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Advancing Community Empowerment Project Annual Program Statement Call for Expressions of Interest

EOI#1: Responsive Health, Education and Livelihoods Services (RHELS)

Reference Number: ACE-APS-EOI-001

Date of issuance: August 7, 2018

Due date for questions: Questions may be submitted throughout the duration of the APS

Question response: All questions will be answered within two weeks of receipt.

Closing date: August 6, 2019

Questions and applications should be sent via email to ACE@pactworld.org. Emailed submissions must contain the subject "EOI#1:RHELS - *name of submitting organization.*"

Note: Questions and answers submissions from potential applicants can be viewed at [this link](#) which will be updated regularly.



1. Background on Pact

Pact is a leader in building the capacity of non-government organizations, networks and intermediary organizations. Pact's mission is to help build strong communities globally that provide people with an opportunity to earn a dignified living, raise healthy families and participate in democratic life. Pact achieves this by strengthening the organizational and technical capacity of grassroots organizations, coalitions and networks, and by forging linkages between government, business and citizens to achieve social, economic, and environmental justices.

2. Purpose Statement

Pursuant to the authority granted under USAID award number AID-482-A-17-00001, Pact is pleased to announce the release of an Annual Program Statement (APS) for funding to support Pact's implementation of Advancing Community Empowerment in Southeastern Myanmar (ACE). This first call for Expressions of Interest under this APS publicizes the intent of Pact to fund one or multiple awards which provide quality, demand-driven health, education and livelihoods services to rural communities in underserved and hard to reach communities in the southeastern region of Myanmar/Burma. This APS is issued as a public notice to ensure that all interested, qualified, and eligible organizations have a fair opportunity to submit applications for funding. For the purposes of this APS, "organizations" are defined as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), or faith-based organizations (FBOs). Pact intends to issue additional calls for Expressions of Interest under this APS during the year the APS is open.

3. Funding Opportunity Description

3.1 Program background

The Advancing Community Empowerment in Southeastern Myanmar (ACE) project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Burma, will work with communities to enhance their ownership, capacity, and action to meet the needs of people living in vulnerable conditions; broaden participation for more inclusive decision making; and strengthen mechanisms for more responsive and accountable local governance. ACE is a five-year project funded by USAID and implemented by Pact in partnership with Community Partners International, Mercy Corps, and Save the Children. The project partners with a broad range of local and regional organizations, service providers, and actors to address community development priorities.

3.2 Geographic area

Applicants may propose work in **any** township within Southeastern Myanmar. Southeastern Myanmar is defined as: Kayah/Karen State, Kayin/Karen State, Mon State, Southern Shan State, North Tanintharyi Region, and East Bago Region. Within this region, activities must serve hard to reach and/or underserved communities.

Please note: Advancing Community Empowerment anticipates engaging with the following eight townships for implementation in the project's second year: 1. Thandaunggyi, 2. Kyainseikgyi, 3. Hlaingbwe, 4. Thanbyuzayat, 5. Pekon, 6. Hpasawng, 7. Demoso, 8. Hpruso. The project welcomes cooperative activities in these areas, but applicants are *not* required to apply for activities only in these townships.

3.3 Program Description

Advancing Community Empowerment is looking for projects in the areas of Responsive Health, Education and Livelihoods Services. Applicants may submit in only one primary technical area and are encouraged to integrate other two or three technical areas.

Area 1 – Health

For many people in Southeastern Myanmar, basic health care remains out of reach or involves catastrophic expenditure that exacerbates poverty. The new National Health Plan (NHP) and its plan to roll out the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) signal increasing inclusiveness, and the opportunity to empower communities to demand quality services, and influence health service delivery mechanisms. ACE is seeking local partners that support communities in addressing health priorities in ways that equip them to generate sustainable health solutions while developing informed relationships with public and private service providers. Successful proposals will clearly demonstrate how the activities will foster expanded community access to health care, preventive and/or social services

Area 2 – Education

Access to quality education, and the availability of resources needed to provide quality education, continue to be fundamental issues confronted by several communities and education providers in Southeastern Myanmar. ACE is seeking local partners to enhance quality education through holistic approaches that include community engagement and local leadership, and to improve accessibility of education, cooperation between communities and schools, improve in-school and out-of-school literacy programming, and grow the leadership skills of educators. Successful proposals will clearly demonstrate how the activities will sustainably improve education access and services in underserved communities.

Area 3 – Livelihoods

Communities with ample, diverse and sustainable livelihoods options can grow greater financial and physical resources to address priority development needs and decrease vulnerabilities over time. At the same time, communities that consider poor or marginalized households and individuals contribute to enhancing collective resilience and supporting inclusive development for all community members. Activities to be supported will increase sustainable livelihoods available to community members, particularly those livelihoods which offer protection from economic shocks and natural disasters such as flooding and devastating price fluctuations. Activities to improve the capacity of communities to support its members in learning new livelihoods and finding the means to adopt them successfully are also sought.

3.4. Intended Outcomes

ACE is seeking to fund projects that will support underserved and/or hard-to-reach communities living in the southeastern region of Myanmar/ Burma.

