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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – Info Session & 1st Round of Publication

Call for Proposals Reference: 10/RSSDLIBYA/T05.437/2019

Programme “Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya”

Italian Cooperation¹ Component

[T05-EUTF-NOA-LY-05-01-01 (T05.437)]

An information session open to all interested applicants was held on Thursday 12 December at 15:00 hours at AICS Regional Office in Tunis - below the questions and requests for clarifications collected during that session. Answers are provided for the benefit of all interested applicants, as indicated in the Guidelines for grant applicants of this Call for Proposals and in line with PRAG stipulations.

Question	Answer
Q1: Can AICS share contacts in the East to facilitate work on the ground?	A1: No. AICS has established contacts with technical counterparts in the municipalities in the East. However, INGO partners are expected to build on their own presence and contact network in the areas where they intend to work.
Q2: Is it possible for AICS to share data and information gathered during preliminary needs assessment?	A2: No. AICS conducted technical reconnaissance and defined an indicative list of priority interventions for this specific programme with the municipality counterparts, who ultimately own the information. As stated in the Guidelines for applicants, INGOs are expected to approach local authorities introducing the programmatic framework within which the activities will be implemented.
Q3: What are AICS’ institutional interlocutors in the East?	A3: The Programme is carried out in close coordination with the Municipalities and the national authorities - including the Ministry of Local Governance, Ministry of Planning and relevant line Ministries. In carrying out detailed programming and technical reconnaissance in the municipalities in the East,

¹ The term “Italian Cooperation” refers to the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

	AICS has only established contacts with technical counterparts.
Q4: Is AICS expecting one application for each lot?	A4: AICS expects to receive at least one valid and high-quality application for each lot.
Q5: Is the proposal expected to cover interventions in all the municipalities listed under each lot?	A5: Yes. In order to ensure geographical inclusiveness and address municipalities' most pressing needs in a comprehensive manner, each proposal is expected to cover interventions in all the municipalities listed under each lot, within the defined maximum budget (Guidelines for grant applicants section 1.3 <i>Financial allocation provided by the Contracting Authority</i>). However, given the volatile environment, possible adjustments in the implementation phase within each Lot may be negotiated according to the provisions of the General Conditions.
Q6: Clearance of drugs/equipment procurement have been experienced by participants as a key challenge. Can AICS facilitate?	A6: INGO partners are expected to have full own capacity to perform all the activities of the Action. AICS stands ready to support and facilitate as and when required.
Q7: Can AICS issue supporting letters for applicants to facilitate needs assessment on the ground?	A7: No. INGO partners are expected to build on their own presence and contact network in the areas where they intend to work. As indicated in the Guidelines for grant applicants, for INGOs to carry out the technical assessments needed to respond to this Call for Proposals, it is important to approach local authorities introducing the programmatic framework within which the activities will be implemented. Interested applicants are expected to provide their staff visiting the municipalities with an introduction letter indicating the name of the INGOs staff that will carry out the needs assessment and the purpose of the visits. AICS' role and the EU funding should always be stressed to facilitate the interaction with the local authorities involved.
Q8: Is it compulsory for co-applicants to be registered on PADOR?	A8: Co-applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the lead applicant. Accordingly, as per article 2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s)) of the Guidelines for grant applicants, <i>in order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must be registered and/or authorized to implement activities in Libya or in the process of being registered/authorized.</i>

<p>Q9: Can AICS share the list of its focal points at the municipality level?</p>	<p>A9: No. AICS has established contacts with technical counterparts in the municipalities – whose job positions are indicated in the Guidelines for grant applicants. However, AICS cannot disclose individuals' contacts.</p>
<p>Q10: Do participants need to inform AICS before approaching municipality-level stakeholders towards the preparation of draft project proposals?</p>	<p>A10: No. AICS informed already municipality authorities of the upcoming visits by INGO staff. However, problems with information management at local level may occur.</p>
<p>Q11: Having international staff on the ground is an asset for the applicant?</p>	<p>A11: It is up to the applicants to optimize the use of international staff between remote management and presence in Libya, considering the added value of international staff presence and related cost.</p>
<p>Q12: Education: is soft component (capacity building) foreseen?</p>	<p>A12: Yes. However, the programme aims at improving facilities as a primary objective. In any case, capacity building in education is to be closely coordinated with UNICEF, who will roll out a standard teacher training package in each municipality under this programme.</p>
<p>Q13: Are indirect costs eligible within the framework of EU operating grants?</p>	<p>A13: As per section 2.1.5. <i>Eligibility of costs that can be included</i> of the Guidelines for grant applicants, the indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat-rate funding, but the total must not exceed 7 % of the estimated total eligible direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible provided that they do not include costs assigned to another budget heading in the standard grant contract. The lead applicant may be asked to justify the percentage requested before the grant contract is signed. However, once the flat rate has been fixed in the special conditions of the grant contract, no supporting documents need to be provided. If any of the applicants or affiliated entity(ies) is in receipt of an operating grant financed by the EU, it may not claim indirect costs on its incurred costs within the proposed budget for the action.</p>
<p>Q14: Sidi Mansour Clinic (Benghazi): can the exact location be specified?</p>	<p>A14: During technical reconnaissance in the municipalities across Libya, AICS realised that in some cases the names of the facilities are unclearly defined. Accordingly, Q14 is undergoing verification. Clarification will be provided to candidates as soon as possible. However, INGO partners may contribute their local knowledge to clarify the priorities in consultation with the authorities in Benghazi.</p>

Q15: Tobruk-based Al Manara Community Clinic: is it a private clinic?	A15: This programme is only focusing on public health facilities. See A14.
Q16: More capacity building /systemic change interventions – can they be inserted?	A16: The purpose of this specific programme is stabilization of access to local basic services. Its primary objective is to upgrade facilities. However, the interventions are supposed to contribute to a wider scope and longer-term trajectory.