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Issue Date: September 8, 2016
Deadline for Questions: September 22, 2016 at 2:30 pm Jordan Time
Anticipated Response/Amendment: September 29, 2016
Closing Date: October 24, 2016
Closing Time: 2:30 pm Jordan time

Subject: Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
RFA-278-16-000013

Program Title: USAID/Jordan Water Innovations Technologies (WIT)

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications from qualified organizations to provide technical assistance to USAID/Jordan Water Innovations Technologies (WIT). The applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 98.001, USAID Foreign Assistance for Programs Overseas. Please refer to the Section C of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for eligibility requirements.

For the purposes of this NOFO the term "Grant" is synonymous with "Cooperative Agreement"; "Grantee" is synonymous with "Recipient"; and "Grant Officer" is synonymous with "Agreement Officer". Eligible organizations interested in submitting an application are encouraged to read this funding opportunity thoroughly to understand the type of program sought, application submission requirements and evaluation process.

To be eligible for the award, the applicant must provide all information as required in this NOFO and meet eligibility standards in Section C of this NOFO. This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov, and may be amended. Potential applicants should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity. Applicants will need to have available or download Adobe program to their computers in order to view and save the Adobe forms properly. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the entire NOFO has been received from the internet in its entirety and USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion process. If you have difficulty registering on www.grants.gov or accessing the NOFO, please contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at support@grants.gov for technical assistance. The successful Applicant will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives. Please read each section of the NOFO.

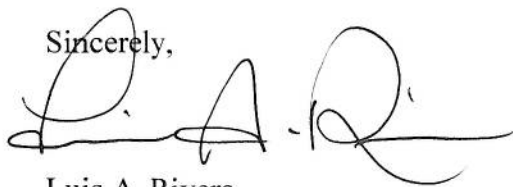
All questions related to this NOFO should be directed to the point(s) of contact identified in section D. The deadline for questions is shown above. Responses to questions received prior to the deadline will be furnished to all potential applicants through an amendment to this notice posted to www.grants.gov.

USAID/Jordan reserves the right to conduct an oral presentation with the apparent successful applicant(s), at the discretion of the Agreement Officer. As determined necessary, the apparent successful Applicant(s), will be notified accordingly and invited to present in person at USAID/Jordan.

Issuance of this notice of funding opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government nor does it commit the Government to pay for any costs incurred in preparation or submission of comments/suggestions or an application. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. A. R.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luis A. Rivera
Director, Acquisition and Assistance Office

Table of Contents

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCROYNMS USED IN THIS NOFO	4
SECTION A – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	6
SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION	28
SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	31
SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION	32
SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION	45
SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION	47
SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDED AGENCY CONTACT(S)	62
SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION	63
PAST PERFORMANCE INFORMATION (PPI)	64

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCROYNMS USED IN THIS NOFO

ADS	Automated Directives System
AO	Agreement Officer
AOR	Agreement Officer's Representative
AWPs	Annual Work Plans
CBIWDM	Community-Based Initiatives for Water Demand Management
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CM	Cubic Meters
DDL	Development Data Library
DEC	Development Experience Clearinghouse
DO	Development Objective
DoS	Department of Statistics
EDE	Economic Development and Energy
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
ESR	Environmental Status Report
FABRI	Further Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative
FMO	Financial Management Office
GCS	Geographic Coordinate System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GOJ	Government of Jordan
ha	Hectares
HGFI	Hydroponic Green Farming Initiative
HWF	Highland Water Forum
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IR	Intermediate Result
IRD	International Relief and Development
ISSP	Institutional Support and Strengthening Program
JRP	Jordan Response Plan
JV	Jordan Valley
JVA	Jordan Valley Authority
JVWF	Jordan Valley Water Forum
KaMP	Knowledge Management Portal
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCM	Million Cubic Meters
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning
MENA-NWC	Middle East and North Africa Network for Water Centers of Excellence
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoENV	Ministry of Environment
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development

MWI	Ministry of Water and Irrigation
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NICRA	Negotiated indirect cost rate agreement
NOFO	notice of funding opportunity
PAP	Public Action for Water, Energy and Environment Project
PMP	Performance Management Plan
POC	point of contact
PPR	Performance Plan and Report
S&T	science and technology
SC	Selection Committee
TVE	Technical and Vocational Education
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
USG	United States Government
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WAJ	Water Authority of Jordan
WGS	World Geodetic System
WIT	Water Innovations Technologies
WLI	Water and Livelihoods Initiative
WMI	Water Management Initiative
WUAs	Water users' associations

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

SECTION A – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

WATER INNOVATIONS TECHNOLOGIES (WIT)

1. INTRODUCTION

Jordan is one of the most water scarce countries in the world and with an ever growing population it struggles to balance water supply and demand.¹ Jordan has one of the best water treatment and delivery systems in the region; however, providing safe water to more than 98 percent of Jordanians while meeting the demands of a growing population, further compounded by the influx of refugees from surrounding conflict zones, is a challenge for the Government of Jordan (GOJ) institutions. Additional pressures on already limited water resources, combined with inefficient water use in the agriculture sector, stress the need for more sustainable water use and water conservation.

The objective of the Water Innovations Technologies (WIT) activity is to conserve water through the adoption of proven water-saving technologies and techniques. WIT targets water conservation at the end user level, promoting practices to preserve, protect, and utilize water resources better. Long term interventions will reduce unsustainable groundwater extraction that depletes aquifers, balancing the high demands on Jordan's limited water resources. Simple interventions for safe water collection and storage will also benefit households and communities. WIT aims to leverage the use of technologies through improved public awareness, behavioral change, capacity-building and institutional strengthening measures, and incentives such as financing.

2. BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Jordan is one of the driest countries in the world. Its water problems begin with its natural arid climate that is forecast to get worse with climate change in the coming decades. The Levant appears to have been disproportionately affected by climate change already, and models agree that by 2030 to 2040, temperatures in Jordan will be 1 to 2 Celsius degrees warmer, precipitation will be 10 to 15 mm less (a decrease of 13 to 20 percent), and droughts will be more pronounced. A new National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) study finds that the recent drought that began in 1998 in the eastern Mediterranean Levant region is likely the worst drought of the past nine centuries². The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assessments identify scarcity, increasing costs of water

¹ http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/maps/World-Map.TRWR.cap_eng.htm: Total Renewable Water Resources (TRWR) in m³/person/year -- (1) UAE 18.5; (2) Yemen 82.13; (3) Saudi Arabia 83.61; (4) Libya 108.20; (5) Jordan 145.10; (6) Palestinian Authority 196.00; (7) Israel 231.30; (8) Algeria 319.80; (9) Tunisia 429.20; (10) Oman 482.10. View against TRWR in the USA at 9718 m³/person/year.

² Cook, B. I., K. J. Anchukaitis, R. Touchan, D. M. Meko, and E. R. Cook (2016), Spatiotemporal drought variability in the Mediterranean over the last 900 years, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, doi:10.1002/2015JD023929. <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2016/nasa-finds-drought-in-eastern-mediterranean-worst-of-past-900-years>

supply infrastructure and operations, inefficient water use in the agriculture sector, and declining water quality as threats to water security in Jordan. At present, Jordan provides high quality and reasonable volumes of water for human, commercial, and agricultural needs, but at the cost of rapidly depleting its groundwater reserves. Overuse of water is inextricable from misuse, especially contamination from industrial, municipal, and agricultural disposal. The challenge in the water sector is to maximize the value of Jordan's groundwater, while minimizing the human and economic costs of adapting to increasing scarcity.

The USAID Institutional Support and Strengthening Program (ISSP) collaborated with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) on a comprehensive socio-economic survey of groundwater wells across Jordan. The study showed that irrigation has increased in the last 20 years, with total irrigated areas increasing from 66,603 hectares (ha) in 1994 to 102,400 ha in 2010,³ with the main expansion in the Highlands.

Table 1: National Water Supply and Consumptive Use in Million Cubic Meters (MCM), (MWI data, 2010).

Source	Domestic	Industrial	Irrigation	Livestock	Total	Share
Surface water	120.0	6.6	154.5	7.0	288.1	31.9%
Ground water	231.7	33.9	245.0	0.3	510.9	56.6%
Treated wastewater	0.0	1.5	101.5	0.0	103.0	11.4%
Total water used	351.7	42.0	501.0	7.3	902.0	100.0%
Share	39.0%	4.7%	55.5%	0.8%		

Irrigated agriculture consumes 55.5 percent of the available surface, ground and treated waste water, while only contributing 3 percent to Jordan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁴ Much of the agricultural water use goes to water-intensive highland crops, such as maize, barley, wheat, and irrigated olives, which produce modest or even negative returns. By contrast, Jordan's most profitable crops are winter vegetables from the Jordan Valley (JV). A high proportion of water used for agriculture produces no crop value for the farmers or their communities.

Water scarcity in Jordan is further exacerbated by the influx of Syrian refugees. The Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS) report on the 2015 Population Census, conducted in December 2015, showed that Jordan's population nearly doubled over the past decade. DoS figures show that non-Jordanians represent around one third of Jordan's population, and the estimated number of Syrians is 1.26 million⁵. As of March 2016, UNHCR has registered over 629,000 Syrian refugees⁶. The majority of refugees live in Jordanian towns and cities — not refugee camps. Refugees are becoming increasingly economically vulnerable over time, with the majority living in or on the edges of poverty⁷. Many are

³ Source: USAID, 2012. Water Valuation Study, Oct 2012. USAID/Jordan Institutional Support and Strengthening Program (ISSP), p.52

⁴ 2030 Water Resources Group (2011). Accelerating water sector transformation in Jordan. Final Report. 20 October 2011. p.7; and p.32 of a publicly available document (http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF/WRG_Background_Impact_and_Way_Forward.pdf).

⁵ The Jordanian Times, "Population almost doubled in past decade," Jordanian Times, Feb 26, 2016.

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/population-almost-doubled-past-decade>

⁶ 639,704 Total Persons of Concern, "Syria Regional Refugee Response Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal," 03 Mar 2016, <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107>

⁷ UNHCR, "Living in the Shadows," UNHCR, 2014.

supported by Jordanian families and friends, which stresses already-scarce water supplies⁸. This rapid population growth places additional demands for basic goods and services on Northern communities such as Mafraq, which already struggled with poverty and water shortages prior to the Syrian conflict⁹. Additionally, insufficient water supply to meet basic needs, such as water for food and agriculture, health and sanitation, and production of goods increases the risk of tension, conflict, and destabilization.

3. LINK TO MISSION STRATEGY, GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES, AND WORK OF OTHER DONORS

LINK TO USAID PRIORITIES

The USAID/Jordan goal for the 2013-2017 Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) is to improve prosperity, accountability, and equality for a stable, democratic Jordan. Maintaining and improving the standard of living of Jordanians, and thereby promoting stability, depends on the government's ability to strengthen the delivery and quality of basic essential services, especially those related to health, education, and water. GOJ institutions must meet the demands of the growing population, the continuing impact of the influx of Syrian refugees, and a growing economy to provide water for household, commercial, and livelihood needs. The new activity will identify and implement innovative solutions to improve management and delivery of the country's scarce water supply, which is vital to Jordan's stability.

The WIT activity is designed to contribute to Development Objective (DO) #3: Social Sector Quality Improved. Specifically, the activity will focus on Intermediate Result (IR) #3: Accountable, Sustainable Management of Water and Natural Resources Increased.

WIT will strive to have secondary impacts and contribute indirectly to DO #1: Broad-based, Inclusive. Economic Development Accelerated through IR #1: Private Sector Competitiveness Increased; IR #2: Workforce Development and Opportunities for Vulnerable Groups Increased, especially for the Poor, Women and Youth; and IR #3: Management of Energy Resources Improved (See Results Framework and CDCS below).

WIT will also contribute to Agency overarching strategies, including:

- Water and Development Strategy (2013-2018)¹⁰ through the sound management and use of water for health and food security.
- The President's Climate Action Plan¹¹ and the USAID Climate Change and Development Strategy (2012-2016)¹² by increasing resilience of people, places, and livelihoods through investments—in this case--in water smart technologies and techniques that reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts which exacerbate water scarcity.

⁸<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/frontlines/aid-action-delivering-results/water-stone-jordanians-stretch-meager>

⁹ Mercy Corps Report "Mapping of Host Community-Refugee Tensions in Mafraq and Ramtha, JORDAN." May 2013.

¹⁰ https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/USAID_Water_Strategy_3.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.usaid.gov/climate/us-climate-action-plan>

¹² http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACS780.pdf

GOAL: Improved Prosperity, Accountability, and Equality for a Stable,

DO 3: Social Sector Quality Improved

3.d Number of people receiving improved service quality from existing improved drinking water sources (F 3.1.8.1-3) ◆

IR 3.3: Accountable, Sustainable Management of Water and Natural Resources Increased

3.3.a: Percent change in gross revenue in the Jordan water sector

3.3.b: Number of policies, regulations, and administrative procedures relating to water and natural resources in development, passed, or being implemented as a result of USG assistance

3.3.c: Percentage of a drinking water utility's supply that is non-revenue (F 3.1.8.5-1)

**Sub-IR 3.3.1
Sustainability of the
National Water Supply
System Improved**

3.3.1.a: Cubic meters of water

**Sub-IR 3.3.2 Water
conserved**

3.3.2.a: Cubic meters of water saved annually from water-saving technologies as a result of USG assistance

3.3.2.b: Number of adoptions of new technologies to save water or increase reuse of water

**Sub-IR 3.3.3 Water
sector governance
strengthened**

3.3.3.a: Percent change in operating cost recovery ◆

3.3.3.b: Percent of surveyed customers that believe that GOJ is effective in fighting corruption in water utility service delivery ◆

3.3.3.c: Number of best practices systems developed, improved, or

**Sub-IR 3.3.4 Water
supply and natural
resources protected**

3.3.4.a: Cubic meters of additional wastewater treated (in country) to Jordanian standards as a result of USAID assistance

**Cross-cutting
indicators key**

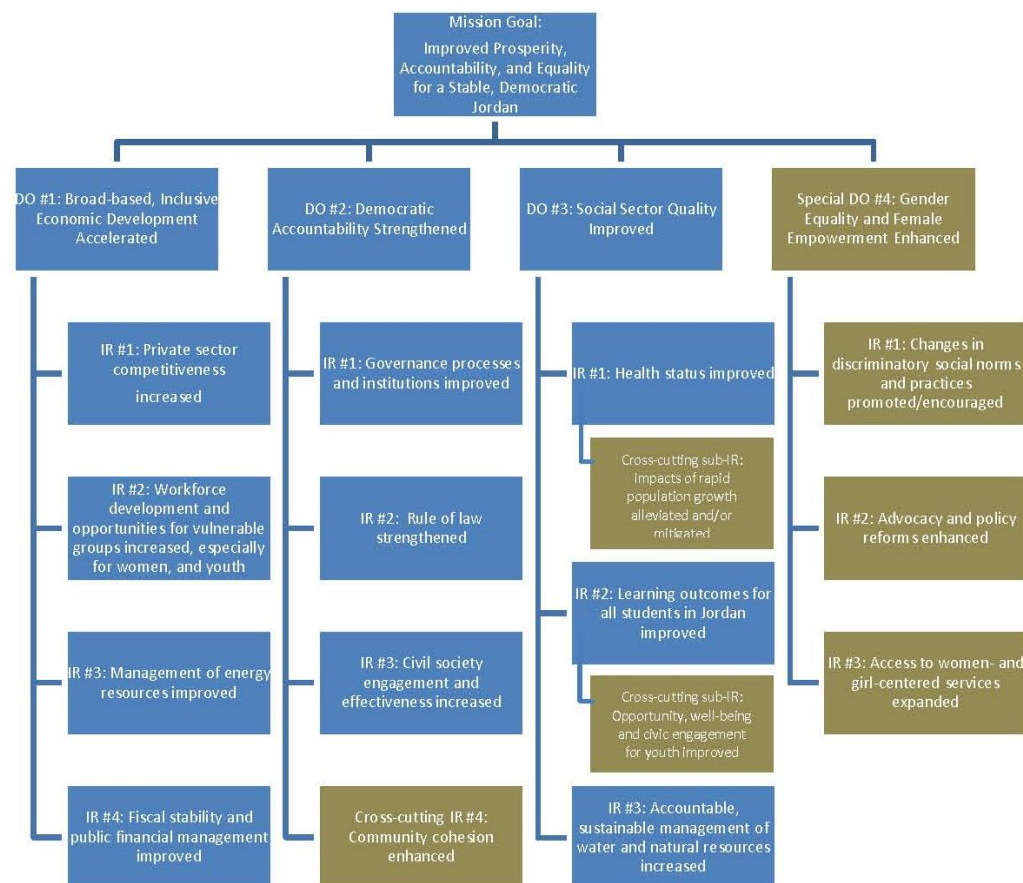
Gender ◆

Unbridled population growth ◆

Cohesion and resilience

Results Framework Graphic

Results statements (SDO, IRs and sub-IRs) with tan background are cross-cutting across the portfolio.



