

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

Annual Program Statement
APS Number: CR-WASH-APS-001/2024

Thank you for your interest in the CR-WASH program and for your questions. Here's the information you requested:

1. Can we apply in a consortium of two or more local organizations

Response

Yes, you can apply for the CR-WASH program as part of a consortium with two or more local Ethiopian organizations. This can be a great way to combine expertise and resources for a stronger application. However, you will need to have one organization make the application as the principal recipient of the grant.

2. What is the minimum and maximum budget allocation preorganization/consortium?

Response

The grant amount will be dependent on proposed activities, but the maximum grant budget allocation is \$ 250,000.

3. How many regions can an organization/consortium apply for?

Response

The application documents will also specify the eligible regions for the CR-WASH program. The project location is clearly mentioned in the annual program statement and implemented in four regions Afar (Zone 1 and 3), Oromia (Borena and East/West Harerge zones), Somali (Fafen, Siti Shabelle zones), and South Ethiopia (South Omo Zone).

4. Is Dawa zone included in the project location of this call

Response

Yes, we are implementing the project in Dawa Zone of, Moyale and Filtu woreda.

5. Is an INGO eligible to apply? Is a local NGO preferred over an INGO?

Response

Eligibility: Applicant must be registered and formally constituted with the GoE at the national or regional level (attach the business/or organization registration license/certificate and/or the TIN for legally registered business)

INGOs (International Non-Governmental Organizations) are not eligible to apply for the CR-WASH program.

Preference: Preference will be given to local Ethiopian NGOs and Local Organizations and firms due to their deeper understanding of the context, existing networks, and localization of the resource.

6. Should applicants apply in consortium? And should applicant apply for all mentioned regions? Or is it possible to select certain regions?

Response

Consortium Application: Yes, you can apply for the CR-WASH program as part of a consortium with two or more local Ethiopian organizations. This can be a great way to combine expertise and resources for a stronger application. However, you will need to have one organization make the application as the principal recipient of the grant.

Regional Selection: The APS specifies the eligible regions for applications. You may be able to select specific regions to focus on within the eligible areas. Review the APS guidelines for details.

7. Should applicant respond to all IRs mentioned in the APS or would it be possible to select certain IRs?

Response

An applicant can choose to respond to all relevant IRs in their application or prioritize a selection based on your expertise and resources. We advise you to draft a well-organized concept note outlining how their approach satisfies the goals of the pertinent IRs.

8. What is the timeframe that applicant should apply for?

Response

The application deadlines (submission dates) are indicated clearly in Page 2 of the APS.

9. Why was it decided to fund ETB? The market in Ethiopia is highly inflated and expectation is that that continues so is there a possibility to negotiate receiving funds in USD to avoid realignments in the future?

Response

The decision to fund in Ethiopian Birr (ETB) is for several reasons among them, regulatory - USAID requirements or Ethiopian government regulations might dictate using the local currency.

10. Could you share us the CR WASH Grants under Contract Manual as mentioned on page 14?

Response

The CR WASH Grants under Contract Manual is an internal document for managing awarded grants. It is not shareable.

11. There are detailed criteria in the Annual Program Statement (APS). Does this apply for the 5-page concept note? Or is it only for the technical proposal which will be developed later?

Response

The detailed evaluation criteria in Section III. APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW/EVALUATION CRITERIA and the detailed evaluation criteria outlined therein will be used to evaluate the applications received.

The application form is **10 pages** (including Organization/Company background – Max 1 page, Methodology and Technical approach - Max 4 pages, Management, and Implementation Delivery Plan – Max 2 pages, Past Performance - Max 1 page, Inclusion of women and youth – Max 1 page and Extent of Contribution to USAID CR WASH Activity objectives per IRs – Max 1 page.

12. Do we need to give a detailed work plan, staffing, etc in the Concept Proposal?

Response

While a detailed work plan and staffing breakdown might not be required in the concept note, you should provide a **general outline** of your proposed activities, key personnel involved, and their qualifications.

13. Does the total activity budget mean lumpsum amount? This is indicated at the first statement (Financial proposal-not required)

Response

The "Financial proposal-not required" statement likely refers to a separate, detailed budget document typically submitted with the full proposal. The concept note might request an **indicative total activity budget**, which is a **rough estimate** of the overall project costs. This doesn't need to be a precise line-item breakdown.

14. For such a project, an indicative time frame should be given. We couldn't find this in the APS as the APS is common to all listed project activities:

Response

A typical grant will cover 12 months. However, there are several factors including the type of activities. The concept note should include an indicative timeframe for your proposed project implementation.

15. The concept proposal required page limit is 5 pages, but on the application form it is 8 pages. Which one should we follow?

Response

The page limit for the Application Form is 10 pages. Please use the revised application form that is uploaded in the RTI homepages www.rti.org/rfq

16. Giving an indicative budget will be a challenge (this will decide the resolution of the groundwater resource map, the number of trainees, number of days of training, etc.). If we give a lump sum indicative budget, will it be used as an evaluation criterion?

Response

At the APS stage, the Budget is not one of the criteria being evaluated. It will not be evaluated. Providing an indicative budget provides us with a sense of the cost of the activity.

17. Our Center (ACEWM) is based at Addis Ababa University with substantial autonomy. Is there any restriction to access USAID Fund for this specific project implementation?

Response

Being based at Addis Ababa University with autonomy should not restrict your access to USAID funding for this CR-WASH program, assuming you meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the APS.

18. Email Address for the Submission of the APS:

Response:

The Email for submission of the grant application is grants@cr-wash.org

Note the “hyphen” (-) between “cr” and “wash”. Its not a dot (.)