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Questions Deadline for this Revised APS Document: December 18, 2019 at 12:00 pm EST

For questions on this APS document, please submit all questions to Mrs. Samantha Pierre via email at spierre@usaid.gov by the deadline specified above.

Please see individual Round documents for each Round's deadlines and submission instructions for concept papers.

For a USAID Mission or USAID/Washington Office wishing to issue a Round under this APS, the program description must fit within Section I of this document. Please contact Samantha Pierre (spierre@usaid.gov) for review of the Round document - it must be reviewed before being posted publicly under this APS. All new Rounds must be posted as a PACE APS Round on the USAID Business Forecast.

To Interested Applicants:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) seeks concept papers from qualified applicants. This APS publicizes the intention of the United States Government (USG) to fund one or multiple awards through the USAID Global Health Bureau to address the overarching APS Program Purpose of assuring that voluntary family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) and population dynamics are included in policies and programs as key to sustainable and equitable economic growth and development.

This main APS document outlines the purpose, sub-purpose, expected results, and priorities of Policy, Advocacy, and Communication Enhanced for Population and Reproductive Health (PACE), and may result in multiple awards issued under subsequent APS Rounds. Note: When referencing PACE in this document, the reference is to the full portfolio of possible awards under this overall purpose. **This specific document is an umbrella APS and will not be accepting concept papers or applications.** Prospective applicants will be provided a fair opportunity to develop and submit competitive concept papers to USAID for potential funding via discrete Rounds under this APS. For the purposes of the PACE APS, a “Round” is defined as a specific program description that falls under the larger PACE APS purpose, sub-purpose, and results but is tailored to a certain focus. Under each Round, applicants will first submit a short concept paper that will be reviewed for responsiveness to the overall PACE purpose, selected results, and Round’s focus and then scored according to the review criteria provided in the Round document. If an applicant is successful in the concept paper stage, applicant representatives may be invited to join a co-creation process. Following co-creation, selected applicants (individual organizations and/or consortia developed at concept paper stage or during co-creation) will be requested to submit a Full Application, the content and format of which will be provided in greater detail by the Agreement Officer. Publishing this APS does not commit USAID to make any awards. USAID also reserves the right to not conduct a co-creation workshop/process and request Full Applications from successful applicants at concept paper stage.

As Rounds occur, notifications will be posted on Grants.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Alisa J. Dunn
Agreement Officer
Office of Acquisition and Assistance
M/OAA/GH/POP

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ACRONYM LIST

ADS	Automated Directives System
AO	Agreement Officer
AOR	Agreement Officer's Representative
APS	Annual Program Statement
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DFID	Department for International Development (U.K.)
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System
FP	Family Planning
GH	Bureau for Global Health
HRH	Human Resources for Health
IDEA	Inform Decision Makers to Act
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IR	Intermediate Result
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NICRA	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
PED	Population Environment and Development
PHE	Population Health and the Environment
PRH	Office of Population and Reproductive Health
PSE	Private Sector Engagement
PYD	Positive Youth Development
RH	Reproductive Health
SAM	System for Award Management
SC	Selection Committee
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
USAID	US Agency for International Development
USD	US Dollars
USG	US Government

Policy, Advocacy and Communication Enhanced (PACE) for Population and Reproductive Health

SECTION I: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this APS is to publicize the United States Government's (USG) plan to fund one or multiple cooperative agreements (hereafter called agreement), through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) headquarters' Bureau for Global Health (GH) to address the overarching APS Program Purpose of assuring that voluntary family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) and population dynamics are included in policies and programs as key to sustainable and equitable development and economic growth. Its sub-purpose is increased political and financial commitment for voluntary FP/RH at global, national, and decentralized levels.

To achieve the overall purpose above, the three results of the APS are to:

- Strengthen individual and institutional capacity in advocacy, and policy communications and negotiations;
- Increase commitment for cross sectoral approaches to integrated population, health, environment, climate change, resilience, food security, livelihoods and security programs; and to
- Analyze, synthesize, and disseminate data and information to engage policy and advocacy audiences to act.

The APS builds upon USAID's strategic pillars of *respecting American taxpayers' investments, advancing national security, and advancing countries on their Journey to Self-Reliance*, by:

- 1) Working with local institutions and organizations to strengthen long-term effectiveness and durability of investments;
- 2) Aligning USAID investments with country-owned and -led national health, social, and economic investment plans to maximize cost-efficiency and increase sustainability;
- 3) Optimizing strategic partnerships and engagement to increase financial investments and establish long-term, enduring, and sustainable engagement by local stakeholders towards mutual goals.

This APS is issued under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. In each Round, award(s) will be made under relevant federal regulations and Agency policy. For U.S. non-governmental organizations, awards must be administered according to 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200 and 2 CFR 700, and USAID Standard Provisions will apply.¹ For non-U.S. non-governmental organizations, USAID provisions for non-U.S. non-government organizations will apply.²

¹ <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303maa.pdf>

² <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.pdf>

B. BACKGROUND

Continued investment in voluntary FP/RH policies and programs is essential for countries to progress on their individual path toward development, eventually arriving at a stage where they can independently plan, finance and implement solutions to local development challenges, as well as demonstrate the commitment to see these through effectively, inclusively, and with accountability.

Health and other pillars of sustainable development such as economic growth and environment are inextricably linked in this effort. Yet countries face significant challenges in obtaining and sustaining both political and financial commitments to improve health outcomes, and in particular, meeting the demand for family planning and preventing child and maternal deaths.

