Question	Response
These responses are representative of the questions received.	
Eligibility	
Can there be a joint application? If yes, will funding be directly disbursed to both organizations for their respective roles? Or does there need to be a lead grantee who can then sub- grant.	Yes, joint applications are permitted. There needs to be a lead grant with a sub-grantee.
Kindly confirm that this grant is only limited to the languages that appear under the drop down menu	Yes, the prize is limited to the Eligible Languages that appear under the drop down menu.
I want to enter the competition for Climate Change materials translated into three major Languages spoken in Nigeria, would this qualify?	No, the competition is limited to the Eligible Languages.
One more very important question that I expect will be of interest to all applicants following the competition. Which chart of eligible languages is the final one? Before the question deadline, the list of eligible languages on page 9 of the competition materials included Hmong and Khmu (for Laos). As of yesterday, Hmong and Khmu were no longer on the list. Were they removed intentionally? Do you anticipate any other changes to the list of eligible languages?	Hmong and Khmu have been removed from the list of Eligible Languages as noted in accompanying Amendment 1.
I don't see Tetun a language for Timor Leste, on the list. many agencies group Timor Leste in with the Pacific Countries. Can Timor Leste and Tetun be included?	Yes, this is considered part of the Pacific Islands. Please fill-in the language as instructed on Submittable.
Is Nepal (Asia) eligible to apply only for sign language or do we have to apply for both i.e. Tamang and Sign language.	Solvers need to apply for a minimum of one language. Proposals for multiple languages should include the most creative and cost-effective approach to assembling a high quality package of books to support the required levels. Books submitted in sign language should include one written language in the book.
Does this mean the total application cost estimate would be $600,000 in that case?	No. One or multiple awards may be given in each track up to $300,000 each. Solvers are not required to select a track, they are only included to show approximately how funding will be allocated.
If Sign language is in a separate track, then we assume that if we are wanting to put in a bid for Track 1, we do not have to make provision for Sign language as one of the languages. Is this correct?	Solvers need to apply for a <u>minimum of one</u> language, signed or spoken. All solvers are required to produce digitally accessible books (per the Solution Requirements). However, all solvers are not required to produce sign language-enabled books. Solvers who do choose to produce sign language-enabled books, must ensure they are usable by the deaf community.
Solution Requirements	
The GDL appears to not have books with sign language video currently. Could you please clarify the expectation for books with Sign Language video to be uploaded to the GDL. Is this a requirement? If so, how will this work and what will the specifications be? Is it expected that solvers creating books with sign language videos also create books without video that will be uploaded on the GDL?	Yes, sign language books will be required to be uploaded to the GDL. Sign Language videos should be developed with accompanying written text, however separate books are not required. Check out this new video about Adding Sign Language to the GDL for more information: https: //allchildrenreading.org/competition-category/begin-with-books/? post_type=resource.
Languages	

Are applicants allowed to propose a mix of local spoken and signed languages from different countries?	Yes. We are looking for creativity across solutions.
Does Solution Requirements #1, #2, and #3 also applied for SL book or just only #4 has to be considered.	All requirements apply, in addition to #4.
Levels	
In cases where the book difficulty levels and the levels of schooling specified are not aligned, should solvers target the difficulty levels or the specific levels of school? For example, if children start Grade 1 earlier or later in a particular context than in most other contexts, should the solver target the specified grade levels or instead target whatever grade levels would be appropriate for the levels of difficulty outlined in the guidance. In other words, should books target those grades or children learning to read for whom books of less than 100 words, 101-250, and 250-1500 words would be appropriate?	As noted in the Competition Document, this prize is focused on creating Library Books (as defined by the GDL). Please feel free to share the most appropriate alternative leveling system with emphasis on the pre-primary books with approximately less than 100 words. If a different leveling system is used either nationally/regionally then the solver must document how this will be correlated to the GDL levels.
Similarly, should the Use Plan target the specified grade levels or ensure that books of the specified difficulty level reach children for whom they are appropriate regardless of age and grade?	Please ensure that books of the specified difficulty level reach children for whom they are appropriate regardless of age and grade.
The guidance says "If a different leveling system is used either nationally/regionally then the solver must document how this will be correlated to the GDL levels." Must an alternative leveling system be already established (for many underserved languages they are not), or can solvers propose a different leveling system relevant to a particular context even if it is not presently in use (for example, could one develop a leveling system for the minority language books that aligns with a system used for the national language)?	Please feel free to share the most appropriate alternative leveling system with emphasis on the pre-primary books with approximately less than 100 words. Note that the cost estimate should not include costs related to the development of a new leveling system.
The requirements specify levels of 1a, 1b, 2, and 3. However, the link cited (https://storyweaver.org.in/reading_levels) does not differentiate between 1a and 1b. Is there further reference material on the distinction between levels 1a and 1b, or is this distinction unique to the Begin with Books challenge with no additional guidance beyond what is in the competition materials?	This distinction is unique to the Begin with Books challenge and there is no additional guidance. The distinction is simply to place emphasis on Level 1a (Pre-Primary) books and the word limits are approximate.
Requirements	
We are assuming that ALL books submitted must meet the digital accessibility guidelines. Is this correct?	Yes.
We would like to maintain the CC By 4.0 ND, NC are you open to this arrangement?	All books must include the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY) for both the content and illustrations. For reference, books on the GDL can be translated into any language and those translations remain in the individuals' personal library. They do not affect the quality of the original and will not be uploaded to the GDL unless they pass the Quality Assurance standards.
We have an extensive collection already are we able to adapt our own collection for the challenge even though it isn't one of the options?	Yes, this is Eligible Approach #1 - Previously developed books adapted for language, level and/or context (including books currently available on the GDL) and in alignment with the Solution Requirements minimum of 200 books) representing all four reading levels.
Does this mean that the package of digital books must include a minimum of 450 books being 200+200+50 sign, books plus a maximum of 50 new books. Is this correct? Is this per language or per country?	The Seekers are looking for the most creative combination of approaches to assemble cost-effective, high quality book packages to support a child's literacy journey. The emphasis of the competition is on maximizing adaptation and contextualization as much as possible, while only creating new books when necessary. Since there are very few Level 1a books currently on the GDL and other digital libraries, the Seekers recognize that new books will need to be created to support these readers.

