Questions and Answers

1. Will 3ie or a third party provide the self-test kits for the pilot intervention? If no, is the applicant expected to include the cost in the budget?

3ie will not be providing the self-test kits. The applicant is expected to include the cost in the budget or use other funding to procure directly.

2. Please confirm the page limit for key personnel/PI CVs (4 or 5 pages)?

Four pages

3. Please specify any criteria for designating personnel as “key”?

People who will be instrumental to the implementation of the program and the evaluation, and who should not change during the study.

4. Must the three performance references included in the organizational qualifications section of the “program implementation” and “impact evaluation” proposals be distinct?

No, they do not need to be distinct.

5. Can you please confirm that the technical narrative is 25 pages single-spaced?

Yes, confirmed.

6. Can you confirm that the primary outcome to be measured is uptake of HIV oral self-testing, rather than the identification of HIV-infected individuals or linkage to care and treatment?

The primary outcome of interest is uptake of HIV oral self-testing, but linkage to care and treatment would be of strong interest. The primary outcome of interest should be clearly specified, as well as any major “secondary” outcomes that will be assessed.
7. Can any guidance be provided related to covering indemnity in case of unintended harm (for example, gender-based violence following oral self-testing at home)

Teams receiving grants for these projects will be responsible for obtaining necessary insurance. 3ie does not provide indemnity.

8. On page 3, 3ie stated that most of the interventions will be funded by other sources. Given HIV self-testing is new to lay population in Kenya, meaning certainly no pilot is underway, how would 3ie expect interventions to be funded by other sources?

Page 3 says that most of the intervention that is proposed should be funded by other sources, and that the grant can cover portions of it, but will likely not be enough to cover the full implementation. We expect that the implementers involved in these studies are currently providing HIV-related services in Kenya and have funding from existing sources so that the pilot implementations can rely on existing staffing and infrastructure.

9. Have 3ie and NASCOP made any decision on which oral self-test kits/brands to be used for this pilot phase? Is it certain that the oral test kits will be available and meet international standards for self-testing for use in Kenya for this particular phase? In addition, to facilitate budget estimate, could 3ie/NACOP give us costing information for the oral self-test kit that is intended to be used for Kenyan setting?

3ie is not recommending a particular brand. We are aware of 2 brands that are currently available, OraSure Technologies’ OraQuick, and Calypte Biomedical Corporation’s Aware. However, any kit that is available and approved for use by the FDA or prequalified by WHO can be used.

10. Regarding the self-tests:

a. Have the self-tests already been produced and/or shipped to Kenya? How could the implementer access the self-tests (for use in the proposed project)?

The implementer will have to negotiate procurement directly.

b. Will each of the different studies use the same type/brand of self-tests?

Not necessarily. See above.
c. Will the tests be provided independently of the study budget, or should we factor them into our proposed project budget? If not, what is the price and source of the self-tests?

**You will need to factor them into the proposed budget and negotiate directly with the manufacturer.**

d. Has the Ministry of Health provided its approval for use of self-tests (for the purposes of the proposed program), or should we factor obtaining this approval into our budget and timeline?

**MOH has approved use of these kits for the proposed program.**

11. Please confirm that we are free to submit an application with partners or as both implementer and evaluator, regardless of what was discussed at the Matchmaking Event in Nairobi.

**Confirmed.** A single organization must sign the grant agreement with 3ie and may choose whether to sign sub-agreements for portions of the work. Applicants must demonstrate that they have the sufficient skills and expertise on the team for both the implementation and the impact evaluation.

12. If selected, please provide guidance about 3ie’s willingness to consider requested adjustments to some of the terms in the award agreement.

**Very limited.** If there are terms that the applicant cannot accept, these must be indicated on the cover page of the application as part of the certification language. If 3ie is unable to negotiate those terms, we will return the application without review.