Issue Date: August 13, 2024
Questions Due: August 26, 2024, at 5:00PM Malawi Time
Concept Paper Submission Due Date: September 17, 2024, at 4:00PM Malawi Time
Full Application Submission Due Date: To be announced later to successful applicants

Subject: Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 72061224RFA00003

Activity Title: **PMI Case Management and Social Behavior Change Project**

Pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the United States Government, as represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Malawi, is announcing the PMI Case Management and Social Behavior Change Project Funding Opportunity.

Through this Project, USAID/Malawi aims to create partnerships with Malawian local organizations in an effort to amplify the Mission's work in support of PMI Case Management and Social Behavior Change. USAID expects local organizations to develop and submit Concept Papers in response to this funding opportunity as described in Section A.

This funding opportunity disseminates information to prospective Applicants so they may develop and submit Concept Papers in response and, if selected to continue in the process, ultimately be considered for USAID funding. This funding opportunity describes and provides:

- The type of activities for which Concept Papers will be considered.
- Available funding, process, and requirements for submitting Concept Papers and Full Applications.
- The Criteria for evaluating Concept Papers; and
- Refers prospective Applicants to relevant documentation and resources.

Issuance of this funding opportunity does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the U.S. Government to make an award, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a Concept Paper or Application(s). The actual number of assistance awards, if any, is subject to the availability of funds, as well as the viability of eventual full applications received.

Based on the submitted Concept Paper, USAID/Malawi will invite selected applicants with Concept Papers meeting minimum criteria under this funding opportunity to participate in a co-creation workshop. Following the co-creation process, selected finalists will further be requested to submit full applications. To be competitive under this funding opportunity, Concept Papers and applications must be fully responsive to all directions under the funding opportunity except when specifically noted otherwise.

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the entire funding opportunity has been downloaded from www.grants.gov and USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion process. If you have difficulty registering on www.grants.gov, please contact the grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

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 detailed in Section E. The registration process may take many weeks to complete, **therefore, applicants are encouraged to begin registration early in the process.**

Please also note that the eligibility for this NOFO is restricted to local (Malawian) organizations **only.**

Please send any questions to the point(s) of contact identified in Section G. 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.

All questions concerning this NOFO must be submitted to the Office of Acquisition and Assistance, USAID/Malawi, Lilongwe at e-mail: OAA-Malawi-Solicit@usaid.gov with a copy to lchimangeni@usaid.gov and gsuya@usaid.gov not later than the date and time stated above.

Applicants must submit the concept papers as required in this NOFO to Natalie Thunberg, Supervisory Agreement Officer at OAA-Malawi-Solicit@usaid.gov with a copy to lchimangeni@usaid.gov and gsuya@usaid.gov not later than the date and time stated above.

Thank you for your interest in USAID projects.

Sincerely,

Natalie J. Thunberg

Digitally signed by Natalie J. Thunberg
Date: 2024.08.13 11:01:12 +02'00'

Natalie J. Thunberg
Agreement Officer

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
CDCS	Country Development Cooperating Strategy
CM	Case Management
HSSP	Health Sector Strategic Plan
IRS	Indoor Residual Spraying
MoH	Ministry of Health
NMCP	National Malaria Control Program
NMSP	National Malaria Strategic Plan
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
PMI	President's Malaria Initiative
SBC	Social Behavior Change
TEA	Total estimated Amount
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

GOAL

The goal of the activity is to increase access to, demand for, utilization of, quality of and satisfaction with malaria services and preventive measures**.**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this award is to provide implementation support and technical assistance to the districts, health facilities, community-based providers, and communities, in planning, delivery, and monitoring of facility and community-based malaria services, including malaria case management, prevention of malaria in pregnancy, and social and behavior change (SBC).

2. BACKGROUND

In 2022, the Ministry of Health (MoH), in collaboration with partners, developed the Health Sector Strategic Plan III (HSSP III) to govern the implementation of health interventions in Malawi from the year 2023 up to 2030. The HSSP III articulates priorities for the health sector in Malawi with malaria as one of the priority disease areas. Direct policy and strategic guidance on the implementation of malaria interventions is provided by the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) which operationalizes the broader objectives on malaria control in the HSSP III. Prioritization and implementation of malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions as broadly laid out in the HSSP III Health Benefit Package is guided by the National Malaria Strategic Plan 2023-2030 (NMSP), the goal of which is to eliminate malaria as a public health concern in Malawi by 2030. The objectives of the NMSP include:

1. Integrated Vector Management: To increase the proportion of population protected by at least one malaria vector control intervention from 37 percent in 2022 to at least 90 percent by 2030.

2. Malaria Case Management: To increase and sustain the proportion of suspected cases of malaria that are tested from 98 percent in 2022 to 100 percent and treat all the confirmed cases by 2030.

3. Malaria in Pregnancy: To increase the uptake of at least 3 doses of intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women (IPTp) from the 2022 baseline of 56 percent to 80 percent by 2030.

4. Procurement and Supply Management: To sustain an annual average stockout rate of less than 1 percent for all malaria first-line treatment throughout the NMSP.

5. Social Behavior Change (SBC) for Malaria:

   (a) To increase the proportion of caregivers of children under five years of age who take action to seek appropriate malaria treatment within 24 hours of the onset of fever from 46 percent to 90 percent by 2030.

(b) To increase the proportion of the general population who use an insecticide treated net (ITN) consistently from 55 percent (Malaria Behavior Survey (MBS) 2021) to 80 percent by 2030.

(c) To Increase the proportion of pregnant women who take IPTp 3+ during pregnancy from 56 percent (MBS 2021) to 80 percent by 2030.

6. Surveillance, Monitoring, Evaluation and Operations Research: To improve malaria data quality (the average of completeness, timeliness, and accuracy) from 94 percent in 2022 to 99 percent by 2030 to ensure evidence-based program implementation, policy direction and accountability at all levels of health service delivery.

7. Malaria Programme Management: To strengthen program management to support the effective implementation of planned NMSP activities from 56 percent to over 90 percent by 2030.

Malawi was selected as a U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) country in 2007 and to date PMI has invested over $340 million to support malaria control efforts in Malawi. PMI, led by USAID and implemented together with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the U.S Government's primary vehicle for assisting malaria-affected countries to scale up proven malaria control and elimination interventions. PMI programing has five core focus areas:

1. Reach the unreached: Achieve, sustain, and tailor deployment and uptake of high-quality, proven interventions with a focus on hard-to-reach populations.

2. Strengthen community health systems: Transform and extend community and frontline health systems to end malaria.

3. Keep malaria services resilient: Adapt malaria services to increase resilience against shocks, including COVID-19 and emerging biological threats, conflict, and climate change.

4. Invest locally: Partner with countries and communities to lead, implement, and fund malaria programs.

5. Innovate and lead: Leverage new tools, optimize existing tools, and shape global priorities to end malaria faster

PMI Malawi partners with the NMCP to provide comprehensive malaria programming across Malawi. For example, in fiscal year 2023, PMI procured and delivered over 1.5 million ITNs protecting up to 2.7 million pregnant women and newborn babies; sprayed almost 120,000 structures protecting almost half a million people through indoor residual spraying (IRS); and distributed 12 million rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and 2.3 million preventive treatments. PMI Malawi also supported entomological monitoring in 13 sentinel sites across six districts to guide program decisions related to targeting and efficacy of IRS and ITNs.

4. DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM

In the last five years, the national malaria incidence has been declining from 322 per 1,000 population in 2017 to 152 per 1,000 population in 2022. Mortality due to malaria also markedly declined, from 23 per 100,000 population in 2016 to 8 per 100,000 population in 2022. The percentage of deaths attributed to malaria has declined from 28 percent in 2016 to 15 percent in 2022 across all ages and from 48 percent in 2016 to 35 percent in 2022 for children under five (Government of Malawi Health Management Information System (HMIS)). This decline can be partially attributed to improved malaria case management, behavior change, and new vector control tools. Despite this decline, malaria continues to be a major cause of sickness and death in Malawi, with the World Health Organization (WHO) estimating over 4 million cases and 7,000 deaths annually. In addition to the morbidity and mortality, malaria exerts a high burden on the health system in Malawi accounting for over 28 percent of all outpatient visits and 18 percent of all admissions among children under five.

PMI and the NMCP currently partner to address all aspects of malaria, including multiple forms of prevention; prompt and effective malaria case management services (IRS, the provision of ITNs, IPTp, and malaria vaccines); and social and behavior change interventions to increase demand for and utilization of preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services. Vector control (ITNs and IRS) is a critical aspect of the malaria prevention strategy in Malawi. PMI provides ITNs to pregnant women and newborns, and the NMCP has been implementing mass IN campaigns every three years in addition to IRS in four districts (one PMI supported, and three Global Fund supported). This has been a major contributor to the significant reduction in malaria case incidence. Malawi is scheduled to have its next mass ITN campaign in CY 2024. Due to an 8 percent reduction in the available resources in the Global Fund malaria allocation for 2024-2027, compared to the ongoing Global Fund grant as well as the global increase in the cost and shipment of commodities, the NMCP, in consultation with PMI and other partners, used country evidence to inform their decision to withdraw IRS in 2024 in the three districts where they were spraying (Mangochi, Nkhata Bay, and Balaka) and instead include the districts in the 2024 ITN mass campaign. This decision was made based on the need to: 1) ensure coverage of malaria prevention interventions since all Malawians are at risk of malaria; and 2) maximize the impact of the Global Fund application and optimize value for money. Since dual active ingredient (AI) ITNs have demonstrated an initial similar impact to IRS (PMI Vector Link Project IRS-ITIN Impact Evaluation Interim Report, 2022), ultimately the NMCP prioritized ensuring nationwide coverage with dual AI nets over IRS. In alignment with the NMCP's decision, PMI is also withdrawing IRS in Nkhotakota to use these funds to support the distribution of ITNs in the mass campaign in 2024 in five districts (the four districts where IRS is being withdrawn plus Salima, another high burden district).

While the dual AI nets are expected to significantly reduce the malaria burden, it will be critical to ensure access to quality malaria services as well as need to support the uptake of several priority behaviors in the IRS withdrawal districts. This activity is designed to address the social and behavior changes required in the three of the IRS withdrawal districts (Balaka, Nkhatabay, and Nkhotakota) since PMI is supporting Mangochi to address these through a government to government agreement. Examples include encouraging prompt care seeking as risk perceptions of malaria may have changed due to several years of IRS as well as correct and consistent use of nets - see the social and behavior change section for more details. It will be complemented by: 1) the government-to-government Mangochi agreement which will address access to quality malaria case management, as well as social behavior change, and 2) REACH, a global PMI case management activity, which will provide support for ensuring quality malaria health services in Nkhatabay and Nkhotakota, as well as provide technical assistance to this activity.

4a. Malaria Prevention Services:

Preventing malaria remains critical to reducing morbidity and mortality from malaria and reducing the burden of malaria on the health system. Currently, the NMCP has prioritized the use of ITNs, IPTp, and the malaria vaccine as the three primary prevention interventions in Malawi. Yet, sustaining access to nets has been a challenge; the percentage of the population with access to an ITN has ranged from 37 percent to 63 percent over the past decade with an average 57-63 percent when measured one year after a mass distribution campaign (MIS 2017 and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-2020) and 37 percent when measured three years after a mass distribution campaign (MIS 2021). While some declines in access to nets between campaigns are expected, nets last approximately two years in Malawi, even though globally the expectation is that they last three years. Additionally, PMI provides nets to every pregnant woman at her first antenatal care (ANC) visit and every newborn, which should help sustain access to nets between campaigns, but it is clear that these routine systems are insufficient, and more work is needed to increase access to nets as well as improve care of nets to increase their durability.

In addition to providing nets to pregnant women and newborns, PMI supports the NMCP to provide intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women (IPTp) with sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine. A cornerstone of this approach is early and frequent ANC attendance; with support from PMI, Malawi has made significant strides in increasing uptake of IPTp, with over 56 percent of pregnant women receiving 3+ doses in 2022 (compared to 13 percent in 2014).[1] Despite this progress, PMI recognizes the need for continued efforts and creative approaches to address remaining barriers hindering IPTp uptake and increase coverage. In addition to the service delivery challenges that will be detailed below in the case management section, some of the key challenges and barriers to progress in uptake of malaria in pregnancy interventions include inadequate provider adherence to national IPTp and malaria in pregnancy diagnosis and treatment guidelines; lack of effective communication between and inconsistency across NMCP and RMNCH program policies and guidelines; delays in pregnant women initiating their first ANC visit and failure to return regularly; and consumer perceptions of ANC services.

In addition to ITNs and IPTp, Malawi is one of the first countries to have rolled out the malaria vaccine, a critical new tool within the set of malaria prevention interventions. The Expanded Program on Immunization, with the support of Gavi, has deployed the vaccine across 11 districts and has proposed to expand it further, once the global supply has increased. Given the limited impact on transmission (approximately 30% reduction in cases among children under five that receive all four doses in the context of continued uptake and use of existing malaria interventions), we primarily expect to see a reduction in malaria mortality among children under five in the malaria vaccine districts in the next two to three years, since the final dose is not given until 15-18 months. Malawi has adopted a four-dose schedule, of which only one dose aligns with other routine vaccinations, meaning that to complete the full course, each child has to visit the health facility three more times than they would have without the malaria vaccine. To date, uptake has been high, but continued support is needed to ensure provider and patient understanding and adherence to the dosing schedule, effective communication about the risks and benefits of the vaccine, and continued uptake and use of malaria interventions.

