

**Partner Questions Arising from LIFT’s Call for Proposal: Dry Zone Programme**

**Part 1: Questions received via email**

**May 14, 2015**

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<i>Type of activities/approach</i>	
1	<p><i>Can organisations apply to the call even if their proposals address only one of the three mentioned themes (Farm Advisory Services, Nutrition, Resilience and Reduced Vulnerability) or is it compulsory for applying organisations to address all three focus areas?</i></p> <p>No, it is not compulsory to address all three focus areas. Applicants should assess their core strengths and experience and apply for the geographic area(s) and thematic area(s) that they can implement successfully and where they can achieve expected results.</p>
2	<p><i>Is it acceptable to submit a proposal that covers a majority of the Advisory Services and one section of Nutrition Services (section 3) integrated into a single proposal?</i></p> <p>Yes, this is acceptable. The thematic and geographic mix of your proposed intervention should be done based on the strengths of your organization, your expertise, and qualifications. LIFT will map the projects to ensure all interventions and geographic areas are covered.</p>
3	<p><i>The Dry Zone Programme Framework document lists four main areas for support of water-related work including (under para 47, page 10) - "The commissioning of studies to identify and quantify suitable groundwater reserves and address problems of contamination". This is the only area for which a specific Component has not been identified. Do groundwater studies fit under the current Dry Zone call? Groundwater studies is relevant to components 4, 5 and 6, but does not fit precisely into any of these as described.</i></p> <p>The studies mentioned under paragraph 47 in the programme framework document are not part of the current call. The topics and scope of the Dry Zone studies will be determined once the Dry Zone Programme starts. Applicants are free to propose a study activity as a part of their proposal if the rationale of the proposal is directly dependent on the identified study. Applicants are also free to mention their expertise for studies that might support the Dry Zone programme, but these studies will not be decided upon now.</p>
4	<p><i>The Dry Zone Scoping Report includes a "Recommended Research and Study Program". Does LIFT intend to carry out any of these studies at a central level for all target areas, and would it be appropriate for proposals to include any of these research studies in their own projects?</i></p> <p>The studies mentioned in the Dry Zone scoping mission report are not part of the current call. The topics and scope of the Dry Zone studies will be determined once the Dry Zone Programme has started. Applicants are free to mention their expertise for these studies, but the studies will not be decided upon now.</p>

5	<p><i>Under Component 5, does LIFT have any guidance on the expected balance between hardware and software support related to WASH or to what extent WASH infrastructure can be included?</i></p> <p>There is no fixed number, but we expect to have a wide coverage of hygiene awareness and training. Latrines and water supply systems (hardware) should only be included where substantial inputs from the participating communities are also proposed. It should be noted that the allocation to Component 5 is not sufficient for large scale investment in hardware.</p>
6	<p><i>Can LIFT outline the scope and priority for WASH hardware interventions for the DZ programme, especially the budget for construction of water and sanitation facilities? From previous experience in the Dry Zone, the Red Cross identified that the combination of software (education sessions, household visit, campaigns, community water groups etc.) followed by hardware (construction/rehabilitation) makes a significant role model for successfully changing peoples' behaviours, attitudes, and practices regarding hygiene. As a result, incidences of diarrhea in communities have reduced to insignificant levels in the past 3 years. Through access to water and proper sanitation, communities were able to change their practices and behaviours. Without such a combined focus, results would not have turned out so well. Based on that, we propose to LIFT to prioritise WASH hardware, but we are also aware that there may be budget constraints.</i></p> <p>You are right that hardware and software need to go together to reduce the incidence of diarrhea in the villages. However, water supply systems and latrines are not new in the Dry Zone and many villages have latrines but which are not utilized effectively. We see the focus of the WASH component more on the software side due to available allocation, e.g. training, hygiene education and awareness building. This should be connected with nutrition activities to provide villages a complete training programme. The hardware component has its role in villages with poor water quality and latrine facilities. However, we encourage our partners not to provide these inputs for free. Ownership, even for latrines, is essential for the sustainability of an intervention.</p>
7	<p><i>Social protection (SP) is a rather broad concept. We understand a key factor for LIFT is to identify and strengthen existing social protection mechanisms already in place in communities. We would like to know whether LIFT's approach/priority is to include a focus on disaster risk reduction for the Dry Zone under component 6 (social protection), bearing in mind that the communities in the DZ struggle with regular droughts, flooding, storms and strong winds that can take up to 5-8 years for the most vulnerable to recover from (e.g. crop losses, houses being damaged, etc.)?</i></p>