4. CURRENT AND PREVIOUS USAID ASSISTANCE IN THE WATER SECTOR

USAID/Jordan will build on the efforts and lessons learned from activities in the water sector, which have supported the development of water-saving technologies, and water-saving and livelihood interventions at the community level. USAID has worked to improve water resource management through community empowerment, institutional reform, demand management, conservation of agricultural water use, integrated water resources management, and water and wastewater infrastructure.

Previous assistance:

- Community-Based Initiatives for Water Demand Management (CBIWDM), implemented by Mercy Corps from 2006-2015, put water-saving technologies into practice at both the local and national level. Through CBIWDM, USAID enabled 175 communities to apply water-saving technologies at the household, small farm, and community level by building capacity of Community Based Organizations (CBOs).
- The Institutional Support and Strengthening Program (ISSP), implemented by the International Relief and Development (IRD) from 2010-2015, worked closely with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), and government-owned water utilities to reform and restructure the sector to become more efficient, sustainable, and responsive to consumer needs. ISSP provided technical assistance for better management of water and wastewater services and addressed key institutional constraints to more effective sector management and efficient service delivery.
- Groundwater Level Trends and Forecasts and Salinity Trends in Select Groundwater Basins, implemented by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) from 2011-2013, analyzed groundwater monitoring data collected by the MWI to identify which groundwater basins should be targeted for future USAID interventions, and to support the GOJ in making policy and enforcement decisions. Results are corroborated by the ISSP and focus on Mafrq and Azraq basins, where 51 percent of all groundwater in Jordan is used. (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1061/>)
- The Public Action for Water, Energy and Environment Project (PAP), implemented by ECODIT from 2009-2014, was a public education and behavior change communications activity to increase efficiency in the use of water and energy, to promote proper solid waste handling practices, and to introduce much-needed policy changes.
- The Water and Livelihoods Initiative (WLI), implemented by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), provided a platform for international research cooperation and development within identified benchmark sites of seven countries in the Middle East (<http://www.icarda.org/wli/reports.html>).

Current/ongoing assistance:

- Further Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (FABRI), implemented by DAI, fosters partnerships through the Middle East and North Africa Network for Water Centers of Excellence (MENA-NWC) among research and educational institutions, governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations, while also supporting collaborative applied research and development, capacity building, and knowledge sharing. Unique in the region, the MENA-NWC currently links over 25 technical and research centers from more than 12 countries and territories across the region, encouraging them to work

together and with outside counterpart institutions on critical water challenges. USAID funded activity ends in 2016 (<http://menawc.org>), but NWC will continue.

- The Hydroponic Green Farming Initiative (HGFI) (2013-2016), implemented by ECO Consult, developed a hydroponic farming model that competes with greenhouse technology and drip irrigation systems. HGFI retrofits greenhouses with advanced hydroponic technologies, which use less water than traditional methods, to make the technology attractive to large-scale commercial farms.
- A United States Forest Service (USFS) Inter-Agency Agreement (2016) will support organizations to improve capacity to manage Jordan's natural and protected areas. The USFS will establish plant nurseries, working with a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and women's cooperatives in north Jordan and other key local partners, to produce high quality seedlings that will service the GOJ's restoration efforts and USAID's broader water conservation goals. The USFS will also provide technical assistance on planting and restoration to stabilize hillslopes and increase water infiltration from rainfall in Jordan's arid environments.
- The USAID Water Management Initiative (2016-2020) supports the GOJ to achieve measurable improvements and greater sustainability in the water sector by providing technical assistance to strengthen the GOJ's reform, policy development and implementation, and capacity building efforts.

Documents and reports on the activities are available through the USAID/Jordan portal (<https://usaidjordankmportal.com>). Applicants may search "Agriculture & Environment Review" to find a "Collection" of background documents. Applicants may also search for activity-specific documents by specific activity ("CBIWDM", "HGFI", "PAP", etc.). Other information sources include the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) [<https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/home/Default.aspx>] and USAID's Development Data Library (DDL) website [<http://www.usaid.gov/data>].

5. SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN PRIORITIES

The GOJ is a close partner to USAID, with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) as the key host government partner under Development Objective #3. MWI recently revised its National Water Strategy for the period of 2016-2025, which identifies the GOJ's plans to build a resilient sector based on a unified approach for comprehensive social, economic and environmentally-viable water sector development¹³.

Core principles that will guide future water sector planning are highlighted in the strategy. In particular, those related to water conservation are:

- Jordanians must recognize that there are limits to the country's renewable, affordable traditional available water supply.
- Citizens and the private and public sectors must share responsibility for water management and protection, and work together to improve conditions within their local watersheds.
- Jordanians must use and reuse water more effectively, efficiently, and responsibly.

WIT will contribute to several of the National Water Strategy's strategic objectives, including:

13

- Integrated Water Resources Management: increase water productivity, and efficiency in the use and conservation of water resources for optimal social and economic benefits, including improved agricultural practices. (pg. 23)
- Water for Irrigation: increase water productivity, reduce groundwater exploitation as part of a new groundwater policy, and improve efficiency of on-farm irrigation systems in the Jordan Valley. (pg. 43)
- Innovative and Efficient Technologies, Infrastructure and Partnerships: promote community interface and engagement on new and alternative technologies, including renewable energy for water supply and rainwater harvesting. (pg. 51)

WIT will coordinate with and support water conservation efforts of the MWI, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), and the Ministry of Environment (MoENV) to help meet these strategic objectives.

WIT will ensure sector alignment and synergy with other relevant national priorities and development plans, including the Jordan Response Plan (JRP)¹⁴, for which the GOJ has engaged national and international partners to address the Syria crisis. The JRP is a call for collective action to support Syrian refugees and Jordanian people, communities, and institutions. The JRP responds to the effects of the crisis, bridging the divide between the immediate response and the longer-term developmental response.

WIT will support common objectives of the JRP in the water and sanitation sector through interventions to improve access to water in host communities and institutional capacity building/technical capacity development. Secondary contributions to the JRP include the potential to increase income generation and employment for vulnerable Jordanian men and women. WIT interventions in host communities will target both Jordanians and Syrians to benefit from water-saving technologies. This includes the ability to access finance, receive vocational training, and implement water conservation activities and technologies.

6. COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONOR EFFORTS

It is envisioned that WIT will work closely with stakeholder groups, other implementers, and other donors active in the water sector, as well as those engaging with CBOs and working in host communities, through the MWI, MoENV, MOA and the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD). The Applicant will be expected to have a thorough understanding of other donor efforts and stakeholder groups so as to avoid duplication and maximize impact in the water sector.

Two primary stakeholder fora that have brought together farmers, governmental representatives, university researchers, and donor partners to advance issues of agricultural productivity, water management, and marketing in the Jordan Valley (JV) and the Highlands. The Highland Water Forum (HWF), facilitated by Germany's Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is an important forum for WIT to intersect and show USAID's alignment with the HWF agreed-upon plan of work. The Jordan Valley Water Forum (JVWF) is a multi-stakeholder engagement that seeks to resolve critical issues in the water and agribusiness sectors.

7. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

USAID Jordan, through the Water Innovations Technologies (WIT) activity, will conserve water through use of proven techniques and the latest available water-saving technologies to help decrease unsustainable water abstraction from aquifers and to increase water availability in households to promote water security.

¹⁴ <http://www.jrp.org/>

WIT will focus interventions on the most wasteful uses of water in areas where the potential to save water is the greatest. While water initiatives in Jordan have historically focused on water supply, WIT seeks to promote water conservation and behavior change. The activity will promote scale-able, water-saving technologies. At the community level, WIT will combine simple, proven interventions, such as (but not limited to) water harvesting and storage in cisterns to benefit households and institutions. It will help communities address, on a voluntary basis, water conservation techniques; outreach efforts will raise awareness in the community on the importance of water conservation to further promote behavior change and increase the visibility of water conservation technologies to facilitate wider adoption. Community interventions will be focused in northern Jordan, in communities most impacted by immigration, and should seek to include and benefit both Jordanian and Syrian members of refugee host communities. WIT will also support water-saving techniques in the agriculture sector, such as (but not limited to) hydroponic production and drip irrigation in the North and Jordan Valley.

Technologies will be rolled out using demonstrations funded initially by grants, and then scaled up using other financial mechanisms as appropriate.

WIT activities will have potential secondary benefits for participating communities, such as income generation, improved nutrition, and increased employment opportunities. Furthermore, Applicants will seek opportunities to support women-owned businesses and women-led CBOs in planning interventions.

WIT activities will collaborate closely with ongoing and future USAID/Jordan activities related to water conservation and management, as well as JRP objectives to address the impacts of the Syria crisis and resulting influx of refugees into Jordan; WIT activities will also strive to coordinate with USAID/Jordan activities in other sectors, such as economic development, democracy and governance, education, and health where applicable. This includes the USAID/Jordan Economic Development and Energy office (EDE), where several activities¹⁵ are under implementation related to access to finance, energy, and workforce development across the country.

8. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Water-saving technologies are not being utilized on a wide-scale, even though many of the interventions are in demand because they save money for water and electricity, and promote water security for households and communities.

- Water Conservation Technology: Innovative technologies and practices that could drastically reduce water use in the agriculture sector are not being used widely, or optimally, in Jordan. A notable widespread technology for water conservation is drip irrigation, which is presently used across the country; however, management of drip irrigation systems is very poor and there is very slow adoption of pipelines with durable plastics that last up to five years instead of one to two years. Hydroponics (with or without aquaponics), in particular, is a cutting-edge water-saving technology, because it represents a closed recirculating system that uses 75 percent less water than traditional methods in greenhouse production. However specialized equipment and training is needed for successful application.
- Community and Household Level Technology: The demand for water in public or communal facilities has increased with the number of users, specifically the rising number of Syrian refugees in the north. There are several simple, proven water conservation techniques and technologies that would apply to households (e.g., cisterns, greywater reuse) and communities (e.g., pond and spring rehabilitation, cisterns, greywater

¹⁵ Jordan Guaranteed Loan Fund (JGLF); Local Enterprise Support (LENS); Jordan Competitiveness Project (JCP); Energy Sector Capacity Building (ESCB), Workforce Development Project (WfD). If a partnership is created the program will collect indicator data of interest for AORs/CORs in EDE, e.g., number of PV panels purchased with commercial loans to decrease energy costs in pumping water or heating structures.

reuse, high water value vegetable production with hydroponics in greenhouses or nethouses, kitchen gardens); however, many communities and households lack funding and knowledge required for implementation.

Enabling environment and institutional challenges also prevent wider-scale adoption of water-saving technologies.

The existing price of water in Jordan is so low that there are few incentives to drive conservation efforts, encourage the purchase of water-saving technologies, and ultimately reduce water usage for those who have access to water. Compliance and enforcement are policy implementation issues and a management challenge. The GOJ does not provide incentives to introduce science and technology (S&T) innovations to save water or encourage commercial banks to put in place the financial arrangements needed to purchase new innovations. Policy in the water sector is a significant issue associated with water overuse; however, addressing policy directly is outside the scope of WIT. USAID/Jordan supports policy reform in the water sector through the WMI activity.

Although there is a demand for new technologies at the household, community and/or farm (drip irrigation, hydroponics) levels, financing is not available and/or is unaffordable, preventing widespread purchase of the technology. Furthermore, financial institutions have not developed culturally acceptable and affordable forms of products for supporting CBOs, water users' associations (WUAs), or larger farmer organizations. Access to finance should be equitable; however, financial products generally are challenging for women to obtain without the consent of a male relative. Availing communities with revolving loans, commercial loans (where acceptable), and grants to enhance livelihoods and water saving technologies would benefit from WIT. Financing mechanisms may exist; however, the waiting period may be too long.

Lack of supporting institutions is another barrier to adopting water-conservation technologies. Local institutions, especially GOJ institutions, typically are able to fund the salaries of employees, but are limited in their operational budgets and, therefore, have a weakened ability to provide much-needed services and training on water-saving technologies.

In the water sector, there is also a lack of understanding among the public about the serious water shortages facing Jordan. The general public lacks personal responsibility for reducing demand, and low water tariffs have prevented consumers from capitalizing on the opportunities to foster water conservation¹⁶.

Support for training of Jordanians in the agricultural sector is weak, particularly in the new area of hydroponics, where there are no existing course materials to address the current lack of skills. In addition to physical technologies, there are management and behavior best practices that are not rigorously applied. For example, many existing drip irrigation systems in Jordan are not maintained properly. Efficiency gains can be made by fixing leaks, unplugging drippers, and using more durable plastics. Interviews with water users reveal that they are not using these technologies and/or management practices because they need extension and advisory services, which are weak or non-existent in Jordan. Agricultural users require assistance, especially during the start-up period, but they are unsure of where to seek it.

9. OBJECTIVES AND INTENDED RESULTS

Objectives

USAID/Jordan, through WIT, will conserve water over the next five years by utilizing proven, improved, and cutting edge technologies. WIT is results-based and focuses on the sub-intermediate result "Water Conserved". WIT interventions will include and benefit both Jordanian and Syrian members of refugee host communities to the extent possible.

¹⁶ USAID "Public Action for Water, Energy and Environment Project," Final Report (Sept. 1, 2009 – Oct. 15, 2014), Prepared by ECODIT for USAID 2014.

Intended Results

The development hypothesis is that in order for water to be sustainably available, conservation and management of water by Jordan's end users is essential. This approach is aimed at reducing the amount of groundwater, municipal water, and/or potable surface water needed for a given use and/or capturing rainwater to support a household and/or agricultural use. Capturing rainwater is important especially in rural areas, where households use lower than average amounts of water. Captured rainwater will reduce either municipal and/or groundwater usage, or it will at least reduce the need to drill deeper wells to access groundwater. Institutions are needed that can sustainably promote these technologies (and their financing) so they can be disseminated and utilized more widely. WIT will provide access to technologies, demonstrations, and financing using training and advisory services to interested and committed partners. WIT will not seek to increase the area of land devoted to agriculture, as the "National Water Strategy" discourages any additional water being used in the agricultural sector.

