

LASER PULSE Webinar #1 Q&A Supplement**Q1. How does one figure out what activities are allowed/not allowed under health?**

Generally, LASER PULSE is not supposed to fund projects in the conventional global health topics, such as maternal and child health and HIV-AIDS, however, there are a few exceptions such in the public health sector. Applicants must check with LASER PULSE by sending an email to awardsmanager@laserpulse.org with information on the proposed activity. LASER PULSE will review and let you know if the topic is allowed.

Q2. Traditionally researchers and practitioners have always looked at these two sectors separately: 1) nutrition and 2) health effects due to cooking smoke in children and women. We wish to create an integrated framework to look at these holistically. Will this fit this RFP considering the Global Health constraints?

From the LASER PULSE point of view, we believe this topic is allowed.

Q3. I understand that the Eligible Lead Institutions is an American MSI institution. We are a potential partner from Vietnam, implementing the PEER project: [Project 6-220 Vietnam \(nationalacademies.org\)](https://nationalacademies.org) Please let me know how to reach out to the MSI institutions to team up for this call.

LASER PULSE does not keep a directory of the MSIs in the US. We recommend for Applicants to check out [this link](https://inclusion.uci.edu/msi/msi-directory-2/) for potential MSI partners (or go to <https://inclusion.uci.edu/msi/msi-directory-2/>)

Q4. I'm in the central time zone, it would be 7:00 AM here when the meeting starts. Can I receive a recording?

Link to RFA information recording: <https://youtu.be/gJte47zuwM0>

Link to the LASER PULSE's Systems Level Analysis Approach recording: <https://youtu.be/DFj3v4Dpur0>

Questions received after/during Webinar #1**Q5. The duration of the project is 12 months. What is the possibility of extension especially in the current COVID19 situation?**

Applicants should prepare a 12-month duration Application. LASER PULSE is looking into possible extension opportunities.

Q6. Can we have multiple partners? Like NGOs, Public institutions,...

Yes, but be cognizant of the fact that the total budget is \$150,000 total and you will be stretching the funds if you choose to have many partners.

Q7. Can the leading institution have different projects with different countries? In this case, will there be one or more PIs?

There are no restrictions on the number of Applications that can be submitted from a particular lead institution. Each application must have a different PI.

Q8. Do the two mandatory trainings mentioned for PIs and CO-PIs need to be taken while writing the LOI and Full Application or after the announcement of the award?

The trainings should be completed before preparing the LOI.

Q9. Do we have to register for the training?

Yes, please register on LASER PULSE website at <https://laserpulse.org/register/>

Q10. I am receiving an error message while trying to access the training page. Can you let me know if the website is having issues?

In order to access the training courses, a user must have a laserpulse.org account and be logged on. An error message will happen when a user tries to access a course without logging on to the website.

Q11. Does LASER PULSE have resources in other languages, e.g. French? To help partners review resources or watch webinars.

Training materials are on YouTube, which means closed captioning is available in English. It also has an option for a computer-generated translation to a variety of languages, although we cannot ensure the accuracy of these translations.

Q12. Would the previous trainings be valid or should they be retaken?

Previous trainings are valid, please include copies of the certificates.

Q13. I understand that the proposal/LOI has to have a link to an ongoing USAID activity. Right?

The LOI must be linked to a USAID Country Mission priority obtained from USAID Country Mission priority documents, including:

- a. USAID Country (or Region) Development Cooperation Strategy. CDCSs (or go to <https://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/planning/country-strategies-cdcs>),
- b. **or** USAID Country Mission priority documents from the USAID Country Mission website, where CDCSs does not exist.

The RFA does not have a requirement to link to an ongoing USAID activity.

Q14. Can we address more than one priority Area especially when a project involves women?

Yes, you can address more than one USAID Country Mission priority.

Q15. Can gender be a cross cutting topic?

Yes, gender can be a cross-cutting topic, but you may also propose research under the “Gender equality and women’s empowerment”, which is one of the eligible sectors. Furthermore, gender integration is a key requirement for all LASER PULSE projects. Please refer to Appendix 3 (USAID Gender Analysis Considerations). We also require the PI and Co-PI (at the minimum) to take the gender online training.

Q16. Finally, is there an existing template for any SLA Approach that we decide to employ or we have to develop our own?

