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# PRACTICES, RESEARCH & OPERATIONS IN WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (PRO-WASH)

## Request for Applications

RFA: SC-TOPS-WASH-RFA-2018-01

Subject: Pathogens Pathway Study for Children under two years old in Southeastern Madagascar

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Date RFA Issued:	July 15, 2020
End of Question Period:	July 29, 2020
Due Date for Applications:	August 12, 2020
Award Ceiling:	\$150,000 USD
Issued by:	Save the Children Federation, Inc./ PRO-WASH Activity

**Disclaimer:** This request is 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 Award and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



## Introduction from the PRO-WASH & FIOVANA Teams

July 15, 2020

Dear Prospective Applicants,

I am pleased to share with you this call for applications for applied research to support the learning and evidence building efforts of the PRO-WASH Award funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). PRO-WASH aims to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH practices in BHA-funded development and emergency food security activities.

In many locations around the globe, there are populations that struggle daily with access to clean drinking water and facilities and services that support proper sanitation and hygiene. Poverty, weak government systems and acute or chronic crises – conflicts and natural disasters – both create and exacerbate the WASH challenges vulnerable people face. In many circumstances, the development community and the beneficiaries we work alongside know what is needed, but the solution to the WASH problem remains out of reach due to cost or is unlikely to be sustainable because of social-cultural barriers or other challenges within the broader enabling environment. PRO-WASH is calling on the WASH community – non-governmental organizations, research institutions, private-sector firms—to see where we can bring proven practices together with new research, innovative technologies, creative policies, and other approaches to develop affordable, sustainable solutions to meet the WASH needs of the vulnerable populations assisted by BHA programming.

For many the household environment remains highly-contaminated potentially exposing infants, youth and children through contaminated food, water, soils, floors and dirty objects. Growing evidence is reinforcing that to ensure healthy growth and development, infants and young children need to be less exposed to feces in their environment. Even in the absence of diarrhea, fecal contamination affects nutrient absorption and young children's resilience to fight infections. However, evidence from several randomized studies indicated that traditional sanitation interventions may not do enough to reduce the multiple pathways causing environmental contamination, and potentially impacting longer-term child growth. Increasingly, the WASH community has cited the need for 'transformational' interventions which comprehensively address household sources of environmental contamination through multi-sectoral interventions which also consider associated impacts on livelihoods, dietary diversity, early childhood education and caretaker's time.

This RFA is designed to provide innovative, context-specific research on strategies for interrupting fecal-oral transmission and reduce overall environmental contamination for BHA partners in South-eastern Madagascar. The resulting strategy from this RFA will be critical to supporting implementing partners to be able to validate which transmission pathways are most important in the specific context of Madagascar and to begin the process of piloting potentially promising, multi-sectoral WASH interventions.

For details on proposal submission guidelines, timing, subject areas, and review criteria, please see the RFA package included in this document and its attachments.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Pinto, Director PRO-WASH & Jason Brooks, Senior Technical Advisor WASH, ADRA

## A. Authority & Introduction

The purpose of this request for applications (RFA) is to solicit applications for a study of pathogen transmission pathways in children under the age of two in FIOVANA implementation areas within South-eastern Madagascar. This study will provide actionable recommendations for interventions focused on interrupting fecal-oral transmission pathways which, in turn, can be used by the FIOVANA award to refine key nutrition and WASH implementation activities. Save the Children will fund one award under this RFA up to \$150,000 USD for a study period of up to six months beginning in August 2020<sup>1</sup>.

In order to be considered for this applied research sub-award, all applicants shall submit a detailed proposal narrative which outlines the applicants' understanding of the context and key challenges of the region and provides a comprehensive overview of the proposed approach to data collection for this pathogen transmission study. The proposal narrative should also provide a timeline for the completion of data collection, analysis, strategy development, peer review and socialization of findings in accordance with the sub-grant duration specified below. Supporting documents, listed in Section I, are also required. Questions for this RFA will be received from potential applicants through **July 29, 2020 via email to [prowash@savechildren.org](mailto:prowash@savechildren.org)**.

Resourcing for this sub-award is provided through PRO-WASH, a five-year USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)-funded activity that aims to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH practices across all BHA-funded development and emergency food security activities. PRO-WASH works to improve the impact, sustainability, and scalability of BHA's programming in WASH through activities focused on knowledge sharing, capacity-strengthening, and capturing best practices in WASH programming. The PRO-WASH Award also provides resourcing for small grants to support implementing partners to identify context-specific WASH solutions that focus on improving service delivery for the ultra-poor, and to identify or develop solutions to select technological barriers for moving from unimproved or limited to basic and safely managed service delivery for water and sanitation.

