

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

BPA NO.

1. CONTRACT ID CODE

PAGE
1OF PAG
15

2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO.

01

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

See Block 16.c.

4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO.

5. PROJECT NO. (If applicable)

6. ISSUED BY

Regional Contracting Office
USAID/Peru
Unit 3760

APO AA 34031

CODE

7. ADMINISTERED BY (If other than Item 6)

CODE

8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRACTOR (No., street, county, State and ZIP Code)

To all Offerors/Bidders

(X)

9A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO.

527-09-000003

9B. DATED (SEE ITEM 11)

01-09-2009

X

10A. MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT/ORDER NO.

10B. DATED (SEE ITEM 13)

CODE

FACILITY CODE

11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers is extended, is not extended.

Offers must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods:

(a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning _____ copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment of each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.

12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA (If required)

13. THIS ITEM APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS, IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14. A. THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: (Specify authority) THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.

B. THE ABOVE NUMBERED CONTRACT/ORDER IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (such as changes in paying office, appropriation date, etc.) SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(b).

C. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:

D. OTHER (Specify type of modification and authority)

E. IMPORTANT: Contractor is not, is required to sign this document and return _____ copies to the issuing office.

14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION (Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.)

The purpose of this Amendment One to Solicitation No. 527-09-000003 is to:

- 1) Modify Section B – Services and Costs
- 2) Modify Section C – Description/Specifications/Statement of Work
- 3) Modify Section G – Contract Administration Data
- 4) Modify Section H – Special Contract Requirements
- 5) Modify Section J - List of Attachments
- 6) Modify Section L – Instructions, Conditions, and Notices to Offerors
- 7) Revise ATTACHMENT 11 – Acronyms

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER (Type or print)

16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print)

Aman S. Djahanbani
Sup. Regional Contracting Officer

15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR

15C. DATE SIGNED

16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

16C. DATE SIGNED

(Signature of person authorized to sign)

BY: Aman S. Djahanbani
(Signature of Contracting Officer)

02/04/09

8) Incorporate the “Questions and Answers” document that comprises USAID’s response to all questions received to the Solicitation. To avoid repetition, USAID has eliminated/combined those queries that were duplicated, and

9) Correct Standard Form 33.

Accordingly, the Solicitation is hereby amended as follows:

1. Section B – SERVICES AND COSTS, add Section B.4. – COST SCHEDULE, as follows:

Program Area 3.2 – BASIC EDUCATION					
	Yr.1 (12 mos.)	Yr.2 (12 mos.)	Yr.3 (12 mos.)	Yr.4 (12 mos.)	Yr. 5 (07 mos.)
Program Result 1: Participatory and Decentralized Education Management Strengthened					
Program Result 2: Teaching Quality Improved					

2. Section C – DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATIONS/STATEMENT OF WORK, Item C.5, Program Result 2, Outcome 2, Requirement 2.4 (page C-16), make the following changes:

(a) Third methodology, delete second bullet in its entirety and replace it with the following:

- “Technical support for the selection and training of accreditation institutions in priority regions for the accreditation of ISP in priority regions.”

(b) Cross-Cutting Outcomes, last paragraph, delete “C.2.5” and replace it with “C.2.2”.

3. Section G. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION DATA, make the following changes:

(a) Item G.2 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTING OFFICE, delete in its entirety and replace it with the following:

“G.2 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTING OFFICER
 The Administrative Contracting Officer is the:
 Contracting Officer
 USAID/Peru
 Unit 3760
 APO AA 34031”

(b) Item G.3 COGNIZANT TECHNICAL OFFICER (CTO), delete in its entirety and replace it with the following:

“G.3 CONTRACTING OFFICER TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE (COTR)
 The Contracting Officer Technical Representative is the:
 Education Officer
 USAID/Peru
 Unit 3760
 APO AA 34031”

(c) Item G.5 PAYING OFFICE, delete in its entirety and replace it with the following:

"G.5 PAYING OFFICE
The paying office for this contract is the:
Regional Financial Management Office
USAID/Peru
Unit 3760
APO AA 34031"

4. Section H.23. VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES CLAUSE, delete in its entirety.

5. Section J – LIST OF ATTACHMENTS, add the following attachment:

- "ATTACHMENT 12 – Contractor Performance Report – Short Form
- ATTACHMENT 13 – Questions and Answers"

