



Date: **August 23, 2013**  
Subject: **Answers to Questions:  
APC RFA No. GH-010 Improving HIV Services for Key Populations and Other Vulnerable  
Populations in the Dominican Republic**

**Eligibility: Questions 1-5**

1. **Question:** If a U.S. based organization is registered in the country, and meets the requirements (ii) to (iv), will that be considered meeting requirement (i) too?"

**Answer: No, the organization must also meet requirement (i).**

2. **Question:** Can a consulting and technical assistance firm present a proposal?

**Answer: A consulting and technical assistance firm can be part of a partnership but not the lead in presenting a proposal. The solicitation is aimed at local non-government organizations, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations that implement HIV prevention, treatment, and/or care and whose mission is to sustain the results obtained in these areas.**

3. **Question:** Can a consulting and technical assistance firm lead a partnership with other NGOs to present a proposal?

**Answer: No, but it can be a sub-grantee; see answer to question 2.**

4. **Question:** What requirements must the consulting firm meet to receive USAID funds?

**Answer: Please see 22 CFR 226 ([http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title22/22cfr226\\_main\\_02.tpl](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title22/22cfr226_main_02.tpl)) and *Standard Provisions for US Nongovernmental Organizations* (<http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303maa.pdf>) for requirements for US-based NGOs, which also apply to non-US based NGOs.**

5. **Question:** Can a consulting and technical assistance firm present more than one proposal in different geographic areas and different NGOs, in one as a leader and in another as a member of the team? For example:

Proposal 1: Consulting firm as lead partner plus partners A, B, C in the Santiago y Vega region.

Proposal 2: lead NGO and other [partner] NGOs plus M&E consulting firm in Romana y San Pedro.

**Answer: No; each organization may present only one application, but it may be included as a partner in other applications.**





### **Partnerships: Questions 6-7**

6. **Question:** We are an organization that does direct implementation and has the capacity to do so. Are we required to have implementing partners to be considered for this solicitation?

**Answer:** You are not required to have implementing partners, as long as your organization works on all five of the following technical areas: 1) Prevention, 2) Increasing uptake of/retention in PMTCT, 3) Counseling and Testing, 4) Care and Support, and 5) Positive Health Dignity and Prevention and you also reach all the key populations and other vulnerable populations described in the solicitation. If your organization works in fewer than three of these five technical areas and/or does not work with some of the key populations or other vulnerable populations, you must identify one or more implementing partners who do, otherwise your application will not be considered.

7. **Question:** If two strong organizations partner to submit a proposal, do they have to prepare two separate budgets?

**Answer:** Although the capacity to form partnerships is important, one of the two partners must be the lead NGO and the other the subgrantee. APC will not issue separate subagreements and/or approve separate budgets.

### **Technical: Questions 8-10**

8. **Question:** Would you approve a Project that focuses on boys, girls, and adolescents (orphaned and vulnerable children), boys, girls and adolescents linked to the specified priority populations (relatives), adolescent and young women as priority populations?

**Answer:** Not as priority populations, as the solicitation is aimed at local organizations that implement HIV prevention, treatment, and/or care for key populations—sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender; other vulnerable populations – clients of sex workers, mobile populations, and batey residents.

9. **Question:** Is the distribution of female condoms mandatory as part of the project?

**Answer:** Applicants will be expected to ensure the consistent availability of quality male and female condoms and lubricant as part of the package of HIV prevention services for sex workers.

10. **Question:** Which PEPFAR indicators can we or should we include in our proposal? Must they only be PEPFAR indicators [included] in the program outcomes list (page 10, Spanish version) or can we include other PEPFAR indicators we measure?

**Answer:** If you are measuring other relevant PEPFAR indicators you may include them in your application. PEPFAR indicators are required to measure the delivery of selected HIV services





to key populations and other vulnerable populations. Other indicators will also be needed to measure outcomes at the organizational level as well as community or population level. These go beyond service delivery and should reflect a quality, sustainable response that is community-based and service-linked.

**Application Format: Questions 11-12**

11. **Question:** Do you prefer the proposal be submitted in English or in Spanish, or does it not matter which one of these two languages we use?

**Answer:** You may submit a proposal in either one of these two languages.

12. **Question:** Must the proposal be single or double-spaced?

**Answer:** You may use either one, as long as it is on standard letter-sized paper (8 ½ x 11”) with 1” margins, using a font size of 12 Times New Roman (except within tables).

**Other: Questions 13-17**

13. **Question:** Can we present a proposal that combines several geographic regions, with activities to be carried out in one or two specified provinces?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the geographic regions are those specified in the solicitation and as long as you can clearly demonstrate how you will provide high quality services in all five key technical areas.

14. **Question:** What would be the start date of the project, if it is approved?

**Answer:** October 1st, 2013.

15. **Question:** Who is the Country Director for APC in the Dominican Republic?

**Answer:** The name is confidential.

16. **Question:** What is the duration of the project?

**Answer:** Three years.

17. **Question:** What is the percentage of the budget assigned to administrative expenses?

**Answer:** There is no set percentage.

