

Moving Integrated, Quality Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health and Family Planning and Reproductive Health (MOMENTUM) Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI No.: USAID-MRITE-NIGERIA-01
Issuance Date: May 14, 2024
Questions Due: May 24, 2024 at 5:00PM EDT
Due Date: May 29, 2024 at 5:00PM EDT

JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) is soliciting applications for USAID’s Moving Integrated, Quality Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health and Family Planning and Reproductive Health (MOMENTUM) Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project, to strengthen routine immunization (RI) programs to overcome entrenched obstacles that contribute to stagnating and declining immunization rates and address barriers to reaching zero-dose and under-immunized children with life-saving vaccines.

JSI seeks three (3) locally-registered organizations able to implement in the five (5) focus states: **Bayelsa, Edo, Imo, Jigawa and Lagos**, to assist with technical and programmatic implementation of routine immunization services in **Nigeria**. Activities will build on existing planning and implementation efforts for RI and primary health care (PHC) services aimed at addressing equity, effectiveness, and sustainability in the local country context. Coordination will require close collaboration with Ministries of Health and other government actors, national and local institutes of public health, UN agencies and other relevant USAID investments. Under this solicitation, JSI anticipates awarding three (3) subawards over an approximate twenty (20) month period.

Please read the EOI in its entirety. Confirm that your organization meets the Eligibility Requirements (Section II.C), and ensure that your EOI application addresses all items listed in the Instructions to Applications (Section II).

EOI applications must be submitted in English by May 29, 2024 at 5:00pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). EOI applications submitted after the closing date/time will not be considered. One (1) electronic copy of the EOI, and required attachments, should be sent to momentumri@jsi.com. JSI will review the EOI applications on a rolling basis over the period for which the EOI application window is open.

The EOI consists of this announcement and the following:

- Section I. Program Description
- Section II. Instructions to Applicants
- Section III. Terms of Application
- Section IV. Mandatory and as Applicable Standard Provisions

Questions concerning this solicitation should be submitted by email to momentumri@jsi.com by May 24, 2024 at 5:00pm EDT. EOI applications will be reviewed by an evaluation committee that will evaluate the Applications according to the Eligibility Requirements (Section II). The committee will determine

organizations that meet the eligibility requirements and will invite them to continue to the next phase of the selection process.

The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is subject to applicable donor regulations and provisions. This EOI does not obligate USAID and/or JSI to issue an award nor does it commit USAID and/or JSI to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. USAID reserves the right not to fund any of the Applications received. All recommendations for funding are contingent on the approval of the project Agreement Officer's Representative at USAID.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Yared Mengistu
Director of Finance and Operations
JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.
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SECTION I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity (the Project) applies best practices and explores innovations to increase equitable immunization coverage in USAID-supported countries. The project is USAID's flagship technical assistance mechanism for immunization and is active in 12 countries and has supported over 18 countries. It builds countries' capacity to identify and overcome barriers to reaching zero-dose and under-immunized children and older populations with life-saving vaccines and other integrated health services, including rebuilding immunization systems adversely affected by the pandemic. It also supports COVID-19 vaccine rollout across countries with a wide range of circumstances and needs.

The Project collaborates with the Nigerian government to develop locally tailored solutions to the root causes of low and inequitable vaccine coverage. The Project aims to enhance the planning, implementation, communication and coordination of RI/PHC services at state and local government area (LGA) levels. It also seeks to improve the quality of supportive supervision for RI and PHC services, boost community engagement, and enhance timely reporting of quality National Health Management Information System/ District Health Information System 2 data at the state, LGA and health facility levels. Project objectives in Nigeria include the following:

1. Strengthen governance and leadership for immunization services to improve the delivery of equitable and quality immunization services.
2. Address service delivery gaps for apex and selected non-apex PHCs
3. Strengthen the mechanisms for advocacy, communication and social mobilization to increase uptake for immunization services.
4. Improve the capacity of the health workforce to deliver quality immunization and Primary Health Care services in the focus states.
5. Strengthen the Health Information System/ National Health Management Information System for evidence-based policy and decision-making in the five focus states.
6. Build and strengthen the capacity of local NGOs.

Over the past 20 years, Nigeria has made progress in childhood vaccination but continues to face several challenges. In 2017, the National Emergency Routine Immunization Coordination Centre (NERICC) was established, and in 2018, the Immunization and Primary Healthcare System Strengthening Strategy was launched. While Nigeria became polio free in 2020, there are still 2.2 million zero-dose children, the highest in Africa. Vaccine coverage varies regionally, with the North having lower rates (47.3 percent) compared to the South (76.7 percent). Disparities exist based on residence, mother's age, education status, and wealth. To address these issues, tailored community-based and data-driven interventions are needed to improve routine immunization coverage and equity. The Government of Nigeria, through the National Primary Health Development Agency (NPHCDA), in line with the Immunization Agenda 2030, aims for national coverage of 90 percent and subnational coverage of 80 percent.

The Project offers technical assistance to strengthen RI initiatives in Bayelsa, Edo, Imo, Jigawa and Lagos states. Senior technical staff members are strategically positioned at the national level, in Abuja, to ensure that the national policy planning, and partner coordination efforts align with and support state level initiatives. This collaboration facilitates the sharing of valuable lessons and experiences from the state level to inform national-level policies and planning.

Following USAID's guidance to move toward a model of locally led development and empowering the

decision-making power to the local people, organizations, and institutions that are driving change in their own countries and communities, the Project seeks locally-registered non-governmental, independent, non-profit organizations to assist with implementation of evidence-based interventions to improve routine immunization outcomes in Nigeria. The required scope of work for the locally-registered organizations is as follows:

- Strengthen community engagement through the local NGO's networks and address social and behavioral barriers including gender related barriers for RI implementation.
- Support service delivery for RI in chronically missed settlements with high number of zero dose and under immunized children in smaller, basic, non-apex PHCs in Bayelsa, Edo, Imo, Jigawa and Lagos states.