6. Section L – INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND NOTICES TO OFFERORS, make the following changes:

(a) Item L.4 (a) 52.233-2 SERVICE OF PROTEST, Mailing address, delete in its entirety and replace it with the following:

"Mailing Address:

REGIONAL CONTRACTING OFFICE
USAID/PERU
Unit 3760
APO AA 34031"

(b) Item L.6 (a) 2), Via U.S. Mail: delete in its entirety and replace it with the following:

"Via U.S. Mail:
Doanh Van
Contracting Officer
USAID/Peru
Unit 3760
APO AA 34031"

(c) Item L.6 (a) 2), fifth paragraph (page L-7), delete the word "DPO" and replace it with 'APO'.

(d) Item L-7 FORMAT AND TECHNICAL PROPOSALS, item (c) 6, delete in its entirety and replace it with the following:

"6. Statement of work for potential US and Local subcontractors and supporting documents relating to the systems and procedures of the offeror (Section L.9.C – Management Plan), if applicable;"

(e) Item L-8 – FORMAT FOR TECHNICAL PROPOSALS. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL, second paragraph, delete last sentence and replace it with the following:

“Local partners will be determined during the course of implementation; however, the proposal should include the approach and methodology by including local partners in implementation.”

(f) Item L.10.(b) Other Direct Costs, add the following text at the end of the paragraph:

“Offerors will also consider customs and clearance costs for the personal effects and privately owned vehicle of the Chief of Party.”

7. STANDARD FORM 33, Item 12, delete “90” and replace it with “120”.

8. ATTACHMENT 11 – LIST OF ACCRONYMS, add the following acronym:

“ PIP Public Investment Projects”

9. ATTACHMENT 12 – CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE REPORT –SHORT TERM

See attachment One.

10. ATTACHMENT 13 – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, as follows:

See attachment Two.

CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE REPORT--SHORT FORM	
PART I. Contract Information (to be completed by offeror)	
1. Name of Contracting Entity:	2. Contract No.:
	3. Contract Type:
	4. Contract Value (TEC): \$
5. Description of Work/Services:	
6. Problems (if encountered on this contract please explain corrective action taken)	
7. Contacts (Name, Telephone # and E-mail Address):	
a. Contracting Officer: Phone Number: Email Address:	
b. Technical Officer: Phone Number: Email Address:	
c. Other:	
8. Offeror:	
9. Information Provided in Response to RFP No.	

PART II. Performance Assessment (to be completed by Agency)

1. Quality of product or Service. Comment:
2. Cost Control. Comment:
3. Timeliness of performance. Comment:
4. Customer satisfaction - client. Comment:
5. Customer satisfaction - end users. Comment:
6. Effectiveness of key personnel. Comment:

Information provided By:
 Name:
 Phone/Fax/Internet address:
 Date:

Information Collected By:
 Name/Office:
 Signature _____
 OMB NO.: 9000-0142

ATTACHMENT TWO

“ATTACHMENT 13 - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This document includes all Questions and Answers (Q&As) determined to be of general interest. Questions with similar subjects have been grouped together.

Q.1: Section C, Requirement 3.1, P.C-17: Indicators c and d state “by the second full school year.” Please confirm if this is by the beginning or end of the school year.

A.1: USAID means this to be the end of the school year. Thus, if the contract starts in July 2009, which is the middle of the Peruvian school year, indicator 3.1(b) has to be met by the end of school year 2010, and indicator 3.1(c) by the end of school year 2011.

Q.2: Section C, Requirement 3.1, P.C-17: Indicator a states ‘at least 400 education authorities/technicians trained to evaluate and implement best practices in educational management.’ Please confirm that the number to be trained can include those trained in innovative programs to enhance learning outcomes, and not solely in education management. The latter seems to be addressed by Indicator c under Requirement 1.3.

A.2: Yes, the contractor may count those trained in innovative programs to enhance education outcomes. However, this should be clearly distinguished from those trained under Indicator 1.3(c), and the number of teachers trained under indicator 3.1(c). The offeror should make this distinction in the Performance Management Plan.

Q.3: Section C, Requirement 1.1, p. C-11: Some of the indicators, such as indicator c suggest that four policies are required. It is possible that the baseline study will determine that only one policy is required; therefore, please confirm that these indicators (and especially the targets) can be revisited after the baseline is complete.

