Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

Does the KM for FP/RH innovation have to be youth-led and/or youth-focused?
- **Yes.** Season 3 is only accepting youth-led and/or youth-focused knowledge management (KM) innovations for FP/RH programs.

Will this competition be exclusive to Asia and sub-Saharan Africa?
- Yes. The Pitch will be accepting applications only from organizations legally registered in select [USAID Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH) priority countries](#) in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia and [Ouagadougou Partnership countries](#).

  The list of eligible countries includes:
    - **sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia**
    - **Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Yemen**

Do social and behavior change (SBC) or service delivery innovations qualify for the competition?
- No. The Pitch is a competition to develop and implement innovative ideas in knowledge management for FP/RH programs. All applications need to include KM innovations. Refer to the competition guidelines for additional information regarding KM.

Who should the primary audience be for the proposed KM innovations?
- The primary audience for KM innovations typically are FP/RH program implementers and managers, technical advisors, decision makers, or service providers--in other words, the health workforce members who are serving FP/RH clients and communities. In youth-led or youth-focused programs, youth themselves are often included as key audiences of KM innovations but could also include health workforce members or community members.

Why are you focusing on youth-led or youth-focused KM innovations for FP/RH programs this Season?
- Investing in and engaging young people is critical to achieving our global development goals. However, we also need to ensure that young people are involved in the conceptualization, implementation and leadership of programs that impact them.

I submitted an innovation in Season 1 and/or Season 2 and was not selected as a semi-finalist. Can I re-apply?

- Yes. Those who submitted an innovation in Season 1 and/or Season 2 can re-apply. However, if you choose to submit the same KM innovation we recommend considering how you might be able to strengthen your application by modifying your proposed KM innovation before re-submitting.

I was selected as a <u>semi-finalist</u> in Season 1 and/or Season 2. Can I re-apply for Season 3?
- Yes. If your innovation was selected as a semi-finalist in Season 1 and/or Season 2 you are eligible to submit a new innovation for Season 3. The same KM innovation will not be accepted unless it has been significantly modified.

Can the <u>KM Champion Innovators</u> from Seasons 1 and 2 submit a new innovation?
- **No.** The KM Champion Innovators from the same organization and country as Seasons 1 and 2 will be excluded from Season 3. However, applicants from other country offices are eligible to apply. KM Champion Innovators from Season 1 and 2 that are excluded to apply in Season 3 include:
  - **Season 1:** Jhpiego India; Safe Delivery Safe Mother Pakistan; Stand with a Girl Nigeria; and White Ribbon Alliance Malawi
  - **Season 2:** Blind Youth Association Nepal; Population Foundation India; Projet Jeune Leader Madagascar; Save the Children Kenya; and Strong Enough Girls Empowerment Initiative Nigeria.

What is knowledge management?
We define knowledge management as the systematic process of <u>collecting</u> knowledge and <u>connecting</u> people to it, so they can act effectively and efficiently. All global health workers and professionals—from community health workers and physicians to program managers and policy makers—need access to high-quality scientific evidence and programmatic experience to do their jobs effectively. With this knowledge, health professionals can help save and improve people's lives. Knowledge management is a multidisciplinary approach to better share and apply this critical knowledge and expertise at global and regional levels and, especially, at various levels of a country's health system. The following are illustrative examples of knowledge management approaches in FP/RH programs:
- Documenting what works and what doesn't work in FP/RH program implementation to inform the design, implementation, and management of FP/RH programs
- Documenting the experiences of youth advocating for and/or implementing FP/RH programs and ensuring that AYSRH data is actionable and available to decision makers
- Sharing information about program experiences and learnings in various formats (eg, reports, fact sheets, interactive online formats, visual formats, infographics, audio podcasts, face-to-face learning exchanges, etc.) to make it more accessible and easier to use, so that other FP/RH professionals can apply those learnings to their own programs
- Collecting and organizing information (eg, via databases, websites, other formats) from a range of sources so that others can access and use it in their programs
- Enhancing collaborations among FP/RH professionals to reduce duplication of effort and speed up the application of learnings
- Synthesizing and sharing data in easy-to-digest formats so that FP/RH professionals can use the data to inform program and service delivery decisions
- Equipping young people with culturally relevant tools, techniques, and trainings around

FP/RH topics so they can successfully lead and collaborate with partners in the FP/RH sector

What language(s) will submissions be accepted in?
- Submissions will be accepted in English and French. We strongly encourage submissions from French-speaking organizations in sub-Saharan Africa.

