

Request for Application (RFA)
Bar Amo Baro (Teach or Learn)

Subject: Request for Application (RFA) No. RFA-BAB-002
Title of Opportunity: Increasing Access to Quality Education for ABE students in selected districts in Jubaland State
Issuance Date: November 17, 2021
Deadline for Questions: November 24, 2021
Closing Date: December 8, 2021

The Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) program is seeking applications from eligible applicants to fund a program to increase access to quality education. See Section C of Attachment 1 for eligibility requirements. To be eligible for award, the applicant must meet these requirements and provide all information as required in this Request for Application (RFA). An award will be made to the eligible and responsible applicant whose application best meets the program objectives and selection criteria contained in Sections A and E of Attachment 1 respectively.

An eligible organization interested in applying for funding under this opportunity is encouraged to read this RFA thoroughly to understand the type of program sought, application submission requirements, and evaluation process. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that it has received the RFA from the internet in its entirety. Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from the transmission or conversion process.

An application must be submitted directly to Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) using one of the following methods: a) electronically via the Program’s online grants management portal (<https://smart.fluxx.io>), b) electronically via email at babgrants@crea-bab.com or c) physically to Creative Associates International, C/O: Avenue Premier International, Aden Adde International Airport, Wadajir District, Mogadishu Somalia, to the attention of "Grants Department." Applications must be received no later than the Deadline for Applications stated above.

Any questions concerning this RFA also must be submitted in writing using one of the above communication methods. All questions must be received no later than the Deadline for Questions/Clarifications stated above. Responses to questions received prior to this deadline will be furnished to all potential applicants through an amendment to this notice.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of Bar ama Baro (Teach or Learn) nor does it commit Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) to pay for any costs incurred by a potential applicant while preparing/submitting questions or an application. All preparation/submission costs are at the applicant's expense. All applications submitted are at the risk of the applicant.

Thank you for your interest in this opportunity.

Attachments

- Attachment 1:** Request for Application
- Attachment 2:** Technical Application Template
- Attachment 3:** Budget Template
- Attachment 4:** Provisions
- Attachment 5:** Certifications

Attachment 1: Request for Application (RFA)**A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION****1. Purpose**

The purpose of Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn” in Somali) is to increase access to quality education for a targeted number of out-of-school, disadvantaged children and youth (OOSCY) of ages approximately 9-16 in targeted regions of Somalia. An out-of-school child and youth under this project is defined as a child, aged 9-16, who has been out of school for one year or never been to school. Bar ama Baro (Teach or Learn) will increase student enrollment in Accelerated Basic Education (ABE), improve student safety, monitor improvement in literacy, numeracy and socio-emotional skills among student in these Accelerated Education Centers, and improve Government of Somalia’s capacity (at Federal and State level) to standardize and regulate the accelerated education space. Bar ama Baro (Teach or Learn) will ensure that all students enrolled in ABE centers progress towards achieving level-specific learning standards in reading, numeracy, and social and emotional skills so that they are able to transition into formal schooling or another pathway of their choice. Bar ama Baro (Teach or learn) will be implemented through five complementary result areas:

Result Area 1: Enrollment of Accelerated Basic Education is increased.

Result Area 2: Safety of ABE learning environment improved.

Result Area 3: Student learning outcomes in ABE improved.

Result Area 4: Government capacity to regulate ABE enhanced.

Result Area 5: Cross cutting, youth civic engagement strengthened.

The Bar ama Baro (Teach or Learn) program will:

- Contribute to global targets under the U.S Government Strategy on Basic Education by achieving direct outcomes in access to education for disadvantaged populations and improving learning outcomes for OOSCY.
- Provide relevant, flexible, safe and quality education opportunities for out-of-school children and youth in Somalia through ABE.
- Assess and improve USAID-funded ABE student learning outcomes in reading, numeracy and social and emotional learning.
- Provide technical assistance to and build partnerships with federal, state, regional and local Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE) counterparts, particularly, towards institutionalization of legitimate and accredited accelerated education.
- Strengthen the capacity of the MoECHE through technical assistance and partnerships with federal, state, regional and local education stakeholders to deliver, monitor and regulate legitimate, accredited and flexible education opportunities to out-of-school children and youth.

The purpose of this Program Description is to outline the proposed roles and expected activities for the local partner in the project implementation specifically in Jubaland State. It is expected that local partner will have established offices at the district level in Jubaland State, and existing relationship with the Jubaland MOECHE and local authorities, to support effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of program activities and be able to rapidly mobilize. It is also expected that the partner will have technical experience in education and relevant activities. Partner with presence in multiple districts will be given greater consideration in the technical evaluation criteria of this RFA. All suggested work in this Program Description will be coordinated with Creative, the MoECHE and local education authorities.