A.3: USAID will build in flexibility in this area particularly because policy reforms are often subject to many variables outside the contractor’s control. However, given current knowledge of the sector, this is the estimated minimum that USAID foresees during the life of the contract. USAID will also consider the results of the initial diagnostics (baseline) to determine if downward adjustments are warranted.

Q.4: In regards to information on Page C-4 was the SSME tool used to evaluate the AprenDes project schools?

A.4: No, it was not.

Q.5: On Page C-13: The Solicitation provides that Offerors maintain the current student learning outcomes in San Martin - How are student learning outcomes currently measured at the AprenDes schools in San Martin?

A.5: A methodology has been established to measure learning outcomes through student testing. The winning offeror will have access to testing and other relevant materials to continue with the student evaluation.

Q.6: On Page C-18 the Solicitation mentions a Partnerships Challenge Fund estimated at US\$2 million. Can USAID please confirm that this amount is not included in the \$12 to \$14 million total estimated cost of the Solicitation statement of work? If so, can USAID please clarify how the Contractor will obtain the US\$2 million for the Partnerships Challenge Fund.

A.6: The Partnership Challenge Fund is included in the total amount (\$12-14M).

Q.7: Please confirm that “Performance Management Plan” and “Performance Monitoring Plan” are being used interchangeably in the Solicitation and refers to the same thing.

A.7: Performance Monitoring (e.g., as used in the Title of Section C.7) refers to the overall system of monitoring performance under the contract. A Performance Management Plan, on the other hand, is a more specific performance management document. In a contract’s case, the PMP is a tool to measure progress in achieving the objectives of the contract.

Q.8: Thank you for providing information related to the material expenditures of ApreNDes programs. Is it possible to provide a plug figure for all cost associated with fulfilling Outcome 4: *Active-school Methodology in Alternative Development Schools Implemented*? If not, please provide information on the labor costs associated with the implementation of ApreNDes active-school methodology? Additionally, please provide information regarding the level of expenditures that are covered by the local counterparts, that is, whether facilitators and members of the technical team are employees of the State, as well as any other current cost sharing mechanisms in place for the 135 schools expected to continue receiving support from USAID.

A.8: The costs associated with implementing the ApreNDes active-school methodology are included in the Solicitation attachment (#6) “Estandarizacion y Costeo de ApreNDes.” The study provides the estimated cost per year for the four year of program intervention. Currently, the counterpart (regional/local) government provides key inputs such as the schools, teachers, and some facilitators (or teaching coaches). The regional government also provides technical staff. For sustainability, USAID strongly encourages host country counterpart contribution for this and other Outcomes in the contract.

Q.9: In Program Outcome 1, the Solicitation requires the identification of three methodologies of decentralized management. Please expand on what is meant by methodology and specify if this refers to macro policies or micro practices, or both.

A.9: USAID refers to “methodology” in this case as a strategic, evidence-based and comprehensive decentralized management approach that includes a clear process to achieve the desired outcomes. It may include both macro and micro polices.

Q.10: Are the teacher training activities under Requirement 2.1 intended to be linked to activities under Program Outcomes 3 and 4 or are they meant to be stand-alone activities?

A.10: The Offeror should attempt to link all activities and outcomes to the extent possible.

Q.11: Please clarify Requirement 2.4. The indicators refer to pre-service training but the second bullet refers to primary school accreditation. Will the accreditation process cover both pre-service institutions and primary schools, public and private, or only a subset?

A.11: P “primary school” should be deleted; this should only refer to pre-service institutions. Please refer to Amendment One to Solicitation.

Q.12: In Program Result 3, Requirement 3.1, indicator a), is the provision of technical assistance for the evaluation of learning outcomes intended to help government officials better interpret and utilize existing learning outcome data or to develop new measures and instruments for evaluation of learning outcomes?

A.12: Given limited resources and that the GOP has some evaluation systems in place; we do not expect to develop new evaluation instruments. But at the minimum, the contractor should help the GOP improve on current evaluation systems.

Q.13: Please clarify the expectations for how the Partnership Challenge Fund would work. Is the Fund to fund the innovative methodologies discussed under 3.1?

A.13: The main purpose of the fund is to help improve education outcomes; thus it could be broader than just funding the replication of innovative methodologies. As mentioned in the Solicitation, the offeror is requested to propose a criteria for eligibility under this fund, with USAID approval. This should help further define what types of activities are eligible under the fund.