[1] The National Malaria Strategic Plan 2023-2030

Finally, there are several new drug-based interventions for prevention and reduction of malaria that are targeted at areas of high transmission for specific high-risk groups such as seasonal and perennial malaria chemoprevention. Although these have not been taken up by Malawi, globally and locally there are studies ongoing and planned to determine the feasibility and impact of these interventions and it is possible that some new interventions may be adopted by Malawi in the future.

4b. Malaria Case Management Services

In addition to preventing malaria, prompt, effective case management is a crucial component of reducing malaria morbidity and mortality and a cornerstone of malaria control. In 2010, the World Health Organization revised its treatment guidelines, calling for all patients with suspected malaria to undergo quality-assured diagnostic testing with either microscopy or rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and for treatment decisions to be based on test results. Consistent with these guidelines, PMI supports Malawi to promote early care-seeking, implement universal diagnostic testing, and, when a test is positive, to provide immediate treatment with appropriate antimalarial drugs at public health facility and community levels. The goal is for all patients with suspected malaria to rapidly seek care, all patients with suspected malaria to be quickly identified and tested, and all patients with confirmed malaria to receive effective treatment without delay.

PMI has worked in partnership with the NMCP to promote and expand quality assurance of case management. This has included support for strengthening expert diagnostic capacity at reference laboratories and for effective external quality assessment systems, training and supervision activities at health facilities, including on-site training, mentoring, and continuous quality improvement processes. PMI has also supported development and deployment of routine supervision that assesses and documents health worker performance through direct observation, facility and record review, and re-checking of blood slides.

Despite these advances, progress in access to appropriate case management continues to lag behind expectations for several reasons. Among health care provider actions, poor recognition of symptoms of suspected malaria and danger signs for severe disease, inadequate knowledge, and certain norms and practices negatively impact the diagnosis and/or treating patients with malaria. Examples include the provision of treatment despite a negative diagnostic test, use of artemether lumefantrine as a pre-referral treatment instead of rectal artesunate, misclassification of severe malaria cases, and failure to follow injectable artesunate treatment with a full course of artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACTs). These challenges reduce the effectiveness of patient management across the malaria case management continuum and increase patient morbidity and mortality. These actions also affect patient practices as negative care-seeking and provision experiences also diminish trust in the health system and negatively impacts norms, attitudes and practices related to care-seeking. In addition, disconnected patient referral systems across levels of care further contribute to preventable malaria morbidity and mortality. Broader system challenges include distance and perceive or actual cost to access health services, stock outs of essential drugs and commodities (including laboratory supplies, ACTs, RDTs, and SP); human resources for health constraints, including poor retention, lack of access to laboratory services; and poor quality supervision.

Achieving PMI's objectives requires accessibility of malaria case management, including the extension of malaria services into communities, especially those that are hard to reach. In collaboration with NMCP and the Department of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, PMI has long supported the implementation of integrated community case management (iCCM) of malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea to increase access to prompt and effective treatment and health information. Building off of the iCCM platform, health surveillance agents (HSAs) in Malawi play an important role in referral and provision of pre-referral services to manage severe malaria in children. As such, HSAs are increasingly being tasked with a broad array of health activities which underscores the importance of enabling systems and work environments for HSAs. Continued investments by the GOM and donors in the community health system have led to small increases in the number of suspected cases being tested by community health workers, though much work remains to be done.

However, many communities remain unreached with malaria services and challenges persist even in countries where community-based malaria service delivery is implemented at scale. There are challenges related to linkages with health facilities (supply chain, supervision, referrals), human resources (selection, supervision, payment, retention), and data collection and HMIS integration. These in turn affect HSA retention, quality of care, and demand for services. These challenges must be addressed collaboratively by strengthening the links between HSAs, their supervisors, and the health facilities they are attached to.

4c. Social and Behavior Change

Social and Behavior Change (SBC) activities promote the uptake and maintenance of all key malaria interventions. When tailored to specific country contexts and needs, SBC activities play a critical role in achieving desired individual and public health impacts. PMI has worked in partnership with the NMCP and Health Education Services Department to improve the adoption and uptake of malaria related health behaviors, increase care-seeking practices, ensure availability of routine data, and strengthen capacity for and coordination of quality SBC for malaria. Yet, PMI recognizes the continued need to improve specific, high priority malaria-related behaviors using evidence-based methods to reinforce factors that facilitate positive behaviors and directly address barriers to adopting and sustaining those behaviors, including but not limited to prompt care seeking, correct and consistent net use and care, early and consistent ANC visits, and maximizing uptake of the vaccine while simultaneously emphasizing the uptake and maintenance of existing proven malaria interventions.

Care Seeking: Although Malawi has free testing and treatment at all public health facilities as well as a salaried cadre of HSAs who staff village health clinics in hard-to-reach areas, less than half (46%) of respondents reported care-seeking within 24 hours of the onset of fever for children under five (2021 MIS) and only 50% and 59% of survey respondents had favorable perceptions of community and facility health workers respectively (2021 MBS). However, according to the 2021 MBS report, 78% of MBS survey respondents reported favorable attitudes related to care-seeking and treatment for children under 5, suggesting there is room for improvement in terms of prompt care-seeking. Further, with the withdrawal of IRS in four high-burden districts in 2024, perceived risk for malaria may be decreased and targeted SBC will be needed to promote prompt care seeking and address specific factors (such as confidence in community health workers) that influence uptake of the behavior.

ITN use: ITN use and access in Malawi are highly correlated, reinforcing the finding that access to nets is a key driver of use. Indeed, ITN use among those with sufficient access in their household is and has been among the highest recorded in sub-Saharan Africa, with ITN Use to Access ratios consistently about 1 to 1 since 2012; the MBS 2021 indicates the same results. In addition, among those with access to nets, children under five years of age and pregnant women have a higher rate of net use within a household (MIS 2021). While the ITN Use to Access ratio is high, net use is not considered a social norm in Malawi, with only 38% of people who believe that others in their community use a net and only 30% believe that others approve of net use (MBS 2021). Additionally, ITNs in Malawi on average last only approximately two years, rather than the globally accepted average of three years. Behaviors that are associated with physical survival and bio-effectiveness include net handling, net use, and net washing. Net durability monitoring in Malawi shows that nets are mostly found hanging loose over sleeping places, rather than being tied up which is one of the most effective ways to extend the longevity of nets. Additionally, they are mostly used for sleeping on reed mats, which are more vulnerable to wear and tear than those used over mattresses and bed frames. Additionally, excessive net washing, especially with detergents and bleach, and drying in sunlight are common in Malawi despite the fact that they can diminish insecticide effectiveness (Malawi 2022 Streamlined Durability Monitoring 12-Month Study Report). Thus, consistent and correct net care remains an important challenge in Malawi, particularly since NMCP and PMI have prioritized the distribution of nets as the primary vector control intervention in Malawi.

ITN misuse: While ITNs protect Malawians from malaria, anecdotal evidence suggests there are high levels of ITN misuse, particularly for fishing and related processes such as drying racks. ITNs have a very small mesh size, are non-selective, and may be dragged through shallows, which form important nursery and breeding areas for a number of fish species. If sufficient juvenile fish are abstracted, abundance of these species will decline, with potentially long-lasting and irreversible, significant, adverse impacts to Lake Malawi's and riverine ecosystems, biodiversity, and fisheries. In turn, adverse impacts on fisheries and ecosystems would adversely affect livelihoods and food security and thus health of lake communities. However, the extent to which misuse for fishing is impacting Lake Malawi's fisheries and ecosystem is not clear. An environmental assessment on the impact of fishing with ITNs on Lake Malawi (and other bodies of water) is underway. During the initial scoping visit, high levels of ITN misuse for fishing were documented, but during the follow-up assessment, observations noted that ITNs were not found in fishing gears in assessment sites from Mangochi to Karonga with multiple possible drivers of this change, including market and enforcement considerations. However, the assessment also noted ITNs do remain in fishing gears in smaller bodies of water such as in Lake Chiuta and Lake Chilwa despite recent enforcement efforts and may pose a larger contamination risk than Lake Malawi beach seines. In addition to routine distribution to pregnant women and newborns nationwide, there is a nationwide mass ITN distribution campaign in 2024/25, including in areas previously protected by IRS. Thus, there will be an influx of ITNs along the lakeshore and other environmentally vulnerable areas. Therefore, targeted SBC, including continuing work with Beach Village Committees, River Village Committees and other community structures to monitor fishing practices and enforce bylaws, is needed in coordination with other strategies and partners to comprehensively mitigate misuse for fishing.

Malaria in Pregnancy: Although Malawi has achieved great success in improving coverage for IPTp3+ (currently at 56 percent), the NMCP has increased the target to 80 percent to be in line with global best practices. According to the 2021 MBS survey, 81% of the female respondents with partners reported that decisions regarding ANC were made by themselves or jointly with their partners, and 72% indicated an intention to attend ANC in the first trimester of their next pregnancy. While 66% of respondents had favorable attitudes towards IPTp, only 36% thought that it was okay for pregnant women to take IPTp to prevent malaria on an empty stomach, and only 28% thought their community would approve of someone taking IPTp. Additional SBC activities are needed to further sensitize pregnant women, community gatekeepers, faith-based leaders, and ANC providers to support continued adoption and maintenance of early and repeat ANC visits and improved IPTp uptake to reach these goals. Increasing spousal discussion about ANC, improving attitudes about IPTp, and establishing taking IPTp as a social norm are other likely means of increasing IPTp uptake.

Malaria vaccine: Per the WHO's recommendation to offer the malaria vaccine in moderate to high burden areas, Malawi is currently implementing the vaccine in eleven districts, with the potential to continue to expand depending on the global availability of vaccines and resources. While initial uptake of the vaccine in Malawi has been good, SBC is needed to address real or perceived vaccine-related issues, which can pose risks for the acceptance and uptake of a new vaccine if they are not identified and addressed promptly and appropriately, and promote adherence to the vaccine schedule, particularly the fourth dose. Potential risks can include rumors, misinformation, misconceptions and adverse events following immunization that raise community concerns. This is particularly important for the malaria vaccine due to the level of effectiveness of the vaccine (anticipated 30% decrease in severe malaria cases). Additionally, as the vaccine is recommended as part of a comprehensive malaria program, PMI recognizes the need to maximize uptake of the vaccine while simultaneously emphasizing the uptake and maintenance of existing proven malaria interventions. Further, as three out of four visits of the malaria vaccine schedule falls outside of the current infant routine immunization schedule in Malawi, it is critical to identify additional points of contact and opportunities to reach eligible children, particularly since the fourth dose is given 6-9 months after the 3rd dose in the series. Finally, there is a need to support providers and provider-related behaviors through provider behavior change to advocate for the malaria vaccine and other malaria control interventions through service communication.

5. RELATIONSHIP TO BROADER USAID MISSION AND PMI ACTIVITIES

Overall, the activity will contribute to the Malawi CDCS Development Objective (DO) 2: *Youth lead healthy, informed and productive lives* and DO 1: *Public sector is more accountable and effective at national and decentralized levels*.

To ensure that youth lead healthy and productive lives, the activity will increase access to, demand for, utilization of, quality of and satisfaction with life-saving malaria services and preventive measures**.** Since malaria disproportionately impacts youth (in particular children under five and pregnant women), by improving the quality of malaria services, the activity will contribute to CDCS IR 2.2: of ensuring that public and private sector capacity to deliver youth-focused goods and services is strengthened. By increasing the demand for, utilization of, and satisfaction with malaria service delivery, the activity will contribute towards CDCS 2.1 of expanding youth agency and access to opportunities and services as well as CDCS 2.3 around improving understanding of ITN use and maintenance.

To make the public sector more accountable and effective, the activity will strengthen the capacity of the local governments to plan, deliver and monitor facility and community-based malaria services. It will also strengthen the capacity of communities and other entities to hold the public sector accountable for providing access to quality malaria services.

By increasing access to quality services, it aligns with PMI's strategic priority area of "Reaching the unreached: achieve and maintain coverage of high-quality interventions to reach the highest malaria burden, highest-need populations in each country." By strengthening and institutionalizing the capacity of the districts, the health facilities, local organizations, and the community-based providers to provide quality malaria services, this activity directly contributes to PMI's strategic priority of "Investing locally: Support partner country governments to execute malaria programs successfully." The activity will also contribute to PMI Global Strategy Pillar 3: resilient malaria services by leveraging investments in laboratory systems and field surveillance to strengthen global health security and mitigate against mosquito and parasite resistance.

In addition to contributing to the NMSP as described in the background section, this project will contribute to the following objectives under HSSP III:

(1) Increase equitable access to and improve quality of healthcare services.
(2) Reduce environmental and social determinant risk factors that have direct impact on health with improved health promotion and prevention.
(4) Improve availability, retention, performance and motivation of human resources for health for effective, efficient and equitable health service delivery; and
(5) Improve the availability, quality and utilization of medicines and medical supplies.

