



ROUND 3 CALL FOR CONCEPT PAPERS

Under the existing Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 72016921APS0001

Issuance Date for Round 3: *June 1, 2023*
Question Due Date and Time - Round 3: *June 20, 2023, 5 PM Belgrade time*
Submission Due Date and Time - Round 3: *July 7, 2023, 5 PM Belgrade time*

Subject: Addendum to the Annual Program Statement (APS) Number: 72016921APS0001 for the Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia - Round 3

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Serbia is seeking concept papers from qualified applicants for **Round 3** to the **USAID Annual Program Statement (APS) 72016921APS0001 - Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia**. Eligibility for this award is restricted to Serbian local entities.

This addendum to the Annual Program Statement (APS) - Round 3 publicizes the intention of the United States Government (USG), as represented by USAID/Serbia, to obtain concept papers, full applications, and issue an award for the Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia focused on **Advancing Economic Empowerment of Women in Serbia**. The purpose of this activity is to support initiatives aimed at promoting equity and economic empowerment of women in Serbia.

Please note: All interested organizations should carefully review both this **Round 3 Addendum** AND the full **APS 72016921APS0001**, which can be found on www.grants.gov. Important information contained in the full issued APS in September 2021 is not repeated in this specific Round 3 documentation.

Issuance of this notice does not constitute a binding commitment on the part of the U.S. Government to issue an award, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any concept papers, engagement, collaboration, co-creation, or full applications. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted under this round of the existing APS.

Sincerely,

Hiba Arshad Anwar
Agreement Officer

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SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A.1 Round 3: Advancing Economic Empowerment of Women in Serbia

Purpose

USAID/Serbia seeks to build partnerships with Serbian non-profit organizations, businesses, government institutions, and civil society organizations to help advance equity and prosperity for Serbia's underserved groups. The purpose of this call under Annual Program Statement (APS) 72016921APS0001 for the "Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia" is to support initiatives aimed at promoting equity and economic empowerment of women in Serbia.

Introduction

Under this call, USAID intends to fund one activity that will support a wide range of flexible, innovative, and experimental approaches to advance the economic well-being of women in Serbia.

The proposed activities must support programming in Economic Empowerment of women in Serbia.

Subject to the availability of funding, USAID intends to provide up to \$2,000,000 in total funding to be allocated over the activity period. The expected duration of activity is up to four years. Cost share is not required but it is encouraged. In-kind contributions of labor or resources, including private sector contributions, may be considered as cost share.

Background

As per the latest USAID/Serbia's Gender Analysis from May 2020, despite increases in economic growth, there is still gender inequality in access to employment and resources, including property, land, financial markets, transport, jobs, support programs for businesses, and agricultural loans. Despite the attention given to gender equality in national employment strategies, persistent gender gaps within the labor market exist. Women mainly are employed in the service and care economy while men tend to pursue employment in construction, mining, engineering, and technical sciences.¹ For every one dinar earned by men in the labor market, women earn 0.87 dinars.²

Significant gaps exist in women's ownership of land and housing. Women own only 23.4% of all land plots and 24.7% of buildings. This chasm is more pronounced in rural areas, where strong patriarchal norms guide property inheritance. Such patterns include predominantly passing assets to male descendants, although Serbian law provides for equal inheritance. Prevailing

¹ U.S. Agency For International Development (2020). [USAID/Serbia Gender Analysis Report](#). Produced for USAID by Banyan Global and authored by Angela Oliver-Burgess, Marija Babović, Ana Popovicki, and Dina Scippa.

² Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2023). www.stat.gov.rs. [Labor Market Database](#).

patriarchal norms also constrain women's participation in the labor market and limit their growth potential.³

The same analysis found that for women entrepreneurs, lack of access to assets plays a critical role in their participation and productivity. According to the labor force survey data for 2021, the employment rate of the working-age population (15–64) was 56.5% for men and 41.3% for women. Different populations of women face comparatively higher barriers to employment. For example, among young women (15–24 years), the unemployment rate is 29.5%, compared to 24.6% for young men. Among young women in rural areas, the unemployment rate is 26.7%, compared to 22.1% for young men in those locations.

