USAID | MOZAMBIQUE
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AMENDMENT 01

RFA Issue Date: October 8, 2021

Opportunity Number: RFA Number: 72065622RFA00001 PREMIER

Deadline for Questions: October 22, 2021, at 17:00 PM

Amendment 1 Issuance: November 18, 2021

Closing Date & Time to

submit application: December 1, 2021, at 17:00 pm (Maputo Time)

Submit Full Applications to: amanhica@usaid.go

with a copy to: gboateng@usaid.gov

Subject: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Request For Application (RFA) Number: 72065622RFA00001

Program Title: USAID Feed the Future (FTF): **PREMIER**
Promoting Innovative and Resilient Agriculture Market Systems

Dear Applicant:

The Purpose of the **Amendment No. 01** is to:

1) Amend submission application due date from **November 22, 2021, at 17:00 pm** to **December 1, 2021, at 17:00 pm**
2) Provide responses to questions submitted in Attachment 1 to this Amendment;
3) Provide the "Revised Request For Application (RFA) Number: 72065622RFA00001"; and
4) Provide Annex 1: Results Framework (not to exceed 1 page).

Sincerely,

Jean-Jacques Badiane
Agreement Officer/USAID Mozambique

ATTACHMENT 01

72065622RFA00001 PREMIER

USAID Feed The Future (FTF): Promoting Innovative and Resilient Agricultural Market Systems (PREMIER)

Questions & Answers

General Questions

QUESTION NO.01:

On page 34 of the RFA in two separate position descriptions, it mentions "the Incumbent". Could USAID please clarify what is meant by this term in this context?

ANSWER NO.01:

The Incumbent refers to the proposed personnel to fill up the applicable position, that is, the future holder of the specific position being described.

QUESTION NO.02:

Page 40, Section D: Application and Submission Information, Sub-Section 3. General Content and Form of Application states "10-point font can be used for graphs and charts, Tables, however, must comply with the 12-point Times New Roman requirement." a. Would USAID please consider allowing Applicants to use a 10-point font for tables? b. Would USAID please confirm whether Applicants can use 10-point font for text boxes?

ANSWER NO.02:

a. **USAID does not accept the proposed change to use 10 point font for tables. Tables should comply with the 12-point Times New Roman font.**
b. **USAID accepts the proposed change to use 10 point font for text boxes**

(RFA amended on Pg 41, Section D: Application and Submission Information, Sub-Section 3. General Content and Form of Application)

QUESTION NO.03:

Personal security protection from terror groups, our program will also locate terror groups and those who will try to enlist young people to join terror groups. Young people will report these terror groups.
Will there be a US Military contact to report terror groups and terror activates?

ANSWER NO.03:

Implementing partners are prohibited to support any activity or groups related to terrorist activities. It is USAID standard policy to ensure that US taxpayers money does not finance terrorist groups or any activity that is related to terror groups.

QUESTION NO.04:
Page 40, Section D – Application and Submission Information, Sub-Section 3. General Content and Form of Application states "the estimated start date identified in Section B of this RFA must be used in the cost application" but Section B states "the estimated start date will be upon the signature of the award, on or about, or other effective date determined by the Agreement Officer". a. Would USAID please provide an estimated start date or remove that requirement from the RFA?

ANSWER NO.04:
USAID expects to make an award by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2022. As stated in the RFA p. 38, the estimated start date will be upon the signature of the award, on or about, or other effective date determined by the Agreement Officer.

QUESTION NO.05:
Is there a channel within USAID that facilitates the submission of activities/project proposals to partners who are already working locally with USAID Mozambique?

ANSWER NO.05:
For the purpose of this solicitation, Premier RFA already indicates where the applications should be submitted to.

Technical Questions

QUESTION NO.06:
On page 21 of the RFA, USAID defines an SME as a company of having a turnover of $15,000 to $3.2 million. Most international definitions of an SME are based on a number of employees; for example, the Government of Mozambique defines an SME as employing between 5 and 100 employees. Would USAID consider revising this definition to align with national standards?

