

DSP tender, Q&A

week 51, 16 – 20 December

- A question was raised about the nexus development, humanitarian relief and conflict in the fragile context of the target countries.

Answer:

Considering the overall objective of the DSP program, interventions can only succeed in areas where local institutions are still functioning. The DSP program is not meant to provide humanitarian relief, nor to deal with human security aspects related to armed conflict.

It is up to applicants to assess where it is possible to implement the DSP program at the moment of developing the proposal early 2020. Considering the volatility of the security situation, continuous monitoring of the security context will be necessary and decisions about implementation will need to be taken accordingly.

- The subsidy tender aims to reach 2 to 5 million small-scale producers. Does this mean 2-5 million households or individuals?

Answer: Producers are those who have control over land use, production decisions and yields (a married woman working on her husband's cotton field is not a producer, but she can be considered producer when she has control over her own cow pea production or her poultry).

- The subsidy tender mentions de Sudano-Sahel zone as implementation area. This zone is usually defined on the basis of rainfall quantities. Which are the boundaries are to be used in this case? Is it possible to work partly in the Sahel also?

Answer:

We do not want to limit the intervention zone of the program to exact rainfall figures, since isohyets are also on the move. The program aims to work in regions where dryland agriculture and pastoralism meet and where sustainable land use is at stake. So yes, partly in the Sahel and not further south than +/- 800 mm year.

- The subsidy tender aims to work in a coherent zone. What exactly does this mean? Which kind of coherence is aimed at?

Answer:

Coherent in this context means that the program should look for synergies in its choice of intervention areas, limiting fragmentation and maximizing linkages within and between countries.

- The first phase aims at a target of 0.5-1.5 million, the second phase at 2-5 million. Are the targets of phase two cumulative or additional to phase 1?

Answer:

Cumulative. It is expected that the program is able to scale up in the second phase, while continuing to support, less intensively probably, the producers / communities / institutions that were involved in the first phase.

- The expression 'landscape' could be understood in different ways. What is the scale of a landscape in the context of this call?

Answer:

In the context of this call the scale of a landscape is related to the area in which local communities can agree upon management decisions or negotiate management decisions with adjacent communities under the authority of local governments (commune, sous-préfecture). The indicator 'number of landscapes with a management plan' refers to the lowest level where

a plan is discussed and agreed upon. Several management plans can be part of a broader landscape plan.

- Is it expected that local partners commit themselves exclusively to one applicant / consortium?

Answer:

No, ref. p 10 of the DSP framework: An organisation may submit only one DSP grant application as a lead party or independent applicant, but may be a co-applicant in other applications submitted on behalf of a consortium by another organisation acting as lead party.

There are no restrictions to the number of applications a local partner can participate in in another role than consortium partner.

- Regarding budget allocation, the programme framework indicates that at least 20% of the budget should go to activities in each country and up to 10% can be spent on activities targeting more than one country. Can you be more specific on the 10 % budget allocation, what kind of activities/costs are expected under this provision? (project management or multi-country activities, i.e. policy discussions, workshops, etc)

Answer:

Ref. p 13 of the grant policy framework: no more than 10% of the requested amount may be spent on activities targeting more than one country.

Activities such as exchange or promotion of experiences, policy discussions, lobbying, etc.

- Does the Ministry see a MEL (monitoring, evaluation and learning) role as an activity that will be counted within the 60% of budget allocation (20% per country) or as a cross cutting management tool, thus a different budget category.

Answer:

Could be both, depending on your vision on MEL as a developmental tool.

- Can you confirm that the total grant amount is exclusive of the Dutch VAT?

Answer:

The total grant amount includes all taxes, if any, such as VAT. Please note that development cooperation activities can be zero rated under certain conditions.

- Can you give some indication on the schedule of payments? Is the contract and payment schedule going to be based on time and materials per result area or by milestone instead?

Answer:

The payment schedule will be based on progress made of the program in general and per result area specifically, and will take into account the liquidity position of the program.

- Regarding indirect costs, there is reference to total actual indirect cost incurred by the organisation, what evidence will the Ministry require to proof the indirect costs incurred by the provider, i.e audited accounts?

Answer:

Audited accounts will form the basis of the Minister's assessment of direct and indirect costs incurred by the organisation and its partners.

- Can you give an indication of how the submission will be assessed against all the criteria (what are the percentages or scoring points per category)?

Answer: In this phase the Ministry will not elaborate on this.

- Regarding to the model budget, it indicates a maximum amount of 5% for contingency costs. Does this percentage relate to the total budget? Do you have any guidelines on what is considered as contingency costs?

Answer:

Contingency costs are those costs related to activities that were not foreseen and planned. The maximum is set at 5% of the overall budget. It is important to realize that expenditure under contingencies can only be granted after explicit approval by the Minister.

- One of the threshold criteria relates to the “expenditures” of the consortium members together in the period 2016-2018 (item 10, pg. of the programme framework). Can you define expenditure, is it referred to operational costs or revenues of the consortium members?

Answer:

Expenditures refer to total yearly budgets that organisations have been managing and spending while implementing their programs/activities.