

**Questions and Answers from the Information Session for
RFA # 08-00-002 SRH/HIV Education in Secondary Schools
March 26, 2008**

Q1: When it is said there one grant is to be provided, does it mean that there will be only one grantee?

A: Pact plans to award only one grant to one applicant recommended for funding by the technical review team.

Q2: What is the age range of beneficiaries?

A: The targeted beneficiaries are secondary school students (including lower and upper secondary schools) aged 11 – 18.

Q3: How can applicants access the NPA (Action Programme) document?

A: It should be requested from MOET, by contacting Pham Thi Thu Ba, Specialist, Department of Student Affairs, MOET

Q4: Was MOET involved in the development of the RFA?

A: Yes.

Q5: Are the deadlines (submission and implementation) feasible?

A: We understand it is a challenging time frame. Our programs and schedules are linked to the fiscal year of the donor (USAID), and implementation must begin as soon as possible. The one month (from date of RFA release to application due date) is quite typical of the time frame provided for application development.

Q6: Is it required that applicants provide references for work related to HIV, or are references related to other areas acceptable?

A: You should provide references that are as relevant as possible to illustrating your potential to perform the work outlined in this RFA.

Q7: Can Pact provide the name of a point person in MOET to contact about this program?

A: Yes: Pham Thi Thu Ba, Specialist, Department of Student Affairs, MOET

Q8: Will the MOET be involved in the review process?

A: No. We do not expect MOET to be on the review team because it is likely that they will be proposed as a funded sub-partner on some applications, so it would be a conflict of interest for them to participate in selection.

Q9: Are faith-based organizations equally eligible to apply?

A: Yes.

Q10: Can other HIV/AIDS prevention approaches, such as peer education, be proposed?

A: Applicants should propose activities that correspond to the objectives and related activities outlined by the RFA, which is based on MOET's Action Programme.

Q11: Is it possible to propose to develop SRH & HIV education as a separate subject within the curriculum?

A: As stated the RFA, the program seeks to improve teaching and learning on SRH/HIV topics in existing curricular courses as well as to develop a stand-alone course that would be delivered as an extra-curricular program, but not a separate SRH/HIV course *within* the formal curriculum,.

Q12: Does the program require an emphasis on abstinence and be faithful approaches?

A: The program should be designed so that it corresponds to the comprehensive, needs-based prevention priorities of both PEPFAR Vietnam and the MOET. Note, however, that the program must be implemented in a fashion that is consistent with PEPFAR guidance (which can be found at: <http://www.pepfar.gov/guidance/>) and that condom distribution in schools cannot be supported with USG funding.

Q13: Can we include in our proposal activities to reduce the stigma faced by children living with HIV in the school system?

A: While such activities are important and coordination is encouraged, the focus of this program is on the role of the education sector in the HIV/AIDS *prevention* response.

Q14: Regarding the time frame, it will be difficult to get all agreements with national and provincial authorities negotiated before submitting the application.

A: Applicants do not need to have all agreements finalized before they submit an application.

Q15: It will be difficult to start implementation of pilot by January 2009.

A: The RFA states that the pilot should aim to begin in 'early 2009' which means the early part of the year, not necessarily January. It is up to the applicant to propose a schedule that is most appropriate and to provide a convincing rationale for the plan presented.

Q16: Usually, new elements in curriculum are introduced in the beginning of a school year. This would influence timing of the pilot.

A: The applicant should present and justify an implementation schedule that they deem appropriate and provide a strong rationale for their approach and the timing of related activities.