

Annual Program Statement Public Consultation for a Rapid Response Mechanism for Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Ethiopia
(January 12, 2017)

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1) Food for Peace Remarks

- Welcome, thank you all for your interest in USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (FFP) and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) forthcoming joint Annual Program Statement (APS) for a multi-year rapid response nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project in Ethiopia.
- This public consultation and the notice that went out in December 2016, is to ensure that interested parties are aware of USAID’s intention to issue the -“APS for Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) for Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Ethiopia” in February 2017 via www.grants.gov.
- The program would involve the nutrition and WASH technical sectors, as well as commodity management for U.S. origin in-kind Agricultural products via the Title II of the Food for Peace Act
- For the nutrition programming, FFP and OFDA perceive this APS as a long-term strategy to supply OFDA’s nutrition partners with nutrition commodities to treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). OFDA partners in the past have utilized nutrition commodities from the existing in-country World Food Program and GoE/National Disaster Risk Management Commission pipelines for the treatment of MAM in priority woredas. However, in recent years, many partners have experienced pipeline breaks for these commodities, leaving the treatment of MAM unreliable and unpredictable. In addition, when partners looked to FFP to quickly respond to MAM commodity gaps, long procurement lead times due to production in the U.S. and transport to Ethiopia limited the reliability of this in-kind assistance.
- For a number of years, FFP’s Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) had imported nutrition commodity into Ethiopia and transferred it to OFDA’s partners on an as-needed basis to bridge the gaps. However, this was envisioned as a short-term solution and which has proven to be cumbersome due to specific award management provisions within the FFP managed JEOP and the OFDA managed RRM’s.
- With OFDA’s existing rapid response mechanisms coming to an end this year, and moving in the direction of increasing collaboration between OFDA and FFP, there was a unique opportunity to design a more strategic single APS mechanism that will result in more integrated and effective programing.
- For the purposes of this APS, USAID anticipates issuing two agreements for a single program issued to either a single applicant or a consortium for a combined nutrition and WASH RRM.
- One agreement will cover support to typically OFDA-funded nutrition and WASH programming and the other will cover FFP Title II funded commodity management support and provision of in-kind U.S. origin specialized nutrition commodities for the treatment of MAM.
- The estimated period of performance for the awards will be up to 36 months. Subject to the availability of funds and level of emergency needs, USAID anticipates providing up to \$25 million in International Disaster Assistance funds (~\$8m/year) and up to \$12 million in Title II for the overall, 36-month program.

2) OFDA Opening Remarks

- The envisioned program targets emergency nutrition and WASH activities countrywide to support populations affected with acute nutrition and WASH needs that arise over the course of the awards.
- Previously, OFDA has supported separate rapid response mechanisms for nutrition and WASH that included a small logistics support and relief commodities component, in Ethiopia since 2005.
- OFDA's existing nutrition RRM has supported Government of Ethiopia (GoE) Ministry of Health (MoH) Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programs (OTPs) and Stabilization Centers (SCs) for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with an emphasis on ensuring quality of care.
- OFDA's existing WASH RRM has supported increased access to safe water and sanitation facilities, and responded to humanitarian needs resulting from natural hazards including fire, landslide, droughts, as well as complex emergencies.
- Although to date the two separate nutrition and WASH RRM have met critical life-saving needs and reduced suffering, coordination between the Nutrition and WASH RRM mechanisms has been minimal, at times leading to limited complementarity between WASH and nutrition services.
- The goal of this upcoming APS is to combine the nutrition and WASH RRM into 1 RRM that covers both sectors in order to streamline programming to include more direct support and control over specialized nutrition commodities for the treatment of MAM.
- The new APS seeks to ensure a rapid CMAM package, ensure the linkages between WASH and nutrition, provide complementary emergency WASH services, and allow for direct commodity management.

GENERAL QUESTIONS from Participants:

Q: Does this questions and answers session replace the opportunity for further questions and answers once the APS is released?

A: No. Partners will have the opportunity to submit questions once the APS is released.

Q: What will the submission process for this APS look like? Since this is a large intervention, will sub-grants be allowed?

A: The submission process will be specified in the APS. Sub-grants will be at the discretion of the recipient of the awards.

