



## ACCESS COMPETITIVE INVESTMENT MECHANISM

### Questions and Answers

#	Questions	Answers
<b>ACCESS Scope</b>		
1	Could you clarify if 'promoting sustainable quality services' (one of the goals) through the ACCESS initiative relates to health <i>or</i> social services <i>or</i> perhaps both?	It covers both: For persons with disabilities the focus is on access to physical rehabilitation services and access to employment opportunities (also including access to vocational training). For women affected by violence it covers access to relevant health services, access to justice and access to essential services such as counselling and shelter.
2	Are eligible provinces for CIM only the three priority provinces?	There are 15 eligible provinces for the CIM. In addition, three of the 15 provinces have been identified as places to support a comprehensive package of services across various ACCESS intermediate outcomes. These are also provinces where stronger synergies will be established between Disability and GBV workstreams. An applicant can consider submitting a proposal in any of the 15 Provinces, especially to build capacity of existing services and scale up coordination and referral systems.
3	Can provinces be selected across the 15 eligible provinces or should only be the 3 focus provinces.	Yes, the intervention can cover one or several provinces across the 15 eligible provinces. The focus provinces are the ones where we wish to see a comprehensive package of activities (variety of services for women affected by GBV, provision of economic opportunities to persons with disabilities, synergies between GBV and disability interventions for example). You can propose activities across one focus province and another province providing you have a good rationale.
4	The Guidelines regularly refer to the NAPVAW & NDSP priorities. NAPVAW 3 and NDSP 2 have not been released yet. What are the NAPVAW and NDSP priorities that ACCESS is aligned with.	Both NAPVAW 3 and NDSP 2 are under preparation. The ACCESS priorities presented in annex 2 of the EoI guidelines have been developed in consultation with MoWA and DAC/MoSVY and reflect NAPVAW and NDSP new priorities. For the development of your EoI, you may refer to priorities under NAPVAW 2 and NDSP 1.

5	In Annex 2, some cells in the “Support through CIM” column are empty (for example: the cell next to “Develop PRC Minimum Package of Services (PRC-MPS). Does this mean ACCESS will not support activities that contribute to reach this priority?	ACCESS will provide support towards the development of a PRC minimum package of Services. This activity will be led by ACCESS’ government counterparts with technical assistance from ACCESS’ advisors. It is anticipated that all relevant stakeholders will participate in the development of the minimum package and will undertake demonstration projects to support operationalisation of the minimum package of services.
6	Could you clarify what means “limited direct service delivery”	The purpose of the ACCESS program is not to provide funds to NGOs to deliver services, but rather to strengthen the quality, and the capacity of existing services. When there is recognition that government services are not available, we may consider supporting applicants to deliver services during a transition period.
7	Is ACCESS considering violence against children (girls and boys)?	ACCESS focuses on violence against women and NAPVAW implementation, which is led by MOWA. Prevention of violence against children is under the lead of MOSVY. There are two distinct national action plans. Actions focusing on violence against girls can be eligible for ACCESS.
8	If we work in one of the three priority provinces, do we have to provide a comprehensive package of activities (across various sectors)?	It is not expected that one single applicant provides a comprehensive package of activities. An applicant can focus on its own area of expertise and manageable resources. It is the combination of the work of several grantees working in a same geographic location that will allow for a comprehensive approach.
9	Is disability and WASH an eligible activity?	Please refer to Annex 2 for list of eligible activities. Areas of focus under the Disability workstream are coordination, rehabilitation and employment.
10	How is the CIM covering the third ACCESS component related to Public Financial Management?	PFM is considered a cross cutting element. Annex 2 of the guidelines presents the priorities that have been defined for the GBV and the disability workstream as well as cross cutting activities that are eligible.
11	ACCESS has separate fund allocations for GBV and Disability. If two organisations combine their work on the two ACCESS workstreams within one EOI, could the budget allocation be increased above the defined ceiling?	We encourage proposals with combined activities across the two workstreams and with cross cutting elements, however the ceiling remains 600 000 for a single application. It is encouraged that applicants bring co-funding, but is not compulsory.
12	Can this call look at the angle of social protection	Social protection is highlighted as a cross-cutting element rather than a direct area of focus. Please refer to Annex 2 for CIM earmarked activities.