This RFA describes the objectives of the PRO-WASH applied research; explains the key technical area of focus for this award; lists the qualifications of applying organizations; lists the criteria for evaluating applications; and provides information on funding, application format, and other relevant information.

The authority for these awards is found in the Food for Peace Act of 1954 (as amended) and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and is re-delegated to Save the Children Federation under its Cooperative Agreement No. 72DFFP18LA00005 with USAID.

## B. Specific Programmatic Guidance

### B1. Background

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<sup>1</sup> Unanticipated delays due to COVID-19 travel restrictions might lead to an extended timeline and start-up date for this award. Applicants should wherever possible in their response to this RFA indicate any contingency plans that will be implemented to anticipate travel restrictions, as well as, outline their willingness to work beyond the six-month timeline.



The world's fourth largest island nation, Madagascar is rich in biodiversity yet ranks among the most food insecure countries on the Global Food Security Index. Collectively, poverty, food insecurity, and stunting in the South-eastern regions of Vatovavy-Fitovinany and Atsimo Atsinanana are among the country's highest. Dependent on subsistence farming in isolated communities, or fokontany, 88 percent of households in these regions are moderately or severely food insecure,<sup>2</sup> resulting in the stunting of one out of every two children under five.<sup>3</sup> Several factors drive chronic food insecurity. Poor health and nutrition practices, coupled with limited access to quality healthcare and water supply, disproportionately expose women and children to recurring and preventable health issues. Due to low home-based production, distant markets, and unstable, insufficient incomes, households are unable to access essential food and non-food items, particularly during annual lean seasons. Recurring disasters put additional stress on already vulnerable households and communities that are unprepared to manage—and often practice behaviors that contribute to—risks. As a result of gender dynamics, female-headed households tend to be more food insecure. Underlying all these drivers are factors directly related to sustainable change: individual behaviors, access to resources and reliable infrastructure, and linkages between and across social structures.

The FIOVANA project, led by Adventist Development Relief Association (ADRA), is seeking to improve the health and nutrition of approximately 428,800 individuals through a combination of multi-sectoral interventions focused on improving agriculture, livelihoods, nutrition and WASH. Program activities focused on WASH will specifically target improvements in access to and quality of household-level water supplies, hygiene behaviors and sanitary household and community environments. Findings from previous rounds of implementing development food security activities (DFSAs) in Madagascar indicate context-specific challenges to increasing coverage and acceptance of improved sanitation. In order to complement and strengthen FIOVANA's existing WASH activities, the program will seek to implement targeted interventions focused on improving hygienic household environments for children under two years of age.

FIOVANA's Theory of Change (ToC) and interventions are designed to address barriers and needs through a socio-ecological model that transforms behaviors and norms at the individual, household, community and institutional levels. ADRA, with support from partner FHI360 and through engagement with local partners will use context-

Box 1. FIOVANA SBC Guiding Principles

- ❖ Interventions that incrementally strengthen collective efficacy, ownership and resilience.
- ❖ A layered intervention package focused on the 1000-day period.
- ❖ Ensuring individuals, households and communities have needed resources for the SBC.
- ❖ Public recognition of achievers.

specific, evidence-based SBC methods to address social and behavioral causes of chronic food insecurity. FIOVANA's Social Behavior Change (SBC) Strategy is comprehensive across the entire program and adheres

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<sup>2</sup> ADRA. March 2019. Needs Assessment: Atsimo Atsinanana and Vatovavy-Fitovinany Regions.

<sup>3</sup> INSTAT. 2012-2013. [Madagascar National Survey on MDGs: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger](#).

to four Guiding Principles (see Box 1). The strategy focuses on quality implementation and integrated adaptive management. ADRA conducted an extensive desk review and initial field research in the program regions and identified a number of key behaviors and social changes critical to the ToC. FIOVANA's SBC approach will build off further research and analysis in the first year and include participatory community consultations, formative research, a gender analysis, a detailed economic analysis, and a resilience assessment. Results will be used to validate or redefine the key behaviors and social changes and the incremental steps required to accomplish them.

## **B2. Project Objectives & Methodology**

The objectives of this RFA are:

To solicit proposals for a comprehensive strategy which would provide context-specific, actionable recommendations for addressing environmental exposure to animal and human fecal pathogens for children under the age of two years in FIOVANA implementation areas (see Annex A for specific locations). Recommendations included in the final strategy should consider the current prevalence and intensity of fecal contamination and fecal pathogens, including soil-transmitted helminths in implementing areas. Initially, this strategy will act to inform a small-scale pilot, including WASH behavior change activities, to address household environmental conditions in order to interrupt transmission pathways. In the longer-term, FIOVANA will consider the ways in which these recommendations could be scaled-up more broadly within the program's design.