The SLA Activities template is a downloadable file, with the link to it at the bottom of the RFA webpage <https://laserpulse.org/msi-rfa/> (below the webinar videos with a title of “SLA Materials”).

Note that this template is specific to the SLA process that we covered in the webinar, and any other system-level method one might employ will have its own materials/templates.

Q17. I am interested in the “global health sector”, can I propose a project related to cutaneous leishmaniasis: the incidence, treatment protocols, reported adverse effects of the systemic treatment, recovery, scar formation, any other related issues?

First, you will need to consult the USAID Jordan’s CDCS available at this link to determine the Mission’s research priorities in global health to see if your proposed topic will fit. Secondly, are you looking to conduct the research in humans or animals?.

Q18. I understood that MSI is the USA partner of the project, how can I find a partner who is interested in my topic? What will be his role? Who will finally apply online? Me or the USA partner?

The MSI must be the lead institution, which means if you are interested, you will need to contact an MSI institution here in the US to partner with them. LASER PULSE does not keep a directory of the MSIs in the US. We recommend for Applicants to check out [this link](https://inclusion.uci.edu/msi/msi-directory-2/) for potential MSI partners (or go to <https://inclusion.uci.edu/msi/msi-directory-2/>)

Q19. I do not understand who are the mandatory partners and their role. I am an academic in a University, I will collaborate with at least one physician from the ministry of health, is this enough?

Mandatory institutions are 1)MSI in the US must be the lead and 2) a development institution (i.e. NGO, civil society, the private sector, and/or local government entity) to serve as the translation partner. In your case, University of Jordan would be the third partner to the application.

Questions received during Webinar #2

Q20. Can we consider any University as a Partner from a developing country? This question was asked earlier. Can a University at the research destination be considered a partner?

Yes, you can select a university in the target country as a partner; but you still would need to have a development practitioner partner from the country as well. That is the key partner requirement. Development practitioner partner = NGO, Government ministry or agency, private sector firm

Q21. Will the presentations be posted/sent from today's ZOOM sessionm?

The presentation will be posted within just a few days after this session.

Q22. Would a research activity on education in Brazil be a suitable project?

The key is go to the website and determine if your topic is in that area

Q23. Is there a limit to the number of on-the-ground partners?

Yes, but be cognizant of the fact that the total budget is \$150,000 total and you will be stretching the funds if you choose to have many partners.

Q24. Is a Logic Model an acceptable system as compared to what Fred just proposed here?

Yes, but please be aware of the following items. (i) Logic models are best used for planning the project once an objective has been established, so it would be kind of like putting the cart before the horse. With that being said, however, the best option in terms of applying a logic model to this RFA would be a comprehensive Theory of Change model that maps out the wider system of a given country-priority problem. (ii) Recall that the RFA requires you to identify 2 to 4 opportunities for research, from which you will select one that will be the focal point of your proposal – this means that the model you develop must explicitly show these opportunities, as well as how they logically relate to the overall problem that is being addressed. LASER believes that using the SLA approach demonstrated in the webinar is a more time-efficient and structured way to identify the opportunities for research, once you understand the process. This is why we have provided the tutorial video, success factor trees, and the activity template. As such, we strongly suggest that you consider SLA before choosing an alternative method.

Q25. Can a non-profit hospital be a partner?

Yes, as long as topic in health wasn't prohibited by USAID.

Q26. Please speak to islands within the Caribbean -- Specifically, Southern Caribbean. There are multiple countries within that region.

Only islands listed in the RFA are eligible.

Questions received after Webinar #2**Q27. Do PI, Co-PI and translation partners require to complete the training course for LOI submission? I am considering some NGOs working on remote part of Nepal. They are not aware of these training or needs some time/effort to complete. Can you please further clarify it?**

The PI and Co-PI are both required to take the two online trainings. If your partner is having problems taking the course, you must attach a note to your LOI explaining the reasons why they are unable to take it. In the meantime, it will be your responsibility to provide them with an overview of the training materials as you work together to prepare the LOI.

Q28. I have completed gender analysis course in June 2021 ? Is it valid or do I need to take again?

The June 2021 gender training is sufficient for this RFA. Please be sure to attach a copy of the training certificate.