Do there have to be 50 books per level in each language? Or is there some flexibility about this?	The Solvers should provide rationale for the number of books to support each level based on what is appropriate for the language.
In Requirement #8, it is mentioned to upload files or provide links of previously developed content (SL). But our organization doesn't have any. What should we do? Can we still submit our proposal for SL books?	The Solver should be able to demonstrate capacity related to the creation of sign language-enabled books including an explanation of how they are working with the deaf community to develop these books.
If we are applying under Track 1 or Track 2 to create and adapt books and proposing to create sign language videos in our Track 1 or 2 application, must we include a sample sign language video?	No, you do not need to include a sample sign language video if you are not applying to create sign language-enabled books.
No guidelines are given for what proportion of the package of books should be decodable.If a proportion of the books have to be decodable, the GDL guidelines require that "75-80% of words have to be decodable based on previous phonics instruction". Who will determine what this Phonics Instruction is in order to provide word lists and sequence of sounds per language to guide development/adaptation?	Requirement #2 requires Solvers to propose an approach to Quality Assurance. This should include an explanation of the percentage of decodable books, why this number was chosen and how their decodability will be verified.
Does the 200 books maximum means unique title or including books duplicated with the same title?	The 200 books maximum are unique titles that will be adapted for the chosen language and then uploaded to the GDL. These do not, however, have to be new titles.
Does this mean one option is to provide 50 sign language books covering all four reading levels?	Yes, as long as the 50 sign language books includes an appropriate number of books to support each of the four reading levels?
can ACR clarify whether the requirement for new books is 50 maximum or 50 minimum?	The requirement for new books is 50 maximum.
Requirement #8 - could we provide Samples in other languages that have already been completed?	Yes.
In the area of Sign language books in countries that use multiple written languages, is there a dominant language for the written language / text of Sign language enabled books? Or are solvers free to decide?	The Solvers are encouraged to work with the local deaf community and use evidence-based practices to make that decision.
Can you please clarify ACR's desired approach to be taken by applicants to make books accessible for students with print disabilities (EPUB with audio, DAISY, and braille)?	The Solver should propose an appropriate process for human recorded audio and human transcribed braille in the Use Plan.
Application Process & Submission Requirements	
Requirement 4 has no page limit stated. Please clarify if it needs to have a separate page or if the information should be contained elsewhere.	This section will be a series of check boxes on the submission platform, Submittable.
There are three tracks. Do we have to apply in separate tracks or can we combine them under one track? For example, can we adapt and/or create new books in Track 2 and create sign language videos in the same language in our Track 2 application? Or, must all sign language videos be applied for separately under Track 3?	The Submission form does not require selecting a track.
Could you confirm that the deadline is Friday, November 15?	Yes, submissions are due on Friday, November 15.

