Issue Date: October 27, 2023
Deadline for Question: November 13, 2023
Closing Date: December 11, 2023
Closing Time: 4:00 pm EST

Subject: Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 72052124RFA00001

Program Title: Sustaining Impact for Youth Activity

Federal Assistance Listing Number: 98.001

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for cooperative agreement from local qualified entities to implement the Sustaining Impact for Youth program. Eligibility for this award is restricted to local organizations.

USAID intends to make an award to the applicant(s) who best meets the objectives of this funding opportunity based on the merit review criteria described in this NOFO subject to a risk assessment. Eligible parties interested in submitting an application are encouraged to read this NOFO thoroughly to understand the type of program sought, application submission requirements and selection process.

To be eligible for award, the applicant must provide all information as required in this NOFO and meet eligibility standards in Section C of this NOFO. This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov, and may be amended. It is the responsibility of the applicant to regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity and to ensure that the NOFO has been received from the internet in its entirety. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion process. If you have difficulty registering on www.grants.gov or accessing the NOFO, please contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

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 D.6.g. The registration process may take many weeks to complete. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to begin registration early in the process.

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.

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

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

Alina Menicucci

Digitally signed by Alina Menicucci
Date: 2023.10.27 12:29:21 -04'00'

Alina Menicucci
Agreement Officer

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## SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This funding opportunity is authorized under the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961, as amended. The resulting award will be subject to 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and USAID's supplement, 2 CFR 700, as well as the additional requirements found in Section F.

### 1. Introduction

USAID/Haiti, with President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funding, is seeking to fund the Sustaining Impact for Youth activity (the "Activity"), to support children, adolescents, and their families living with or at risk of contracting HIV to improve health and wellness outcomes and reduce new HIV infections and violence among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). This planned Activity will be implemented in selected geographic departments based on need. The Activity is expected to result in mitigation of the impact of HIV, reduction in new HIV infections, prevention and reduction of gender-based violence (GBV) and improved linkage to post-violence care, and improved HIV clinical outcomes for those on HIV treatment among the target sub-populations.

The new $30,000,000 five-year Activity seeks to improve health and wellbeing outcomes among Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and families infected and affected by HIV, through provision of services in the areas of health, safety, stability and education and HIV and violence prevention for Adolescents and Young Women (AGYW) through PEPFAR's global Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) programming. The Activity will contribute to USAID/Haiti's goal of "Haitians are more engaged in creating and sustaining a more resilient, prosperous, and democratic future".[1]

### 2. Overview of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and DREAMS Programs

The PEPFAR OVC programming goal is to improve child well-being by mitigating the impacts of AIDS, reducing their risk of the disease, and increasing their resilience. Because AIDS predominantly affects adults of childbearing age, it ultimately jeopardizes the stability of families and their capacity to attend to children's basic developmental needs. As family structures weaken or fail altogether, the likelihood of children surviving childhood and becoming contributing members of society decreases. Children are also less likely to be schooled, fed, provided health care, sheltered, loved and protected. When families cannot provide these basics, their children may also become more vulnerable to HIV infection as well as other diseases. By addressing socio-emotional effects of the epidemic, OVC programs reduce the likelihood of children and adolescents moving from being affected by the epidemic to infected ones. OVC programs also recognize the need to integrate appropriate care support services for children that are living with HIV. These children are vulnerable by virtue of living with HIV and OVC programs must address their needs.

[1] *USAID/Haiti Strategic Framework 2020-2022*

PEPFAR recognizes AGYW as a priority population across all aspects of the portfolio and the needs to align with PEPFAR's global Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) partnership to reduce risk and foster resilience for this highly vulnerable segment of the population in Haiti. The goal of the DREAMS program is to provide a core package of evidence-based interventions that have successfully addressed HIV risk behaviors, HIV transmission, and gender-based violence. Evidence shows that girls can reach their full potential when they have access to multiple interventions.

Addressing the needs of families and children at different stages of the life cycle, recognizes that services can be combined and delivered more effectively and efficiently. A multi-generational approach to risk and resilience recognizes that the AGYW in DREAMS, the teens in adolescent HIV care and the young families identified in Maternal Child Health (MCH) or nutrition programs will soon be the mothers and fathers of the next generation of children at risk, and some of the older adolescents will already be young mothers. A family-based approach that offers integrated services, both directly or through active referrals to health (including rehabilitation and assistive technology) and social services platforms, through a trained community workforce, will ensure that families have access to the full range of support they require to space their children, feed and provide for infants, send their children to school and remain HIV free or virally suppressed.

**3. Background**

Haiti's economic and social development continues to be hindered by political instability, increasing violence and fragility. Haiti remains the poorest country in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region and among the poorest countries in the world. In 2021, Haiti had a GDP per capita of $1,815, the lowest in the LAC region and less than a fifth of the LAC average of $15,092. On the United Nations Human Development Index, Haiti ranked 170 out of 189 countries in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated an already weak economy, plagued by social turmoil and political instability. Even before the pandemic, the economy was contracting and facing significant fiscal imbalances. Following a contraction of 1.7 percent in 2019, the GDP contracted by an estimated 3.8 percent in 2020.