The project is also aligned to the National Community Health Framework 2023-2030, the mission of which is "to ensure quality, affordable, integrated community health services that are culturally acceptable, scientifically appropriate, and accessible to every household through community participation – to promote health and contribute to the socio-economic status of all people in Malawi." The NCHF is a springboard for delivery of the Health Benefits Package (HBP), as defined by HSSP III. CHWs will continue to deliver the services through an integrated approach. Integration will take place at the point of care, which helps to improve health system efficiencies, reduce fragmentation and increase access to care. Other key features within the community health system include a team-based structure for CHWs, strengthened supervision, reinforced community structures such as Village Health Committees (VHC) and Community Health Action Groups (CHAG) and enhanced coordination led by the CHS Section and district level Community Health Officers. This activity will strengthen the capacity of community-based providers through training, mentorship, and quality improvement activities including systematic supportive supervision that all include both hard and soft skills (e.g. patient counseling and communications, supervisory skills, etc.). Additionally, it will strengthen the connection and communication between community-based providers, their supervisors, and the associated/linked health facilities. Finally, it will work with community structures to support the team-based structures for community health workers. This aligns with the following objectives of the National Community Health Framework:

- Increase equitable access to and improve the quality of health care services;
- Improve overall health, environmental health, and disease prevention through addressing social determinants of health and burden of disease;
- Improve the availability, accessibility and quality of health infrastructure and medical equipment at all levels of health care;

- Improve availability of competent and motivated human resources for health for quality health service delivery that is effective, efficient, and equitable; and

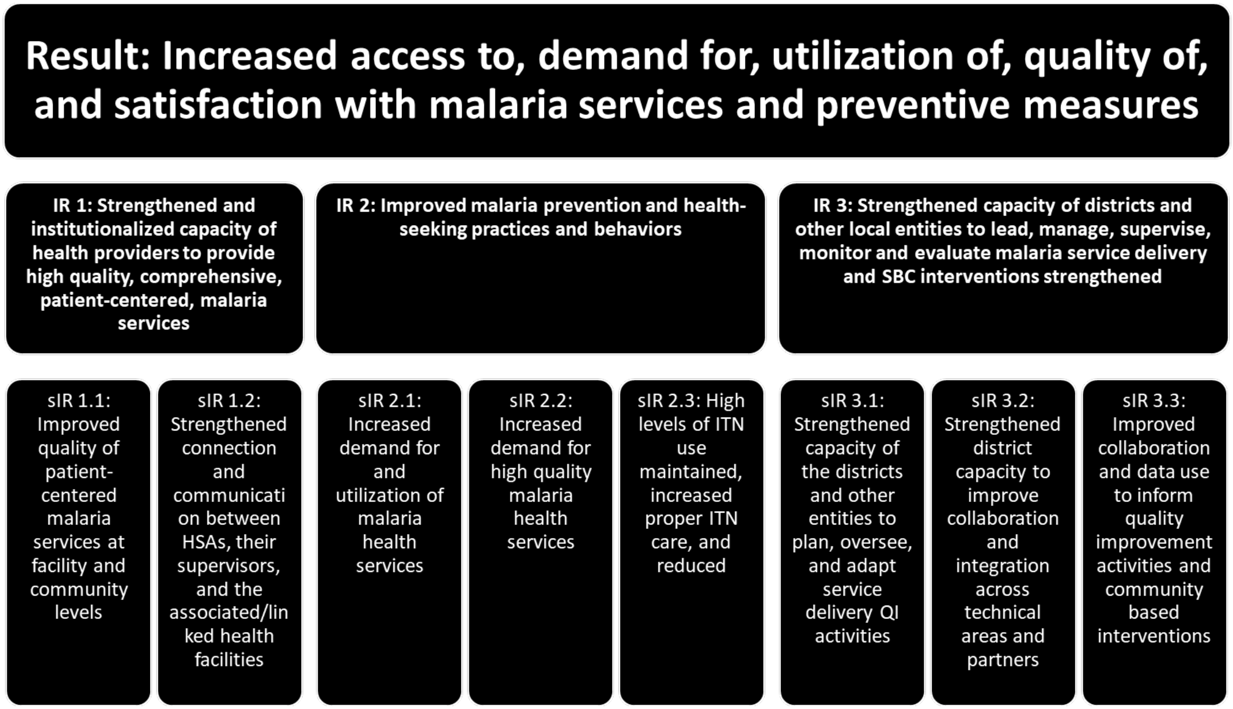
Improve the availability, quality and rational utilization of medicines and related medical supplies, balancing the 3 P's: patients, products, and personnel. The activity will contribute to the following CDCS PMP indicators:

- Number of HIV/AIDS, maternal, and malaria related deaths reduced;
- Maternal mortality rate/100,000 live births reduced;
- Inpatient malaria deaths reduced;
- Child mortality rate reduced;
- Malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS, and COVID-19 disease burden is more effectively managed and reduced;
- Proportion of youth with confirmed malaria who received first-line antimalarial treatment according to national policy (performance); and
- Percentage of households seeking treatment for child fever, and within 24 hours.

6. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Theory of Change:

If we strengthen the quality of and the demand for malaria prevention, testing and treatment interventions, then the utilization of malaria services and preventive measures will increase. If malaria service utilization and prevention increase, malaria morbidity and mortality will be reduced resulting in the population leading healthy and productive lives, and the malaria burden on the health system will be reduced.



Goal: Increased access to, demand for, utilization of, quality of, and satisfaction with malaria services and preventive measures.

Intermediate Result 1: Strengthened and institutionalized capacity of facility-based and community-based health providers to provide high quality, comprehensive, patient-centered, malaria services (including but not limited to integrated community case management, malaria parasitological diagnosis and treatment, intermittent preventive treatment, and routine distribution of insecticide treated nets)

Sub-IR 1.1: Improved quality of patient-centered malaria services at facility and community levels

Sub-IR 1.2: Strengthened connection and communication between community-based providers, their supervisors, and the associated/linked health facilities

Intermediate Result 2: Improved malaria prevention and health-seeking practices and behaviors at the individual, household, and community levels.

Sub- IR 2.1: Increased demand for and utilization of malaria health services

Sub-IR 2.2: Improved quality of patient-centered malaria services at facility and community levels

Sub-IR 2.3: High levels of ITN use maintained, increased proper ITN care, and misuse of nets for fishing and related processes reduced

Intermediate Result 3: Strengthened capacity of the districts, community-based and other local entities to lead, manage, supervise, monitor and evaluate malaria service delivery and social behavior change interventions.

Sub-IR 3.1: Strengthened and institutionalized capacity of the districts and other entities to plan, oversee, and adapt service delivery quality improvement activities

Sub-IR 3.2: Strengthened capacity of the districts to improve collaboration and integration across technical areas and partners (SBC and service delivery, supply chain, and vector control) to promote consistent activities and messages to increase correct and consistent use of ITNs, ANC attendance and IPTp uptake, malaria treatment-seeking and medication adherence strengthened

Sub-IR 3.3: Improved data use to inform quality improvement activities and community based interventions, such as to strengthen healthcare worker behaviors through the OTSS process

7. GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

The activity will be implemented at the district, health facility, and community levels. The activity will strengthen the capacity of the districts, health facilities, and community-based providers to provide high quality, comprehensive, patient-centered malaria services in approximately two districts (to be determined in partnership with the NMCP). Additionally, it will strengthen the capacity of the districts to design and implement social behavior change interventions to increase demand for and utilization of malaria services in approximately five districts (the two case management districts and Balaka, Nkhatabay, and Nkhotakota).

8. GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

Although anyone can get malaria, women and adolescent girls often bear the health, societal, and economic brunt of malaria, which exacerbates poverty and deepens inequalities. Pregnant women and their fetuses are disproportionately affected by malaria as it causes maternal anemia, miscarriage, stillbirth, and low birth weight, increased risk of infant death. Social factors may also account for gender differences in use of malaria services. For example, women in some contexts have difficulty accessing ANC services where ITNs are provided because male family members are unwilling to pay for them to reach these services or women's health may not be considered as important as that of male family members.

In Malawi, girls are significantly less likely to complete secondary and tertiary school compared to boys, and women are less likely to be employed and earn a wage compared to men. Additionally, perceptions of a gendered division of labor are still deeply ingrained in Malawian communities, and women and adolescent girls remain the primary caregivers. Adolescent girls are often the ones who stay home to care for family members recovering from malaria and they are more likely to discontinue their education earlier than adolescent boys, who often do not have to play the caregiving role.

By strengthening the quality of malaria prevention services targeting pregnant women and children, as well as diagnostic and treatment services, this activity will reduce the number of cases of malaria and reduce the subsequent disproportionate adverse health outcomes of pregnant women and children. It will also reduce the burden of caring for other family members with malaria on adolescent girls and women which in turn should increase educational and workforce opportunities for women and girls. The activity will apply gender equitable approaches for training and professional development to increase workforce opportunities for women and address perceptions of gendered division of labor. All data collected in this activity will be disaggregated by gender where applicable to capture not only the experiences of men and women but also the dynamism of the social relationships and interactions of other critical social, cultural, and environmental determinants of health.

Youth Integration/Engagement

Gains in child health, nutrition, and education outcomes in Malawi remain fragile, and without continued health, basic education, and higher education investments in adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, Malawi cannot expect to maximize the contributions of its youth to the country's prosperity and self-reliance. This activity will seek to strengthen the self-reliance of individual youth by equipping them with the assets and agency they need to effectively advocate for themselves with respect to health services, including malaria treatment and prevention services. The activity will expand access and reduce barriers to care for youth so they can actively access learning, utilize age-appropriate health services, engage in the economy, and participate in society by developing and exercising their agency and rights. Engaging youth in the design and development of SBC messages and the type of media to promote these messages will be key to the success of reaching this demographic. Directly involving youth in health knowledge and behavior change creates the self confidence and self efficacy needed to control their own health outcomes.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CONSIDERATIONS

Whilst contributing to enhancing resilience and adaptation, the activity has the potential to affect the environment and safety issues i.e. generation of health care waste from testing, vaccines/drugs, health worker training, and other auxiliary services. To ensure that any unintended effects of the activity on the environment and safety of health care workers and the beneficiaries, the activity will adhere to requirements under the DO2 IEE – Malawi Positive Youth Development FY 2021 – FY 2026 and the Malawi Mission Programmatic EA. The activity implementation will consider applicability of Reg 216 requirements and CRM requirements and in line with DO2 IEE, the proposed activity have a Negative determination with conditions, it will develop an Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plans (EMMPs), Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Reports (EMMRs) and Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP).

Climatic and environmental factors play a significant role in the transmission of malaria. Development and viability of mosquitoes as malaria vectors is influenced by changes in temperature and humidity. Malaria distribution and incidence change due to changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, and migration. Close monitoring of malaria transmission and malaria vectors allows us to ensure the ITNs are effective. Climate stressors (i.e. heat waves, floods, droughts), can lead to extreme food insecurity resulting in increased morbidity and mortality from malaria. Climate shocks, particularly flooding, can exacerbate disruptions to service delivery and climate stressors can lead to extreme food insecurity resulting in increased morbidity and mortality from malaria. Providing access to protective measures for malaria (ITNs, IPTp, vaccines) reduces incidence, morbidity, and the need for malaria testing and treatment. While this activity will not directly address climatic and environmental changes, it will help the communities to adapt and be resilient in the face of these shocks by increasing access to quality malaria services and strengthening the relationships between communities and health providers which will help reduce the surge of cases exacerbated by these shocks.

10. COLLABORATION

10a. Collaboration with Other USAID Implementing Partners: This activity will collaborate with USAID case management, malaria in pregnancy, health and SBC activities to improve access to, demand for, utilization of, quality of and satisfaction with malaria services and preventive measures**.** The activity will leverage communication structures and systems established by these activities and to ensure consistent messaging and complementary approaches. This includes prevention measures such as routine distribution of ITNs to pregnant women and newborns and IPTp to pregnant women, as well as working with partners implementing the malaria vaccine to ensure improved update of the fourth and final dose. The activity will also build on case management supportive supervision visits conducted by other partners and NMCP, in order to ensure consistent information sharing, guidance and messaging to health facilities and community providers. Additionally, the project will implement and support evidence-based SBC and mobilization activities to increase acceptance and appropriate use of vector control interventions. In addition to SBC, building on the results of the environmental assessment of the impact and scope of misuse of ITNs for fishing (results pending), the activity will also collaborate with Governance for Solutions and other food and biodiversity USAID activities to address the drivers of misuse of nets for fishing and/or effective mitigation measures. The activity will work together with the Restoring Fisheries for Sustainable Livelihoods in Lake Malawi project (and successors) to support the NMCP in developing, adapting and disseminating IEC materials against misuse of nets. The project may also collaborate with Governance for Solutions if there is geographic overlap to support the capacity strengthening at the district level. Additionally, as malaria prevention has been shown to have a significant positive impact on maternal and child health outcomes; this activity will collaborate with other USAID health activities in addressing issues of maternal, neonatal and child health as well as infectious diseases more broadly. Finally, given the importance of supply chain management in the access and uptake of key prevention interventions and treatment, the activity will collaborate with USAID supply chain partners in improving tracking and monitoring of nets and other commodities distributed routinely and via mass campaigns to ensure accountability.

10b. Collaboration with the GOM: The proposed activity has been endorsed by the MOH and the NMCP through a rigorous Malaria Operational Planning process and is co-designed with the NMCP including the joint selection of geographic locations and beneficiaries. The activity will complement and leverage ongoing efforts by the GOM and the NMCP to scale up malaria vaccinations, preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy, as well as efforts to expand access to quality malaria case management services. It will also complement other prevention efforts by the NMCP including the distribution of nets. The activity will provide technical assistance to the districts to collect and jointly analyze critical monitoring data to identify strategies to improve access to and the quality of malaria services. Key district staff to be involved in the planning, supervision, and implementation of this activity at the district level. The activity will work hand in hand with the district structures with the district councils and with the engagement of local leaders.

