



## Localize Global Health Security Project (LGHS)

Grant Opportunity Announcement

Request for Applications (RFA) No. RFA\_SL001

Sierra Leone Bidders' Conference on July 23, 2024

### Responses to Questions

Posted on Friday, July 26, 2024

#	Question	Answer
<b>Application Questions</b>		
1.	Will we have access to a template for the RFA?	Bidders should prepare their applications according to the instructions in Section D: Application and Submission Guidelines of the Request for Application (RFA). The Localize Global Health Security (LGHS) project has provided a template for the required budget and its accompanying budget narrative along with the RFA.
2.	Is there an available template for the RFA?	Please see our response to question 1.
3.	Please clarify if we should expect an RFP after this or if this is the last step for the call for applications.	The RFA is the only solicitation notice being issued to inform local organizations in Sierra Leone of grants funding via the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) LGHS project and is the formal request for proposal (RFP) for all applicants. A separate RFP will not be issued. The RFA is the request for potential applicants to submit a proposal.
4.	Will you provide a template for the RFP after this RFA?	The RFA is the solicitation notice being issued to inform local organizations in Sierra Leone of grants funding via the USAID LGHS project. Please refer to Section D: Application and Submission Guidelines of the RFA for the complete set of instructions. LGHS has provided a template for the required budget and its accompanying budget narrative along with the RFA.
5.	Please specify which certificates, assurances, and statements agencies are supposed to complete and sign.	The required Certifications are attached in the RFA PDF document in full. Please review, sign, and return.

<p><b>6.</b> What is the response time after applications?</p>	<p>Applications are due August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, followed by a 2 to 3-week review period. We will notify grantees around August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</p>
<p><b>7.</b> Can we incorporate some of the activities mentioned in the RFA document?</p>	<p>Applicants are encouraged to submit applications they deem as responsive to the instructions and guidelines of the RFA.</p>
<p><b>8.</b> When reviewing the application materials, we noted that it states that a UEI is required for awards from Panagora. Since we are a Sierra Leone NGO, does this apply?</p>	<p>Applicants must have a Unique Entity Identification (UEI) to receive an award from the Panagora Group. The process of obtaining a UEI may take many weeks, so we encourage applicants to start this process as soon as possible. More information can be found at <a href="https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration">https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration</a>.</p>
<p><b>9.</b> We already have a Unique Identification Number; can we use the same number for this call?</p>	<p>Yes, applicants can use their already obtained UEI number for this solicitation.</p>
<p><b>10.</b> Please explain the need for a UEI for local organizations.</p>	<p>The UEI is a requirement of the RFA per USAID rules and regulations. Per the US Code of Federal Regulations, all recipients of US federal funds regardless of location must have this number. Therefore, all applicants must have a UEI to receive an award from the Panagora Group. The process of obtaining a UEI may take time. More information can be found at <a href="https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration">https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration</a>.</p>
<p><b>11.</b> Is it a must to register on SAM.gov?</p>	<p>It is not required to fully register on SAM.gov. However, to obtain the required UEI number, organizations must go through SAM.gov. The process of obtaining a UEI may take some time. More information can be found at <a href="https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration">https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration</a>.</p>
<p><b>12.</b> Are international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (headquartered outside Sierra Leone) registered in Sierra Leone with Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) eligible to apply to the call for applications?</p>	<p>This solicitation is only open to local NGOs that are either a non-profit, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity registered in Sierra Leone with the MoPED or District Government.</p> <p>These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not-for-profit and for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs)</li> <li>● Civil society organizations</li> <li>● Community-based organizations (not-for-profit and for-profit)</li> <li>● Local cooperatives or associations</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private enterprises</li> </ul> <p><b>Organizations based outside of Sierra Leone will not be considered eligible for grant support.</b></p> <p>While for-profits are eligible to apply, no profit or fee is allowed under LGHS-funded subawards (ADS 302sai, Profit under USAID Assistance Instruments, and <a href="#">ADS 302</a>). Applicants can find the full set of eligibility requirements under Section C of the RFA.</p>
<p><b>13.</b> Is it permissible for a locally registered NGO partner with an international NGO with the local organization as the Lead?</p>	<p>This solicitation is only open to local NGOs that are either a non-profit, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity registered in Sierra Leone with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development or District Government.</p> <p>All entities must meet the eligibility criteria set forth under Section C of the RFA so these funds cannot be further sub-granted to an international organization or entity to carry out the work put forth by bidders in their applications.</p>
<p><b>14.</b> Will a locally based and registered entity that has international connections, maybe registered elsewhere, be eligible to apply?</p>	<p>Please refer to our response to question 13.</p>
<p><b>15.</b> Is it possible for an international NGO to sub to a local NGO lead to provide specific capacity building in a specific approach that relates to one of the technical areas identified in the call?</p>	<p>Please refer to our response to questions 12 and 13.</p>
<p><b>16.</b> Can local NGOs partner with International or regional NGOs for technical support to implement this activity?</p>	<p>Please refer to our response to questions 12 and 13.</p>
<p><b>17.</b> Is it possible for two or three organizations to work in a consortium in putting the technical proposal together?</p>	<p>LGHS is open to receiving proposals from local entities that are responsive to the guidelines and objectives of the RFA. All entities must meet the eligibility criteria set forth under Section C of the RFA. Any resultant grant award must be made to</p>