Past marginal gains in poverty reduction have been undone by a succession of crises: the COVID-19 pandemic, the assassination of the President, Jovenel Moïse, in July 2021, the August 2021 earthquake and the rise in gang violence and overall insecurity. Current estimates forecast a poverty rate of nearly 60 percent in 2020, compared to the last official national estimate of 58.5 percent in 2012. About two thirds of the poor live in rural areas. The welfare gap between urban and rural areas is largely due to adverse conditions for agricultural production. Haiti is also among the countries with the greatest inequity in the region. The richest 20 percent of its population holds more than 64 percent of its total wealth, while the poorest 20 percent hold hardly 1 percent.

Haiti made significant progress in controlling cholera, with no laboratory-confirmed cases since 2019; however, in October 2022, the Ministry of Health confirmed suspected cases of cholera in three departments: these were quickly confirmed and the cholera epidemic spread throughout the country. Improvements in human capital have stalled and, in some cases, deteriorated since 2012. Infant and maternal mortality remain at high levels, and coverage of prevention measures are stagnating or declining, especially for the poorest households.

In addition to the challenges posed by the pandemic and the political situation, Haiti remains highly vulnerable to natural hazards, mainly hurricanes, floods and earthquakes. More than 96 percent of the population is exposed to these types of shocks. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency, intensity, and impacts of extreme weather events, and the country, while making some progress, still lacks adequate preparedness and coping mechanisms.[2]

***Childhood vulnerability in Haiti***

According to the Human Capital Index, a child born today in Haiti will grow up to be only 45 percent as productive as they could be if he or she had enjoyed full access to quality education and healthcare. Over one-fifth of children are at risk of cognitive and physical limitations, and only 78 percent of 15-year-olds will survive to age 60. UNICEF reports that 22 percent of children in Haiti do not live with their biological parents. Eight five percent of children under 15 have experienced violence including psychological aggression and corporal punishment. One in six children do not have a birth certificate which delays access to school and critical social services. 207,000 children are in unacceptable domestic work situations (Restavek).

***Challenges Facing Children in Haiti in the context of HIV***

Haiti has a generalized HIV epidemic with a prevalence of 1.2 percent, though higher rates are observed among most-at-risk/key populations (KP), including Female Sex Workers (FSW) and Men having Sex with men (MSM). As of 2022, of the 140,241 individuals estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Haiti, 4,464 of these are children between 0-14 years. For FY 23, 425 children who tested positive for HIV, only 299 of them are currently linked to treatment and receiving ART; reflecting 70 percent of those who are eligible. Among children on ART, only 79 percent had suppressed viral loads (VL<1,000). Many of the HIV-positive pediatric cases not linked to treatment are likely now deceased. This loss of life is preventable. Urgent, effective measures are needed to significantly increase the linkage of children living with HIV to treatment and to retain them on treatment.

In addition to the issue of linkage, retention and adherence to treatment, other challenges exist that require concerted effort to overcome. One of the most pressing challenges facing people living with HIV, including children, is the high level of stigma and discrimination, especially at the community level, and within health facilities. Stigma and discrimination against PLHIV threaten the country's ability to move toward epidemic control and must be addressed in order to keep these individuals, including children, on treatment. Due to the high level of stigma, children of key populations in particular are increasingly vulnerable and face more risks in all core areas of care, development, and protection. These children are

[2] *World Bank in Haiti, Overview, November 2021*

more likely to be affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, have lower school enrollment, lack a birth certificate, have poor access to essential health services, lack appropriate childcare, and face stigma in all areas of life. These factors can significantly elevate their risk of becoming HIV-positive. Currently, there are major gaps in HIV case-finding, linkage to care and treatment services, and adequate viral load coverage/testing and retention among children of key populations. Models of care, support and treatment utilizing a family-centered approach, inclusive of key populations and their children, are critical to reaching these populations.

***Impact of Violence and Adverse Childhood events on Children***

Beyond C/ALHIV, children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, or children of key populations, many others live in communities with high HIV burdens and are therefore at high risk for HIV infection. These children have experienced adverse events during their lives, including physical and sexual violence. Results from the Violence Against Children Study (VACS) in Haiti (2012) and other reports indicate that Haiti suffers from high rates of child abuse and exploitation, including physical and sexual violence against children.
Sexual violence and other forms of GBV are among know public health issues primarily affecting women and children. For the past decade, violence against women and girls has significantly increased in Haiti, mainly in the capital, due to recurrent natural disaster, humanitarian emergencies and the emergence of gang violence; forcibly displacing families to a safer area or neighborhood. For many families still displaced by the 2010 and 2014 earthquakes, subsequent natural disasters and more recently by gang violence, the risk of GBV and VAC has increased due to unsafe living conditions and deepening poverty. The high risk of physical and psychological violence, trafficking, and rape of women and girls is compounded by the fear of devastating social stigma and shame, trapping survivors in a culture of silence. This is exacerbated in Haiti by organized crime and impunity, political instability, poverty and unequal power relationships between men and women.

Given the relationship between violence and risk for HIV infection, high rates of GBV and VAC intensify the level of vulnerability of children and AGYW.

## 4. Country Data and Government and other Multilateral Response

Haiti's health indicators reveal weaknesses in the country's health system. While the recent 2017 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), known in Haiti as the 2016-2017 Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services or EMMUS-VI, suggests that trends in mortality and morbidity improved, poor health outcomes and low utilization of services persist. Nearly 40 percent of Haitians have no access to basic primary health care. The country also has the highest rate of tuberculosis in the Western Hemisphere, with an incidence of 157 cases per 100,000 people.