Q.14: Please clarify expectations on timing and sequencing of deliverables. For example, the Solicitation indicates that the priority regions will be identified with the MED within the first 90 days, that methodologies to be proposed to the regions must be completed within 150 days, that the Project Investment Projects (PIPs) must be developed and approved within the first 180 days and that demonstration projects begin by the first full year. The Solicitation also calls for training of regional government authorities to enable them to make decisions on which methodologies to implement. Past experience has shown that the process of developing and securing approval for a PIP can take anywhere from six to eight months, depending on many factors beyond the contractor’s control. Are these deliverable deadlines flexible?

A.14: USAID is open to flexibility. However, a quick start of the project is a critical requirement, as reflected in the Start-up Work Plan. USAID believes that a decision on at least some of the regions can be made shorter than the first 90 days, for instance, allowing the implementation of sequential activities such as the preparation of PIPs to start earlier as well. Furthermore, some PIPs may already be under development under the current ApreNDes program.

Q.15: The five regions where ApreNDes works have either recently secured or are in the process of developing PIPs. The Solicitation requires that PIPs be secured in the five priority regions within 180 days. However, since these regions will have recently completed PIPs, will securing new PIPs pose an issue of absorptive capacity?

A.15: The requirement to secure the PIPs within the first 180 days is to ensure that there is no break in implementation and that activities funded by the PIPs can start the following school year. In addition, not all regions have all the PIPs they will need to implement a comprehensive education reform program by the time this new program starts. It is expected that the preparation of PIPs will be an ongoing process, and not all have to be completed by the first 180 days. Regarding absorptive capacity, USAID notes that one of the contractor’s main role is to help build this capacity.

Q.16: Deliverable b) under Requirement 3.1 states that PMP indicators and targets be completed within 90 days of the contract, however the recommended methodologies to be proposed are required within 150 days. Since the indicators and targets will necessarily reflect the methodologies selected by the regional governments, how does USAID envision the sequencing of these requirements? Can the PMP indicators be revised and finalized after selection of the methodologies?

A.16: Due to USAID reporting requirement, it is important to have the PMP finalized within this time frame. However, USAID understands that the PMP is a living document and expects revisions as needed. The Offeror should make all efforts to ensure that the majority of indicators to be used are identified and defined. If not readily available, baselines and targets may be set at a later as agreed between USAID and the contractor.

Q.17: On page C-16, the Solicitation states that the contractor will finalize the priority regions identified in C.2.5, however there is no Section C.2.5. Please clarify.

A.17: This should refer to C.2.2 (page C-4) instead of C.2.5. Please see Amendment One to Solicitation.

Q.18: The Solicitation discusses CETT as one experience that may be replicated but no cost data has been provided. Please clarify how the proposal should budget for CETT activities.

A.18: A preliminary cost analysis for implementing the teacher training component of CETT shows that it costs around \$21,300 for peri-urban schools and \$23,900 for rural schools to train 30 teachers benefiting approximately 1,000 students. This cost includes technical personnel, trainers, small classroom libraries, learning materials and other operational costs. Not included are student testing and overhead costs.

Q.19: In Program Outcome 5, what is the role, authority, and composition of the Joint Consultative Committee?

A.19: The Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) will guide, promote and facilitate the implementation of the education program under the Assistance Agreement signed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Ministry of Education. It will include prioritization of activities and target regions. The JCC may include members from the USAID, the Ministry of Education, representatives from the regions and other key stakeholders yet to be determined.

Q.20: Under 1.2, Deliverable A. requires that "*accompanying 'how-to' manual(s) for each experience (or 'model')*" be included. Does USAID intend that specific "how-to manuals" are developed for each sub-sector system (e.g. budgeting, finance, human resources, textbook development and procurement, etc) with corresponding levels of specificity and detail, or do the "how-to manuals" refer to each of the broad models/methodologies of a best practice decentralized education system (i.e. cover only the overall reform approach and how it was achieved)?

A.20: It may include both, depending on what is appropriate for the program.

Q.21: If these "how-to manuals" involve certain specific sub-sector aspects, and the choice of these sub-sector aspects can be based on an analysis of what is of most interest to the chosen regions, then would USAID re-consider a later (post-90-day) deliverable date to ensure they are both demand-driven and specifically tailored to the Peruvian context?