10c. Collaboration with the Activities of other Development Partners: PMI Malawi and Global fund are the primary partners funding malaria control activities in Malawi contributing over 90 percent of all malaria commodities as well as supporting activity implementation. PMI, the Global Fund, and the Government of Malawi (GOM) co-fund, co-design, and co-implement the National Malaria Strategic Plan. Global Fund and PMI activities are closely aligned, under the National Malaria Strategic Plan to ensure complementarity as well as avoid duplication of efforts. This activity will complement service delivery efforts funded by the Global Fund and provide technical assistance to the NMCP and other partners in the design and implementation of these activities to ensure that implementation meets global safety, environmental, and efficacy standards. The indicators, performance standards, and milestones to be used in this activity will be aligned to the Global Fund supported activities where possible and appropriate.

11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with USAID ADS 201 policy guidelines, a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan is required to articulate how progress towards the activity goal, objectives, IRs, and sub-IRs will be monitored over the life of the activity, and how the use of routine data collected under this activity will be used to inform continuous performance improvement and learning among the activity's key stakeholders and collaborating partners. This management tool enables the Applicant and USAID/PMI to capture and document results achieved, using available data sources such as in-country HMIS systems and evaluation practices that are responsive to the local context and global best practices. The successful applicant will propose (in consultation with PMI) appropriate performance indicators to track and report activity performance in a precise and timely manner. This plan should define critical performance indicators, data collection methods and the recipient's plans for analyzing and sharing information for reporting, accountability, learning and adaptation. A strong strategy for ensuring regular data collection and review to inform programming and course corrections in real-time, with attention to poor performance, is essential. Applicants are therefore required to submit a draft MEL plan with their application that describes how it will work with USAID/PMI to monitor progress towards program objectives. The data from the project must be housed in Malawi and should be available for access by relevant Government Ministries, avoid creating parallel data repositories where similar ones already exist at all costs. The MEL plan is a required document, due within 90 days of the award.

Below are some illustrative indicators for consideration by applicants as they prepare the MEL plan, but applicants are at liberty to come up with list of indicators that would sufficiently measure each proposed result of the activity:

Obj. 1: Strengthened and institutionalized capacity of facility-based and community-based health providers to provide high quality, comprehensive, patient-centered, malaria services (including but not limited to integrated community case management, malaria parasitological diagnosis and treatment, intermittent preventive treatment, and routine distribution of insecticide treated nets)

- Number of HWs trained/mentored/supervised in case management for uncomplicated malaria (including for pregnant women) (disaggregated by facility, community levels, and gender)
- Number of HWs trained/mentored/supervised in management of severe malaria/referral for severe malaria (disaggregated by facility, and community levels, and gender)

- Number of HWs trained/mentored/supervised in iCCM (disaggregated by gender)
- Percentage of HWs demonstrating competency in diagnosing malaria cases
- Number of health workers (HWs) trained/mentored/supervised in lab diagnostics
- Percentage of health facilities with >90% of HWs classifying malaria cases correctly
- Percentage of HWs demonstrating competency in treating malaria cases
- Number of HWs trained/mentored/supervised in malaria in pregnancy (disaggregated by gender)
- Percentage of HWs demonstrating competency in diagnosing and treating malaria in pregnant women
- Percentage of HWs demonstrating competency in delivering IPTp for prevention of malaria in pregnancy
- Number of malaria cases referred to health facility for higher level of care
- Number of doses of Rectal Artesunate given by HSA
- Percentage of eligible children who received the fourth dose of the malaria vaccine

Obj. 2: Improved malaria prevention and health-seeking practices and behaviors at the individual, household, and community levels

- Number of community members accessing care through HSAs
- Proportion of fever cases seen within 24hrs
- Percentage of malaria cases being diagnosed at the community level
- Proportion of malaria cases treated at the community level
- Proportion of people who slept under an ITN during the previous night
- Proportion of households with a functional ITN
- Proportion of women in the birth cohort who attend ANC in the first trimester
- Proportion of women attending ANC completing IPTp3
- Community Engagement Intensity Index (CEII): Overall measure of the intensity of community engagement efforts. Suggested indicator disaggregated by proportion of CHAGs conducting community meetings, proportion of community meetings held, and proportion of household visits and topics covered. Include the number of people reached through community meetings and household visits by gender.
- Proportion of community groups or committees that completed at least one activity described in their action plan

- Percentage of target audience reached through broadcasting community radio spots and print products, categorized by focus area, minutes aired and estimated population reached.

Obj. 3: Strengthen the capacity of the districts, community-based and other local entities to lead, manage, supervise, monitor and evaluate malaria service delivery and social behavior change interventions.

- Monthly assessment of DHIS2 data quality, evaluating completeness, accuracy, and timeliness, while also tracking quarterly utilization of the Malaria Bulletin application to measure user engagement and data use.
- Percentage of supervised/mentored laboratory facilities that meet standards (including appropriate materials, documentation, and qualified staff) for quality diagnosis of malaria
- Proportion of targeted health facilities that receive a supervisory visit with the frequency consistent with the country's strategy
- Proportion of targeted CHWs that receive a supervisory visit with the frequency consistent with the country's strategy
- Proportion of coordination meetings held with other partners
- Percentage of district malaria related technical working group meetings that are held on schedule
- Number of facilities having stockouts of key malaria management supplies (e.g. ITNs; malaria tests and treatments, etc.)
- Level of engagement of youth, school clubs, women and faith leaders in community malaria prevention and awareness of care-seeking and adherence to treatment initiatives, measured through participation in events, collaborations, and leadership roles.

The MEL plan shall also provide a detailed collaborating, learning and adapting (CLA) plan. The plan should elaborate how this project will collaborate with stakeholders to document lessons learned and best practices. The MELP should provide specific details on how the activity will facilitate collaboration internally and with external key stakeholders and will facilitate learning among activities and programs that are complementary to this project.

The MEL plan is also expected to provide succinct details on how the activity will generate and feed new learning, innovations, and performance information back into the system to inform program management, design, policy dialogue opportunities and advocate for government commitment for future replenishment (e.g. creating pauses for reflection within the activity implementation scheme, engaging stakeholders for shared 'learning moments', conducting analytical review of existing and/or new evidence that may support or contradict common understanding). The applicant should also clearly state in the MEL plan how the project will translate learning (considering changing conditions, along the lines of the risks, assumptions and game changers) into strategic and programmatic adjustments.

[END OF SECTION A]

SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

A. Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated

Issuance of this funding opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government, nor do those commit the U.S. Government to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of questions, comments, suggestions, Concept Papers, and/or Full Application. Applicants submit Concept Papers/Applications at their own risk, and all preparation and submission costs are at their expense.

USAID/Malawi anticipates funding one award with a combined total estimated amount (TEA) of up to **$8,000,000**. However, USAID is not obligated to make any awards.

B. Start Date and Period of Performance for Federal Award

The anticipated period of performance is 5 Years. The start date will be dependent upon the timeline in which negotiations and necessary responsibility determinations will be completed.

C. Type of Award and Substantial Involvement

USAID anticipates awarding one Cooperative Agreement pursuant to this funding opportunity. A Cooperative Agreement allows "substantial involvement" by USAID (active involvement by USAID in certain programmatic elements during performance of the project). USAID will be substantially involved in the implementation of the project in the following areas:

1) Approval of Recipient's Implementation plans (annual work plans).

2) Approval of specified Key Personnel and changes in Key Personnel.

3) Concurrence on the substantive provisions of sub-awards (if any).

4) Approval of the Recipient's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MEL Plan).

5) Approval of the Branding and Marking plan.

6) Monitor to authorize specific kinds of direction and re-direction of activities; and

7) Agency's Authority to immediately halt a construction activity (if any), if the recipient does not meet detailed performance specifications (for example, construction specifications).

D. Title to Property

Property title under the resultant agreement shall vest with the recipient in accordance with the requirements of the Mandatory Standard Provision for Non-US Organizations, "Title To And Use Of Property (August 2024)".

E. Authorized Geographic Code

Property title under the resultant agreement shall vest with the recipient in accordance with the requirements of the Mandatory Standard Provision for Non-US Organizations "Title To And Use Of Property (August 2024)".

F. Nature of the Relationship between USAID and the Recipient(s)

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient and under the subject project is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation for the PMI Case Management and Social Behavior Change Project, which is authorized by Federal statute.

The successful Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the project 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, project 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 to assure proper and efficient administration of the resulting award.

[END OF SECTION B]

SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

USAID defines "Implementing Partners" as U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations that can design and implement assistance activities outside the United States. All Implementing Partners must be legally registered entities under applicable law and eligible under the relevant laws to receive funding from a foreign source. Individuals, unregistered, or informal organizations are not eligible to be Implementing Partners.

This Funding Opportunity is limited to local organizations as the primary Applicant ("Prime"). Applicants may consider partnering with other local organizations who might hold specific subject matter expertise (e.g. financial/project management, social behavior change, malaria case management, malaria in pregnancy (MIP), etc.) to present an application covering all objectives of the project as outlined in the program description. In this case, the applicant submitting this application will be considered the Prime and partner organizations would be sub-awardees.

Eligibility for this NOFO is restricted to local (Malawian) organizations only. There are no exceptions. Applications from organizations that have not previously received financial assistance from USAID are welcome if the Applicant determines that it has necessary capacity to implement activities of this magnitude.

USAID defines a "local entity" as an individual, a corporation, a nonprofit organization, or another body of persons that:

(1) Is legally organized under the laws of; and

(2) Has as its principal place of business or operations in; and

(3) Is (A) majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of; and (B) managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country receiving assistance.

For purposes of this definition, 'majority owned' and 'managed by' include, without limitation, beneficiary interests and the power, either directly or indirectly, whether exercised or exercisable, to control the election, appointment, or tenure of the organization's managers or a majority of the organization's governing body by any means.

Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for federal financial assistance on the same basis as any other organization and are subject to the protections and requirements of Federal law.

All eligible interested local organizations are restricted to submitting only one concept paper as the prime applicant. If more than one concept paper is received from the same prime applicant, USAID will choose only one concept paper for review consideration and the additional papers will be deemed ineligible.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost share is not required under this funding opportunity. However, Applicants that are willing can propose cost share of any level as their contribution to the intended project. Please note that if cost share is proposed, it will not be a part of the merit review factors. As such any voluntary proposal to bring cost share will not result in added ratings or scores during technical or cost review. The proposed cost share funds may be provided directly by 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. This may include contribution of staff level of effort, office space or other facilities or equipment which may be used for the program, provided by the recipient. For guidance on cost sharing in grants and cooperative agreements see 2 CFR 200.306.

[END OF SECTION C]

SECTION D: CONCEPT PAPER AND FULL APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Agency Point of Contact

Primary POC:

Name	Lazarus Chimangeni
Title	Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
E-mail	lchimangeni@usaid.gov

Secondary POC:

Name	Gideon Suya
Title	Administrative Contracting/Agreement Officer
E-mail	gsuya@usaid.gov

2. Content and Format of Application Submission

The application process includes the following sequential phases:

1. Concept Paper(s) submission (See Annex 1 for Concept Paper template).
2. Review of Concept Paper(s) by USAID/Malawi.
3. Co-creation, collaboration, and communication with selected Applicant(s), by invitation only; and
4. An invitation for submission of a Full Application.

USAID/Malawi will be responsible for the review of Concept Papers and Full Applications and management of any subsequent awards issued under this Funding Opportunity. Additional information about each phase of the application process is provided below.

[END OF SECTION D]

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Submission and Evaluation of Concept Papers

Concept Paper Submission:

Once a concept paper has been submitted in response to this NOFO, USAID will conduct an initial review of the concept papers using the criteria outlined in the Merit Review Criteria.

The purpose of the initial review is to select those to progress to the co-creation stage. USAID may decide to hold meetings with and ask the applicant (and other partners, if the concept paper is proposing partnerships) extensive and highly detailed questions about the content of the concept paper. Requesting supplementary information or posing clarifying questions to one applicant does not obligate USAID to do so with all applicants nor does it guarantee an invitation to participate in subsequent co-creation stage or submit a full application.

A concept paper is a short document, *not to exceed five (5) pages*, in which the applicant provides an overview of its idea. All concept papers must be prepared and submitted in English using the provided concept paper template (see Attachment A) on www.grants.gov. The main body of the concept papers *must be five (5) pages or less, single-spaced with 12-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins on the electronic equivalent of 8.5 x 11-inch paper with page numbers in the bottom right-hand corner.* In addition to the concept papers(s), *if applicable*, applicant(s) may submit as an Annex to the Concept Paper(s), letters of commitment from member(s) of partnership(s) if such a structure is proposed.

The concept papers **must** also be accompanied by a 1-page notional budget, using the provided Budget Template (See Annex 2) on www.grants.gov.

Note:
1. Applicants should only provide the information and materials requested in the concept paper Template; additional information will not be reviewed and may adversely affect the Applicant's submission.

2. Concept Papers in response to the Funding Opportunity are due by date and time noted in the cover page. Concept Papers submitted after the deadline will be considered ineligible and will not be reviewed.

Questions from applicants about this Funding Opportunity are due no later than the date and time noted on the cover page. After the closure of the Q&A period, USAID will post written responses on www.grants.gov.