***Table 1. Child Health Indicators - EMMUS 2006, 2012, 2017***

| | 2006 EMMUS-IV | 2012 EMMUS-V | 2017 EMMUS-VI |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Childhood mortality** (per 1,000 live births) | 31 | 31 | 24 |
| **Infant mortality** (per 1,000 live births) | 57 | 59 | 59 |
| **Neonatal mortality** (per 1,000 live births) | 25 | 31 | 32 |
| **% Children wasted**: 6.7% (SMART 2020)[3] | 10.2 | 5.1 | 3.7 |
| **% Children stunted**: 22.0% (SMART 2020)3[4] | 29.4 | 21.9 | 21.9 |
| **Maternal mortality** (per 100,000 live births) | 630 | Not captured | 529 |
| **Total Fertility Rate:** | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.0 |
| **Women using a modern family planning method** | 25% | 31% | 31.8% |
| **% Children fully immunized** | 41% | 45% | 41% |
| **HIV prevalence**: *1.34%, (UNAIDS 2020)* | 2.2% | 2.2% | 2.0% |
| **ART coverage**: *93% of eligible HIV+, (UNAIDS 2020)* | --- | 68% | 62% |

Childhood mortality (deaths between one and five per 1,000 live births in the last five years) declined from 31 in 2012 to 24 in 2017. However, no progress was observed in reducing neonatal mortality rates (deaths between birth and one month old per 1,000 live births), which rose from 31 in 2012 to 32 in 2017. Infant mortality (deaths between birth and one year old per 1,000 live births) remained flat from 2012 to 2017 at 59 per 1,000 live births. The lack of progress in reducing infant and neonatal mortality is driven in part by the fact that over 60 percent of births in Haiti still occur outside of health facilities without a skilled provider.

Although Haiti saw a positive trend in key nutrition indicators in the two decades preceding the most recent Demographic Health Survey - 2017, more recent surveys reveal backsliding. The global acute malnutrition rate in Haiti is 5.1 percent according to a 2022 SMART survey, compared to 4 percent in the DHS -2017. Stunting was 22 percent in 2017 and rose to 23 percent in 2022. Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) as measured by wasting was 0.8 percent in 2017. In 2022, SAM as measured by wasting and mid-upper arm circumference is at 1.4 percent with an even higher rate in the Port-au-Prince area of 1.6 percent. According to an analysis conducted for the period March to June 2023 by the Government of Haiti's National Coordination Office of Food Security (CNSA), 4.9 million out of 11.5 million Haitians are acutely food insecure and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

The proportion of children who received all eight essential vaccines rose from 18.7 percent in 1994 to 45.2 percent in 2012, but then decreased to 41.4 percent in 2017. The proportion of children who

[3] *Malnutrition in Children - UNICEF DATA:* Household survey data on child height and weight were collected in 2022 and preliminary results presented by the Ministry of Health in 2023. Thus these numbers reflect preliminary results. not collected in 2020 during the SMART survey due to physical distancing policies, with the exception of four surveys. These estimates are therefore based almost entirely on data collected before 2020 and do not take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, one of the covariates used in the country stunting and overweight models takes the impact of COVID-19 partially into account.

[4] Ibid

received no vaccines dropped dramatically from 24.7 percent in 1994 to 6.9 percent in 2012, but then increased to 9.7 percent in 2017. Haiti has the highest HIV burden in the Caribbean region with an estimated 140,241 people living with HIV (UNAIDS Spectrum, 2023). The country also has the highest incidence of tuberculosis in the region, further compounding the HIV epidemic.

Haiti's national HIV prevalence is approximately 1.2 percent, with higher prevalence in major cities, and among men who have sex with men, female sex workers, and populations in prisons and other closed settings. According to UNAIDS estimates, HIV incidence has seen a minimal decline from 8,400 new cases annually to 6,600 in the past decade from 2010-2021. The widespread practice of multiple concurrent partnerships and the inequitable social conditions of women and youth are considered key enablers of HIV transmission. Women are disproportionately affected by HIV, accounting for greater than half of adult prevalent infections. The COVID-19 pandemic and increased insecurity have impacted the health system with a reduced attendance of pregnant women to facilities.

Despite the myriad development challenges facing Haiti, the progress achieved in HIV/AIDS demonstrates how focused attention and resources can garner results. According to UNAIDS 2022 estimates, of the estimated 140,000 people living with HIV in Haiti. Over the past decade, deaths reported due to AIDS-related illnesses fell by 63%.

## 5. PEPFAR's Supported OVC Program in Haiti

OVC programming has been a core component of PEPFAR since 2004, with 10 percent of total PEPFAR funding set aside each year to ensure that the specialized needs of OVC are effectively addressed through targeted interventions. According to the Hyde-Lantos PEPFAR Reauthorization Act of 2008, OVC include "Children who have lost a parent to HIV/AIDS, who are otherwise directly HIV affected by the disease, or who live in areas of high HIV prevalence and may be vulnerable to the disease or its socioeconomic effects." This definition includes newborns, adolescents, boys and girls, HIV-positive, HIV-exposed and HIV affected children, and also those free from the disease but vulnerable to HIV infection and its effects. It also includes prioritized enrollment of mother-infant pairs who are at risk of not meeting PMTCT benchmarks (e.g. timely return for early infant diagnosis), especially for adolescent/youth mothers living with HIV.

