



Date: **March 12, 2013**

Subject: **Questions & Answers:**

**Advancing Partners and Community-based Family Planning
Project– Solicitation No. GH-004**

1. **Question:** What are the anticipated dates of the 12 month implementation period (start/end dates)?

Answer: *Award is planned for the second week of May. Implementation would be May 2013 to May 2014.*
2. **Question:** Are there specific countries USAID would like to prioritize?

Answer: *We prioritize low and middle income countries where there is a large unmet need.*
3. **Question:** Would reviewers prefer to see the proposal focus on one country or multiple countries?

Answer: *If the applicant can show they have the capacity to accomplish the tasks they have laid out in the proposal with the set amount of money in more than one country, there is no problem. Grants in the past have gone to organizations working in more than one country.*
4. **Question:** Will you consider proposals with a ROP component, or would you prefer the focus to be on the main cases of visual impairment: cataract, refractive error, and glaucoma?

Answer: *We do not fund work for ROP. This is not to say an organization can't be doing that work, but the training or equipment needed for treatment cannot be purchased with our funding.*
5. **Question:** We would like to know what the priority countries are for this RFA.

Answer: *There are no priority countries for this RFA aside from the fact that we work only in low and middle income countries and you cannot work in Foreign Policy Restricted countries (Iran, Cuba, and North Korea).*

6. **Question:** If you could elaborate on the budget items, "Fringe benefits" and "Indirect costs", for e.g. in some instances a vehicle is considered a fringe benefit, but what if a vehicle is really necessary to ensure follow up? Would fuel then be direct/indirect cost?

Answer: *"Fringe benefits" refers to staff benefits and allowances for which it is the organization's responsible to pay to staff in accordance with established written organization policies. These benefits and allowances include items such as, but not limited to, vacation leave, sick leave, medical insurance, transportation allowances, pensions, and any other benefit or allowance either mandated by law or commonly provided by the organization as part of the benefit package to staff. "Direct costs" are costs for goods and services specifically purchased (or used) for the exclusive benefit of one project that are charged to that project. "Indirect costs" are costs required to carry out a project, but are difficult to attribute to a specific project, such as electricity of administrative support staff in organizations with multiple funding sources. Project vehicles and fuel would therefore both be included in direct costs.*

7. **Question:** Is it necessary to register on the Central Data Base?

Answer: *Yes. Registration is required for receipt of award.*

8. **Question:** Would it add value to Pakistan's application to mention that the Africa office has previously received funding from USAID.

Answer: *Please see section V of the technical evaluation criteria where it states:*

V. Institutional Capabilities and Past Performance [15 points]

- The extent to which the Applicant demonstrates the institutional capability to manage the level of funding requested and implement the proposed project activities.*
- The degree to which the Applicant has or has access to necessary technical expertise to achieve the project purpose.*
- The degree to which the past performance information obtained demonstrates capability to implement work similar in scope.*

9. **Question:** Is the grant limited to specific countries? This question is principally related to Madagascar where we have a small project with the MOH and partners to develop pediatric eye care programmes (now with funds from Canada).

Answer: *No. The only limitation is in countries that are Foreign Policy Restricted (Iran, North Korea, and Cuba) and that they are low-middle income countries.*

10. **Question:** KCCO is in the process of establishing itself as a 501-c-3 in the US. For the past 12 years we have had all of our funding managed through Seva Foundation. I would imagine we will have our final paperwork done in 3-6 months....which may be too late for this RFA. If Seva does not plan on applying for this RFA we would want to have our funds managed through the KCCO account in the US (as were our previous USAID grants). I presume this would be OK.

Answer: *Applications from non-governmental organizations (NGO), including any nonprofit, for-profit not charging a fee, or voluntary organizations are accepted. For their application to be considered under this solicitation, NGOs must be already registered in the*

country in which they propose to work and be eligible to receive, or have adequate financial controls and can reasonably expect to be eligible to receive, USAID funds. No funds shall be paid as profit to any recipient that is a commercial organization. Profit is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs.

11. **Question:** KCCO is registered as KCCO International in South Africa and as KCCO Tanzania in Tanzania. KCCO International work is in about 20 countries in Africa (but not South Africa). Can KCCO International apply for work to be carried out in other countries where KCCO has existing projects? An example is Burundi: we are helping a local partner and MOH develop a Child Eye Health Tertiary Facility and this RFA would be very appropriate. KCCO does not have staff or an office in Burundi and is not registered in Burundi.

Answer: *It is a requirement of the RFA that the organization is registered in the country in which they propose to work.*

12. **Question:** What is the anticipated start date of the grant?

Answer: *Second week of May 2013*

13. **Question:** KCCO is the largest community eye care training centre in Africa and we do most of our training programmes on-site. For example, we have run a week-long childhood blindness planning course and our colleagues in Francophone Africa have asked us to help them develop a similar course. Thus, we would be keen to conduct a course for Anglophone countries, have colleagues from Francophone Africa come, work with them to develop their course, and help them facilitate their course. Thus, while the first course could be done in either South Africa or Tanzania (or another country) the second would likely be in DR Congo. KCCO does not work in DR Congo at present. Would this be OK?

Answer: *Please see response to question 11.*