Women with disabilities, underserved women ethnic minorities, and women in rural areas are at a greater disadvantage with respect to access to economic participation, property, and decision-making. Employment and labor-market participation rates among women are lower, indicating a high level of gender-specific labor-market segregation. Gender pay gaps and gender gap at the labor market are linked to the gender gap in education, and gender differences in areas of study. Of the total number of the population aged over 15 in the Republic of Serbia, 48.9% have completed secondary school. In 2021, of all the girls who completed secondary school, 16.5% studied economy, law and administration, 15% studied health and social protection, and 9.2% studied trade, catering and tourism. On the other hand, of all the boys who completed high school, 20.7% studied engineering, 15.9% studied mechanics and metal processing, and 7.6% studied economy, law and administration. These statistics indicate that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and information and communications technology (ICT) subjects and careers are more encouraged for boys and girls are both directly and indirectly discouraged from entering these fields. These misconceptions are slowly changing but there are very few organizations in Serbia geared towards women's professional development in STEM/ICT. Additionally, women are less employed in the private sector, as it is seen as providing minimal support to work life balance and being unfriendly for women more than men. This results in more women participating in the informal economy through unpaid labor and general family care.⁴

The Government of Serbia (GoS) adopted the Law on gender equality in April 2021, which improves the institutional framework and creates conditions for the implementation of the policy of equal opportunities for women and men. The law prescribes duties of public bodies, employers, and other entities regarding gender equality. It also envisages measures against gender discrimination and for the realization and improvement of gender equality, which is one of the basic international standards in ensuring human rights. Further, the GoS adopted the Bill on amendments to the Law on prohibition of discrimination, which contributes to the

³ U.S. Agency For International Development. (2020). [USAID/Serbia Gender Analysis Report](#). Produced for USAID by Banyan Global and authored by Angela Oliver-Burgess, Marija Babović, Ana Popovicki, and Dina Scippa.

⁴ Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation. (2022). Social research on the root causes of discrimination. https://www.divac.com/upload/document/koreni_diskriminacije_web.pdf.

prevention of discrimination on the basis of any personal feature. According to this Bill, discrimination at work will be more harshly sanctioned, which will force employers to improve treatment of their employees and abide by anti-discrimination norms prescribed by the labor law. Nonetheless, implementation and follow through of above mentioned laws remains challenging as many aspects of gender discrimination remain deeply rooted in cultural norms and traditions. The GoS has also adopted a Law on Social Entrepreneurship in February 2022, with a goal to create a favorable business environment for the development of social entrepreneurship as one of the mechanisms to support business development among marginalized groups, however access to finance, especially for women, remains a key obstacle to general business start up.

Other donors in Serbia also support women's economic empowerment. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency supports gender-based violence and women's economic rights and empowerment. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development supports women in business program partnerships with local banks to offer financing and interactive workshops to help women-led businesses develop essential skills such as business planning, online marketing, financial management and using information and communications technology (ICT). Additionally, UN Women's efforts mostly focus on: improving women labor force position; supporting women's entrepreneurship; and the economic empowerment of women in rural areas.

Alignment with CDCS and guiding principles

The programs funded through this APS are critical to implementing the USAID/Serbia 2020-2025 Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) goal of supporting an economically prosperous and democratic Serbia in pursuing Euro-Atlantic integration.

As part of USAID/Serbia's development objective to increase the equitable prosperity of Serbian citizens, USAID programming supported through this APS will focus on advancing the equity and opportunity of Serbia's underserved communities. USAID believes that engagement with women, youth, businesses, persons with disabilities, gender, and ethnic minorities holds significant opportunities to advance this CDCS objective. USAID's engagement with these populations throughout programming will help mainstream these groups in society, assist them in meeting their potential, gaining influence in their government and society, and achieving greater prosperity. USAID has already awarded two activities through this APS which focus on economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and the LGBTQI+ community. This particular addendum to the APS will focus on economic empowerment of women.