The final deliverable(s), also outlined in Section B9, should consider the following the overarching research questions for this sub-award:

- What are the potential ingestion pathways of fecal pathogens (both human and animal) for children under the age of two in FIOVANA project implementation areas?
- What are potential interventions for interrupting these transmission pathways which also take into account the specific implementation challenges (e.g. topography and climate) and unique cultural and social norms of South-eastern Madagascar?

The specific objectives of this study will be to:

- Identify the key fecal pathogens likely affecting the health and well-being of children at different growth stages, including birth up to 6 months, 6-12 months and 12-24 months, both in terms of pathogen types, contamination loads and overall prevalence
- Determine if pathogens found in stool are similar to those found in soil
- To quantify the interaction of children under the age of two with their environment – both indoors and outdoors, in domestic, agricultural, public, and other spaces. Specifically, quantify the frequency of individual's hand-to-mouth and object-to-mouth contacts, which have the potential to convey fecal-oral pathogens into the mouth, the amount of time children spend with and without shoes on dirt and the spatial extent of their movement



- Explore the relative degree to which children may be exposed to fecal contamination through various pathways including ingesting food, unimproved drinking water, mouthing hands and ingesting soil
- Identify child and caregiving behaviors likely contributing to pathogen ingestion, including mothers' and caregivers' hygiene behaviors
- Identify any environmental or behavioral variations between groups of children in FIOVANA beneficiary communities
- Identify potential interventions for interrupting fecal-oral pathogen transmission pathways

Three distinct methodologies are expected to be employed as part data collection and analysis efforts for this study including observational, environmental and stool sampling. Observational data collection should take into account current caregiver feeding practices, household WASH practices, food hygiene measures and infant mouthing behaviors of fomites and/or other surfaces which may contain fecal pathogens. Environmental sampling should test pathogen loads on surfaces, soil and drinking water including play areas, food, fomites or other objects which come into contact with the infant's mouth. Finally, analysis of stool samples should be conducted in order to determine if pathogens being ingested by infants are similar to those present in the immediate household environment and/or other areas where children occupy. All three methodologies should include data collection both in the immediate household area, as well as, other areas that infants may be exposed to such as neighboring dwellings or parents' work spaces.

Applicants should also take into consideration the reliability, capacity and distance from implementation areas to available labs within Madagascar to carry out the necessary testing for this sub-award. [Le Laboratoire des Radiosotopes](#) and FOFIFA (National Center for Applied Research on Rural Development) have been identified as having adequate protocols that are currently aligned with the expectations of quality control for this sub-award. As discussed in other sections of this RFA, applicants should also consider as part of their response to application the impacts travel-related restrictions related to COVID-19 and propose potential mitigation strategies for carrying out this work within the given timeline.

Specific deliverables are listed in section B9 below. The final strategy should provide clear, actionable recommendations for new or modified WASH activities focused on interrupting transmission pathways which the FIOVANA project team could consider as part of a small-scale pilot leading into a larger package of multi-sectoral food security interventions. It should also provide examples of indicators which the FIOVANA program could integrate into routine, or larger-scale, program monitoring of infants, children, youth and their caregivers. Whenever possible, the strategy should build off of sanitation and hygiene interventions already being planned and implemented under FIOVANA, including proposed hygiene and sanitation programmatic outcome indicators.

The final deliverable should also draw heavily on existing sources of qualitative and quantitative WASH assessments that have already been conducted for South-eastern Madagascar. This includes existing studies conducted by FIOVANA focusing on WASH knowledge, attitudes and practices, as well as, formative research conducted by other organizations implementing context-specific sanitation and hygiene programming.

A crucial strategic objective of PRO-WASH is to generate reliable and high-quality information that will improve the delivery of WASH interventions for the beneficiaries across all USAID/BHA programming. This

includes identifying solutions to delivering WASH services in challenging contexts, such as those found in South-eastern Madagascar. The award resulting from this RFA should provide a series of sustainable, affordable and innovative recommendations for interrupting potential fecal-oral transmission pathways, while also providing a concept that can be tailored and used in other water scarce areas in which BHA implementing partners work.

