

Questions and Answers – 12/19/2015

Funding Opportunity Announcement CDC-RFA-GH16-1675

Strengthening Epidemiology and Strategic Information in the Republic of Zimbabwe under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

	Question	Response
1.	Would CDC please share the anticipated funding levels of the overall budget ceiling that are meant to support TB and HIV service delivery efforts, as well as CDC’s vision for the anticipated proportional support each technical area will receive?	The entire \$2,010,000 first-year ceiling listed in the announcement is intended to support TB and HIV programming, though dedicated support to direct service delivery is not anticipated. While only a modest share of the listed first-year ceiling is expected to address TB-specific surveillance or other strategic information needs, extensive TB-HIV coinfection within Zimbabwe dictates that many activities within this project will feature TB/HIV integration elements.
2.	Would CDC consider providing applicants an additional two weeks to respond to the subject Funding Opportunity Announcement, to allow for flexibility around the planned leave of stakeholders such as Ministry counterparts, implementing partners, as well as colleagues for the holiday period?	The application deadline date will not be extended due allow for flexibility around the planned leave of stakeholders such as Ministry counterparts, implementing partners, as well as colleagues for the holiday period. The FOA was posted on December 4, 2015 and closes on February 4, 2016. Applicants have 62 days to submit applications.
3.	Can CDC provide more detail regarding the survey component of this FOA? Will the partner be responsible for fully budgeting for these surveys in the proposal stage or will each requested survey come with an attached budget figure?	Referenced surveys will generally be fully budgeted for through the top-line budget for this project. The exact breakdown of budget by survey will depend on MOHCC needs and associated PEPFAR operational planning. Adjustments to the proposal workplan and budget to reflect more defined survey requirements are likely before program implementation begins. Further such adjustments are anticipated for future years. In general, surveys and other epidemiological assessments are expected to encompass 50-75% of total annual funding, though exact proportions in the first and future years will depend on overall funding levels and MOHCC and PEPFAR priorities.
4.	Page 11 “Develop an Annual Costed M&E Work Plan: The awardee will ensure availability of cost data linked to results and support the development of a costed annual M&E work plan with clear targets.” Does the highlighted portion refer to something like POART? Is a costed annual M&E work plan different and is where activities are budgeted, such that achievement of targets can be evaluated in terms of the costs associated with this achievement?	The referenced Annual Costed M&E Work Plan is not meant to be PEPFAR-specific, as with the POART. As referenced in this announcement, this project will support the MOHCC to develop a costed annual M&E workplan that covers the MOHCC's identified AIDS and TB programming needs through both PEPFAR and non-PEPFAR resources (including from the Govt of Zimbabwe, Global Fund and other donors). Please reference section II.A.2 (approach and accompanying narrative) for further info.

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5.	<p>Page 11 “Technical Support on Key Surveys and Surveillance: ...The awardee will also be required to provide data on treatment efficacies through implementation science projects that demonstrate the impact of treatment innovations.”</p> <p>Can you clarify if we should have data that can be used to inform implementation science projects or if we should plan on carrying out these implementation science projects as part of this award? If it is the latter can you confirm that this is covered under the scope of the award?</p>	<p>The implementation science projects, as with the other activities listed in the referenced paragraph, would be carried out as part of this award. The exact scope of each activity within this project will vary in accordance with MOHCC needs and PEPFAR operational planning.</p>
6.	<p>Page 13 “Indicator (and target): Number of completed epidemiological assessments available at national level per six month period Target of 1 completed assessment per six month period”</p> <p>“Indicator (and target): Number of completed surveillance reports available at national level per six month period Target of 10 completed surveillance reports per six month period (1 for each province and city)”</p> <p>Can you clarify what is meant by epidemiological assessments in this context? Is it, for example, the number of KP surveys done? Or is it the number of reports? However, the number of surveillance reports is covered in the next item</p>	<p>The referenced epidemiological assessments reflect reports from activities outside of routine, provincial-level surveillance. It thus does not include the surveillance reports. It would include reports from KP or other surveys, program evaluations, implementation science projects, costing studies and other similarly focused assessments.</p>