

Dry Zone Programme Q & A session on 11th May 2015

The following questions were noted during the Dry Zone Q&A on May 11, 2015 at the LIFT Fund Management Office. Some may have been re-formulated for clarification. If you have additional questions or need further clarification, please send an email to: lift@unops.org

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Programme Relevance

Resilience

1. *Social Protection has many variables. What is LIFT trying to achieve with the social protection component?*

Social protection and improved resilience are key for LIFT in the Dry Zone. What LIFT expects to achieve is mentioned under the bullet points for each programme component in the documentation. They indicate what the programme should do relevant to the intermediate outcome provided for each component. These bullet points should be taken as guidance.

2. *Presentation related question: Are you also considering the activities that have a broader understanding or interpretation of resilience, for example DRR related activities, would they be considered in the proposal?*

DRR is important in terms of addressing resilience, but the DZ programme is not a DRR programme. Think carefully about what DRR related activity you want to propose and the extent to which it is fundamental to the rationale of the proposal.

Water

3. *The Dry Zone programme framework refers to the importance of water. Is this referring to domestic water and drinking water?*

The Dry Zone programme will support access to drinking (potable) water.

4. *Can drilling boreholes to access underground water be part of the project costs.?*

It depends on your budget. If your budget includes tube well drilling for domestic water supply, then yes, you can do that. Drilling tube wells is also covered by the microfinance component for agriculture water. The microfinance component provides finance for farmers to invest in boreholes and irrigation systems.

Agricultural Advisory Services

5. *Outcome 1. Farm advisory service mentions the “establishment of on-going coordination systems...” and “...linking finance providers, input suppliers, smallholder farmers, processors, and government on the introduction of new farm and processing technologies ...”. Are IPs supposed to translate these activities into intermediate outcomes?*

Yes. The CfPs identifies an intermediate outcome for each programme component. Proposals should identify what will be done in response to the example activities and the component outcome provided in the CfPs. Proposals should formulate project outcomes and outputs that support the component outcome and align with the example activities provided.

6. *Financial Services: Is it possible to provide investment capital to farmers?*

Projects can finance pilot activity, but providing investment capital to farmers for production purposes should be done by the finance component. The funding for the agricultural advisory

service component is limited and so there will be not enough funds to engage in extensive support to farmers investing in capital (eg equipment). That is done by the finance component.

Nutrition

7. *Would it be possible to include an initial assessment to establish the nutrition indicators as a component of the proposal?*

There is usually an inception period of the project for about 3-4 months. This time can be used to do the baseline activity and revise or refine the indicators and outputs if necessary.

8. *Nutrition & Cash Transfer: Is cash the only transfer modality permitted or is there any alternative?*

Yes, as stated in the CfPs maternal cash transfers within the 1000 day window are planned for supporting nutrition. This alongside behavioral change communication (BCC) and improved access to drinking water and sanitation services are the key areas of support anticipated for the nutrition component. There are options for the effective provision of these services that applicants are free to propose. Important will be working closely with traditional social protection transfer mechanisms that are already in place in village communities. We need to know what the existing traditional mechanisms are in the identified villages. That will guide what the programme approach should be..

9. *For the cash transfers, do you have any targets for the cash grant?*

No. For the nutrition component women will automatically become beneficiaries when they become pregnant and will stop being beneficiaries once the children are 2 years of age. For the resilience and reduced vulnerability component applicants are free to propose what they determine to be the most cost efficient and effective application of transfers given the needs represented by the target area and the scope of funding available. Proposed interventions do not need to be limited to the villages lists provided. These are preliminary lists as identified by the township authorities.

Theory of Change

10. *In the Delta call, intermediate outcomes were given; in the Dry Zone will IPs be the ones to set the intermediate outcomes or will they be given later?*

In the Dry Zone CfPs, each component starts with an outcome for that component. These are the intermediate outcomes that applicants should be responding to.

11. *Theory of Change: Do proposals need to keep to the five boxes provided for outcomes in the ToC template or can we adapt the diagram to develop or identify other formulations?*

The outcome boxes that are identified in the template are not limiting. This is just a template to indicate how to represent the logic flow in your theory of change.

Targeting and geographical coverage

12. *Is it necessary to cover all the townships mentioned in the proposal?*

No. It is LIFT's task to ensure that all six townships are covered. You are free to cover the townships you are confident your project can be successfully implemented in.

