 ****

**Request for Expressions of Interest:**

**Strengthening Health Services as Part of the Post-Ebola Transition in Sierra Leone**

**Advancing Partners and Communities (APC) Project**

Expressions of Interest (EOI) due by **Tuesday,** **July 7, 2015 by 5:30pm Eastern Daylight Time** (9:30pm in Sierra Leone).

The Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) Project invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from international and local organizations that are currently working in Sierra Leone and interested in partnering with APC to strengthen health services and health care worker capacity in-country. Activities will particularly focus on maternal and child health, specifically at lower level facilities and the community level. Support from APC may take a variety of forms, including financial (grants) and technical and/or organizational assistance through APC. It is anticipated that all activities will be completed by December 2016.

**Submission Process**

Please complete the online EOI form which can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQ8QDQL>. The EOI form is also avai­­­­lable below and as a downloadable form at [www.advancingpartners.org/grants/rfas](http://www.advancingpartners.org/grants/rfas). If using the downloadable form, please submit it by email to Kristen Devlin at kristen\_devlin@jsi.com. The **EOI submission deadline is Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 5:30pm Eastern Daylight Time (9:30pm in Sierra Leone).**

Next month (July), a team from APC will be in Sierra Leone to meet with the MOHS and other key stakeholders and to further the support the selection process. These in-country discussions will help identify the organizations that will receive a targeted solicitation for a subaward from APC for strengthening health services and building health care worker capacity. We anticipate the solicitation process and the resulting subawards will be fast-tracked, given the short project timeframe.

**Background**

According to Sierra Leone’s National Ebola Response Center (NERC), as of June 11, 2015, 8,647 cases of Ebola have been confirmed, with 3,551 confirmed deaths.[[1]](#endnote-2) Among the deceased are a large number of doctors, nurses and other health care workers, which has further depleted the already short supply of public sector health workers, and the availability of health services for patient care.[[2]](#endnote-3) Specifically, routine health services have decreased or halted in many parts of the country,[[3]](#endnote-4) and among the health personnel who remain, many have moved or been reassigned to the Ebola response for a variety of reasons. Not only is the health system facing supply-side constraints, including shortages of health commodities and other resources, but mistrust of health workers and facilities is keeping people from seeking and accessing the health services they need for non-Ebola services. Because of these and other factors people with preventable and treatable illnesses are not receiving adequate care.

**About APC**

APC is a 5-year USAID-funded project implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute (JSI) and partner, FHI 360, that advances and supports community programs seeking to improve the overall health of communities and achieve other health-related impacts. APC provides global leadership for community-based programming, executes and manages small and medium-sized sub-awards, supports procurement reform by preparing awards for execution by USAID, and builds the capacity of organizations to manage and implement effective programs. APC’s core areas for technical assistance include:

* + Community health systems
  + Community based access to essential health services
  + Technical and organizational capacity building of NGOs

In support of Sierra Leone, APC has recently received U.S. Government “Ebola Response and Preparedness Funds” to support the rebuilding of health services and the overall health system as part of the post-Ebola “transition” phase. To meet this objective, APC aims to support the Ministry of Health and Sanitation’s (MOHS) health service priorities by partnering with local organizations and through the provision of technical assistance to NGOs and the government. Areas of focus are expected to include maternal and child health, lower level facilities and community health services, but may also include other types of activities as well. An APC team will travel to Sierra Leone in July to refine the program areas through consultation with the government and interested international and local organizations that are currently working in Sierra Leone.

**Expression of Interest Form**

**General Organization Information**

1. **Name of organization:**
2. **Name(s) of authorized representative(s) and title(s) :**
3. **Email address(es) for authorized representative(s):**
4. **Primary office location in Sierra Leone:**
5. **Telephone number in Sierra Leone:**
6. **Type of organization: (check all that apply)**

\_\_\_ International non-profit non-governmental organization (INGO)

\_\_\_ Local non-profit non-governmental organization (LNGO)

\_\_\_ Faith-based organization (FBO)

\_\_\_ For-profit/commercial organization

\_\_\_Other (please describe your organization type) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Organizational Presence in Sierra Leone** 
   1. Registered in Sierra Leone: \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_ No.

If no, explain why: \_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Number of years working in Sierra Leone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Number of program staff currently working in Sierra Leone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Please briefly describe your organization’s management structure in Sierra Leone. Please include technical program areas and staffing structure (approximately 300 words).