### **B3. Focus & Subject Areas**

In 2019, 21 percent or 144 million of the world's children under age five globally experienced stunting, with the vast majority living in low- and middle-income countries<sup>4</sup>. Current research has linked stunting in the first 1,000 days of life to increased susceptibility to infections, lower economic productivity in adulthood, cognitive deficits and diminished educational attainment, as well as, and increased mortality. Parallel exposure to inadequate diet and poor water, poor care practices and repeated infection caused by inadequate sanitation and hygiene conditions put infants and young children (IYC) at greater risk of stunting and undernutrition in the earliest stages of life.

Global evidence indicates that while the overall childhood mortality rate attributable to diarrheal disease is decreasing, there is little effect on the total number of episodes, pointing towards other potential pathways towards stunting other than diarrhea.<sup>5</sup> Over the past decade, environmental enteric dysfunction (EED), a condition characterized by inflammation of the small intestinal lining that inhibits permeability and nutrient absorption, has been identified as a potential major mediating pathway linking poor WASH conditions and chronic undernutrition. Evidence indicates that assaults on the gut, linked with ingestion by IYC of animal and human feces, changes the shape and function of the gut, weakening ability to absorb nutrients and making IYC more susceptible to enteric infection.<sup>6</sup> EED is also thought to explain why current nutrition interventions, implemented in isolation from others focused on preventing child exposure to feces, only have modest effects on stunting.<sup>7</sup>

For the past several decades, potential pathways of fecal pathogen transmission have been understood through the framework of the “F-diagram” which linked ingestion of contaminated fluids, fingers, flies, fields (floors, earth, and dirt), fomites (surfaces), and food with sub-standard IYC growth and development outcomes.<sup>8</sup> However, the traditional F-diagram overlooks other risk factors, such as exposure to animal feces, often facing children in developing contexts. Infants and children, living in LMICs, live closely with their animals often sharing sleeping quarters and increasing their chances of contamination through multiple transmission pathways inside of homes. Children's behaviors are also not taken into account

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<sup>4</sup> WHO. Available online at: <https://www.who.int/gho/child-malnutrition/en/>

<sup>5</sup> Danaei G et al. 2016 *PLoS Med.*, 13(11):1-18; 2. Troeger C et al. 2018 *Lancet Glob. Health*, 6(3):e255-e269; 3. Liu L et al. 2016 *Lancet*, 388(10063):3027-35; 5. Fischer-Walker CL et al. 2012 *BMC Pub. Health*, 6(3):e230-e231

<sup>6</sup> Kotloff KL et al. 2013; *Lancet*, 382:209-22; 2. Korpe PS et al. 2012 *Trends Molec. Med.*, 18 (6): 328-336; 3. Humphrey JH 2009 *Lancet*, 374:1032-35; 4. Online at <https://tralfaz.blogspot.com/2017/08/i-cant-see-thing.html>.

<sup>7</sup> USAID, 2018. [Toward a Hygienic Environment for Infants and Young Children: A Review of the Literature](#). Washington, DC., USAID Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Partnerships and Sustainability (WASHPaLS) Project.

<sup>8</sup> Wagner & Lanoix, 1958

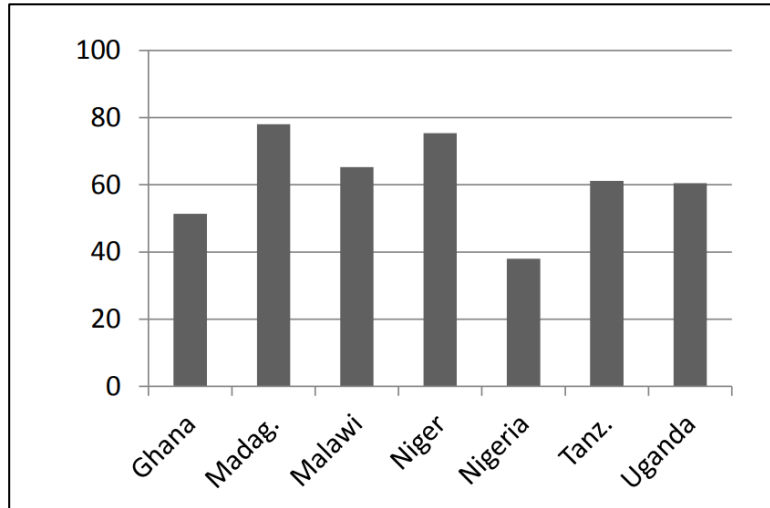




when considering risk factors associated with eating dirt (geophagy) or human/animal feces through mouthing behaviors. Young children are also often given water from unprotected sources, given food that is not properly reheated or fed using dirty utensils or caregiver’s hands.