	<p>Component 6 focuses on social protection, not disaster risk reduction or income generating activities or construction of protective infrastructure. However, this Component does not exclude disaster risk reduction interventions where there is a strong justification in support of the proposed activities and the focus is on the poorer households of villages and support for their livelihoods.</p>
8	<p><i>LIFT has indicated a list of villages in each project township for project interventions. According to our prior development trials, we want to include some villages that do not appear in LIFT's list. 75% of our villages match LIFT's, while the remaining (not more than 25%) may lie outside, but are not beyond the boundary of the target township. This is because we need to consider the concentration of a particular crop commodity in a certain village and "Kwin" boundary as priority criteria to achieve adequate organisational scale and economies of scale in delivering farm extension services. Is it possible, therefore, to select three villages (not listed by LIFT) out of 15 villages in a township?</i></p> <p>Yes, that is possible. The list of 30 villages in each township is a preliminary list that we requested from the township departments. After having presented the complete LIFT Dry Zone programme to the departments, we requested a list of villages in need of support but also that provide opportunities to implement the proposed activities. Although the list is indicative and will be further discussed with the government we would like applicants to give due consideration to the Township government's proposed lists.</p>
9	<p><i>LIFT has made a Call for Proposals for Financial Inclusion and one of our close Agribusiness Companies, in collaboration with a Microfinance Institute, has applied for a project. In our proposal for the Dry Zone Project, we are considering the Inclusive Agribusiness Growth Model with small and medium farmers to be in line with LIFT's "Step Up" strategy and our farm extension services will be directed to the promotion of entrepreneur skill and spirit of the small and medium farmers so that they could participate in agribusiness development. We would like to partner with responsible input suppliers and agribusiness development workers. Can we include a partnership programme in our proposal? If both parties are selected by LIFT for the project, the two could collaborate in a common area of interest.</i></p> <p>Applicants are free to propose such a collaboration, but should not build their proposals on the assumption that both applicants and the proposed collaboration will be selected. Whoever will be selected to provide access to finance in the Dry Zone will have to provide similar services and will have to closely cooperate with the agricultural advisory service. The exact division of labour between two interventions, in case they overlap, will be discussed and decided in the negotiations with the partners once they are confirmed by the LIFT board.</p>

10	<p><i>Does LIFT have environmental policies, guidelines or standards that applicant should follow?</i></p> <p>There are no LIFT specific standards, however applicants will be expected to follow good international practice and standards, and make clear what those standards are.</p>
<b>Nutrition</b>	
11	<p><i>I would like to clarify whether under a proposal for the “Nutrition” component of the Dry Zone call, LIFT would fund an initial rapid assessment to establish baseline nutrition indicators before the actual intervention. In other words, can an assessment be included in the budget of the proposal?</i></p> <p>Yes, an initial rapid assessment to establish baseline nutrition indicators before and actual intervention starts may be proposed.</p>
12	<p><i>Can LIFT provide any further guidance on the targeting of cash transfers for women in the 1,000 day period? How does LIFT envision the cash transfers under the Dry Zone Programme to reconcile with the national plan for social protection?</i></p> <p>The approach used to target women eligible for cash transfer is not prescribed by LIFT. We are happy to receive ideas from our partners. However it should be noted that poverty is a fluid concept and households constantly move in and out of poverty. Spending too many resources and time on targeting may not be helpful or cost efficient because the selected women may move out of poverty during project implementation. We envisage a geographical limitation on the coverage based on available funding.</p> <p>The strategic plan for social protection includes cash transfers for women in the 1,000 day period. It is one of the Plan's flagship programmes during the implementation period. We expect the government to be able to continue the cash transfer programme fully or in parts once the programme is closed.</p>
13	<p><i>We are proposing, in line with LIFT strategic priority, to focus our interventions on pregnant and lactating women and children under 2. However, we propose to add school based nutrition and hygiene promotion for primary school attendees (component 5: nutrition) based on good experiences from the Dry Zone, as well as target people living with disability (under component 6: social protection). We would like to know if these groups would be seen as relevant target groups within the framework.</i></p> <p>The funding for the nutrition activities in the Dry Zone is significant and LIFT wants to see the impact on stunting. We are very clear that we want to support the 1000 day window which closes around the age of two. Primary school children are not our primary target group. PwD are certainly a relevant target group under Component 6.</p>

