



PRACTICES, RESEARCH & OPERATIONS IN WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (PRO-WASH)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2/16/2022

RFA: SC-PRO-WASH-RFA-2022-01

Subject: Strengthening sanitation and handwashing within the Amhara and Oromia Regions of Ethiopia

Date RFA Issued:	February 1, 2022
End of Question Period:	February 11, 2022
Due Date for Applications:	March 7, 2022
Award Ceiling:	\$200,000 USD
Issued by:	Save the Children Federation, Inc./PRO-WASH Activity

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Q1: Regarding Attachment 1 (Proposal Narrative Template): May we produce our Technical Proposal in a software other than Word (which allows us more flexibility in terms of layout and information design), while still containing the required information

R1: Yes, but the submitted product should be in PDF or Word format.

Q2: Regarding Attachment 1 (Proposal Narrative Template): When you refer to a “Word compatible program”, does this mean you’re looking to have an editable version of the proposal or is PDF fine?

R2: PDF is fine.

Q3: Regarding the outputs: Are you able to elaborate further on what you mean by “both research outputs and communication outputs” (page 10 of RFA)?

R3: The outputs of this sub-award include traditional research outputs (e.g. study report, webinar debrief), but also include a capacity strengthening/training component (e.g. skillbuilder workshop on human-centered design for sanitation and handwashing behaviors) and communication products (e.g. learning briefs and videos). We recognize that these different activities and outputs require different skills and expertise (research skills, adult education skills, communication and video editing skills etc.). For example, the skills required to produce high quality communication products such as a professional video are different from those skills required to carry out the research. We expect that all the different types of activities and outputs will be of high quality and so we would like to see the proposal and budget adequately staffed for these different deliverables. For example, in addition to the research team, we would expect to see some level of effort from a training/adult education expert, communication specialists, videography etc.

Q4: Can a private company apply for this Research on Sanitation and Handwashing fund?

R4: Yes, please see section C. Applicant Eligibility of the RFA. “Eligible entities include NGOs, universities, nonprofits and for-profit entities not owned in-full or in-part by foreign governments. As per USAID ADS Guidance 2 CFR 200.400 the non-Federal entity may not earn or keep any profit resulting from Federal financial assistance, unless explicitly authorized by the terms and conditions of the Federal award”.

Q5: Can SPIR II, PReSERVE, and Ifaa RFSAs lead implementers and their co-implementers apply for this RFA?

R5: Yes, the SPIR II, PReSERVE, and Ifaa RFSAs lead implementers and their co-implementers can apply for this RFA. However, no technical staff working on the RFA is eligible to work on the research under this RFA. Care should be taken in the proposal to clearly demonstrate that the staff who would be carrying out the research would be distinct from the staff working on the RFA. The only exception to this would be support staff such as Country Director, Administrative/Finance teams who are not already 100% fully

funded on the RFSAs. However, the primary staff engaged in the research (overall design and management of this work, data collection, analysis, reporting, workshops etc.) should not be currently working on the RFSAs nor working on the RFSAs during the duration of this sub-award. This research should not be a burden on the RFSAs staff. Special care will be taken during the proposal review process as well as the subsequent steps to avoid any conflict of interest.

Q6: Do you have a guideline or preferred % on admin cost (i.e. maximum of 20%)

R6: There is no definite maximum percentages on administrative cost. In terms of overall evaluation of the proposal, the technical considerations are more important than cost, but the budget will be reviewed to make sure that all costs are reasonable and appropriate to the activities proposed in the technical narrative. If there are multiple high-quality technical proposals, then cost will be used as a distinguishing factor, and those with less administrative costs will be preferred.

Q7: Are we required to cover ALL of the project locations of SPIR II, PReSERVE, and Ifaa or can we do random sampling?

*R7: The researchers will be expected to carry out work in a **subset of woredas** in each of the three RFSAs project locations. The selected researchers will work closely with the SPIR II, PReSERVE, and Ifaa RFSAs and USAID and PRO-WASH to identify woredas to include in this study. This will be based on considerations such as but not limited to: a) accessibility b) which woredas can be grouped due to similar characteristics c) existing data or information on the topic for the woreda d) ongoing pilots of sanitation and handwashing activities e) other partner interventions etc.*

Q8: Are we required to submit letter of support from each of the SPIR II, PReSERVE, and Ifaa implementers?

R8: No letter of support is required nor expected from the SPIR II, PReSERVE or Ifaa implementers.