



Date: **June 30, 2015**
Subject: **Answers to Questions**
APC RFA No. GH-019 – Improving Psychosocial Support and Mental Health in Ukraine

1. **Question:** Will only one sub-grant be awarded for a total budget of up to 2.5 million dollars? Can we budget less than \$2.5 million? Will only one agency be awarded the sub-grant?

Answer: Yes, there will only be one sub-grant awarded to one organization. The budget can be less than but not more than \$2.5 million.

2. **Question:** Can we apply to be a sub-award with the successful applicant to do part of the work in a specific region? We have sufficient capacity and needs assessment experience in a particular region. We would like to meet representatives of main applicants for discussing this opportunity. Will there be a platform for exchange of information between potential grantees and sub-awardees?

Answer: No.

3. **Question:** Are there any other forms of interest except for Section B2. "Technical Application" and Attachments 1 and 2 of the RFA GH-019?

Answer: No.

4. **Question:** When will the application winner likely be informed?

Answer: The best and final offer process is planned to begin end of July/early August. The final decision is planned for mid-August.

5. **Question:** Is there a need to provide official letters of support from the partners /potential sub-awards with the Application (as attachments)?

Answer: Letters of support are encouraged from the technical advisor and any partners/sub-awards identified in the proposal.

6. **Question:** Is an NGO registered in Ukraine eligible? Does the applicant need to be a U.S. based organization? If a Ukrainian organization is not eligible, can our umbrella international organization apply as the main applicant if they are based in the Netherlands or another country which is eligible?

Answer: An NGO registered in the Ukraine is eligible. The applicant does not need to be a U.S. based organization. International organizations are not eligible.

7. **Question:** Could you provide more details on 22.CFR.228 requirements?

Answer: Please refer to the website: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title22-vol1/pdf/CFR-2012-title22-vol1-part228.pdf>





8. **Question:** Are public international organizations eligible?

Answer: No.

9. **Question:** While “one sub-grant is anticipated under this solicitation,” can several US-based NGOs partner in applying for this sub-grant?

Answer: Only one organization can apply, though the applicant may identify some or all of the potential sub-awards in the proposal and may refer to them as partners.

10. **Question:** Could one or several of “at least 5 sub-awards” be issued to U.S.-based or other international (non-Ukrainian) organizations?

Answer: No.

11. **Question:** Is there a minimum and maximum number of sub-awards allowed under the sub-grant?

Answer: The minimum number of sub-awards required is five (5). There is no maximum number. However, a proposal with a large number of sub-awards would need to sufficiently demonstrate the need and organizational capacity for managing them.

12. **Question:** Do partners/sub-award organizations need to be identified in the proposal?

Answer: No

13. **Question:** How can the partner/sub-award budget be finalized now if exact partners are not identified yet?

Answer: Please provide only estimates.

14. **Question:** Does the candidate for Technical Advisor - with at least 5 years of experience in war-affected countries - need to be identified in the proposal?

Answer: Yes

15. **Question:** Should the “in-country technical advisor” be someone LIVING in the country? Or nationally FROM the country? In the case that a Ukrainian national is required and the in-country advisor is not from Ukraine, could a second national in-country advisor be put in place for the first year, and then transitioned over fully by the second year?

Answer: The Technical Advisor identified in the proposal does not need to be from Ukraine, but must be able and willing to relocate there for the period of the project. Refer to page 4 of the RFA for more details. He/She should be expected to oversee the entire period of the project.





16. **Question:** Is the “full-time technical advisor” (page 6) the same as the “in-country technical advisor” (page 4)?

Answer: Yes

17. **Question:** What supporting documentation, if any (e.g., CV, resume, job description) should be included in the proposal for the Technical Advisor?

Answer: His/Her CV and summary of qualifications.

18. **Question:** Should the project focus on promotion of IASC Guidelines on the level of service providers instead of recipients of services (translations, discussions, adoptions, training of personnel, etc.)? OR should the project focus on organizing the system of psychosocial assistance in accordance with IASC Guidelines, directly or through referral services, for cases of mental diseases, which is a pressing need for people in emergency situations? Would the latter be more of an objective for sub-awarded projects?

Answer: The RFA calls for the promotion of the IASC Guidelines at multiple levels, such as national Government, regional government, and service providers. It also calls for capacity building of service providers that will strengthen the delivery of psychosocial supports and services at levels two and three of the IASC intervention pyramid. Also, Objective 3 calls for strengthening capacities to link psychosocial support to evidence-based mental health services in at least one city in eastern Ukraine. This latter item could include strengthening mechanisms of referral which would enable appropriate treatment for people with mental disorders.

19. **Question:** Where can one find more information about the USAID-supported psychotherapeutic mental health training and mentoring underway in Ukraine through Johns Hopkins University (JHU)?