The following principles should guide applicant programmatic approaches:

- **Supporting locally-led sustainable development**

The proposed activities should make the best use of Serbia's existing local expertise and

capacity and foster locally-led development and strengthening of local systems to ensure the sustainability of efforts and local ownership. Proposed approaches should ensure full inclusion and participation of women in the design, implementation and evaluation of proposed programming.

- **Private Sector Engagement**

The proposed activities should engage private sector actors in developing and tackling different approaches to the economic empowerment of women and promoting inclusion principles. It should also support the mobilization of domestic financial resources and the development of financing mechanisms to allow for more significant investments in this community. Empowerment of women is one of the critical areas in which both international corporations operating in Serbia and domestic companies invest their corporate social responsibility resources. This should be seen as an opportunity to be thoroughly considered, and any solution designed with the engagement of the private sector, will be seen as an asset to the proposal.

USAID's experience suggests the following potential private sector contributions:

- understanding of relevant behaviors and dynamics;
- access to target beneficiaries and relevant local networks;
- specialized knowledge and expertise; and
- funding to share intervention costs.

- **Gender**

Integrating gender considerations in all aspects of the activity, including the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. In addition, it must include integrating women and men meaningfully into the activity results framework and indicators and ensuring that activities alleviate gender related constraints and capitalize on gender related opportunities, such as under national conversations and dialogue, legislation and policies, in all areas and at all levels. As such, proposals should consider the inclusion of a research component and additional gender analysis focused on gender-related constraints and opportunities that could inform the design of interventions. Proposals are expected to integrate appropriate recommendations from [USAID/Serbia's Gender Analysis](#) in their technical approach and monitoring and evaluation plan.

Objectives

The three objectives listed below provide the framework for each submission in response to a Round 3 under existing Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 72016921APS0001. These objectives have been identified to target areas where the greatest need exists to support economic empowerment of women in Serbia. Proposed activities should cover **AT LEAST TWO** out of the three objectives.

Objective 1: Skills and capacities of women to meet workforce demands improved

USAID/Serbia welcomes initiatives of workforce development that are scalable and that use innovative and tailor made approaches and models that expand opportunities for women to engage.

Illustrative interventions to be taken into consideration but not limited to:

- *Creating more opportunities for business development training, mentorship, and internships.*
- *Advancing career guidance and career mobility for women.*

Objective 2: Commitment and awareness about importance of inclusivity to sustainable economic growth increased

USAID/Serbia welcomes concepts that include efforts to work with both national and subnational government institutions on affirmative policy frameworks and programs and with private sector actors on increasing their commitment to inclusivity and non-discrimination in the workplace or broader market. The proposed activity should identify and engage in sectors where there are identified opportunities or needs for increasing economic empowerment of women. USAID encourages approaches that make special efforts to engage women outside of Belgrade and other major cities.

Illustrative interventions to be taken into consideration but not limited to:

- *Raising awareness for addressing discrimination of women in the workplace.*
- *Promote advancement and leadership opportunities for women among employers*
- *Strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurial and business networks, including civil society organizations focused on gender issues, to advocate for solutions to challenges impeding economic empowerment of women, such as access to finance, and discrimination in workplaces.*

Objective 3: Prospects for individual business development among women improved

USAID/Serbia has been supporting women entrepreneurship start-ups in various sectors for a number of years through different lines of effort. With this activity, USAID is looking to further advance existing efforts but not duplicate, think outside of the box and pilot new approaches to foster entrepreneurship among women, and explore new financing mechanisms for business startups and support networking and collaboration between existing and experienced women groups/organizations/entrepreneurs and their communities.

Illustrative interventions to be taken into consideration but not limited to:

- *Supporting entrepreneurship and business development initiatives managed and/or owned by*

women.

- *Connecting women entrepreneurs with mentors and relevant networks.*

Based on the special focus of this program and the breadth of expertise required to implement it, USAID/Serbia expects that the objectives of this activity can likely only be achieved through partnerships that combine organizations with convening power and technical expertise. To reach target populations, **concepts must include women-focused organizations as partners or must demonstrate a robust participation and involvement of women-focused organizations.** This involvement can be in forms of partnership between women-led organizations and businesses or NGOs or public institutions or other models that confirm significant involvement of the women in the proposed solution(s) and the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the activity. Further, the proposed concepts should reflect on the sustainability and legacy of their proposed activities.