Local partners are expected to contribute to all relevant Bar ama Baro implementation planning activities with Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) project staff, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. Revise/refine the implementation strategy for conducting specific activities in district.
2. Identification of out-of-school children in communities in close coordination and collaboration with MoECHE, Communities, District Authorities, Community Education Committees (CECs) and BAB team.
3. Responsible for capacity building of teachers, CECs and coaches by conducting capacity building trainings using BAB standard training packages.
4. Identification of teachers with focus on female teachers recruitment consistent with the provided instruction on Teachers Recruitment from BAB.
5. Undertake ongoing monitoring of implementation (including fidelity) and reporting to BAB.
6. Responsible to report and communicate on-the-ground successes and challenges; and assessing risk and/or obstacles in implementation and providing recommendations to the BAB project team to adapt programming.
7. Responsible for documenting the strategic shifts in implementation

2. Background

Creative Associates International is a dynamic and fast-growing professional services firm that specializes in international development in the areas of education, democratic transitions, and stabilization in post-conflict environments. Creative Associates International is currently implementing the “Bar ama Baro” (BAB) project, which is a five-year, USAID-funded comprehensive, primary education program designed to support the Government of Somalia in providing quality Accelerated Basic Education (ABE) services to out-of-school children and youth (OOSCY) across targeted districts of Somalia.

Bar ama Baro is implemented in target districts in Somalia through local implementing partners. The project is seeking an implementing partner, specifically in Jubaland State of Somalia. The project is currently implemented in Kismayo District in Jubaland and will further expand to include Jamame District as well as potentially one other additional district. Section 3 below outlines the objectives and illustrative activities to be implemented under this RFA.

3. Objectives and Illustrative Activities

Objective 1: Increase enrolment and retention of OOSCY in accelerated education centers in selected districts Jubaland (Kismayo, Jamame)

Activities:

- a) Enhance Community Education Committees (CEC) and support establishing CECs in the areas with no existing CECs.
- b) Discuss the selection framework for ABE learners with district education office and CEC and use for learners’ selection, screening tests and enrollment.
- c) Identify, assesses and enroll ABE learners or support existing learners in targeted centers in the target districts.
- d) Support the recruitment of ABE teachers with focus on female teachers.
- e) Support Teaching and Learning Materials/Stationery distribution and verification for Cohort 2.
- f) Support in verification of teachers attendance, sharing monthly attendance sheets for processing of teachers incentives.
- g) Work with CECs to define community contribution and develop school level sustainability plans and integrate into the School Improvement Plan (SIPs).
- h) Ensure student attendance, retention and dropout prevention (working with local communities, CECs, headteachers, DEOs, FMS MoEs) and support their transition according to BAB transition plan.

- i) Organize coaching training and establishment of Teacher Learning Circles (TLC) in project target schools and facilitate quarterly coaching sessions and monthly TLC sessions.

Objective 2: Improved learning outcomes through delivery of quality accelerated learning in ABE centers in Kismayo and Jamame Districts

Activities:

- a) Provide basic sporting materials such as balls, nets and athletic accessories in select ABE centers, where possible and fiscally achievable under sports and recreational activities' component.
- b) Conduct monthly supportive supervision of teachers for quality assurance to ensure teaching and learning is happening and consistent with BAB and MoECHE policies.
- c) Conduct competency assessments for ABE learners in preparation of transitions to formal education.

Objective 3: Increased awareness, acceptance and demand of accelerated education among OOSCY and communities in selected districts in Jubaland (Kismayo, Jamame)

Activities:

- a) Disseminate messages to promote accelerated education in targeted areas in line with the project communication and awareness raising campaign plan.
- b) Develop awareness among communities about ABE to enroll OOSCY through COVID-19 compliant forums in schools.
- c) Promote accelerated learning opportunities to youth through open sports days and social media.
- d) Promote ABE through local radio stations through key messages and live programs.

Objective 4: Promote inclusive, safe, and gender responsive environment in accelerated education centers in Kismayo, Jamame Districts

Activities:

- a) Contribute to the safety on infrastructure and WASH facilities in ABE centers.
- b) Support CECs in fencing of ABE centers.
- c) Mobilize CECs, communities, and local authorities to protect girls in and out of the learning centers.
- d) Facilitate the establishment of child-to-child (CTC) clubs with gender balance in ABE centers.
- e) Provision of safe drinking water for children in the school.
- f) Train CTC club leadership within the ABE centers.