13. *Can we choose another township or other villages in the same townships mentioned in the call for proposal? (How definite are the village lists?)*

Townships are definite. There are 6 townships. You cannot choose another township. There are 30 villages in those townships which the government thinks need LIFT's help. However, applicants are not limited to these villages. Proposals should take the village lists as a preliminary indication of the township authority's views on selection. They are a guide only.

Call for proposals and contracting modalities

14. *What is the difference between the deadlines mentioned in the CfP?*

There are only two deadlines. 5 June for submission of proposals and 15 May for the submission of written inquires.

15. *Will 'new comer' organizations to the Dry Zone be considered as well (ie organisations that have not previously been a LIFT partner)?*

As a newcomer to LIFT or a newcomer to the Dry Zone you will have to pass the same assessment criteria as all other proposals. It does not matter whether you have worked with LIFT before or not. If you haven't worked with LIFT but have other experience in the DZ you should draw on that experience and the lessons learned in the preparation and presentation of your proposal.

New comers to the DZ will have to do careful preparation to identify relevant intervention approaches and build on the experience and evidence of others.

16. *On page 8 in the call for proposals LIFT mentioned the format and requirement for proposals but on page 9 in the framework, there is also a proposal format for proposals. Which one should be taken?*

The format in the call for proposals should be followed. The format in the framework is general only.

17. *In the DZ framework, does the reference to 'technical advice' also include studies? Will these studies also be funded through this call for proposals?*

We have identified some studies that will be supported separately to this call for proposals. If applicants think there is some dedicated research or study activity that is important to support the technical advice proposed for a project, and if the time frame works, it may be included in the proposal

18. *Can a consortium make application directly if the consortium itself is not registered but its member organizations are registered?*

If the member organizations, who will work on the ground, are registered and have the authority to work in the target areas, the consortium can apply for funding.

19. *Does a local NGO need to register for a LIFT grant?*

The LIFT operational guideline state that organizations need to have the authority to work in the areas they propose. Formal registration is not required but we will expect some written evidence of the authorization to work.

20. *Contract: How many contracts do you expect to issue?*

We are going to work in 6 townships and may have around 10 contracts. The number will be determined the mix of proposals received.

Budget

21. *Should the budget and the work plan be submitted within the 25 page limite provided for the proposal or can the be put to the annexes?*

The excel templates should be used for both the budget and work plan and placed in the annexes. They are not counted as part of the 25 pages for the proposal.

22. *The LIFT budget template does not really provide a specific place to allocate M&E. Would you prefer to have it as a separate component?*

You have to configure your budget to what is appropriate to the proposal. It is helpful for us to keep the budget template because it is much easier for appraisal. M&E related costs can be included in a separate table and then summarized in the main budget.

23. *Is there a different budget ceiling for local NGOs and international NGO the same?*

The call document does not distinguish the budget ceiling for different types of applicants. All applicants are considered according to the same criteria.

Collaboration with government and private sector

24. *Could the government be an implementing partner?*

Government departments can be a partner in collaboration with another LIFT contract partner or apply with a project proposal themselves. This makes it possible for NGOs to work closely with the government in the implementation of interventions.

25. *Could you provide the definition of what kind of registration/authority a partner needs to have to operate in the proposed area?*

Some LIFT partners have previously provided *no objection letters* from the township authorities or regional departments; others had documentation that their registration was in progress. These are acceptable documents demonstrating the authorization to work in a proposed township.

26. *Other Business: When you talk about other business in the call for proposals, do you refer to small and medium scale or large scale business and how do you expect them to contribute to the project?*

The size of the businesses you want to engage with depends on your experience and expertise and what is relevant in the local context and type of interventions proposed. Rural and urban SMEs are a target group in the LIFT 'Access to Finance' component in the Dry Zone. Agricultural advisory services should connect businesses, i.e. input suppliers, farmers and financing organizations. The integration of business in a project is also important for marketing of agricultural produce.

27. *What should happen to project assets (e.g. water testing tools) after a project is completed? Should they be handed over to the township authorities?*

The handover of project assets to local departments at the end of the project is possible. Many townships have indeed already requested that LIFT support water quality testing equipment in the programme.