ANSWER NO.06:
SMEs in Mozambique are formally defined according to the following classifiers, as stated in the statutes of the National Institute for Small and Medium Enterprises (IPEME) of 2007:

Classification	Number of Workers	Annual Turnover (MZN)	Annual Turnover (USD)

Micro Enterprise	1 to 4	≤ 1,2 million Meticais	≤ $20,000
Small Enterprise	5 to 49	from 1,2 to 14,7 million de Meticais	$20,000-$250,000
Medium Enterprise	50 to 100	from 14,7 to 29,97 million de Meticais	$250,000-$500,000

For Premier purposes, applicants can consider establishing partnerships with Mozambican and International companies with annual turnover up to $3.2 Million USD or above. The restriction to work only with SME organizations has been removed from the RFA. Applicants can work with Micro, Small and Medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) as well as larger agribusiness enterprises operating in Mozambique.

(RFA amended on Pg 18, broaden the scope of targeted beneficiaries to Agribusinesses enterprises of all sizes - Micro, small, medium and large)

QUESTION NO.07:
Could USAID please clarify what goal-level indicator or indicators will be used to measure results for this activity? The RFA provides mandatory and illustrative indicators for the sub-objectives, but not for the goal.

ANSWER NO.07:
Premier is supporting the Mozambique CDCS goal of "Increase Agricultural Based Incomes and Employment in target Areas". To achieve this goal, three sub-objectives were identified in the RFA. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to propose which indicators will best fit the Activity that will contribute to the overall Goal of Premier.

QUESTION NO.08:
On pages 26 and 27, the RFA describes the localization approach, which includes the requirement that at least 30% of the budget going to sub-awards and grants to (local) partners. Could USAID please clarify how a local organization serving as the lead applicant on this activity would address this budget requirement?

ANSWER NO.08:

The Premier RFA specifies that a minimum of 30% of the total budget should be used for sub-grants and sub-awards to local organizations or locally established organizations. The solicitation does not limit up to 100% of the funds to local organizations.

QUESTION NO.09:

The solicitation says that Construction activities are not allowed under grants but it also points out that two of the main reasons why Small Farmers are not producing is good roads access to Small Farms and no storage facilities available to store food products like grains (corn, wheat, oats, soybean, etc) until prices are right for reselling. There is a need for good roads so equipment can move from one small farm to another. We need to use sub-grant partnerships for roads and storage facilities like silos to market small farmers' products. We can also use our focused support, coordination, and collaboration with other USAID groups to help influence local Government support for roads and grain silo support. Can you allow for building product storage, grain silos, and roads to small farms that will allow machines to move from one small farm to another small farm?

ANSWER NO.09:

Construction activities are not allowed under the Premier Solicitation. However, USAID envisioned some rehabilitation work under the Sub-Grants and Partnerships component to support private sector initiatives. The Applicant is requested to propose a list of infrastructure that are envisioned for the Premier Activity with the Application submission. Some examples include storage facility rehabilitation, processing units rehabilitation, irrigation infrastructure establishment, greenhouses, solar pumps, etc.

https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303maw.pdf (USAID Implementation of Construction Activities). "Construction" for purposes of this policy means: construction, alteration, or repair (including dredging and excavation) of buildings, structures, or other real property and includes, without limitation, improvements, renovation, alteration and refurbishment. The term includes, without limitation, roads, power plants, buildings, bridges, water treatment facilities, and vertical structures.

QUESTION NO.10:

May more detail on USAID's concept of adaptive management as noted in the RFA, "The activity should apply an adaptive management approach to continuously learn from, and interventions as needed", be provided. This will help with proposal design and development.

ANSWER NO.10:

It is expected that Premier will have a pause and reflect moment annually where progress will be assessed, activities adjusted as lessons are learned. The Mid term evaluation will complement this annual assessment to allow for adaptive management.

QUESTION NO.11:

The RFA stresses the importance of regional trade flows and refers to the trade hub as "USAID activity that enhances knowledge spill over from South-Africa into other countries in the region". It would be good to know if regional partnerships (in addition to country partnerships) are envisioned in the proposal design and development.

ANSWER NO.11:

The RFA leaves the option to engage local, regional and international organizations at the discretion of the Applicant, considering the best way to achieve the objectives and results of Premier Activity.