Early implementation of OVC programming was achieved through support to the PEPFAR OVC Track 1.0 programs to achieve rapid implementation and results in response to the emergency phase of the HIV epidemic. In Haiti, US Government OVC programming evolved from Track 1.0 programs to the Byenet ak Santé Timoun (BEST) program, which placed heightened emphasis on building the capacity of families, communities, and systems to care for children affected by HIV/AIDS in more sustainable ways, while also ensuring strategic service delivery. The Impact Youth Activity has included more psychosocial support and household economic strengthening to build resilience and improve retention and adherence among HIV-positive and affected children and adolescents and their families, including mother-baby pairs. Ensuring a close link between OVC programming and the clinical cascade has become increasingly important, screening all OVC for HIV and ensuring that children found to be living with HIV are linked to and retained in treatment and care. PEPFAR is currently the largest contributor to OVC activities in Haiti, followed by the Global Fund. PEPFAR support for OVC in Haiti has grown significantly, from serving 300 beneficiaries in 2004 to over 134,276 as of March 2023.

## 6. Activity Overview and Objectives

The new Activity will address the needs of OVC and Adolescents in Haiti, ensuring adequate access to a wide range of prevention, testing, care, and treatment and psychosocial support services based on the changing needs and circumstances of OVC and their caregivers and families. The Activity will ensure a continuum of care between facility-based services and community-based OVC activities. A case management model, including bi-directional referrals between health facilities and community programming are key to the success of the Activity. Given this bi-directional relationship, the Sustaining Impact for Youth activity will systematically coordinate with the clinical partners. The Activity will also collaborate with other PEPFAR communication and technical assistance partners to better target and reach children, families and communities.

The Activity will also implement DREAMS programming targeting vulnerable AGYW (10-24 years) in communities with a high burden of HIV who are at an increased risk of acquiring HIV due to various demographic, geographic, behavioral, and structural reasons. The Activity will deliver the DREAMS core package, an evidence-based/informed, age-appropriate, comprehensive package of biomedical, behavioral, and structural interventions across multiple sectors shown to mitigate the risk factors that may lead to HIV infection. Additionally, it will provide contextual interventions to shift community norms and perceptions in order to create an enabling environment that supports HIV prevention.

The Activity will target children, adolescents and families living in catchment areas where PEPFAR clinical IPs are present and provide PMTCT, EID, and pediatric/adult care and treatment HIV programs. Referrals for OVC activities will come through clinical, community, and/or social service entry points.

### a. Purpose

The goal of this activity is to support children, adolescents, youth, and families in the epidemic to improve HIV and health outcomes and reduce new HIV infections among AGYW. This Activity supports the Country Framework for reduction of HIV transmission and acquisition and in meeting the 95-95-95 goal.

### b. Geographic Focus

The geographic focus of the existing OVC program is currently all health districts in Haiti but OVC geographic coverage may adjust in future years based on available data, in collaboration with the Programme National de Lutte Contre le SIDA (PNLS) and USG. DREAMS is not meant to be implemented country-wide, but rather in the highest burden areas, where large numbers of AGYW are vulnerable to HIV acquisition, which may change during the Activity lifetime. Geographic considerations based on current epidemiological data, survey findings, cultural considerations and other routine indicators are utilized to determine priority areas. Currently, DREAMS interventions are implemented in four districts including Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haitian, Marchand-Dessalines, and Saint Marc. Future adjustments to Intervention areas will be conducted in collaboration with the PNLS and PEPFAR based on available data.

**c. Population Focus**

Consistent with the broader PEPFAR guidance on programming for OVC and DREAMS, this activity will target vulnerable children and families most affected by the HIV epidemic, and AGYW at highest risk of HIV infection. Caregivers and communities are a focus for building resilience and providing a safe and secure foundation for positive education and health outcomes for OVC and AGYW and effectively reducing their vulnerability.

This activity will prioritize the following sub-populations for support in order to contribute to PEPFAR's strategic goal of epidemic control and align with the Reimagining PEPFAR 5x3 Strategy :

**1. <u>Vulnerable children aged 0-17 with known risk factors</u> to be prioritized for comprehensive OVC services and case management, including:**

- Children and Adolescents Living with HIV (C/ALHIV)
- HIV- exposed Infants (HEI) and mothers
- Children and adolescents living with an HIV+ caregiver, especially those who are not virally suppressed, or are at greatest risk of interruption in treatment
- Children who have experienced sexual and other abuse, GBV and violence due to gang activity
- Children of Key Populations (men who have sex with men, female sex workers, transgendered persons, people who inject or use drugs, and prison population)
- AGYW who are pregnant or are mothers

**2. <u>Adolescent girls and boys aged 10-14</u>** will be eligible to receive HIV and violence prevention activities using an approved curriculum, per the country's operational plan guidance.

**3. <u>AGYW aged 10-24 with risk and vulnerability factors as outlined in the PEPFAR DREAMS guidance</u>** will be prioritized for DREAMS services. Ensure that the Activity targets the most vulnerable AGYW during the screening process through enrolment.

