

HEMAYAT-Helping Mother and Children Thrive

Jhpiego, FHI360, Palladium, and ASMO

Innovations Fund Call for Concept Papers

Funding Opportunity Title:	HEMAYAT Project Innovations Funds
Announcement Type:	Call for Concept Papers
Funding Opportunity Number:	Jhp-INF-002
Date of Announcement:	September 22, 2016
Deadline for Submission of Questions:	October 31, 2016 at 11:59PM
Deadline for Submission of Concept Papers:	November 30, 2016 at 11:59PM

Background

Afghanistan health system made tremendous steps towards improving maternal and child health since 2001. Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey 2015 data indicates that under-five and infant mortality rate decreased from 257 and 165 per 1000 live births to 55 and 45 respectively. Based on the AMS 2010 maternal mortality rate also shows around 80% decline- from 1600/100,000 in 2002 to 327 in 2010. Between 2003 and 2016, the number of midwives in Afghanistan increased from 467 to more than 4000, articulated in the Afghan Midwifery Education and Accreditation Board Report. The AfDHS data indicates that 79% percent of births in urban areas were assisted by a skilled provider and the rate of institutional delivery was 76 percent were delivered in a health facility, as compared with 42 percent and 40 percent, respectively, of birth to rural women. AfDHS 2015 showed that use of family planning method is 23%, percentage with antenatal care from a skilled provider is 71.7 and 54.6 respectively in urban and rural areas.

Despite these advances towards ending preventable maternal and child deaths, a group of challenges in access, coverage and demand of health services in rural communities remain unaddressed. Some of those challenges include: 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. Further, 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 project aims to increase access to, utilization of, and demand for high-quality, gender-sensitive and sustainable reproductive, maternal newborn and child health 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 currently targets 23 provinces and emphasizes reaching vulnerable populations with high-quality services, especially women, newborns, children, youth and rural Afghans.

The Innovations Fund is a cross-cutting component of HEMAYAT which aims to catalyze innovative solutions to address challenges within the reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health care system in Afghanistan. To further this goal, the program provides multi-year grants to support the development and evaluation of the most promising innovative program approaches, technologies, and processes and integration of those innovations in Afghanistan's

health system. Using an evidence-based approach, the proposed innovations should demonstrate the potential to have a measurable impact on mother and child health. The fund will support development of the selected innovations to a point where they are better positioned for additional investment or integration into existing programs and/or systems.

Themes Supported by Innovation Fund Grants

The Innovations Fund will focus on the following themes:

1. Developing a tool to capture women's experience of receiving health care services, using ICT solutions
2. Developing a tool for vaccination data quality assurance, using ICT solutions
3. Developing a tool for maternal death audit, using ICT solutions
4. Developing a mentorship application for Midwives and Community Health Nurses, using ICT solutions
5. Developing a system for the follow up of ANC and PNC service recipients
6. Empowering women to make decisions about their health
7. Improving women's awareness of maternal health care services, through behavior change communication interventions
8. Improving men's awareness and involvement as supportive partners in promoting reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, through behavior change communication interventions
9. Promotion and provision of birth planning in remote and hard to reach settings
10. Initiation of early and exclusive breastfeeding for improved newborn health outcomes
11. Improvement of safe and on-time vaccines transportation from provinces to community health facilities
12. Strengthening the Public Private Partnership in provision of quality health care services
13. Improving the community-to-health facility and intra-facility referral system
14. Supporting community-based women- and youth-initiated activities towards better access to health care and information

15. Involving community/religious leaders in promoting positive health practices and eliminating gender-based violence.

Note: Individual applicants whose innovation match one of the announced themes and those individuals and organizations whose innovations do not match the announced themes, yet their concepts still address challenges in reproductive, maternal, newborn, adolescent and child health care system of Afghanistan, can submit their concepts to AF.InnovationFund@jhpiego.org. For further information about the concepts submission process please refer to link: <http://hemayat.org.af/innovation>

Types of Innovation Grants and Level of Funding

HEMAYAT will provide the following types of grants to fund the selected innovations at the development, pilot/iteration and scale up phases.

1. **Seed Grant:** This funding supports the testing of innovative program approaches, technologies, and processes that are novel and supported by evidence of promise. This grant will be provided for those innovations that are at the primary stage or developed and tested for the first time. Through this funding, the grantee must evaluate the effectiveness of the innovation at the level of scale proposed in the application. The maximum amount for this type of grant is 200,000 USD.
2. **Validation Grant:** This funding supports those innovative program approaches, technologies, and processes that have already passed their development or primary testing phase and are now at the pilot stage. To be qualified for this grant, the applicant must present the results of the development/testing stage of the innovation to show the proposed innovation had a statistically significant effect on the target challenge. Through this funding, the grantee must implement practices in a relatively wider scale and show evidence of effectiveness for the proposed innovation. The maximum amount for this type of grant is 300,000 USD
3. **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. The ceiling for the scale up grant will be determined on case by case considerations by the Innovations Fund Award Committee.