USAID/Jordan expects the activity will result in:

- Water conservation, with a focus on conserving groundwater where possible;
- Improved access to finance for technology adoption;
- Local institutions strengthened to support technology adoption;
- Expanded opportunities for women, youth, and Syrians in host communities;
- Increased role of the private sector in both providing technologies and advisory services that promote water conservation technologies and practices, and;
- Behavioral change in the use of water resources by the target audiences reached by the activity.

A portion of the target beneficiary pool (i.e., women, youth, and Syrian refugees in host communities) face specific challenges in accessing these technologies, financing, and advisory services; as such, the WIT will make special accommodations in the activity design to account for these issues, and must show how it will address these challenges in its application.

The three key outcomes deemed necessary to accomplish the goal of conserving water are aligned with IR 3.3 as follows:

Development Objective #3: Quality of Social Services Improved
IR 3.3: Accountable, Sustainable Management of Water and Natural Resources Increased
Sub IR 3.3.2: Water Conserved
Indicators: • Cubic meters of water saved annually from water-saving technologies as a result of USG assistance (disaggregated by intervention (cisterns, hydroponics, etc.) and geography (governorate)). • Number of adoptions of new technologies to save water or increase reuse of water (disaggregated by end user type (household, farmers, other) and geography (governorate))

Outcome 1: Water conserved

1A: By agricultural users

1B: By households and communities

Outcome 2: Improved access to finance for water conservation technology adoption

Outcome 3: Local institutions strengthened to support water conservation

OUTCOME 1: WATER CONSERVED

Illustrative performance indicators:

- Cubic meters (CM) of water saved annually from water-saving technologies as a result of United States Government (USG) assistance [Illustrative target: 13 million CM over 5 years. Applicants are encouraged to propose aggressive yet realistic targets with a clear technical approach, including a calculation of this number. Achieving sustainable results reflected by this indicator is the focal point for the project. A priority will be placed on conserving groundwater, and applicants should propose a specific target for groundwater.]
- Partnerships with private companies formed and actively leverage water saving technologies (e.g., hydroponics, drip irrigation, water harvesting) for agricultural production
- Number of adoptions of new technologies to save water, harvest water, or increase reuse of water
- Number of adoptions of new behavior changes
- Number of farmers and households who receive advisory services on adopting water saving technologies and practices

WIT will promote technology alternatives and management practices that use much less water than the existing practices. Although these types of water conservation practices are needed across Jordan, the focus will be on improving, promoting, and adopting technologies where the impact on conserving water will be the greatest. Prospective applicants are encouraged to propose the best strategy to save water and reduce losses through technologies and management practices for users at all points of use, including water harvesting, improving soil water storage, reusing water, and using the appropriate water quality for the intended purpose. WIT will support a facilitative approach¹⁷ in the development and delivery of advisory services and training to water users to facilitate conservation. As part of this process, the offeror will propose potential partners who provide existing services or have the potential to provide advisory services. The challenge for the offeror will be to propose how to develop or strengthen advisory services, while also seeking short term gains until these services take hold.

WIT is intended to encourage their roll-out across the country by collaborating with the GOJ, other donors, the private sector, and community groups. A particular focus should include partnerships with private companies, including Del Monte, with a core business interest in agricultural production to link producers to markets, including export markets. These partnerships should incentivize the transition to water saving technologies and high-value crops. The challenge for the Applicant will be to fashion a prudent and focused application that chooses wisely from a large suite of possible interventions and approaches. Emphasis will be placed on identifying proven and promising water conserving technologies, reviewing constraints to their wide scale use, and supporting technologies with the greatest potential for impact. These interventions will complement new technologies under development with support from USAID.

Technologies for water resource management should be appropriate to the Jordanian context. Successful interventions will be replicable, scalable, and sustainable, measurably decreasing the allocation of water to agriculture and increasing water availability for communities and households.

¹⁷ A facilitative approach is when market facilitators, such as donors or their implementing partners work to stimulate market actors(both public and private) to evolve in a way that increasingly involves and benefits both the producers and the businesses without becoming a part of the market themselves (i.e. activities that provide services that parallel those provided by private or public sector actors). Market facilitators seek to catalyze ongoing service improvement, while keeping ownership firmly among market actors and avoiding dependency" --
https://www.microlinks.org/sites/microlinks/files/resource/files/Being_Market_Facilitator_Guide.pdf
https://www.microlinks.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/The_Facilitation_Approach_at_USAID_07.28.2015.pdf

The Applicant will use transparent processes and consistent criteria to select beneficiaries, and is encouraged to seek to benefit the community widely. The Applicant, through WIT, will develop creative means to engage both Jordanians and Syrian refugees living in host communities as recipients of water-saving and storing technologies.

The Applicant may be requested to support an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) with a focus on water conservation (e.g., water discharge and reuse best practices in southern California), coordinating with the State Department as advised by USAID.

Applicants should select an optimum combination of interventions in their submission.

1A. Water Conservation Interventions

WIT seeks water-saving technologies with the greatest potential for impact. To promote and share technologies, the Applicant will propose interventions to complement the new and existing technologies supported by USAID described in this Program Description. The water conservation interventions can be focused in governorates that are drawing the most groundwater.

WIT will not hire extension agents to substitute for the lack of extension workers in the country, but will focus on getting existing and new actors to provide training to groups of people already employed and/or working in the agriculture sector that are willing to help themselves and their communities change practices to reduce water usage. It will be important to identify local actors who provide or could provide training and advisory services to train, support, and design incentive schemes for motivated farmers, producers, and employees who agree to utilize new technologies and measure water savings. WIT will work with existing local actors who provide or could training and advisory services to support and train groups, with special focus on women and youth, on the delivery of extension services to promote water conservation in agriculture, which may include ways to help member farmers and producers switch from low water-value to high water-value crops.

WIT does not seek to increase the area of land devoted to agriculture, and therefore agriculture-related interventions will focus on existing agricultural lands and individuals/cooperatives.

The geographic focus should include areas with the greatest potential to save water, with a focus on saving groundwater:

- Irrigated plantations in Northern governorates such as Mafraq and Azraq basins¹⁸ to adopt hydroponic production of high value, water-saving crops.
- The Jordan Valley north of Fifa, where there is already a sizable investment in greenhouses.

Anticipated results:

- Successful combination of proven, replicable, scalable, and sustainable technologies that reduce dependence on fully-irrigated systems and enhance judicious water use in Jordan.
- Over-irrigation reduced as a result of improved practices.
- Efficiency and durability of irrigation systems and management practices optimized.
- Water and energy saved by implementation of improved food and produce production techniques.
- Appropriate water quality used for the end purpose (e.g., potable water not used for irrigation).
- Strengthen and promote the provision of sustainable local advisory services (both private and public) focused on water conservation.

1B. Household and Community Interventions

¹⁸ The Jordanian Department of Statistics (Yearbook, 2013) reported total production as 128,200 tons grown on 62,300 ha. According to NCARE, the irrigated portion in the northeast of Jordan represents 24 percent of the national production which is further divided into 83 percent that is processed for olive oil and 17% for table olives (<http://www.ncare.gov.jo/OliveProgram/index.htm>). Thus, the Activity would attempt to convert olives grown by a relatively small group in two specific basins – Mafraq and Azraq – who are consuming a large portion of the country's groundwater.

WIT will work at the community level to develop household- and institution-level solutions for water harvesting, storage, and reuse to maximize water efficiency in the community (e.g., promoting cisterns, rainwater harvesting, rooftop water tanks, water gauges/notification systems for water tanks, pond and spring rehabilitation, and greywater systems).

Applicants are encouraged to select an optimum suite of interventions and approaches to demonstrate and feasibly scale-out new water-saving technologies that (to date) have little penetration in Jordan, i.e., pairing with technologies, like solar PV panels, to reduce energy use and improve long-term sustainability.

WIT will provide households with water-saving technologies selected by the Applicant through fair and appropriate financing mechanisms. The Applicant may choose to promote packages of technologies for households and other groups, as appropriate: CBOs, Water User Associations (WUAs), schools, etc.

WIT will support training efforts at the household and community level to facilitate adoption of sustainable solutions, including advice and promotion of behavior change on how to decrease household water use.

The geographic focus should be northern host communities most impacted by refugee influx, however other impacted areas maybe proposed that still fit within the geographic scope of the activity. The Applicant will develop a strategy to address water security in vulnerable communities facing increasing water demand. Interventions should anticipate, and be sensitive to, potential conflict within communities.

Anticipated results:

- Water security of beneficiaries improved / immediate water availability improved.
- Demand-driven water solutions devised and implemented.
- Water reuse and use of greywater increased.
- Community capacity (Jordanians and Syrian refugees) to save, harvest, store, and use water efficiently, and/or transform lower quality water into water suitable for domestic and/or agricultural use increased.
- Community-level dialogue and stakeholders' access to water conservation enhanced.

OUTCOME 2: IMPROVED ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR WATER CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION

Illustrative performance indicators:

- Dollars of finance mobilized to support roll out of technologies, disaggregated by sub-groups.

Access to finance is critical to the success of WIT. The Applicant will develop and implement a vision for expanding access to finance in a way that leads to the widespread adoption of water conservation technologies and generates high repayment rates (e.g., greater than 95%). The Applicant will utilize demonstrations and cost-benefit analyses to demonstrate a high probability of successful repayment for loans that provide access to water-saving technologies.

Consideration should be given to CBOs and WUAs for revolving loans. Grant funding already in the community should continue to support revolving loans in CBOs, but it is not necessary to work with all CBOs from former USAID projects. The implementer will recommend whether to extend a similar revolving loan program to support CBOs and WUAs for small-scale water conservation interventions. USAID has turned over long-term monitoring of the revolving loan program to Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) (<https://usaidjordankmportal.com>). For USAID and the Applicants, the revolving loan exit strategy and sustainability plan involves working with MoSD to monitor revolving loans so that they may reliably continue to serve the community.

The introduction of new, targeted finance mechanisms would allow for increased technology utilization at the community level. The Applicant may turn to commercial credit for those willing to take interest-bearing loans. Activities to promote commercial credit will include partnerships with financial institutions to mobilize capital for WIT's objectives, and may utilize Development Credit Authority¹⁹ (DCA) partial loan guarantees. The Applicant may be asked to provide support to implement DCAs, including monitoring and evaluation support to support DCAs, working with the AOR and the USAID/Washington Development Credit Office, technical assistance to ensure utilization of DCAs, and identification of opportunities for USAID to use DCAs. Community grants may also be used to incentivize the program.

Jordanian experience shows that women repay their loans and are good clients for programs focusing on expanding access to finance. The Applicant will also seek to address existing challenges for women run-CBOs and female heads of household in accessing financial assistance and commercial credit during the life of the activity. WIT aspires to facilitate the emergence of highly trained, underemployed women as leaders in their communities.

Anticipated results:

- Grants available to communities in the amount of at least \$2 million.
- Finance mobilized for targeted beneficiaries (e.g., through microfinance institutions or CBOs), with a minimum target of \$5 million. Applicants are encouraged to propose aggressive yet realistic targets with a clear technical approach, including a calculation of the target.
- Scaling and adoption of water-saving technologies supported by revolving loans or other innovative financial products, considering socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries.
- Financial products developed to support water-saving investments.
- Increased number of financial institutions issuing loans for water-saving investments.
- Revolving loan funds established through grants to local organizations or other mechanisms as selected by the Applicant.
- Increased capacity of loan beneficiaries and administrators.
- Sustainability measures developed to cover expenses of local organization for administering their sub-grant amount of the revolving loan fund.
- Revolving loan exit strategy and sustainability plan developed that involves working with the MoSD to monitor the revolving loans.
- Private sector, donor partners, and/or government entities identified and engaged to contribute financing for water conservation – including the promotion of public-private partnerships.
- Number, size, and diversity of loans increased for affordable water-saving technologies.

OUTCOME 3: INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED TO SUPPORT WATER CONSERVATION

Illustrative performance indicators:

- Percent change in usage of targeted water-saving technologies among participating organizations.
- Note: It will be important to track the contributions of this outcome toward cubic meters (CM) of water saved annually from water-saving technologies as a result of United States Government (USG) assistance.
- Number of entities disaggregated by organizations and/or individuals completing their yearly work plans.
- Number of entities disaggregated by organizations and/or individuals achieving at least 80 percent of their yearly work plan targets.

¹⁹ The applicant can propose the use of the Development Credit Authority if it is applicable, but it is not required.

- Number of GOJ water entities, NGOs, community groups, or beneficiaries promoting water conservation with USAID support.
- Number of for-profit private enterprises, producer organizations, water users' associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance (This is a Standard F Indicator (EG 3.2-20))

Institutions are needed that can support water conservation technologies beyond the life of the activity without donor funding, and can help create conditions for technologies to be scaled up for wider use. This outcome will focus primarily on supporting groups and institutions willing to help achieve the results sought under Outcomes 1 and 2. The Applicant will select appropriate institutions, such as Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) and private sector institutions, to promote market-proven technologies and demonstrations that lead to improved public awareness, the roll out of the technologies, and measurable water savings. The Applicant, through WIT, will make an effort to support CBOs, especially women-run CBOs, building on past successes working with CBOs under previous projects. The Applicant will recommend whether to continue to work with the existing CBOs or modify the activity to be more effective under present conditions.

WIT will assist private sector vendors to network with farmers, community groups, and international vendors of cutting edge technologies not yet available in Jordan; help distribute information on use of the technology; as well as develop advisory and other services to be delivered by private sector actors which will facilitate implementation of technologies.

WIT will work with local actors, including the private sector, to provide training to local institutions promoting water-conserving, storing, or reuse technologies, especially those benefitting women and girls. This may include technical assistance to help develop materials for in-service training needed to support the new technologies. Training may also be provided to organizations that will implement social marketing and behavior change programs to foster sustainability of water technology programs after the activity's completion. Women and youth will be trained to deliver extension services. From the start, the activity should focus on how advisory services can be self-sustaining, e.g., embedded fees for products provided by private sector as well as CBO member fees, or by other means.

The Applicant will develop a strategy to promote public awareness on the importance of water conservation to effect behavior change and improve water efficiency. Community outreach strategies will be conveyed in a strategic manner to community members (Jordanian and Syrian where applicable). The strategy will be detailed in a Communication and Outreach Plan developed by the Applicant which describes the approach for behavior change to include efforts to increase public awareness and promote adoption of water conservation technologies.

WIT will establish a technical coordination and advisory group to serve as a discussion platform and resource for water professionals; encourage sharing of practical knowledge; and facilitate technology transfer. The Applicant will propose the structure to bring together water practitioners and policy/decision makers from local government organizations; water utilities that sell recycled water; or any other public sector bodies expressing a written commitment to water conservation, as well as private sector actors who could promote water saving technologies and practices. The group will meet regularly to exchange ideas and receive educational tools and support and will promote water conservation and reuse. The advisory group may also serve in a coordination role to align WIT interventions with other USAID programs that benefit target communities, maximizing results and avoiding duplicity. The group is not to serve as, nor hire, extension agents.