Concept Paper Evaluation:
Concept papers will be reviewed according to the Merit Review Criteria. Concept papers that do not adhere to formatting guidelines will be considered ineligible and not be evaluated.

Following review of all Concept Papers, applicants will receive one of two possible determinations:

> 1) Concept Paper(s) is selected to move on to the co-creation/discussion phase with USAID, **or**
> 2) Concept Paper(s) is unsuccessful, and USAID will not pursue further collaboration with the applicant under this Addendum.

Note: USAID/Malawi anticipates notifying Applicant(s) of Concept Paper within 60 calendar days of the deadline for submission if USAID/Malawi wishes to engage in further discussions/co-creation or if USAID will not pursue further collaboration under the Funding Opportunity based on the submitted Concept Paper.

B. Co-creation, Shared Responsibility, Collaboration, and Communication

Awards should be co-created, co-developed, and co-implemented. This means that, rather than telling applicants how USAID wants to solve a problem, the Agency presents a challenge, solicits ideas for how to best address it and works from concept to issuance to management of awards in an iterative, participatory, and collaborative process. USAID will identify and define jointly with the applicant during co-creation, the development problems to tackle in the project, and then collaborate to determine whether and how to solve those problems and achieve the greatest degree of measurable, and sustainable impact. USAID shares risks and responsibilities with the applicant, and both work together to mobilize, leverage, and apply more effectively each other's respective assets, expertise, and resources.

USAID intends to invite a selected group of the most promising concept paper applicants to engage in **virtual** co-creation discussions with USAID and other stakeholders. More information to follow.

The aim of co-creation is to collaboratively refine objectives, define activities, align timelines, finalize budgets, etc. Through discussions, both the applicant(s) and USAID may identify additional resources, partners, or strategies necessary to successfully implement the project. This process may involve potentially extensive discussions with USAID/Malawi, or other experts, within or outside of USAID. In submitting a concept paper, applicants give USAID the right to share concept papers with appropriate external partners solely for the purposes of evaluation or co-creation. All parties privy to the contents of submitted concept papers, whether within or outside of USAID, will be required to keep contents in confidence. Further information will be provided to those applicants who will be selected to move forward in the process.

If USAID decides to continue with the proposed activities following the co-creation phase, USAID will request a full application from applicant(s) invited, inclusive of all modifications, expansions, discussions, etc. resulting from the co-creation phase. Communication with USAID during the concept paper/co-creation phase should NOT be interpreted as a commitment to funding or guaranteed request for a full application. Any expenses incurred by applicants during this time are solely the responsibility of the applicants, unless otherwise stated in writing by USAID.

USAID will accept full application(s) from eligible applicant(s) by invitation **only**. Full application(s) will expand upon the concept paper to provide extensive details about the planned projects and activities, incorporating any ideas, adjustments, feedback, etc. that arose during co-creation. *The eligible participant(s)* ***may*** *be requested to form a consortia at this stage.*

C. Concept Paper Merit Review Criteria and Considerations

USAID/Malawi will use the following criteria to assess concept papers in response to the funding opportunity. Any concept paper submitted should propose an approach that satisfies these criteria and exhibits the characteristics set forth below.

Concept Papers will be assessed according to the following merit review criteria on an adjectival system; *Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, and Marginal. The Criteria 1-4 below are assessed on a weighted scale as outlined below.*

Concepts papers will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the following Technical Merit Review Criteria shown in descending order of importance:

- Technical Approach
- Management and Staffing Plan
- Alignment with USAID and Mission Objectives, existing projects, and Programming Priorities
- Equity and Inclusion

Criterion 1: Technical Approach.

- Extent to which the proposed approach feasibly achieves the objectives outlined in Section **A (Project Description)** and demonstrates a clear and complete understanding of scope and scale of the project.
- A well-reasoned, realistic, evidence-based, and locally driven approach to achieving the vision and outcomes of the program and integration of the program's guiding principles.
- Extent to which the proposed approach is consistent with the latest National Malaria Control Program and PMI guidance

Criterion 2: Management and Staffing Plan

The Management and staffing section and its complementary annexes will be considered here.

- The extent to which the Management and Staffing Plan, including institutional partners and Key Personnel, is appropriate to accomplish the objectives and results of the Program Description.
- The extent to which proposed personnel have the skills and resources necessary for successful implementation of the proposed interventions (including appropriate language, skills, context-specific, and sector-specific knowledge, and experience for implementation in Malawi) and includes a plan which outlines proposed roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships of key and non-key personnel.

Criterion 3: Alignment with Mission Objectives, existing projects, and Programming Priorities

- The extent to which the proposed partnerships and activities align with USAID policies, the Mission's strategy, programming priorities, NMCP and MoH policies and relevant existing projects.

Criterion 4: Equity and Inclusion

- The extent to which proposed technical solution demonstrates a clear strategy/vision to create improved outcomes using an intersectional lens to prioritize equity, along the equity dimensions most relevant to the context, and extent to which a diversity of groups, especially marginalized and underrepresented populations1, are actively invited to contribute and participate at every stage of the concept development, activity design, and implementation.

D. Preparation of Full Applications

NOTE: USAID IS NOT REQUESTING THIS INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. THE MOST HIGHLY RATED APPLICANT(S) WILL BE REQUESTED BY USAID TO SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION FOLLOWING THE EVALUATION OF THE CONCEPT PAPERS AND FOLLOWING CO-CREATION.

Full applications, once requested officially, must be submitted in two separate parts: the Technical Application and the Business (Cost) Application. This subsection addresses general content requirements applying to the full application. The Technical application must address technical aspects only while the Business (Cost) Application must present the costs, and address risk and other related issues. **Budget information should not be included in the Technical Application.** Both the Technical and Business (Cost) Applications must include a cover page containing the following information

- Name of the organization(s) submitting the full application.
- Identification and signature of the primary contact person (by name, title, organization, mailing address, telephone number and email address) and the identification of the alternate contact person (by name, title, organization, mailing address, telephone number and email address).
- Project name (no acronyms please)
- Notice of Funding Opportunity number
- Name of any proposed sub-recipients or partnerships (identify if any of the organizations are local organizations, per US/International organizations)

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

Full applications must comply with the following:

- USAID will not review any pages in excess of the page limits noted in the subsequent sections. Please ensure that the full applications comply with the page limitations.
- Written in English
- Use standard 8 ½" x 11", single sided, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1" margins, left justification and headers and/or footers on each page including consecutive page numbers, date of submission, and applicant's name.
- 10-point font can be used for graphs and charts. Tables, however, must comply with the 12-point Times New Roman requirement.
- Submitted via Microsoft Word or PDF formats, except budget files which must be submitted in Microsoft Excel.
- The technical application must be a searchable and editable Word or PDF format as appropriate.
- The Cost Schedule must include an Excel spreadsheet with all cells unlocked and no hidden formulas or sheets. A PDF version of the Excel spreadsheet may be submitted in addition to the Excel version at the applicant's discretion, however, the official cost application submission is the unlocked Excel version.

Applicants must review, understand, and comply with all aspects of this funding opportunity. Failure to do so may be considered as being non-responsive and may be evaluated accordingly. Applicants should retain a copy of the application and all enclosures for their records. 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."

Full Applications (at Phase II only) must be submitted electronically via email (the only approved delivery method) to OAA-Malawi-Solicit@usaid.gov with a copy to lchimangeni@usaid.gov and gsuya@usaid.gov.

Submissions must be limited to 25MB per email. USAID is unable to receive any email larger than 25MB. Before sending your documents to USAID as email attachments, convert them into

Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF and Excel. Signature pages must be converted to Adobe PDF format. Please do not send files in ZIP format.

After an applicant has sent its application electronically, the applicant should immediately check its own email to confirm that the attachments it intended to send were indeed sent. If an applicant discovers an error in its transmission, it should send the material again and note in the subject line of the email that it is a "corrected" submission. Please do not send the same email more than once unless there has been a change, and if so, please note that it is a "corrected" email.

The subject line for every such email must include the following: **RFA No. 72061224RFA00003, PMI Case Management and Social Behavior Change Project**

During the full application submission, applicants must indicate the project name in the subject line and in the body of the email submission.

Multiple emails may be sent to accommodate the application size and content. 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 (if more than one is sent) and of attachments (e.g., "No. 1 of 4", etc.). For example, if the Applicant's cost application is being sent in two emails, the first email should have a subject line which says: "[organization name], Cost Application, Part 1 of 2".

USAID's preference is that the technical application and the cost application be submitted respectively as single email attachments, e.g., that the Applicant consolidate the various parts of a technical application into a single document before sending it. If this is not possible, please provide instructions on how to collate the attachments. USAID will not be responsible for errors in compiling electronic applications if no instructions are provided or are unclear.

Applications (and corrections, if any) must be submitted no later than the date indicated as the deadline for the submission of applications in this funding opportunity as indicated on the cover letter accompanying this funding opportunity. All applications received by the submission deadline will be reviewed for responsiveness to the funding opportunity and the application format. No addition or modifications will be accepted after the submission date.

Consistent with ADS 303.3.6.6, applications that are submitted late may be eliminated from the competition. If a late application is evaluated and considered for award, all similarly situated late applications (in terms of time of receipt) will also be evaluated and considered for award.

1. Full Technical Application Format (only for those invited to submit)

The technical application should be specific, complete, and presented concisely. The application must demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this project. The application must consider the requirements of the project and evaluation criteria found in Section E of this funding opportunity.

The page limitation for the technical application is **20 pages, excluding Cover page, Table of Contents, and Annexes**. Specific page limits for the Annexes are identified below. Any pages submitted in excess of these limitations will not be reviewed.

Full technical application shall include the following sections:

(a) Cover Page

(b) Table of Contents

(c) Executive Summary

The Executive Summary must provide a high-level overview of key elements of the Technical Application.

d) Technical Approach

e) Management and Staffing Approach

f) Annexes (not included in the 20-page limitation):

Annex 1 - Draft Implementation Plan (up to three pages)
Annex 2 - Approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (up to two pages)
Annex 3 –Organizational Chart (up to two pages)

Annex 1 - Draft Implementation Plan (up to three pages)
This annex must set forth a draft implementation plan for the first year of implementation along with a draft mobilization plan covering detailed activities for the first six months of award. The format will be developed by the applicant. The draft implementation plan will form the basis of the Recipient's implementation plan described in Section F.3 ("Annual Work Plan").

Annex 2 - Approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (up to two pages)

This annex must set forth an Approach to Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) that will help to collect, report, and document the achievement of each expected result at this solicitation stage.

Then after award, the selected partner will work with USAID team and Government counterpart to develop a full blown AMEL Plan that should describe the methodology, performance standards(indicators) and targets to be used for cost effective and timely implementation, data collection, quality, analysis, and reporting of results as outlined in the Program Description. **Applicants should use the following USAID link to access How-To Note: Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan and access Additional Help: Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan Template: https://usaidlearninglab.org/resources/how-note-activity-monitoring-evaluation-and-learning-plan**

Annex 3 –Organizational Chart (up to two pages)
This annex must include a chart showing the proposed organization for the activity for the prime Applicant as well as any organizations in teaming arrangements/subawards; this chart must include, but is not limited to, a representation of the staff reporting lines and relationships between the different positions.

2. Cost Application Format

The Cost application must be submitted separately from the technical application. The overall budget must be presented in US dollars, must provide the types of costs broken down by years, organized in the cost categories in the SF-424 budget, and **using the attached budget template/format**.

A thorough cost analysis and cost realism analysis will be performed **for the apparently successful Applicant only**. For USAID to conduct this cost analysis, the information provided by the applicant in the detailed budget and budget narrative must be complete and, in enough detail, to determine whether the proposed costs for the applicant's activity are realistic, allocable, allowable, and reasonable.

a. Budget and Budget Narrative

The Budget must be submitted as one unprotected Excel file (MS Office 2000 or later versions) with visible formulas and references and must be broken out by project year, including itemization of the federal and non-federal (cost share, if any) amount. Files must not contain any hidden or otherwise inaccessible cells. Budgets with hidden cells lengthen the cost analysis time required to make award and may result in a rejection of the cost application. The Budget Narrative must contain sufficient detail to allow USAID to understand the proposed costs. The applicant must ensure the budgeted costs address any additional requirements identified in Section F, such as Branding and Marking. The Budget Narrative must be thorough, including sources for costs to support USAID's determination that the proposed costs are fair and reasonable.

The Budget must include the following worksheets or tabs, and contents, at a minimum:

- Summary Budget, inclusive of all program costs (federal and non-federal), broken out by major budget category and by year for activities implemented by the applicant and any potential sub-applicants for the entire period of the program. See Annex 3 for Summary Budget Template.
- Detailed Budget, including a breakdown by year, sufficient to allow the Agency to determine that the costs represent a realistic and efficient use of funding to implement the applicant's program and are allowable in accordance with the cost principles found in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.

- Detailed Budgets for each sub-recipient, for all federal funding and cost share, if any proposed, broken out by budget category and by year, for the entire implementation period of the project.

The Detailed Budget must contain the following budget categories and information, at a minimum:

1) **Salaries and Allowances** – Must be proposed consistent with 2 CFR 200.430 Compensation - Personal Services. The applicant's budget must include position title, salary rate, level of effort, and salary escalation factors for each position. Allowances, when proposed, must be broken down by specific type and by position. The applicant must explain all assumptions in the Budget Narrative. The Budget Narrative must demonstrate that the proposed compensation is reasonable for the services rendered and consistent with what is paid for similar work in other activities of the applicant. If the applicant's written policies do not address a specific element of compensation that is being proposed, the Budget Narrative must describe the rationale used and support market research.

