

Broad Based REOI | Q&A - REOI-NuMERAL-001

Questions	Answers
1. What is the actual duration for the project implementation?	The performance period for each subaward is expected to be up to 24 months.
<p>2. What is the total value of the project award?</p> <p>3. Is there a budget ceiling (or is 250K a guide)?</p> <p>4. Is the 50000 to 250000 USD range for a single EOI or all the two to five sub-awards granted in this solicitation?</p> <p>5. I will need clarification on maximum amount grant an intervention (single program) can access.</p> <p>6. What does the number and value of awards mean?</p>	<p><u>Number of awards:</u> NuMERAL anticipates issuing two to five subawards but may support more awards depending on the scope and quality of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) received and available funding.</p> <p><u>Value of awards:</u> Awards are expected to range from U.S. dollars (USD) 50,000 to USD 250,000 each. This range may be refined after the co-creation process. While USD 250,000 should generally be considered the ceiling, subawards slightly exceeding this amount may be considered in exceptional cases.</p>
<p>7. I 'm come from Madagascar, which is a region where USAID operates, but it is not listed among the countries covered by this initiative. However, in Madagascar, nutrition remains one of the priorities in all interventions. Could we have a chance to participate?</p> <p>8. I am writing in regard to the REOI for the NuMERAL project that is due on October 15, 2024. The NGO I work with in Comoros is interested, however it is not clear if Comoros is</p>	<p>Yes, Madagascar is eligible, because there is a USAID presence in Madagascar.</p> <p>No, Comoros is not eligible, because there is no USAID presence in Comoros.</p> <p>All applicants must be a local or regional organization (based in a country with a USAID presence). A local organization is defined as an organization that (1) is legally organized under the laws of the same country of the proposed work, and (2) has its principal place of business or operations in the same country of the proposed work. Local organizations are required to be registered in the country of operation. Regional organizations (based in a country with a USAID presence) are required to be registered in one or more of the countries in which they operate.</p>

<p>eligible or not. Could you please provide clarification on the eligibility of organizations that are based in Comoros?</p>	
<p>9. We come to you to request any link which may guide us to take the NuMERAL REOI course, so we make sure that we have enough information when completing our application. Can you please send us the link or any other material for the course?</p> <p>10. Could you elaborate on the course and its modalities? The likely dates and times, eligible participants, how to participate ...</p> <p>11. When we get the self-paced course on the NuMERAL REOI?</p> <p>12. Regarding point B. Self-paced course on the NuMERAL REOI, how can our organization benefit from this course and when will it start?</p> <p>13. Can you provide more information on the date the self-paced course will be released and when this course needs to be completed?</p>	<p>The course will be made available on/about September 16, 2024 in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. It will be accessible on our website: rti.org/USAID-NuMERAL. The course is a self-paced, online course that is open to the public and available for free.</p> <p><u>Course Purpose:</u> The course provides detailed information about the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) and guides applicants to develop a strong EOI in response to NuMERAL’s REOI. While the course is designed to be helpful, completion is optional and at the applicant’s discretion.</p>
<p>14. I am writing to seek clarification regarding the USAID NuMERAL Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) [REOI Number: REOI_NUMERAL_001]. Specifically, I would like to confirm whether it is permissible to submit an application in consortium or as an alliance of organizations.</p>	<p>We can confirm that consortiums are permitted to submit an EOI. However, please note that only one agreement will be established with a single organization. The signing organization will act as the prime for the subawards and serve as the main point of contact.</p> <p>Consortiums must be led by a local or regional organization, as defined in the REOI (see below) and we cannot fund salaries of Ministries of Health or other government entities.</p>