A.21: The accompanying “how-to” manual(s) for each experience (or “model”) within 90 days of contract award may be general. Specific manuals may be submitted at a later date based as agreement between the contractor and USAID.

Q.22: Regarding 1.2, we assume that the international experiences would be chosen by the contractor. On local experiences, does USAID have specific local experiences in mind, other than San Martin, based on prior consultations with the GOP?

A.22: USAID is open to successful, proven experiences, including those USAID has previously supported. USAID expects that the Ministry of Education and the regional and local government counterparts will be engaged by the contractor in reviewing and determining the best viable options.

Q.23: Regarding 1.2 and 1.3, has USAID engaged with the GOP to ascertain their willingness to reform and their level of receptivity for technical assistance, or does USAID expect the project to *generate* that demand for reform among the national and regional governments?

A.23: Both. USAID has engaged the GOP, especially the Ministry of Education and the Consejo Nacional de Educacion to increase buy-in and support for the program. This activity is being implemented under a fully-vetted Assistance Agreement with the GOP. The general areas of intervention in this contract are aligned with the priorities of the GOP in education. However, USAID is keenly aware of the challenges in providing education reform support. Thus, USAID and the contractor need to work hand-in-hand along with other stakeholders to ensure that there is sustained support for reform among the national and regional governments. It is expected that the contractor will establish a strong working relationship with the GOP, particularly the MED in implementing the program.

Q.24: Regarding 1.3, please confirm that San Martin is included as one of the 5 priority regions or does USAID intend to target 5 priority regions in addition to San Martin?

A.24: As mentioned in Section C.2.2, priority regions will be jointly determined with input from USAID and the MED using pre-defined criteria. Without preempting this vetting process, USAID foresees that because of its long-standing involvement, the significant progress, and the strong political will and leadership in San Martin that the region will likely remain a priority.

Q.25: Sections H.2 and H.7 of the solicitation establish Geographical Code 000 for commodities procurement under this project. We strongly recommend and request that USAID consider assigning 935 rather than 000 for this project.

A.25: The Geographic Code is 000.

Q.26: Is there a bilateral agreement or a SOAG with the cooperating country which provides an exemption from local taxes to USAID contractors and recipients? If so, have there been representations made by the USAID Mission to the government of the cooperating country for the exemption to be recognized?

A.26: “Yes, there is a bilateral Assistance Agreement (formerly SOAGs) with the Government of Peru. Taxation clause is included in the Agreement and is included as reference below. You should note that there are several exceptions to the tax exemptions. In addition, the Peruvian

government currently is taking the position that only Chiefs of Party and "Technical Experts" will be permitted to import household effects and personally-owned vehicles duty free.

"SECTION B.4. Taxation

(a) General Exemption. The Agreement and the assistance hereunder are exempt as described below, in accordance with the laws in effect in the territory of the Grantee, from any taxes and other charges.

(b) Except as provided otherwise in this provision, the General Exemption in subsection (a) applies to, but is not limited to (1) any activity, contract, grant or other implementing agreement financed by USAID under this Agreement; (2) any transaction or supplies, equipment, materials, property or other goods (hereinafter collectively "goods") under (1) above; (3) any contractor, grantee, or other organization carrying out activities financed by USAID under this Agreement; (4) any employee of such organizations; and (5) any individual contractor or grantee carrying out activities financed by USAID under this Agreement.

(c) Except as provided otherwise in this provision, the General Exemption in subsection (a) applies to, but is not limited to, the following taxes:

(1) Exemption 1. Customs duties, tariffs, import taxes, or other levies on the importation, use and re-exportation of goods or the personal belongings and effects for the personal use of non-national individuals or their family members, in accordance with procedures established in the Peruvian territory. Exemption 1 includes, but is not limited to, all charges based on the value of such imported goods, but does not include service charges directly related to services performed to transfer goods or cargo. The term "national" refers to organizations established under the laws of the Grantee and citizens of the Grantee, other than permanent resident aliens in the United States, and other than wholly owned subsidiaries and branches of non-Peruvian organizations organized in Peru for the purpose of implementing foreign assistance.

(2) Exemption 2. Taxes on income, profits or property as provided under Peruvian law in force. This reference to Peruvian law governs only this subsection (2).

