**Date:** June 14, 2022

**Subject:** Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance's (BHA) responses to questions received on the Transforming the International Humanitarian Data Ecosystem Annual Program Statement (APS) released on April 26, 2022 - Funding Opportunity Number 720BHA22APS00001

Greetings:

The Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) has provided below Answers (As) the Questions (Qs) received prior to the deadline for questions on the subject Annual Program Statement (Funding Opportunity Number 720BHA22APS00001):

**Q1:** Are there ways to get involved?

    **A1:** We recommend reviewing the APS to determine if your organization meets the eligibility standards in Section C of the APS. The APS also includes application submission information in Section D. Please refer to Section A - Program Description for a complete description of possible activities. Eligible parties interested in submitting an application are encouraged to read the APS thoroughly to understand the type of program sought, application submission requirements and selection process.

**Q2:** We had seen it fortuitously on the Grants.gov website the day before and are very excited about it as it links in closely with our new strategy. Will you be the lead for this and if so, would it be possible to have a quick call about the opportunity? We would ideally like to check if we are able to apply and how this might build on / link into our current USAID funded program of work.

    **A2:** BHA is not able to discuss or comment on specific ideas from any prospective applicants.

**Q3:** First of all, I would like to thank the American Government for efforts in the conduct of helping refugees from Ukraine and for the supporting EU countries faced with economic hardship as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Ukrainian State has shown its ability to manage in a supercritical situation of hostilities. BUT, after the war, the Government will be engaged in the restoration of the destroyed infrastructure, factories and housing. Therefore, my organization sets itself the task of introducing the Platform Digital Economy for all refugees. We strongly ask for support for this grant application and recommend Partners for the joint development of the Digital Economy Platform for Ukraine. Our team's plan is to create a digital ecosystem platform for Private Eden Gardens AI Community united on the basis of autonomous Industry 4.0 Clasters zones around the world.

    **A3:** Please refer to Section A - Program Description for a complete description of possible activities. Eligible parties interested in submitting an application are encouraged to read the APS thoroughly to understand the type of program sought, application submission requirements and selection process.

**Q4:** Does the proposed overall cost factor into the evaluation of the proposal?

    **A4:** Each application will be evaluated and scored according to the merit review criteria outlined in Section E - Application Review Information. The business cost application is reviewed after the merit review evaluation is conducted.

**Q5:** As many small businesses do not have dedicated business development teams dedicated fulltime to proposals, is it possible to extend the application deadline as the SOW review/submission deadline is very tight. Additional time would support more interest from small businesses.

    **A5:** BHA extended the applicable deadline for the first round of applications for this APS to June 7, 2022 at 11:59 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

**Q6:** With reference to the above Notice of Funding Opportunity, I would be grateful if you could kindly advise on the requirements for PIOs. May applying PIOs submit applications using the application template and its Annexes as per the documents on BHA's website "BHA RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (PIOS)"?

    **A6:** All applicants, including Public International Organizations (PIO), should follow the submission guidance published in this APS (section D - application and submission information).

**Q7:** In collaboration with a public state university, we are developing a proposal targeting Pillar 1: Humanitarian workforce development with an emphasis on Data Science Education for educated refugees. The project goal is twofold: supporting refugee resettlement in the US and bridging the talent gap in Data Science (and the digital economy in general). We were wondering if this approach/topic would be of your program interest. Your advice would be highly appreciated.

    **A7:** BHA is not able to discuss or comment on specific ideas from any prospective applicants.

**Q8:** We are very interested in applying under Pillar 1 (People) with a focus on humanitarian workforce development objectives. Our question relates to the training aspect of the objectives. Does USAID already have a cohort of potential students/trainees in mind, or would we need to propose recruitment of trainees from humanitarian organizations or include a certain number of training slots that would be available during the grant period?

    **A8:** Please provide all details related to the proposed activities, including the expected targets and proposed beneficiaries. BHA does not have a set list of targets or beneficiaries to provide to partners. This should be defined based on the proposed activities.

**Q9:** Is there any preference in this call for NGO partners or are academic institutions acceptable in cooperation with field data networks and UN? Additionally we wondered what is meant by 'Humanitarian Workforce Development'? Is this building capacity of humanitarian actors such as national and international decision makers as well frontline workers in data use and collection? Finally, are civil conflicts also included in the complex emergencies category? And can conflict related data be an exclusive focus of a proposal?

    **A9:** BHA does not have a preference for type of applicant. For eligibility, please refer to Section C - Eligibility Information. Please refer to Section A - Program Description for a

complete description of possible activities and for a description of sub-objectives under each objective. Eligible parties interested in submitting an application are encouraged to read the APS thoroughly to understand the type of program sought, application submission requirements and selection process.