<p>15. We would also like to know whether consortiums are permitted to participate in this bid. If consortiums are allowed, we would be grateful for any specific guidelines or requirements that apply to consortium participation.</p>	<p>A local organization is defined as an organization that (1) is legally organized under the laws of the same country as the proposed work, and (2) has its principal place of business or operations in the same country as the proposed work. Local organizations are required to be registered in the country of operation. Regional organizations are required to be registered in one or more of the countries in which they operate.</p>
<p>16. Our question is: whether our partnership where EID is NOT registered in the country of implementation but the local CSO partner is registered will be eligible to apply.</p>	<p>You are eligible to apply as long as the lead organization is registered in their respective country.</p>
<p>17. Hello. I am trying to apply in request per standard, but I was confused with 3 phases. In phase one what can I apply and in phase two what can I apply? please give a little description.</p>	<p>The 3 phases are explained more in detail below.</p> <p>Phase 1: You will submit an EOI in response to this request. This is the current phase.</p> <p>Phase 2: If your EOI is selected, you will participate in a co-creation process with the NuMERAL team. This phase involves refining the research study, developing a study protocol, and creating an evidence-to-practice plan.</p> <p>Phase 3: If you progress to this stage, you will develop and submit a full application.</p> <p>This REOI is for the first phase in which applicants will submit an EOI. Although NuMERAL reserves the right to not award or only partially award applicants, we anticipate that organizations whose EOIs are selected in phase one will move on to the second phase of co-creation and the third phase of submitting a full application and most will receive a full award.</p>
<p>18. Are NuMERAL EOI open to undocumented Myanmar migrants pregnant women and children living at the Thailand Myanmar border?</p>	<p>If you are a registered organization in Myanmar or Thailand you are eligible to submit an EOI.</p>
<p>19. Could you please confirm if a pre-bid meeting is being scheduled for this opportunity? If so, we would appreciate any details regarding the date, time, and format of the meeting.</p>	<p>We will not be having a pre-bid meeting.</p>

<p>20. Is there any rubric that indicates the percentage limits per item in budget preparation, as well as the required cost-share percentage?</p>	<p>No, there are no percentage limits per line item, and no cost-share is required.</p>
<p>21. Could you share with us the account nomenclature you use and if it includes a detailed description of what can be compared, either in goods or services?</p>	<p>This question is not clear. Assuming this is related to the budget, we do not have any detailed account nomenclature. You should budget what is required for your study and add any category relevant to your budget.</p>
<p>22. What exactly does the call refer to when it mentions the "health system"? Are actions required to be carried out exclusively within the national health system? This raises doubts, since FUDI, through its Aq'on Jay Health House Center in Tecpán Chimaltenango, implements a comprehensive care model that, although it collaborates with the State health system, operates independently. Is it possible to present proposals that are not directly integrated into the state health system?</p>	<p>Research proposals may include interventions that are implemented through both the public and the private health sector. In addition, research proposals that test new or innovative approaches to deliver nutrition or Responsive Care and Early Learning (RCEL) services are acceptable even if they are not yet integrated into the health sector, but which are intended for future health sector implementation.</p> <p>An organization, which operates independently but collaborates with a government health system may be eligible if their proposal contributes to delivering nutrition and RCEL services in the context of the health sector.</p>
<p>23. I have map out intervention targeting pregnant women at vulnerable communities in Jigawa state Northern Nigeria. Based on my baseline research ,I had found that program should be jointly anchored by Department of Nutrition science Dutse polytechnic(Jigawa state) and school of Nursing Jigawa state (all public institutions). With major partnership from Department of Nursing science Bayero University and department of Human kinetics and Health education,ABU Zaria.</p>	<p>Based on the information you have provided; it is suggested that the intervention targeting pregnant women in Jigawa state should be jointly anchored by the Department of Nutrition Science at Dutse Polytechnic and the School of Nursing in Jigawa state while collaborating with the Department of Nursing Science at Bayero University and the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education at ABU Zaria. This is allowable and a consortium may apply, however, please note that only one agreement will be established with a single organization, which will act as the prime for the subawards and serve as the main point of contact.</p>

<p>I would like to know if this is acceptable?</p>	
<p>24. I would like to carry out another intervention targeting adolescent girls in birthing schools to improve Iron and folic acid among these age groups thus combating nutritional Anaemia . I will like to know how it blend with your scope?</p>	<p>This REOI is designed to fill evidence gaps in the delivery of high-quality nutrition and RCEL services through the health system. At present, this REOI does not encompass research on school-based programs, unless such programs are directly integrated with the broader health system.</p>
<p>25. Can we submit an application e.g., for Niger, or for Nigeria, in partnership with in-country partners?</p> <p>26. We are keen to work with USAID and RTI International on this nutrition in Africa. Can our office in Ethiopia qualify as a regional base to cover Malawi and Zambia for this project?</p>	<p>Yes, if the lead organization is a local organization as defined in the REOI and is registered in their country of operation.</p> <p>A local organization is defined as an organization that (1) is legally organized under the laws of the same country as the proposed work and (2) has its principal place of business or operations in the same country as the proposed work. Local organizations are required to be registered in the country of operation.</p> <p>Regional organizations are eligible to apply but are required to be registered in one or more of the countries in which they operate.</p>
<p>27. Given the emphasis on “delivery through the health system”, is it acceptable to have MOH as a partner (e.g., the Division of Nutrition at MOH)? If so, what should be kept in mind when budgeting for the time of MOH staff?</p> <p>28. Is it permissible to include a government department as a collaborator in any proposal? This could be in the context of engaging a diverse group of health sector stakeholders, implementers, and policymakers in the collaborative generation and utilization of evidence. Currently, government entities are not eligible for this REOI.</p>	<p>We encourage partnering with government entities to support the translation and uptake of evidence; however, we cannot fund salaries of Ministry of Health or other government entities.</p>

