



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



PRO-WASH

Practices, Research and Operations
in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Questions to Commonly-Asked Questions about the Pathogens Pathway Study for Children under two years old in Southeastern Madagascar RFA

Last updated: August 4, 2020

****Note: the budget for this sub-award has been increased from \$100,000 USD to \$150,000 USD**

Question: Do we need to submit CVs as part of our final proposal package?

Respondents do not need to submit CVs as part of your final proposal package. Information about individual experts included in the bid should be detailed in short paragraphs in the budget narrative template. The paragraphs should provide additional details on why each expert was they were chosen for inclusion and the skills/experience they will contribute to the sub-award.

Question: Have you already pre-determined the sample size for this study?

No, we have not pre-determined the sample size for the survey. Once a grantee is selected they will work closely with our partners in Madagascar to determine among FIOVANA implementation areas (Appendix A) an appropriate sampling strategy, which would provide the most representative sample in the time allotted for the sub-award.

Question: Should applicants plan for/design a COVID-19 contingency plan? Meaning: what could this look like if the grantee is not able to mobilize within the timeframe due to travel restrictions. Or is PRO-WASH's preference that the modality remains the same but the time frame is pushed back until things are open to travel?

Yes, adding content to the response to proposal that outlines a potential contingency plan would be helpful. For example, the grantee could indicate their willingness to be flexible should the timeframe be pushed back or identify local partners they would be working with to collect samples.

Question: Is the budget inclusive of all subcontractors? Will the implementation cost for an intervention based on the applied research come from the larger study budget or is it a part of the subcontract?

Yes, the budget submitted by applicants should be inclusive of any sub-contractors needed to complete the assignment (for example, those tasked with collecting samples). However, the costs associated with piloting the recommended interventions come from the FIOVANA program as part of their larger WASH work. The strategy itself is meant to feed into the eventual interventions and provide clear, context-specific recommendations for their team to implement.

Question: In the application template, it states that unallowable costs include "Salaries of personnel, supplies, facilities rental, financial administration and other costs that are not directly related to implementing the project activities." This seems to indicate that indirect costs are not allowable (financial administration, etc.), however, the budget template states "Please provide a brief description of your US Government approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA), if applicable." This seems

contradictory. Are indirect costs allowable under this sub contract? Our institution has high NICRA, and therefore it would greatly impact the available budget for applied research if indirect costs must be covered within the \$150,000.

To clarify, indirect costs are allowable under this sub-award if they pertain to salaries, facilities and administration of those individuals working to support this award. If your proposal includes indirect costs you will also need to submit your NICRA letter along with the final application package. If the applicant does not have a pre-negotiated NICRA rate with the U.S. Government, this should also be noted in the applicants' response to proposal.

Question: Are there any particular pathogens that you expect a focus on for environmental and stool testing?

The team has not singled out a specific pathogen for environmental and stool testing. In this regard we're looking to be guided by applicants themselves based their experience conducting similarly-focused research and any information they could offer on likely pathogens based on previous research conducted among households in Madagascar broadly, or within the region being targeted.

Question: COVID-19 presents certain restrictions to travel. Is there any flexibility in the timeline?

Yes, I think all of the organizations involved, USAID, PRO-WASH and ADRA, understand that there are likely a number of delays that this work faces given current travel restrictions both internationally and internally within Madagascar. The six-month timeframe was given because the teams are also trying to align the outputs of this work with FIOVANA's timeline for implementation of all WASH activities. However, there would be some flexibility in the timeline but this is something that would need to be discussed and agreed upon by the final grantee and ADRA/FIOVANA once the award is granted.

Question: Is this contract cost-reimbursable?

No, the contract for this award is a deliverable/milestone-based disbursement so that no advances are available prior to the time in which work has begun. Payment is made along milestones that correspond with the deliverables outlined in the RFA. After each deliverable has been completed an organization can submit a payment request to PRO-WASH which is paid in full upon proof of work completed.