13	Is a Spinal Cord Injury centre eligible for rehabilitation support?	The targeted interventions for physical rehabilitation component will focus on 11 PRCs.
14	Does CIM consider Rehabilitation at the Hospital level?	The targeted interventions for physical rehabilitation component will focus on 11 PRCs. CIM covers activities on early identification, coordination and referral in connection with health facilities.
15	Is prevention of GBV eligible?	GBV prevention at the community level is not identified as a priority. Provision of information on existing GBV services is eligible.
<b>Applicant Eligibility and partnerships</b>		
16	Overall clarification on partnership	Partnership for ACCESS is in the broad sense. Clearly identify the sub-grantee(s), but also any links with “associates” (organisations you will collaborate with without budget transfer, and who may apply to ACCESS separately).
17	Do local organisations have to apply with a partner?	Local organisations are eligible to apply as a lead with or without a partner. Only international NGOs have to apply in partnership with a local partner.
18	Are INGOs only eligible to apply for funding if in partnership with a local NGO/org	Yes, INGOs have to partner with a local organisation to be eligible.
19	Does a partnership need to include either or both private sector and DPOs	Partnership may include one or more partner. The partner(s) can be a local NGO, DPO or private sector. It is encouraged to consider partnership across different types of actors but is not mandatory.
20	What is added value to ACCESS of INGOs who are not directly involved in service delivery?	Please see the guidelines and Annex 2 for eligible activities. ACCESS will not fund direct service provision, except where service provision is unavailable, but rather support building the capacity of existing services, provision of technical assistance to develop practical toolkits or curriculum for the implementation of existing guidelines and standards, or implementation of catalytic activities that can generate evidence to support future RGC budget planning.
21	Could the partner “local organisation” be a sub-national government entity?	Your local partner must be an eligible organisation (local NGO, DPOs, private company or private academic institution). Government entities (national or sub-national) cannot be grantees or sub-grantees. It is expected that most ACCESS interventions include capacity building support to government entities.
22	Our internal rule does not allow us to pre identify partners. All partners are subject to a capacity assessment and CSO/private sector partners are required to go through a competitive	In this instance, describe the type of partnership foreseen (number of partners, type (private, NGOs, CSOs) and describe the process that will be used for selecting the partners.

	selection process. Please advise on how we should therefore approach this section?	
23	How many grantees is ACCESS planning to have?	It depends on the quality of applications and size of grants.
24	Can government entities apply to CIM?	No. ACCESS uses other modalities to support government partners such as provision of technical assistance.
25	Are Trade Unions eligible?	Yes, as well as professional organisations.
<b>CIM Process</b>		
26	What is the CIM panel composition?	CIM panel members include representatives of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Disability Action Council, Ministry of Economy and Finance, DFAT, the ACCESS Program Team, and one independent.
27	Funding agreements will be signed in July. Will ACCESS expect all projects to start at the same time? If yes, when would be the official start date?	Agreements may be signed at different dates depending on possible time required to finalise/approve proposals and negotiate agreements.
28	Would ACCESS consider to move back the deadline by one week in order to allow applicant organisations sufficient time to prepare high quality EOIs with their partners	The deadline cannot be extended.
29	Should the EOI be submitted electronically AND hard copy or just one method?	We recommend Applicants submit both an electronic and paper copy, unless there are constraints that prevent an organisation from doing so. An electronic submission is deemed acceptable. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted.
30	When is the closing date for queries as this is stated differently in different places in the EOI guidelines?	Closing date for clarifications is 8 April 2019.
31	Submission of Printed copy of the Eois during khmer holiday and weekend.	Paper copy submissions can be dropped off at the reception of the ANINA building during the Khmer New year break. Note that if only an electronic copy of the submission is received by the deadline, the concept note will be accepted as valid. Paper copy submission on Monday 22 April is acceptable if an electronic copy has been sent prior to deadline.