3.5 Grantee eligibility

This competition is open to any non-governmental organization that is either a non-profit, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity that is established in Myanmar or Thailand. To be minimally eligible for funding, applicants must provide full, accurate and complete information and comply with the following conditions. Organizations must:

- Be authorized to conduct business in their country or country of operation (Myanmar). Note that registration with the Government of Myanmar is **not** a precondition for eligibility.

- Acquire a DUNS number (the nine-digit identification number required for all procurement-related activities with the United States Government) prior to receipt of award. A DUNS number is not required for application, but will be required for receipt of award. A DUNS number can be acquired online for free, and Pact can assist with this process.
- Be able to complete implementation within the stated timeframe.
- Have previous experience of not less than 1 year working on subject/technical area.
- Have current geographic coverage where program activities will take place or prior experience in that area with the ability to quickly begin implementation.

3.6 Funding

Pact anticipates these awards will be cost-reimbursable, fixed amount award or in-kind grants. Grant type will be based on the final program description and the results of the partner's pre-award risk assessment, which Pact will conduct prior to issuance of the award. Subject to the availability of funds, Pact intends to award up to \$5,000,000 USD in total funding for the period. Pact anticipates awarding grants for up to two years with total budgets between \$50,000 - \$500,000 USD each. Negotiations will be conducted with successful applicants only. Pact reserves the right to award any or none of the applications submitted.

3.7 Cost Sharing

If chosen to submit a full application, the applicant is strongly encouraged to contribute resources from their own, private or local sources for the implementation of this program. Contributions can be either cash or in-kind and can include contributions from the applicant, local counterpart organizations, program clients and other donors (but not other U.S. government funding sources). This type of contribution is called cost share. When incorporated into the award, cost sharing contributions will be governed by the regulations found in 2 CFR 200.306.

4. Application and Award Process

4.1. Points of Contact

General inquiries about this APS or the ACE project should be sent to ACE@pactworld.org, copy to myanmargrant@pactworld.org.

The email subject line should read "Questions – RHELs – *name of organization submitting application.*"

4.2 Submission method for questions

Submit questions electronically to ACE@pactworld.org, and copy to myanmargrant@pactworld.org. Questions may be submitted at any time till before APS closing date.

The email subject line should read "Questions – RHELs – *name of organization submitting application.*"

4.3 Application Process

The amount of resources made available under this APS will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds. Pact will review applications on a rolling basis, so applicants are encouraged to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs) at any time through 6th August 2019.

Step 1 – Expression of Interest

Interested organizations must first submit an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) up to 6 pages in length if written in English using Calibri 11-point font and 9 pages if written in Zawgyi 11-point font.

This is the first step in the application process. The EOI form is attached to this APS. Interested organizations may download the EOI form at <http://www.themimu.info/calls-for-proposals>. EOIs will be reviewed on a rolling basis from 7 August 2018 to 6 August 2019.

EOIs can be submitted at any time during the year to **ACE@pactworld.org**, copy to **myanmargrant@pactworld.org**. The email subject line should read “EOI#1: RHELs - *name of organization submitting application.*” EOIs must be submitted in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF formats.

Paper applications may be submitted to the following ACE project offices:

Office Name	Address	Addressed to
Hpa-An Office	Myoe Pat Street, (1) Ward, Hpa- An Township.	U Min Min 09-977255340
Mawlamyine	No. 53, Maggin Street, Mayangone Ward, Mawlamyaing Township.	Daw Mi Kay Thi Tun, 09-977255341
Loikaw Office	No.97, Baydar Streer, Mingalar Ward, Loikaw Township.	Daw Nay Chi Win 09-428007348
Yangon Office	No. 608 Penthouse, Bo San Pat condominium, Corner of Bo San Pat street and Merchant Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon	May Zin Phway 09-977255107

If initial review indicates the EOI merits further consideration, selected organizations or consortia of organizations may be invited, individually or in combination, to the Participatory Planning stage (described in Step 2 below). After an EOI is received, Pact reserves the right to ask clarifying questions and conduct discussions with any applicant. Asking clarifying questions and conducting discussions with one applicant does not obligate Pact to do so with all applicants.

Step 2 - Participatory Planning

For EOIs that Pact deems to have sufficient merit, the candidate will move to the Participatory Planning Stage. Sufficient merit means that the activities fit a strategic need and have a high likelihood of success. Still, the application may require clarification or further development. If the application requires clarification or further development, the organization will be invited to a participatory workshop to fully develop and finalize their application. The goal of this workshop is for Pact to work with applicants to clearly define activities, outputs, targets, work plan, staffing, and budget for the final award. As a deliverable of this workshop, the applicant will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Step 3 – Review by a Decision Panel

All applications will be reviewed for their technical merit by the RHELs Decision Panel, comprised of subject matter and project management experts. Based on the criteria outlined in Section 5, the RHELs Decision Panel will recommend applications to advance to the next stage for award instrument negotiation and finalization. Using its technical expertise, the Decision Panel may suggest revisions and additions to the proposed project as well as potential partners and resources.

