HEMAYAT—Helping Mother and Children Thrive

Jhpiego, FHI360, Futures Group, and ASMO

Innovation Fund Call for Applications

October 28, 2015
BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Public Health’s basic package of health services and essential package of hospital services is designed to increase the access to health services and improve the health indicators. The access of people to health services was 8% in 2001; the current data from WHO indicates that 50% of people are covered by BPHS, basic package of health services. Based on World Bank data, household survey in Afghanistan between 2003 and 2011 indicates that under-five and infant mortality rate decreased from 257 and 165 per 1000 live births to 97 and 77 respectively and maternal mortality rate also shows around 80% decline from 16,00/100,000 in 2002 to 327 in 2010. Further, the number of public health facilities increased from 465 in 2002 to more than 2000 in 2012. Between 2003 and 2012, the number of graduated midwives in Afghanistan increased from 467 to 3001, according to the Afghan Midwifery Education and Accreditation Board report. The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Household Survey 2010 indicated that about one-third (34%) of deliveries were attended by an SBA and AMS 2010 showed that use of family planning method is 22%.

Despite these advances towards ending preventable maternal and child deaths, a group of challenges remained unaddressed in access, coverage and demand of health services in rural communities. High cost of transportation, long distance to health facilities, low quality of care, high cost of care, lack of female providers in rural areas, and gender issues including low literacy, limited male involvement in family health, and women’s restricted mobility. The current national health care packages lack specific youth friendly services to meet the needs of adolescents and young adults. The private health sector (PHS) plays an important role in health care service delivery, with 57% of Afghans seeking care from the private sector in their first service interaction. However, there is a considerable need for standardization to improve the quality of private sector services. High out-of-pocket health expenditures (73%) suggest under-utilization of care through the BPHS and EPHS.

The USAID Funded HEMAYAT-Helping Mother and Children Thrive is a five-year project implemented by a partnership consisting of Jhpiego, FHI360, the Futures Group and Afghan Social Marketing Organization, ASMO. This project aims to increase access to, utilization of and demand for high-quality, gender-sensitive and sustainable FP/MNCH services provided by the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health’s (MoPH’s) Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS), Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS) and the private sector. The project targets 23 provinces and emphasizes reaching vulnerable populations with high-quality services, especially women, newborns, children, youths and rural Afghans.

Innovation Fund is a component of HEMAYAT project to foster innovative solutions emerging from organizations, including national and international, and individuals through a multi-year
grants to support the development and evaluation of most promising innovations (approaches, technologies, or processes) and integration of those innovations in Afghanistan’s health system.

**Themes supported by innovation fund grants:**

The Innovations Fund will focus on the following themes:
1. Improving health data collection and utilization through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).
2. Improving community’s awareness about maternal, newborn and child health services through ICT and other potential approaches.
3. Utilizing ICT to improve the community-to-health facility and health facility-to-health facility referral system.
4. Soliciting inputs from youth and adolescents about their health care needs and barriers to the health services access.
5. Motivating and supporting volunteer community health workers.
6. Provision of age-appropriate health information to youths and adolescents.
7. Establishing systems to improve storage of pharmaceuticals against temperature, humidity, sunlight exposure, insects, rodents etc.
8. Promoting a set of prioritized health behaviors on maternal, newborn and child health among illiterate women.

**Types of innovation fund grants:**

- **Seed or Development Grant:** This funding supports the development or testing of innovative program approaches, technologies, and processes that are novel and supported by evidence of promise. Through this funding, the grantee must evaluate the effectiveness of the project at the level of scale proposed in the application.
- **Validation Grant:** This funding supports those program approaches, technologies, and processes that show promise for which there is currently only moderate evidence that the proposed efforts will have a statistically significant effect. The grantee must implement practices and show moderate evidence of effectiveness for the proposed innovation.
- **Scale up Grant:** This funding supports scale up of those program approaches, technologies, and processes for which there is strong evidence that the proposed innovation will have a statistically significant effect on the selected challenge. Scale up grant will be provided to only one of the piloted innovations proved most successful and needed.
Eligibility Criteria:
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), for-profit organizations, and professional associations registered with the Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan and Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) who offer innovative program approaches, technologies and processes are eligible to apply for innovation grants. Individuals are also eligible to apply, however they need to submit and process their proposals through a registered organization.