<p>29. More generally, are there any specific restrictions on the use of the funds within the funding range?</p>	<p>Please budget what is necessary to complete your study. If your EOI is accepted, we will review the budget with you to determine whether the budgeted items are allowable.</p>
<p>30. Could you elaborate on the structure of the co-creation process? What level of involvement and time commitment is expected from the selected organizations? What are the key deliverables expected at the end of the co-creation process?</p> <p>31. We'd like to understand better what the co-creation process will consist of. Mentioned in phase 2.</p> <p>32. During this three-month period, what is expected from the applicant. (How much time and resources to be invested. Online/ offline co-creation consultation process).</p>	<p>Co-creation brings together members of your organization and members of the NuMERAL consortium to collaboratively refine your planned research activities. The key outcome from the co-creation process will be a refined research study, study protocol, and an evidence-to-practice plan that will serve as a foundation to submit a full application.</p> <p>If you are invited to participate in co-creation, the co-creation process will range from 1 to 3 months after the EOI is selected. We will work with you to tailor the co-creation process to your specific needs. The level of effort will vary based on the needs of each local partner and in some cases, co-creation will require minimal effort.</p> <p>The amount of time/resources spent on co-creation will vary depending on the quality and completeness of the EOI.</p> <p>Co-creation can take place in-person, virtually, or a combination of the two depending on the preference and needs of the local organization.</p>
<p>33. Are the items listed under Other Direct Costs (ODCs) exhaustive? How about indirect costs?</p>	<p>The items listed under ODCs are not exhaustive, you should budget for the costs required to conduct your study. If an indirect rate is included it must be supported by a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) or audited financial statements.</p>
<p>34. We are interested in submitting an expression of interest to REOI NuMERAL_001 concerning partnerships in Malawi. WHH is dutifully registered in Malawi alongside our local partner organization. We would like to take on board as research partner a university, specialized in nutrition, in Germany. WHH would lead in this EOI with our local partner. The German university would come in in</p>	<p>The lead organization for an EOI must be a local organization. International NGOs cannot lead subaward activities.</p> <p>A local organization is defined as an organization that (1) is legally organized under the laws of the same country as the proposed work and (2) has its principal place of business or operations in the same country as the proposed work. Local organizations are required to be registered in the country of operation. Regional organizations are required to be registered in one or more of the countries in which they operate.</p>

<p>an advisory capacity. Would this constellation satisfy eligibility criteria?</p>	<p>Consortium members can include universities in an advisory capacity.</p>
<p>35. Are collaborative proposals with a HIC organization eligible, if LMIC partner leads?</p>	<p>An organization from a high-income country (HIC) is eligible as a consortium partner but cannot serve as the lead organization.</p> <p>All applicants must be a local or regional organization (based in a country with USAID presence). A local organization is defined as an organization that (1) is legally organized under the laws of the same country as the proposed work and (2) has its principal place of business or operations in the same country as the proposed work. Local organizations are required to be registered in the country of operation. Regional organizations are required to be registered in one or more of the countries in which they operate.</p>
<p>36. Would we be at a disadvantage if we propose a nutrition project that does not include responsive care and early learning?</p>	<p>No, you will not be at a disadvantage. Research proposals can focus on either nutrition and/or responsive care and early learning or both areas combined.</p>
<p>37. Could we ask about conducting study related to nutrition and RCEL interventions at community level? You know this solicitation basically emphasizes health facility points such as RMNCAH service contact points.</p>	<p>Research should focus on interventions delivered through the health system. This can include interventions implemented at the community level, provided they are linked to the health system. As noted above, eligible interventions maybe those that are intended for future delivery through the health system or those currently delivered through the health system, or both. Research can include delivery through both the public and private health sector.</p>
<p>38. From the guideline, a complete submission must include: number-6 mentioned about a valid professional certifications/membership- what do you mean by? Am not clear. Membership of which organizations?</p> <p>39. In point A. Format and submission procedure, what do “professional certifications/associations” refer to?</p>	<p>This is not required. If you have membership in any organization that you think will enhance your EOI you can provide this information.</p>