Objective 5: Strengthen district education office and community capacity to manage accelerated education in selected districts in Jubaland (Kismayo, Jamame)

Activities:

- a) Train CECs, and Head Teachers on management and accountability skills using the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education Harmonized CEC Training Manual.
- b) Assess the training needs of district education office staff.

Objective 7: To foster the capacities of teachers through training, mentoring and technical assistance

Activities:

- a) Train ABE teachers to deliver accelerated learning, improved quality of ABE teaching and learning
- b) Conduct coaching training for coaches and facilitate coaching and TLC sessions according to implementation plan.
- c) Train Headteachers and other MoE officials/project participants on ABE policy.

4. Required Technical Staff:

In addition to required organization operational staff capacity, the Local Partner should have existing staff, or able to meet the technical staffing requirements of BAB. The following technical staff are required:

- a) Community Mobilization Officer
- b) Teacher Education Officer
- c) Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- d) Finance Officer

Applicants should highlight in-house Monitoring & Evaluation capabilities related to the subject. The above staff provided by the Local Partner will ensure technical adherence of activity objectives and provide quality control.

B. AWARD INFORMATION

1. Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated.

Subject to the availability of funds, Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) plans to issue a Single Award under this RFA. The total estimated amount of funding available is \$250,000 USD. As the amount of an award is subject to negotiation, a negotiated award amount may or may not fall within this range. Furthermore, Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) is not obligated to issue awards/an award up to the amount of funds available.

Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

2. Period of Performance

The estimated start date will be upon signature of award, on or about January 15, 2021. The anticipated duration of Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”)’s support is 21 month(s).

3. Award Mechanisms

Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”)’s final determination on award mechanism will be based on its assessment of an applicant’s risk prior to award. If this assessment identifies weaknesses or deficiencies that call into question the applicant’s ability to manage an award, Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) may elect to remove the applicant from consideration under this funding opportunity or select a mechanism more appropriate for the applicant’s current capacity.

The most common award mechanisms issued by the Program are fixed amount awards (FAAs) and in-kind awards. Under FAAs, payments are performance based and issued to an awardee after its successful completion of pre-defined programmatic milestones. Under in-kind awards, the Program: a) makes payments on behalf of the awardee and/or b) procures/delivers goods and services on behalf of the awardee. The Program also may elect to issue a cost-reimbursable award in instances when: a) an applicant demonstrates sufficient financial management capacity to implement this mechanism and b) the mechanism is determined to be appropriate for implementing the program description.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for award under this opportunity, an applicant must demonstrate that it falls into one of the Organization categories below:

- Non-U.S. NGOs
- Civil Society Organizations
- Private/For-Profit Organizations working in Education sector.

Additionally, an applicant must be officially registered and working in compliance with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations, including but not limited to pertinent local laws and statutes. Please submit along with your application proof of registration and the ID of the authorized representative.

Applicant must have current presence and experience of working and implementing education activities in Jubaland State and specifically in Kismayo/Jamame districts.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing is not required under this funding opportunity.

3. Limit on Number of Applications

An eligible organization may submit only one application. Please note that issuance of this RFA does not in any way obligate Creative to pay for costs incurred by a prospective applicant to prepare and submit an application.

D. APPLICATION & SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Content and Form of Application Submission.

An application must be submitted in two separate parts: a) Technical Application and b) Cost Application. To prepare both parts, an applicant must use the templates provided in Attachments 2 and 3, which provide instructions on the required content and format. An applicant not adhering to these instructions' risks being considered nonresponsive to the requirements of the RFA and eliminated from further consideration.

All information must be submitted in English. If an application is in any other language, it will be considered nonresponsive and eliminated from further consideration.

2. Method for Submission

Bar ama Baro ("Teach or Learn") prefers to receive applications electronically via its online grants management portal, which can be accessed at the following link: <https://smart.fluxx.io/>. If an applicant has not previously registered in the portal, it must complete an initial registration form, which can be found at the following link:

<https://smart.fluxx.io/apply/bab>

Upon review and validation of the form by Bar ama Baro ("Teach or Learn"), the applicant will receive an email with its username, and password.

Applicants are encouraged to use the online portal as it significantly reduces administrative burden for both the applicant and Bar ama Baro ("Teach or learn"). However, Bar ama Baro ("Teach or Learn") recognizes that limited internet connectivity and/or access to information and

communications technology may prevent an applicant from applying for funds through the portal. In such scenarios, the applicant may submit its technical and cost applications separately via email to babgrants@crea-bab.com or in hard copy to Creative Associates International, C/O: Avenue Premier International, Aden Adde International Airport, Wadajir District Mogadishu Somalia to the attention of the “Grants Department.” Regardless of the submission method chosen, an applicant should retain for its records one (1) copy of its application and all enclosures that accompany it.