32	Will we receive confirmation that the proposal is received?	Yes.
33	Can you explain in what will consist of the collaborative stage, after grantees are pre-selected?	Once grantees have been pre-selected, we will come together to refine the proposals as one comprehensive action plan. This will be done for the two workstreams, but sometimes jointly to insure the synergies and complementarity between the two workstreams, which may conclude with some revision of applicants' proposed outcomes, indicators and budget.
34	Do applicant propose outputs or outcomes indicators?	These are indicative at the EoI stage. We are interested in outcomes level indicators.
35	Are there other funding channels in ACCESS beside CIM if some gaps are identified later on?	It is currently not planned but could be considered in the case we identify important gaps during implementation.
<b>Budget and eligible costs</b>		
36	Overall clarification on budget	At the EoI phase a detailed budget is not required. The budget is indicative and aims at giving the CIM Panel an idea of broad allocation across categories.
37	Is the 15% maximum for overhead flexible?	The 15% overhead is the maximum and is non-negotiable.
38	Could you confirm that it is not possible for applicant to support DSA for government staff to join training activities	DSA is not an eligible expenditure within ACCESS.
39	Is the upper limit of AUD600,000 for EOI budgets flexible	AUD600,000 is the upper limit for ACCESS contribution. We encourage organisations to secure co-funding for their proposed initiative, so the overall budget of the proposed initiative can exceed the maximum amount.
40	Please provide a definition of overhead and administrative costs. What should be included and what are defined as direct costs?	<p>Please see Section II, "Objectives – Eligible Costs" of the Guidelines for Call for Expression of Interest.</p> <p>The overhead compensation rate is an allowance to cover Partner organisation's indirect/overhead costs of their office(s). These types of expenses cannot be claimed as direct project costs in the Partner Grant Agreement. Examples of such indirect costs are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advertising and promotion (non-project specific)</li> <li>2. Amortization/depreciation</li> <li>3. Bank charges (non-project specific)</li> <li>4. Board activities</li> <li>5. Business development activities</li> </ol>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Capital taxes</li> <li>7. Communication - excluding long distance calls that are related to the execution of the project</li> <li>8. Computer maintenance expenses</li> <li>9. Financing costs such as interest expenses and costs to obtain irrevocable letters of credit</li> <li>10. General staff training</li> <li>11. Insurance (e.g. office, board of directors, liability)</li> <li>12. Internal or external audits of the organisation</li> <li>13. Office supplies and equipment (non-project specific)</li> <li>14. Organisation restructuring costs</li> <li>15. Professional fees relating to the administration of the organisation (e.g. legal, accounting)</li> <li>16. Proposal preparation activities</li> <li>17. Rent and utilities (non-project specific)</li> <li>18. Repairs and maintenance expenses</li> <li>19. Review and negotiation of agreements</li> <li>20. Salaries and fringe benefits relating to the administration of the organisation (non-project specific)</li> <li>21. Staff recruitment</li> <li>22. Strategic planning activities</li> <li>23. Travel (non-project specific)</li> <li>24. Workstations, including computers (non-project specific)</li> <li>25. Other indirect/overhead type of expenditures relating to the organisation's office</li> </ol>
41	<p>Noting that DSA cannot be paid to government staff under the programme, and this is different from the typical practice/expectation of government partners, please advise if RGC key institutions likely to engage in ACCESS have already committed support from national budget or if this is something partners will need to negotiate on a case by case basis</p>	<p>Government partners directly involved in ACCESS (MOWA, MOSVY and DAC) are aware of this specific feature and can allocate national budget to support ACCESS' implementation. When activities are relevant to Ministries that are not direct partners of ACCESS, additional engagement will be needed to get commitment from these institutions.</p>