Over the last ten years, there has been a revitalization of voluntary family planning programs, characterized by growing attention and global partnerships. The 2012 London Summit on Family Planning brought welcome visibility to family planning, setting a goal of enabling 120 million additional women and girls in the world's 69 poorest countries to access and use contraception by 2020, and launching the global movement known as Family Planning 2020 (FP2020). Many countries have declared commitments to address the policy, financing, delivery and socio-cultural barriers women face in accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies, and donors, foundations, and private entities have pledged and delivered on financial resources. USAID remains the largest bilateral donor of international voluntary FP/RH assistance, has a leadership role in the FP2020 governance structure, and is a key implementing partner of the FP2020 agenda. USAID is also a founding member, along with The Gates Foundation, the French Government, the Hewlett Foundation, and nine Francophone West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo), of the Ouagadougou Partnership.³ Currently the global FP/RH community is looking at a post FP2020 agenda.

The overall policy environment requires continued attention to sustain gains made in meeting demand for FP/RH commodities and services. Financial resources remain finite and inadequate. Some countries are facing a paradigm shift in planning and financing under newly devolved government systems. Decision making and resource allocation are no longer the preserve of the national government in these countries; efforts are needed to translate advocacy efforts and approaches beyond the national level to decentralized levels as countries continue to devolve. Consequently, the award(s) under this APS will work to ensure that commitments from governments, non-governmental organizations, and private sector partners will be used to accelerate progress in meeting demand for voluntary FP/RH while advancing the principles of voluntarism and informed choice. Additionally, this APS emphasizes the need to build the capacity of institutions and individuals in policy, advocacy, and communications to expand and solidify financial and political commitments to voluntary FP/RH and address issues of equity.

This APS focuses on approaches that advance cross-sectoral integration of population dynamics and voluntary FP/RH with other development sectors. Population-environment-development

³ <https://partenariatouaga.org/>

(PED) is a development approach that recognizes the interconnectedness between people and their environment and supports multi-sectoral coordination for integrating population dynamics and voluntary FP/RH with multiple sectors including environment, climate change, resilience, livelihoods, food security, water, economic growth, education, democracy, and governance. Population-health-environment (PHE) falls under PED. PHE programs aim to improve the delivery of voluntary FP/RH information and services to underserved communities in biologically significant areas where population growth threatens biodiversity or endangered species. USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health supports PED efforts in three areas: (a) demonstrating global technical leadership; (b) generating, communicating, and disseminating knowledge to improve understanding of PED linkages in new and primary audiences; and (c) supporting the field to strengthen institutional capacity to implement effective and sustainable PED programs. Both PHE and PED will be pursued under this APS.

The award(s) under this APS will help countries advance on their Journey to Self-Reliance⁴ by ensuring that decision makers understand the cross-sectoral benefits of voluntary FP/RH and in turn, implement policies and programs to help meet demand for family planning. In addition, the award(s) will advance commitment to increasing gender equality and promoting youth empowerment as a means to achieving other development outcomes. By building individual and institutional capacity in advocacy, and policy communications and negotiations; increasing commitment for cross sectoral approaches to integrated population, health, environment, gender, equity, and other development issues such as resilience and food security; and analyzing, synthesizing, and disseminating pertinent data and information, the award(s) will increase both political and financial commitment for voluntary family planning.

The project(s) under this APS will build on the lessons learned from past policy and cross-sectoral integration projects. One of the most important lessons learned from past investments is the continual need to inform decision makers about the role of population dynamics and voluntary FP/RH in overall development and to develop innovative messages and means of communication that resonate with them, both in countries and on the global stage. The policy environment itself also constantly changes, necessitating continual refinement of policy formulation and implementation. Therefore, new and innovative approaches will be vital in implementing the activities under this APS.

Activities supported through this APS will complement the investments of USAID missions, host country governments, other bilateral donors, private foundations, and development partners. They will also leverage and mobilize both public- and private-sector resources as well as domestic resources in FP/RH priority countries (Appendix A), in partnership with USAID missions and local institutions.

C. CROSS CUTTING PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES

All work under this APS will incorporate four cross-cutting principles and approaches: private sector engagement (PSE), gender, equity, and youth. Sustainable progress in voluntary FP/RH and sustainable and equitable development cannot be achieved in the long run without attention

⁴ <https://www.usaid.gov/selfreliance>

to PSE, gender, equity, and youth. These issues are reflected in recent Agency policies and are important to the Office of Population and Reproductive Health.

Private Sector Engagement (PSE): The public and private sectors are both crucial to ensuring long-term success and sustainability for the APS activities. The private sector commands unique skill sets, capacities, robust networks, and diverse resources. Effectively harnessing these attributes in the service of advocacy efforts for the inclusion of voluntary FP/RH and population dynamics in development policies and programs can increase the likelihood of successful policy formulation and implementation. As an example, private-public partnerships can utilize private sector negotiation skills to strengthen commitment to sustainable scale up and replication of proven cross-sectoral programs. For more information on USAID's commitment to private sector engagement, please see USAID's Private Sector Engagement Policy.⁵

Gender: APS activities will support integration of gender equality into the development and implementation of policies and advocacy efforts affecting the health of populations. Activities will contribute to improved health outcomes for all by:

- Improving intergovernmental coordination across sectors in development, design, implementation, and monitoring of health programs and services, contributing to improved health status of women and girls and other marginalized populations and to greater access to and use of health care (particularly voluntary FP/RH) by men;
- Promoting gender equality efforts in decentralization and/or policy harmonization between national and regional/local health policymaking bodies;
- Increasing participation of women and girls in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health policies and programs;
- Supporting women's health organizations in building constituencies to legitimize and advance gender equality in health policymaking; and
- Strengthening policy, governance, and social participation for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence.

For more information on USAID's commitment to gender equality and female empowerment, please see USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy.⁶

Equity: Health inequity, including the persistently higher levels of unmet need for modern contraception found among the poorest quintiles relative to the wealthiest quintiles in many countries, is a public health challenge. Women with access to modern contraception and the ability to achieve their desired family size also tend to have increased economic opportunities as wage-earners. To contribute to the Journey to Self-Reliance and address other social determinants of inequity, it is clear that access to and use of FP/RH information and services will need to increase across all quintiles, but especially within the poorest quintiles. The award(s) will raise awareness of the costs and consequences of inequitable access and use of voluntary FP/RH; and identify, develop, and apply new strategies and approaches to convince decision makers to advance health equity and improve FP/RH outcomes for the poor and underserved. Meeting unmet demand for contraception for women and couples in the poorest quintiles will be essential for countries' success.