14	<p><i>I would like to get clarify which outcome statement to us as the Call for Proposal outcome statement is different from the LIFT strategic outcome? In the CfP the outcome statement says, "Child stunting across the six programme townships is reduce". However, LIFT strategic outcome (as per results framework) states, "Improved nutrition of women, men and children".</i></p> <p>The LIFT strategic outcome is a high level outcome for LIFT. The outcome detailed in the CfPs is at an intermediate level relevant to the specific programme component. The CfPs outcome should be the focus for proposal preparation</p>
<b>Proposal</b>	
15	<p><i>As was the case for the Delta call, may we assume that the Title Page and Preamble sections are not included in the page limit, but that the budget, work plan and CVs are?</i></p> <p>Title page is not included; the preamble is part of the proposal and counted. CVs, work plan are EXCEL files and not counted.</p>
16	<p><i>Does our LNGO need to form a partnership with an International NGO (INGO) to be eligible for application to LIFT for Dry Zone Project grant?</i></p> <p>No, local NGOs can apply in their own right as an organisation or in partnership with other local partners like NGOs or private sector. You can also apply with INGOs as partners. It will be your decision who the contract partner will be and who the supporting partner will be. However, they must meet the eligibility and capacity requirements assessed by LIFT.</p>
17	<p><i>Can graphics and tables have a smaller (legible) font other than the 12pt Times New Roman provided?</i></p> <p>12pt Times New Roman is the standard font size for all narrative in the document. If graphics and tables need a smaller font for effective presentation that is permissible, but no smaller than 10 pt.</p>
18	<p><i>It is indicated that an electronic submission should not exceed 5MB. If an application is over 5MB, can an applicant divide it and send it through multiple, well labeled emails?</i></p> <p>The idea of the 5MB is to keep the proposal documentation manageable. We need to insist on one email up to 5MB</p>

19	<p><i>Can you please confirm if the Evaluation Learning Plan and Measurement Plan can be included as an Annex?</i></p> <p>The Theory of Change and Evaluation and Learning Plan are a fundamental part of the proposal narrative and should be in the proposal document. The Measurement Plan is a matrix and can be put in the annexes.</p>
20	<p><i>Can you please confirm whether the “summary” listed in the Preamble is supposed to be an executive summary for the proposal?</i></p> <p>The summary listed in the Preamble is the executive summary.</p>
21	<p><i>Can you please confirm if the Title Page and Preamble (table of contents, list of abbreviations, map and summary) are counted in the 25 page limit for the technical?</i></p> <p>Refer to Q 15.</p>
22	<p><i>Are all criteria listed in the Evaluation Criteria Section on p. 13 equally weighted?</i></p> <p>They are all important and all equally weighted. However, some projects may not cover all aspects of the evaluation questions. E.g. the policy dialogue may not be equally important for all interventions</p>
<b>Others</b>	
23	<p><i>In the Dry Zone Programme Framework, LIFT makes reference to a forthcoming Migration study. When is this study expected to be available online? Will it be released in time to inform proposals in response to this call?</i></p> <p>The Migration Study is being conducted by the World Bank and is still ongoing. The study will be made public once has been accepted by LIFT.</p>

24	<p><i>Is there an opportunity for us to learn more about what, where and how implementing partners intend to deliver the other program components (rural finance, seeds, livestock and capacity building)? How do we understand this so that we may consider these in our project design? Also, is there an opportunity to get to know the implementing partners of the component for rural finance, livestock, seed production and local capacity building? We are interested in contacting them for consultation to better understand their LIFT-related program and find synergies</i></p> <p>Sorry, there is no such opportunity during the time this call is open. Most of these partners are still to be determined. Once all proposals are received, LIFT will start the assessment process. The proposed partners will be considered and approved by the Fund Board. Only then will we know who will implement what in which townships. LIFT will look to achieve the appropriate synergies between partners working on the different components of the programme with the first discussions with those applicants that are shortlisted.</p>
<b>Budget</b>	
25	<p><i>Please clarify if the lead applicant should include detailed budgeting information from the sub-grantees in the same format as the applicant. In other words, is the lead applicant required to submit the “Budget” and “Assumptions” tabs only for itself, or should the lead applicant submit the “Budget” and “Assumptions” tabs for each partner as well?</i></p> <p>Yes. The lead applicant is responsible for submitting a complete proposal; that means a complete budget inclusive of all project components. The project components, including each sub-grantee should be clearly distinguishable.</p>
26	<p><i>Can you please clarify which budget line item applicants can use to include the budget for its subgrantees in the budget template? In a review of the required budget template, there is no specific budget line for “subgrants”. Page 11 of the call for proposal contains the following instruction: “The budget line items in the budget template are general categories intended to assist in thinking through where money will be spent. If a planned expenditure does not appear to fit in any of the standard line item categories, list the item under other costs, and state what the money is to be used for.” However, the budget template does not include a line called “Other Costs.” Please clarify where the applicant can include subgrantee budgets, including all of their direct and indirect costs.</i></p> <p>Subgrants budget lines can be included in the programme budget section. However, depending on the size of the grant the scope of work for the sub grantee we may ask during further discussions to specify the details of the sub grant to assess the HR costs in comparison to the programme costs.</p>



27	<p><i>Are the budget and budget narrative included in the 25 page limit for the Technical Proposal and 20 pages for Annexes?</i></p> <p>The budget and budget narrative do not count towards the 25 page limit of the proposal but there should be a clear budget summary with relevant discussion within the 25 page proposal narrative. The <i>full</i> budget and budget narrative go in the annexes and count towards the 20 page limit for the annexes.</p>