1. **Program locations: Please check the box where your organization is implementing Ebola response and/or health programs. Write in specific chiefdoms, or all, as applicable.**

**Eastern Region:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **X** | **District** | **Chiefdoms** | **Local Office (Yes/No?)** |
|  | Kailahun |  |  |
|  | Kenema |  |  |
|  | Kono |  |  |

**Northern Region:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **X** | **District** | **Chiefdoms** | **Local Office (Yes/No?)** |
|  | Bombali |  |  |
|  | Kambia |  |  |
|  | Koinadugu |  |  |
|  | Port Loko |  |  |
|  | Tonkolili |  |  |

**Southern Region:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **X** | **District** | **Chiefdoms** | **Local Office (Yes/No?)** |
|  | Bo |  |  |
|  | Bonthe |  |  |
|  | Moyamba |  |  |
|  | Pujehun |  |  |

**Western Region:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **X** | **District** | **Chiefdoms** | **Local Office (Yes/No?)** |
|  | Western Area Rural |  |  |
|  | Western Area Urban |  |  |

**Work Experience**

1. **Past Performance: Please list below no more than 4 health projects or programs that you have implemented in SIERRA LEONE within the past 5 years.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Project** | **Description (include program beneficiaries and geographic area)** | **Period of Performance** | **Donor/Funder Name(s)** | **Level of Funding** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Please describe your organization’s current Ebola response and/or health program/activities in Sierra Leone. For each program, please indicate the status (e.g. pilot, nationwide, scaling up, winding down), project duration and end date, program beneficiaries, geographic areas, and estimated budget levels.** (Approximately 500 words.)
2. **In the past five years, how many USAID-funded projects in Africa has your organization been involved with? (approximately \_\_\_\_)**

**How many as a prime contractor? (approximately\_\_\_\_)**

1. **Please describe your organization’s capacity to implement and manage USAID-funded health programs in Sierra Leone.** (Approximately 300 words.)
2. **In Sierra Leone, in which areas does your organization provide services/support (check all that apply)?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Health Area** | **Technical Area** | **Service Delivery Level** |
| \_\_\_ Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM)  \_\_\_ Maternal and Child Health  \_\_\_ Immunizations / EPI  \_\_\_ Family Planning  \_\_\_ HIV/AIDS  \_\_\_ Nutrition  \_\_\_ Malaria  \_\_\_ Tuberculosis  \_\_\_ Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)  \_\_\_Infection Prevention Control  \_\_\_Ebola Response  \_\_\_Other (please specify) | \_\_\_Community mobilization / sensitization  \_\_\_Organizational capacity-building  \_\_\_ Training (human resources for health)  \_\_\_ Behavior change communication  \_\_\_Health financing  \_\_\_Logistics and supply chain  \_\_\_Policy development and support  \_\_\_Monitoring & evaluation  \_\_\_Research  \_\_\_ Upgrading health facilities  \_\_\_Construction of health facilities  \_\_\_Other (please specify) | **Hospital:**  \_\_\_ District  \_\_\_ Mission / faith-based  \_\_\_Other (please specify):  **Peripheral Health Units:**  \_\_\_ Community Health Centres (CHC)  \_\_\_ Community Health Posts (CHP)  \_\_\_ Maternal and Child Health Posts (MCHPS)  **Other:**  \_\_\_ Community outreach  \_\_\_ Community health workers  \_\_\_ Private health facility |

1. **Describe how your organization collaborates or links with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation at the national, district, and chiefdom (if appropriate) levels while implementing health programs.** (Approximately 300 words.)
2. **Based on your experience in Sierra Leone and the particular geographic areas in which you work, please list/describe what you believe are the top priorities for “rebuilding health services” in the country.** (Approximately 300 words.)
3. **Please provide any other information about the organization that you feel is relevant to your submission.** (Approximately 300 words.)

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this EOI.**

This Request for EOI does not represent a commitment by APC or the U.S. Government to provide a subaward or technical assistance to any organization submitting an EOI. Organizations are solely responsible for the costs associated with submitting EOI. Such costs will not be paid for or reimbursed by APC or the U.S. Government.

1. Ebola Outbreak Updates-June 11, 2015. Sierra Leone National Ebola Response Centre website. <http://www.nerc.sl/?q=current-statistics> Published June 11, 2015. Accessed June 11, 2015. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. Sierra Leone: a traditional healer and a funeral. World Health Organization website. <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/ebola-6-months/sierra-leone/en/> Accessed May 13, 2015. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. Health system experts blog on health systems research, policy, and implementation issues: Ebola’s collision with the Sierra Leone post-conflict health system. Health Systems Global website. <http://healthsystemsglobal.org/GetInvolved/Blog/TabId/155/PostId/27/ebolas-collision-with-the-sierra-leone-post-conflict-health-system.aspx> Published September 30, 2014. Accessed May 13, 2015. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)