2) **Fringe Benefits – (if applicable)** If the applicant has a fringe benefit rate approved by an agency of the U.S. Government, the applicant must use such rate and provide evidence of its approval. If an applicant does not have a fringe benefit rate approved, the applicant must propose a rate and explain how the applicant determined the rate (for example, how the rate was budgeted for in accordance with the local labor law). In this case, the Budget Narrative must include a detailed breakdown of all items of fringe benefits (e.g., superannuation, gratuity, etc.) and the costs of each, expressed in U.S. dollars and as a percentage of salaries.

3) **Travel and Transportation** – Provide details to explain the purpose of the trips, the number of trips, the origin and destination, the number of individuals traveling, and the duration of the trips. Per Diem and associated travel costs must be based on the applicant's normal travel policies. Applicants should explain their assumptions and basis of estimates in the Budget Narrative.

4) **Procurement or Rental of Goods (Equipment & Supplies), Services, and Real Property** – Must include information on estimated types of equipment, models, supplies and the cost per unit and quantity. The Budget Narrative must include the purpose of the equipment and supplies and the basis for the estimates. The Budget Narrative must support the necessity of any rental costs and reasonableness considering such factors as: rental costs of comparable property, if any; market conditions in the area; alternatives available; and the type, life expectancy, condition, and value of the property leased.

5) **Subawards** – Specify the budget for the portion of the program to be passed through to any subrecipients. See 2 CFR 200.331 for assistance in determining whether the sub-tier entity is a subrecipient or contractor. The subrecipient budgets must align with the same requirements as the applicant's budget, including those related to fringe and indirect costs.

6) **Construction -** may only be authorized under this award in accordance with USAID's Automated Directive System 303maw entitled "USAID Implementation of Construction

Activities" Mandatory Standard Provision entitled "LIMITING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES (AUGUST 2013)" will be included in the resultant awards

7) **Other Direct Costs** – This may include other costs not elsewhere specified, such as report preparation costs, passports and visas fees, medical exams, and inoculations, as well as any other miscellaneous costs which directly benefit the program proposed by the applicant. The applicant should indicate the subject, venue and duration of any proposed conferences and seminars, and their relationship to the objectives of the program, along with estimates of costs. Otherwise, the narrative should be minimal.

8) **Indirect Costs** – The applicant must indicate whether they are proposing indirect costs or will charge all costs directly. To better understand indirect costs please see Subpart E of 2 CFR 200. The application must identify which approach the applicant is proposing and provide the applicable supporting information. Below are the most commonly used Indirect Cost Rate calculation methods:

Method 1 - Direct Charge Only
Eligibility: Any applicant
Initial Application Requirements: See above on direct costs.

Method 2 - Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)
Eligibility: Any applicant with a NICRA issued by a USG Agency must use that NICRA.
Initial Application Requirements: If the applicant has a current NICRA, submit your approved NICRA and the associated disclosed practices. If your NICRA was issued by an Agency other than USAID, provide the contact information for the approving Agency. Additionally, at the Agency's discretion, a provisional rate may be set forth in the award subject to audit and finalization. See USAID's Indirect Cost Rate Guide for Non-Profit Organizations for further guidance.

Method 3 - De minimis rate of up to 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)
Eligibility: Any applicant that does not have a current NICRA
Initial Application Requirements The recipient must consistently charge its costs as either indirect or direct costs but must not double charge or inconsistently charge the same cost or categories of costs as both. Once elected, this rate and methodology must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as the recipient elects to negotiate and use a NICRA.

MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first $50,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). **MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of $50,000.** Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

Method 4 - Indirect Costs Charged as A Fixed Amount
Eligibility: Non-U.S. non-profit organizations without a NICRA may request, but approval is at the discretion of the AO.

Initial Application Requirements: Provide the proposed fixed amount and a worksheet that includes the following:

- Total costs incurred by the organization for the previous fiscal year and estimates for the current year.
- Indirect costs (common costs that benefit the day-to-day operations of the organization, including categories such as salaries and expenses of executive officers, personnel administration, and accounting, or that benefit and are identifiable to more than one program or activity, such as depreciation, rental costs, operations and maintenance of facilities, and telephone expenses) for the previous fiscal year and estimates for the current year.
- Proposed method for prorating the indirect costs equitably and consistently across all programs and activities of using a base that measures the benefits of that particular cost to each program or activity to which the cost applies.

If the applicant does not have an approved NICRA and does not elect to utilize the 10% de minimis rate, the Agreement Officer will provide further instructions and may request additional supporting information, including financial statements and audits, should the application still be under consideration after the merit review. USAID is under no obligation to approve the applicant's requested method.

3. **The following sections describe the documentation that the Apparently Successful Applicant(s) must submit to USAID prior to award**. USAID is sharing these requirements in this funding opportunity, so applicants may prepare, to be proactive. USAID will be unable to make an award without the forms, certifications and assurances listed below.

While there is no page limit for this portion, Applicants are encouraged to be as concise as possible, but still provide the necessary details to address the following:

PLEASE NOTE, THESE DOCUMENTS (SF-424, 424A, AND REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES) WILL BE REQUESTED FROM THE APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS ONLY

- **SF-424 and SF-424A** - The Applicant must sign and submit the cost application standard form number SF-424 and SF-424A. Standard Forms can be accessed electronically at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/forms-repository.html

- **Required Certifications and Assurances**

  The applicant must complete the following documents and submit a signed copy with their application:

  a. "Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient" ADS 303mav document found at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kTsEHWxF96nV-ItFRHFdDkgbLgBRvIVorGuFmlsOoZU/export?format=docx
  b. Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)

4. Prior Approvals in accordance with 2 CFR 200.407

Inclusion of an item of cost in the detailed application budget does not satisfy any requirements for prior approval by the Agency. If the applicant would like the award to reflect approval of any cost elements for which prior written approval is specifically required for allowability, the applicant must specify and justify that cost. See 2 CFR 200.407 for information regarding which cost elements require prior written approval.

5. Approval of Subawards

The applicant must submit information for all subawards that it wishes to have approved at the time of award. For each proposed subaward the applicant must provide the following:

- Name of organization
- UEI Number
- Confirmation that the subrecipient does not appear on the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) list.
- Confirmation that the subrecipient does not have active exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM)
- Confirmation that the subrecipient is not listed in the United Nations Security designation list.
- Confirmation that the subrecipient is not suspended or debarred.
- Confirmation that the applicant has completed a risk assessment of the subrecipient, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.332(b)
- Any negative findings as a result of the risk assessment and the applicant's plan for mitigation.

6. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) Requirements

USAID may not award to an applicant unless the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements. Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is exempted from requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to:

1. Provide a valid UEI number for the applicant and **for all proposed sub-recipients**.
2. The Prime Applicant be registered in SAM before submitting its application. SAM is streamlining processes, eliminating the need to enter the same data multiple times, and consolidating hosting to make the process of doing business with the government more efficient (https://sam.gov/content/home).
3. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information, during the time it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

The registration process may take several weeks to complete. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to begin the process early. **Applicants need to be registered in SAM when**

submitting the full application. Applicants do not need to be registered in SAM when submitting a concept paper.

SAM registration: https://sam.gov/content/home

7. **History of Performance**

The Apparently Successful applicant will have to provide information regarding its recent history of performance for all its cost-reimbursement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs, not to exceed 5 years, as follows:

- Name of the Awarding Organization.
- Award Number.
- Activity Title.
- A brief description of the activity.
- Period of Performance.
- Award Amount.
- Reports and findings from any audits performed in the last 3 years; and
- Name of at least two (2) updated professional contacts who most directly observed the work at the organization for which the service was performed with complete current contact information including telephone number, and e-mail address for each proposed individual.

If the Apparently Successful applicant encountered problems on any of the referenced Awards, it may provide a short explanation and the corrective action taken. The applicant should not provide general information on its performance. USAID reserves the right to obtain relevant information concerning an applicant's history of performance from any sources and may consider such information in its review of the applicant's risk. The Agency may request additional information and conduct a pre-award survey if it determines that it is necessary to inform the risk assessment.

Applicants should not provide this information unless requested by the AO.

8. **Branding Strategy & Marking Plan**

TO BE REQUESTED FROM THE APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT ONLY

It is a federal statutory and regulatory requirement that all USAID programs, projects, activities, public communications, and commodities that USAID partially or fully funds under a USAID grant or cooperative agreement or other assistance award or subaward must be marked appropriately overseas with the USAID Identity. In addition, the successful Applicant(s) will be required to comply with USAID policy on marking and branding. See the USAID standard provisions below and "Marking and Public Communications under USAID-funded Assistance (December 2014)"

USAID will request and evaluate a branding strategy and marking plan from the apparently successful applicant(s), except in cases where an existing waiver applies; this evaluation will not be part of the competitive evaluation set forth in this section. The apparently successful applicant's proposed Marking Plan may include a request for approval of one or more exceptions to marking requirements. The Agreement Officer is responsible for evaluating and approving the Branding Strategy and a Marking Plan (including any request for exceptions) of the apparently successful applicant(s), consistent with the provisions ``Branding Strategy," and USAID policy on branding and marking. Please note that in contrast to "exceptions to marking requirements, waivers based on circumstances in the host country must be approved by Mission Directors or other USAID Principal Officers.

A helpful list of Frequently Asked Questions about Branding and Marking can be found on the USAID website: https://www.usaid.gov/branding/assistance-awards/.

The following provisions apply under this funding opportunity:

1. Branding Strategy – Assistance (June 2012*)*

a. Applicants recommended for an assistance award must submit and negotiate a "Branding Strategy," describing how the program, project, or activity is named and positioned, and how it is promoted and communicated to beneficiaries and host country citizens.

b. The request for a Branding Strategy, by the Agreement Officer from the applicant, confers no rights to the applicant and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.

c. Failure to submit and negotiate a Branding Strategy within the time frame specified by the Agreement Officer will make the applicant ineligible for an award.

d. The applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth, in the budget portion of the application. These costs are subject to the revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement, or other assistance instrument.

e. The Branding Strategy must include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(1) All estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth.

(2) The intended name of the program, project, or activity.

(i) USAID requires the applicant to use the "USAID Identity," comprised of the USAID logo and brandmark, with the tagline "from the American people" as found on the USAID Web site at http://www.usaid.gov/branding, unless Section VI of the RFA or APS states that the USAID Administrator has approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.

(ii) USAID prefers local language translations of the phrase “made possible by (or with) the generous support of the American People” next to the USAID Identity when acknowledging contributions.

(iii) It is acceptable to cobrand the title with the USAID Identity and the applicant's identity.

(iv) If branding in the above manner is inappropriate or not possible, the applicant must explain how USAID's involvement will be showcased during publicity for the program or project.

(v) USAID prefers to fund projects that do not have a separate logo or identity that competes with the USAID Identity. If there is a plan to develop a separate logo to consistently identify this program, the applicant must attach a copy of the proposed logos. Section VI of the RFA or APS will state if an Administrator approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.

(3) The intended primary and secondary audiences for this project or program, including direct beneficiaries and any special target segments.

(4) Planned communication or program materials used to explain or market the program to beneficiaries.

(i) Describe the main program message.

(ii) Provide plans for training materials, posters, pamphlets, public service announcements, billboards, Web sites, and so forth, as appropriate.

(iii) Provide any plans to announce and promote publicly this program or project to host country citizens, such as media releases, press conferences, public events, and so forth. Applicants must incorporate the USAID Identity and the message, “USAID is from the American People.”

(iv) Provide any additional ideas to increase awareness that the American people support this project or program.

(5) Information on any direct involvement from host-country government or ministry, including any planned acknowledgement of the host-country government.

(6) Any other groups whose logo or identity the applicant will use on program materials and related materials. Indicate if they are a donor or why they will be visibly acknowledged, and if they will receive the same prominence as USAID.

e. The Agreement Officer will review the Branding Strategy to ensure the above information is adequately included and consistent with the stated objectives of the award, the applicant's cost data submissions, and the performance plan.

f. If the applicant receives an assistance award, the Branding Strategy will be 4 included in and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement.

(END OF PRE-AWARD TERM)

2. Marking Plan – Assistance (June 2012)

a. Applicants recommended for an assistance award must submit and negotiate a "Marking Plan," detailing the public communications, commodities, and program materials, and other items that will visibly bear the "USAID Identity," which comprises of the USAID logo and brand mark, with the tagline "from the American people." The USAID Identity is the official marking for the Agency and is found on the USAID Web site at http://www.usaid.gov/branding. Section VI of the RFA or APS will state if an Administrator approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.

b. The request for a Marking Plan, by the Agreement Officer from the applicant, confers no rights to the applicant and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.

c. Failure to submit and negotiate a Marking Plan within the time frame specified by the Agreement Officer will make the applicant ineligible for an award.

d. The applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth, in the budget portion of the application. These costs are subject to the revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement, or other assistance instrument.

e. The Marking Plan must include all the following:

(1) A description of the public communications, commodities, and program materials that the applicant plans to produce, and which will bear the USAID Identity as part of the award, including:

(i) Program, project, or activity sites funded by USAID, including visible infrastructure projects or other sites physical in nature.
(ii) Technical assistance, studies, reports, papers, publications, audiovisual productions, public service announcements, Web sites/Internet activities, promotional, informational, media, or communications products funded by USAID.
(iii) Commodities, equipment, supplies, and other materials funded by USAID, including commodities or equipment provided under humanitarian assistance or disaster relief programs; and
(iv) It is acceptable to cobrand the title with the USAID Identity and the applicant's identity.
(v) Events financed by USAID, such as training courses, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, fairs, workshops, press conferences and other public activities. If

the USAID Identity cannot be displayed, the recipient is encouraged to otherwise acknowledge USAID and the support of the American people.