<p>40. As a NGO, are we eligible to apply for the project? Additionally, should we be applying for the project with a partner organization (Academic, local government or otherwise) or can we apply as a single institution?</p>	<p>Yes, we encourage local NGOs to apply. Government entities are not eligible for funding. There is no requirement to be partnered with an academic or other organization.</p>
<p>41. Must we strictly stick to only one priority topic per application, or may we have a strategy that incorporates a bit of two or more of the priority topics?</p>	<p>The priority topics in the REOI are broad and many aspects of nutrition and RCEL services overlap. It is acceptable to submit an EOI that supports more than one of the priority topics.</p>
<p>42. Could you kindly confirm if the NuMERAL REOI is open to INGOs operating in a country with USAID presence i.e. are INGOs considered eligible?</p>	<p>This REOI is only open to local organizations, not international organizations.</p>
<p>43. We wonder how organization can submit multiples EOIs while the solicitation is one?</p>	<p>Organizations with multiple research topics are permitted to submit multiple EOIs in response to this single solicitation.</p>
<p>44. What is the expected coverage for the project? Entire country or some districts? If it is districts, which ones?</p>	<p>It is up to each applicant to determine the geographic scope of their EOI.</p>
<p>45. It would be good if we have clarity on number of applicants to be selected for co-creation process.</p>	<p>We anticipate awarding two to five applicants for the co-creation process, but we may support more depending on the scope and quality of the EOIs received and the funding available.</p>
<p>46. The budget anticipated during the EOI phase shall refine after the co-creation phase. How flexible is the budget range, especially if the co-creation process identifies additional needs?</p>	<p>We anticipate changes in the budget after co-creation, but still expect the awards to remain in the \$50,000 to \$250,000 range.</p>
<p>47. We understand that the specific barriers that have been identified in previous integration efforts of nutrition and RCEL services within health systems will be shared with selected applicants. We would also like to understand if there are</p>	<p>The REOI contains all available information on the research topics. No additional details will be provided to the applicants at this stage. Regarding integration models, we do not recommend or prefer any specific approaches. While the self-paced course offers some additional background on the concept of integration, applicants are encouraged to determine model(s) and propose model(s) that may work in their context.</p>

<p>preferred or recommended models of integration that applicants should consider while designing their EOIs?</p>	
<p>48. Please clarify if the project aims to research in one or more countries.</p>	<p>This is entirely up to the applicant. We will consider EOIs that have research in only one country, and EOIs that have research in multiple countries. The organization must be registered in at least one of the countries of the proposed research.</p>
<p>49. Be able to submit regular progress reports, including information on key performance Indicators. Please confirm our understanding: Regular Progress Reports: Updates on key performance indicators, progress against the timeline, and major milestones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Reports: Detailed accounts of expenditures aligned with the budget. • Technical Reports: Documentation of research findings, analysis, and interpretations of results. • Data collection tools, survey instruments, or intervention materials developed during the study. • Conflict of Interest Report 	<p>Specific deliverables will be negotiated with the chosen applicants. Deliverables may include regular progress reports, technical reports, data collection tools, or other documentation.</p>
<p>50. We could not find any minimum requirements in the REOI document. Request you to kindly clarify.</p>	<p>Minimum eligibility requirements are those requirements outlined in Section 4: Eligibility Information. EOIs that meet the minimum requirements will be considered for evaluation using the evaluation criteria mentioned in Section 6: Review Information.</p>
<p>51. What level of expertise is expected from project personnel? Are there specific educational qualifications or experience that is being sought as the REOI is silent on this.</p>	<p>The REOI does not specify exact educational qualifications or experience level for project personnel. The emphasis is on having the appropriate expertise to carry out the proposed research activities effectively.</p> <p>You should aim to demonstrate that your team has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical experience in conducting similar research or evaluation projects. • Expertise specific to the topic areas you are proposing to study (e.g., nutrition, early childhood development, health systems). • Skills in stakeholder engagement and evidence translation.