Should an applicant experience any difficulties submitting an application, it should contact the Grants Department via email at babgrants@crea-bab.com or telephone at 0614448776.

3. Registration Requirements for U.S. Government Funding

To receive an award under this solicitation, a non-U.S. NGO applicant may be required to obtain a valid Duns & Bradstreet number (DUNS). Information regarding DUNS registration can be found at <http://www.dnb.com/get-a-duns-number.html>. The program will notify non-U.S. NGO applicants of DUNS requirements where applicable.

Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) will not issue an award to an applicant until it has complied with all applicable requirements. As the registration process may take several weeks to complete, applicants are encouraged to register early. Please note that completion of an early registration does not constitute any commitment on the part of the Program to make an award.

4. Submission Date & Time

Applicants must submit their Technical and Cost Applications prior to the closing date and time listed on the cover page. Applications that are submitted late are at risk of not being considered for review. Late applications are marked as “late.” Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) reserves the right to accept and include late applications in the review and award process only when: a) Bar ama Baro (Teach or Learn) considers it to be in its best interest, and b) applications received on time have not yet been opened and reviewed.

5. Funding Restrictions

An applicant that receives an award under this RFA is responsible for ensuring that it only incurs post- award costs that were approved and determined to be allowable, allocable, and reasonable by BAB during pre-award negotiations. Furthermore, Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”) will not reimburse a successful applicant for any costs it incurs prior to the date it signs a grant agreement with Bar ama Baro (“Teach or Learn”).

6. Questions & Answers

Any questions concerning this RFA must be submitted in writing using one of the communication methods described in the cover letter of this RFA and Section D.2 above. All questions must be received no later than the Deadline for Questions/Clarifications stated in the cover letter. Responses to questions received prior to this deadline will be furnished to all prospective applicants through an amendment to the RFA.

Any information related to this RFA that is provided to a prospective applicant will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment to the RFA on condition that: a) it is required to submit an application and/or b) its exclusion would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicant.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

Each application received by the RFA closing date will initially be reviewed against the eligibility criteria outlined in Section C above. Applications that do not meet these criteria will not be considered for award. Eligible applications that are incomplete will be determined nonresponsive and not considered for award.

Eligible, responsive applications will be reviewed against the technical and cost criteria set forth below. Following this review, an apparently successful applicant may be requested to submit a revised application and/or respond to clarifying questions by a specified date. The Program reserves the right to award without requesting clarifications or additional detail in an application.

a. Technical Evaluation Criteria

The technical application will be evaluated against the following criteria

Criteria	Description	Sub Factor Weight	Weight
Criteria #1: Past Experience			60
Subfactor 1 Institutional Experience	The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the technical experience in working in the education sector and specifically in the Accelerated Basic Education; The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience in education program implementation	30	
Subfactor 2 Geographic Coverage and access to Remote Areas	The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience working in specific sites through previous projects in target locations/districts specified in this RFA	20	
Subfactor 3 Monitoring/evaluation ; Information technology experience	The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience in monitoring and evaluation technical capacity; and the extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience in using IT tools to obtain data and process reliable data	10	
Criteria # 2: Management Approach			30
Subfactor 1 Management / Personnel Approach	The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has the staff with the technical and financial management capacities to implement the activity. BAB Project will evaluate each CV of the staff proposed	15	
Subfactor 2 Sustainability	The extent to which the applicant demonstrates an understanding and/or approach to sustainability in the local context	10	

Criteria	Description	Sub Factor Weight	Weight
Subfactor 3 Ability to mobilize easily through targeted Districts	Physical presence in one or more districts in Jubaland to support effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of program activities. The applicant must be able to present a plan which outlines this physical presence and its ability to rapidly mobilize in the targeted district(s)'s communities.	5	
Criteria # 3 Cross Cutting Approach	Able to engage female - in-school or out-of-school -youth to create incentives for more females to join the teaching profession or support education		10
		Total	100

b. *Cost Evaluation Criteria*

Once the technical review of the application(s) is complete, the Program will evaluate the Cost Application(s) of the apparently successful applicant(s) for cost reasonableness, allocability, and allowability. Additionally, Bar ama Baro ("Teach or Learn") will complete a capacity and risk assessment for each apparently successful applicant prior to award. Bar ama Baro ("Teach or Learn") will use the results of the assessment to make a responsibility determination and, when a decision is made to proceed with award, select the appropriate award mechanism.