(2) A table on the program deliverables with the following details:

(i) The program deliverables that the applicant plans to mark with the USAID Identity.
(ii) The type of marking and what materials the applicant will use to mark the program deliverables.
(iii) When in the performance period the applicant will mark the program deliverables, and where the applicant will place the marking.
(iv) What program deliverables the applicant does not plan to mark with the USAID Identity, and
(v) The rationale for not marking program deliverables.

(3) Any requests for an exemption from USAID marking requirements, and an explanation of why the exemption would apply. The applicant may request an exemption if USAID marking requirements would:

(i) Compromise the intrinsic independence or neutrality of a program or materials where independence or neutrality is an inherent aspect of the program and materials. The applicant must identify the USAID Development Objective, Interim Result, or program goal furthered by an appearance of neutrality, or state why an aspect of the award is presumptively neutral. Identify by category or deliverable item, examples of material for which an exemption is sought.
(ii) Diminish the credibility of audits, reports, analyses, studies, or policy recommendations whose data or findings must be seen as independent. The applicant must explain why each deliverable must be seen as credible.
(iii) Undercut host-country government "ownership" of constitutions, 6 laws, regulations, policies, studies, assessments, reports, publications, surveys or audits, public service announcements, or other communications. The applicant must explain why each item or product is better positioned as a host-country government item or product.
(iv) Impair the functionality of an item. The applicant must explain how marking the item or commodity would impair its functionality.

(v) Incur substantial costs or be impractical. The applicant must explain why marking would not be cost beneficial or practical.
(vi) Offend local cultural or social norms or be considered inappropriate. The applicant must identify the relevant norm and explain why marking would violate that norm or otherwise be inappropriate.
(vii) Conflict with international law. The applicant must identify the applicable international law violated by the marking.

f. The Agreement Officer will consider the Marking Plan's adequacy and reasonableness and will approve or disapprove any exemption requests. The Marking Plan will be reviewed to ensure the above information is adequately included and consistent with the stated objectives of the award, the applicant's cost data submissions, and the performance plan.

g. If the applicant receives an assistance award, the Marking Plan, including any approved exemptions, will be included in, and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement, and will apply for the term of the award unless provided otherwise.

(END OF PRE-AWARD TERM)

9. Funding Restrictions

Profit is not allowable for recipients or subrecipients under this award. See 2 CFR 200.331 for assistance in determining whether a sub-tier entity is a subrecipient or contractor. If profit making organizations apply under this funding opportunity, no profit or fee will be authorized under the activity.

Construction may only be authorized under this award in accordance with USAID's Automated Directive System 303maw entitled "USAID Implementation of Construction Activities" Mandatory Standard Provision entitled "LIMITING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES (AUGUST 2013)" will be included in the resultant awards.

USAID will not allow the reimbursement of pre-award costs under this award without the explicit written approval of the Agreement Officer.

Except as may be specifically approved in advance by the AO, all commodities and services that will be reimbursed by USAID under this award must be from the authorized geographic code specified in Section B.4 of this funding opportunity and must meet the source and nationality requirements set forth in 22 CFR 228.

10. Conflict of Interest Pre-Award Term 2018

a. **Personal Conflict of Interest**

1. An actual or appearance of a conflict of interest exists when an applicant organization or an employee of the organization has a relationship with an Agency official involved in the competitive award decision-making process that could affect that Agency official's impartiality. The term "conflict of interest" includes situations in which financial or other personal considerations may compromise, or have the appearance of compromising, the obligations and duties of a USAID employee or recipient employee.

2. The applicant must provide conflict of interest disclosures when it submits an SF-424. Should the applicant discover a previously undisclosed conflict of interest after submitting the application, the applicant must disclose the conflict of interest to the AO no later than ten (10) calendar days following discovery.

b. **Organizational Conflict of Interest**

The applicant must notify USAID of any actual or potential conflict of interest that they are aware of that may provide the applicant with an unfair competitive advantage in competing for this financial assistance award. Examples of an unfair competitive advantage include but are not limited to situations in which an applicant or the applicant's employee gained access to non-public information regarding a federal assistance funding opportunity, or an applicant or applicant's employee was substantially involved in the preparation of a federal assistance funding opportunity. USAID will promptly take appropriate action upon receiving any such notification from the applicant.

(END OF PRE-AWARD TERM)

11. Full Application Merit Review

1. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria prescribed here is tailored to the requirements of this NOFO. Applicants should note that these 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.

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

2. Application Evaluation and Selection Process:

Selection Methodology
The SC will evaluate the applications in accordance with the selection criteria established in the NOFO. The criteria provide for a selection based upon the criteria established before receipt of the applications and are intended to assess how well the applications respond to the technical parameters needed to achieve the objectives of the project.

Selection Criteria
A Selection Committee (SC) comprised of USAID technical staff will evaluate the technical applications in accordance with the methods described below. The SC will use an adjectival approach when evaluating the received applications. The chart below details the rating scheme and the definitions that apply to the technical factors.

Adjective	Character Definition
Exceptional	An **Exceptional** rating under a review factor has the following characteristics: ● A comprehensive and thorough application of exceptional merit. ● Application meets and fully exceeds the Government expectations or exceeds the program description requirements and presents very low risk or **no** overall degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. ● Strengths **significantly outweigh** any weaknesses that may exist.
Very Good	A **Very Good** rating under this a review factor has the following characteristics**:** ● Application demonstrating a **strong** grasp of the requirements. ● Application meets program description requirements and presents a **low** overall degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. ● **Strengths significantly outweigh any weaknesses that exist.**
Satisfactory	A **Satisfactory** rating under a review factor has the following characteristics: ● Application demonstrating a reasonably sound response and a **good** grasp of the requirements. ● Application meets solicitation requirements and presents a **moderate** overall degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. **Strengths outweigh weaknesses.**
Marginal	A **Marginal** rating under a review factor has the following characteristics: ● Application shows a **limited** understanding of the requirements. ● Application meets some or most of the program description requirements but presents a **significant** overall degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. ● Weaknesses **equal or outweigh** any strengths that exist.
Unsatisfactory	An **Unsatisfactory** rating under a review factor has the following characteristics: ● Application **does not meet** the program description requirements or requires a major rewrite of the application. ● Presents an **unacceptable** degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. ● Deficiencies and significant weaknesses demonstrate a **lack of understanding** of the Government's needs. ● Weaknesses and or deficiencies **significantly outweigh** any strengths that exist.

When choosing an appropriate adjective, SC members shall consider a variety of factors related to the sections of the application and relevant to its overall quality and technical soundness. These include:

Scale of Significance for Merit Review Factors:
The scale of significance for the evaluation factors is provided to guide the applicant in preparation of its application and provide an advance hint of the importance and emphasis which must be made to inform the review and award consideration and other related decisions.

1. Technical Approach – Highly important equal to 50%
2. Management and Staffing Approach – Second most important equal to 35%
3. Organizational Capability – Third in importance ranking equal to 15%

Technical factors are significantly more important than cost. However, the cost application must demonstrate realistic spread of resources aligned with the proposed technical approach for project implementation. Overall, all four factors combined, must demonstrate a consolidated capability of the applicant to implement the project and achieve the intended results.

(1) Technical Approach:

The technical application must address the program description provided in the NOFO. The applications must demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the strategic and program objectives of the program.

Criterion Technical Approach:
The extent to which the proposed technical approach convincingly demonstrates a strategic, sound, innovative and realistic approach to achieve the specified objectives of the USAID/NMCP Malawi Malaria Case Management and Social Behavior Change project and reflects a thorough understanding of the overall program description, its purpose, objectives and expected results. Review of the technical approach includes:

a. Malaria case management and social behavior change: extent to which a feasible, effective and scalable high quality technical approach for malaria case management and social behavior change contributes to the provision of quality care and reduction of malaria cases. The applicant's technical approach must be aligned with the National Malaria Strategic Plan and National Malaria Program plans and guidelines, as well as PMI guidelines and policies, and incorporate interventions to: 1) meet each of the specific objectives and 2) achieve the stated overarching goal. Use of evidence-based methods proven to be successful (based on the scientific literature and documented international experience assessing the technical effectiveness of interventions) for the specific component will be evaluated.
b. Malawi context: demonstrated understanding of Malawi's national and local health and malaria landscape (i.e., epidemiology, care and treatment, vector control, and behaviors regarding malaria prevention interventions and health care seeking), understanding of Malawi's malaria services delivery system and its limitations, and knowledge of current national/regional strategies, programs, structures, and opportunities.
c. Capacity Strengthening: extent to which a feasible, effective approach for strengthening capacity of NMCP, MOH, regions, districts, and community structures in implementing, managing, intensifying and sustaining malaria control efforts and optimizing delivery of malaria services to address remaining gaps.

d. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL): The extent to which the proposed MEL plan is appropriate and feasible, allowing for assessment of program performance and program monitoring and learning against the selected indicators and objectives.
e. Key Cross-cutting Issues:
    i. The extent to which the program design reflects an understanding of the role of youth and gender and its influence upon susceptibility to malaria and on care seeking behaviors in the Malawi context.
    ii. The extent to which the approach demonstrates an understanding of the effects of climate change on malaria incidence and control and supports adaptive management of climate risks related to malaria case management and social behavior change activities.

Criterion/Sub Criterion Management and Staffing Approach:

a. The extent to which the applicant describes a plan for overall managerial and administrative functions responsive to the instructions outlined in the RFA.
b. The extent to which the applicant describes how roles and responsibilities between partners (prime and sub-awardees – if applicable) will be shared to ensure efficiencies and achievement of results. This includes how well the applicant demonstrates it and its sub-awardees possess the necessary institutional capability and technical expertise to achieve the project's objectives.
c. The extent to which the applicant ensures the high level of coordination and collaboration with national and local government counterparts, public and private sector implementing partners, and civil society representatives.
d. The extent to which the proposed plan provides for rapid start-up, and flexible and adaptable programming to ensure timely programmatic adjustments due to changes in the operating environment and malaria burden.

Criterion/Sub Criterion Organizational Capacity:

Assessment by the SC will include consideration of:
a. The extent to which applicants demonstrate soundness of their technical capacity and corporate experience in implementing technical programs relevant to the project's objectives. Details provided on proposed sub-awardee (if any) experience and how partners will support sustainability of Malawi's National Malaria Control Strategy will also be evaluated.
b. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates prior experience implementing malaria programming.

a) Business Review

The Agency will evaluate the cost application of the applicant(s) under consideration for an award as a result of the merit criteria review to determine whether the costs are allowable in accordance with the cost principles found in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.

The Agency will also consider (1) the extent of the applicant's understanding of the financial aspects of the program and the applicant's ability to perform the activities within the amount requested; (2) whether the applicant's plans will achieve the program objectives with reasonable economy and efficiency; and (3) whether any special conditions relating to costs should be included in the award.

Proposed cost share, if provided, will be reviewed for compliance with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.306, 2 CFR 700.10, and the Standard Provision "Cost Sharing (Matching)" for U.S. entities, or the Standard Provision "Cost Share" for non-U.S. entities.

The AO will perform a risk assessment (2 CFR 200.206). The AO may determine that a pre-award survey is required to inform the risk assessment in determining whether the prospective recipient has the necessary organizational, experience, accounting and operational controls, financial resources, 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. Depending on the result of the risk assessment, the AO will decide to execute the award, not execute the award, or award with "specific conditions" (2 CFR 200.208).

12. Determination of Award

The submitted technical application will be evaluated by a merit review committee using the merit review factors and criteria shown above. As a result of this process, USAID intends to select the apparently successful applicant(s) based upon the initial application submission. Once the selection is made, the Government may address any concerns to the selected recipient for resolution. However, the Government reserves the right to communicate with all applicants prior to selection of the successful recipient if in the best interest of the Government.

If USAID and the apparently successful applicant cannot come to a mutual understanding during discussions, or if the apparently successful applicant is unable to provide satisfactory Technical and Cost applications, or does not meet deadlines for submissions, or presents an unacceptable risk as a result of the risk assessment, then the Agreement Officer may designate the next highest-evaluated applicant as the apparently successful winner. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Agreement Officer. The Agreement Officer's decision regarding funding of an award is final and not subject to review.

[END OF SECTION E]

SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Administrative & National Policy Requirements

For non-U.S., non-governmental organizations, the USAID Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Non-Governmental recipients, and the applicable cost principles in 2 CFR 200 for non-profit organizations will apply. The Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., non-governmental recipients can be accessed through the following URL: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rfJ_-WvZk7bzyyHJCDV1NzRvY_yl-JNpVqE3bLTi6qU/export?format=docx

No deviations are anticipated to the standard provisions for the cooperative agreement(s) under this funding opportunity. All applicable standard provisions shall be incorporated into the resultant award(s).

2. Reporting Requirements

Applicants are reminded to budget prudent and adequate resources for completing the required reporting. All reports shall be in the English language, unless otherwise specified by the AOR. Electronic submissions will be preferred. It is not necessary to submit any of these documents with the application, but submission will be required under any resultant cooperative agreement(s).