USAID/Serbia strongly encourages new partnership initiatives and concepts that are aware of existing donors' interventions in this area. Close coordination and regular consultation with USAID is expected. This activity is expected to coordinate closely with USAID-funded activities (for more information visit <https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/fact-sheets>) on civil society, media, as well as economic growth in order to catalyze citizen engagement, and identify areas for reforms. USAID/Serbia funded activities include, but are not limited to, the Civil Society Resilience Strengthening Activity, Big Small Businesses Activity, Media Innovation Activity, Economic Empowerment of People With Disabilities (PWD), Economic Empowerment of LGBTQI+, and USAID's Innovation Activities.

[End of Section A]

SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1 Funding

For **Round 3**, USAID intends to issue **one** Assistance Award with a total estimated amount of up to **\$2 million**. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. As determined by the source of funding, awardee(s) will be expected to comply with specific USAID regulations governing particular funding streams.

B.2 Period of performance

The period of performance anticipated for the Assistance Award under **Round 3** of this APS is not expected to exceed **four (4) years** in duration. For Round 3, the anticipated start date for the award(s) is on or about August 2023.

B.3 Scope

For **Round 3's** concept papers and full applications, applicants must propose approaches to achieve all stated areas of interest under program description, Section A of this addendum.

B.4 Expected implementation mechanism

For **Round 3**, USAID intends to issue one Assistance Award. USAID will make a determination on the intended substantial involvement by the Agency upon award. The specific areas of USAID substantial involvement will include, but not be limited to, approval of the recipient's implementation plans, approval of Key Personnel, as well as Agency and recipient collaboration and joint participation, including approval of the substantive provisions of subawards, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plans, and other activities as determined, based on the selected Program, and as negotiated with the recipient prior to award.

B.5 Authorized Geographic Code

The geographic code for the procurement of commodities and services under this program is 937, as described in [ADS Chapter 310](#).

In anticipation of final implementation guidance issued by USAID, the Applicant is notified of recent changes to cost allowability regulations - specifically 2 CFR 200.216, finalized on August 13, 2020 - concerning the procurement of prohibited technology goods and services under assistance awards.

B.6 Nature of the Relationship between USAID and the Recipient

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient and under the subject program is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation of the Strengthening Citizen Engagement Activity which is authorized by Federal statute. The successful Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives and the efficient and effective administration of the award through the application of sound management practices. The Recipient will assume responsibility for administering Federal funds in a manner consistent with underlying agreements, program objectives, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

B.7 Title to Property

Property title under the resultant agreement shall vest with the recipient in accordance with the requirements of Mandatory Standard Provision for Non-US Organizations, [Title To And Use Of Property \(December 2014\)](#).

B.8 Special Award Requirement Relating to the Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (July 2022)

USAID has been granted a temporary waiver under Section 889(d)(2) that allow the recipient to use award funds for costs for covered telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment incurred on or after October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2028, **only** if the recipient has determined that there is no available alternate eligible source for the covered telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment. After September 30, 2028, in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.471 costs of all covered telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment as specified in 2 CFR § 200.216 will be unallowable.

[End of Section B]

SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1 Eligible Entities

In addition to Section C of the [Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups APS #72016921APS0001](#) for Concept Paper submission, eligibility for this award is restricted to Serbian **local entities**, as defined by USAID.⁵ The limitation applies to the Prime Applicant only, partners can be local and/or international organizations.

Specific to Round 3 requirements

The lead organization submitting the concept paper must have an organizational focus on women's rights and a proven record of helping advance equity and prosperity for women, such as women with disabilities, underserved women ethnic minorities, and women in rural areas in Serbia. Concepts must include women-focused organizations as partners or must demonstrate a robust participation and involvement of women-focused organizations. This involvement can be in forms of partnership between women-led organizations and businesses or NGOs or public institutions or other models that confirm significant involvement of the women in the proposed solution(s) and the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the activity. Further, the proposed concepts should reflect on the sustainability and legacy of their proposed activities.