QUESTION NO.12:

The RFA stresses the importance of activities related to policy and support to enabling environments. It would be good to know if this refers to the implementation of PEDSA/PNISA or other development annexes/value chain plans.

ANSWER NO.12:

The Applicant is expected to collaborate with the Government of the Republic of Mozambique (GRM) and align interventions with PEDSA/PNISA strategy and action plan. Premier can coordinate with other USAID activities (SPEED, RESINA, Innovation Labs) and/or partners' (public and private) to leverage knowledge and learning through communities of practice for policy implementation support.

QUESTION NO.13:

The RFA stresses the importance of strengthening private business and thus, also (small) aggregators – commercial farmers. As the RFA also references the SUSTENTA program, it would be good to know the extent to which this foreseen program favors respective focus on PACE's as an aggregation scheme, or not. This would inform proposal development.

ANSWER NO.13:

Premier is expected to collaborate and coordinate with other USAID Activities, other donor activities implementing similar activities and with host government aligned activities, including SUSTENTA. This includes, where feasible, aligning with the government PACE's extension services to ensure market driven, innovative and sustainable approaches to agribusiness development are in place.

QUESTION NO.14:

The RFA underscores the importance of having a financial actor within the proposed consortium. However, only GAPI is referred to. It would be good to know if there is also willingness to accept private financing actors as well, and/or IFAD/IFC for example.

ANSWER NO.14:

Yes, private financing actors are acceptable partners under Premier RFA. The RFA lists two of such organizations, GAPI and FSDMoc, but Applicants are encouraged to link with any financial institution with knowledge and experience in the sector. Access to sustainable financial services and products is one of the key sub objectives of Premier. Ensuring that the Applicant has the correct skills and organization knowledge to perform activities that bring access to finance for farmers and entrepreneurs and development of appropriate financial mechanisms to buy down the risk to finance the agricultural sector, requires partnerships with locally available entities that have the required expertise.

QUESTION NO.15:

In respect to the situational context of northern Mozambique and the longevity of a five-year program, is flexible programming envisioned and/or to be built into the PREMIER program?

ANSWER NO.15:

Yes, flexibility should be built into Premier Activity. Page 28 of the RFA specifically mentions the importance of bringing flexibility to the sub-grants and partnership session to respond to unforeseen opportunities or hazards/constraints within Premier Activity. Premier also mentions flexibility under the Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) session, the Activity must have the flexibility to respond to new opportunities as well as changing conditions, especially when markets are dynamic or volatile.

QUESTION NO.16:

Page 32, Section G. Crisis Modifier. Section specifies that offers should allow for the reprogramming of up to 20% (or $5M) of the Total Estimated Cost over the life of the activity for contingency planning in the event of a shock or disaster. Does this mean that offerors may budget and program this $5M for regular program implementation and/or grants while providing the flexibility for it to be reprogrammed under the Crisis Modifier if needed, or should we budget a $5M Crisis Modifier plug figure in our cost applications from the beginning?

ANSWER NO.16:

No, the applicants should not budget and program this $5M for regular program implementation and/or grants.

The $5M plug in figure should be identified as a separate CLIN budget line specifically for shocks and stresses that would only be triggered if/when funds become available. These funds can be programmed through the flexible granting mechanism to support rapid response and recovery from potential crises and shocks that may occur throughout the life of the activity.

QUESTION NO.17:

Can the USAID Mission provide greater detail on the intended definition of SME agribusinesses under this Activity? Will the segment be defined by annual turnover, financing ticket size, formal registration, or firm employment numbers?

ANSWER NO.17:

Please refer to ANSWER No. 06 above.

The Applicant may select which segmentation they would like to use to define their target beneficiary (MSME and large enterprises).

QUESTION NO.18:

Would the Mission consider the inclusion of the Result Framework in an Annex as opposed to the body of the Technical Approach? Will the mission be open to Annexes beyond the ones defined on page 43 of the RFA?

ANSWER NO.18:

Yes, USAID has accepted the suggestion to include the Results Framework as an annex to The RFA.