The reporting formats, a detailed timeline (frequency of reporting), and instructions for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning plan, annual work plan, progress reports, success stories and any other USAID related reporting requirements will be provided by AOR to the Recipient upon award.

Additionally, the Recipient will be expected to meet regularly (via phone, email or in person) with the AOR or his/her designee to review the status of activities, and should be prepared to make periodic, unplanned verbal and written briefings to USAID as appropriate.

a. Financial Reporting

Financial reporting requirements will be in accordance with the Standard Provisions for Non-US Organizations. The recipient must submit an electronic version of the SF 425 Financial Report to the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) on a quarterly basis.

b. Program Reporting

The recipient will submit reports to the USAID AOR as described below, with a copy to the Agreement Officer:

i. Annual Work Plan

The Recipient will submit annual work plans per USAID guidance but no later than May 1st per USAID Procurement Executive Bulletin (PEB) No. 19-02 except for the first year. Other than the first annual work plan, annual work plans implementation begins on October 1 of each year.

Annual work plans are submitted along with a work plan budget in writing and presented orally during Work Plan Peer Reviews to the USAID Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) and other USAID staff for discussion, review, and approval. A standardized template for annual work plans is used by USAID partners and will be provided to the Recipient(s) upon award.

In the application, the Recipient will provide an implementation plan for the one-year implementation period, including detailed start up activities and timelines especially for the first 6 months of the award. The implementation plan will be finalized in consultation with USAID during the first 30 days following the award date and will not be considered complete until it has been approved in writing by the AOR. Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this Agreement, the Recipient shall submit to the AOR a work plan budget covering activities through September 2023.

AOR approval in writing of the annual work plans is required. All activities included in the annual work plan must be fully aligned with the Program Description. The AOR's approval of the annual work plan does not eliminate the requirement for the Recipient to seek Agreement Officer approval for items that otherwise require Agreement Officer approval under the award.

ii. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan

Within 90 calendar days of the start of the award, the Recipient is required to submit an Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP) to the USAID AOR for approval. The MEL Plan is a tool used to support the management of the activity and to inform USAID and the Recipient about whether and how an activity is making progress toward stated results.
A rigorous monitoring and evaluation system for the Activity, including adequate staffing, technical support and information systems for routine data collection and analytics, is required.

The Recipient will work closely with USAID to finalize indicators and set performance targets based on USAID guidance and requirements. The Recipient will be responsible for data collection, analysis, and performance reporting required by USAID per defined monthly, quarterly, and annual results reporting cycle. Data will be used to evaluate Recipient performance, drive decisions, guide course corrections as needed, and determine future funding.

iii. Periodic Performance Reports

A. Quarterly Performance Reporting

The Recipient will at a minimum submit quarterly and annual performance reports to the AOR within 30 days after the end of the performance period. At the request of the AOR, the Recipient will also submit high frequency data reports for specific indicators at the end of each month to track performance and achievement. Final versions of the quarterly and annual performance reports require AOR approval.

The quarterly performance reports shall include the following information:

(i) a summary of activities and key achievements.

(ii) a description of progress made during the reporting period and actual achievements; and
iv) one success story.

The reports should also highlight key accomplishments and any issues that are affecting the timing of activities, steps being taken, or proposals being made to resolve issues, plans and intended outputs for the following quarter.

B. Annual Progress Report

The annual progress report shall be a review of the previous year's accomplishments relative to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan, including challenges and success stories. Problems or issues encountered and how they were resolved shall be presented in the report. The report shall be submitted to the AOR within 30 calendar days after the end of fourth quarter, or the end of the USG fiscal year (September 30). It shall be submitted in lieu of the fourth quarterly performance report. The annual report shall include a discussion, supported with quantitative and qualitative evidence, (which evidence shall remain auditable under the terms of the agreement and USAID program implementation procedures), of progress against indicators and/or impacts achieved to date. This shall include clear identification of which impacts achieved were within the manageable interests of the recipient and which were likely catalyzed by recipient-supported initiatives, leading to substantial, sustained achievement of results. The final versions of the annual progress reports require AOR approval.

3. Program Income

If program income is anticipated to be generated under the award, program income will be added to total program amount in accordance with the standard provision "Program Income (August 2020)".

5. Environmental Compliance

1a) 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 Automated Directives System (ADS) Parts 201.5.10g and 204 (http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ADS/200/), which, in part, require that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. Recipient environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this RFA.

1b) In addition, the Recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern.

1c) No activity funded under this Cooperative Agreement will 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 (RCE), Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), or Environmental Assessment (EA) duly signed by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO). (Hereinafter, such documents are described as "approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.")

2) An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) has been approved for the project funding this RFA and for activities to be undertaken herein. The IEE contains a Positive Determination for the following proposed activities: This indicates that these activities have the potential for significant adverse effects on the environment. Accordingly, the recipient is required to comply with the terms of an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the environmental concerns raised by these activities. No activity identified under this Positive Determination can proceed until Scoping as described in §216.3(a)(4) and an EA as described in §216.6 are completed and approved by USAID (Note that the completed Scoping Statement is normally submitted by the MEO to the BEO when the project originates in a Mission. The Statement may be circulated outside the Agency by the BEO with a request for written comments within 30 days and approved by the BEO subsequently. Approval of the Scoping Statement must be provided by the BEO before the EA can be initiated.)

3a) As part of its initial Work Plan, and all Annual Work Plans thereafter, the recipient, in collaboration with the USAID Cognizant Technical Officer and Mission Environmental Officer or Bureau Environmental Officer, as appropriate, shall review all ongoing and planned activities under this CA to determine if they are within the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.

3b) If the recipient plans any new activities outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation, it shall prepare an amendment to the documentation for USAID review and approval. No such new activities shall be undertaken prior to receiving written USAID approval of environmental documentation amendments.

3c) Any ongoing activities found to be outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation shall be halted until an amendment to the documentation is submitted and written approval is received from USAID.

4a) USAID anticipates that environmental compliance and achieving optimal development outcomes for the proposed activities will require environmental management expertise. Respondents to the RFA should therefore include as part of their application their approach to achieving environmental compliance and management, to include:

4b) The respondent's approach to developing and implementing an [IEE or EA or environmental review process for a grant fund and/or an EMMP or M&M Plan].

4c) The respondent's approach to providing necessary environmental management expertise, including examples of experience of environmental management of similar activities.

4d) The respondent’s illustrative budget for implementing the environmental compliance activities. For the purposes of this solicitation, applicants should reflect illustrative costs for environmental compliance implementation and monitoring in their cost proposal.

[END OF SECTION F]

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

1. Primary POC:

Name	Lazarus Chimangeni
Title	Acquisition & Assistance Specialist
E-mail	lchimangeni@usaid.gov

2. Secondary POCs:

Name	Gideon Suya
Title	Administrative Contracting/Agreement Officer
E-mail	gsuya@usaid.gov

3. Acquisition and Assistance Ombudsman

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

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

[END OF SECTION G]

SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

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

Applications with Proprietary Data

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

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

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

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

[END OF SECTION H]

ANNEX 1: CONCEPT PAPER TEMPLATE- (Required Format)

The main body of the Concept Paper (sections II and III) must not exceed 5 pages (+1-page cover page + a 1-page notional budget template) and must use 12pt Times New Roman font, single spaced with 1-inch margins. Ten-point (10pt) font can be used for incorporated figures, tables, and legends, where necessary. The Concept Paper and supporting documentation must use the format described below and be written in English. If possible, all materials, including the notional budget, should be sent as a single PDF document. If this is not possible, MS Word format will be accepted. The Concept Paper must be submitted to OAA-Malawi-Solicit@usaid.gov with a copy to lchimangeni@usaid.gov and gsuya@usaid.gov no later than the date and time indicated on the cover letter, as amended.. The email subject line should follow this naming scheme identified in the RFA instructions.

SECTION I - COVER PAGE INFORMATION

A. Title of Concept Paper:
B. Applicant Contact Name:
C. Phone number and email address of contact:
D. Lead Institution:
E. Lead Institution UEI (if know:
F. Other Partner(s):
G. Sub-award Organization Name(s):
H. Sub-award Organization DUNS Number(s):
I. Proposed Period of Performance:
J. Proposed Project Budget:
K. Overall Concept Objective (1-2 sentences):
L. Type of Organization (e.g., U.S., non-U.S., multilateral, private, for-profit, non-profit etc.):

SECTION II – DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY (Section II may not exceed 5 pages)

1. Alignment with Strategic Objectives and Programming Priorities:

Describe how the proposed approach and interventions are aligned with USAID and strategic objectives and programmatic priorities as identified in the call for concepts and associated Addendum.

2. Description of Partnership and Partners

Describe the proposed partnership and how the core partner(s) have and will collaborate, including institutional strengths, capabilities, resources leveraged, alignment with individual or institutional priorities and mandates, and other appropriate context. Indicate institutional commitment and roles to the proposed activities and their intended outcomes. Describe how the proposed approach to partnership specifically fits the development problem(s) or challenge(s) to be addressed.

Describe the role of each partner in developing the Concept Paper, including contribution to the following:

- Identification and development of proposed solutions to the problem(s).
- Identification of needs/priorities in improving local capacity of individuals, institutions and/or systems for the opportunity identified.
- Identification and development of proposed implementation of the activities.
- Role in decision making regarding the proposed partnership.

Given that substantial collaboration is anticipated between partners at every stage of the proposed activity (including concept development, activity design, and implementation), briefly outline a plan for ensuring effective collaboration and communication between any proposed partners.

3. Description of the Development Problem or Challenge and Proposed Solution(s)

Clearly identify and describe the development problem or challenge to be addressed and provide a thorough description of:

- How the proposed approach and activities advances the evidence base for learning.
- A description of how the context will influence and shape the approach to an equitable partnership as well as the outputs, outcomes, results, and impact over the life of the proposal, an identification of the most salient risks to success, and proposed actions to mitigate risk.
- The anticipated outputs, outcomes, results, and impact, noting whether these anticipated changes happen at the individual, institutional, and/or systemic level, and how they will be sustained beyond USAID funding.
- How the proposed partnerships, projects, and activities will substantially improve individual, institutional, and/or systemic performance for the opportunity identified within three to five years;

4. Equity and Inclusion

How the proposed approach and activities will ensure equity and inclusion along the dimensions most relevant to the context and at the appropriate levels.

5. Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Summary

Briefly describe (2-3 paragraphs) your CLA and MEL plans, including illustrative indicators, frameworks, and learning questions that will be tracked throughout program implementation and used to modify implementation, as needed. At the concept Paper stage, it is normal that both the page limitations of the Concept Paper and the stage of the concept development limit how much an applicant can describe. However, applicants should strive to illustrate to USAID that they have discussed with partners where and when to gather robust data as part of their activity design and implementation, what uncertainties they anticipate, and how they will be prepared to learn and adapt during the implementation of the proposed activities.

When preparing a CLA/MEL plan, the Applicant is highly encouraged to utilize the CLA and MEL principles described in the following USAID toolkits:

- Monitoring
- Evaluation
- Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting

CLA and complexity-aware monitoring approaches are particularly relevant in conflict and crisis-affected contexts.

If invited to submit one, the Full Application will request a more comprehensive CLA/MEL plan, including all components outlined in Automated Directive Services 201 (ADS 201) section 201.3.4.10: A. Activity MEL Plan. Final indicators will be negotiated between the Apparently Successful Applicant and USAID/Malawi.

[Sections II of the Concept Paper must not exceed five pages.]

SECTION III – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Proposed Estimated Cost and Cost Breakdown (1 page maximum)

Please use the budget template provided in Attachment C of the APS.
If invited to submit one, the Full Application will request a more comprehensive budget.

2. Contact Information for Proposed Partners (2 page maximum)

Provide contact information for all the core partners in spreadsheet format. Include organization, point of contact name, title, email, and phone numbers, as well as a brief description of each prospective partner's previous work and experience.

3. Letters of Commitment

Applicants may provide a 1-page letter of commitment from each member of the partnership/consortium.

[END OF ANNEX 1]

ANNEX 2 - SUMMARY BUDGET TEMPLATE

If requested to submit a full application, Applicants must submit a summary and detailed cost application /budget using format outlined in standard form "SF-424A".

Summary Budget

Cost Category	**Breakdown by Activity Year**					Total
	Yr. (1)	Yr. (2)	Yr. (3)	Yr. (4)	Yr. (5)	5 Year
(a) Personnel						$0
(b) Fringe Benefits						$0
(c) Travel						$0
(d) Equipment						$0
(e) Supplies						$0
(f) Contractual (Including subawards, procurement contracts and consultants)						$0
(g) Other						$0
(h) Total Direct Costs						$0
(i) Indirect Charges / Deminimis Rate						$0
(j) Total Activity Amount	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

[END OF ANNEX 2]

ANNEX 3 - STANDARD PROVISIONS

(Note: the full text of these provisions may be found at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rfJ_-WvZk7bzyyHJCDV1NzRvY_yl-JNpVqE3bLTi6qU/export?format=docx). The actual Standard Provisions included in the award will be that for Non-U.S Organizations. The award will include the latest Mandatory Provisions for non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations, as appropriate**.** The award will also contain the following "required as applicable" Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Organizations:

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

[END OF ANNEX 3]

[END OF NOTICE FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. 72061224RFA00003]