[End of Section C]

⁵ U.S. Agency For International Development. ADS 303. Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations <https://www.usaid.gov/about-us/agency-policy/series-300/303>

SECTION D: CONCEPT PAPER SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants are encouraged to visit <https://www.workwithusaid.org/> to learn more about submitting concept notes and applications to USAID.

D.1 Round 3 Point of Contact and Package Distribution

The preferred method of distribution of USAID assistance information is www.grants.gov. This addendum as well as the APS #72016921APS0001 contains all necessary information, web links, and materials to submit a complete concept paper for Round 3. Full applications are **not** requested at this time. The most highly rated applicant(s) will be contacted directly to continue in the subsequent phases of the process. Instructions for submitting a full application will be provided to organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

All inquiries and communication, including questions on this addendum of the APS must be submitted to the points of contact below, with “**Questions for Round 3, Marginalized Groups APS**” included in the subject line.

Armend Aliu
A&A Specialist
aaliu@usaid.gov

and

Branislav Bulatovic
A&A Specialist
bbulatovic@usaid.gov

D.2 Submission Dates and Times

Please refer to the Key Information and Dates on the Cover Page. Concept papers must be submitted electronically via email only to points of contact above, before the respective due dates and times. Please include “**Round 3, Marginalized Groups APS - [Name of Organization]**” in the subject line. Late submissions will NOT be accepted. Hard copies, whether hand delivered or by postal mail, will NOT be accepted.

D.3 Application Process

This APS utilizes a three-phase process:

Phase 1: Concept Paper submission

Applicants must submit concept papers in accordance with the due dates stated in the cover page of this addendum. USAID will then conduct a Merit Review of all timely submitted concept papers based on the Merit Review criteria provided in Section E: Application Review Information.

Phase 2: Co-creation

After review of the concept papers, USAID may issue an invitation to co-creation meetings with

the most highly-rated applicant(s). Co-creation meetings, if needed, may occur over the phone, via video-conferencing, or in person in Belgrade at locations identified by USAID. However, it may be determined that co-creation meetings are not necessary, and in that case, USAID may move directly to request full applications after review of the concept papers. Further details on the co-creation process (if determined necessary) will be shared with the most highly rated applicant(s).

Phase 3: Full Application

After review of the concept papers, full applications will be requested from those applicants with the most highly rated concept papers. Full application submission instructions and review criteria will be provided to organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

Applicants with concept papers not advancing to full application will be notified.

To be considered for funding under Round 3 of this APS, applications must meet all of the requirements for the concept paper as well as for the full application respectively.

D.4 Concept Paper Required Content and Instructions

D.4.1 Concept Paper Technical Instructions for Round 3

Concept papers are limited to five (5) pages total, excluding the cover page. Concept papers must follow the required content and format below.

D.4.1.1 Cover Page (not included in the 5-page limit)

- Project title;
- Funding opportunity number;
- Name and address of the applicant organization;
- Type of organization (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, university, etc.);
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from www.sam.gov;
- Contact point (name, telephone, and e-mail);
- Names of subrecipient organization(s) and types of organization(s).

D.4.1.2 Concept Paper Content

1. In the concept paper, the applicant must describe a clear and realistic **approach to achieve the Round 3 goal and address the areas of interest**. As the length of the concept note suggests, applicants should be concise in their response and focus on the overall strategy to achieve the Round 3 goal, as well as to outline the expected results and impact.
2. In addition, the applicant must describe its **technical expertise and institutional capacity** to address Round 3 areas of interest.

D.4.2 Concept Paper Cost Instructions

Along with the concept note, USAID is requesting basic cost/budget information including administrative cost and program activities cost. No specific format is required. **Not included in the 5 page limit.**

D.5 Instructions for the preparation of the Full Application

Instructions for submitting a full application will be provided to organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

[End of Section D]

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Merit Review Criteria

The merit review criteria prescribed here are tailored to the requirements of this particular Round of the APS. Applicants should note that these criteria serve to: (a) identify the significant matters which the applicants should address in their applications, and (b) set the standard against which all applications will be evaluated.