Anticipated Results:

- Knowledge and skills of local organizations in water demand management expanded.
- Local institutions' capacities and opportunities to serve their communities improved, particularly women-run CBOs and girls' schools promoting water conservation technologies.
- Private sector engaged with communities to market products, provide financial services, and/or engage in agribusiness schemes.
- Technical training programs developed to sustain the most popular and best water-conserving technologies as they are ready to roll out, including adaptation of vocational and technical educational materials to Jordan's needs to address lack of skills in new technologies.
- Capacity of TVE institutions to prepare graduates for employment and to conduct research to support water conservation implementation improved.
- Improved public awareness of water conservation issues, practices, and available technical assistance on water conservation methods among children and adults.
- Water conservation activities aligned with existing and future projects that benefit Jordanian and Syrian members of host communities.
- Technical coordination and advisory group established and functioning.
- National campaign focused on behavior change by households and communities towards more efficient water practices and use.
- Partnership with a public or private partner who has achieved successful behavioral change results around reduced and efficient water use.

10. SUMMARY OF WIT OUTCOMES

Table 2: USAID WIT Activity	Illustrative Percent of Activity
<u>Outcome 1</u> : Water conserved	60%
1A. By agriculture users	--
1B. By households and communities	--
<u>Outcome 2</u> : Improved access to finance for water conservation technology adoption	20%
<u>Outcome 3</u> : Local institutions strengthened to support water conservation	20%
WIT Total	100%

11. CROSS CUTTING OBJECTIVES

Illustrative Performance Indicators:

- Number of women and girls benefitting from new or improved USG-supported social services targeted at women and girls
- Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (GNDR-2)
- Number of women, youth, Syrians, and Jordanians in training events (or disaggregate all relevant indicators) sponsored by WIT
- Number of women-run CBOs engaged in water conservation/value activities promoted by WIT
- Percent of women in revolving loan management committees
- Number of women, and youth, Syrians, and Jordanians employed in water conservation/value chain activities initiated by WIT
- Income generated from water conservation and/or agriculture activities (survey, average income per beneficiary per/post intervention)

- Bidders are encouraged to propose alternative indicators and/or methods of obtaining income information. If existing sources are not available, a baseline and subsequent data collection will need to be conducted.
- Number of CBOs/WUAs taking action to mitigate conflict (including the conservation of water)
- Number of USG-assisted organizations and/or service delivery systems strengthened who serve vulnerable populations

Activity indicators will be disaggregated by sex and nationality of beneficiaries, as appropriate. The goal will be to increase the percentage of women beneficiaries over time.

Gender

USAID/Jordan requires that gender considerations are incorporated into all aspects of its planned programs. USAID's commitment to advance gender equality should be fully reflected in this activity.

Interventions with farmer organizations and CBOs will include women and also target women's increased participation to increase their ability to contribute to civic life in rural Jordan. In the course of developing value chain markets for new water-saving commodities, it is expected that women-led groups, women farmers, and women participants in farmer groups will play lead roles in these activities that not only save water, but also increase their potential income. It is also anticipated that women will be the beneficiaries of training interventions aimed at promoting and rolling out new technologies; therefore, linking the activity to:

- *DO#4, 'Gender equality and female empowerment enhanced,' through:*
 - *IR#3 "Improved girl- and women-centered services."*

Applicants should demonstrate their understanding of the different roles that men and women play in their respective areas of intervention, and the impact that societal challenges have on each gender. They will also be required to describe what actions they will take to help men and women play their roles and surmount gender challenges, including: defining the activity-relevant gender challenges and opportunities, describing their approach for addressing gender issues, and providing relevant performance indicators to measure their achievements. Appropriate gender indicators will be tracked throughout the life of the activity, and progress will be measured by the implementing partner, with support from the USAID monitoring and evaluation (M&E) support program. Applicants should propose long-term personnel with expertise in gender programming. Gender principles must be adhered to within their own operating environment as well as in fielding additional short-term consultants. During activity implementation, the Applicant should ensure robust participation of women as agricultural and community development professionals.

During implementation, a baseline gender analysis will provide in-depth knowledge of gender-related issues within the sector, as well as provide practical recommendations to surmount gender challenges, including defining the project-relevant gender challenges and opportunities; describing the best approaches for addressing gender issues, such as targeted access to finance; and providing relevant performance indicators to measure their achievements.

Gender disaggregated indicators will be collected and reported accordingly, including an indicator that tracks changes in income levels for women. Research and demonstration activities will be designed with gender roles in mind to ensure the inclusion of income-generating activities appropriate for women. Capacity building efforts will include targets for women's participation.

Youth

Interventions to promote new technologies, especially with the private sector, will seek to include youth in training and job creation opportunities. Doing so will not only build proficiency in new technologies, but will also help create a new cadre of young people that are equipped with complex technical skills.

Stability and Conflict Prevention

Access to a decreasing supply and/or not enough water creates dissatisfaction with government services. Creating new opportunities for work in activities related to the project will reduce the possibility of unrest and protests. Strengthening the capacity of CBOs and WUAs to promote the conservation of water helps to mitigate insufficient access to water as a local-level driver of conflict. Activities will help households and other end users obtain more water from alternative sources, like rainwater and water reuse. This builds resilience and will help communities address water shortages.

The Applicant will explore how refugees can benefit from assistance and training, and will develop interventions that bring together different segments of the local population where feasible, and will seek to incorporate activities that can be implemented jointly by Jordanians and Syrians, in support of the project goals of conserving water.

12. ACTIVITY MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN AND LEARNING APPROACHES

Activity Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Plan

Achieving results is a continuous process that requires a systematic, intentional and resourced approach to performance monitoring, strategic collaboration, continuous learning and adaptive management. This entails a rigorous monitoring, evaluation and learning approach and tools that emphasize the systematic process of collecting and analyzing performance information to track progress toward planned results and influence decision-making, resource allocation, and adaptive management. It involves the proactive and purposeful use of implementation for learning while managing programmatic opportunities and threats to achieve results.

The Recipient must develop a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan that embodies these approaches and principles for continuous learning and adaptation. The plan must include a description of the activity and its contribution to USAID/Jordan's Development Objective Results Framework, the activity's approach to monitoring and learning, and any planned activity evaluations (including internal evaluations, if planned).

An illustrative M&E Plan is to be included in the technical application with the final version submitted to the Agreement Officer Representative (AOR) within 90 days of the Award. USAID expects the illustrative M&E Plan to be populated with as many figures as possible.

Monitoring and evaluation should be used to monitor performance as well as operational context for the activity. The gained knowledge, coupled with continuous learning and strategic collaboration with key stakeholders, should be used to influence decision-making and resource allocation, and to make changes as needed to remain relevant and effective throughout implementation. The purpose of M&E practices is

to apply knowledge gained from evidence and analysis to improve development outcomes and ensure accountability for the resources used to achieve them.

The Recipient will propose a monitoring approach, including performance and context indicators and other learning opportunities, that will measure progress towards the activity's objective and ultimately the relevant DO and IRs. Illustrative indicators and targets are included within the relevant program description sections above. The Recipient may also provide suggested new custom indicators for WIT to track results. They will develop approaches to measure water conservation and savings and will include the results in the reports. Baselines for all indicators will be developed at the beginning of the activity, including a baseline for Syrian refugees that include income data. USAID/Jordan may require the Recipient to track and report on additional performance indicators subject to changing of Agency guidance and/or the requirements of specific funding sources and the Mission's own PMP.

An internal mid-term project evaluation will be conducted late in Year 2 to validate the key assumptions in the log frame and to inform implementation over the remaining three years of the program. A final external performance evaluation will be conducted in Year 5. The mid-term may include the following questions:

- How many cubic meters of water were saved and how many new technologies were adopted?
- Are the interventions distributed in a manner to maximize water saving?
- Are the interventions benefitting both Jordanians and Syrians while mitigating potential conflict?
- Is household/community water security improved?
- Are the demonstrations generating enthusiasm and are agribusinesses willing to take on commercial loans?
- Are the financial mechanisms appropriate, innovative, and functional for the intended recipient?
Is loan repayment timely?
- Are agribusinesses sourcing vegetables from CBO/WUA members?
- Have any Highland farmers abandoned water intensive crops and switched to other crops or production techniques? If so, what kind?
- Is the Technical Coordination and Advisory Group established and approaching sustainability?
To what extent do members/participants find the group valuable?
- To what extent are beneficiaries/counterparts satisfied with technical assistance provided by WIT?
- Are cross-cutting issues and results being adequately considered and impacted?
- Has this USAID activity had an impact on water conservation?

Key findings from the mid-term evaluation will be shared widely to encourage mutual learning and transparency across project participants.

Regular meetings with implementing partners, CBOs/WUAs, government partners, donors, and other key stakeholders will be held to discuss the progress of individual interventions and activity outcomes to facilitate learning and identify ways to implement necessary implementation adjustments. Notwithstanding the need for semi-annual and annual reporting, the Recipient must immediately notify USAID/Jordan of any developments that have a significant impact on award-supported activities.

Further, notification must be given in the case of problems, delays, or adverse conditions, which materially impair the ability to meet the objectives of the award.

Through the evaluations and indicators, it should be possible at Year Five to determine whether the assumptions made at the beginning of the project are valid, i.e. (1) interventions have been progressively scaled up, sending a clear message to the public on the benefits of water conservation technologies to manage water scarcity in Jordan; (2) application of water conservation technologies and management practices by end users has resulted in significant water savings (measured in MCM); (3) Jordanians and refugees in host communities are benefiting from water conservation technologies and improved water security; (4) access to credit is now assured; and (5) strong institutions and public awareness have promoted water savings and information.

13. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Analysis Overview

The primary objective of WIT is to improve the sustainability of the water sector; specifically, the availability of water in Jordan. Therefore, the three outcomes of the program focus on the critical and urgent result of conserving water, namely, (1) water conserving technologies adopted; (2) improved access to finance enables technology adoption; (3) capacity in all types of institutions, organizations and the private sector strengthened based on their willingness to promote water saving technologies.

Conservation of water needs to occur among groups that use the most water and/or on a scale that will be meaningful. For the purposes of integrating sustainability into USAID's project design process, sustainability is achieved when host country partners and beneficiaries are empowered to take ownership of development processes, including financing, and maintain project results and impacts beyond the life of the USAID project.

WIT tackles household water demand management and agricultural water use. An activity is considered successful when the intervention is replicable, scalable, and sustainable, measurably decreasing the allocation of water to agriculture. Our sustainability analyses have determined that there are many technologies that have already been proven in Jordan and other countries to save water, and these technologies will be promoted in the program. However, the analyses also reveal that there are: (1) enabling environment, and (2) institutional issues that are bottlenecks to widespread use of the water-saving technologies.

Promoting a technology alone will not resolve the sustainability issues. This is why the WIT approach seeks ways to resolve enabling environment issues, like the low cost of water through collaboration (with parallel programs in the USAID/Jordan Office of Water Resources and the Environment) and the lack of finance through loan guarantees. The sustainability analyses also revealed that institutions are needed that can support the process in the long term without donor funding. Consequently, WIT will seek to support and partner with the private sector, which can sell the needed technologies and/or advance financing to those who receive services. The private sector has an interest in engaging with the communities, marketing their products and/or engaging with agribusinesses.

At the government level, analyses show that the sustainability of improving water conservation technologies is affected by a shortage of personnel and insufficient incentives for employees. Training systems, especially in the agriculture sector, as per the agriculture workforce assessment, are not robust.

WIT will seek to support improved credit because financing is a bottleneck to the sustainability of promoting new technologies. Sustainability was achieved in a previous USAID activity that built the capacity of 177 local CBOs. The activity proved the effectiveness and demand for various water-saving technologies and the willingness of households to repay revolving loans: 5,000 cisterns were constructed and revolving loan funds increased from about \$4.5 million to almost \$9 million (owing to the revolving nature of the loans) with a 94 percent overall repayment²⁰.

To promote sustainability, WIT should explore how to develop new financial methods that can provide reasonable terms to those who want to access the technologies and build on demonstrations that show that loans can be paid back during a reasonable period of time. WIT will focus on the technologies for saving water that have proven to be commercially viable in other countries – like hydroponics. WIT will establish the payback periods for various technologies and use data to support the development of new commercial financing approaches. After economic viability of technologies is demonstrated the commercial banking sector will become comfortable with the new technology, especially in hydroponics, used for high value crops that will also save water. WIT will also explore the use of finance through private sector technology providers who could potentially roll it into the cost of the technology and advisory services being provided.

It is important for the Applicant(s) to review the experience of the Community Based Initiatives for Water Demand Management (CBIWDM) to evaluate the revolving loan model used with CBOs under the CBIWDM (<https://usaidjordanportal.com>). The activity was designed with a central focus on sustainability of investments in recipient CBOs and their ability to successfully and efficiently manage their revolving funds. The activity is handing over the responsibilities of loans oversight to the MoSD. This measure is to ensure the sustainability and the continuity of the revolving loans program beyond USAID funding.

CBIWDM offers revolving loans to purchase household level energy and/or water technologies (solar panels and cisterns). However, the loan repayment period is long, which has necessitated creation of a waiting list for about 1,300 CBO members who want loans (an estimated 20 percent of whom are women). The introduction of new finance mechanisms targeted at activities managed by male or female audiences would allow for increased technology utilization at the community level.

14. AUTHORITY

The authority is found in the Foreign Affairs Act and the applicable sections of 2 CFR 700 and 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. While 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 700 do not directly apply to foreign organizations (non U.S. non-governmental organizations), however, USAID applies some of these regulations to non-U.S. non-governmental organizations through ADS Chapter 303 and the Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Organizations.

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For the CBIWDM, seminal documents can be located on the USAID/Jordan portal (<https://usaidjordanportal.com>).

SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. ESTIMATE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE & NUMBER OF AWARDS CONTEMPLATED

Subject to funding availability, USAID intends to provide US\$35 million, in total USAID funding over a five (5) year period. The ceiling for this Water Innovations Technologies Activity is US\$35 million. Actual funding amounts are subject to availability of funds.

USAID intends to award a Cooperative Agreement pursuant to this NOFO. USAID reserves the right to fund any one or none of the applications submitted. The U.S. Government may make award on the basis of initial applications received, without discussions or negotiations. Therefore each application must contain the applicant's best terms from the technical and cost standpoint. The U.S. Government reserves the right (but is not under obligation to do so), however, to request one or more applicants for clarifications, additional detail or suggested refinements in the program description, budget, or other aspects of an application.

Furthermore, USAID/Jordan reserves the right (but is not under obligation to do so), to conduct oral presentation with apparent successful applicant(s), at the discretion of the Agreement Officer. As determined necessary, the apparent successful Applicant(s), will be notified accordingly and invited to present in person at USAID/Jordan.

2. START DATE AND PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

The period of performance anticipated herein is the date of Agreement Officer's signature of the award. The entire period of performance is anticipated to be five (5) years from the effective date of the award.

3. TYPE OF AWARD

USAID plans to negotiate and award an assistance instrument known as a Cooperative Agreement with the successful Applicant for implementation of WIT. A Cooperative Agreement implies a level of "substantial involvement" by USAID. This substantial involvement will be through the Agreement Officer, except to the extent that the Agreement Officer (AO) delegates authority to the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) in writing. The intended purpose of the substantial involvement during the award is to assist the recipient in achieving the supported objectives of the agreement. The substantial involvement elements for this award are listed below (this list does not include approvals required by Standard Mandatory Provisions for Non-US NGOs or other applicable law, regulation or provision).

4. SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

Consistent with ADS 303.3.11, USAID/Jordan will be substantially involved in the implementation of the WIT Activities. The intended purpose of the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) involvement during the implementation of the program is to assist the recipient in achieving the supported objectives. It is expected that the Agreement Officer will delegate the following approvals to the AOR, except for changes to the Program Description or the approved budget, which may only be approved by the Agreement Officer. Substantial involvement may be inclusive of:

(1) Approval of the Recipient's Implementation Plans.

