

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MISSION TO MALI AND THE WEST AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAM
Acquisition & Assistance Office**

March 13, 2003

Amendment 1

SUBJECT: Request for Application (RFA) No. 688-03-012, Amendment Number One
Cercle Level Health Program in Mali

Dear Sir/Madam:

The text on the continuing pages amends the subject request for application. The closing date/time remains unchanged.

Regards,

Signed

Marcus A. Johnson, Jr.
Regional Agreement Officer

1) In SECTION III, C.3.4, entitled “Relationship between Implementation Mechanisms” (page 19) delete “See the reference chart for further clarifying the respective roles of the National Level and the Cercle Level awards.”

2) In SECTION V – ANNEXES (REFERENCES), page 45, add:

“Relevant Questions & Responses for Interested Parties

QUESTION #1 - The RFA on p. 6 states that an executive summary of no more than five pages is required in both the French and English languages.

a. Does this mean an executive summary in English of no more than five pages and the French translation can be an additional five pages, or five pages for both the English and French versions of the executive summary?

RESPONSE to #1a: The executive summary in must be in English, no more than five pages, and the French translation can be an additional five pages.

b. Does the French translation of the executive summary count against the 70 pp. limit on the proposal?

RESPONSE TO #1b: Yes.

QUESTION #2 - The page limit for the executive summary was clearly defined. Could you please clarify if the five pages total includes the French translation, or if that is separate.

RESPONSE TO #2: The French Translation is separate.

QUESTION #3 - Does the case study mentioned on p. 7 count against the 70 pp. limit on the proposal or can the case study be included in an annex?

RESPONSE TO #3: While it may be an annex, it will count against the page limitation.

QUESTION #4 - On p. 30, under "Location," the RFA states "evidence of commitment from partners to house CA staff should also be included." Does this mean a letter(s) from the Ministry of Health office(s) or something else? Please advise.

RESPONSE TO #4: Yes.

QUESTION #5 - It is not clear from the RFA whether the project staff should be housed in:

- a. Bamako (as stated on p. 19 under "Cercle Level Cooperative Agreement") or
- b. At the Ministry of Health (MOH) at the regional or cercle level as stated on p. 30 (under "Location").

RESPONSE TO #5: This is up to the offerors to decide based on how their programs are designed. Both locations are possible

QUESTION #6 - Is it possible for you to give us an indication about the USD/CFA exchange rate to be used for the RFA/P budgeting purpose?

RESPONSE TO #6: Today's [February 26, 2003] exchange rate is officially 610 F CFA to \$1. The USAID Controller is currently referencing 550 F CFA to \$1 for (near-term) future budgeting purposes, however F CFA payments are made at the exchange rate of the day the transaction (actual payment transfer) takes place. An offeror should propose rate(s) that it believes are reasonable given its risk assessment, including historical. The rationale of the USAID peg rate is based on a host of factors not relevant to private sector entities.

QUESTION #7 - The cercle of Dioila is in the intervention area. Are both health districts (Dioila and Fana) included in this?

RESPONSE TO #7: Yes.

QUESTION #8 - Part 6 on page 23 mentions an annex for "Examples of tools and indicators related to local partner capacity building." Is this annex available, and if so, where?

RESPONSE TO #8: Yes, the link is <http://www.childsurvival.com/documents/usaaid.cfm> or more specifically <http://www.childsurvival.com/documents/USAID/trmodules/trms.doc>

QUESTION #9 - The RFA also mentions a reference table clarifying the respective roles of national and circle level awards (pg. 20). Is this table available?

RESPONSE TO #9: We will probably delete this reference entirely in a forthcoming amendment, if not the amendment will provide the table. [Note: The reference to the table is deleted.]

QUESTION #10 - In the following paragraph, are we right in understanding that only proposals for US applicants would be acceptable?

"U.S. private voluntary organizations, not-for-profit organizations, universities and other legal entities in the private sector with the requisite capability and experience to conduct a program aimed at supporting achievement of the goals described in the attached pages."

And also, are we correct in understanding that a non-US firm, could be considered only as a party in a public-private alliance?

RESPONSE TO #10: Non-US organizations may indeed also propose under the referenced request for applications (grant) as the prime, as a subcontractor/grantee, as well as in a public-private alliance arrangements.

Our Agency Request for Proposals (RFP) to place contracts are more restrictive.