**d. Results, Intermediate Results, and Key Activities**

USAID is seeking to fund an Activity that will achieve the Activity goal, including through the Results and Intermediate Results (IRs) listed below and any other IRs that the Recipient determines will contribute to the Activity goal.

| Goal: Improve HIV and health outcomes for children, adolescents, and families in the epidemic and reduce new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Result 1: Vulnerable children and families are healthy, safe, stable and schooled** | **Result 2: Increased resilience of AGYW to HIV risks** | **Result 3: Support USAID and PEPFAR localization and national capacity building goals** |
| **IR 1.1:** Increased capacity of families to support vulnerable children | **IR 2.1:** Improved livelihoods and social assets among AGYW | **IR 3.1:** Strengthen the capacity of local partners to implement OVC and DREAMS programming. |
| **IR 1.2:** Children and adolescents living with HIV and HIV-exposed infants are identified and receive comprehensive support to be retained on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and virally suppressed. | **IR 2.2:** Increased uptake of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV services | **IR 3.2:** Improved Government institutions capacity to effectively manage OVC/DREAMS programming |
| **IR 1.3** Children aged 10-14 have knowledge and skills about preventing HIV and sexual violence | **IR 2.3** Increased capacity of communities to address harmful social and gender norms affecting HIV risk among children and AGYW | |

***Result 1: Vulnerable children and families are healthy, safe, stable and schooled***

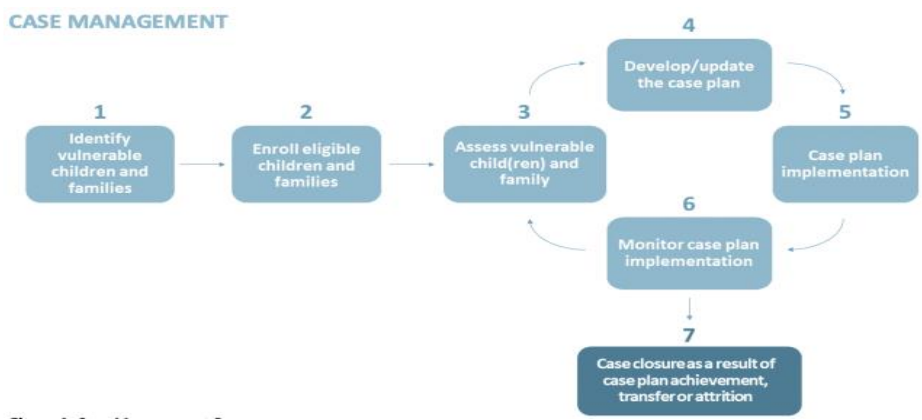
Interventions under Result 1 will be aligned with PEPFAR priorities for Orphans and Vulnerable Children programs for Haiti. These priorities include:

- Providing comprehensive, wrap-around services for eligible children, adolescents, and families, to meet key benchmarks around health, safety, school, and household economic stability, including
  - Ensuring access to HIV and health services
  - Supporting household economic stability through savings groups, income generating activities, and vocational training
  - Supporting children, especially girls, to remain and progress in school.
- Improving clinical outcomes for C/ALHIV and caregivers living with HIV. The activity will support achievement across the UNAIDS three 95s.
- Supporting primary prevention of HIV and violence for boys and girls ages 10-14.

Interventions under Result 1 will be designed to mitigate the socio-economic vulnerability of at-risk children and their caregivers to the impacts of HIV. It is assumed that children and families in the most insecure situations will be targeted and stabilized, and that some families, such as those who have virally unsuppressed persons or survivors of sexual violence, will require more intensive case management than others. ALHIV who are pregnant and breast-feeding women are also eligible for OVC Comprehensive programming.

Interventions for OVC should be family- and community-centered and designed to keep children *healthy*, *safe, stable*, and *schooled,* utilizing case management as a foundation. Case management can be understood as the process of identifying vulnerable children and caregivers, assessing their needs and resources, working with the family and the child to plan actions and accessing services, monitoring both the completion of actions and receipt of services, and progressing towards achievement of objectives and graduation benchmarks. A case management approach ensures the development of differentiated care plans and approaches for the families and children they serve.

***Figure 1: Case Management Model***




A robust case management and referral process will support the continuum of care integrating and leveraging other existing programs to ensure that OVC and family members are successfully linked to appropriate services. The activity should provide adequate access, including through assisted referrals to social protection, prevention and care and treatment services provided by locally competent providers, and be based on the changing needs and circumstances of families. Interventions should appropriately address the ages and developmental stages of OVC. Interventions proposed to address this result should address priority areas as outlined in the intermediate results below.

For more information on the activities that qualify under *healthy*, *safe, stable*, and *schooled,* please refer to the following resources:

PEPFAR MER Indicator Reference Guide Version 2.6.1
(https://www.state.gov/pepfar-fy-2022-mer-indicators/fy23-mer-2-6-1-indicator-reference-guide/).

OVC programming should be consistent with the 2012 PEPFAR OVC Guidance
(https://www.youthpower.org/sites/default/files/YouthPower/files/resources/195702.pdf)
COP23 Guidance and Technical Considerations
(https://www.state.gov/2023-country-and-regional-operational-plan-guidance-and-technical-considerations/).

***IR 1.1*: *Increased capacity of families to support vulnerable children***

Vulnerable children aged 0-17 with known HIV risk factors and their families will be provided with comprehensive family based OVC services. The activity will employ evidence-based strategies to build the social and economic capacity of parents/caregivers to meet their children's health, nutrition, education, and protection needs.

Case management will include household vulnerability and needs assessments, care plans, reliable tracking of services and referrals, and measuring progress towards achievement of care plan objectives and of graduation benchmarks against the outcome domains healthy, safe, stable and schooled.

All families in the comprehensive OVC program should receive regular home visits engaging children and caregivers. In addition to providing direct support to families, the activity must ensure that children access needed health, social, education and protection services provided directly by the project, or through referrals to services provided by the government or other institutions.

