key Personnel required or optional for this call? If they are provided will they be considered in the evaluation of the proposal?

**Answer:** Key Personnel will not be evaluated at this stage of the competitive process.

**16. Question:** Will any proposed cost share be considered in the evaluation of the summary proposal?

**Answer:** Please refer to Section C.2 of the NOFO. Addition of cost share will not result in a more favorable review of the application.

**17. Question:** Under the RFA, Objective 1 refers to an age range 0-3 years while Objective 2 focuses on 0-5 and Objective 3 doesn't state an age range. We would like to clarify if there are specific desired target ages to be addressed for each objective, particularly for objective 3?

**Answer:** See answer to question 1.

**18. Question:** Does USAID wish to focus mainly on household-based interventions or a continuum of care for all or selected objective/s?

**Answer:** USAID is open to creative technical approaches that best address the goal and objectives of the activity. Any approaches proposed will be further developed in the subsequent phases.

**19. Question:** Is it the intent of Result 1.3 to institutionalize ECD activities for all children 0-3, including those with disabilities and developmental delays?

**Answer:** Yes.

**20. Question:** Globally, children with disabilities have less access to WASH interventions and are more vulnerable to malnutrition than their peers without disabilities. Would it be possible to propose within the Summary Application a method of integrating Objectives 2 and 3 in order to meet the nutrition and WASH- specific needs of children with disabilities in a way that's relevant to the Cambodian context?

**Answer:** USAID is open to creative technical approaches that best address the goal and objectives of the activity. Any approaches proposed will be further developed in the subsequent phases.

**21. Question:** Does 'Crops Diversification' include small livestock and fish or does this just mean plant based crops?

**Answer:** Crop diversification for the purposes of this solicitation can include livestock and fish.

**22. Question:** Does USAID anticipate increasing latrine coverage as being a result under this call?

**Answer:** This is not a primary focus.

**23. Question:** The Theory of Change states that an increased percentage of Cambodian children will thrive and meet key growth and developmental milestones. Many children with disabilities and developmental delays do not meet developmental milestones at the same age as their peers without disabilities or developmental delays. Does this "THEN" statement in the Theory of Change therefore only apply to children without disabilities?

**Answer:** No.

**24. Question:** The objectives and key results outlined on pages 9 and 45 of the NOFO differ. Could USAID please confirm that the objectives and key results outlined on page 9 of the NOFO should consistently guide the development of concept notes in response to this NOFO?

**Answer:** Please refer to the information in the Program Framework in Section A which takes precedence.

**25. Question:** Can USAID please clarify whether the promotion of optional maternal, infant and young child nutrition should be included as a means to achieving objective 2? This would include improved maternal nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and sustained breastfeeding together with age-appropriate complementary feeding until 23 months of age as well as the promotion of micronutrient supplementation for pregnant mothers and children.

**Answer:** Applicants are responsible for defining and proposing their technical approaches.

**26. Question:** Regarding the proposed geographic targeting criteria (under section A.2.5.):

a) does USAID expect applicants to propose specific geographic interventions at the concept note stage?

**Answer:** See answer to Question No. 11.

b) one of proposed criteria is the “availability of early childhood education services and programming.” Given the NOFO’s focus on children aged 0–3 years and their caregivers, can USAID please confirm that the project should plan to work with early childhood education services/programs which are tailored to serving children slightly older than 0-3 year olds?

**Answer:** USAID is open to creative technical approaches that best address the goal and objectives of the activity. Any approaches proposed will be further developed in the subsequent phases.

**27. Question:** Given that IECD is a relatively new approach in the Cambodia context, can USAID please confirm whether concept notes can propose formative and/or operations

research, in addition to monitoring and evaluation research, to achieve objectives and key results outlined on page 9 of the NOFO?

**Answer:** See answer to question 3.

- 28. Question:** Can USAID please confirm whether direct support to support community-level service delivery, coordination and/or associated structures—relevant to the objectives and key results outlined on page 9 of the NOFO—is acceptable?

**Answer:** Applicants are responsible for defining and proposing their technical approaches. USAID is open to creative approaches that best address the goal and objectives of the activity.

- 29. Question:** Can annexes be submitted together with the 12-page concept note?

**Answer:** Annexes are not requested as part of the Summary Application submission. Per Section D.6.1.1 “Information not specifically required by this NOFO will not be accepted or evaluated.”

- 30. Question:** Should the concept note include information regarding proposed key personnel?

**Answer:** No. Information regarding Key Personnel is not requested at this stage.

- 31. Question:** Should the concept note include an illustrative year 1 work plan?

**Answer:** No. Please make sure to closely follow the instructions for Summary Application format and content in Section D.6.