Questions received during Webinar #3- Jan 20, 2022**Q29. Are US Partners considered Co-Pi's or collaborators?**

We refer to them as collaborators. However, you may refer to them as Co-PIs if you or they prefer that title better. The only LASER PULSE requirement is the PI to be based at MSI institution and Co-Pi be based at the Research Translation institution.

Q30. How much IDC can we apply?

The minimum indirect cost is 10%. Institutions and foreign entities with no federally-negotiated rate may claim 10% of modified total direct costs for their indirect costs. U.S. Institutions may recover their full federally-negotiated indirect cost rate (a copy of the current F&A agreement should be attached).

Q31. Submitted applications with more than 10 pages.

10-Pages of core contest is a strict requirement. Reviewers are instructed to only review the first 10 pages for applications that exceed the page limit - see details in the budget and budget narrative templates.

Q32. Should the budget justification be in Excel or MS Word?

The budget justification should be in Word. please use the budget narrative templates provided. Note, the budget itself must be submitted in excel format using the provided template. Be sure to preserve the pre-populated formulas.

Q33. Can graduate students be funded?

Yes. Keep in mind that this is a 12-months project

Q34. Can we change any part of LOI in the full application for example adding or changing research questions:

Some changes can be made: Some LOIs were asked to redo their Systemes level Analysis in order to identify the areas of research, therefore some research questions may change - please refer to the comments you received on the LOI.

Q35. Is there any limit in font size? Is it acceptable to use Calibri 11 for narrative? Do we submit as Word or PDF?

Please submit in PDF format. The font/size specified in the RFA is MS Word's Times New Roman font, size 11. You may also use Open Office format with similar typeset in single-line - see Section 3.4 in the RFA for details.

Q36. Are hyperlinks allowed in Application?

Yes, but they the links must work in the document. However, applicants can not use links to stack-up an application; the 10-page limit will be strictly enforced. Also reviewers are not required to read the information in the hyperlinks.

Q37. When is start and end date

Use July 1, 2022 as start date, Workplan can be by month up to 12 months.

Q38. Can we submit more letters of commitments even though we didn't get any comments?

LASER PULSE only requires two letters of support, one from the translation partner institution and another from the dean or department head of the PI. You may submit submit more, but they are not required.

Q39. What is the application submission deadline?

February 14, 11:59 pm est

Q40. Can we add some additional information in the annex part? Ex Graphs or tables

Yes, there can be additional information, but it will count towards the 10 page limit.

Q41. Clarification: We are submitting the proposal as a consortium of 4 MSIs. Should the collaborators at the other 3 MSIs be listed as Co-Pi or collaborators? Or does it not matter?

It will not matter. LASER PULSE just required the application to identify the lead PI from the lead MSI institution and a Co-PI from the Translation Partner institution.

Q42. Can you elaborate on the July 1 start date?

This is for budget purposes, if the start date changes, LASER PULSE staff will work with the selected teams to make the necessary changes.

Q43. Can we consult you via email if further information is needed?

Yes use awardsmanager@laserpulse.org.

Q44. Any possibility of project extension?

This is a pending question and will be looked at on a case by case basis for successful applicants. In the meantime plan on the project period of 12 months.

Q45. Will you accept only one spreadsheet for the budget or partner institutions will provide their own if there is a subawarding?

We expect to receive a budget from each eligible institution, except government entities.

Q46. Can we budget usage funds for our translation partners?

Yes, all translation partners should have their budgets. The only exception is government institutions that serve in the translation partner capacity.

Q47. Will today's presentation be shared?

Yes, it will be shared.

Q48. Is the SLA framework model part of the full application since we have 3 documents to submit or it should be an appendix?

The applicant is only required to provide the description of how the research question was arrived at using the SLA method. LASER PULSE will not require resubmission of the templates. However if you received comments at the aLOI stage to redo the SLA model, then you will need to submit all of the SLA process documents.

Q49. Regarding budget, our understanding is the public (govt) university in a partner country can NOT receive a budget. Right?

Public universities can submit budgets, however, government institutions cannot submit a budget.

Q50. Can funds be allocated to non-MSIs - e.g. for consulting?

Yes, you are allowed to have consultants. You just have to budget for them.

Q51. Can a county Government in Kenya receive a budget directly?

No, governments institution cannot have a budget.

Q52. Our understanding was that a country's government can be a translation partner.

Yes, a County government can serve at the translation partner, but they cannot submit a budget.