Application Process:
In this call for applications, the innovation fund will consider primarily seed grant applications to support early development of new ideas. The nature and amount of the funding for the applications received as a response to this announcement will be determined by the award panel.

There are two steps to the innovation fund grant application process:

1. The first stage will be a call for submission of a concept paper containing the idea and plan for developing and evaluating the innovation. The innovation grant application technical review panel will review the concept papers and will make recommendations on the shortlisted responses to submit a full proposal.

2. A Request for Applications (RFA) will be issued and the shortlisted applicants will be requested to submit a full proposal that should also include a detailed work plan and budget. Full proposals will be reviewed based on the evaluation criteria by the technical and financial review and award panels.

Submission Guideline:
The concept papers and full proposals should be developed based on the given template (*refer to the annex for concept paper template*). The documents must be in Times New Roman, 12 point font and submitted to: AF-GrantsApplications@jhpiego.org. The deadline for submission of concept papers is close of business, December 10, 2015.

Evaluation Criteria:
In order to select and prioritize innovations to receive sub-grants through this Innovations Fund, the FP/PMNCH project will assess the applications (for concept paper and proposal) along the following criteria:

- **Identification of current challenges in health system:** Does it reflect an understanding of the current challenges and gaps in existing practices or approaches? Does it clearly explain a problem?
- **Response to the identified health problem:** Does the application (concept paper and proposal) clearly explain a solution to the stated problem?
- **Novelty:** Is the proposed solution novel and innovative?
- **Feasibility:** Does the proposal seem practical with the timeline, resources, and milestones proposed?
- **Organizations Capabilities:** Does the individual or organization has the capacity of implementing the project?
- **Scalability of the proposed innovation:** Does the project results position innovation for scale up and or integration into the health system.
- **Sustainability:** Does the proposal include a plan indicating the sustainability of and the long term vision for the solution.

**Implementation oversight and support to grantees:**
Upon notification of award, the grantees will undertake kick off meetings with related units of HEMAYAT project to provide an overview of the award requirements, respective roles and responsibilities to the applicant and to review and finalize their work plans and deliverables/milestones.

**Performance Monitoring:**
The awardees will be expected to submit periodical reports (quarterly, or more frequently if required) and project report including technical and financial components. Project staff will also conduct site visits of the implementation process of the proposed activity.

**Annex: Concept Paper Outlines**

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<th>Section</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Problem statement</td>
<td>• An expression of the problem or the need that will be addressed by the innovation</td>
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| 2  | Situational analysis           | • Brief description of the current situation in terms of the extent of the problem, existing solutions, and stakeholders supported by relevant statistics  
                                      • Solution landscape: Identify existing solutions, provide a brief gap analysis identifying weaknesses with existing solutions and why they are insufficient at addressing the problem. | 1 page |
| 3  | Proposed Solution              | • Identify how the solution is innovative and meets the needs.  
                                      • State the expected results/outcomes  
                                      • Describe the solution’s preliminary designs with applicable drawings/images/scheme sufficient to enable evaluation of their functionality, and include a plan for sustainability to indicate the long term vision for the solution. | 2 pages |
| 4  | Organizational capacity        | • Describe your or your organization background and capacity to complete this project successfully, including the relevant experience.  
                                      • Describe the structure of the team | 1 pages |
<p>| 5  | Workplan                       | • Chronologically arranged activities suggesting the essential | 1 page  |</p>
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<tr>
<th>matrix</th>
<th>implementation steps of the project (Gantt chart)</th>
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<td>Estimated fund requirement</td>
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<td>• Budget in cost categories. The categories are:</td>
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