Step 4 – Pre-Award and Negotiations

If the RHELs Decision Panel selects a proposal for funding, it will move forward for final approval and award negotiation. During this stage, Pact staff will perform a risk assessment of the organization, and based on that assessment, determine any special conditions or capacity building

measures that the organization may be required to adhere to in order to reduce risk. Pact would also finalize any outstanding negotiations on the program description, budget, targets, and work plan to finalize the award instrument and obtain funder approval.

Step 5 – Award

Pact will award grant that receive the necessary approvals successfully complete the pre-award and negotiation stage.

5. Evaluation of Applications

5.1. Review process

An RHEL Decision Panel will be established that includes representatives from various Pact departments, consortium partners, and USAID. All reviewers will be subjected to a screening process to eliminate any conflict of interest. Evaluation will be based on the established criteria. The review process will run on an as-needed basis, or a maximum of every two months, depending on how many applications are submitted. The review panel, using the criteria detailed below, will rate applications and make award recommendations to the program’s management unit.

5.2. Evaluation Criteria

The EOIs will be rated based on the following evaluation criteria. Responsiveness to each criterion below will be assessed using the below Evaluation Matrix.

- (A) Feasibility of project design
- (B) Potential for positive qualitative change for target populations
- (C) Potential for achieving project targets
- (D) Inclusivity and conflict sensitivity of project design
- (E) Fit with the strategic priorities of the ACE project.

5.3 Evaluation framework

The RHEL Decision Panel will evaluate all applications according to the following framework:
Score Range:

10	Excellent	Exceeds expectations in that it is comprehensive, thorough, and with exceptional merit, demonstrating that the proposed project will likely result in effective and efficient performance. Exhibits no deficiencies.
8	Very Good	Demonstrates overall competence, meets all minimum requirements, and exceeds requirements in some areas, but not all. Even if there are some identified weaknesses, the applicant demonstrates that it can successfully complete all deliverables in a timely, efficient, and economical manner
6	Acceptable/Average	Meets requirements. While the applicant demonstrates an ability to complete the work in some areas, there are some significant weaknesses or deficiencies. However, these combined weaknesses or deficiencies still represent a manageable performance risk.
4	Marginal	Minimally meets basic requirements or demonstrates a limited understanding of the requirements. Implementation of the proposed project would likely lead to unsatisfactory performance. Contains deficiencies and weaknesses that may negatively affect performance.

2	Poor	Many deficiencies, including failure to address key elements, failure to understand work necessary to perform the required tasks, or failure to provide a reasonable approach to fulfilling requirements. Performance risk is high.
0	Non-Responsive	Fails to address all elements of the criteria; fails to understand the work necessary to perform the required tasks; fails to meet the requirements of the solicitation.

6. Terms and Conditions

6.1. Standard provisions

The Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations as applicable will apply to these grants. Applicants can find the provisions at <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mab.pdf>. Printed versions of these provisions are available upon request.

6.2. Permission for use and disclosure

By submitting an application under this APS, the applicant consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers involved in the selection process. Please note that all reviewers are bound by non-disclosure agreements.

6.3. Disclaimers

- Pact may cancel this solicitation and not award any funds.
- Pact may reject any or all applications received.
- Issuance of this solicitation does not constitute an award commitment by Pact.
- Pact reserves the right to disqualify any application based on applicant's failure to follow solicitation instructions.
- Pact will not compensate applicants for their response to the solicitation.
- Pact reserves the right to issue an award based on initial evaluation of applications without further discussion.
- Pact may choose to award only part of the activities in the solicitation or to issue multiple awards based on the solicitation activities.
- Pact reserves the right to waive minor application deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- Pact may contact applicants to confirm contact person, address, and that the application was submitted for this solicitation.
- Pact may contact listed past performance references without notice to the applicant. Pact also reserves the right to contact other past performance information sources that the applicant did not list in the application.
- By submitting an application, the applicants confirm they understand the terms and conditions.
- Note: some goods and services may not be procured with USAID funds or are restricted and require special, prior approval. Special approvals may take up to 6 months from the time of an official, detailed submission to USAID. Applicants that request restricted items should consider the approval process when planning delivery schedules.

Description of goods or services	Eligibility
1. Abortion* and/or abortion-related equipment and services; this includes information, education, training or communication programs seeking to promote abortion as a method of family planning, and lobbying for or against abortions.	Ineligible
2. Involuntary sterilization as a method of family planning or coercion of any individual into sterilization	Ineligible
3. Biomedical research as a means for family planning	Ineligible
4. Promote or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution or sex trafficking	Ineligible
5. Family planning services or information	Eligible with conditions; special approval required
6. Pharmaceuticals	Restricted; special approval required
7. Construction (buildings, roads, wells, etc.)	Restricted; special approval required
8. Agriculture commodities (cooking oil, rice, seeds, etc.)	Restricted; special approval required
9. Activities involving children; the organization must have child safeguarding policies in place	Eligible, with conditions

*Abortion is defined as a method of family planning when it is for the purpose of spacing births which includes abortion performed for the physical or mental health of the mother and abortions performed for fetal abnormalities, but DOES NOT INCLUDE abortions performed if the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or abortions performed following rape or incest.