Healthy: The activity will ensure that the child's HIV status is known by conducting risk assessments and supporting index testing for biological children, leading to referrals for HIV testing for exposed and at-risk OVC. For children under 5, the activity will support parents to help children meet their developmental milestones. The activity will support adolescents to acquire the knowledge and skills to protect their sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reduce their risk of HIV infection. Caregivers will be supported to build their skills in parent-child communication, positive parenting and open communication on SRH and HIV. Case managers or other health providers may require Mental Health and Psychosocial Support capacity building and training that focuses on high-risk vulnerable children, young adults, including AGYW, as well as HIV-positive adolescents, who are faced, at this stage in life, with issues of disclosure, treatment fatigue, transition to adult treatment regimens, SRH issues, exposure to alcohol and other substances. Peer support groups have been demonstrated to be useful in providing psychological benefits to this age group and reducing anxiety, stress, and depression that affect clinical outcomes and may jeopardize adherence to treatment.

Safe: The activity will support caregivers and adolescents to recognize abuse, neglect and exploitation and where and how to seek support. The activity will support children who have experienced violence, especially sexual violence, abuse or neglect to access comprehensive post-violence services including medical, psychological and legal support. Parenting support will instill skills to practice positive discipline. Peer and social group interventions through schools, religious institutions, or other community-based institutions can be effective interventions. For example, "kids clubs" and safe social spaces for children, pre-adolescents, and adolescents, although they should not consist solely of recreational activities. Such spaces provide psychosocial support, mentoring, along with age-appropriate nutrition, water and sanitation, child protection, and HIV and GBV/VAC prevention. These spaces can be especially important for girls and used as a platform for HIV risk avoidance and reduction education, skills-building, and reinforcement. The spaces should be led by an adult mentor.

Another type of effective intervention is peer education and support groups, during which staff members teach critical life skills and address topics of concern to OVC through plays, poems, stories, and games. Topics can include leadership and peer counseling, HIV prevention, positive disclosure, adherence and retention, sexual and reproductive health, GBV, alcohol and substance abuse, and how to protect against abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Stable: The activity will support families with household economic strengthening to enable them to meet their children's needs for health, nutrition, shelter, and education. Interventions will be based on vulnerability assessments and be tailored according to vulnerability levels, and might include provision of financial literacy, savings and lending groups or other opportunities for increasing income and assets. Linkage to food security interventions or other social protection services may also be required.

Schooled: The activity will address key barriers to access to education and retention until children have completed prescribed learning cycles. School enrollment, education attainment and progression will be tracked. The applicant must outline strategies for addressing barriers to school enrolment and achievement of learning outcomes.

***IR 1.2: Children and adolescents living with HIV and HIV-exposed infants are identified and receive comprehensive support to be retained on ART and virally suppressed.***

The OVC program platform with its family-based approach offers a significant opportunity to improve clinical outcomes among C/ALHIV and HEI (and their caregivers) as well as to support their overall health, well-being, and protection. The activity will enhance pediatric HIV case finding, linkage to treatment, viral load testing and viral suppression for all those in the household living with HIV.

In Haiti's prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) program there has been a decrease in the number of new vertical infections among babies born to mothers living with HIV. However, retention in care of mother-baby pairs and ensuring the infant receives comprehensive infant care package, including HIV testing and close follow-up until 18 months of age continues to pose challenges. In addition, even children born HIV-free to mothers living with HIV are known to face specific risks and vulnerabilities.

While the pediatric treatment gap is decreasing, there are still older asymptomatic C/ALHIV who have remained undiagnosed. In addition, with C/ALHIV on treatment, viral suppression tends to be lower than in adults. Keeping children on treatment can be challenging, especially as they enter adolescence and become keenly sensitive to real or perceived stigma. Safeguarding children's futures also entails supporting adult retention and suppression to keep them well and able to care for the children in their household.

Activities will focus on identifying C/ALHIV, supporting them and their caregivers with linkage to treatment, and ensuring that C/ALHIV already on treatment receive comprehensive OVC services. These include meeting the psychosocial needs of C/ALHIV, disclosure, and support to a safe SRH during their transition to adulthood.

In collaboration with PEPFAR-supported facilities and implementers, the Activity will apply Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between OVC and clinical IPs and use the existing bidirectional referral system with shared confidentiality arrangements in order to increase the enrollment of C/ALHIV and HEI in the OVC comprehensive program and collaborate on case conferencing.

Case management will include routine home visits in order to regularly monitor child well-being, provide knowledge and skills-building with OVC parents/caregivers in order to support treatment adherence and retention in care among both C/ALHIV and HIV-positive caregivers. The case managers will provide reminders for ART refills and tracking of viral load samples collection; and will deliver differentiated, age-appropriate service packages for enrolled C/ALHIV, HEI, and their families. The intended outcome is to address their unique health, nutrition, education, protection, psychosocial, developmental, and economic strengthening needs.

***IR 1.3* Children aged 10-14 have knowledge and skills about preventing HIV and sexual violence**

Primary prevention of violence and HIV is critical to reducing HIV incidence and the prevalence of VAC, including sexual violence, which is a driver of the HIV epidemic. In line with PEPFAR guidance, eligible children and adolescents aged 10-14 years will participate in an approved HIV and violence curriculum.