(3) Exemption 3 (reimbursement). Taxes levied on the last transaction for the purchase of goods or services financed by USAID under this Agreement, including sales taxes, value-added taxes (VAT), or taxes on purchases or rentals of real or personal property, as reimbursed in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 783 and its procedure. The term "last transaction" refers to the last transaction by which the goods or services were purchased for use in the activities financed by USAID under this Agreement.

(d) If a tax has been levied and paid contrary to the provisions of an exemption, USAID may, in its discretion, (1) require the Grantee to refund to USAID or to others as USAID may direct the amount of such tax with funds other than those provided under the Agreement, or (2) offset the amount of such tax from amounts to be disbursed under this or any other agreement between the Parties.

(e) In the event of a disagreement about the application of an exemption, the Parties agree to promptly meet and resolve such matters, guided by the principle that the assistance furnished by USAID is free from direct taxation, so that all of the assistance furnished by USAID will contribute directly to the economic development of the country of the Grantee.

Q.27: The Solicitation states that the 45 schools are in their third year and the 90 schools are in their second year. We would like clarification on this time frame since the 45 schools will be starting their fourth year in March 2009 and the 90 schools will be starting their third year in 2009.

A.27: In Peru, the school year runs from March to December. The 45 schools in Alternative Development communities will need assistance through December 2009 and the other 90 through December 2010.

Q.28: Section L.10. pp L-13-14: The proposed budget includes two CLINs. Please confirm that a line for grants can be added to each CLIN.

A.28: If the Offeror deems that a Grants-under-Contract (GUC) mechanism is appropriate for implementing the Partnership Challenge Fund, a line for GUC may be added as a CLIN.

Q.29 On Page L-13 the Solicitation mentions a list of CLINs in Section B. We do not find this list in Section B. Can you please provide the page number with the list of CLINs?

A.29: This change will be reflected in Amendment One to the Solicitation.

Q.30: Please specify the number of budget CLINs to be used.

A.30: There are two budget CLINS (see Page L-14).

Q.31: Section L.7., p L-9: Item c.6. Please confirm that the statements of work for potential subcontractors include only those US subcontractors included in the offeror, or also include potential Peruvian subcontractors to be determined after award (reference last paragraph L.8).

A.31: The Offeror must provide as much information to allow sufficient review of the proposal as it relates to local and US sub-contractors. Please see Amendment One to the Solicitation.

Q.32: It is our understanding per instructions in Section L.8 (page L-10) that contractors are not encouraged to pursue letters of commitment for local subcontractors. Can you please clarify if contractors are permitted to pursue letters of collaboration for potential partnerships/alliances?

A.32: Yes, that is correct, Contractors are not encouraged to pursue letter of commitment or of collaboration for potential partnerships/alliances for local organizations.

Q.33: The Solicitation states a preference for locally provided support, but specifies that commitments from local partners should not be secured as USAID will determine local partners in conjunction with the contractor. Since local subcontractors will affect both technical response and budget, how should they be incorporated into the proposal? Can specific local partners be named and budgeted?

A.33: USAID will not determine local partners in conjunction with the Contractor. Please refer to Section L.8, last paragraph, page. L-10.

Q.34: If the offeror has an approved NICRA from USAID, please confirm it if it is required to submit audited balance sheets and profit and loss statements for the last two years.

A.34: Documents requested under Section L.10(f), page L-16 of the Solicitation should be provided by all offerors as they are required for the CO to make the responsibility determination. Proposed subcontractors do not need to submit these documents to USAID, but given the requirements set forth in Part 44 of the FAR, prime contractors without an approved purchasing system shall ensure that they have adequate information and supporting data for the proposed subcontract in order to provide the necessary information to the Contracting Officer for required consent.

Q.35: Please confirm the subcontractors are not required to submit their personnel and travel policies; and their audited statements for last two years?

A.35: Yes, subcontractors are required to submit their personnel and travel policies; and their audited statements for last two years.

Q.36: Are subcontractors required to submit a) Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; b) Small Business Subcontracting Plan?

A.36: Yes, subcontractors are required to submit Disclosure of Lobbying Activities and Small Business Subcontracting Plan.

Q.37: Please clarify the email address that the proposal should be submitted to? On page L-6 the email is underlined and it is unclear if the email contains an underscore.

Q.38: Does the submission address include an underscore? As in: rfp_peru@usaid.gov?