Can we include set of assistive technology in selected schools we will work with?	Assistive technology needs should be described in the Use Plan, but should not be included in the cost-estimate as this competition is focused on the creation of books. Although funding is currently unavailable for the implementation of the Use Plan, preference will be given to submissions that ensure the appropriate mechanisms, partnerships, and plans are in place for effective implementation of the Use Plan. Additional funding may be available in the future for the implementation of the Use Plan.
Can we still submit a proposal even if we are currently implementing another USAID activity	Yes.
Would there be a problem if the books produced under the Begin with Books project also utilized by learners under the current USAID project?	This is not a problem.
Does ACR have any information that can be shared regarding the timeline for decisions on awards?	Not at this time.
Is the prize available every year or is only one go?	This prize will only be available once.
Are individual allowed to submit a proposal or is there an obligation for an institution?	This prize is not for individuals.
Cost Estimate	
Does my budget have to total $300,000 if what I'm proposing will cost less?	No. We're looking for cost-effective solutions and expect proposals to provide the relevant costs to meet the Solution Requirements.
Is there only $300,000 available, or could each country get a project for $300,000?	The Seekers will make the final award determinations and allocations by language, recognizing that some of the languages may cross country borders.
I can't understand the Cost Estimate template correctly, For example: a. What should go under Project Management head? How to get a sample of it?	The cost estimate form is simply a template that should be manipulated to fit your proposal. More information on what costs could be included for Project Management can be found at: https://www.globalreadingnetwork.net/sites/default/files/resource_files/Good%20stories%20don%27t%20grow%20on%20trees%20v2_0.pdf.
b. For SL book submission, we should ignore Approach 1 and 2, right?	We are looking for creative, cost-effective approaches. If sign language books are currently available they should be adapted for the language, context, etc, therefore Approaches 1 & 2 can be applied.
c. What should be the cost components under QA? HR related cost to ensure levelling, accessibility and revisions of books created?	The cost estimate form is simply a template that should be manipulated to fit your proposal. The QA & HR costs should reflect your proposed QA plan. More information on what costs could be included for QA & HR can be found at: https://www.globalreadingnetwork.net/sites/default/files/resource_files/Good%20stories%20don%27t%20grow%20on%20trees%20v2_0.pdf.
d. What should go under Other Direct Cost and Indirect Costs?	The cost estimate form is simply a template that should be manipulated to fit your proposal. More information on what costs could be included for Other Direct Cost and Indirect Costs can be found at: https://www.globalreadingnetwork.net/sites/default/files/resource_files/Good%20stories%20don%27t%20grow%20on%20trees%20v2_0.pdf.
Could you please clarify what financial and technical requirements there will be, as well as any other compliance requirements. These may influence staffing (and therefore) budget considerations as well as decisions by local organizations about whether to apply	Solvers should provide the most cost-effective approach to meeting the Solution Requirements, including the staffing necessary to complete the work.

Is there an excel version of the cost estimate template?	Yes, an excel version of the Cost Estimate Template is available for download and fill-in here: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1BrOiuXPr8xUVLv8F92AZ-iZj5KBwrHoe.
Do we need to hire any international consultants from US for our proposed activities?	No, you may propose the most appropriate combination of human resources necessary to complete the proposed approach.
Could you confirm that the "Unit Cost per Book" in the Cost Estimate Template should include all proposal costs, summed in the Grand Total cell, or only direct book production costs? In other words, ss the formula for cost effectiveness and Unit Cost per Book = Grand Total / # of books produced?	This determination is the decision of the Solver, however the calculation should be explained in the accompanying narrative.

Question		Response
Eligibility		
If awarded, what would be the contract modality? Would this be a cooperative agreement or a contract?		This will be determined at the award stage. If a contract, this would be considered a procurement contract, similar to an agreement for goods or services and not a U.S.G. related contract with Federal Acquisition Regulation requirements.
How the fund will be disbursed? Upon milestone completion? Or say 30% as signing money, rest amount on different trenches upon deliverables? Should we need to invest some portion of the cost as contribution? Is yes, how much?		This will be determined at the award stage, however a percentage of the funds will be provided upon award. Please outline any in-kind or cost-share that will be contributed in Requirement # 6 - Cost Estimate.
Solution Requirements		
For the QA section, the books must meet WCAG. Is there a certain level that they must meet, Level A – AAA?		Books must meet Level A at minimum, but Solvers are encouraged to meet Level AA and AAA standards when applicable and possible.
How many books in total do we need to create if we choose more than one language? For example if we choose two languages do we need to create two different sets of the minimum requirement packages (i.e. 200 books minimum for each if we choose both packages)		Solvers have flexibility, ACR GCD must receive 200 books for at least one of the languages to meet the requirements, but you should demonstrate creativity and cost-effectiveness for the second language. The more books that are high-quality the better.
If we do choose two different languages does it make sense for us to submit a separate grant for each language		The proposals for multiple languages should be combined into one cost-effective approach.
For budgeting purposes does the maximum budget remain the same depending on how many languages you choose?		The proposals should present the most cost-effective approach and appropriate justificiation for the budget.
Since we will be uploading SL video books to the GDL portal (if awarded), what will be its format and other things to meet up with the GDL requirement? MP4, AVI, WMV? Frame rate? Screen dimension? Can I include our company logo in the upper corner as branding?		We accept the following input file formats: MP4, WebM, FLV, MOV, OGV, 3GP, 3G2, WMV, MPEG, FLV, MKV, and AVI. Frames: 4:3 frame or 16:9 that equates to 1440x1080 and 1920x1080. The frame rates will be normalized as we import so we do not have any specific requirement.

Amendment 1

Begin with Books Prize Competition

October 28, 2019

The purpose of this Amendment is to:

1. Remove Hmong and Khmu from the Eligible Languages list on page 9.

2. Extend the deadline for questions until November 1, 2019. Additional responses to questions will be posted no later than November 5, 2019.