**Illustrative Outcomes for Result 1:**

- Increased enrollment of C/ALHIV, pregnant adolescents living with HIV, HIV-exposed Infants and their mothers, and children of HIV-positive caregivers, children of HIV-positive FSWs, into the comprehensive OVC program
- Improved coverage of biological children of mothers living with HIV who are linked to HTS and have a documented HIV test result (i.e., increased OVC program support for index testing)
- Improved rates of viral testing and suppression among C/ALHIV and caregivers living with HIV.
- Improved savings, income, and assets among OVC households
- Adolescents and caregivers have knowledge on preventing violence against children (VAC) and how to access post-violence services

***Result 2: Increased resilience of AGYW to HIV risks***

Interventions under Result 2 will be aligned with PEPFAR priorities for DREAMS programming. These include:

- Utilizing a theory of behavior change to target different societal, structural and individual factors that lead to AGYW's increased HIV risk through the strategic, layered implementation of evidence-based, culturally sensitive interventions at each level of influence.

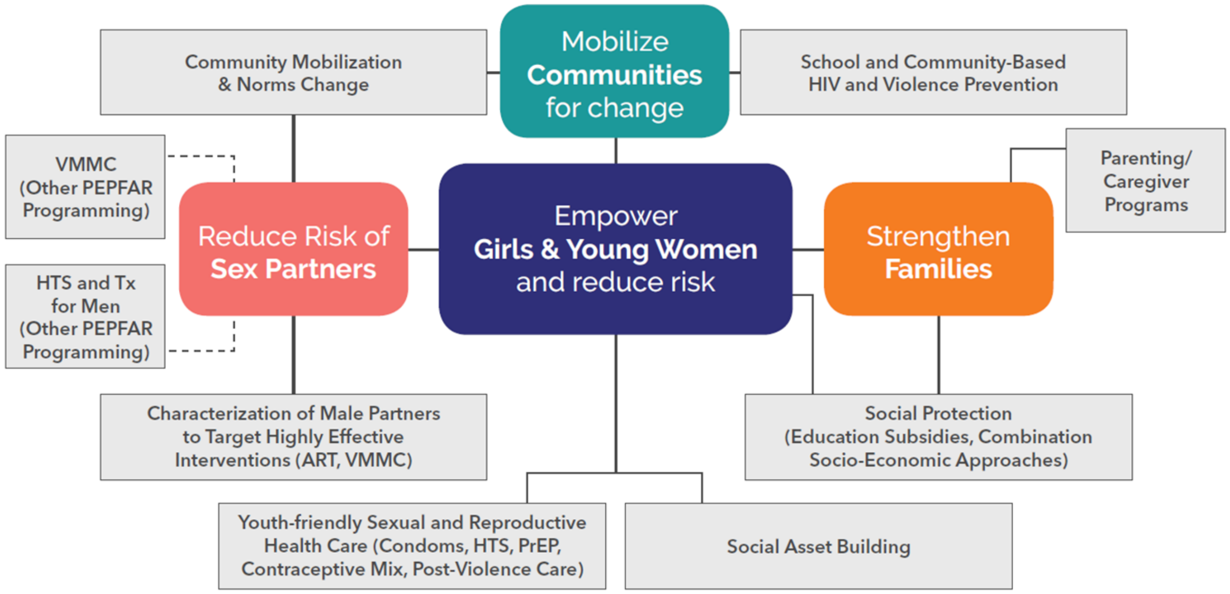
- Prioritizing economic strengthening services for AGYW, including life skills and economic empowerment/entrepreneurship skills through an evidence-based/evidence-informed curriculum, cash plus care interventions, vocational training, apprenticeships/internships, and linkage to employment.
- Providing virtual safe space using internet technology to build an alternative platform for DREAMS clubs; when beneficiaries and mentors cannot travel to an area, due to the security situation in Haiti.
- Preventing, identifying, and responding to violence experienced by AGYW and improve access to and quality of post-GBV services for AGYW:
    - Increasing GBV awareness and prevention among AGYW and families to reduce vulnerability
    - Providing home and community-based prevention of GBV, linkages to comprehensive GBV response including referral to health (emergency/post-rape care and PEP), psychosocial and protection services
    - Supporting AGYW to progress in school and complete secondary education (e.g. educational subsidies, material support, learning support)
    - Collaborating with clinical partners to improve service referral networks and the quality of post-GBV services offered at facilities.
- Conducting community norms change activities with AGYW and their communities, including male partners, around HIV awareness and violence prevention.
- Collaborating with clinical partners to provide active linkages to HIV testing services, Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and post-GBV services, including Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) screening, HIV testing, and reproductive health services.
- Ensuring coordination between OVC interventions for bi-directional referrals for eligible AGYW.

The national data on AGYW suggests a remarkable convergence of vulnerabilities and risk factors. The combination of pressure to engage in transactional sexual activity and difficulty in accessing information and services for reproductive health, and GBV create an unsafe environment that increases HIV risk for AGYW. To address these vulnerabilities, AGYW enrolled in DREAMS programs receive multiple, layered services integrating comprehensive evidence-based/evidence-informed HIV programming (Figure 2 below).

Interventions for AGYW will ensure a comprehensive and layered approach to services to address the multidimensional circumstances placing AGYW at increased risk of contracting HIV and STIs, in line with DREAMS guidance. DREAMS requires the implementation of multiple interventions that target different risk factors or behaviors that may lead to HIV acquisition. In order to provide services to target the key vulnerabilities, layered biomedical, behavioral, and structural interventions are recommended. The Activity should develop innovative strategies that can be adapted to a volatile environment or socio-political challenges that may impact program implementation.

These multiple, layered interventions make up the DREAMS Core Package. Details this package and the four main categories of engagement and the group of interventions associated with each category. (See Figure 2).

