



# Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement (BRACE) II - Call for concept notes –

- Presentation 04/10/2017
- Summary of Q&A



# BRACE II Programme background

- Part of DFID's balanced approach between life-saving and resilience-building interventions
- 5 year programme: 2016-2020
- With a phased approach: 2 phases of 2.5 years
- Three components:
  1. First component led by UN partners (WFP and FAO), in Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap
  2. A second component led by NGO partner(s) in any areas classified as severely food insecure within the Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal region and Greater Equatoria region
  3. A monitoring, evaluation and learning component delivered by a contractor (iMC & Forcier)

# Four objectives

Objectives	Approaches
▪ Address immediate hunger gaps	Through conditional cash/food assistance (Cash/Food for Asset/Work)
▪ Improve longer-term food security	Through supporting the creation of community assets. How?
▪ Increase capacity to absorb, anticipate and adapt to climate variability and extremes	Through improving skills and knowledge. How?  Other approaches...?
▪ Improve community relationships	Approaches...?

- \* *Theory of change*
- \* *Important to propose evidence-based and contextualised approaches*
- \* *CFA/FFA and CBP are not new things; a lot of learning already available*
- \* *Not all approaches are (cost)-effective when working at scale*
- \* *We are looking for models that are replicable and scalable*

# Scope for this component:

- A minimum of 51,000 beneficiaries (8,500 HH)
- 15/01/18 – 31/07/2020
- Up to £7 million budget through one multi-year accountable grant
- IPC 3 or 4 areas in Greater Bahr El Ghazal and/or Greater Equatoria (includes Lakes)
- Open to NGOs only (Given the scale, NGOs are encouraged to apply as a consortium)

# We are looking for a partner or partners with:

- Strong local context analysis
- An evidence-based technical approach
- The ability to contingency plan and implement flexible programming
- The capacity to develop a robust monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning strategy
- The capacity to coordinate effectively with other interventions and actors
- Robust programme management practices (including management of grants of similar size)

# Concept note appraisal criteria

CRITERIA	
<b>Context analysis and needs assessment</b> The application demonstrates knowledge of the local context and needs in suggested target areas, as well as of the dynamics which would affect the success or failure of the intervention. Suggested activities are tailored to the local context. Application includes partnership with local stakeholders/organisations.	/10
<b>Build resilience</b> The application demonstrates how the proposed activities will support transformative change and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate disasters, food insecurity and malnutrition	/20
<b>Address immediate needs and achieve quick impact</b> The application demonstrates how the proposed activities will address immediate needs and allow for the achievement of quick results	/20
<b>Ensure delivery</b> The application demonstrates the track record and capacity of the applicant (or consortium) to deliver proposed activities on time, to the expected standard and in a cost efficient way.	/20
<b>Capacity to adapt and flex</b> The application explains the mechanisms to be put in place to enable timely adaptation and improvement of the intervention	/10
<b>VFM</b> The application represents good value for money in terms of results to be achieved with the overall budget (cost per beneficiary compared to services/activities provided, ratio of the budget to be directly transferred to beneficiaries, etc.)	/20

# Process / timeline

- Concept note **by 22 October 2017 by midnight**
  - Annex A: Concept Note template
  - Annex B: Basic Logframe template
  - Annex C: High level budget template
- Full proposal **by 25 November 2017 at midnight**
  - Templates will be provided to invited applicants
- Expected start date: **15 January 2018**
- **15 January to 31 March 2018**: Inception phase

# Questions & Answers

- **Q: Will this component be managed directly in country or will it be managed by a fund manager?**
- A: This component will be managed by DFID South Sudan directly – there will not be a fund manager.
  
- **Q: How many NGOs can be part of one consortium?**
- A: DFID is not imposing a limit on the number of members allowed in each consortium – this is up to you. However, we are asking you to explain clearly in your concept notes who is in the consortium and why. We would also recommend that you allocate manageable levels of activity and budget to consortium members, based on their past experience.
  
- **Q: There is a very specific definition of consortium. Are other forms of partnerships or joint venture possible?**
- A: Yes, we are open to applications from any kind of NGO partnership, however, please explain the nature of the partnership and the governance structure in your application.
  