USAID will approve the Annual Budget, Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plans, Annual Work Plans, sustainability plans and Branding Plan and Marking Plan.

(2) Approval of Specified Key Personnel.

USAID will designate as key personnel those positions that are essential to the successful implementation of the recipient's program.

(3) Agency and Recipient Collaboration or Joint Participation

The following collaboration or joint participation of USAID and the recipient on the WIT are authorized:

- Collaborative involvement in selection of advisory committee members: USAID will be involved in the selection of advisory committee members if the program will establish an advisory committee that provides advice to the recipient. USAID may participate as a member of this committee.
- USAID will approve sub-awards, transfer, or contracting out of any work under an award.
- USAID will approve the Recipient's Monitoring and Evaluation Plans.
- USAID will monitor to authorize specified kinds of direction or redirection because of interrelationships with other projects.
- USAID will advise the Recipient on the identification, use, and monitoring and evaluation of Development Credit Authority agreements.

5. TITLE TO PROPERTY

Property title under the resultant agreement shall vest with the recipient in accordance with the Requirements of 2 CFR 200.310 through CRF 200.316 regarding use, accountability and, disposition of such property.

6. AUTHORIZED GEOGRAPHIC CODE

The authorized geographic code for procurement of goods and services under this WIT award is 937 (<http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1876/310.pdf>). Code 937 is defined as the United States, the cooperating/recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries, and excluding prohibited source. Procurement of agricultural commodities and related products, motor vehicles and pharmaceuticals is subject to the limitations in 22 CFR 228.19 and may require a waiver.

7. PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient under the subject activity is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation of the Water Innovations Technologies 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, activity objectives, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. The Recipient using its own unique combination of staff, facilities, and experience, has the primary responsibility for employing whatever form of sound organization and management techniques may be necessary in order to assure proper and efficient administration of the resulting award.

8. SUB-AWARDS AND GRANTS MANUAL

Applicants shall propose how they employ sub-grants and programmatic contracts to best meet the Project's objectives and expected results; and propose draft eligibility and selection criteria. Within 90 days of award, the successful applicant shall finalize the details of its sub-awards, in conjunction with the AOR, in the form of a Grants Manual. While developing the manual, the applicant should reference ADS Chapter 303 Section 303.3.21(b) and other sections referenced therein.

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SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All qualified U.S. and non-U.S. organizations (other than those from foreign policy restricted countries) are eligible to apply. Pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200.400(g), it is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments such as cooperative agreements, and as such, for-profit organizations must waive profits and/or fees to be eligible to submit an application. Forgone profit does not qualify as cost-share or leverage.

Application and submission requirements specified in Section D also determine the eligibility of applicants. USAID welcomes applications from organizations which have not previously received financial assistance from USAID.

Applicants must have established financial management, monitoring and evaluation processes, internal control systems, and policies and procedures that comply with established U.S. Government standards, laws, and regulations. The successful applicant(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination assessment (Pre-award Survey) by the Agreement Officer (AO).

The Recipient must be a responsible entity. The AO may determine a pre-award survey is required to conduct an examination that will determine whether the prospective recipient has the necessary organization, experience, accounting and operational controls, and technical skills – or ability to obtain them – in order to achieve the objectives of the program and comply with the terms and conditions of the award.

The applicant is reminded that U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibits transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. It is the legal responsibility of the Recipient to ensure compliance with these Executive Orders and laws. This provision must be included in all sub-awards issued under this Cooperative Agreement.

Applications will not be accepted from individuals.

2. COST SHARING OR MATCHING

USAID has determined that cost sharing is not required however, it is encouraged (that is, voluntary). If a cost share is proposed, it must meet the standards set in 2 CFR 200.306 for U.S. organizations or the Standard Provision “Cost Share” for non-U.S. organizations.

Cost Share refers to the resources a recipient contributes to the total cost of an agreement, the portion of project or program costs not borne by the U.S. Government. Cost Share becomes a condition of an award when it is part of the approved award budget.

Cost-sharing includes cash and in-kind contributions. Such contributions 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 implementation of activities at the country level, and is subject to 2 CFR 200.306

(http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl) and the USAID standard provision for U.S. NGOs entitled “Cost-Sharing (Matching)” which, inter alia, requires that cost-sharing be verifiable from the Recipient’s records. The cost share can be audited.

[END OF SECTION C]

SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. AGENCY POINT OF CONTACT

Beatrice Diah
Senior Acquisition & Assistance Specialist
USAID/Amman
Amman, Jordan
E-mail: bdiah@usaid.gov

2. SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION:

All questions and requests for clarification regarding this NOFO should be submitted in writing to the email provided below no later than the date and time provided on the cover letter to provide sufficient time to address the questions and incorporate the questions and answers as an amendment to this solicitation. Any information given to a prospective Applicant concerning this NOFO will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Applicants as an amendment to this NOFO, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

E-mail address: bdiah@usaid.gov with a copy to Wdaas@usaid.gov.

The e-mail transmitting the questions and requests for clarification must reference the solicitation number and title on the subject line of the e-mail as follows:

- Subject of the email: [Name of the Organization] USAID/Jordan WIT NOFO No. 278-16-000013 - Questions

Also provide the following information in the email:

- Name of your organization
- Address
- Name and position of the contact person on behalf of organization
- Email and telephone

Questions will not be received after the due date reflected on the top of the cover letter for this NOFO and questions sent to any other e-mail address will not be responded to.

3. CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION

(1) Applicants are expected to review, understand, and comply with all aspects of the NOFO.

(2) Preparation of Applications:

Each Applicant shall furnish the information required by this NOFO. Applications shall be submitted in two separate parts: (a) Technical Application, and (b) Cost/Business Application.

Any erasures or other changes to the application must be initialed by the person signing the application. Applications signed by an agent on behalf of the Applicant shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

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 title page with the following legend:

"This application includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the U.S. Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, a grant is awarded to this Applicant as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting grant. 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} and, mark each sheet of data it wished to restrict with the following legend:

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

Applicants should retain for their records one (1) copy of the application and all enclosures which accompany it.

(3) Application Submission Procedures

All applications must be submitted electronically. It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that all necessary documentation is complete and received on time. The Cost/Business Application must be submitted separately from the Technical Application.

Applications must be submitted to the following address: bdiah@usaid.gov with a copy to Wdaas@usaid.gov. If you experience any difficulties with submission, please email bdiah@usaid.gov.

For an application sent by multiple emails, please indicate in the subject line of the email whether the email relates to the technical or cost application, and the desired sequence of multiple emails and of attachments (e.g. "No. 1 of 4", etc.). For example, if your cost application is being sent in two emails, the first email should have a subject line which says: [Name of the Organization] USAID/Jordan WIT NOFO No. 278-16-000013 Cost Application, Part 1 of 2".

Each email should not exceed 20 MB. Electronic applications should be submitted in 'pdf' format. The Applicants are required to send their budgets in Microsoft Excel format as further discussed below under cost submission. All applications received by the submission deadline will be reviewed for responsiveness to the NOFO and the application format. No addition or modifications will be accepted after the submission date.

(4) Technical Application Format

The technical application will be the most important factor for consideration in selection for award of the proposed Cooperative Agreement. The technical application should be specific, complete and presented concisely. The application should demonstrate the Applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. The application should take into account the requirements of the program and evaluation criteria found in this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO).

The application must be written in English and typed on standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper, single spaced, 12 characters per inch with each page numbered consecutively and with one-inch margins both right and left. The technical application must not exceed 30 pages, excluding table of contents and annexes shown below. An application that exceeds this page limit will only be evaluated through page 30.

The following list shows sections of the application, the format and whether or not they are included as part of the page limitation:

- Cover Page (not included in the page limit)
- Acronyms (not included in the page limit)
- Table of Contents (not included in the page limit)
- Executive Summary
- Program Description
 - Key Personnel
 - Technical Approach
 - Management Plan and Past Experience Implementing Projects in the Middle East Region:
Past experience
- Any tables, graphs, photos, etc.

Annexes: The following items are not subject to the page limitation:

- Resumes/Curriculum Vitae for Key Personnel only
- Proposed position descriptions and signed letters of commitment from Key Personnel as well as letters of commitment from Partners also don't count in the page limitation. **Please note:** USAID doesn't require or desire exclusivity.
- Branding Strategy and Marking Plan (a two page summary only)
- Charts providing information on management structure, matrixes demonstrating staff skills, and organizational chart(s)
- Past Performance Short Forms
- Draft Activity Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Plan

DO NOT SUBMIT: Promotional literature and materials regarding the Applicant as part of the annexes. Do not submit unsolicited material.

Use small Roman numerals for Cover Page, Acronyms and Table of Contents, for example, i, ii, iii, iv. Please number pages as, for example, "Page 1 of 30."

Annexes should be numbered separately, formatted as, for example, "Annex 1: Page 1 of 10; Annex 2: Page 1 of 5", etc. Page number location should be at the bottom right.

Interested Applicants must provide a detailed technical application and demonstrate how it will achieve the overall goal, program objectives and intended results. It should choose and elaborate on selected interventions to accomplish the desired results for WIT. Applicants must demonstrate their understanding of the different roles that men and women play in their respective areas of intervention and the impact that the project and selected interventions will have on each gender. Applicants must also demonstrate how coordination with other USG and development partners will be ensured and considered throughout the life of the program.

The executive summary include top-level quantitative targeted results (e.g., three to five indicators), broken down by year and a one or two paragraph summary of the project's "Theory of Change" for how it will achieve these results.

Please note the following:

- (1) This is not an agriculture program, it is water conservation program with a significant focus on the agriculture sector which is the highest consumer of water in Jordan.
- (2) Pay particular attention to and consider the suggested percentage of efforts for activities provided in Table 2, summarized as follows:
 - Outcome 1: Water conserved (60%)
 - Outcome 2: Improved access to finance for technology adoption (20%)
 - Outcome 3: Local institutions strengthened (20%).

- (3) Each Applicant should include in their application a draft MEL Plan, which summarizes the Applicant's proposed M&E systems, including how their activity-level results contribute to the Mission's Performance Management Plan (PMP). The draft MEL Plan will offer creative approaches to measuring outputs and outcomes and reporting efficiently on the required indicators. It will also briefly describe how data will be collected, analyzed and used to assess progress and guide decision making as well as verify and substantiate data gathered. The draft MEL Plan should include the following:
- (4) An appropriate set of indicators and/or benchmarks that will allow USAID and the Applicant to measure progress toward achieving activity results.
 - a. Applicants should pick the best match of illustrative indicators in the Position Description. Applicants are encouraged to propose additional indicators whose tracking will contribute to measuring the performance and the Recipient's success in implementing the program. Final indicators that may be included in the Agreement will be finalized with the AOR following the award.
 - b. Where not provided and to the extent possible, the Applicants should establish baselines and quarterly/annual targets for each indicator. Percent targets can be used when baselines are not known that can be adjusted later when the baselines are known. In setting targets, the Applicants should consider the following: a) prospects for producing measurable results with clear relationships with the program's overall objectives; b) consistency with USG and/or national government policies and priorities; and c) if applicable to the approach, prospects for leveraging funds from regional and/or national governments, commercial banks, other donors, and the private sector.
- (5) Describe the process that Applicants will follow in coordination with USAID during the first four months of the award to develop and finalize the MEL Plan.

The Technical Application must be arranged in the order of the Merit Review criteria found in Section E for ease of reviewing by the Selection Committee (SC):

- (a) Cover Page: The Applicant must include the following basic information: name of organization(s) submitting the application; address of organization(s) submitting the application; point of contact (POC) at the organization; and POC's title, telephone number and e-mail address; proposed project title; notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) number; the names of other the organizations and institutions involved, as in the case of a partnership, please clearly indicate the lead or Prime Applicant; followed by any proposed sub-awardees (hereafter referred to as "subs"). The Cover Page must be signed by an official from the Prime Applicant's organization who has the authority to negotiate the application that is submitted to USAID.
- (b) Acronyms: List all acronyms in the application. Spell out all acronyms in the first instance.
- (c) Table of Contents: The Table of Contents should list all sections of the technical application, including annexes, and provide the page number for each section.

Executive Summary: The Executive Summary shall summarize the key elements of the Applicant's technical application. A two-page, brief description of the program, including the anticipated results (both quantitative and qualitative), the development hypothesis and theory of change. Briefly describe the technical and managerial resources of your organization. Describe how the overall program will be managed. State the funding request from USAID and the funding secured from other sources (state sources and amounts) for this proposed Activity.

- (d) **Program Description:** The Technical Application narrative, as revised after negotiations, will become the Program Description of the resulting Cooperative Agreement. It must include a clear description of the conceptual approach and the general strategy being proposed (i.e., methodology and techniques). It must outline specific, focused activities; identify how and where those activities will be implemented (e.g., geographic locations and/or at local, regional, or national levels, etc.). It must explain how the approach is expected to achieve the proposed objectives and describe a plan that will enable the effort to continue after the Activity has been completed. It must include a log frame with targets for key indicators.

Note: It is critical that Applicants ensure that they select an optimum combination of interventions in preparing their application package.

(1). Key Personnel: Applicants must propose an appropriate mix of five key personnel, including a Chief of Party. The Chief of Party must be an employee of the Applicant and not a sub-awardee and must have ample prior experience managing projects of a similar scale and nature. At least one of the key personnel must have demonstrated excellence in operations and administration for projects of a similar scale and nature. The Applicant must include one native English speaker who will lead reporting and outreach activities; this function may be included in any key personnel proposed by the offeror. Minimum qualifications must be provided for all key personnel positions. Careful consideration should be given to the Cooperative Agreement requirements, results to be achieved, skill mix and unique aspects working with GOJ institutions. Each position will be a full-time equivalent. Resumes, not to exceed two double-sided or four single-sided pages, for each of the key personnel must be included in the Annex. Qualifications, experience, and skills will be listed in reverse chronological order starting with the most recent information. Each resume must be accompanied by a signed letter of commitment from each candidate indicating his/her: (a) availability to serve in the stated position, (b) intention to serve for a stated term, (c) agreement to the compensation level which corresponds to the levels set forth in the cost proposal, and (d) prior work experience with the Applicant, if applicable. Letters must be included as an annex to the technical application and will not exceed one (1) page in length each. For the key personnel, three (3) references with valid telephone and email contact information must also be included in the appendices. Also in the appendices, include for each key personnel position, provide responsibility, minimum qualifications, experience, and skills.

(2). Technical Approach: The technical approach and Activity Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Plan should demonstrate a clear understanding of the objectives of the program and a convincing approach to achieve the results proposed by the applicant.

(3). Management Plan and Past Experience Implementing Projects in the Middle East Region: Jordan has fragile ecosystems, scarce natural resources and a difficult political environment. USAID/Jordan has an interest in applications responding to this NOFO for Water Innovations Technologies. Due to the focus on water conservation in Jordan and the unique social circumstances, Applicants with experience in Middle East countries, having ecosystems similar to Jordan's, will be favorably considered.

Applicants must demonstrate experience working in the area of water conservation. Applicants should discuss the extent to which, and types of technologies and outreach with which they have experience as it relates to water conservation at the farm and/or community levels. Local organizations and institutions are central to community-based water conservation efforts, including expanding access to finance and working in host communities including vulnerable population, including refugees. The Applicant should have experience working with local organizations and institutions, and designing and/or administering financing mechanisms. The Applicant, either as an organization or through suggested key personnel, should have experience working with vulnerable populations. Applicant must include a clear organogram.