	one (1) institution that is legally incorporated under the laws of Sierra Leone.
<b>18.</b> Can you identify any additional statements that we are required to complete?	After initial assessment of proposals, finalist candidates may be asked for additional information. Based on proposal evaluation feedback, finalists may be asked to revise or clarify their proposals. Finalists will also be asked to complete a pre-award survey.
<b>19.</b> Is this RFA going to be by the district or all the districts?	LGHS wants applicants to focus on the district where they are already present and have strong ties with the community and the local authorities. We will be evaluating the overall approach across all districts. The RFA encourages applicants to review Section A. Program Description for more details around the technical considerations for the application.
<b>20.</b> Can an applicant select any of the geographical location(s) for the proposal implementation or all the locations?	Applicants should demonstrate that the proposed intervention can have a measurable impact on the target population. LGHS is looking for a strong technical approach in the application, not necessarily large geographic coverage.
<b>21.</b> Is there a limit to the number of districts to be covered in any one proposal?	Please refer to our response to question 21.
<b>22.</b> Which chiefdoms in these districts will require program intervention? Is it all chiefdoms in the district, or are there specific critical areas?	There are no requirements for targeted chiefdoms and districts. The RFA encourages applicants to review Section A. Program Description for more details around the technical and geographic considerations for the application.
<b>23.</b> It looks like there is an error in the geographical scope. You have two Kenema among the Districts instead of 1. Can you clarify that please?	The duplicate reference of Kenema refers to Kenema District. There is only one Kenema District.
<b>24.</b> Do you have a list of communities to be targeted per district since you mention identifying target populations/communities?	There is not a prescribed list of targeted communities per district. The RFA encourages applicants to review Section A. Program Description for more details around the technical considerations for the application.
<b>25.</b> Why are the eligibility requirements so rigid? This affects organizations in rural	The eligibility requirements found in the RFA come from USAID requirements and regulations. Grantees must be legally registered entities in their host

	areas who are community based?	country because a grant is an award to a legally formed institution.
<b>26.</b>	Why is LGHS working with local organizations and not international organizations?	Localization is one of the initiatives of USAID. USAID aims to fund local entities with a commitment of 25% of program funds going to local organizations. When USAID refers to local organizations, they are referring to organizations headquartered in Sierra Leone.
<b>Technical Questions</b>		
<b>27.</b>	Can organizations propose activities under multiple technical focus areas?	Yes, but please clearly indicate which technical focus areas the activity will fall under.
<b>28.</b>	As far as the technical aspect of the narrative is concerned, how creative are we allowed to be with our application? With regards to the approaches, partnerships, and thematic areas?	LGHS expects applicants to propose creative approaches that build off current organizational strengths. Applicants must show that the proposed approach builds on existing activities that were successfully implemented.
<b>29.</b>	For the technical portion of the application, are you looking to see our innovative solutions as well as an innovative approach to answering the question?	Yes. The RFA encourages applicants to review Section E.
<b>30.</b>	Is it required to target all zoonotic diseases in the country, or can we select a key few?	Applicants can target the priority zoonotic diseases that already have strategies, including rabies, Lassa Fever, and Ebola. It's best to focus on the priority zoonotic diseases that are most prevalent in your targeted geographic area.
<b>31.</b>	What zoonotic diseases have been reported so far in Sierra Leone that would need attention for this project?	The 16 priority zoonotic diseases.
<b>32.</b>	Regarding zoonoses, is this focused on only current zoonoses, or does it include possible future zoonoses?	The focus of this project is on the 16 priority zoonotic diseases in Sierra Leone.
<b>33.</b>	Can we mention the vaccination of these animals against illnesses in our implementation plan?	Per the USAID LGHS Contract, grants funds cannot be used for vaccines. The LGHS grants program will follow the guidelines, and rules and regulations as per the LGHS contract, ADS 302 and 2 CFR 200.
<b>34.</b>	The Sierra Leone 2018-2022 National Health Plan is outdated, and the next one	The <a href="#">JEE 2023</a> and the <a href="#">IHR benchmarks</a> are two resources to inform your approach. Other key documents are the National One Health Strategic

won't be ready until after the application deadline, what other documents can be used to inform the proposed activities?

Plan 2024-2028 and the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) strategies for specific zoonotic diseases.