<p>52. Organizational resources: Evidence that the environment in which the work will be done has sufficient institutional support and the resources required to carry out the proposed activities. It would be good if the supporting documents are specified</p>	<p>There are no specific supporting documents required. We will assess these criteria based on the planned scope of work and CVs or resumes.</p>
<p>53. Significance: The proposed activities address an important problem and will contribute and support learning in one or more of the priorities outlined in this REOI. Ability to demonstrate that the proposed activities are aligned with national priorities and are relevant and responsive to an expressed need in the context where the activities are based and that the outputs of the proposed activities will meaningfully contribute to relevant policies and practices. Can you provide more specifics on prioritization within the four primary research areas? Is there a particular area of focus due to current needs or gaps in evidence</p>	<p>All four priority topics are presented as equally important in the REOI. The document states: "NuMERAL is currently seeking EOIs under this REOI to further explore four priority topics."</p> <p>The REOI stresses the importance of aligning proposed activities with national priorities and addressing expressed needs in the local context. It states: "Ability to demonstrate that the proposed activities are aligned with national priorities and are relevant and responsive to an expressed need in the context where the activities are based." Also, the REOI encourages applicants to propose innovative ideas that address important problems within these broad priorities.</p>
<p>54. What would be the schedule for implementation of the 4 projects? Would each project have a separate timeline?</p>	<p>What is meant by "the 4 projects" is unclear. NuMERAL has chosen four priority research topics that applicant research could address as part of the current REOI. Applicants can submit an EOI that addresses one or more of these research priority topics. Each subaward funded will have their own specific timeline based on their application.</p>
<p>55. Can the same experts work on all the priority areas if they have the required expertise?</p>	<p>Yes, experts can work on all the priority areas if they have the required expertise.</p>
<p>56. We would like to understand more about the approach intended by the Numeral Project, whether it would be research or whether it could be along the lines mentioned above as a CONTRIBUTION to</p>	<p>The focus of this REOI is to carry out research. However, this can include implementation research on nutrition and/or early learning and responsive care interventions.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition interventions in health systems • Promotion of complementary feeding and • Micronutrient supplementation for adolescents, mothers and children and 	
<p>57. In point E. Additional requirements - one of the technical requirements mentioned is knowledge and understanding of health systems, nutrition, ECD or related fields, if the organization does not have this knowledge can it apply?</p>	<p>Organizations must have knowledge of one or more of the technical areas mentioned in the REOI.</p>
<p>58. Point H. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), states that although it is not required at the submission stage of the REOI, applicants are encouraged to obtain their UEI number by registering through the SAM (https://www.sam.gov),</p> <p>We would like to know more about the procedures for obtaining this number.</p>	<p>Applicants are encouraged to obtain their UEI number by registering through SAM (https://www.sam.gov). Specific instructions for obtaining a UEI number will be shared with selected EOI applicants.</p>
<p>59. This section also states that Expressions of Interest must be sent by email and that the subject field must include the REOI number and the candidate's name, in the format: "Expression of interest EOI/NuMERAL/01/2024/[Applicant's name]."</p> <p>What would the R number be?</p>	<p>R is request, as in Request for Expression of Interest (REOI).</p>
<p>60. What kind of outputs do you expect at this level, considering a co-creation process w/ NuMERAL? Will interventions be expected to be flushed out in the proposal – or can various ones be suggested for further deliberation?</p>	<p>The co-creation period is intended to refine your research proposal. Thus, we recommend submitting an EOI with as detailed and comprehensive a planned scope of work as possible.</p>
<p>61. Do all the members of the team need to be local or may 1 global expert be included? Can such team members be in the budget?</p>	<p>If the international expert is paid for by the local organization, then this is allowable in the budget.</p>

<p>62. The REOI outlines 4 priority research areas, while the evaluation criteria assess addressing and supporting learning in 'one or more of the priorities'. To what extent will the number of priorities addressed in the EOI impact assessment?</p>	<p>The number of priorities included in your research plan will not impact the assessment. Your proposal will be assessed based on how effectively it addresses at least one of the priority topics in the REOI.</p>
<p>63. Knowing that nutrition and RCEL are the two main pillars of this REOI, would a submission that holistically addresses both or engages more deeply with one area be prioritised?</p>	<p>We are assigning equal importance to research proposals focusing on nutrition, RCEL, or a combination of these interventions.</p>