

USAID's Food For Peace: International Food Relief Partnership Program
Thursday, June 25, 2009
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Speakers

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Kimberly Ball

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you all and thank you for joining today's conference call. I also want to let you know about an upcoming CFBCI sponsored event. On July 16, 2009, the CFBCI will be hosting a meeting regarding HIV/AIDS programming. The meeting will be held in the Ronald Reagan Building here in Washington from 2:00-4:00 PM EDT. We are still in the process of finalizing the agenda, but we hope to have representatives from USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS, the Global Development Alliance, Office of Acquisition and Assistance and the Department of State's New Partner Outreach office. We hope that the discussion will include an overview of PEPFAR implementation and the planning process, Public Private Partnerships, and PEPFAR programming as well as specific information regarding the areas of focus that participants indicate when they RSVP. Additionally, there will be a Q&A time during the meeting with the USAID and State Department staff. We see these meetings as an opportunity for you to hear from the U.S. Government and each other regarding developing HIV/AIDS programming, and for us to hear from you regarding the great work that you are doing. If you plan on attending please RSVP to fbc@usaid.gov by Thursday, July 9th. We are asking that participants let us know their area of focus when they RSVP (prevention, care, PEPFAR and Nutrition, PEPFAR and Gender Issues, or Treatment)

Ben Vogler

Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to speak with you all today. I work in the Office of Food For Peace (FFP) within the USAID Bureau for Democracy, Conflict Resolution and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA). My primary focus is on emergency food programs in the Asia and Near East region and on the topic of today's call, the International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP). Some of you may have heard of this program already and are familiar with the logistics of working with it. However, today I'm assuming most of you are not familiar with it and so will provide an introduction to the IFRP.

It is a hybrid approach to the way that FFP and USAID implements food aid programs overseas. It is a hybrid because it is set up differently than the Title II programs that FFP

manages. It is smaller and, logistically speaking, its set up is simpler in nature when it comes to implementing food aid relief.

Started in 1999-2000, IFRP has proven quite successful. It was originally introduced as new legislation in both of the 1998 and 2002 Farm Bills and mandated that the Agency provide more of an open door to smaller organizations who might be interested in working with USAID. It has provided an easier venue to bring in additional new partners and to expand upon our traditional base of partners. It has allowed us to seek out private sources of food commodity instead of the usual way of purchasing commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture). Title II programs use a completely different process.

There is a two-pronged approach that organizations can use to apply for grants through the IFRP.

1. If they have the capacity to produce, package, and store.
2. If they have distribution programs

After we finished the initial procurement process and started the program, we ended up with one viable product that is produced for the IRFP. It is a dried vegetable soup mix produced by company in Lubbock, Texas. Once we had the product, we first started advertising that we were receiving grant proposals.

From 2000-2001, there were four separate grants to receive, load, transfer, and distribute this product to their programs overseas. Now we have over 40 organizations and many separate grants available. Over the last 10 years, of the 40 organizations that we have partnered with through this program, 27-28 of them had never done business with USAID before. That means that we satisfied our mandate to expand our base of traditional partners.

In 2006, we realized that the program had grown to the point where we needed to turn the IFRP into a limited access competition. Each year we have a number of grants available that are one year in duration and up to \$130,000 and 72 tons each.

This year we are competing the production side of this program for the first time. The closing date for applications for the production side is August 25, 2009.

Q&A

Our organization does humanitarian relief in southern Sudan. Our programs are teaching people to fish with nets and we have distributed several hundred so far. Is there a place in your organization in distribution and production to help the starvation relief in that part of Sudan?

There are a couple of venues that you might be able to consider. First, you must be a U.S. based, 501(c)3 organization. That being said, a lot of the NGOs rely heavily on

their local, in-country NGO partners. They work with them to enhance their capacity and it often helps save money in program implementation. The IFRP may be one venue for you to consider. You may also want to access the Food For Peace webpage to learn about other opportunities (http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/ffp/).

Another option for you to consider, would be to collaborate with another organization. You may want to look up what organizations are receiving Title II funding in Sudan. You can contact them directly to see if there are any opportunities to subcontract or sub grant with them. You should be able to see who USAID's current partners are on the [USAID mission's website](#).

We are partnering with UNHCR to provide camp management in Goma in the Congo. We have not yet registered with USAID as a Private Voluntary Organization (PVO). Are we qualified to apply under this program?