Can an international organization apply if they have a presence in one of the eligible countries?
- Local and national organizations will be given priority in these competitions, but international organizations who meet the eligibility criteria and are not part of the Knowledge SUCCESS partnership can apply.

Is there a limit on the number of submissions per organization?
- There is no limit to the number of submissions per organization. However, only one submission per organization would ultimately be awarded in the competition.

Can a group of organizations partner for the competition?
- Yes. We encourage organizations to partner together on an application submission, but the sub-award will only be granted to one organization as the secretariat of the group.

Is there a timeline and process for decision making regarding this competition?
- The timeline and review process are posted in the competition guidelines, which are available on The Pitch webpage and available in English and French.

Are Knowledge SUCCESS partners eligible to apply?
- No. Knowledge SUCCESS's partner organizations, which includes Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, The Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, FHI 360, and Amref Health Africa, are not eligible to apply.

Is applying on behalf of an organization a must? Are registered local professional associations included?
- Individuals will have to apply on behalf of an organization, cross-country consortium, country-level technical working group, or other entity. Local professional associations would qualify.

Are the innovations we will be presenting dependent on the reality or context of our environment?
- Yes. The KM innovation should take into account the realities and context of your own environment and communities. It's also important to note that these innovations can range from a completely new idea to new components or adaptations of existing innovations, as well as the expansion of an existing innovation to a different audience.

Can organizations that haven't received funding from USAID apply?

- Yes. Organizations in select [USAID priority countries](#) or [Ouagadougou Partnership countries](#) that haven't received funding from USAID can apply. The requirements for organizations interested in The Pitch competition are 1) be legally registered and be able to provide Proof of Registration of the entity in the area of operation, 2) adhere to the family planning policies set forth by the United States government, and 3) have a registered bank account through which to receive the funds.

What content will be included in the coaching sessions for semi-finalists?
- During the coaching sessions for semi-finalists, Knowledge SUCCESS will give an overview of the requirements for the pitching contest and provide guidance and strategies on how to effectively pitch your innovation to the judges. Coaching sessions for semi-finalists will be mandatory, and more information regarding the sessions will be sent out through email.

What support will KM Champion Innovators receive from Knowledge SUCCESS during implementation?
- Knowledge SUCCESS will provide tailored capacity strengthening in KM to meet the specific needs of each KM Champion Innovator. In addition, Knowledge SUCCESS will support each KM Champion Innovator to promote their innovation to reach a wide audience.

Can we sub-award the seed money to other agencies/vendors to execute activities, where we are not experts (developing a platform through software coding to store, manage, access and share our knowledge), or we only can recruit someone to perform this activity?
- Sub Awardees can purchase general support services as needed to develop their KM innovation. If you anticipate needing these support services (e.g., IT development) you should include this as a line item in your budget. If you need to subcontract out part of the work and another organization will be undertaking a substantive piece of your KM innovation, this would need to be competitively bid and approved by JHU and USAID. In addition, any sub awardees would also have to adhere to the eligibility criteria.

If the applicant's organization has its headquarters in the United States and can only receive funds through the United States office, does it qualify?
- If the applicant's organization is only registered in the United States, it does not qualify. As stated above, local and national organizations in USAID FP/RH priority countries within sub-Saharan Africa and Asia will be given priority in these competitions. International organizations are also eligible to apply if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Do US government family planning policies and guidelines apply to this competition?
- Yes. Adherence to family planning policies set forth by the US government are requirements for eligibility. All innovations must comply with the following policies below:
    - [USAID global health legislative requirements](#)
    - [Family Planning Guiding Principles and Policy Requirements](#)
    - [HIV/AIDS legal and policy requirements](#).

Will you open this competition to other regions?
- For this competition cycle, only local and national organizations registered in select USAID priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa or Asia or Ouagadougou Partnership countries are eligible to apply.

Will the applying organization have to show matching funds to the award?
- No. Applying organizations do not have to match funds to the subawards.

If organizations want to partner together on an innovation, what is the maximum amount of funding they can receive?
- The maximum funding, regardless of the partnership configuration, is up to $50,000 USD.

How long should an organization be in existence to be eligible to apply?
- There is no requirement for how long an organization has to be in existence to apply.

Can the KM innovation be implemented in more than one country?
- Yes. The KM innovation can be implemented in more than one country if stated in the application process.