⁵<https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/private-sector-engagement/>

⁶https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/GenderEqualityPolicy_0.pdf

Youth: With the largest cohort of young people ever alive today, and with the number of young people aged 10-24 expected to grow to almost 1.9 billion by 2050, their numbers will change the world drastically. Their job opportunities, education level, health, and of course, fertility will shape their future. Cross-sectoral programming is needed to address and improve a range of outcomes, including education and employment as well as efforts to end early marriage, delay childbearing and improve birth spacing practices among adolescent mothers. Programs and policies developed by youth and for youth will need to be integral to the work under this APS's activities.

Positive Youth Development (PYD)⁷: Award(s) under this APS will be rooted in a PYD approach, which is based on the belief that, given guidance and support from caring adults, all youth (ages 10-29) can grow up healthy and productive, making positive contributions to their families, schools, and communities. PYD programs intentionally focus on developing competencies and behaviors that support pro-social attitudes, a clear and positive personal identity, and positive belief in the future. PYD programs encourage youth leadership and experiential learning, as well as adult approachability and champions. Services and opportunities are designed to support young people in developing a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and empowerment. For many stakeholders, the PYD approach is a paradigm shift in the way that they think about youth, education, employment, leadership, health and environment and its resources. The award(s) under this APS will not only address the challenges that youth face, but will also involve and support young people in the decision-making, management and leadership. Age disaggregated data will be essential for planning and evaluation.

For more information on USAID's commitment to youth, please see USAID's Youth in Development Policy, October 2012.⁸

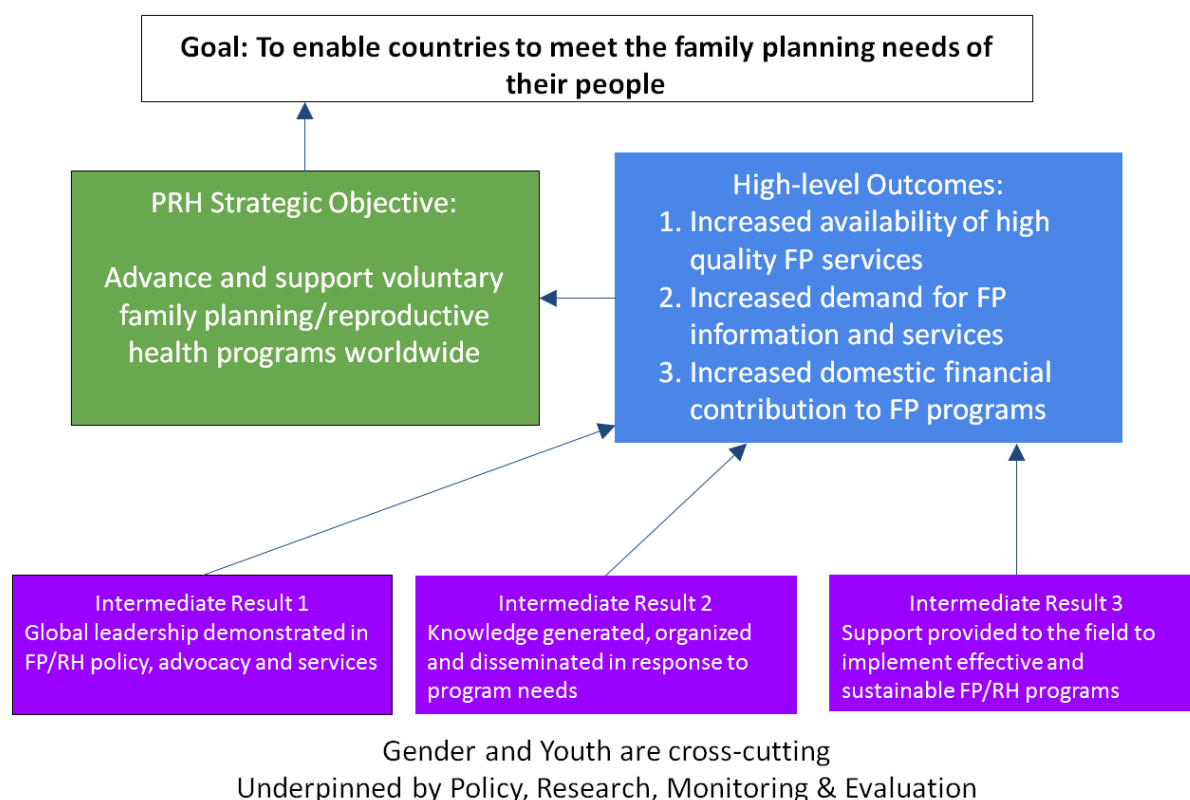
D. PRH RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The design of this APS was influenced by PRH's results framework, shown below.

⁷ <https://www.usaid.gov/youthimpact/tools-resources>

⁸ https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1870/Youth_in_Development_Policy_0.pdf

PRH RESULTS FRAMEWORK



PRH has a long history of working in policy, advocacy, financing and governance, which supports the PRH results framework and is fundamental to the design of this APS in the following ways: 1) Elevate health, population and voluntary FP/RH principles, services and practices as integral to development; 2) Develop, implement, and monitor policies that improve access, availability, equity, agency and affordability of quality services, supplies, and information for all, including youth/adolescents; 3) Build capacity and sustainability by fostering greater accountability and transparency of institutions and individuals; and 4) Ensure sustainable, predictable, long-term, and adequate financing for services, systems, and supplies.