As with most USAID programs, in your organization must first register with USAID as a PVO order to participate in the IFRP. To learn more about the registration process, [click here](#). Once you complete the registration process you will be eligible to apply for grants on www.grants.gov with USAID. Registering as a PVO does not guarantee that you will receive a grant.

I just returned to the US from the Congo. After 10 years of war, with huge casualties, there is a great need for assistance. How can we tap into your program?

As I mentioned previously, the IFRP is one venue that you might want to pursue as an option to get involved. The one thing I did not mention during my intro is that there are two ways for organizations to get involved under IFRP. The way most people get involved is on the distribution side applying for grants to distribute the soup mix. We just closed that side of the program for 2009. We will probably go out with a new submission for new grant agreements in January 2010. We will put up information on the IFRP webpage with information on how to apply and how to distribute. Secondly, this year we are competing the production side of this program for the first time. The closing date for applications for the production side is August 25, 2009.

Another option is through intermediary partnerships. It's beneficial to be aware of other organizations implementing food programs in your country of focus. We encourage collaboration and suggest that you work on building relationships with these other organizations.

Our organization is currently trying to register as a PVO. I understand that there is a new application/new website for the IFRP. What is the best way to familiarize ourselves with how the program accepts applications? Are there samples? We've actually already gone through the sub-granting program. We have money to ship, but we don't have food to ship. Is there anything else that we can do?

The Request for Applications (RFA) that I mentioned earlier is an RFA for new products for the program. This is aimed at U.S.-based organizations that have the capacity to produce, process, stockpile and warehouse food commodities. This RFA closes on August 25, 2009. The RFA for organizations interested in distributing food commodities closed on March 15, 2009. There are no allocations between now and the end of the FY 2009 (September 30, 2009). We received 81 applications and will be able to fund approximately 30 of 81. The RFA will go out again on www.grants.gov and the IFRP website. I know we just referred to sub-granting programs. USDA also has extensive overseas food aid program through their Foreign Agricultural Service bureau (USDA/FAS) . This bureau can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov>.

We're a registered PVO with USAID working out of South Florida. We partner with lots of organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean that run these type of programs. I understand however that we are limited to two applications. We find it hard to decide which partner to go through. Is there a framework of priorities that you all work by? Are there countries that are Title II focused and IFRP focused? Is there a limit to how much funding goes into each country?

Yes, you are correct. Organizations are limited to two applications per cycle. That is part of our mandate to diversify our partners. Prior to implementing that requirement, we had three to four organizations monopolizing the program. (i.e., one organization received eight separate grants to implement the program) Since we still want new, small faith- and community-based organizations to participate under the program, we have implemented the two applications per organization rule. IFRP does not have a country preference list; however Title II does have a [list of the countries](#) where it works. In saying that, we do prefer IFRP distribution programs be in countries where there is a [USAID mission presence](#). In the past, we have had problems in countries where there have been political issues with genetically altered food.

What are the criteria for choosing?

It is a combination of the application and the need in the country. We share applications with our missions if they focus on their specific country. We entertain feedback from missions regarding conditions in the regions and whether or not the product would be something viable and would address the issues there. There is also a great deal of weight given to the technical merit of the suggested project. We want to ensure that it is in line with the solicitation guidance and is cost effective. Again, the guidelines and procedures spell everything out in the original RFA. All applications are reviewed and scored by two separate technical committees. We ask that anyone contemplating submitting an application please follow the guidelines on the webpage.

Do you have a date for the next RFA? Will programs in Sudan be considered?

There is no set date for the next RFA. As I mentioned, we have just closed the 2009 cycle on March 15th. From now on, there will be an RFA once a year. We expect the next grant application submission date for distribution of goods under IFRP will be sometime between January and March of 2010.

I believe that programs in Sudan will be considered, but I don't have to tell you that there are a lot of more complicated issues to deal with in Sudan. The only constraints would be the current situation on the ground there. It will, of course, depend on your proposed programs. There is a lot of concern with optics with programs in that area. Since it is competitive program, I can not say anything definite beyond the fact that applications for programs in Sudan will be considered.

Kimberly Ball

Thank you so much for participating in today's call. We would ask that you send any questions we did not have time to address to fbc@usaid.gov . The minutes from this call will be posted on the USAID CFBCI website and included in the weekly email newsletter. The CFBCI is continually looking for feedback on these calls and our newsletter. Please email us at fbc@usaid.gov if you have questions or comments regarding either.