



**Notice of Funding Opportunity
Request for Application No.: RFA-492-17-00002
TB Innovations and Health Systems Strengthening**

AMENDMENT 2

The purpose of this amendment is to inform the applicants of the change in the deadline for submission of applications, provide answers to questions received, and reflect the corresponding changes in certain provisions of the RFA.

A. Revised Closing Date

The closing date of “September 11, 2017” for electronic application is changed to “*September 19, 2017*”. The closing time remains the same.

Relatedly, hard copies of applications must be received not later than 3:00 pm Manila time, two (2) days after the *revised closing date*.

B. RFA Revisions

1. NOFO cover letter

First page, upper right hand corner – Delete closing date of “September 11, 2017” and replace with “*September 19, 2017*”.

2. Section IV Application and Submission Information

- a. On page 58 – The receipt of hard copies of the applications by USAID should read as follows:

“Hard copies of applications must be received not later than 3:00 pm Manila time, two (2) days after the RFA’s *revised closing date*”.

- b. On page 62 – Under “6. Annexes”, delete “Branding Strategy and Marking Plan”

- c. On pages 65 – 68

Chief of Party – After the last sentence of the first paragraph, add as follows:

“A Filipino candidate demonstrating extensive experience and possessing the qualifications indicated in the RFA may be considered. Extensive experience includes:

candidates who have worked on TB programs in at least two countries that have high burdens of tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant TB; candidates who have implemented successful programs in at least two countries to increase demand generation for TB prevention, detection and treatment; candidates who have achieved results in at least two countries to strengthen governance and finance, private sector engagement, or human resources for health.”

Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB) Technical Advisor – After the last sentence of the first paragraph, add as follows:

“A Filipino candidate demonstrating extensive experience and possessing the qualifications indicated in the RFA may be considered. Extensive experience includes: candidates who have worked on TB programs in at least two countries that have high burdens of tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant TB; candidates who have implemented successful programs in at least two countries to increase demand generation for TB prevention, detection and treatment; candidates who have achieved results in at least two countries to strengthen governance and finance, private sector engagement, or human resources for health.”

TB Demand and Generation Advisor – Add “100 Percent LOE”

After the last sentence of the first paragraph, add as follows:

“A Filipino candidate demonstrating extensive experience and possessing the qualifications indicated in the RFA may be considered. Extensive experience includes: candidates who have worked on TB programs in at least two countries that have high burdens of tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant TB; candidates who have implemented successful programs in at least two countries to increase demand generation for TB prevention, detection and treatment; candidates who have achieved results in at least two countries to strengthen governance and finance, private sector engagement, or human resources for health.”

Private Sector Advisor – After the last sentence of the first paragraph, add as follows:

“An expatriate as candidate for this position is not required but may be considered.”

Laboratory and Diagnostics Advisor – After the last sentence of the first paragraph, add as follows:

“An expatriate as candidate for this position is not required but may be considered.”

- d. On page 72 – The requirement titled, “Limitation on Sub-awards” is being deleted in its entirety.

3. Section VI Award and Administration Information

On page 81, under Quarterly Financial Reports – Delete the first sentence and replace as follows:

“The Recipient shall submit quarterly financial reports to USAID not later than thirty (30) calendar days after the end of each US Government fiscal quarter. (Example: For quarter ending December 31, 2017, the quarterly financial report is due not later than January 30, 2018.)”

C. Questions & Answers

Please see next pages (pages 4-6) for answers to questions received. Answers are in *italics* and in **blue** texts.

Q1: Since the RFA focuses mainly on strengthening National and Regional TB programs, is there a prescribed limit on what can be conducted at the LGU (provincial, City, Municipal, Barangay) and community levels considering that specific results expected in this grant include performance at the level of the service provider (public, private and non-NTP)?

A: *Level 2 indicators listed on page 40 of the RFA are suggested indicators that applicants may consider when submitting an application. USAID expects the TB Innovations activity to work with all TB actors and USAID implementing partners to achieve results at the service provider and individual level so coordination and cooperation will be an essential aspect of their work. TB Innovations may also test new approaches or implement demonstration interventions (e.g., engage the private sector or test treatment adherence) at the implementation level (Local Government Unit level and below). TB Innovations would be expected to measure any impact or results of these new approaches.*

Q2: With regards to the 5 Key Personnel, are there any limitations around proposing Filipino nationals with extensive international experience and meeting the qualifications as listed in the RFA for the first three positions? And similarly, proposing expatriate candidates meeting the qualifications as listed in the RFA for the remaining two positions?