Q: When will the APS be released?

A: USAID intends to issue the APS in February 2017 via www.grants.gov.

Q: How long is the APS open for?

The APS solicitation is open for 6 months from the date of issuance. The first round of applications will be due in 45 days. Submission deadlines will be specified in the APS.

Q: Are organizations expected to submit two separate applications? Will there be separate selection criteria for the proposals? Is there a 1st and 2nd stage process?

A: Applicants will submit one proposal which will be jointly reviewed FFP and OFDA. The application format will adhere to the OFDA Guidelines for Proposals. There will not be a concept paper phase.

Q: What is the total amount of funding that will be supporting this APS?

A: The estimated period of performance for the awards will be up to 36 months. Subject to the availability of funds and level of emergency needs, USAID anticipates providing up to \$25 million in International

Disaster Assistance funds (~\$8m/year) and up to \$12 million in Title II funds for the overall, 36-month program.

Q: Since proposals submitted under the APS must conform to OFDA requirements, will this apply to the reporting requirements as well? Which office will be the lead on stipulating the reporting requirements?

A: There will be two separate awards for one program. The reporting requirements will be stipulated within each of the awards.

Q: Will the two separate agreements be signed by both agencies (offices?), or just by one?

A: We will take this question for the record and clarify this once the APS is released.

Q: Are sub-grantees expected to be identified in the proposal?

A: We will follow the usual sub-granting procedures: Sub-grantees could be named in the proposal or partner(s) could request sub-grantees to be added during the life of the project.

Q: Can you speak more on the coordination challenges in the previous Nutrition and WASH rapid response mechanisms?

A: As there have been two separate awards, there has been limited coordination between the two RRM's, which has limited complementarity in emergency WASH and nutrition interventions to maximize assistance to affected populations.

Q: Do OFDA and FFP expect surge capacity –such as drought capacity -to be built into the APS proposal?

A: We will address this within the forthcoming APS when it is released. We cannot comment on this any further at this time.

Q: Will the funding contribution from FFP cover commodities only, or programming as well?

A: FFP will support procurement of U.S. in-kind commodities, and all of their associated costs, including, ocean and inland freight as well as in country transport, storage and distribution of the commodities we typically refer to as Internal Transportation, Storage and Handling (ITSH) costs.

Q: What are the anticipated thresholds for sub-grants?

A: It is up to the implementing partner to determine the best approach. During the proposal review phase we will be looking for the best technical approaches.

Q: Will FFP support local or regional procurement of commodities?

A: No. FFP will only support Title II in-kind U.S. Agricultural commodities through this APS.

Q: What commodities will be available from FFP?

A: While the choice of commodity will be left to the applicant, applicants must align their treatment protocols with World Food Program (WFP) / Government of Ethiopia (GoE), recommendations from the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCUC) in Ethiopia, or global standards for the management of moderate acute malnutrition, and must justify their choice of commodity[ies] for use in the program.

Q: What types of WASH activities will be prioritized?

A: This will be addressed in the APS.

Q: Will there be a match requirement?

A: It is not anticipated that there will be a required match. The APS will have more information on this.

Q: In which geographic areas within Ethiopia do OFDA and FFP prefer or wish to target?

A: This APS is for a rapid response mechanism that has the ability to act throughout Ethiopia in response to rapid, adverse changes in nutrition and/or WASH conditions. Nutrition response activities should be targeted to woredas that have been prioritized through the hotspot classification exercise, or in areas documented by the applicant that are experiences acute adverse spikes in humanitarian need.

Q: Does the APS address the 70/30 requirement by the GoE? For example, sub grants are currently under the 30% funding; will this still be the case under the APS?

A: We cannot say anything specific at this time. This can be addressed during the time of questions and answers (Q/A) at the APS release.

Q: Will OFDA consider funding drugs and medical supplies?

A: This APS specifically focuses on nutrition and WASH. Further details of the program description will be included in the APS.

Q: Are you able to share if the findings of the recent McKinsey study have influenced this joint APS between OFDA and FFP?

A: Nothing to add other than this is an OFDA and FFP joint APS.

Q: Will there be specific monitoring indicators?

A: This will be addressed in the APS.