4. COST APPLICATION FORMAT

The Cost or Business application is to be submitted under a separate cover from the technical application. The Cost/Business application is also to be submitted electronically in an *unprotected* Microsoft Excel 2000 or Excel 2003. The Applicant is requested to submit a budget broken down by program years with an accompanying detailed budget narrative (in Word 2000 or Word 2003 text accessible) which provides in detail the total costs for implementation of the program as further detailed below.

Certain documents are required to be submitted by an Applicant in order for the Agreement Officer to make a determination of responsibility. However, it is USAID policy not to burden Applicants with undue reporting requirements if that information is readily available through other sources. There is no page limit on the Cost Application. However, unnecessarily elaborate brochures or other presentations beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective application in response to this NOFO is not desired. Elaborate art work, expensive paper and bindings, and expensive visual and other presentation aids are neither necessary nor wanted.

If the Applicant has established a consortium or another legal relationship among its partners, the Cost/Business application must include a copy of the legal relationship between the parties. The agreement should include a full discussion of the relationship between the Applicant and Sub-Applicant(s) including identification of the Applicant with whom USAID will work with for purposes of Agreement administration, identity of the Applicant which will have accounting responsibility, how Agreement effort will be allocated and the express agreement of the principals thereto to be held jointly and severally liable for the acts or omissions of the other.

(1) The budget must have an accompanying detailed budget narrative and justification that provides in detail the total program amount for implementation of the program your organization is proposing. The budget narrative should provide information regarding the basis of estimate for each line item, including reference to sources used to substantiate the cost estimate (e.g. organization's policy, payroll document, and vendor

quotes, etc.).

(2) A budget for each program year with an accompanying detailed budget narrative which provides in detail the total costs for implementation of the program. The budget must be submitted using Standard Form 424 which can be downloaded from the following web site at: <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>

(3) A breakdown of all costs associated with the program according to the costs of, if applicable, headquarters, regional and/or country offices.

(4) Applicants who intend to utilize contractors or sub-awardees should indicate the extent intended and a complete cost breakdown. Extensive contracts/agreement financial plans should follow the same cost format as submitted by the primary Applicant. A breakdown of all costs according to each partner organization, contract or sub-awardee involved in the program should be provided.

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200 Contract means a legal instrument by which the Applicant purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a resulting award. The term does not include a legal instrument when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a Federal award or sub-award (see § 200.92 Sub-award), even if the Applicant considers it a contract. The Applicant must describe the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting proposed by the contractor, and the quality of its record of past performance for similar work. For-profit contract organizations that work under the award and do not meet the above definition of a sub-awardee are eligible for profit/fee.

The cost/business application should contain the budget categories consistent with SF-424A in the following format:

- Cover Page
- Standard Forms (SF 424 Forms)
- Budget and Budget Narrative
- DUNS and System for Award Management (SAM)
- Certification, Assurances, Statements and Other Required Forms
- Funding Restrictions

a. Cover Page

The Cost Application Cover Page must contain the same information as the Technical Application Cover Page.

b. Standard Forms (SF424 Forms)

The Applicant must sign and submit the Cost Application using the SF-424 series. Standard Forms can be accessed electronically at www.grants.gov and can be downloaded from USAID's web site:

Instructions for SF-424	http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424-instructions.html
SF424	http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424_2_1-V2.1.pdf
Instructions for SF-424A	http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424a-instructions.html
SF 424A	http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424A-V1.0.pdf
Instructions for SF-424B	http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424b-instructions.html

SF 424B	http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424B-V1.1.pdf
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- c. **The Budget:** Applicants must submit a summary budget and a detailed budget in the following format:

Summary Budget						
Cost Elements	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
1. Salaries and Wages						
2. Fringe Benefits						
3. Travel, Transportation,						
4. Equipment						
5. Supplies						
6. Contractual						
7. Other Direct Costs						
8. Total Direct Costs (sum line 1 to Line 7)						
9. Indirect Costs						
10. Estimated Award Amount (sum line 1 to line						
11. Cost Share						
TOTAL ACTIVITY BUDGET						

i. Personnel

Direct salaries and wages should be proposed in accordance with the Applicant's personnel policies. Identify each personnel by title and name and specify each position to be supported under the proposed award. For home office support staff, identify who shall be compensated by USAID, the percentage of time and briefly specify related duties.

State the amounts of time, such as months and percent of time that shall be expended by each position, their base pay rate and total direct compensation under this program, (e.g., Position/Person Time XX Rate = \$XXXX.) and provide rate verification documentation.

ii. Fringe Benefits

If the Applicant has a fringe benefit rate that has been approved by an agency of the U.S. Government, such rate should be used and evidence of its approval should be provided. If a fringe benefit rate has not been so approved, the Application should propose a rate and explain how the rate was determined. If the latter is used, the narrative should include a detailed breakdown comprised of all items of fringe benefits (e.g. unemployment insurance, workers compensation, health and life insurance, retirement, Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax (FICA), etc.) and the costs of each, expressed in dollars and as a percentage of salaries.

iii. Travel and Per Diem

The Application should indicate the number of trips, domestic and international, the number of days per trip, and the estimated costs. Specify the purpose of travel, the origin and destination for each proposed trip, duration of travel, and number of individuals traveling and the position held by the travelers. Estimated travel and transportation costs, including airfare and per diem.

Estimated lodging and subsistence costs must be in accordance with the Applicant's established policies and practices which are consistently applied (the USG's per diem rates shall be available on the internet at http://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp (however, the USG's per diem rates shall be used as the test of reasonableness and, if the Applicant does not have established policies and practices, the USG per diem rates shall be used), and should specify, for each traveler and for each trip, the location(s) (departure point and destination), the number of days in each location, the daily rate for each location, and the total lodging and subsistence costs. The lodging and subsistence costs must be consistent with the travel itinerary and the level of effort.

iv. Equipment

The Applicant must itemize the equipment i.e. vehicle, capital equipment and briefly justify the need for the items to be purchased as they apply to the Activity. Indicate the estimated unit cost and number of units for each item to be purchased. Provide the basis for the cost estimates, e.g., pro forma invoice, published price lists, etc.

v. Supplies

The Applicant must itemize the materials and supplies and briefly justify the need for the items to be purchased as they apply to the Activity. Per item, indicate the estimated unit cost and number of units for each item to be purchased. The Applicant must provide the basis for the cost estimates, e.g., pro forma invoice, published price lists, etc. There are statutory constraints relating to the purchase of agricultural commodities, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, rubber compounding chemicals and plasticizers, used equipment and fertilizer with USAID Activity funds.

vi. Contractual: Sub-Awards

The Applicant's budget shall include a breakdown of all costs for each sub-agreement and/or sub-contract, and identify the proposed Sub-Recipient and/or Sub-Contractor, if known. The lump sum must be consistent with the detailed Sub-Recipient and/or Sub- Contractor budgets. The Cost/Business Application must indicate whether the instrument will be a sub-contract or sub-agreement.

vii. Other Direct Costs

The Applicant must identify other costs and briefly justify the need for each cost item proposed relative to the WIT activities. The Applicant shall indicate the estimated unit cost and number of units for each item proposed. The Cost Application must provide the basis for cost estimates, e.g., market rate, vendor quotes, pro-forma invoice, etc.

viii. Indirect Costs

The Applicant must submit a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement NICRA if the organization has such an agreement with an agency or department of the U.S. Government. The Applicant should support the proposed indirect cost rate with a letter from a cognizant U.S. Government audit agency, a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), or with sufficient information for USAID to determine the reasonableness of the rates. (e.g. a breakdown of labor bases and overhead pools, the method of determining the rate, etc.), stating the percentages and amounts used for the calculation of indirect costs and detailed data to support each cost element (object class categories).

The Applicants without NICRA may choose to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (see 2 CFR 200.414(f)). If the prospective applicant chooses the de minimis rate, the AO must incorporate the 10% indirect cost rate.

If no NICRA the Applicant should submit the following:

Reviewed Financial Statements Report: a report issued by a Certified Public Account (CPA) documenting the review of the financial statements was performed in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services; that management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation. The account must also state the he or she is not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements; or

Audited Financial Statements Report: An auditor issues a report documenting the audit was conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), the financial statements are the responsibility of management, provides an opinion that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the company and the results of operations are in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework (or issues a qualified opinion if the financial statements are not in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework. The auditor may also issue a disclaimer of opinion or an adverse opinion if appropriate.

The Applicant must submit a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement NICRA if the organization has such an agreement with an agency or department of the U.S. Government.

Please note; (1) In accordance with the provision in this solicitation, all costs for non-U.S. organizations without NICRAs must direct charge all indirect costs and (2) **Audit Fees** - If the applicant proposes expending more than \$300,000 of USAID funding during a single fiscal year of the applicant, the applicant must include funds within the budget to contract an audit, with the Statement of Work approved by USAID. Any subawards for more than \$300,000 per year or \$500,000 in total are required to be audited.

- d. Cost Sharing:** Cost share is not required but is encouraged. Applicants who propose cost share should estimate the amount of cost-sharing resources to be mobilized over the life of the agreement and specify the sources of such resources, and the basis of calculation in the budget narrative. Applicants should also provide a breakdown of the cost share (financial and in-kind contributions) of all organizations involved in implementing the resulting Cooperative Agreement.
- e. Budget Narrative:** The cost elements provided in the Detailed Budget must also be provided in the Budget Narrative, but with text that explains the rationale for the choices and costs. As noted throughout the cost elements above, the Budget Narrative must contain sufficient detail so that USAID can read the document while reviewing the Detailed Budget and understand the proposed costs to support the activity. The Budget Narrative must be thorough, including sources for costs to more quickly enable USAID to determine the cost as fair and reasonable.
- f. Dun and Bradstreet and SAM.gov Requirements**
USAID may not award to an applicant unless the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) requirements. Each applicant is required to:
- **Register in SAM** (System for Award Management); Access the web page: <http://www.sam.gov>. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times when it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding, and
 - **Provide a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number.** DUNS number is

a nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. A DUNS number may be obtained from D&B by internet at www.dnb.com, and

g. Certifications, Assurances and Other Statements of the Applicant

The business section of the cost/business application should include:

- (1) Applicants must complete and sign the **Certifications, Assurances, and Representations included in the following link:**
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mav.pdf>.
- (2) The cost/business application should also include **evidence of responsibility** that the Agreement Officer can use to determine that the Applicant:
 - a. Has adequate financial resources or the ability to obtain such resources as require during the performance of the award;
 - b. Has the ability to comply with the award conditions, taking into account all existing and currently prospective commitments of the Applicant;
 - c. Has a satisfactory record of performance. Past relevant unsatisfactory performance is ordinarily sufficient to justify a finding of non-responsibility, unless there is clear evidence of subsequent satisfactory performance;
 - d. Has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics; and
 - e. Is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive a Cooperative Agreement under applicable laws and regulations (e.g., Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)).
- (3) **Certificate of Compliance:** Please submit a copy of your Certificate of Compliance if your organization's systems have been certified by USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA).
- (4) **Potential Request for Additional Documentation:** Upon consideration of award or during the negotiations leading to an award, Applicants may be required to submit additional documentation deemed necessary for the Agreement Officer to make an affirmative determination of responsibility. Applicants should not submit the information below with their applications. The information in this section is provided so that Applicants may become familiar with additional documentation that may be requested by the Agreement Officer:

The information submitted should substantiate:

- a. Bylaws, constitution, and articles of incorporation, if applicable.
- b. Whether the organizational travel, procurement, financial management, accounting manual and personnel policies and procedures, especially regarding salary, promotion, leave, differentials, etc., submitted under this section have been reviewed and approved by any agency of the Federal Government, and if so, provide the name, address, and phone number of the cognizant reviewing official. The Applicant should provide copies of the same.
- c. **Branding Strategy and Marking Plan:** In accordance with ADS 303.3.6.2(f), the apparently successful applicant must submit a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan which is subject to approval prior to award.

h. Funding Restrictions

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.400, it is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the grant program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (2 CFR 200/700, OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit organization, OMB Circular A-21 for universities, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for-profit organizations), may be paid under the grant.

[END OF SECTION D]

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

A Selection Committee (SC) of USAID employees shall conduct a merit review of all applications received that comply with the instructions in this NOFO. The evaluation will be conducted using the adjectival rating system. After evaluations have been completed, the SC will then recommend the apparent successful applicant. The AO, considering the SC recommendation and the cost evaluation, will then make the final selection or determine if an oral presentation will be required.

USAID may engage in discussions or negotiations with the Apparent Successful Applicant regarding any matter to be covered in the final technical and cost application. USAID may also award without discussions with the selected Applicant. Applicants should note that the technical review criteria serve to: (a) identify the significant matters which applicants should address in their applications, and (b) set the standard against which all applications will be evaluated. To facilitate the review of applications, applicants must organize the narrative sections of their applications in the same order as the technical review criteria.

USAID reserves the right to require the apparent successful applicant to deliver an in-person oral presentation of its application. The merit review criteria that the Mission will use to evaluate this oral presentation will be provided to the apparent successful applicant. If an oral presentation is delivered, the Mission will consider the results of the presentation along with the technical review and the cost evaluation for the selection of the award.

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the following criteria presented by major categories in descending order of importance (Key Personnel being the most important, followed by Technical Approach, and Management Plan and Past Experience in Implementing Projects in the Middle East Region):

2. MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

The technical applications will be reviewed in accordance with the merit review criteria set forth below:

(1) Key Personnel

Demonstrated quality, experience and appropriateness of the Applicant's proposed Key Personnel as related to the specific minimum qualification for Key Personnel, professional competence, academic background, interpersonal skills, management capacity, political astuteness, and demonstrated knowledge and ability to successfully and effectively implement the proposed activity.

(2) Technical Approach

The extent to which the proposed technical approach and Activity Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Plan demonstrate a clear understanding of the objectives of the program and a convincing approach to achieve the results proposed by the applicant.

(3) Management Plan and Experience Implementing Activities in the Middle East or Similar Region

Clear management plan and organization illustrated with an organogram. Demonstrated past experience implementing agricultural water conservation technologies, financing programs, and working with vulnerable populations, including refugees in an environment similar to Jordan.

3. COST EVALUATION

Technical merit review are significantly more important than cost. While cost is less important than technical and is not weighted, the cost applications of the apparently successful technical application will be evaluated for cost effectiveness. Other considerations are the adequacy of budget detail and consistency with elements of the technical application. In addition, the organization must demonstrate adequate financial management capability, which will be measured for a responsibility determination. The cost application may be adjusted, for purposes of evaluation, based on the results of the detailed budget review and its assessment of credibility, completeness and for:

- Allowable Costs (2 CFR 200.403)
- Reasonable Costs (2 CFR 200.404)
- Allocable Costs (2 CFR 200.405)

(1) Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is suggested (that is, voluntary) but not required. If the applicant proposes cost share contributions, the applicant should estimate the amount of cost-sharing resources to be mobilized over the life of the agreement and specify the sources of such resources, and the basis of calculation in the budget narrative. Applicants should also provide a breakdown of the cost share (financial and in-kind contributions) of all organizations involved in implementing the resulting Cooperative Agreement.

(2) Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

An award shall be made to the responsible Applicant whose application offers the best value, cost and other factors considered. Considering the recommendations of the SC, the final award decision is made by the AO. The AO's decision about the funding of an award is final and not subject to review. Any information that may impact the AO's decision shall be directed to the AO.

Authority to obligate the USG: the AO is the only individual who may legally commit the USG to the expenditure of public funds.

[END OF SECTION E]

SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES

Award of the agreement contemplated by this NOFO cannot be made until funds have been appropriated, allocated and committed through internal USAID procedures. While USAID anticipates that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for the award. The Agreement officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed Agreement may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Agreement or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

Following selection for award and successful negotiations, a successful applicant will receive an electronic copy of the notice of the award signed by the Agreement Officer which serves as the authorizing document. The Agreement Officer will only do so after making a positive responsibility determination that the applicant possesses, or has the ability to obtain, the necessary management competence in planning and carrying out assistance programs and that it will practice mutually agreed upon methods of accountability for funds and other assets provided by USAID.

The award will be issued to the contact as specified in the application as the Authorized Individual in accordance with the requirements in the Representations and Certifications.

For organizations that are new to working with USAID or for organizations with outstanding audit findings, USAID may perform a pre-award survey to assess the applicant's management and financial capabilities. If notified by USAID that a pre-award survey is necessary, applicants must prepare, in advance, the required information and documents. Please note that a pre-award survey does not commit USAID to make any award.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Relevant policies and federal regulations are available at the following web sites: ADS-

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

2 CFR 200: <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=1b472774f0a1e84d725c7ca14618e8ac&node=pt2.1.200&rgn=div5>

Mandatory Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients can be accessed through USAID's website <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/refindx3.htm>.

Mandatory Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental Recipients can be accessed through USAID's website <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/refindx3.htm>.

Resulting awards to non-U.S. non-governmental organizations will be administered in accordance with Chapter 303 of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS-303), 2 CFR 200, and Standard Provisions for non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations. Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations are available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.pdf>

3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND COMPLIANCE

(1) Summary Table of Deliverables

Deliverable	Due Date
Reporting	
Annual Work Plans (AWPs)	30 calendar days after award and annually
Communication and Outreach Plan (includes plan to promote water saving technologies influencing behavior change through public awareness and technical capacity building)	90 calendar days after award
Quarterly Performance Reports	30 days after the end of each quarter
Quarterly Financial Reports	15 days after the end of each quarter
Annual Performance Report (includes information from all quarterly reports of the year)	Within 90 calendar days after the end of the first full USAID fiscal year and annually thereafter
Final Report	At least 45 calendar days prior to the agreement's completion
Other Deliverables	
Plan for the Technical Coordination and Advisory Working Group	60 days after award
Baseline Assessment - Gender - Capacity of target institutions (CBOs / WUAs / or other), including availability of resources (assessment completed again at the conclusion of the activity) - New and existing interventions to promote community-level dialogue and enhancing stakeholders' access to water conservation - New and existing interventions to promote water sector participation	120 days after award
Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MEL) [Note suggested performance indicators from the program description]	90 calendar days after award
Plan to scale-up water conservation activities throughout governorates	120 calendar days after award
Revolving Loan Exit Strategy and Sustainability Plan	End of Year 3
Close Out Plan	At least 90 calendar days prior to the agreement's completion
[Additional deliverables may be incorporated at time of award]	

(2) Financial Reporting

- Fifteen (15) days after the end of each quarter, the Recipient must submit the Federal Financial Form (SF-425) on a quarterly basis via electronic format to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<http://www.dpm.psc>). The recipient must submit a copy of the FFR at the same time to the Agreement Officer (AO) and the AOR.
- The recipient must submit the original and two copies of all final financial reports to USAID/Washington, M/CFO/CMP-LOC Unit, the AO, and the AOR. The recipient must submit an electronic version of the final Federal Financial Form (SF-425) to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with paragraph (a) above.
- On a quarterly basis, the AOR may require additional information related to financial accruals and pipeline of funds. This information will help to ensure that the activity has adequate pipeline to conduct its programs. These reports/forms will be submitted when requested within 30 calendar days from the end of each quarter. In addition to this, the Recipient will submit accruals reports to the AOR 15 days before the end of each quarter.

(3) Performance Reporting

Annual Work Plans (AWPs): The work plans for all USAID/Jordan Water Office activities are aligned with the USG Fiscal Year Calendar (October 1 to September 30). The Recipient will submit its first work plan to the AOR for approval within 30 days of Award. The first work plan will cover the period from the start date of the Award until the end of the first USG Fiscal Year of the Activity - therefore the first work plan may cover less than twelve months depending on the date of Award. The AOR will provide comments within 20 working days to the Recipient and the Recipient will have 15 working days to respond and make all requested changes, after which the AOR will provide final approval within 15 working days.

All subsequent work plans will be submitted to the AOR no later than 1 September and will cover an entire Fiscal Year, i.e. October 1 to September 30. The AOR will provide comments within 20 working days to the Recipient and the Recipient will have 15 working days to respond and make all requested changes, after which the AOR will provide final approval within 15 working days. All work plans must be developed in cooperation with the AOR, other USAID/Jordan Water Office, other relevant USAID/Jordan activities, donor programs, the MWI, local leaders, beneficiary communities, and all other relevant stakeholders as designated by the AOR.

(4) Activity Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Plan

As per ADS 203, the Recipient is required to submit for AOR approval the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Plan for the life of the Activity based on its proposed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy for collecting, evaluating and validating data which will be used to measure overall progress towards Mission goals. The draft Activity MEL Plan is due to the AOR within 90 calendar days of the award. All aspects of the MEL Plan should be in line with USAID's ADS 203 on assessing and learning and adhere to the following:

- Activities must have an approved Activity MEL Plan in place before major implementation actions begin. The AOR will work with the Recipient and the Mission's M&E Specialist(s) to ensure that the Activity MEL Plan is consistent with, and meets the data collection needs of the Mission's Performance Management Plan (PMP), and the Mission's annual Performance Plan and Report (PPR).
- The MEL Plan must clearly articulate the activity's theory of change, and present a results framework or logical model that best shows the causal and logical relationships between different levels of results and their associated interventions and indicators, as well as critical assumptions.
- The Recipient will develop performance indicators and establish baselines and targets for output, outcome, and impact level monitoring, as well as benchmarks for performance over the life of the activity, including a baseline for Syrian refugees that includes income data. The MEL Plan should also contain metrics for the sustainability of successful interventions introduced with activity support. The AOR will provide a list of Mission PMP indicators required for the activity. The MEL Plan must include the required Mission PMP indicators along with any others being proposed by the Recipient that are deemed necessary or useful in measuring progress against the overall goal and project objective(s). Selected indicators should be a combination of performance and context indicators. Recipients should be strategic in their selection of additional indicators so as to avoid creating an additional burden in regards to M&E. The MEL Plan must include quarterly and/or annual targets, as per the indicator requirements, necessary to reach the life of project targets identified by the Mission for required Mission indicators and identified by the Recipient for all other indicators. USAID criteria for selecting performance indicators is that they be direct, objective, practical, adequate, management useful and reflect progress toward achieving results, and, to the extent possible, be attributable to USAID. Performance data must meet reasonable quality criteria of validity, reliability, timeliness, precision and integrity. The Recipient and USAID will agree upon the final choice of performance indicators useful for timely management decisions and credibly reflecting the actual performance of the activity.
- USAID/Jordan may require the Awardee to track and report on additional performance indicators subject to changing of Agency guidance and/or the requirements of specific funding sources and the Mission's own Performance Management Plan (PMP).
- The Recipient must collect, analyze, and submit to USAID data disaggregated by sex and geographic location as applicable. To ensure that USAID assistance makes the maximum optimal contribution to gender equality, performance management systems and evaluations must include gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data when applicable and feasible; M&E plans should also capture proposed actions that will address any identified gender-related issues. Geographic disaggregation is required to the first administrative level at a minimum; in Jordan this corresponds to the governorate level. The Recipient should also consider including other relevant disaggregation for indicators – for example, age and type of institution.

- In addition, the MEL Plan should include approaches for a systematic, intentional and resourced approach to a strategic collaboration, continuous learning and adaptive management. In developing the MEL Plan, the Recipient should identify and describe: learning objectives; strategic opportunities to “pause and reflect” and coordinate and collaborate with stakeholders; approaches for regular learning to address the identified learning objectives; plans for documenting the knowledge and learning from these opportunities, and disseminating findings; resources (financial and human resources as well as tools) needed to implement learning approaches; and, approaches to adapting/adjusting implementation and programming as a result of this learning.
- The MEL Plan must also include, in consultation with USAID, planned internal and external evaluations and evaluation questions that are salient to the implementation, adaptation or assessment of the activity in line with the USAID Evaluation Policy. The MEL Plan should demonstrate how these evaluation questions will: help clarify and focus activity objectives; serve as an early warning system, forecasting, and reporting tool; promote on-going discussions pertaining to activity scope and direction; and, aid in effective management and decision making.
- The MEL Plan must also include an explanation of the monitoring approach and estimated resources required to successfully implement the MEL Plan. This will be done through describing the Recipient’s M&E system, including policies and procedures for how data and information will be collected, analyzed, and used; methodology of establishing baselines and targets; staffing/expertise, roles and responsibilities for the management and implantation of the MEL Plan; systems (automated or other) where data will be collected and stored; resources for M&E functions; procedures for communicating with USAID; means of adapting and learning; schedule for M&E functions, such as reporting performance data, assessing progress and making adjustments if needed; etc.
- Reporting on performance indicators will be done through the Mission’s performance management information system, which is currently DevResults.

USAID/Jordan’s recommended Activity MEL Plan and other related M&E templates are available <https://usaidjordankmportal.com/>. The Recipient should check with the Program Office, through their AOR, for further guidance, clarifications and applicable templates.

(5) Grants Manual

Within 90 days of the start of the Cooperative Agreement, the Recipient must submit a Grants Manual to the AOR and to the Acquisition and Assistance Office for their review, if applicable.

(6) Quarterly Performance Report

Thirty (30) calendar days after the end of each quarter, the Recipient will provide quarterly performance reports to describe activities undertaken (please refer to 2 CFR 200.328 (b) (1)); report on progress made

toward achieving results, and make necessary adjustments for activities that will be undertaken in the next quarter. The report should contain an executive summary and the following, at a minimum:

- Summary of the results for the reporting period and key achievements.
- Quarterly data for the required Performance Indicators, as determined in the MEL Plan. Reporting will be done through the Mission's online performance monitoring system, which is currently DevResults. The Recipient will work with the AOR and the Program Office to obtain access to the DevResults system and ensure proper structure of the system as necessary for their activity.
- Any implementation problems as well as proposed corrective actions and the costs associated with the delay.
- Cross-cutting issues considerations in implementation and performance during the quarter should be specified and included as annexes. At a minimum, cross-cutting issues should include: gender; youth; disabilities; institutional strengthening and local capacity building; policy reforms; science, technology and innovation.
- Documentation of lessons learned and best practices that can be taken to scale.
- Each quarterly report will include confirmation that the Recipient has complied with ADS Chapter 253 and other USAID/Jordan specific policies and procures (i.e., Mission Order 253) and requirements by providing a copy of a report generated by *TraiNet*.
- List of geographic data related to where interventions are being implemented.
- List of completed assessments and evaluations and plans for utilizing findings and recommendations.
- List of upcoming events (national and sub-national meetings, seminars, training sessions, conferences, and others; international consultant visits; evaluations and assessments; and meetings with key GOJ officials and decision-makers), with dates.
- Environmental Status Report (ESR) section based on the approved Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP); and
- List of staff and consultants with dates in/out of country.
- One new success stories must be included in each quarterly report. A template is available from the USAID/Jordan Mission via your AOR.

Quarterly reports will not exceed 30 pages. Annexes may be included if they support findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the core document.

A copy of the Mission's recommended Quarter Progress Report Template is available at <https://usaidjordankmportal.com/>. The Recipient should check with the Program Office through their AOR for clarifications and applicable templates.

(7) Annual Performance Report

The fourth quarterly report shall also serve as the Annual Performance Report and shall be submitted within ninety (90) calendar days after the end of the first full USAID fiscal year and annually thereafter for each authorized year of performance. The Annual Performance Report shall follow the same format as the quarterly report, but with additional focus on cumulative accomplishments, progress and problems toward achievement of results, performance measures, indicators and benchmarks tied to the AWP and the MEL Plan targets, for the quarter and the entire previous fiscal year, which runs from October 1 - September 30. In addition, the Annual Performance Report must include an analysis of the performance indicators data and proposed revisions of annual target projections as needed. The report should contain an executive summary and the following, at a minimum, in addition to the quarterly report components:

- Qualitative and quantitative data required by USAID for the annual Performance Plan and Report (PPR) purposes, a brief listing of the project's major activities and successes during the year; knowledge sharing and learning activities; information on training activities; listing of sub-grants during the fiscal year; and, contributions to crosscutting issues as specified by the Mission.
- List (and links) of all final and approved reports and data that were submitted during the fiscal year to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) [<https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/home/Default.aspx>], USAID's Development Data Library (DDL) website [<http://www.usaid.gov/data>], and/or the USAID/Jordan Knowledge Management Portal (KaMP) [<https://usaidjordankmportal.com/>] as applicable. These reports include: assessments, evaluations, studies, development experience documents, technical and consultant reports, quarterly and annual reports, media products, training manuals, databases and datasets, geo-coded data or other GIS related data (i.e. shape files and mapping files), computer software programs, videos and other intellectual deliverable materials required under the Award Schedule.
- Documentation of best practices that can be taken to scale; and
- ESR section based on the approved IEE and EMMP.

The Annual Performance Reports shall not exceed 40 pages. Additional annexes may be included if they support findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the core document.

The Recipient should check with the Program Office through their AOR for applicable templates or methodology of submitting reports and data to the DEC, DevResults, TraiNet, DDL website or USAID/Jordan online sharing portal (KaMP).

(8) Outreach and Communication Strategy:

A communication and outreach strategy shall be developed on an annual basis and incorporated as a section of the AWP. The strategies will include the overall communication message of the program, as set forth in the Branding and Marking Plan. The annual strategies must also focus on opportunities for USG visibility through the components of the project in terms of branding and marking but also with regard to events and other direct engagements. The project offers opportunities for signing ceremonies, graduation ceremonies and engagement with the NGOs and their target audiences throughout the course of the project. The strategy must ensure the use of traditional and social media.

The strategy will lay out the Recipient's approach to increase public awareness around the importance of water conservation and build technical capacity to encourage adoption of water conservation technologies and behavior change.

Through the strategy, the Recipient will identify and describe the approach that will be deployed to promote use of agricultural technologies and techniques to maximize water savings in the Jordan Valley and/or in the Northern areas such as Azraq and Mafraq basins and to engage communities to adopt household water- and energy-savings. The description will include the approach to engage women, youth, and refugees in host communities as beneficiaries. The description will include the approach to engage women, youth, and refugees in host communities as beneficiaries

(9) Final Program Report

The last Quarterly/Annual Performance Report for the final year will also be the Final Program Report. The draft report, in English, is due 45 calendar days prior to completion of the award and a final version and electronic version (two print copies and an electronic version), within 90 calendar days of the expiration of the award, per standard USAID/ADS.

The report will include the information required in the Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports as well as:

- Basic Agreement information.
- A description of the activity, the accomplishments and successes achieved during the award period in terms of the expectations of activity design and changes in the activity environment as well as any shortcomings and/or difficulties encountered.
- An assessment of the progress towards achievement of the objectives or results, including gender aspects and other cross cutting issues. This should clearly show how the Task Order objectives have been accomplished or not and why.
- A summary of performance indicators used and an assessment of their relative usefulness.
- A summary of lessons learned and recommendations that might be relevant to programming, design and implementation of similar or follow-on activities.
- Description of all entities and partners along with Jordanian non-governmental organizations with whom the Contractor worked with and an evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses.
- A list all publications, evaluations, and media products that were sent to DEC during the life of the Award
- Financial report showing, by line item, the amounts expended.

The Final Report will not exceed 40 pages. Annexes may be included if they support findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the core document.

The Recipient shall submit the original and one copy to the AOR, the Financial Management Office (FMO), the AO (if requested), to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) at <http://dec.usaid.gov>, and to USAID/Jordan's online sharing portal (KaMP) at <https://usaidjordankmpportal.com/>.

(10) Technical Briefs/Reports, Special and External Reports

Upon completion of the services of each short-term consultant, the recipient shall submit a report to the AOR summarizing the activities, accomplishments and recommendations of the consultant. This can be either in written or verbal form as determined by the AOR. In addition, the recipient shall provide copies of all technical reports including analyses, policy recommendations, comparative studies, etc. to the AOR as these are developed.

(11) Baseline Gender Assessment and other assessments

The Recipient shall submit a Baseline Gender Assessment, which will provide in-depth knowledge of gender-related issues within the sector, as well as providing practical recommendations to surmount gender challenges, including defining the project-relevant gender challenges and opportunities; describing the best approaches for addressing gender issues, such as targeted access to finance; and providing additional, relevant performance indicators (if any) to measure their achievements.

- The Recipient shall also submit other mentioned assessments from the deliverable table above: Capacity of target institutions (CBOs / WUAs / or other), including availability of resources (assessment completed again at the conclusion of the activity)
- New and existing interventions to promote community-level dialogue and enhancing stakeholders' access to water conservation
- New and existing interventions to promote water sector participation

(12) Geographic Data Reporting Requirements

Activity Location Data (coordinates): The Awardee shall submit Activity Location Data which indicates the geographic location(s) where an activity is implemented. If Activity Location Data exists in a Geographic Information System (GIS) data format, it shall be submitted in accordance with the Geographic Data formatting requirements outlined in the below standards. Activity Location Data shall be submitted as part of the quarterly reports.

Geographic Data Standards:

- Geographic Data must be submitted in industry standard formats such as Shapefile (.shp) or GeoTIFF, or in a File Geodatabase.
- Geographic Data must be projected to the Geographic Coordinate System World Geodetic System 1984 (GCS WGS 1984). All data must use the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 1984) datum.

(13) Compliance with ADS 252 & 253 – Participant Training and Results and Information Network (TraiNet):

The Recipient will collect data on participant training programs, including exchanges, (i.e., conferences, workshops, short-term non-degree programs, etc.) provided for beneficiaries that were held in the United States, third countries, or in-country under this award. The training data will be entered into TraiNet and submitted to the AOR quarterly as part of the Quarterly Performance Report. The Recipient will follow ADS 252 policy, which provides detailed information regarding visa compliance guidelines, ADS 253, which provides guidance on how to implement USAID funded training programs, and USAID/Jordan's Mission Order on Participant Training & Exchange Visitors. It should be noted that all host country nationals being funded fully, partially, directly, or indirectly by USAID must enter the U.S. on a J-1 Visa, regardless of the type or duration of the activity. Furthermore, TraiNet is the only means of securing the required J-1 visa for USAID-funded Exchange Visitors to the U.S. It is the Recipient's responsibility to ensure compliance with this requirement.

The Recipient should check with the Program Office through their AOR on the process for rolling out TraiNet for their activity, roles and responsibilities for managing data in TraiNet, and issuance of USAID sponsored J-1 visas.

(14) Closeout Plan:

Ninety (90) calendar days prior to the end of the Agreement, the Recipient shall submit a closeout plan to the AOR and the Acquisition and Assistance Office. The closeout plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) Brief program summary and program timeline
- b) Financial status report, including Financial Status Report timeline, latest NICRA or indirect cost rates, and anticipated balance of federal funds after expiration of the instrument;
- c) Recipient phase out plan, including personnel sub-awardees and/or partnerships phase out;
- d) Dates for final delivery of all goods and services for grants (including final report and other deliverables);
- e) Final inventory of residual non-expendable property, which was acquired or furnished under the instrument;
- f) A property disposition plan for the Awardee, sub-awardees and local NGOs where applicable in accordance with government regulations reviewed by the AOR and approved by the Agreement Officer;
- g) Status of all program audit reports per the instrument's provisions, and final audit report timeline;
- h) A schedule to address office leases, bank accounts, utilities, cell phones, personnel notification, health insurance, outstanding travel, social payments, household shipments, severance for local staff (if appropriate), vehicle leases/disposition, phone subscriptions;
- i) Receipt of all final invoices and grant performance reports; and
- j) Report on compliance with all local labor laws, tax clearances, etc.

(15) Development Experience Clearinghouse Requirements

The Recipient shall be required to submit any intellectual work produced under this program, in English, to USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) according to the instructions found at <https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/submit.aspx>.

For purposes of submissions to the DEC, Intellectual Work includes all works, whether published or not, that document the implementation, evaluation, and results of international development assistance activities developed or acquired under this award. This may include program and communications materials, evaluations and assessments, information products, research and technical reports, progress and performance reports required under this award (excluding administrative financial information), and other reports, articles and papers prepared by the recipient under the award, whether published or not. The term does not include the recipient's information that is incidental to award administration, such as financial, administrative, cost or pricing, or management information.

(16) Foreign Tax Reports

Standard report will be issued for each Fiscal Year and delivered prior to April 16th of each year.

(17) Annual Work Plans (AWPs)

The program will be guided by the Program Description, which will provide an overall activity 'map' that indicates broad activities, expected outcomes, and budget along the five year timeline. AWP's are developed yearly and include proposed activities for the given year, time-frame, implementation of activities, an itemized and detailed budget, review of the previous year's accomplishments (if applicable), problems and challenges encountered in achieving specified results, proposed annual outputs, and progress towards achieving results. AWP's (and the overall WIT program) will focus on achieving quantitative results, starting with a short table and graphical summary of the LOP targets, progress and trends which frame all project activities.

The AWP's must also describe a plan and timeline for internal monitoring and evaluation that takes into account the MEL Plan. The AWP's will be developed in country by the Recipient and in cooperation with the AOR, with AOR approval. AWP's must not deviate from the Cooperative Agreement requirements. All activities planned through this process must be in accordance with the Cooperative Agreement Program Description and consistent with the approved budget for the agreement.

(18) USAID Disability Policy (June 2012)

The Recipient must not discriminate against people with disabilities in the implementation of USAID funded programs and should demonstrate a comprehensive and consistent approach for including men, women, and children with disabilities. The text of the USAID Disability Policy can be found at the following Web site: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDABQ631.pdf.

(19) Branding Strategy and Marking Plan

The apparently successful applicant(s) will be required to submit a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan to be evaluated and approved by the Agreement Officer. A Branding Implementation Strategy and Marking Plan must be in accordance with USAID Branding and Marking Plan as required per ADS 320 at the following link: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/>. See **2 CFR 700.16** or, for non-U.S. organizations, see the provision entitled “Marking and Public Communications Under USAID-Funded Assistance”.

The Recipient must comply with the requirements of the USAID “Graphic Standards Manual” available at www.usaid.gov/branding, or any successor branding policy.

(20) Program Income

Any program income generated under the award will be used to reduce the Federal award and non-Federal entity contributions rather than to increase the funds committed to the activity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.307.

(21) Value Added Tax and Customs Duties

VAT and customs duties are excluded from the price of the agreement. USAID will provide the recipient correspondence to assist the recipient in obtaining this exemption from the Government of Jordan. The recipient shall submit 0% VAT invoices for any payments.

(22) Sovereign Relationships

Both parties recognize the United States and the Kingdom of Jordan have entered into a relationship governed by treaties and agreements that are, by the nature of bilateral relations between sovereign governments, senior to this agreement. Therefore, the recipient will not enter into any agreements, memoranda of understanding or other arrangements, binding or non-binding, directly or indirectly, with the Government of Jordan, without the express written consent of the Contracting Officer.

(24) Recipient’s Use of Project Vehicles and Insurance Requirements for Privately Owned Vehicles

The recipient’s policy shall include a plan for monitoring compliance by officers and employees of the recipient, and other persons, in their use of recipient vehicles with the recipient’s policy for official and private use of recipient vehicles. All engagement letters of auditors conducting audits or other financial reviews of recipients call for the auditors to review the recipient’s enforcement of its vehicle policy and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the recipient to, among other things, recoup from its officials, employees and others, as appropriate, costs related to their private use of recipient vehicles (not consistent with the recipient’s vehicle use policy) and otherwise to strengthen monitoring and enforcement of the recipient’s vehicle use policy.

(25) Meetings With Government of Jordan Ministers

The recipient must advise the AOR in writing, no less than 72 hours in advance, of any meetings with Government of Jordan Ministers. The advisement must include:

- Project/Activity Name
- Purpose

- Date, time and location
- Expected USAID attendees
- Recipient's attendees
-

(26) Indirect Costs for Non-U.S. Organizations

Indirect cost rates for non-U.S. organizations are not allowed under this cooperative agreement. All costs for non-U.S. organizations must be charged as direct costs.

(27) Foreign Funding to Local Organizations

The recipient is required to report the following information to the USAID Desk Officer at the Bilateral Department in the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) two weeks in advance of issuing an award to a local organization:

- Project Title
- Name of awardee
- Project value
- Project duration
- Project objective(s)
- Place of implementation

If the recipient does not receive a substantive response from MOPIC after the two-week notice, the recipient can proceed with issuing the award.

Local organizations are therefore not required to submit a separate application form for approval from the Government of Jordan to receive and use USAID funds.

(28) American Embassy Community Services Association (AECSA)

Employees of the recipients that meet the requirements set forth in the AECSA bylaws are allowed to join the organization. While family members will be allowed to join the AECSA, only the recipient's employee will be allowed to shop at the coop.

This is in accordance with the letter from the Ministry of Finance, dated March 4, 2009, which states the following: "Apply a general government sales tax of 0% to purchases made under these USG-funded projects and to foreign experts who work under these projects."

(29) Environmental Compliance

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 Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's ADS 204, which require that any potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities be identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. In case of a conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern. The Recipient's environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this NOFO.

In addition, the Recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. No activity funded under this Cooperative Agreement shall be implemented unless an environmental threshold determination, as defined by 22 CFR 216, has been reached for that activity, as documented in a Request for Categorical Exclusion, Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), or Environmental Assessment duly cleared by USAID/Jordan.

The Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), in accordance with 22 CFR 216, was conducted in order to provide a first review of the overall activities planned under the umbrella Water Conservation Program (WCP), with respect to the reasonably foreseeable effects on the natural and physical environment, and on human health, as well as to provide recommended threshold decisions for the activities planned under WIT. The details of many of the interventions remain to be elaborated, such as sub-grants that would be awarded under the WIT.

This IEE also provides statements of the factual basis for a threshold decision as to the nature of the environmental review and mitigation called for, to the extent known to date, and whether an Environmental Assessment is required for the activities managed under this initiative, to minimize negative environmental and social impacts.

Recommended determinations: The following table provides overviews of the recommended categorical exclusions for WIT, per the program components established by the PAD, as well as key intervention mechanisms. The WIT components are adopted by this IEE for purposes of environmental review.

Activity	Categorical Exclusion, 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)
Introduction of new water saving technologies under the auspices of local environmental regulation, best practices, and data analysis.	(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly and indirectly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.). (ii) Controlled experimentation exclusively for the purpose of research and field evaluation, which are confined to small areas and carefully monitored. (iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings. (v) Document and information transfers.

A Negative Determination with Conditions is recommended for any program activities that have the potential for negative impact on the environment including the following categories:

- Water efficiency and reuse implementation or field experimentation activities that involve alterations to water flows that return to the environment or produce contaminants
- Groundwater and surface water alterations
- Bio-solids

Additionally, some activities within the WIT may fall into categories that typically require preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and/or Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP). Under 22 CFR 216.2(d)(1), the following activities typically require an EA or EIS;

- Programs of river basin development
- Irrigation or water management projects, including dams and impoundment
- Agricultural land leveling
- Drainage projects

- Potable water and sewerage projects other than those that, are small-scale

22 CFR 216.3(b) specifies procedures and requirements that apply to all USAID-funded or USAID-managed activities involving assistance for the procurement or use of pesticides. As such, these procedures require that the 22 CFR 216 documentation (i.e., the PERSUAP) for the project shall include a separate section assessing requested pesticides and their uses against 12 analysis factors (a-l) enumerated in §216.3(b)(1)(i).

USAID environmental compliance and review procedures also apply to activities under USAID's programs to leverage public-private partnerships and project financing such as Development Credit Authority (DCA), Global Development Alliances (GDA), Development Innovation Ventures (DIV), and any other future WCP mechanisms.

Negative Determinations (22 CFR 216.3(a)(2)(iii)) with Conditions: The Operating Unit shall ensure that the private party or parties have environmental due diligence processes sufficient to demonstrate compliance with host government environmental laws and to enable USAID to make an assessment of the environmental impact of such activities and shall submit to USAID their proposed policies and procedures to assure that the projects financed are environmentally sound and comply with applicable laws and procedures.

Corporate Environmental & Social Responsibility (CESR): Given the public/private partnership cooperation to be emphasized under WIT, it is expected that private sector Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility (CESR) will be promoted proactively, and investors expected to support appropriate measures. A good example is the principles of Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI).

Upon final approval of this IEE, the recommended determination is affirmed as a 22 CFR 216 Threshold Decision and conditions become mandatory elements of project implementation.

Note: Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that any of the proposed actions to be funded by this activity might be "major" and their results "significant," the Bureau Environment Officer will review and revise the threshold decision for those actions listed above, and prepare an environmental assessment as appropriate.

If, during implementation, activities are considered other than those described in the environmental conditions and the approved Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP), supplemental IEEs will be prepared for new activities.

[END OF SECTION F]

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this NOFO must request it in writing by the deadline for questions specified in the cover letter to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this NOFO will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this NOFO, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

Any questions or comments concerning this NOFO must be submitted in writing by email to the contact provided below by the deadline for questions indicated at the top of this NOFO's cover letter.

Point of Contact Information:

All questions relating to this Notice of Funding Opportunity should be addressed to bdiah@usaid.gov with a copy to wdaas@usaid.gov.

Please note: Only the Agreement Officer is authorized to make commitment on behalf of USAID. The Agreement Officer is Luis A. Rivera: Lrivera@usaid.gov.

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SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

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PAST PERFORMANCE INFORMATION (PPI)

This appendix is included in order to evaluate PPI as part of the Pre-Award Risk Assessment.

(To be completed by the Applicant)

1. Award Number:
2. Contractor/Recipient (Name and Address):
3. :
4. Complexity Type of Award of Work: Difficult ____Routine ____
5. Description, location, and relevancy of work:
6. Dollar Value of Work : _____ Status: Active __Completed __
7. Date of Award: _____ Award Completion Date (including extensions): _____
8. Type and Extent of Subawards:
9. Name, Address, Telephone Number, and E-mail Address of the Awarding Contracting/Agreement Officer and/or the Contracting/Agreement Officer's Representative (and other references as applicable):

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