This is particularly true in the context of Madagascar where much of the population resides in rural areas and relies heavily on livestock and rice farming to support their subsistence activities (See Figure 1). With a population of over 26 million people, only 17 percent of households have access to basic sanitation facilities and 54 percent use an improved water source.<sup>9</sup> Diarrheal disease and parasite-related infection are common in infants, youth and children. In a study investigating the source of diarrheal disease in Madagascar nearly 50 percent of those children under five tested positive for pathogenic intestinal microorganisms.<sup>10</sup>

Figure 1: Percentage of rural households which keep livestock



Source: FAO

Much of the Malagasy population is rural and depend heavily on livestock and rice farming for subsistence. The country has also experienced significant changes to the original environment for agriculture and resource extraction, leading to depletions in forestland and upheaval among local animal populations. This upheaval has only increased human exposure to rodents and other native species, which carry with them organisms transmissible to humans.<sup>11</sup> In a study of three communities in South-eastern Madagascar individuals who did not have access to an improved latrine, who experienced diarrhea in the past four weeks and who used water from an unimproved sources were all at greater risk of *E. coli*, *Shigella spp.*, *V. cholera* and *Yersinia spp.*<sup>12</sup>

Emerging evidence from experimental studies show mixed effects of improved sanitation on health outcomes, such as soil-based helminths and EED. What is known is that more, context-specific, research is needed in order to better understand the best mix of technological and behavioral interventions for specific communities. A better understanding of transmission pathways, and the high-benefit

<sup>9</sup> WHO/UNICEF JMP Country-level Data. Available online at: <http://washdata.org>

<sup>10</sup> Randremanana R, Randrianirina F, Gousseff M, Dubois N, Razafindratsimandresy B, Hariniana ER, Garin B, Randriamanantena A, Rakotonirina HC, Ramparany L, Ramarokoto CE, Rakotomanana E, Ratsitorahina M, Rajatonirina S, Talarmin A, Richard V. (2012) Case-control study of the etiology of infant diarrheal disease in 14 districts in Madagascar. *PLoS One*. 2012;7(9):e44533. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044533

<sup>11</sup> Laudoit A, Leirs H, Makundi RH, Van Dongen S, Davis S, et al (2007) Plague and the human flea, Tanzania. *Emerg Infect Dis* 13:687-693.

<sup>12</sup> Bublitz DC, Wright P, Bodager J, Rasambainarivo F, Bliska J, Gillespie T (2014) *Epidemiology of Pathogenic Enterobacteria in Humans, Livestock, and Peridomestic Rodents in Rural Madagascar*. *PLoS One* 9(7): e101456. Doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0101456.



interventions that can be employed to interrupt these pathways, will enable program implementers to better adapt interventions, such as animal husbandry, IYCF practices and food hygiene, particularly among children under the age of two years.

#### **B4. Duration of Applied WASH Sub-Award**

The duration of the award provided under this RFA for a duration of six months from the start date of the award with the possibility of extension at the discretion of the PRO-WASH Director. Extensions to the timeline for this sub-award will be jointly considered by the PRO-WASH and FIOVANA teams. PRO-WASH, Save the Children Federation, Inc. and/or USAID/BHA reserve the right to cancel this RFA at any time for cause.

#### **B5. Sub-Award Management**

The sub-award will be jointly managed by designated team members from the PRO-WASH and the ADRA-led FIOVANA project team. It is expected that the successful applicant will coordinate all work closely with both teams, including program staff operating in FIOVANA implementation areas. The purpose of this collaboration will be to ensure that the final study design is responsive to the needs of all beneficiaries in implementation areas and that recommendations are developed in alignment with FIOVANA's WASH program approach, including the program's social behavior change strategy. Collaboration may include coordinating site visits during the assessment/design stage as appropriate, working with FIOVANA staff to contact Government of Madagascar stakeholders and other WASH actors, and communicating modifications to the study design in a timely manner and socializing findings with both teams on an ongoing basis.

The successful applicant will also collaborate with PRO-WASH and ADRA FIOVANA staff for support as needed during the life of the award and provide bi-weekly updates to both teams on the progress of the final deliverable. Following the submission of the final deliverable, the successful applicant will be available to collaborate with PRO-WASH, ADRA and USAID/BHA by answering any questions on the final study findings, and potentially holding a webinar to share the final results with the larger audience of USAID/BHA stakeholders.

All products, materials and data produced under this award are subject to the approved PRO-WASH branding strategy which allows Save the Children US, along with FIOVANA as the award co-managers, to reproduce, translate and publish any results not first produced or prepared by "the Provider" in the performance of this Agreement. As per 22 CFR 226.36, USAID also reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so. Any resulting data collected using funding provided through this sub-award will be considered open-source and made publicly available via the Development Data Library (DDL) and Development Evaluation Clearinghouse (DEC).