A.37 & A.38: Yes, the e-mail address where the proposal should be submitted to contains an underscore between the word "rfp" and "peru".

Q.39: Please advise whether it is acceptable to submit the proposal by email no later than the 18th of February 2009 at 16:30 Lima time and have hard-copies follow within 2-3 days?

Q.40: The Solicitation states on page L-6 that the proposal must be submitted in electronic and hard copy format by the submission date of February 18th. AED would like to request that the official submission be made by electronic format by the stated deadline, and that the hard copy format submission arrive at USAID/Peru no later than COB February 20th.

A.39 & A.40: Based on Section L.6 (a), both the electronic and hard copies must arrive by the stated deadline in order for the proposal to be considered.

Q.41: Please advise whether the proposal can be submitted in PDF format electronically?

Q.42: In regards to the submission instructions on Page L-6, will USAID accept Adobe PDF versions of the electronic documents? For example, some documents with original signatures will need to be scanned and will not be able to be submitted in a Microsoft Word or Excel format

Q.43: On page L-6, the instructions state that the electronic copies of the proposals are to be submitted in MS Word and MS Excel. Because of the nature of certain documents (such as signed letters of commitment), MS Word file versions are not available for submission. May we instead submit our electronic proposal in Adobe PDF and MS Excel? Alternatively, if this is not acceptable, may we submit annexes in Adobe PDF while submitting the rest of the proposal in MS Word and MS Excel?

A.41, A.42 & A.43: Based on Section L.6, Technical Proposal must be submitted on Microsoft Word format while the Cost Proposal must have a text in Microsoft Word format and with budget/spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel format. Signed letters of commitment can be sent in PDF format.

Q.44: The Solicitation provides on Page L-7 that "Proposals must remain available for acceptance by USAID for a minimum of a hundred and twenty (120) days". On the SF-33 however, it says 90 days. Can you please confirm the minimum number of days proposals should be available for acceptance?

A.44: Proposals must remain available for acceptance by USAID for a minimum of a hundred and twenty (120) days. Please see Amendment One to the Solicitation.

Q.45: Under Section L.9.D, on Page L-12, the Solicitation requires Offerors to provide performance information for up to five (5) relevant contracts. If Offeror's relevant projects happen to be grants or cooperative agreements, will USAID accept these projects for evaluating Offeror's past performance?

A.45: Yes, other relevant projects will be considered.

Q.45: On Page L-9, Item #13, is there a specific form that should be used by Offerors to provide the contractor performance information? If so can USAID provide or advise where it can be found?

A.45: Contractor Performance Report – Short Form is attached to Amendment One to the Solicitation.

Q.46: Section B.2 request the proposal budget be presented by year as shown in Section B.4; however such breakdown is not presented in section B.4. Can you provide the sample mentioned in section B.2 or should we assume that the breakdown provided in Section L.10 (b) is adequate?

A.46: Yes, your assumption is correct; you must use the breakdown provided in Section L.10 (b). Please refer to Amendment One to the Solicitation.

Q.47: Page L-4 of the Solicitation states that each sheet of data the contractor wishes to restrict must contain the following legend: "Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal." Is it acceptable to include the legend on the title page (as described at the top of page L-4) and add "The data subject to this restriction include all pages of this document"?

A.47: Yes, it is.

Q.48: The instructions on page L-13 request submission of the contractor's most recent SF-294 reports for the past three years. Our SF-294 reports for this period number more than 300

hundred pages. May we instead submit the required set of reports as PDF files on CD-ROM to be included only with the hard copy of the technical proposal? Alternatively, if PDF files on CD-ROM are not acceptable, may we submit copies of our 10 most recent and relevant SF-294 reports in an annex to the technical?

A.48: The offeror should submit copies of the 10 most recent and relevant SF294s reports for the past three years. Please refer to Amendment One to the Solicitation.

Q.49: Page L-9 lists a number of items that are excluded from the 35-page limit. Would USAID please consider (a) adding an acronyms list and (b) letters of commitment from U.S. subcontractors to this list of attachments.

A.49: (a) Solicitation will be amended to reflect the inclusion of acronyms list in the 35-page limit.
(b) Please refer to answer number 32.

[END OF ATTACHMENT 13]

[END OF AMENDMENT ONE TO SOLICITATION 527-09-000003]