E. PACE APS RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Purpose:

Voluntary family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) and population dynamics included in policies and programs as key to sustainable and equitable economic growth and development.

Sub-purpose:

Political and financial commitment for voluntary FP/RH at global, national, and decentralized levels increased.

Result 1:

Result 2:

Result 3:

Individual and institutional capacity in advocacy, and policy communications and negotiations strengthened.	Commitment for cross sectoral approaches to integrated population, health, environment, climate change, resilience, food security, livelihoods and security programs increased.	Data and information analyzed, synthesized and disseminated to engage policy and advocacy audiences to act.
Cross-cutting principles and approaches: Private Sector Engagement, Youth, Gender, and Equity		

Result 1: Individual and institutional capacity in advocacy, and policy communications and negotiations strengthened.

Motivated champions, including civil society leaders, journalists, faith-based leaders, researchers, and other decision makers and stakeholders, are needed throughout the policy process. Training of diverse cadres is an important aspect of expanding the pool of champions both nationally and regionally. To broaden the base of champions who can advocate for sound voluntary FP/RH policies and financing, approaches like population, environment and development (PED) are necessary. In countries that have adopted devolved or decentralized forms of government, champions are needed to advocate for financing, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies at all levels of government.

Building individual capacity in policy advocacy does not automatically translate into enhanced organizational capacity. Building organizational advocacy capacity faces many challenges. Advocacy is not viewed as a priority in organizational management and thus does not attract the necessary resources and support. Capacity-building interventions must recognize that individuals operate within organizations; individual organizations operate within a wider sector; and these sectors operate within a broader environment. Capacity-building interventions at each level need to recognize the interactions with other levels, aiming to increase the sustainability of local organizations, enhance their advocacy skills, promote sustainable development of professional and local communities, and improve the quality of services delivered by the organizations. These interventions can include opportunities to share experiences and showcase successes while strengthening networks of individuals and organizations.

A strong focus on south-to-south capacity building is emphasized in this APS. In many cases, local organizations can provide assistance to build the advocacy, communication, and negotiation capacity of other individuals and institutions in their region. Finally, support for building and strengthening national and regional networks for greater integration and sharing of lessons learned and best practices is critical to sustaining investments.

Capacity building interventions seek to achieve a range of outcomes, involving a combination of the following:

- Enhanced capacity of key individuals to engage, represent and negotiate with policymakers;

- Enhanced strength of organization's advocacy which enables organizations to better facilitate and strategically situate advocacy within wider organizational contexts and approaches;
- Empowerment of local communities and marginalized groups to engage and advocate to policymakers;
- Enhanced and effective collaboration between organizations; and/or
- Better ability/more willingness of state actors to engage meaningfully with community organizations and their representatives.

Result 2: Commitment for cross sectoral approaches to integrated population, health, environment, climate change, resilience, food security, livelihoods and security programs increased

Policies and programs that recognize the inherent interconnectedness of individual and family health, wealth, and well-being will likely improve social, economic, and environmental outcomes in a manner that is more efficient, cost-effective, and receive greater community buy-in than single sector approaches. While many decision makers seem generally supportive of cross-sectoral approaches, there is limited actual integration of population, environment, and development issues at policy and program levels in-country. This lack of integration limits potential benefits such as reduction of poverty and hunger and the achievement of broader sustainable development goals.

Sustainable scale up of proven approaches remains challenging. One particular challenge requiring additional advocacy is inadequate commitment to scale up programs. In spite of success at the community level, most PED projects have remained small-scale, often in isolated and hard to reach areas with limited chances of replication and scale up. Opportunities exist to ensure that policies, frameworks, and programs developed and implemented in-country advance approaches that integrate population, health, environment, and development. Activities under this APS will help practitioners provide policy- (and advocacy-) relevant field stories, successes, and experiences to larger audiences. In addition, specific opportunities exist to advance dialogue and communication/advocacy on the intersection of gender and poverty within PED. The policy, advocacy and communications will be aimed at decision makers both in-country and globally and will target key sectors such as environment, climate change, resilience, livelihoods, food security, water, economic growth, education, democracy, and governance. Another challenge is the limited capacity of local individuals and organizations to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate high-quality PED programs. Related to this challenge is insufficient capacity in policy advocacy and communication to facilitate development, implementation, and scale-up of cross sectoral programs.

Award(s) under this APS will support an expanded PED focus, recognizing and building on past USAID investments in PED policy and advocacy, with a particular emphasis on demonstrating PED global leadership and supporting scale-up of PED programs. To build and sustain the next generation of PED programs and leadership, activities under this APS will support efforts to build the capacity of leaders and technical experts in both public- and private-sector institutions to plan, prioritize, and support PED activities. This will include support for efforts to promote

the development and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks, macro-level and operational policies, and financing approaches to improve PED programs, including PHE.

Strengthening political and financial commitment for voluntary FP/RH through cross-sectoral approaches can achieve a range of positive development outcomes. Implementation approaches may include:

- Advocacy strategies, strategic communication methods and tools, and knowledge management practices developed and implemented to ensure cross-sectoral PED programmatic results;
- Practical advice and assistance on cross-sectoral PED provided to development practitioners and to local partnerships fostering greater links between conceptual developers and policy makers;
- A partnership approach to new cross-sectoral PED institutional arrangements at the local level, national and regional levels with close links between public and private entities as well as community groups created;
- Innovative local, regional or national level strategic planning mechanisms established in order to inform cross-sectoral PED strategies;
- South-to-south exchanges between countries and regions promoted to develop new skills and perspectives for cross-sectoral PED; and/or
- Sustained dialogue and forums between stakeholders about cross-sectoral PED approaches and their importance in sustainable development.

Result 3: Data and information analyzed, synthesized and disseminated to engage policy and advocacy audiences to act.