No, Only annexes stipulated in the RFA will be accepted and reviewed.

(RFA amended on Pg 44, to include the results framework as an annex to the technical approach).

QUESTION NO.19:

To what extent does the Mission expect the awardee to engage in policy and regulatory work/advocacy work versus coordinating with other USG funded programs such as SPEED to lead that work?

ANSWER NO.19:

Premier Activity is expected to coordinate and collaborate with other major USAID funded activities, including SPEED for the policy work. Page 15 of the RFA, Figure 1. Layering and Sequencing, USAID Interventions explains clearly the role envisioned for each of the Activities. Premier can coordinate with other activities (RESINA, SPEED, Innovation Labs, RCC) and/or partners' (public and private) to leverage knowledge and learning through communities of practice for policy implementation support.

QUESTION NO.20:

Would USAID please consider one or both of the following options: a. Increasing the page limit for the personnel and management structure section from three (3) to six (6) pages given the volume and diversity of requirements requested in the RFA? b. Removing the grants management plan requirements from the personnel and management structure section and making it a separate annex?

ANSWER NO.20:

a. **USAID accepted the increase in page limitation from three (3) to five (5) pages.**
b. **USAID will maintain the grants management plan as detailed in page 45 of the RFA, since the Applicant is expected to briefly describe the process of how the grants will be managed to respond to the requirements under the Sub Awards, Sub Grants and Partnerships Session, and will count towards the page limit of the technical Application. A detailed Grants Manual will be submitted 90 days after awards for USAID review and prior approval.**

(RFA amended on page 43 to reflect the five-page limit for Personnel and Management structure)

QUESTION NO.21:

Page 18, Section A – Program Description Sub-Section B.5.2 Target population/groups states "interventions under this activity will primarily benefit large, medium, and small agribusiness enterprises that are linked to smallholder farmers." However, micro enterprises are also mentioned in several other places in the RFA. Would USAID please clarify that agribusiness enterprises of all sizes should be the primary beneficiary of PREMIER?

ANSWER NO.21:

Yes, Agribusiness enterprises of all sizes (MSME and large) should be the primary beneficiaries of Premier.
Please refer to ANSWER NO. 06.

(RFA amended on Pg 21, footnote 24, Section A – Program Description Sub-Section B.5.2 Target population/groups to include microenterprises)

QUESTION NO.22:

Page 19, Section A – Program Description, Sub-Section B.5.3. Commodity Selection states "The Recipient will finalize target commodities post award for USAID's approval and will be responsible for conducting an analysis to demonstrate that proposed commodities are allowable under the Bumper's Amendment (FY 2021 Act, Sec. 7025(b))." Would USAID provide additional guidance on how PREMIER and RESINA will be expected to coordinate on the Commodity Selection process to ensure "alignment between value chain priorities"?

ANSWER NO.22:

USAID will support annual pause and reflect workshops in which implementing partners will be expected to share work plans, coordinate, and align their approaches, however, the burden of coordination remains on the partners to structure, harmonize, and coordinate approaches and commodity selection in the zone of influence.

QUESTION NO.23:
Page 20, Section A – Program Description, Sub-Section B.5.4. Targets of Opportunity states "During the life of the award, any proposed targets of opportunity will not utilize more than 20% of the total funding available for engagement in the Activity's selected implementation sites. Targets of opportunity may include building engagement with private sector actors, civil society, community-based organizations, local/regional government structures, local academia institutions, other USAID programs, other donor programs, and potentially other options that clearly contribute to activity objectives." Would USAID please clarify the definition of "targets of opportunity". Further, how does a "target of opportunity" differ from a sub-awardee or sub-grantee?

ANSWER NO.23:
Premier may identify targets of opportunity to catalyze new partnerships at the subaward and sub grants level, through the pause and reflect CLA workshops.
Please see ANSWER NO.15 above.

QUESTION NO.24:
Page 26, Section A – Program Description, Sub-Section C. Strategic Considerations, Sub-Section C.7. Environmental Compliance. Would USAID please consider removing Environmental Compliance from the list of Strategic Considerations as this is a contractual obligation that the Recipient will have to fill upon award?