Technical and other factors will be evaluated relative to each other, as described here, and prescribed by the Technical Application Format. The Technical Application will be rated by a Merit Review Committee (MRC) using the criteria described in this section.

Review and Selection Process

E.1 Concept Paper Merit Review Criteria for Round 3

USAID will review the concept papers according to the following concept paper merit review criteria. The degree to which:

- 1) The applicant presents a clear and realistic overall technical approach to achieve the Round 3 goal described in the section A of this addendum. The technical approach will also be evaluated to the degree the proposed program is practicable, contextually appropriate, and measurable, as well as the extent to which it is convincing in terms of addressing livelihoods, economic security, and resilience of women and girls, especially those from underserved groups.
- 2) The applicant presents a team with the appropriate technical expertise and institutional capacity with an appropriate balance of managerial, technical, and operational skills sufficient to successfully achieve the Round 3 goal described in the section A of this addendum.
- 3) The applicant presents a realistic basic budget plan that represents the overall cost followed by the information for administrative cost and program activities cost.

E.2 Full Technical Application Merit Review

Information for full technical application Merit Review will be provided to the organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

E.3 Full Business (Cost) Review

Information for full cost application review will be provided to the organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

[End of Section E]

SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

F.1 Federal Award Notices

USAID cannot make awards under this APS until it has appropriated, allocated, and committed funds through internal USAID procedures. While USAID anticipates successfully completing these procedures, potential applicants are notified of these requirements and conditions. The AO is the only individual who may legally commit the USG to the expenditure of public funds. Applicants are prohibited from charging or incurring costs to the proposed award prior to receipt of either a fully executed Award or a specific, written authorization from the AO.

F.2 Administration

The resulting award from this RFA will be administered in accordance with the following policies and regulations.

For US organizations: [ADS 303](#), [2 CFR 700](#), [2 CFR 200](#), and [Standard Provisions for U.S. Non-governmental organizations](#).

For Non-US organizations: [Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Organizations](#).

F.3 Additional Information and Requirements

The request for full application will contain additional information in this section, such as the type, frequency, and means of submission of award reporting requirements. Information about program income and information detailing how the Agency will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation will be included.

F.4 Program Income

Program Income earned under the resultant awards will be added to the Total Estimated Amount (exclusive of cost share) in accordance with 2 CFR 200.307(e)(2).

F.5 Environmental Compliance

Any resultant awards under this APS will be subject to the Environmental Compliance policy in 22 CFR 216. Additionally, a Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE) DCN: 2021-SRB-00X has been approved for the APS including this activity. Please reference [Attachment 2 of the APS](#).

[End of Section F]

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

1. APS Points of Contact

See Section D.1 of this addendum.

2. Acquisition and Assistance Ombudsman

The A&A Ombudsman helps ensure equitable treatment of all parties who participate in USAID's acquisition and assistance process. The A&A Ombudsman serves as a resource for all organizations who are doing or wish to do business with USAID. Please visit this page for additional information: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/acquisition-assistance-ombudsman>

The A&A Ombudsman may be contacted via: Ombudsman@usaid.gov

[End of Section G]

SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. Any award and subsequent incremental funding will be subject to the availability of funds and continued relevance to Agency programming.

Applications with Proprietary Data

Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the U.S. Government except for evaluation purpose, should mark the cover page with the following:

“This application includes data that must not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, an award is made as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. Government will have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting award. This restriction does not limit the U.S. Government’s right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets {insert sheet numbers}.”

Additionally, the applicant must mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following:

“Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application.”

[END OF SECTION H]

SECTION I: STANDARD PROVISIONS

Note: the full text of these provisions may be found at:

<https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303maa> and
<https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mab>

The actual Standard Provisions included in the award will be dependent on the organization that is selected. The award will include the latest Mandatory Provisions for either U.S. or non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations. The award will also contain the following “required as applicable” Standard Provisions:

Please note that the resulting award will include all standard provisions (both mandatory and required as applicable) in full text.

[END OF SECTION I]

[END SOLICITATION]