This result covers a dynamic area: new research and data are produced constantly. New methods for synthesizing and presenting data are developing, and new leaders are constantly emerging. Although the Office of PRH worked in this area under previous projects, subject matter and leaders are always changing; to maintain visibility on policy makers' radar, activities under this APS need to generate continued and innovative efforts to advance voluntary FP/RH messages. The contribution of deliberate advocacy processes that include the translation of national data and research findings into effective tools to help policy makers define, implement, and finance appropriate strategies and programs cannot be overstated.

To deliver decisions based on evidence, policy makers and other stakeholders need information in formats comprehensible to them. For example, investing in voluntary FP/RH can help mitigate some of the world's most pressing issues such as food insecurity, climate change, civil unrest, gender inequality and poverty. In parts of sub-Saharan Africa, such as the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, rapid population growth is contributing to cycles of chronic poverty and food insecurity, undermining potential development gains⁹. While the Agency's resiliency initiative¹⁰ addresses efforts to alleviate extreme poverty and food shortages, less attention is paid to population growth as one of the underlying drivers of these conditions. Especially in fragile states, research shows that achieving and sustaining poverty-reduction, health, and equity goals

⁹http://www.fsincop.net/fileadmin/user_upload/fsin/docs/global_report/2018/GRFC_2018_Full_report_EN_Low_resolution.pdf

¹⁰<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1870/USAIDResiliencePolicyGuidanceDocument.pdf>

requires sustained investments in voluntary FP/RH programs.¹¹ Moreover, the evidence demonstrates that if countries increase access to FP/RH information, supplies, and services at scale, as well as accelerate reductions in child mortality, strengthen secondary education programs especially for girls and women, and institute sound fiscal and labor policies, they could reap a demographic dividend and economic gains as well as linked gains in gender equality and female empowerment.¹² Award(s) under this APS will work with partners both inside and outside the Agency to generate and synthesize data to demonstrate the links between investing in voluntary family planning and improvements in other development sectors to various audiences, including government officials at national and local levels; parliamentarians; civil society leaders; traditional, faith-based, and community leaders; journalists; and others. Data and other messages need to be developed and tailored to specific audiences, must be purposefully disseminated, and their impact must be assessed.

¹¹https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/Glob%20Health%20Sci%20Pract-2016-Starbird-GHSP-D-15-00374-508ct_final.pdf

¹² https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph_reports/2007/MR1274.pdf;
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10680-009-9186-x>

SECTION II: AWARD INFORMATION

A. Funding: The funding for the Rounds under this APS may be provided through the GH Bureau, mainly through the Office of Population and Reproductive Health, but also possibly through the other GH offices and AID/W regional bureaus, as well as USAID mission field support. As determined by the source of funding, awardee(s) will be expected to comply with the legal and policy requirements that govern the Agency's programming, including requirements governing voluntary family planning and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and/or other health programs.

FP/RH funds may be used only for activities that impact family planning and reproductive health outcomes, as defined in the Child Survival and Health Guidance.¹³ In multi sectoral activities, FP/RH funds can be used to support the FP/RH components; funds from non-FP/RH sources must be used to support activities that do not directly affect FP/RH outcomes.

Pending funding availability, there may be multiple Rounds for this APS that will all aim to meet the Purpose and Results mentioned above. The financial range for award(s) will be specified in each Round.

Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the USG, nor does it commit the USG to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a concept paper or an application.

USAID reserves the right to close or amend the APS on or before the closing date, stated on page 1. Therefore, for each issued Round, organizations are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to be considered for review to maximize the possibility of receiving available funding.

B. Period of Performance: The proposed period of performance for each agreement awarded as a result of each Round(s) under this APS will not exceed five (5) years in duration beginning from the negotiated start date, and subject to availability of funds. Concept papers—and later in the process, full applications—must propose activities for a five-year period of performance, nothing more or less. If the expected period of performance will be less than five years for a specific Round, that Round document will include that information. Additionally, the anticipated start date for a possible award(s) will be specified in each Round.

C. Expected Number of Awards: Multiple awards may be made as a result of the Round(s) of this APS. The actual number of awards under the Round(s) of this APS is subject to the availability of funds and the viability of applications received. Accordingly, USAID reserves the right to award multiple awards, one award, or no awards at all under each Round. USAID also reserves the right to partially fund applications.

Note: As appropriate, feasible, and as requested by missions, the initial award(s) resulting from this APS will seek to transition direct USAID or other donor funding to local organizations that are sub-awardees on the initial award(s) by the end of the initial award(s).

¹³ <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/200mab.pdf>

D. Expected Implementation Mechanism: One or more cooperative agreements (CAs) may result from the Round(s) of this APS.

E. USAID's Substantial Involvement

USAID's substantial involvement during the implementation of the program will be limited to approval by the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) – delegated to the AOR by the Agreement Officer (AO) -- of the elements listed below, except for any changes to the program description, key personnel, or the approved budgets that require AO approval:

1. Approval of the Recipient's Implementation Plans: Implementation plans include, but are not limited to, annual work plans, including planned activities for the following year and any subsequent revisions, international travel plans, planned expenditures, international meeting preparation, research studies/protocols, and any changes to any activities, locations, and beneficiary population under the cooperative agreement.

USAID requires the approval of implementation plans annually to ensure alignment with stated goals, milestones, and outputs. The implementation plan communicates how and when the Recipient will complete award activities and is drafted annually to describe new and ongoing activities. This plan will be developed in partnership between the Recipient and the AOR team. The AOR will ensure that the implementation plans fit within the program description and the terms and conditions of the agreement.

2. Approval of Specified Key Personnel: Unless the Round document states differently, the Key Personnel for each Round will include the following positions:
 - a. Project Director/Chief of Party
 - b. Minimum of one Key Personnel Technical Expert (to be further specified in each Round)

Any additional Key Personnel positions will be specified in each Round.

Key personnel positions will require concurrence from the AOR and approval from the AO.