2. Review and Selection Process

To evaluate the application(s), Bar ama Baro ("Teach or Learn") will establish a Selection Committee (SC) comprised of four members with expertise relevant to the program requirements described in this RFA. Throughout the evaluation process, Bar ama Baro ("Teach or Learn") will take every step to ensure that members of the SC do not have any conflicts of interest or the appearance of such with any organization submitting an application in response to this RFA. An individual shall be considered to have the appearance of a conflict of interest if that individual or that individual's spouse, partner, child, close friend, or relative works for, is negotiating to work for, and/or has a financial interest (including being an unpaid member of a Board of Directors) in any organization that has submitted an application for review by the SC. Members of the SC shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from any applicant.

F. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Award Notices

A Notice of Intent to Award will be provided to the point of contact listed in the application of the apparently successful applicant(s). **Please note that such notification does not constitute or guarantee an award.** An apparently successful applicant must first demonstrate that it possesses or has the ability to obtain the necessary management competence to practice mutually agreed upon methods of accountability for funds and other assets provided. To this end, the applicant may be required to submit additional information about its organization (e.g., Articles of Incorporation or other documentation substantiating the legal character of the applicant or key individuals within its organization) for vetting purposes. Final issuance of an award will be contingent upon the timely receipt of the information requested and the successful completion of the Program's vetting process and pre-award capacity and risk assessment.

2. Award Administration

Any award resulting from this RFA will be administered in accordance with provisions provided in Attachment 4.

3. Reporting

Reporting requirements (including a reporting schedule) will be provided in the award document for any award resulting from this RFA. The specific reports required will depend on the award type and project duration; however, examples may include the following:

- Monthly Report(s) with activity updates for the reporting period, photos of project activities, challenges encountered during implementation, activities planned for the next reporting period, etc.
- Final Program Report including lessons learned, success stories, and impacts achieved vis-à-vis the funded project's goal and objectives, etc.
- Financial Reports including planned obligations, actual expenditures, funds remaining, etc. as well as a detailed Final Financial Report.

Please note that issuance of final payment will be contingent upon Bar ama Baro ("Teach or Learn")'s receipt and acceptance of the Final Financial Report and/or Final Program Report. For Fixed Amount Awards (FAAs), final payment is also contingent on the completion of the final milestone and acceptance of its deliverables/means of verification.

4. Program Income

Any income generated under a grant awarded through this solicitation must be reported immediately to the program's Grants Department and will be evaluated and negotiated on a case-by-case basis

Somalia Bar Amo Baro reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

Attachment 2: Technical Application Template

To submit your application, please complete the Full Application form that will appear when you log in to the program's SMART grants portal. If you are unable to use this online portal to submit your application, please use the Technical Application template included as a separate attachment to this RFA.

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Attachment 3: Budget Template

To submit your cost application, please prepare a budget for your proposed project using the budget template included as a separate attachment to this RFA and then upload it to the Cost Application Documents section of the Full Application form in the SMART grants portal. If you are unable to use the online portal, include your proposed budget with your offline submission to the program's grants department.

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Attachment 4: Provisions

Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mab.pdf>

Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards to Nongovernmental Organizations

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mat.pdf>

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Attachment 5: Certifications**A. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AVOIDANCE CERTIFICATION**

When signing a grant agreement with **BAB**, a successful applicant's authorized representative will also be required to sign a certification affirming that the entity she/he represents (the Grantee) does not have any conflicts of interest pertinent to the award. Such conflicts would include, for instance:

- Personal or professional relationships with entities that could directly benefit from the award;
- Personal or professional relationships with other staff persons involved in administering the award;
- Personal or professional relationships with government officials that may have influence or oversight of matters directly pertaining to the award;
- Holding formal or informal positions in organizations that would be relevant to the award;
- Holding any financial interest in any entity that would be impacted by the award.

By virtue of the Grantee's actions in carrying out the award, the authorized representative's certification will affirm that she/he would endeavor to ensure that conflicts of interest or their appearance do not arise, understanding that such conflicts of interest would arise when there are situations in which the Grantee is involved in multiple interests (financial, personal, or otherwise) that could be conceived of as corrupting the motivation of herself/himself or the Grantee in the discharge of duties pertinent to the award.

Should such real or perceived conflicts arise, the authorized representative's certification will affirm that the Grantee will immediately inform the Chief of Party of the project with which the award is associated to discuss the matter.

B. OTHER CERTIFICATIONS

When signing a grant agreement with **BAB**, a successful applicant will be required to sign the *Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient* referenced here: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mav.pdf>.