ANSWER NO.24:
No, USAID will maintain Environmental Compliance as part of the strategic considerations, since the Applicant will be required to comply with the Mission IEE, PERSUAP and the Activity EMMP.

QUESTION NO.25:
Pages 26 – 27, Section A – Program Description, Sub-Section D. Sub-Award, Sub-grants, and Partnerships states "there will be two grant mechanisms for PREMIER: (1) Sub-awards (grants) to locally established or local entities, and (2) sub-grants to private sector partners to scale up innovations and pilot new ways of doing business that engage smallholder farmers." Would USAID please clarify that "locally established or local entities" can include either local private sector agricultural enterprises, producer organizations/cooperatives, or civil society organizations (e.g. NGOs)?

ANSWER NO.25:
Yes, locally established or local entities can include local private sector agricultural enterprises, producer organizations/cooperatives, or civil society organizations (e.g. NGOs).

For the purposes of this section (ADS CHAPTER 303), local entity means an individual, a corporation, a nonprofit organization, or another body of persons that:

(1) is legally organized under the laws of;
(2) has as its principal place of business or operations in;
(3) is majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of; and
(4) managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful of a country receiving assistance from funds appropriated under title III of this Act.

For the purposes of this section (ADS CHAPTER 303), locally established partner (LEP) A U.S. or international organization that works through locally-led operations and programming models. LEPs:

- **Have maintained continuous operations in-country for at least five years and materially demonstrate a long-term presence in a country through adherence or alignment to the following:**
- Local staff should comprise at least 50% of office personnel,
- Maintenance of a dedicated local office,
- Registration with the appropriate local authorities,
- A local bank account, and
- A portfolio of locally-implemented programs.
- **Have demonstrated links to the local community, including:**
-If the organization has a governing body or board of directors, then it must include a majority of local citizens;
- A letter of support from a local organization to attest to its work; and
- Other criteria that an organization proposes to demonstrate its local roots

QUESTION NO.26:

Page 30, Section A – Program Description Sub-Section F.1. Monitoring and Evaluation, states "Note: As part of the Technical Application Instructions for this RFA, the Applicant is expected to present a draft MELP, in the form of a Table in the application that captures the MAIN performance indicators and targets through the end of the program". On Page 43 of Section D – Application and Submission Information Sub-Section 5.h states "Annex 1: Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (not to exceed 5 pages)." Would USAID please clarify if the entirety of Annex 1 is to be presented only in table format? If so, would USAID please detail information needed in the table?

ANSWER NO.26:

USAID recommends that the Applicant should select the sections of the MEL Plan template that better represents its M&E strategies and priorities, including an Indicator Summary Table.

QUESTION NO.27:

Page 33, Section A – Program Description, Sub-Section H. Key Personnel states "The Director will supervise the work of the Portfolio Managers located in both the Nampula and Zambezia offices." Under the Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Manager personnel description on Page 34 the RFA also states "The Incumbent will manage a team of two M&E assistants, based in the field offices, and a Communication Specialist, based in the main office in Nampula." Would USAID please confirm whether the Zambezia office is included in the field offices mentioned and whether Applicant's have the freedom to determine the location of the field offices outside of the main Nampula office and the one Zambezia field office?

ANSWER NO.27:

The Applicant has the freedom to determine the location of the field offices outside of the main Nampula office. USAID does not require or expect that the Project establishes an Office in Maputo.

Management and Staffing Questions

QUESTION NO.28:

On page 34, the RFA defines the qualifications of the Grants Manager key personnel position to include a "Master's degree in agricultural development, marketing, agribusiness or a related field". Would USAID consider revising this qualification to a "Bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting or finance"? We believe this qualification is more in line with the expected role of this position.

ANSWER NO.28:

Yes, USAID accepts the suggested reduction in education level for the Grants Manager, from Masters degree to Bachelor degree. The proposed qualifications for the Grants Manager position will be revised.