3. Agency and Recipient Collaboration or Joint Participation:
 - a. *Approval of the recipient's Monitoring and Evaluation plans.* This describes USAID involvement in monitoring progress toward the achievement of program objectives during the performance of the award, including written guidelines for the content of annual reports and final evaluations in accordance with 2 CFR 200.328 and guidance conforming with PEPFAR reporting requirements at country level, if necessary. While an illustrative Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan may be requested in the full application submission, the final Activity MEL Plan will be developed in consultation with USAID post-award. During the initial award planning period, the awardee shall work closely with USAID to establish major milestones, program monitoring indicators, and baseline data and performance targets that will demonstrate successful achievement of the results addressed in the cooperative agreement. The Activity

MEL plan shall be finalized within 90 calendar days of the award. The awardee and USAID will jointly review progress on a periodic basis.

- b. *Collaborative involvement in selection of advisory committee members, if the program will establish an advisory committee that provides advice to the recipient.* USAID will participate as a member of this committee as well. Advisory committees must only deal with programmatic or technical issues and not routine administrative matters.
 - c. *Monitor to authorize specified kinds of direction or redirection because of interrelationships with other projects.* Activities will be included in the program description, negotiated in the budget, and made a part of the award. Note: the AOR will provide review of the proposed change, and the AO is the only individual who can provide approval for this element of substantial involvement.
 - d. *Concurrence on the substantive provisions of sub-awards.* 2 CFR 200.308 (or Mandatory Provision 3. Amendment of Award and Revision of Budget (August 2013) for non-US NGOs) requires the recipient to obtain the AO's prior approval for the sub-award, transfer, or contracting out of any work under an award. Some of the sub-award approval responsibilities may be delegated to the AOR. Please note that any contracts to any organization (not including those for supplies, material, equipment or general support services per 2 CFR 200.308(c)(1)(vi)), and sub-awards (sub-agreements or contracts) to foreign governmental organizations or parastatals of any amount, must be approved by the AO, and may warrant additional clearances.
4. **Agency Authority to Halt a Construction Activity.** The AO may immediately halt a construction activity if identified specifications are not met. However, construction activities are not anticipated under any award(s) resulting from any Round under this APS pursuant to Automated Directive System (ADS) 303.

F. Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property is discussed in 2 CFR 200.448 and 2 CFR 200.315 (for US NGOs) and in Mandatory Provision 7. Title to and Use of Property (December 2014) (for non-US NGOs). In general, awardee(s) may elect to pursue ownership of intellectual property that is developed as a result of an award from a Round of this APS. In such cases, USAID would typically retain a nonexclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free license to use any such intellectual property.

G. Environmental Impact

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, Section 117 requires that the impact of USAID's activities on the environment be considered and that USAID include environmental sustainability as a central consideration in designing and carrying out its development programs. This mandate is codified in 22 CFR 216 and in USAID's ADS Parts 201 and 204, which, in part, requires that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. All Round award recipient(s)' environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this APS.

In addition, the recipient(s) must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern.

No award/activity funded under this APS will be implemented unless an environmental threshold determination, as defined by 22 CFR 216, has been reached for that award/activity, as documented in a Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE), Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), or Environmental Assessment (EA) duly signed by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO). (Hereinafter, such documents are described as “approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation”).

It has been determined that activities conducted by awardee(s) under Rounds of this APS will not negatively impact the environment. In accordance with the 22 CFR 216.22, the project(s) will not have a significant effect on the human, physical and biological environment and qualifies for a “Categorical Exclusion” in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), considering the nature of activities anticipated under the Rounds of this APS. The AOR management team will continue to collaborate with the GH Environmental Officer to ensure the award(s) and associated activities incorporate environmentally sound principles in implementation, and adhere to this determination of a “Categorical Exclusion.” The activities under each award will be screened annually as part of the work plan review to ensure that program activities have not changed, resulting in potential environmental impacts and a chance of the threshold determinants. Further, there must be integration of compliance responsibilities into all contracts and sub-awards under each prime award.

H. Authorized Geographic Code

The authorized geographic code for the procurement of services and commodities is 937 (“the United States, the recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries, but excluding any country that is a prohibited source,” per ADS 310.3.1.1).

I. Benefiting Geographic Areas

USAID funds health activities in almost 60 countries. PRH prioritizes 24 high-need countries as well as the additional Ouagadougou Partnership countries.¹⁴ ***This does not, however, preclude activities in other USAID-supported countries.*** If a Round of this APS has a specific geographic focus, it will clearly state this.

¹⁴Appendix A

SECTION III: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligibility Criteria

U.S. and non-U.S. public, private, for-profit, and nonprofit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, and non-governmental organizations, are eligible to submit a concept paper under each Round(s) of the APS. Further, the organization must be a legally-recognized, organizational entity under applicable law, not otherwise restricted by statute, regulation, Agency policy, or administrative determination (i.e., suspension and debarment) from receiving assistance, and legally registered in a country that is not a prohibited source per ADS 310.¹⁵

Each recipient must be a responsible entity. The AO may determine a Pre-Award survey is required and if so, would establish a formal survey team to conduct an examination that will determine whether the prospective recipient has the necessary organizational, experience, accounting and operational controls, and technical skills – or ability to obtain them – in order to achieve the objectives of the program.

Organizations in developing countries are strongly encouraged to apply, inasmuch as they will support not only the objectives of this APS and the Round(s) they are applying to, but also USAID's objectives to build capacities in local organizations that are needed for sustainable development. USAID strongly encourages applications from potential new partners that meet the eligibility requirements and are willing to be subjected to a Pre-Award Survey.

Concept papers from organizations that do not meet the above eligibility criteria will not be reviewed and evaluated. Individuals are not eligible to apply for any Rounds of this APS.