- **Q: Is it correct that the call for concept notes does not ask applicants to submit a theory of change?**
- A: Yes. When preparing your concept note applications it will be important to develop and clarify your theory of change internally, however, DFID will not be using this as a scoring criteria at concept note stage.

# Questions & Answers

- **Q: Will the existing project locations be clarified?**
- A: It is up to applicants to choose locations and explain why you have chosen these locations (NB: these locations must be in IPC 3 or 4).
  
- **Q: After the concept notes have been reviewed will there be a transparent communication of how many applied and how many applicants were successful?**
- A: Every application will receive a letter of response from DFID setting out the scores their application received. We can also include an annex that set out how many proposals were received and how many have proceeded to full proposal stage.
  
- **Q: Can consortia be composed of a mixture of national and international NGOs?**
- A: Yes.
  
- **Q: Can the project be implemented in Greater Upper Nile?**
- A: No the project must be implemented in one or more of the following former states: Northern Bahr-El-Ghazal, Western Bahr-El-Ghazal, Warrap, Lakes, Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria.

# Questions & Answers

- **Q: How can applicants avoid double-counting beneficiaries in the project when reaching beneficiaries multiple times? Is double-counting accepted?**
- A: Projects should propose a package of support that will be delivered to beneficiaries, which may involve various activities. Even if a beneficiary is reached with more than one activity they should only be counted once, e.g. they may receive a cash transfer and benefit from training. Double-counting is not acceptable.
  
- **Q: Can the overall project budget be split between a consortium?**
- A: Yes but only one agreement will be signed with the lead agency.
  
- **Q: How will DFID, as a donor, ensure that national NGOs aren't misled into thinking they are part of a consortium before later being removed from the project?**
- A: As NGOs it is your responsibility to make sure your NGO is included in the concept note application, if you are expecting this. DFID is not involved in concept note development and so will not regulate which NGOs are selected for consortia. However, we recommend that NGOs choose to partner or enter into consortia with other NGOs that they trust and have good relationships with. If there are any minor changes in consortia structure between the concept note and full proposal stage DFID would expect to receive an explanation on this.

# Questions & Answers

- **Q: Does DFID expect the majority of households targeted to receive cash transfers?**
- A: Yes, the large majority of beneficiary households should receive support that helps them to address their immediate needs (food gap). The terms of reference suggest a cash for assets/work or food for assets/work approach, but we are also open to considering alternatives if you wish to suggest a viable, evidence-based alternative approach.
  
- **Q: Does DFID expect the cash transfers to be of a certain value?**
- A: No this is up to applicants to decide. However, DFID will look at what proportion of the overall budget will be transferred to beneficiaries when analysing the value for money of the concept notes submitted.
  
- **Q: Are all consortia members required to submit information on their budgets over the last three years?**
- A: No, only the lead organisation has to do this. If your organisation is used to managing much smaller budgets than the budget you are proposing we would recommend that you partner with an organisation that has experience of managing similar size grants.
  
- **Q: If an organisation wants to propose that they target an area which was not covered by the latest IPC analysis, is this possible?**
- A: Yes, if you have made your own assessments of the food security situation in the area and have justified this adequately in the concept note this would be acceptable.

# Questions & Answers

- **Q: If an NGO has extensive experience of similar projects in other countries but is relatively new to operating in South Sudan, can they draw on their experience overseas in the concept note application?**
- A: Yes. Organisations who fall into this category should ensure they use the section of the concept note entitled “prior experience” to explain their overseas experience and the budgets they are used to managing in other countries.
  
- **Q: Are all four objectives equally important?**
- A: Objectives one and two are the most important objectives in terms of impact weighting (and are of equal importance to each other). Objectives three and four can be seen as more cross-cutting, complementary objectives on climate-sensitivity and conflict-sensitivity.
  
- **Q: If applying as a consortium, does each consortium member have to submit a separate budget to DFID or will there be one budget?**
- A: There should be only one budget which reflects how all the money will be spent, regardless of which consortium member is spending the money. If a consortium is selected they would be required to submit a delivery chain map to DFID as part of the inception stage. This is a document that maps how the project is being delivered and would set out exactly how much funding is being spent by each consortium member.