(RFA amended sub-section (h) of pg.34 qualifications for the Key Personnel position of Grants Manager has been revised from "Master's degree in agricultural development, marketing, agribusiness or a related field" to "Bachelor's degree in business administration, finance or related field. Master's degree is encouraged")

QUESTION NO.29:

On page 33 of the RFA under the Technical Director position description, it notes: "The Director will supervise the work of the Portfolio Managers located in both the Nampula and Zambezia offices". Could USAID please clarify the following issues:

a. What the envisioned role of the Portfolio Managers is, and whether this is a mandatory position in the staffing structure?
b. Whether the "Nampula and Zambezia offices" mentioned as far as their locations are considered mandatory offices for the project management structure?

ANSWER NO.29:

a. Portfolio Managers are staff that will be the direct interface with clients/private sector partners. USAID provided an illustrative set of positions for Non-key personnel considered to be important for the Premier activity. However, Applicants may develop a staffing pattern to demonstrate an appropriate set of expertise in the proposed project team.
b. USAID anticipates the Majority of Activities to happen in Nampula and Zambezia provinces within the Nacala Corridor. However, the Applicant is free to decide where to locate the other office(s), beside the Headquarter in Nampula province.

Please see ANSWER NO.27 above.

QUESTION NO.30:
You ask for personnel information before awarding of grants agreement. You are also saying that you want us to employ mostly young women and men. One on the job site LOR would have many qualified people to draw from so implant its plan of action. With the pandemic, American people are not willing to commit to any employment for Africa; we need to employ local people at or near the job site to have an impact on employing young African women and men. Our plan requires mostly local people living and working in the local area that will fix small farmer problems. Can we submit, key personal and employee list after awarding of the contract and just list job requirements with salary required?

ANSWER NO.30:
USAID expects Applicants to submit resumes of Key Personnel, letters of commitment, and an indication of the dates that each Key Personnel candidate is available to start work full-time with the activity with the submission of the Technical Application. No exception will be made for this requirement, since it is one of the evaluation criteria.

QUESTION NO.31:
Have you already had a grants contractor performing this type of Grants Contractor? WE have a solution that will work. You have said this bid is open to anyone but you have defined section H.
KEY PERSONNEL Pages 32 to Page 35 to meet specific personal qualifications that usually means you have someone you want to perform this Bid Grant Contract.

We have a solution to your small farm's production and income problem that requires local persons that knows the country and county/province farming problems which include, corruption, terror, education, and promote a willingness to perform on small farms. The must be addressed by local personal that will need training by experts on political and Farming techniques. We need only five key personals that know and understand the framing problems of Kenya and Nacala Corridor, which is located across Nampula Province in northern Mozambique and stretches into northern Zambezia, southern Niassa, and southwestern Cabo Delgado provinces.

We need to hire Key personal that are from these areas and know or can be trained on USAID procedures. Are we allowed to do this or as the saying is: The fix is already in?

ANSWER NO.31:
USAID foster's sustainable development and advances human dignity globally. We strive for honesty and transparency, accountability for our efforts, and maintain a consistently

high efficiency, effectiveness, and meaningful results across our work. USAID is fair with colleagues, partners, and those we serve, building relationships of trust. We continually seek to improve our operations and increase our impact. We take pride in our work and our accomplishments. We take this solicitation process seriously and there are no "fixes" or pre-made solutions.

QUESTION NO.32:
Page 33, Section H Non Key Personnel. In terms of the qualifications for Key Personnel stated in the RFA, would the Mission accept additional years of professional experience (i.e. beyond the minimum requirement stated) in lieu of a master's degree?

ANSWER NO.32:
USAID reserves the right to determine relevance of education and experience.

QUESTION NO.33:
Page 34, Section A – Program Description, Sub-Section H. Key Personnel states the Grants Manager will "assist in the budget development process and perform budget analysis duties as assigned by the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee." Would USAID please confirm whether the Chief Financial Officer is a separate position from the Finance and Compliance Director?

ANSWER NO.33:
The Applicant can determine the best name for this specific Key personnel position: Chief Financial Officer Vs. Finance and Compliance Director based on the job description and requirements listed in the RFA for the position.

