**Question and Answers regarding Annual Program Statement (APS)**

1. How is budget allocated under each objective?

If the same Objective is proposed from different CSOs the best CSO will be given the opportunity to implement activities under that Objective.

1. Can Annual Report be considered as an experience report?

Not only the annual report. Audit report, earlier projects experiences, staff capacity is also considered as experience report.

1. Under this grant scheme can we hire a consultant?

Yes. A consultant can be hired depending on the need. Transparency encourage CSO to build the capacity and for that purpose hiring consultant is much encouraged.

1. While conducting programs does TM encourage to collaborate with registered institutions like Polytechnic or island expert hiring?

After the training the goal might not be to get a certificate. But sometimes certificate is required to get jobs. So, for employable purpose TM will encourage more to collaborate with registered institutions.

1. How is due diligence carried out?

Once the concept note evaluation is done, in the awarding budget due diligence is checked as a quality control in consultants.

1. Under capacity building which programs are recommended to be conducted by the NGOs?

While making the concept note the gaps and needs identified in the islands should be noted and improvement for these gaps should be pointed out.So,capacity building programs can be be focused on these areas. Also, while applying for grants a Pre-Award assessment is done. In this assessment the NGOs can Identify their capacity and identify areas to improve. The programs can be developed based on the Gaps identified.

1. Under this grants scheme, after receiving the funds can we collaborate with another CSO as a third party?

Depending on the situation. If they are participating as the facilitators or as participators they can be. Thus, as a due diligence before the deadlines they should be identified.

1. A new CSO will need more time for research and might require information after the information session. In this case will that information be provided.

No. All the information will be there in the APS. To provide equal opportunity to everyone no extra information will be provided after the information session.

1. What is the evaluation process duration?

Within the First 15 days try to give the outcome. But sometimes due to comments in the evaluation it takes time to say ‘yes’ to the concept note. With the concept notes selected as ‘Yes’ we start proceeding with them. Sometimes, confidential information and negotiations required and if a conditional situation comes up due to further clarifications required to evaluate the evaluation process gets lengthen. But, 20 days concept note deadline is the same for everyone. And ideal period for evaluation is 10- 15 days, after the evaluation there will be co-creation in addressing the components. Besides, we aim to finish evaluation at the earliest and send for USAID Approval.

1. Will the proposal format be more detailed than the concept note format?

For the concept note a detailed budget is not required. The proposal funded is a long form of the concept note. While applying for the proposal it can be applied in both Dhivehi and English. But, if applied in Dhivehi, it is time consuming as TM has to negotiate and translate to USAID.

**Additional info provided in the Question-and-Answer session:**

The deadline is 30th January 2022, 11pm. It is the responsibility of the CSO to submit all the documents mentioned in the APS. Also, the CSO should take the responsibility to check the file is not corrupted. Thus, TM encourages the Double-checking process.