In this Call for Concept Papers, HEMAYAT will consider the concept papers for seed and validation grants to support early development and piloting the most successful innovations. Those who apply for the validation grant should provide scientific evidence on the effectiveness of the innovation proved in the development phase. The concept papers for scale up grant will not be considered in this round.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. local non-profit non-governmental organizations registered with the government of Afghanistan;
2. Local for-profit organizations registered with the government of Afghanistan and willing to forgo profit;
3. International not-for-profit organizations registered with the government of Afghanistan
4. International for-profit organizations registered with the government of Afghanistan and willing to forgo profit;
5. Ability to maintain annual financial records in accordance with good financial practices and standards.
6. Operating a bank account in the name of the entity.
7. Having sufficient staff or affiliated consultants to perform the required activities.

Local Organization: To be considered a “local” organization, an entity must:

- Be organized under the laws of Afghanistan
- Have its principal place of business in Afghanistan;
- Be majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Afghanistan or be managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Afghanistan
- Not be controlled by a foreign entity or by an individual or individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of Afghanistan.

The following organizations/entities are not eligible to submit a concept paper in response to this call:

1. Political parties, and government institutions
2. Faith-based organizations whose objectives are discriminatory
3. Organizations from foreign policy restricted countries (Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria)
4. Organizations included in the List of Parties Excluded from U.S. Federal Procurements and Non-Procurement Programs. In addition, organizations are not eligible for awards if they have members who appear in the U.S. Treasury’s List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons or who have been designated by the United Nations Security (UNSC)
5. Any entity whose name appears or is debarred and excluded on the “System for Award Management
6. Any entity affiliated with Jhpiego Corporation or any of its employees.

Note: Individuals are not eligible to apply in response to this call.
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Application Process

There are six 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 online and PDF application forms carry instructions on the development of the concept paper. *Refer to the annex for the concept paper development guide.* The innovations screening panel and technical evaluation panel will rigorously review the submitted concept papers and identify the successful innovations.
- 2.** A Request for Applications (RFA) will be issued to the identified applicants and they will be requested to submit a full application that should include a detailed work plan and budget. Full proposals will be reviewed based on the evaluation criteria by the technical and financial evaluation panels. The applicants who successfully pass this stage will be qualified as semi-finalists and referred to the Innovations Fund Award Panel for final evaluation and selection.
- 3.** The semi-finalists will be invited to present and pitch their innovations to the award panel. The panel will assess the innovations based on the criteria set for this level of evaluation and select the most promising innovations.
- 4.** All the applicants that are selected as finalists will be subject to a pre award assessment. The assessment will be undertaken at the applicant's office/facility.

Applicants must secure more than 60% of the pre-award assessment score otherwise their applications will be rejected.

- 5.** Financial evaluation will only be performed on the responses that pass the pre award capacity assessment review.
- 6.** The selected applications are submitted to USAID and Jhpiego home office for final approval.

Concept Papers Evaluation Criteria

In order to select and prioritize innovations to receive sub-grants through this Innovations Fund, the FP/RMNCH project will assess the concept papers 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 have the capacity to implement the project?
- **Scalability of the proposed innovation:** Do the project results position the 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.

Concept Papers Submission Guidelines

The applicants can submit their concept papers using either our online application system or PDF format. The online application system can be accessed at the following link:

<http://hemayat.org.af/innovation/application>

Those who are not able to submit their forms using the online system, they can use PDF concept paper format. The PDF form can be downloaded from <http://hemayat.org.af/innovation>. After completion, the PDF application form should be emailed to: Hemayat.SDSubmissions@jhpiego.org

The deadline for submission of concept papers is Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at 11:59 pm.

Questions and Further Assistance

Enquiries regarding the concept papers submission and applications process should be directed to Hemayat.SDSubmissions@jhpiego.org . The deadline for submission of questions is Monday, October 31, 2016, at 11:59 pm.

Annex: Concept Paper Development Guide (It provides instructions on how to develop your concept paper using the standard online and PDF formats)

No	Section	Description	Limit
1	Problem statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An expression of the problem or the need that will be addressed by the innovation 	100 word
2	Situational analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	300 words
3	Proposed Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	500 words
4	Organizational capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe your or your organization background and capacity to complete this project successfully, including the relevant experience. Describe the structure of the team 	250 words
5	Work plan matrix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronologically arranged activities suggesting the essential implementation steps of the project 	250 words
6	Estimated fund requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget in cost categories Short budget narrative explaining justification for various costs and estimations 	200 words