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RFA - IECD-RFA-2023-001

IECD

Local Organization Statement of Work

Creating WASH Champions Activity

Section 1: Background and technical description

A. Background

The Integrated Early Childhood Development Activity (IECD) is an integrated approach activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) led by Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and its partners including Helen Keller International and Safe Haven aims to advance the physical, cognitive, linguistic, and social-emotional development of young Cambodian children in Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear province. The IECD activity supports the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) efforts to promote nurturing care and improve nutrition for all children, including the most vulnerable, starting from before birth. The IECD program also works to ensure children with developmental delays and disabilities receive appropriate care and support for their families. It works to strengthen nutrition service delivery in health facilities and in communities; supports nutrition sensitive agriculture and improved livelihoods; improves water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices among caregivers; facilitates screening and access to services for children who may have developmental delays and disabilities; and promotes responsive caregiving to help children meet critical developmental milestones. These activities are delivered in an integrated manner, so that community-level health personnel and other social service providers are not overburdened and so that families can have streamlined support. IECD will also carry out a robust Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategy in both provinces as well as in Siem Reap.

The IECD Activity is engaging a series of new activities in Kampong Thom Province/Stoung and Prasat Sambour Districts and Preh Vihear Province/ Rovieng and Sangkum Thmei Districts to promote improved access to water and sanitation. The specific activities will be informed by on-going assessments of the target areas. Due to previous successful interventions using the *Civic Champion* approach, IECD is interested in training District and Commune officials in our target Districts to help increase basic and safely managed sanitation coverage.

IECD seeks a local firm or partner to implement the Creating WASH Champion Activity (WASH Activity). The WASH activity aims to support local governments to build the skills necessary for developing and implementing plans for increasing access to improved WASH services. The WASH Activity will start by engaging partners in Kampong Thom, as well as Stoung, Prasat Sambour, and Prasat Balangk districts, and Preah Vihear, as well as Rovieng and Sangkom Thmei districts to assess their enabling environments. These assessments should leverage existing analyses and be tailored to address existing knowledge gaps

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about the target provinces and districts. The assessments should also evaluate the local administrative and technical capacity for promoting access to WASH services.

In line with USAID's localization agenda, IECD-WASH aims to build partnerships and strengthen collaboration with across the governmental units and officials responsible for improving the water and sanitation conditions within Cambodia. The technical components of this grant will be coupled with capacity building activities that will be defined jointly between IECD-WASH and the successful applicant.

Technical Purpose

IECD seeks a local firm or partner to implement the Creating WASH Champion Activity. The WASH activity aims to support sub-national level governments to build the skills necessary for developing and implementing plans for increasing access to improved WASH services through the following activities:

Activity 1: Engage Local Partners to assess their enabling environments .

The WASH Activity will start by engaging partners in Kampong Thom, as well as Stoung, Prasat Sambour, and Prasat Balangk districts, and Preah Vihear, as well as Rovieng and Sangkom Thmei districts to assess their enabling environments. These assessments should leverage existing analyses and be tailored to address existing knowledge gaps about the target provinces and districts. The assessments should also evaluate the local administrative and technical capacity for promoting access to WASH services.

Anticipated Results:

- Improved understanding of the human resource capacity, funding opportunities, and other policy or planning gaps at the sub-national administration units.
- Enhanced communication and coordination between stakeholders from the national, provincial, district, commune, and village levels in realizing the national strategic vision to achieve 100% of WASH access to all by 2025.

*Illustrative Deliverables:*¹

Rural WASH capacity and system strengthening package developed based on the results of the assessments. The package should include tools, training materials, a costed roll-out and resource mobilization plan, with clearly described roles and responsibilities of national MRD and PDRD provincial focal points to enable replicable nationwide efforts to:

- i. Accelerate open defecation free provinces/districts/communes;
- ii. Promote pro-poor water supply and sanitation smart subsidies;
- iii. Mainstream climate resilient sanitation;

¹ Please note that all illustrative deliverables provided throughout the SOW are "illustrative." Applicants should propose deliverables that they believe are most appropriate for achieving the anticipated results for each activity.

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Activity 2 : To develop WASH champion leaders to support sub-national administration in planning, resource mobilisation and implementation through the Civic Champion programs.

After the assessments are completed (one per province and one per district), the partner will need to coordinate with key stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels to develop a capacity development plan for sub-national level system strengthening, functional assignment, climate resilient WASH planning and budgeting. Those stakeholders include the Ministry of Interior/ National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development, the Ministry of Rural Development, Provincial Administration, Provincial Department of Rural Development, Provincial Treasury, District and Commune Administration. Part of this plan will include implementing the Civic Champion program in all the communes across the five districts. Like the Civic Champion trainings, the WASH Activity will target key officials such as PDRD, staff of district economic and development office, commune focal point for WASH and CCWC, and help train them develop the leadership skills required for planning and implementing approaches for increasing access to improved WASH services within their jurisdictions. The partner will need to coordinate with the National School of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior to select instructors for the WASH Champion trainings, to review and revise the Rural WASH capacity and system strengthening package as necessary, and arrange the appropriate trainings. The partner will then need to facilitate the appropriate training workshops. The partner will help support the trained Champions in monitoring progress against their goals to help document the impact of the trainings.

In addition to the Civic Champion trainings, the partner will facilitate training workshop across target districts to develop rural water supply/sanitation planning and budgeting, and resource mobilization strategy. Once the plan is completed the partner will work closely with provincial/district administration to ensure endorsement/implementation of rural water supply/sanitation planning and resource mobilization strategy and provide follow up coordination to target districts on the implementation action planning and resource mobilization strategy.

Finally, to encourage peer to peer learning and to inspire the newly trained officials the partner will organize at least one learning exchange between PWG leaders and at least one exchange visit between district leaders within target provinces.

Anticipated Results:

- Improved understanding within the sub-national administration on how to become a WASH champion leader especially in planning, resource mobilization, implementation and monitoring of WASH service provision in their respective province, district and commune.
- Empowered leaders to help accelerate the uptake of improved water and sanitation facilities.
- Enhanced communication and coordination between stakeholders at all levels of the sub-national level administration.
- Clear process for planning and mobilizing resources within the WASH sector.

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*Illustrative Deliverables:*²

- WASH plan that include costed roll-out and resource mobilization plan, with roles and responsibilities of provincial administration, PDRD, district and commune administration, and other stakeholders. The plans will also include:
 - District/commune plans for achieving ODF;
 - Specific action to support pro-poor water supply and sanitation subsidies;
 - Strategies for achieving safely managed sanitation and ensuring safe and affordable fecal sludge management services; and
 - Mainstreaming actions of climate resilient water supply and sanitation services.

- Technical support and monitoring support to sub-national administration
- Documentation of issues/challenges found, corrective actions, and proposed next steps to MRD/PDRDs and sub-national administration.
- Technical brief on best practices

² Please note that all illustrative deliverables provided throughout the SOW are “illustrative.” Applicants should propose deliverables that they believe are most appropriate for achieving the anticipated results for each activity.