While for-profit firms may participate, pursuant to 2 CFR 200.400(g) it is USAID's policy not to award profit to prime recipients and subrecipients under assistance instruments. However, while profit is not allowed for sub-awards, the prohibition does not apply when the recipient acquires goods and services in accordance with 2 CFR 200.317 -326, "Procurement Standards." This is discussed more specifically in ADS 303sai "Profit Under USAID Assistance Instruments".¹⁶

Program income will not be generated under any award resulting from this APS.

If an organization does not submit a successful concept paper and is not invited to attend the co-creation process/submit a full application in a specific Round, that organization may still submit another concept paper in a future Round(s), if one occurs. Review criteria will be revised to the specifics of the Round; another submission in another Round does not guarantee a successful concept paper and invitation to attend the co-creation workshop/submit a full application.

B. Cost Share

Cost share will be required in each Round (unless the Round document specifies otherwise). A required range for cost share will be provided in the request for full applications for each Round;

¹⁵ <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1876/310.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303sai.pdf>

the range will allow for the proposed amount to be commensurate with an eligible organization's financial capabilities and access to resources, especially those that have not previously partnered with USAID. Such funds may be mobilized from the recipient; other multilateral, bilateral, and foundation donors; host governments; and local organizations, communities and private businesses that contribute financially and in-kind to the implementation of activities at the country level.

For guidance on cost sharing in grants and CAs, please see the ADS 303.3.10 and 2 CFR 200.306 for US NGOs. For non-US NGOs, all cost sharing would be subject to the Required as Applicable Provision "Cost Share" (June 2012) in ADS 303mab.

SECTION IV: CONCEPT PAPER SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Concept papers will be accepted under issued Rounds of this APS. Please refer to the specific Round documents for detailed information on the concept paper submission guidance including concept paper requirements and review criteria for the specific Round. General guidance for all Rounds under this APS is provided below.

NOTE: To be considered as a potential prime on a full application, an organization must submit a concept paper (as an intended prime or sub-partner) to the relevant Round. Please note that a single organization may not submit more than one concept paper, in total, to any given Round; **if an organization submits more than one concept paper to any Round, only the first one received (determined by email timestamp for the USAID POC) will be evaluated.**

Concept Paper Process

Concept papers received under PACE APS Rounds will be reviewed based on full and open competition and under the procedures and review criteria identified in Section V of each specific Round documentation. Competition under PACE APS Rounds will consist of a two-step process where applicants first submit a concept paper for an initial competitive review:

1. All concept papers received during a Round will be evaluated by a USAID Selection Committee (SC) for responsiveness to the review criteria outlined in each Round. After a concept paper is received, USAID reserves the right to pose clarifying questions and conduct discussions with any applicant, but may opt not to do so if it believes it has sufficient information in the concept paper itself. Posing clarifying questions and conducting discussions with one applicant does not obligate USAID to do so with all applicants.
2. After the concept papers are evaluated, all successful applicants will be invited to continue the co-creation and collaboration process to identify and develop the activities that will help achieve the results desired under this APS and specific Round(s) amongst themselves; identify and incorporate additional partners; and determine respective roles and responsibilities related to the implementation of those activities. Additional instructions and criteria for full application submissions will be provided after evaluation/review of concept papers, co-creation (if necessary), and when full applications are requested.

For applicants seeking to receive USAID funding to implement proposed activities under a Round of this APS, USAID's discussions with those applicants will take place within the parameters of publicly available information. These parameters provide ample room for extensive, robust discussions regarding the development problem/purpose in question (Section I of this APS, and specified in each Round), best practices, lessons learned in the relevant technical sectors, and pertinent research and evaluations and various other matters. After concept papers have been submitted, USAID personnel can have highly specific, detailed activity design discussions with the applicants throughout the remainder of the process, e.g., up to and through any award that might be issued under a Round of this APS. USAID also reserves the right to make an award without discussions if determined to be in the Government's best interest.

Additionally, USAID may make an award on the basis of initial concept papers received, without scheduling a co-creation workshop/process.

Concept papers should be free of any intellectual property that the applicant wishes to protect, as the concept papers may be shared with other organizations as part of the co-creation process. However, once potential partners have been invited to engage in further discussions, they will work with USAID to identify proprietary information that requires protection. Therefore, organizations submitting concept papers provide USAID a royalty free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable right to use, disclose, reproduce, and prepare derivative works, and to have, or permit others to have, use of any information contained in the concept paper submitted under each Round(s) of this APS. If USAID engages with the organization regarding its concept paper, the parties can negotiate further intellectual property protection for the organization's intellectual property. Organizations must ensure that any submission under all Round(s) of this APS is free of any third party proprietary data rights that would impact the license granted to USAID herein.

Concept papers are not evaluated against other concept papers, but rather against the concept paper review criteria in Section V for each specific Round. The evaluation/review of the content in the concept papers against Section V for each specific Round will allow USAID to determine if an organization could make valuable technical and organizational contributions to the co-creation process; the ideas in the successful concept papers may or may not be the same approaches developed further during co-creation, though the solutions and strategies generated may draw from these ideas.

No additions or modifications to concept papers will be accepted after the submission date for each Round of this APS. Concept papers that are submitted late or are incomplete may not be considered for the co-creation process or request for full applications (if co-creation is not conducted). Additional information in the concept paper not requested by each Round of the APS will be removed and may adversely affect an applicant's evaluation/review.

Not every organization that submits a concept paper through a Round of this APS will automatically be selected to participate in co-creation. Due to the number of concept papers received, USAID is not able to provide details on why concept papers were not selected. USAID may limit the number of initial submissions selected to move forward based on efficiencies.

If requested to submit a full application, the applicant(s) (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)), is required to:

- i. Be registered in SAM (System for Award Management) before submitting its application;
- ii. Provide a valid DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number in its application; and
- iii. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

USAID will not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time USAID is ready to make an award, USAID may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Per 2 CFR Appendix I to Part 200, Full Text of the Notice of Funding Opportunity, Section E, 3, USAID informs all potential applicants:

- “i. That the Federal awarding agency [USAID], prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM, currently Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313);
- ii. That an applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency [USAID] previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM;
- iii. That the Federal awarding agency [USAID] will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in CFR 200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.”

