

# Understanding the PRO-WASH & SCALE Applied Research Award

## Question Responses

On February 12, 2024, the PRO-WASH & SCALE Award released a request for applications (RFA) for our applied research award. Decolonization of aid. Participatory processes. Community-led programming. These terms are routinely used by humanitarian and development practitioners with earnest desire to further localization and sustainability objectives. But many of the tools and approaches that practitioners use (social and behavior change (SBC), barrier analyses, community visioning, farmer or youth-led assessments, and others) have been developed outside of the countries and communities where they are ultimately used and may carry with them embedded perspectives, assumptions, and biases of implementer and/or donor mindsets and experience.

The purpose of this RFA is examining one or more commonly applied approaches or tools aimed at centering community voices and decision making to identify their effectiveness and/or limitations in supporting the adoption of practices and behaviors and, ultimately, program outcomes.

As part of the RFA process, PRO-WASH & SCALE solicited questions in writing via email about the funding opportunity from interested parties to be submitted no later than March 4, 2024, at 5:00 PM ET. This document responds to relevant questions submitted before the deadline.

**1. I would like to know about the grants you offer.**

Please find all the publicly available information about current opportunities [here](#).

**2. Is my organization eligible?**

**Per Section C of the RFA:** PRO-WASH & SCALE will not accept applications from individuals. All applicants must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law. Applicants must comply with all applicable Unique Entity Identification Number (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) requirements. Applicants are not required to have a UEI at the time of application but must have a UEI number at the time of the award and will need to provide PRO-WASH & SCALE with proof that they have started the application process, as the process can be lengthy. Applicants must have completed all required steps (if any) with the host government to legally operate their program. Applicants must have an organizational presence in the country and meet the definition of local partner as laid out in USAID ADS 303.

The following are **not** eligible to apply for grants under this RFA:

- Members of the PRO-WASH & SCALE consortium: Save the Children and Mercy Corps.
- Individuals and/or sole proprietorships.

- Government entities, including ministries.
- Multilateral organizations.
- Firms operating as commercial companies or other organizations (including non-profit and non-governmental organizations) that are wholly or partially owned by foreign governments or agencies.

**Note also from Section A:** Only local entities are eligible to apply, as defined in United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) ADS 303: "A local entity means an individual, a corporation, a nonprofit organization, or another body of persons that—is legally organized under the laws of; has as its principal place of business or operations in; is majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of; and managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of a country receiving assistance from funds appropriated under title III of this Act." Applicants must focus their activity to be relevant to a community, region, or country where there are currently USAID/BHA funded projects. More information on these locations is available by accessing USAID's [Where We Work](#) website. Global initiatives are also acceptable if the outputs will be relevant to USAID/BHA partners.

**3. "Unique Entity Identifier" of my organization. What does this mean?**

The Unique Entity Identifier is the official identifier for doing business with the US Government since April 4, 2022. Please see more information on the government's website [here](#).

**4. "This RFA is open to local partner applications only". Does this mean only partners of Save the Children Federation, Inc. can apply?**

This means that organizations that meet USAID's definition of a local organization are eligible for this grant: as defined in United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) ADS 303: "A local entity means an individual, a corporation, a nonprofit organization, or another body of persons that—is legally organized under the laws of; has as its principal place of business or operations in; is majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of; and managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of a country receiving assistance from funds appropriated under title III of this Act."

**5. "Under this RFA, Save the Children Federation, Inc. will fund one award up to USD \$100,000 for a study period of up to 16 months." Does this mean ONLY one award will be funded globally?**

That is correct.

**6. From what I understand, BHA is funding both Save and Mercy Corps to implement the PRO-WASH & SCALE Award. We are considering the possibility of partnering with/shadowing a local partner organization for this bid. However, given the contractual agreement we have, do you think our involvement as SC/MC (even if not the prime sub-recipient) might be problematic / considered a conflict of interest?**

**Per Section C** of the RFA, Save the Children and Mercy Corps are not eligible for this award and their applications will not be considered.

**7. One project governance idea we may entertain is to have a local partner organization run the project / critical assessment of community voices approaches, with a focus / case study on one of our**

**existing relevant projects in the Middle East to test this out. In addition to the implementation of said project itself, our team's involvement would likely be around provision of Monitoring and Evaluation data and consultation with the partner in charge. Do you think this might be an attractive model based on what PRO-WASH & SCALE is looking for?**

Yes, this model would be attractive assuming that no ineligible entity receives any monetary compensation or similar for their services.

**8. Is there any restriction to apply for the grant amount? We are a small organization of approximately 5 years of existence and our average annual income is not more than 100,000USD.**

There are no restrictions in the RFA, but we ask that you request a reasonable amount that you believe your organization can realistically manage over the life of the grant.

**9. Has the location of the research been determined, or we can do it in our organization's work area?**

The location of the project has not been pre-determined.

**10. From several issues listed in the RFA, can we choose one of the issues that is the focus of our current work?**

Focus areas need to align with Section B1 of the RFA: Applicants must draw examples from PRO-WASH & SCALE's focus sectors in support of food and nutrition security objectives: agriculture, NRM, livelihoods and markets, WRM, and WASH. Whatever form the deliverables of this work take (see section B6 below for illustrative examples) they should be relevant, useful, and practical for practitioners, whether at the implementing partner, donor, and/or government levels. The applicant should specify the intended audience(s) in their response to the RFA.

**11. Is this RFA a pure research request or a combination of research with piloting?**

This RFA does not limit or pre-determine the methods in which applicants might approach their chosen line of inquiry (e.g., research, pilots, or any of the examples cited in section BX); is not a research request: applicants can propose the best method of implementation based that best fits on their chosen line of inquiry.

**12. Enfin, nous sommes particulièrement intéressés par cet appel à projet et nous voudrions savoir si la rédaction en Français est-elle autorisée.**

**Selon section F2** de notre RFA, toutes soumissions doivent être rédigés en anglais.

## **DISCLAIMER**

This document was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the PRO-WASH & SCALE Award and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.