Institutional Capacity

QUESTION NO.34:
Page 54, Section E: Application Review Information, Sub-Section E.1. Criteria, Criterion 2: Management Approach, Personnel, Team Composition states "Extent to which the Applicant convincingly demonstrates its management approach to build institutional capability, and how this will lead to successful and effective implementation of the proposed technical approach including: a performance management plan, how institutional capacity will be measured and assessed." Would USAID please confirm at which level the Applicant is to measure and assess institutional capacity, i.e. Local consortium partners (sub-awardees), NGO or enterprise grantees, systems level, etc.?

ANSWER NO.34:
Past Performance will be used by USAID to assess the relevance of the activities implemented by partners that are similar to Premier. However, it will not count towards

the Evaluation Criteria No.3, pg 56, listed in the RFA. Instead, USAID will access the Institutional Capabilities of the Applicant to implement and manage the Premier Activity.

QUESTION NO.35:
On page 43 of the RFA, Annex 6 requests that "the Applicant must provide a list of (5) five Past Performance Information of its contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs during the past five years." Could USAID please confirm whether only the lead applicant (Prime) can submit their past performance references, or whether this submission can also include past performance references from sub-applicants?

ANSWER NO.35:
The past performance information shall include a description of both prime and sub-recipient experience relevant to the activities outlined in the RFA. Must include the prime applicant's past performance experience. USAID recommends the Applicant provide not more than five most relevant past performance references in the past 5 years.

Cost Questions

QUESTION NO.36
Page 27, Section A – Program Description, Sub-Section D. Sub-Award, Sub-grants, and Partnerships states "at a minimum, 30% of the PREMIER budget should be spent on partnerships through sub-awards and sub-grants." a. Would USAID please clarify whether the 30 percent is calculated from the $25.5 million estimated program value or whether it subtracts the $5 million crisis modifier? b. Would USAID please confirm that PREMIER follows the definitions of local entity and locally established partner as defined in the USAID New Partnerships Initiative? Would USAID please confirm that both local entities AND locally established partners qualify for sub-awards and sub-grants under the 30 percent requirement? c. Would USAID please provide further detail on what they consider to be distinguishing factors between a sub-award and a sub-grant?

ANSWER NO.36:

a. **The 30% is calculated from the $20.5M and not from the $25.5M.**
b. **Yes, Premier follows the definitions of local entity and locally established partner as defined in the USAID New Partnerships Initiative. Yes, both the local entities and locally established partners qualify for the 30% sub-awards and sub-grants requirement. Please see ANSWER NO.25 above.**
c. **Subaward means an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a Federal program award or subaward (Source: 2 CFR 200.92). Subgrant means an award of financial assistance in the form of cash or in-kind, made under a grant by an Activity to an eligible subgrantee. In other words, A grant made by one organization using funds previously granted to it by another. For**

the purposes of Premier, sub-awards, sub-grants and sub- agreements are used interchangeably to mean an award of financial assistance made by a prime recipient of USG funding to an eligible partner (sub-recipient).

(RFA has been amended in Pg. 28, Section A – Program Description, Sub-Section D. Sub-Award, Sub-grants, and Partnerships to include a definition of sub-awards and sub-grants)

QUESTION NO.37:

Does USAID accept applications covering only a fraction of this funding opportunity applications which meet some of the objectives listed for this activity? If so, is there a limit on the funds made available to smaller fractions of the activity?

ANSWER NO.37:

USAID expects a comprehensive technical Application submission based on the RFA requirements. USAID does not expect submission of separate Applications for each of the Premier Sub-Objectives.

QUESTION NO.38:

Page 32, Section G. Section specifies that USAID Mission may provide $5M additional funding over the life of the activity and that offerors should include an "unfunded separate CLIN budget line item" in their cost applications. Can USAID please clarify if we should include this budget line item as a "0" plug figure in our cost application?

ANSWER NO.38:

Yes, this is a $5M plug in figure in the cost application. The $5M should be identified as a separate CLIN budget line specifically for shocks and stresses that would only be triggered if/when funds become available. These funds can be programmed through the flexible granting mechanism to support rapid response and recovery from potential crises and shocks that may occur throughout the life of the activity.

[END OF ATTACHMENT 1 Q&A'S]