Co-Creation Process

The primary component of the co-creation process will likely be a focused and intensive group workshop that may extend beyond one (1) day; location and duration may differ by each Round. If held, in-person participation in the workshop will be required for all successful concept paper applicants. Discussions may continue between USAID and applicants and among applicants after the workshop is completed. Note: Travel costs--and any other costs associated with attending the workshop--will not be reimbursed by USAID. If a successful concept paper applicant cannot attend the co-creation workshop in person, their concept paper will be removed from consideration for award and cannot be a prime applicant at the full application stage. Note: if co-creation takes a different form than a workshop for any Round, the Round document will specify the process.

The co-creation process is intended to allow participants to discuss potential ideas and approaches to address the Round's focus (not limited to ideas in successful concept papers), and to help identify potential consortia and partnerships to support these new or existing solutions and activities. This may result in organizations moving forward with implementation, if an award is made, of the approach(es) based on essential and complementary knowledge, skills, capacities, and networks. More broadly, co-creation will facilitate learning, sharing, and networking across

a range of partners and relevant technical experts. The co-creation workshop/process therefore may include technical experts, potential resource partners,¹⁷ and end users invited by USAID, in addition to those applicants that submitted successful concept papers. Given these goals, potential participants must be willing to share expertise and ideas, and must welcome a diversity of perspectives and expertise, with the common goal of learning and innovating together to achieve the expected results.

Note on additional partners/resources: Until full applications are submitted, both the applicant and USAID may identify and include potential additional technical partners and/or potential resource partners that may or may not have submitted concept papers. Additional partners may be included as sub-partners on a full application if there is an agreement to do so between the potential sub-partner, the original concept paper applicant, and USAID, but this is not guaranteed. Discussions with potential technical and/or resource partners may continue throughout each Round's process and during implementation.

USAID reserves the right to remove any co-creation participants from award consideration should the parties fail to reach agreement on activity concept, design, award terms, conditions, or cost/price within a reasonable time, the participant fails to provide requested additional information in a timely manner, or the U.S. Government believes it is in its best interest.

Note: None of USAID's communication during the co-creation process in all Rounds of this APS should be interpreted as a commitment to making an award of USAID funding.

Applicants are advised that participation in the co-creation process under Rounds of this APS is entirely at their own risk; the Government is not responsible for any costs incurred by the applicant, if the applicant decides to accept the invitation to co-create with USAID. A commitment to an award of USAID funding is only made when a cooperative agreement is signed by the Agreement Officer.

Full Application Process

After the co-creation process, if the Selection Committee decides a full application(s) is warranted, full application instructions and criteria will be provided to the selected applicant(s) or groups of applicants that are proposing to work together. All full applications will be reviewed for their technical merit against the full application review criteria by the Selection Committee. Using its technical expertise, the Selection Committee may suggest revisions and additions to the proposed project(s) as well as potential partners and resources. USAID will continue to have robust communication with applicants, potential partners, and other key stakeholders regarding the technical substance of the evolving approach, as well as the identity and roles of proposed or additional partners. USAID may request that proposed key personnel of applicants deemed

¹⁷ Shared resourcing may be accomplished through funding by USAID, the award recipient, and/or third parties ("resource partners"), either through cash resources or the exchange of other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information. Co-investing does not require equally shared resourcing (such as 1:1 leverage), but rather resource contributions that are appropriate to the specific project's objectives, considering the comparative advantages brought by the participation of each party and the award type.

responsive and eligible deliver an oral presentation describing their proposed technical approach to inform the technical review.

Agreement Officer Determination. If the Selection Committee selects application(s) for funding, its review will be shared with the Agreement Officer for cost analysis, final approval and award negotiation. During this stage, the Apparently Successful Applicant(s) and USAID can further design the technical approach, and clarify general resource requirements, additional partner involvement, and management control of the project under the guidance of the Agreement Officer. The Apparently Successful Applicant(s) may also be asked to provide additional information about its technical approach, capacity, management and organization, proposed cost and budget, responsibility, and representations and certifications.

The Agreement Officer will engage in final review, negotiation, and determination of award responsibility, and cost reasonableness, and will draft a cooperative agreement(s), to be reviewed by the Apparently Successful Applicant(s). The standard provisions for awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation for cooperative agreements. Information regarding possible award provisions will be offered to all selected applicants that are invited to submit a full application, as well as the final award provisions to the Apparently Successful Applicant(s) when the cooperative agreement is drafted. USAID reserves the right to accept applications in their entirety or to select only portions of the application to award. If the Apparently Successful Applicant(s) and USAID cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement, the Agreement Officer will not make the award(s), which will be at no cost to the Government.

If multiple awards are made under Rounds of this APS, these recipients are expected to collaborate closely throughout the entire overlapping period of the implementation phase.

Funding Restrictions

Construction is not an allowable activity for any award(s) under this APS. Also, USAID does not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs for any award(s) under this APS.

SECTION V: REVIEW CRITERIA

Review criteria are specific to each Round. Please see Round documents for review criteria.

APPENDIX A: USAID FP/RH PRIORITY COUNTRIES

USAID advances and supports voluntary FP/RH programs in nearly forty (40) countries around the world. Twenty-four (24) FP/RH priority countries have been identified based on key demographic and health indicators. These countries are:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Haiti
- India
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Yemen
- Zambia

Also, USAID is a founding member of the Ouagadougou Partnership that seeks to integrate family planning and reproductive health in nine (9) francophone West African countries. Two of these (Mali and Senegal) are among the 24 priority countries above. The other seven (7) are:

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Guinea
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Togo