42	Is there a maximum percentage of budget allocated to personnel?	No. Applicants should propose realistic and reasonable budgets.
43	If applicant brings co-funding, does cost ineligibility apply to the matching fund.	Ineligibility applies to ACCESS funding only, however activities should reflect the ACCESS principles and priorities. For example, in the case of DSA to government, this should be discussed as it may not align with the ACCESS principles.
44	Is allowance to a local volunteer an eligible cost?	Yes.
45	Is adaptation of a facility to be accessible to persons with disability eligible?	Yes.
<b>Others</b>		
46	Are the indicators included in Table 02 "Expected results and assessment indicators" final, or can they be further modified and refined at full proposal stage?	Indicators at this stage are preliminary and can be modified when developing the full proposal.
47	Please explain what is meant by the permit number of organisation	A registration number, or any other documentation that demonstrates that the organisation is operating legally in Cambodia.
48	For the implementing period, will the implementation be two calendar years from the start of agreements or is there a specific close-date	ACCESS' end date is 16 September 2021. Under this timeframe, grants will end no later than the end of July 2021.
49	Under item 3, page 2 on equity and inclusion of EOI format, does "DPOs" also refer to other community based organisations and CSOs relevant to the area of GBV	DPOs refers to Disabled People Organisations.
50	Final evaluation: Will ACCESS conduct a comprehensive program evaluation or should grantees organise their own review?	ACCESS has a MEL framework that will apply to all grantees with common indicators and approaches to both monitoring and evaluation. ACCESS will conduct a comprehensive evaluation.
51	Can guiding policies and strategies for GBV and disability sector be posted on ACCESS website?	Key ACCESS program documents will be posted to the ACCESS website. National policies and strategies are available from relevant ministries.

Suggested modification of the budget template- Details of Unit costs and number of units is not required at this stage but just lumpsum estimation for each budget categories.:

Item	Total (AUD)
Personnel and Technical Assistance costs	
Operating costs	
Program cost (activities)	
Other costs (please describe)	
Overhead cost (maximum 15%)	
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM ACCESS [A]	AUD
CO-FUNDING (if any) [B]	AUD
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE [A+B]	AUD

ACCESS criteria with Weighting:

Criteria	Elements to be assessed	Sub-criteria weight	Criteria weight
Relevance	1. The expression of interest presents relevant expertise in the areas of focus of the call.	3	10
	2. The expression of interest directly addresses workstream priorities and aligns with the relevant RGC strategies: NDSP and NAPVAW and ACCESS program logic.	4	
	3. The expression of interest presents a deep understanding of the issues involved, the opportunities, challenges and dynamics for improving the access and quality of services for persons with disabilities and/or women affected by GBV.	3	

Effectiveness	<p>4. The expression of interest proposes clear partnership strategy and mechanisms to support capacity building of selected partners.</p> <p>5. The proposed action is well articulated and will contribute meaningfully to gender equity and inclusion.</p> <p>6. The expression of interest provides clear suggestions on creating synergies with grantees from the other component.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5</p> <p>2</p>	<p>10</p>
Efficiency	<p>7. The expression of interest presents clear financial management mechanisms and safeguard policies.</p> <p>8. The applicant possesses strong M&amp;E and learning systems, as well as relevant approach to learning.</p> <p>9. The proposed budget and timeframe are realistic and reflect the proposed interventions.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>	<p>10</p>
Sustainability	<p>10. The applicant has relevant experience in building capacities of local actors and the proposed action includes clear capacity building strategy.</p> <p>11. The activities proposed in expression of interest use existing mechanisms and initiatives.</p> <p>12. The expression of interest demonstrates contribution to sustainable funding for the sector.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>	<p>10</p>
Innovation	<p>13. The expression of interest presents innovative approaches or modalities to address the identified issue(s) and engaging beneficiaries.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>5</p>