

## **Oxfam IBIS' comments to the Information Note on Strategic Partnerships**

### How to make the strategic perspectives count.

Oxfam IBIS is part of and in most ways well covered by the joint response presented by Globalt Fokus. We have however, one additional point to add.

We understand the logic in focusing the EoI on the track record and capacity of the organizations. The EoI will be used to set a ceiling for what the organization can apply for in the full application round. But the strategic plans of the organization will only be reflected in the full application.

Oxfam IBIS has undergone a fundamental organizational change by becoming part of Oxfam International and we are in 2017 finalizing these organizational changes. The strategic perspectives are vastly different from what they were before, which is reflected in our strategic plan as discussed with HMC in the annual negotiations. We find that this new reality should be part of guiding the possible allocation to Oxfam IBIS, assuming that we will qualify to submit a full application.

Given the very tight deadlines we (all) are phasing, we assume it is not realistic to change the EoI in a manner which is radical (that is: to include the forward looking perspective in the EoI). We can instead suggest two options if the above is seen as a relevant issue to address:

- a) That the strategic plans of the organizations applying are taken into consideration when determining the ceiling within which you can apply.
- b) That the ceiling takes into account that the forward looking perspective offers new opportunities relevant for the strategic partnership. In other words that the ceiling is set high to allow the full application to actually influence the size of the grant.

The latter option seems fairer to all and in line with the joint response's proposal to work with annual incremental budget figures.

The above was discussed among the NGO's and I think considered relevant by many, as many organizations are undergoing or will undergo organizational changes of various kinds. I think that it is not by design but an omission that it was not included in the joint response. That said this comment is submitted by Oxfam IBIS.

20.2.17

Vagn Berthelsen

Secretary General