The anticipated start date and performance period of the awards are: **October 1, 2024 through May 31, 2026.**

Applicants that meet EOI eligibility requirements will receive the Request for Applications (RFA) with a detailed scope of work and have an opportunity to submit a full application.

SECTION II. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

A. General Information

All Applicants must submit one (1) EOI application package to momentumri@jsi.com by May 29, 2024, at 5:00pm EDT. The subject line in the email needs to start with the EOI No. USAID-MRITE-NIGERIA-01. No more than one (1) EOI application may be submitted by each Applicant. JSI will confirm receipt via email of all EOI applications within four (4) business days of the submission deadline. EOI applications will not be reviewed if they are incomplete or are submitted after the closing date/time, and/or if submitted by Applicants that do not meet Eligibility Requirements (see Section II.C).

Questions concerning this solicitation should be submitted by email to momentumri@jsi.com by May 24, 2024, at 5:00pm EDT. All information will be posted on the JSI solicitations webpage (<https://www.jsi.com/partner-with-jsi/solicitations/>).

Receipt of an EOI application in response to this solicitation does not constitute an award commitment on behalf of the USAID and/or JSI. Costs incurred by organizations in the preparation and submission of an EOI application will not be reimbursed by the USAID and/or JSI. JSI and the USAID reserve the right not to fund any of the EOI applications received.

An evaluation committee will review EOI applications to determine the organizations that meet the eligibility requirements (Section II). The committee will invite organizations that meet the eligibility requirements to continue to the next phase of the selection process. Each Applicant will be notified in writing whether or not its EOI application was selected to continue to the next phase of the selection process. A recommendation for funding is contingent on the availability of funds and the approval of the project's Agreement Officer's Representative at USAID. Successful Applicants will be awarded a subaward from JSI on behalf of the project.

Any organization that submits an EOI application in response to this EOI may request the committee's feedback based on the review of the EOI application. To receive feedback, Applicants must submit an email request to JSI within five (5) calendar days of receiving notice of the committee's final decision. JSI shall provide the Applicant with the technical committee's feedback via email within 30 calendar days or inform the Applicant that more time is necessary.

B. Eligibility Confirmation

Applicants must confirm that they are eligible for funding by confirming in their cover letter that the Applicant meets all the listed below in Section II.C Eligibility Requirements.

C. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to apply for an award, the organization needs to meet the following criteria:

- Central office in Abuja with large geographic reach and experience working at the state/subnational level,
- Five or more years of experience implementing routine immunization services acceptance in the five supported states or more,
- One or more years of service delivery and community mobilization/engagement experience in five states or more,
- Historical implementation and coordination relationship with NPHCDA (MoH) and SPHCD (MoH State Level),
- Experience as Gavi HSS beneficiary is a plus,
- Registration status as a non-government or independent or non-profit organization in Nigeria,
- Holder of a Unique Entity Identifier obtained from SAM.gov,
- Experience managing a grant of \$100,000 USD or equivalent amount in Naira or above from an international donor (USAID not required),
- Audited financial statements or audit reports from the past three years,
- Operational bank account in Nigeria.

D. EOI Instructions

1. **Cover letter/email:** Cover letter including organization name, list of enclosed attachments, confirmation of eligibility.
2. **EOI Questionnaire:** Applicants are required to complete **EOI Appendix 1: EOI Questionnaire** and provide all supporting documents requested in the questionnaire.

SECTION III. TERMS OF APPLICATION

1. **Deadline:** Applications should be received by the designated deadline, or they may not be considered. Late Applications will not be reviewed. JSI will review the applications on a rolling basis over the period for which the application window is open.

2. **Questions of Clarification:** Interested organizations should direct any questions about the EOI in writing to momentumri@jsi.com no later than the date specified on page one. Responses will be distributed to all EOI recipients. All correspondence with the Project pertaining to this EOI must reference the contact person and EOI number on page one.
3. **Application Validity:** Your EOI application must remain valid for a minimum of 90 days. Applications should be signed by an official authorized to do so.
4. **Language:** The application, as well as correspondence and related documents should be in English.
5. **Negotiations:** It is anticipated that awards will be awarded solely on the basis of information received. JSI reserves the right to request additional information and conduct negotiations with any potential Applicant prior to awarding.
6. **Rejection of Applications:** This document is a request for EOI application only, and in no way obligates JSI, the project or USAID to make an award. JSI reserves the right to reject any and all offers received and/or to cancel the EOI. Applicants whose EOI application is not selected will be notified.
7. **Incurring Costs:** JSI is not liable for any costs incurred during preparation, submission, or negotiation of an award for this EOI. The costs are solely the responsibility of the Applicant.
8. **Representations and Certifications:** The EOI application shall be accompanied by any requested representations and certifications completed and signed by an official authorized by the Applicant.
9. **Financial Responsibility:** Applicants should certify as to the financial viability and resources of the organization to complete the proposed activities within the period of performance. JSI reserves the right to request and review the latest financial statements and audit reports as part of the basis of the award.
10. **Executive Order on Terrorism Finance:** The Applicant is reminded that U.S. laws prohibit transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. It is the legal responsibility of the recipient to ensure compliance with such laws. The Treasury Department's list of Specially Designated Nationals appears at www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/sdn.

SECTION IV. MANDATORY AND AS APPLICABLE STANDARD PROVISIONS

The following Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations are anticipated to be part of the subawards:

Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations, A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter: 303 <https://www.usaid.gov/about-us/agency-policy/series-300/references-chapter/303maa>