Answer: These activities by JHU are not yet underway, but funding has been received and they are currently in the process of detailed planning. Contact can be made with Paul Bolton of JHU for more information. Please email grants-APC@jsi.com to obtain his email address.

20. **Question:** Should operations only take place in Government-controlled areas of Ukraine?

Answer: Yes.

21. **Question:** Does USAID have its own appropriate screening recommendations for torture/trauma survivors?

Answer: USAID follows guidance given in the *Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriation Bill*, specifically the language contained in the Committee on Appropriations. The definition of torture in section 2340(1) of title 18, United States Code states:

- (1) torture means an act committed by a person acting under the color of law specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering (other than pain or suffering incidental to lawful sanctions) upon another person within his custody or physical control.**
- (2) Severe mental pain or suffering means the prolonged mental harm caused by or resulting from**





- (A) The intentional infliction or threatened infliction of severe physical pain or suffering
- (B) The administration or applications, or threatened administration or application of mind-altering substances or other procedures calculated to disrupt profoundly the senses or the personality
- (C) The threat of imminent death or
- (D) The threat that another person will imminently be subjected to death, severe physical pain or suffering, or the administration of mind-altering substances or other procedures calculated to disrupt profoundly the sense or the personality.

In 2012 legislation, Congress broadened the language to support people who experienced trauma. They recommended “programs and activities that address the needs of victims of ... trauma, resulting from violent conflict.” For the Victims of Torture fund, this means that people who have experienced trauma associated with conflict can also seek assistance under this funding.

See also Victims of Torture guidance listed in the RFA for practical application.

22. **Question:** One of the expected results is “IASC Ukraine Guidelines have to be officially recognized”. Recognized by whom: national civil society organizations (CSOs), Government of Ukraine? Please provide example(s) of organization, entity, level of government, etc. that would correspond to the desired level of “official recognition.”

Answer: This recognition is expected to occur on several levels. We suggest that applicants focus on whatever Ukrainian institutions are going to provide the services in the long term and work collaboratively to build support for the Guidelines. The level of Government could include different Ministries (e.g. Health Security or Education and Science, Youth and Sport, etc.) or departments/divisions within them that have operational responsibilities for implementing services, activities, or processes that aim to improve the mental health and psychosocial well-being of war-affected people.

Official recognition could be in forms such as a consensus statement embracing the IASC Guidelines as the main technical guidance for overall support of war-affected people in Ukraine; or a cooperatively agreed framework for mental health and psychosocial support to war-affected people that explicitly uses the IASC Guidelines as the foundation for guiding interventions.

Ideally, steps would be taken to achieve agreement as widely as possible across the different departments/divisions of relevant ministries and also civil society actors (e.g., therapists' groups, relevant academic departments or programs, community-based groups, and NGOs). When sufficient dialogue and consensus have been achieved, it may be useful to convene a national level meeting that enables support for and appropriate use of the IASC Guidelines.

It is likely that successful applicant will be part of a concerted effort to help influence field level support and capitalize on opportunities.





23. **Question:** Does The Project have any specifications for addressing the bottom layer of the IASC service pyramid?

Answer: The project has no specifications for addressing the bottom layer of the IASC intervention pyramid. The focus is on levels two and three, though page 7 refers to 'therefore addressing all levels of the IASC service pyramid.' Supports at the bottom level of the pyramid are, for purposes of this proposal, secondary to levels two and three (nonspecialized care).

24. **Question:** Considering that targeted communities (Internally Displaced People, ex-servicemen...) are spread over Ukraine with currently about 1 million in South Ukraine for example, can other regions than Eastern Ukraine be considered for implementing the Project? (i.e. South? Kiev? Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov?)

Answer: Emphasis should be on people in the East though a rationale for working elsewhere will be considered. Applicants should clearly identify and collaborate with providers of specific mental health treatments so that both the specialized treatment and psychosocial levels of IASC are covered. Specialized services could either be through appropriate local providers or through JHU. Whoever it is, the group should provide a letter outlining how collaboration will occur and agreeing to it.

25. **Question:** Can infrastructure refurbishment and electronic Information Management Systems (IMS) about impacted people be considered? These items are not listed in the proposed budget lines.

Answer: No infrastructure. On IMS, the review committee would consider a system that focuses on critical requirements, avoids duplication and maximizes coordination and impact that seems useful and relevant to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency settings (MHPSS). The proposal should clearly explain who would have access, how the information would be used, and what the expected benefits would be. Willingness to work with USAID IT support mechanism would be necessary for an IMS to be considered.

26. **Question:** Are the "Results expected" to each of three Objectives (RFA GH-019, pages 9-10) mandatory? Considering the medium or long term need vs. the short term addressed with the IASC, can a 4th Objective be proposed?

Answer: We would hope to keep the existing objectives but would entertain alternates or additions for compelling reasons.