A: *As stated in the RFA, the Chief of Party, Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (TB) Technical Advisor, and Tuberculosis Demand Generation Advisor should be expatriates.*

A Filipino candidate demonstrating extensive experience and possessing the qualifications indicated in the RFA may be considered. Extensive experience includes: candidates who have worked on TB programs in at least two countries that have high burdens of tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant TB; candidates who have implemented successful programs in at least two countries to increase demand generation for TB prevention, detection and treatment; candidates who have achieved results in at least two countries to strengthen governance and finance, private sector engagement, or human resources for health.

For the Private Sector Advisor and Laboratory and Diagnostic Advisor positions, candidate expatriates are not required but may be considered.

Q3: Four of the 5 key personnel are listed at 100% LOE. Is there an LOE requirement for the TB Demand Generation Advisor? (Page 67)

A: *LOE requirement for TB Demand Generation Advisor is 100%.*

Q4: On page 67 of the RFA, no anticipated LOE is provided for the TB Demand Generation Advisor key personnel position while all four of the other key personnel positions specify the LOE, is there an anticipated LOE for this position or is it up to the discretion of the applicant?

A: Please see answer to Q3.

Q5: Are graphics and tables included in the technical application allowed to be a smaller size font (i.e. Times New Roman size 10-pt font)?

A: Yes.

Q6: Page 62 requires the “Name(s) and title(s) of person(s) who prepared the application and which sections they prepared.” Could USAID please clarify if this means the applicant would need to specify all personnel involved in preparing for the various sections of the technical and cost applications and who the point of contact should be?

A: Yes.

Q7: Is there a preferred format for the past performance summary table and references listed on page 62?

A: None

Q8: Page 62 of the RFA under “6. Annexes” asks for the Year 1 AMEP to be presented as an annex to the application. Page 64 of the RFA under “F.1. Technical Approach” has a subsection, #7, which asks for the applicant to describe how they would develop a strong, cost-effective, evidence-based AMEP. Could USAID confirm that the AMEP should be presented in an annex and not in the technical approach?

A: As indicated on page 62 of the RFA, the AMEP should be presented as an Annex to the Technical Application. Similarly, the requirement on page 64 under F.1.7) relating to AMEP must be addressed in the recipient’s technical approach.

Q9: On page 71 in Section “H. Branding and Marking Plan”, it states that only the apparently successful applicant is required to submit a draft Branding Strategy and Marking Plan while on page 62 under “6. Annexes” a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan is listed as one of the required annexes. Should the draft plan be included or not?

A: The submission of a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan (BSMP) is only required of the apparently successful applicant. In submitting an application, a BSMP is not required to be submitted as annex.

Q10: Page 72 states that “By submission of an application and execution of the award, the Applicant/Recipient agrees that at least fifty (50) percent of the cost of award performance incurred for personnel must be expended for employees of the prime/local organization.” For clarity, would USAID remove from the text “prime/local” and replace with “prime”?

A: This requirement in Section IV of the RFA titled, "Limitation on Sub-awards" is being deleted.

Q11: Page 81 of the RFA reads: "Quarterly Financial Reports – The Recipient shall submit quarterly financial reports to USAID no later than ten (10) calendar days prior the end of each USG fiscal quarter. They should be disaggregated at the program area and contain, at a minimum:[...]"

Is this correct? Will we be required to report before the quarter is over?

A: Quarterly Financial Reports are due not later than thirty (30) calendar days after the end of each US Government fiscal quarter. (Example: For quarter ending December 31, 2017, the quarterly financial report is due not later than January 30, 2018.)

Q12: There seems to be a discrepancy between page 94 and page 55 regarding procurement guidelines. While page 94 states no procurement is planned, there might be a need to purchase supplies or goods for pilot testing that are not provided yet by DOH or Global Fund. Are we correct to assume these sort of items can be procured by the project as stated on page 55 on geographic code 937?

A: To clarify the "no procurement" on page 94 - The Global Fund does the majority of procurement of major items such as drugs, commodities and diagnostic equipment while USAID provides technical assistance and generally, does not procure commodities or other supplies.

If there is a need for the TB Innovations project to purchase equipment for special studies or demonstration activities, etc., then this may be possible. Yes, it is correct to assume that procurement of these items will follow geographic code 937 as indicated on page 55 of the RFA.


Sandra Jansen
Agreement Officer
Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance