



**Pre-Award Conference
Montana Hotel
January 30, 2013**

1. Pre-Award Conference Goals:

On January 30, 2013, USAID/Haiti and USAID's Office for Food For Peace (FFP) held a **pre-award** meeting for potential applicants for the Haiti Request For Application (RFA) at the Montana Hotel. The meeting goal was to provide potential partners with the opportunity to ask questions regarding the RFA and the coordination with the Government of Haiti and USAID's Bureau of Food Security.

2. Agenda

- 1 10:00-10:10 Welcome Remarks and Overview USG Strategy, Mr. Herbie Smith, Mission Director, USAID/Haiti
- 2 10:10-10:30 Overview of the Country Specific Information with Ms. Carell Laurent, USAID/Haiti and Government of Haiti representatives
- 3 10:30-10:45 Break (meeting chairs collect and review questions)
- 4 10:45-11:45 Questions and Answer Session
- 5 11:45-12:00 Follow on questions; Wrap up; Close of meeting

3. Panel Members:

The panel members included Dina Esposito, Director and Agreement Officer for Title II awards, Office of Food for Peace (FFP); Jean Jacques Charles, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Herold Israel, Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor; Jean Robert Brutus, Director of the GOH ABA-GRANGOU program; Herbert Smith, Acting Director of USAID/Haiti; Carell Laurent, Chief, Food Assisted Development and Humanitarian Support Office (FDHS), USAID/Haiti; and Timothy Mahoney, Bureau of Food Security, USAID/Washington.

3. Introduction Session:

Ms. Carell Laurent opened the pre-award meeting with a welcome to participants and introduction of the panel members. Mr. Herbert Smith, Acting USAID/Haiti Director, then spoke about the importance of reducing risks and vulnerabilities to food insecurity in Haiti and provided an overview of the next multi-year program, which aims to improve food access and utilization/consumption by working closely with the Government of Haiti (GOH), namely in support of their national social safety net strategy. Minister Jean Jacques Charles talked about the importance of the USAID program in terms of its support to the GOH social safety net system and the role that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor will play as a partner in the implementation and the coordination of this program. Ms. Laurent then provided a brief overview of the Country Specific Information for Haiti, highlighting mainly the expected areas of coordination with the GOH within the five components of the program

- identification of most vulnerable households and participant selection;
- food voucher programming targeting households and school students;
- nutritional outreach, education and support;
- complementary services, and
- disaster risk reduction

Participants were then asked to write their questions down on index cards for the panel before a short break.

4. Questions and Answers

Question 1: Will USAID be able to comment on how this RFA would potentially work with other USAID funded programs?

Response: In Haiti, the Mission goal is to have coordination among all programs.

Question 2: Will the awardee receive the CDF fund on October 1, 2013?

Response: Yes, if funding is available.

Question 3: Who is implementing the Feed the Future North Program?

Response: The Feed the Future North Program has not yet been awarded.

Question 3: Which local organizations are targeted as part of USAID FORWARD strategy?

Response: Any local organizations.

Question 4: What are the limitations (if any) for using the Community Development Funds (CDF)? If yes, is there information describing these limitations?

Response: Community Development Funds are to be used in lieu of monetization proceeds. Please see table at the end of the FFP Information Bulletin (FFPIB) entitled *Eligible Uses of Section 202(e) and ITSH* on the USAID website for some guidance on how CDF monies may be used. Final budget decisions will take place with successful applicants prior to the award finalization.

FFPIB link: <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/agriculture-and-food-security/food-assistance/guidance/food-peace-information-bulletins>

Question 5: What is the GOH reform strategy?

Response: The GOH is planning a meeting with all the potential bidders in the next several weeks. Please, address this question to the GOH officials.

Question 6: Should the recipient plan to program the full amount of USD 20 million during the first year of the program?

Response: Yes. USD 20 million will be available every year.

Question 7: Will a non-traditional nonprofit organization with innovative strategies for food distribution be given fair review among older nonprofit organizations in Haiti?

Response: Yes. In fact, USAID encourages applications from potential new partners.

Question 8: Regarding the fact that the commodity reference guide is not yet revised, which micronutrient premixes are available?

Response: The revisions to commodity reference guide are underway.

Commodity facts sheets depend on export commodity requirement documents (known as CRD); these are developed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Updated commodity facts sheets are found here:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=coop&topic=pas-ex-cr>

At this time, the micronutrient premix facts sheet is not done; the CRD for the micronutrient premix is not complete. FFP expects that the CRD for micronutrient premix for in country fortification at mills and at point of use (POU) will be completed in FY 2013.

Question 9: If for strategic reason, we want to purchase local commodities for direct distribution, which fund can be used?

Response: At this time, it appears that CDF resources would be utilized for local procurement. It is expected that CDF will be used for the voucher component of the program as this represents local procurement.

Question 10: What other investments are planned in the social protection section?

Response: Please refer to the examples found in the country specific information.

Question 11: Should we avoid the FTF corridors as implementation areas or should we just need to avoid duplication?

Response: The proposed target areas should be based on analysis of the underlying causes of food security and how these causes impact the vulnerable population of Haiti. Title II programs need to target the most vulnerable to food insecurity and follow the guidance of the CNSA regarding target regions and populations.

Question 12: How can a unified national safety net program be built from: Aba Grangou, Ti mamman Cheri, the new DFAP program and other existing GOH safety net program?

Response: The GOH has a clear approach on how to coordinate the different safety net programs. This approach will be discussed in the next several weeks during a meeting with the potential applicants. Interested applicants are also invited to contact the GOH representatives on the panel to discuss this issue further.

Question 13: Is it possible to have a national coverage with this level of budget?

Response: It is not expected that the program will have national coverage in terms of implementation of a national safety net system. The expectation is that the program will support GOH capacity to build a national system.

Question 14: Can USAID better define the relationship between the PVO and the GOH?

Response: The relationship between the PVO and the GOH counterpart is expected to be collaborative and coordinated. The PVO role is to work with the GOH to define this relationship; the PVO will support and implement components of the GOH national safety net system.

Question 15: Is there an expectation from USAID that there would be an exchange/transfer of resources to GOH from PVO selected?

Response: USAID anticipates that this may be possible, based on the design of the program and the identified needs of the GOH. There may be aspects of capacity building such as institutional strengthening that require the GOH to receive resources.

Question 16: Would the GOH be a sub-awardee or will USAID be supporting them simultaneously and separately?

Response: The GOH is not a sub-awardee. The applicant's role is one of support to the GOH.

Question 17: Can you provide a more clear explanation of how the monetization will be implemented?

Response: There will not be any monetization.

Question 18: To what extent (will) the local organization in each region be involved in (1) “stakeholder development” and (2) how the stakeholder engagement process will be managed in each region?

Response: This is a design question. It is up to the applicant to propose.

Question 19: What does USAID mean by GOH capacity building? Will the GOH be an implementer? Do we expect the GOH to take over by the end of the program?

Response: The GOH will be involved in the program from the beginning of the program to the end. It is expected that there will be a gradual phase over to the GOH. From the beginning, however, the GOH will play a key role in targeting the program beneficiaries and monitoring program achievement. As the program’s objective is to support the GOH in their building of a national safety net system, the intent is for GOH participation throughout the life of the program.

Question 20: How do you expect to build strong resiliency without an intentional focus on agriculture production?

Response: The program will support other aspects required to build strong resiliency. For example, as per the country specific information, the program is expected to complement other activities/programs that focus on agriculture production by supporting vulnerable households’ ability to procure local food goods.

Question 21: For what technical assistance will USAID contract outside of the \$80 million?

Response: Technical assistance in the form of subject matter experts to the MAST, for example.

Question 22: In the country specific information that accompanies the RFA it says that USAID will provide TA to MAST. Please, clarify what level of TA and how applicants should accommodate for this and other TA?

Response: See response to question 21 above.

Question 23: How should USAID-FFP (previous development award) investments in specific areas be taken into account? Should applicants exclude areas where previous development programs have been implemented? Is the presence of former partners in these areas an investment FFP wishes to continue?

Response: As mentioned before, the proposed target areas should be based on analysis of the underlying causes of food security and how these causes impact the vulnerable population of Haiti. The proposed target area for implementation should be based on needs assessments and consultation with the GOH. Applicants proposing to implement this program in regions where they have prior experience will be expected to incorporate lessons learned from prior activities into their description of technical interventions.

Question 24: Given that many entities of the GOH could be involved in this program, what is USAID's vision for ensuring buy-in of all these different players into this program? Given the entities that go beyond MAST and the various lines of authority involved, it would be helpful to hear more of USAID and GOH's thoughts/vision for this.

Response: We envision a continued GOH-USAID partnership and engagement as the new program unfolds. A good working relationship will have to be forged with all partners. Future meetings between the GOH (MAST and Abagrangou) and potential partners will further expand on this.

Question 25: Institutional sustainability and national scale are emphasized in the safety net component of the RFA. How important is the institutional sustainability and scaling up nationally for the first 1000 days – PM2A component of the RFA?

Response: Consider that institutional sustainability is a priority for all aspects of the program. The potential to scale up nationally will rest on the capacity of the GOH and other partners.

Question 26: What are the key expectations from the GOH with regards to the design of the program?

Response: GOH expects that the most vulnerable household be reached by the program components and that the national safety net system will be strengthened.

Question 27: What would the GOH consider as indicators of success for this initiative?

Response: In addition to the relevant required FFP and USAID/Mission Indicators, GOH will propose some key indicators of success as well.

Question 28: What other investments are planned in the social protection section?

Response: Please discuss this with GOH counterparts.

Question 29: We want to work closely with the GOH to ensure convergence of our vision for the program. Given the constraints of the competitive bidding nature of the process, how best should we do this?

Response: It is expected that there will be opportunities during the design phase to discuss with the GOH various aspects of the program. The GOH counterparts at this meeting plan to hold a meeting soon with potential applicants. In addition, applicants may contact them to discuss specific issues and vision.

Annex 1: List of attendees

Nom	Institution
Dany Pierre	IMC
David Holdridge	IMC
Bekele Hankebo	Food for the Hunger
Michelot Derosier	Mission to Rebuild
Jean Joseph Miguel Avin	MSAI
Tricia Peterson	Samaritan's Purse
Mathews Charles	Samaritan's Purse
Patrick Hyeku	Samaritan's Purse
Alix Douhyon	NSRL/UMI
Ourlaine Pashely	Peer Global
D. Mathieur Guy	Peer Global
Ayekee P. Messam	CRS
Jen Holst	CRS
Jeff Mc Intosh	CRS
Fan MacNairn	FINTRAC-Best
Redjino Mompremier	Aba Grangou
Guyslaim Ngeleza	USAID-Best
Budry Bayard	USAID-Best
Nadine Louis	Aba Grangou
Stephane Lobjois	ACF
Jean-Claude Mukadi	World Vision
Denis Telemaque	World Neighbors (WN)/VMA
Romane Charlotin	World Neighbors (WN)/VMA
Jude Marie Banatte	CRS
Koko Sossouvi	FINTRAC
Wilner Termilus	ACDI/VOCA

Regis Terrien	ACDI/VOCA
Colette Powers	ACDI/VOCA
Alex Bellande	FINTRAC
Lindsay Carter	CARE
Tamara Shukakidze	CARE
Mike Devries	CARE
Jean Robert Brutus	Aba Grangou
Magalie Boyer	CARE
Harry Francisque	EVD
Jean Paul Lamour	ARDECCS
John Hanson	Mercy Corps
R. Bernard	MAST (Ministry of Social Affairs)
Jolicoeur Roc	MAST (Ministry of Social Affairs)
Nadia Cherroux	PADF
Herdrix Pineda	Salesian Missions
Danielle de Knocke	Mercy Corps
Jean-Jacques Charles	MAST (Ministry of Social Affairs)
Herold Israel	MAST (Ministry of Social Affairs)
Paul Moise Gabriel	Aba Grangou
Myrta Kaulard	PAM
Erline M. Coulanges	Aba Grangou
Faphy Favre	WFP
Sylvain P. Adelçon	Fondation Rinaldi
Gary Juste	OAA/USAID
Mimose Felix	Ministère de la Paysannerie
Amos Bienaime	Radio Kiskeya
Shenk Mantk	Sove Ayiti
Nadege Ansme	Tele Star
Michelle Routhier	BND

Lucien Armand	Project Hope
Jolicoeur Monlan	Canal Bleu TV
Jean Frenel	Canal Bleu TV
Alexandre Grecia	Radio Galaxie
Jean Sony Lemoille	Radio Tele Éclair
Victor Legros	USAID
Jyminnor Guerisma	USAID
Marie Jose Laforest	USAID
Harry François	PCPS/USAID
Ron Savage	USAID
Matt Anderson	USAID
Babette Prevot	USAID
John Brannaman	USAID
Juli Majernik	USAID