- 32. Question:** Merit review (section E.2) - Can USAID please provide more indications on the weighting/points system for the review of summary applications?

**Answer:** No further information will be provided, please refer to Section E.1.

- 33. Question:** Would USAID kindly consider adding a one-page executive summary and a one-page acronyms list for a total of 14 pages?

**Answer:** No.

- 34. Question:** Would USAID please share the following two Cambodia Project Appraisal Documents (PADs) listed in the solicitation: the Health PAD 2017-2023 and the Food Security and Environment (FSE) PAD 2016-2021.

**Answer:** These documents are not available for public distribution. Information on USAID in Cambodia can be found at <https://www.usaid.gov/cambodia>.

- 35. Question:** Could USAID please confirm that only one “apparently successful applicant” will move to Phase 2: Co-development?

**Answer:** Confirmed. However, if USAID and the apparently successful Applicant cannot come to a mutual understanding during the course of Phase 2 or 3, or if the apparently successful Applicant is unable to provide satisfactory Technical and Cost Applications, or did not meet deadlines for submissions, or presents an unacceptable risk as a result of the risk

assessment, then the Agreement Officer may designate the next highest-evaluated Applicant from Phase 1 as the apparently successful Applicant.

- 36. Question:** Which aspects of the enabling environment would USAID like this activity to prioritize for promoting nurturing care and support the institutionalization of ECD activities into partner and government programming?

**Answer:** Applicants are responsible for defining and proposing their technical approaches.

- 37. Question:** Does USAID have a preference for which sectors and providers this activity engages in for the provision of nurturing care services?

**Answer:** Applicants are responsible for defining and proposing their technical approaches.

- 38. Question:** Although good health is a key component of nurturing care, this receives little attention in the RFA. How does USAID hope to achieve improvements in ECD without addressing the health status of young children?

**Answer:** USAID is open to creative technical approaches that best address the goal and objectives of the activity. USAID seeks an integrated technical approach that complements and leverages current efforts while addressing current gaps in the provision of nurturing care in Cambodia. Any approaches proposed will be further developed in the subsequent phases.

- 39. Question:** Although safety & security is a key component of nurturing care, this receives little attention in the RFA. What role does USAID see for this project, if any, in addressing the safety and security of young children?

**Answer:** See answer to question 38.

- 40. Question:** With Cambodia's recent push to decentralize, what does USAID see as the role of this project in strengthening systems at the national level?

**Answer:** Section A.2.7. "The activity will work to collect evidence from actual implementation in the field to inform improved coordination and RGC policy development related to improving early childhood care and development." This project will not address all Decentralization and Deconcentration (D&D) components. Applicants are responsible for defining and proposing their technical approaches. Any approaches proposed will be further developed in the subsequent phases.

- 41. Question:** Would USAID consider moving Objective 3 under Objective 1 (as result 1.4)? Provision of appropriate care (Objective 3) will directly contribute to the achievement of Objective 1.

**Answer:** No.

- 42. Question:** The RFA states that this activity will address the APCCA objective "Protect children from violence by promoting, funding, and supporting the protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect by investing in preventative and responsive programming." However, none of the objectives or results included in the RFA mention this. Where does USAID see such work fitting into program activities, if at all?

**Answer:** Applicants are responsible for defining and proposing their technical approaches. USAID is open to creative approaches that best address the goal and objectives of the activity. Any approaches proposed will be further developed in the subsequent phases.

- 43. Question:** Is USAID open to funding formative research - after award - for the design of this activity, recognizing that this would delay the initiation of interventions on the ground?

**Answer:** See answer to question 3.

- 44. Question:** In light of the upcoming end of year holidays, would USAID kindly consider extending the deadline for receipt of proposal applications for the Cambodia Integrated Early Childhood Development Activity?

**Answer:** An extension of one week has been provided in Amendment 1. No additional extensions will be provided.

- 45. Question:** Would you please confirm if the Protecting Lives in Global Health Assistance Policy applies to all or part of the grant opportunity 72044220RFA00001, Cambodia Integrated Early Childhood Development Activity.

**Answer:** Confirmed.

- 46. Question:** In Result 3.2, USAID seeks increased referral to quality, sustainable services for children with developmental delays and disabilities. In Result 3.3, USAID seeks strengthened community-based rehabilitation and support services for children with disabilities. Could USAID please provide examples of existing quality, sustainable services to which this project may refer children and also confirm that IECD is not intended to establish service provision in areas currently lacking disability community-based rehabilitation and support services?

**Answer:** No examples will be provided. See section A.2.5. Applicants are responsible for defining and proposing their technical approaches.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

- End of Amendment No. 2 -