FIOVANA is a key partner in ensuring the successful implementation of this sub-award, as well as, the resulting small pilot project. As such, applicants are asked to acknowledge the intellectual and administrative contributions of FIOVANA, including any key staff members, as part of outputs resulting from this sub-award. Further, FIOVANA and PRO-WASH are requesting that the final grantee include their logo in any presentation, publication or materials derived from research conducted as part completion of



the final strategy, as well as, inform the FIOVANA team of any future products resulting from this sub-award.

### **B6. Funding Availability**

Final funding levels for each award will depend on content and needs of the proposed activity, with a ceiling of \$150,000 USD. The award will be a Fixed Amount Award (FAA), which is a type of award that provides a pre-defined level of funding based on a schedule of pre-determined deliverables and results rather than reimbursement based on actual costs.<sup>13</sup>

### **B7. Type and Number of Awards**

PRO-WASH plans to award one award under this RFA. Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of Save the Children Federation, Inc. or PRO-WASH nor does it commit Save the Children Federation, Inc. or PRO-WASH to pay for the costs incurred in the submission of an application. Save the Children Federation, Inc. and PRO-WASH reserve the right to reject any or all submissions received and to negotiate separately with an applicant, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of Save the Children Federation, Inc. and the PRO-WASH donor, USAID.

### **B8. Authorized Geographic Code**

The authorized geographic code for procurement of goods and services under this RFA is 937. However, local procurement is authorized within the parameters specified in 22 CFR 228.40, “Local Procurement.”

### **B9. Post-Award Reporting Schedule**

Fixed payments will be scheduled in the award as Milestone Payments. The payment and schedule of the Milestone Payments will depend on the selected applicant’s negotiated budget amount, the agreed upon amount for each Milestone, and successful completion of the deliverable(s) associated with each Milestone.

Deliverables under this sub-award will include:

- Roles and Responsibilities document outlining timelines for the delivery of each approved milestone deliverable and responsibilities across the grantee, ADRA FIOVANA and PRO-WASH teams. This document should also include clear communication protocols across all relevant points of contact for the sub-award
- Kick-off meetings (in-person and/or remote) for all relevant stakeholders to review timeline, deliverables and the sub-award budget
- A bibliography and summary of existing knowledge and resources relevant to a study of pathogenic infection in young children in Madagascar, and which is inclusive of available existing resources from FIOVANA, USAID, Government of Madagascar and other relevant WASH stakeholders
- Identification of appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals as needed

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<sup>13</sup> Please see 22 CFR 200.45 “Fixed amount awards” for more information

- Inception Report which details the proposed sampling strategy taking into consideration any issues related to travel restriction or safety related to COVID-19, data collection methodology and lab methods for identifying pathogens. This inception report should also clearly outline quality control measures to be undertaken as part of this study and a detailed project timeline, as well as, outline sample collection and testing procedures
- Clear identification of the lab that will undertake testing of soil, food, water and stool samples (See Section B2 above for those that have been pre-identified for this project)
- Appropriate study protocols
- The final strategy should be delivered as both a formal report, and accompanying executive summary, to FIOVANA and an accompanying power point presentation that provides clear, actionable recommendations new or modified WASH activities focused on interrupting transmission
- Validation workshop with the FIOVANA team, including any relevant stakeholders from the USAID Mission and/or Government of Madagascar as identified by project staff

Throughout the course of the sub-award, the final grantee will also be responsible for providing regular, timely progress reports and update meetings to the FIOVANA and ADRA project teams, PRO-WASH, USAID/BHA and other relevant stakeholders.

## C. Applicant Eligibility

PRO-WASH will not accept applications from individuals. All applicants must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law. Applicants must comply with all applicable Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM) requirements. Applicants are not required to have a DUNS number at the time of application but must have a DUNS number at the time of the award. Hence, applicants should be in the process of receiving a DUNS number to avoid any delays in the award process. Applicants must have completed all required steps (if any) with the host government to legally operate their program.

Organizations are welcome to propose collaborative efforts, but each proposal must identify one organization that will be the lead/prime recipient of funding and be responsible for program requirements. The lead/prime organization also will be responsible for coordinating efforts with other partners. All collaborative efforts must be clearly identified and described in the proposal.

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

- Individuals
- Government entities, including ministries
- Multilateral organizations
- Firms operating as commercial companies or other organizations (including nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations) that are wholly or partially owned by foreign governments or agencies



Eligible entities include NGOs, universities, nonprofits and for-profit entities not owned in-full or in-part by foreign governments<sup>14</sup>. In their cost application, organizations should indicate whether they have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) with USAID. Organizations or institutions that do not have a NICRA are eligible for grants under this RFA either by using a de-minimus indirect cost rate (if requirements of 2 CFR 200.414(f) are met) or by direct charging all costs using a documented cost allocation methodology.

## D. Selection Process & Schedule

### D1. Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in **Section F**, below. After evaluation of the applications, either award(s) will be made or, if deemed necessary or desirable by PRO-WASH, written discussions/negotiations will be conducted with applicants who submit the most-highly rated applications. PRO-WASH reserves the right to conduct subsequent rounds of discussions/negotiations and/or request a revised application. PRO-WASH also may limit the number of applicants with whom such subsequent discussions/negotiations would be conducted or from whom revised applications are requested.

### D2. Schedule

This Pathogens Pathways Study for South-eastern Madagascar RFA is open from the date of issue. Submissions are due by 5PM EST on **August 12, 2020**. PRO-WASH, in close coordination with ADRA, reserves the right to amend this RFA at any time.

### D3. Questions

The point of contact concerning this RFA is Ms. Rebekah Pinto, Director, PRO-WASH, [rpinto@savechildren.org](mailto:rpinto@savechildren.org). Questions on this RFA may be submitted in writing before **July 29, 2020** with 'Pathogens Pathways Study for South-eastern Madagascar' in the subject line and should be copied to [prowash@savechildren.org](mailto:prowash@savechildren.org). Answers to submitted questions will be posted to the FSN Network website ([www.fsnnetwork.org](http://www.fsnnetwork.org)) by **July 30, 2020**.

## E. General Guidance

### E1. Content of Applications

Applicants must submit applications in compliance with the guidelines under **Sections E2** and **E3** of this RFA. Applications that do not adhere to those guidelines will not be considered for funding. Applications must be in English.

### E2. Pathogens Pathways Study for South-eastern Madagascar Proposal Format

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<sup>14</sup> As per USAID ADS Guidance 2 CFR 200.400 the non-Federal entity may not earn or keep any profit resulting from Federal financial assistance, unless explicitly authorized by the terms and conditions of the Federal award

Applications shall be submitted in accordance with the Proposal Submission Package of this RFA, included as **Attachments 1–4**.

### **E3. Application Submission**

Applications (to include proposal and detailed budget) must be submitted **electronically** to: [prowash@savechildren.org](mailto:prowash@savechildren.org).

### **E4. Program Branding and Marketing Guidelines**

As a condition of receipt of the PRO-WASH applied research sub-award, adherence to the PRO-WASH Associate Award Branding and Marking Guidelines is required. The guidelines will be sent to applicants whose proposals are selected for further review or at the time of the award.

## **F. Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation process set forth below. Awards will be made to the responsible applicant whose application best meets the aforementioned requirements of the Save the Children Federation, Inc./PRO-WASH Pathogens Pathways Study for South-eastern Madagascar. The PRO-WASH RFA Evaluation Committee (REC) will evaluate and rank all applications independently and uniformly in writing, based on the selection criteria of this RFA.

PRO-WASH reserves the right to determine the resulting level of funding for the award(s).

### **F1. Evaluation Criteria (Maximum 100 points)**

- 1.) Understanding of the context/challenge (10 points)
  - Demonstrate understanding of the various challenges of executing WASH, nutrition and/or animal husbandry interventions in the specific context of Madagascar
  - Demonstrate an in-depth of the specific social and cultural factors underlying certain WASH behaviors in Madagascar
  - Demonstrate an in depth understanding of the target population WASH needs (social, economic, health, convenience)
- 2.) Proposed Approach to Data Collection and Analysis (35 points)
  - Describe the overall approach to data collection how it is suited to South-eastern Madagascar
  - Describe how the approach to data collection and analysis can be adapted to COVID-19 related travel restrictions and safety precautions for the study team, FIOVANA and households included in the final sample
  - Demonstrate capacity to conduct research in a context similar to Madagascar including the applicants ability to recruit enumerators and conduct fieldwork in rural, developing contexts within the required timeline
  - Describe the ways in which the final recommendations will be validated with implementing partners and government stakeholders, and integrated into planned market-based sanitation activities
- 3.) Proposed Approach to Sensitization of Findings (30 points)



- Describe the strategy for working FIOVANA, USAID Mission and relevant government stakeholders throughout the sub-award to sensitize the research design, findings and final recommendations
- Demonstrate a clear plan for how the final analysis can be used to provide actionable, context specific guidance for the FIOVANA project

4.) Pre-Existing Experience Working in Country Context & Sector (15 points)

- Describe any previous experience working within the region, country or specific context conducting similarly-focused WASH, nutrition and/or animal husbandry research
- Describe the applicant’s ability to undertake this work in French
- Demonstrate capacity producing outputs for a range of audiences that are accepted within the sector
- Identify any foreseeable challenges to an immediate start of this sub-award

5.) Cost Proposal (10 points)

See **Attachment 2: Budget Template** and **Attachment 3: Budget Narrative Template**. For the purposes of this RFA, technical considerations are more important than cost. Proposed costs will be analyzed for cost realism, reasonableness, completeness, effectiveness, and allocability. Applications will be assessed to determine if the overall costs proposed are realistic for the work to be performed, if the costs reflect the applicant’s understanding of the requirements, and if the costs are consistent with the technical application. Applications that do not meet these criteria may risk not being considered for award. Applications that have more efficient operational systems that reduce operation costs will be more favorably considered. As technical scores converge, applications that maximize direct activity costs and that minimize administrative costs will be more favorably considered. It is important to note that where applications are found to be technically equal, cost will become the determining factor for award. Applications will be assessed to determine if the overall costs proposed are realistic for the work to be performed, if the costs reflect the applicant’s understanding of the requirements, and if the costs are consistent with the technical application.

As noted in Attachment 2, applicants should estimate as part of a separate line item the breakdown of costs related to sample collection and laboratory testing. Note, that additional costs related to journal publication or conference fees are not allowable as part of resourcing provided under this sub-award.

## G. Intellectual Property

Any materials developed under this award relating to intangible property such as intellectual property or patents are subject to applicable rules under 2 CFR 200.315, “Intangible Property.”<sup>15</sup> If applicants have intangible property developed previously under non-federal awards and are planning to use the intangible

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<sup>15</sup> In 2 CFR 200.315, “The applicant may copyright any work subject to a copyright that was developed under a Federal award. The federal government has the right to: (1) obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data under a Federal award; and (2) Authorize other to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes.” For more details, see 2 CFR 200.315 and e-CFR 401 “Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights.”

property in this award, clearly identify the intangible property and its anticipated use in the application. Applicants must also specify if the proposals include any proprietary information and must also mark as proprietary, if applicable.

## H. Other Applicable USAID Regulations

Awards will be administered in accordance with USAID policies and procedures. Awards to U.S. organizations will be administered in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, the applicable OMB Circulars, and USAID Standard Provisions.

Awards to non-U.S. organizations will be administered in accordance with the cost principles contained in 2 CFR 200, Subpart E and USAID Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Organizations. Please refer to **Attachment 4** for applicable USAID regulations.

## I. Attachments

Applications shall be submitted as per the following proposal submission package:

- Attachment 1: Program Narrative Template
- Attachment 2: Budget Template
- Attachment 3: Budget Narrative Template
- Attachment 4: Applicable USAID Regulations





## Annex A: FIOVANA Implementation Areas

<b>Region</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Commune</b>
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Ambohigogo
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Ankarana
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Anosy Tsararafa
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Antseranambe
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Efatsy
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	labohazo
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Ivandrika
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Namohora laborano
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Sahamadio
Atsimo Atsinanana	Farafangana	Vohilengo
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Ambahive
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Ambalaroka
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Ambandrika
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Ambila
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Ambohitrova
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Ampasimanjeva
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Anorombato
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Mahamaibe
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Marofarihy
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Mitanty
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Nihaonana
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Tataho
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Vinanitelo
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Vohimasina Nord
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Mananjary	Ambohitsara Est
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Mananjary	Andragnambolava
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Mananjary	Ankatafana

Vatovavy Fitovinany	Mananjary	Antsenavolo
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Mananjary	Morafeno
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Mananjary	Tsarahafatra
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Mananjary	Tsaravary
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Ambatolava
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Amparihy Est
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Anilobe
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Bevata
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Fonilaza
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Mahabe
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Masianaka
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Ranomena
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Soamanova
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Tsianofana
Atsimo Atsinanana	Vangaindrano	Vohitrambo
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vohipeno	Andemaka
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vohipeno	Anoloka
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vohipeno	Ifatsy
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vohipeno	Ilakatra
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vohipeno	Lanivo
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vohipeno	Savana
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vohipeno	Vohitrindry
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vondrozo	Anandravy
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vondrozo	Karianga
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vondrozo	Mahazoarivo
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vondrozo	Manambidala
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Vondrozo	Vohimary