



Date: **April 2, 2013**

Subject: **Questions & Answers:**

RFA Number GH-003: "Strengthening the Capacity of a sub-Saharan African Organization to Deliver Gender Technical Assistance Project"

1. **Question:** Is it possible to apply for this in partnership with another organization, or is it only possible for one organization to apply on its own?

Answer: We are open to the possibility of funding a partnership of 2 organizations. Please note that the total amount of funding available would not increase (i.e., would be the amount stated in the RFA) and whether/how the funds could be divided between 2 organizations would be agreed upon after the award (if funded) and contingent on participation in project activities. The funding might be used to build organizational capacity so that the two organizations collaborate effectively to provide gender TA for FP programs. Both partners would need to meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the RFA].

2. **Question:** We are currently in the process of signing an MOU with Ibis Reproductive Health to work in partnership with them on a national teenage pregnancy advocacy campaign. We would ideally like to fit your project into that work in an effort to maximize the impact of both projects. Would this fit this project's aims and deliverables?

Answer: The information provided in the query is insufficient to provide a definitive response. In general, this kind of collaboration is in line with the intent of the RFA--- to build the capacity of the grantee organization to work collaboratively to provide TA for the advancement of gender integration into FP programs (e.g., in this case a teen pregnancy advocacy campaign). That said, we are uncertain of whether it would be advantageous to build this potential USAID-funded project into an MOU at this point in time (if that is the intent).

3. **Question:** The scope of this project, in addition to building our own capacity around gender and FP/RH, to also provide TA to other organizations in-country around these issues. While this is very important, our concern is that such an approach may come off as top-down and problematic for some of these organizations, and therefore will not be as useful as it could be. Our organization aims to work in partnership and in collaboration with other organizations as much as possible and tries to engage with other organizations such that any assistance we provide does not come off as patronizing or otherwise insensitive. It seems as though this project seeks to be sensitive to such dynamics, but would love some input/guidance on how you see this project engaging with such dynamics and ensuring TA can be given in such a way as to not perpetuate a top-down approach to these organizations. Would there be room in the budget, for example, to spend some time engaging with relevant organizations in the country to see what they perceive as important areas to build their capacity in relation to gender and FP/RH?

Answer: Yes, absolutely! We agree that TA should not be "top down" and would welcome proposals that outline ideas for engaging relevant organizations to help identify needs. Such details should be addressed in the proposal (e.g., your approach to gender, case study).