**Q10:** We are preparing an application for the BHA Global APS for Transforming the International Humanitarian Data Ecosystem, and wanted to request an extension for the closing date: May 30, 2022.

> **A10:** BHA extended the applicable deadline for the first round of applications for this APS to June 7, 2022 at 11:59 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Q11: Could USAID please clarify approximately the expected targets for the sub-objectives under Objective 1 as the scope of work seems broad. Would a series of pilots be acceptable with a set number of organizations / people during this award? Does USAID expect to issue each sub-objective to one awardee (organization or consortia) or will several awardees work on the same sub-objective activities? If so, how would duplication be minimized?

> **A11:** Please provide all details related to the proposed activities, including the expected targets and proposed beneficiaries. BHA does not have a set list of targets or beneficiaries to provide to partners. This should be defined based on the proposed activities.
>
> The number of awards issued per objective and sub-objective will depend on the applications received and available funding.

**Q12:** I am contacting you concerning the BHA funding opportunity 720BHA22APS00001 "BHA Global APS for Transforming the International Humanitarian Data Ecosystem". Concerning Sub-objective 1.1.1: Dedicated data analysis professionals, please could you confirm if this sub-objective is looking at capacity building of analysis only or also at data collection? In terms of the documents required for submission, please could you confirm if the following annexes are required as part of the initial submission:
- Code of Conduct / CoC Implementation details
- Risk Assessment and Management Plan
- Safety and Security Plan

Finally, please could you confirm if the attached template is still the most recent for the Collaborating, Learning and Adapting Plan.

> **A12:** Sub-objective 1.1.1 includes capacity building activities related to data collection and analysis.
> As the APS states in Section A - Program Description on page 7: 'Entities working to support humanitarian responses should have dedicated data collection and analysis professionals based in all relevant global locations that are trained, coached, and available to provide near real-time support.'
>
> For a description of sub-objectives under each objective, please refer to Section A - Program Description. Please also refer to the Program Objectives section starting on page 5 in Section A: Program Description for a description of pillars, objectives, and sub-objectives.

Application forms are addressed in Section D – Application and Submission Information. Annexes required as part of the Technical Application and Business (Cost) Application during the initial submission are also addressed in the same section. BHA does not provide a required Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting plan (CLA) template.

**Q13:** I am very interested in Funding Opportunity Number: 720BHA22APS00001, "Transforming the International Humanitarian Data Ecosystem." However, it is not going to be possible for me to pull together a proposal during the month of May—it is very heavy with end-of-semester obligations and travel. Is there likely to be a second round of applications at a later time? If so, I will begin to prepare now for the later round.

> **A13:** As the APS states on page 1, "Subject to the availability of funds, BHA may amend this APS to increase the funding available for this APS, add or revise program objectives, or add additional rounds of applications. BHA may post amendments or addenda to Grants.gov (through which organizations may sign up to receive notifications of changes), and to the BHA website."

**Q14:** With regard to the subject opportunity for BHA Global APS for Transforming the International Humanitarian Data Ecosystem, will USAID consider a 2-week extension to the current application submission due date, from May 30, 2022 to June 13, 2022? We appreciate your consideration of our question. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

> **A14:** BHA extended the applicable deadline for the first round of applications for this APS to June 7, 2022 at 11:59 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

**Q15:** For the BHA grant "Transforming the International Humanitarian Data Ecosystem," can you please confirm if BHA has a preference as it relates to submitting a proposal for this grant as a single agency or in coordination with multiple partners?

> **A15:** BHA does not have a preference for any type of applicant (non-governmental organization, PIO, academic institution, etc.). BHA does not have a preference for applications from a single applicant or one prime applicant with one or more sub-awardees or for teaming by objective .

**Q16:** We write in relation to Funding Opportunity No. 720BHA22APS00001. Regarding "Pillar 3 - Technology" — we are seeking greater clarity on whether you are seeking only information technology/artificial intelligence (IT/AI) solutions that try to reconcile differences in multiple and diverse data sets, OR you are also open to consensus-driven establishment of standards for data collection (and categorization) that would improve comparability and interoperability of different data streams in operational humanitarian response settings. The description that was provided (on Page 9 of the Funding Opportunity) appears to underscore the former, but the illustrative examples provided are closer to the latter. We appreciate any guidance or clarification you might be able to provide.

> **A16:** Objective 3.1 includes one sub-objective (3.1.1). Applications should propose activities focused on the sub-objective. Please also refer to the Program Objectives section starting on page 5 in Section A: Program Description for a description of pillars, objectives, and sub-objectives.