***Figure 2: DREAMS Core Package***




The DREAMS program targets AGYW aged 10-24. Under this IR, interventions will reach AGYW with the comprehensive DREAMS package of services through both community and facility platforms, comprising economic empowerment, SRH, HIV testing, social assets and support community norms and attitudes change to reduce HIV transmission, vulnerability and risk.

Services will be provided directly or through provision and tracking of referrals to clinical and social services. As DREAMS package completion rates have lagged for older (20-24 years) and out-of-school AGYW and address contextual factors such as high mobility, violence, and poverty levels.

All DREAMS beneficiaries will be tracked with a unique identifier code to monitor services that each beneficiary received and completion of service packages.

***IR 2.1: Improved livelihoods and social assets among AGYW***

Economic factors and gender inequality in economic potential are recognized as complex drivers of HIV. Economic empowerment interventions are key to the DREAMS package to ensure that AGYW have decreased reliance on transactional sex and to strengthen their self-efficacy and decision-making power in relationships.

Economic strengthening targeting AGYW under this IR may include providing gender-specific and age-appropriate financial literacy training; conducting market assessments as a basis for the selection of entrepreneurial training in order to develop marketable skills; providing vocational scholarships for AGYW; providing post-training start up support through seed funding, internships, and business placements; linkage to wage employment, facilitating savings groups for AGYW who may have income streams; facilitating peer support and strengthening social capital/assets; and facilitating access to coaching and mentoring opportunities in collaboration with the private sector and other business networks. The Activity will develop adaptable solutions to provide economic strengthening interventions to AGYW in volatile environments and/or experiencing socio-political instability. These may include digital/mobile solutions, social protection interventions (e.g. cash plus care models), and other innovations. The DREAMS Guidance outlines evidence-based/ evidence-informed approaches that can be tailored to Haiti's context.

***IR 2.2*: Increased uptake of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV services**

Interventions under this IR will be designed to enhance service seeking behaviors among AGYW and actively link them to AGYW friendly health services including HIV testing and HIV self-testing, PrEP, comprehensive SRH services, STI screening, and family planning (FP), and post-GBV services, in line with Haitian Government age consent policy. Demand creation must be responsive to the needs and fears of adolescents and young women and must seek to actively overcome barriers and stigma associated with uptake of SRH and HIV services, especially PrEP.

The Activity will collaborate with health facilities, advocate for youth friendly and stigma free HIV prevention services, provide referrals to post-GBV services, and track and document completion of referrals. This will also include collaboration with clinical services to improve post-GBV referral networks, and the quality of post-GBV services.

Interventions under this IR will build understanding among AGYW on the biological, behavioral and structural factors that put them at risk of HIV acquisition. Activities will promote creative ways for beneficiaries to understand their individual risk, the value of knowing one's HIV status, and the appropriate strategies with which they can protect themselves and their sexual partners. Beneficiaries will receive scientifically accurate information on efficacy and advantages and disadvantages of key biomedical prevention measures such as condoms, and PrEP.

Interpersonal platforms such as structured small group sessions utilizing evidence informed curricula will ensure that adolescents feel they can communicate in a 'safe space' where confidentiality is assured. Intervention approaches will also include individualized ongoing support/mentoring to AGYW for reducing their risks and rely on evidence-based/evidence-informed approaches that use mobile and digital media, and other effective approaches to reach AGYW during times of program disruption. Mentors or other health providers may require Mental Health and Psychosocial Support capacity building and training that focuses on young adults, including AGYW.

***IR 2.3* Increased capacity of communities to address harmful social and gender norms affecting HIV risk among children and AGYW**

The Activity will raise awareness with community-based leaders (traditional leaders, faith leaders, school leaders and others) on their role as opinion leaders for creating an enabling environment for AGYW around HIV awareness, combating stigma against AGYW seeking prevention services such as PrEP or condoms, harmful gender norms, GBV and VAC, exploitative and transactional sexual relationships and teenage pregnancy.

Strategic and structured community mobilization may also serve to engage men and boys to raise awareness on the drivers of HIV transmission for AGYW and GBV. Interventions must be strategic, targeted and structured. Community engagement activities must be done in collaboration with other PEPFAR supported community level engagement.

**Illustrative Outcomes for Result 2**

- Increased uptake of comprehensive HIV and SRH services by AGYW (HTS, FP, STI screening, diagnosis, and treatment, including human papillomavirus (HPV) when available
- AGYW have increased individual protective assets such as self-esteem, problem solving abilities, confidence and social networks
- Improved financial literacy and money management skills
- Improved access to vocational and (self-) employment opportunities among AGYW
- Positive community norms change for HIV and violence prevention (including engagement of men and boys)

**Result 3: Support USAID and PEPFAR localization and national capacity building goals**
The sustainability and success of OVC and DREAMS programming requires the ongoing engagement of local non-state actors, private sector institutions, and other local entities. Under Result 3, this Activity will support the strengthening of this engagement by building the technical and organizational capacity of local actors to plan, fund, and manage OVC and DREAMS programming.

***IR 3.1*: *Strengthen the capacity of local partners and stakeholders to implement OVC and DREAMS programming.***

Support the development of local technical and organizational capacity. This support may include, but is not limited to:

- Strengthening technical capacity to implement OVC and DREAMS interventions
- Strengthening program management capacity with a robust project management unit with clear organization structure, roles, and responsibilities, operating procedures, including monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- Improving financial management and internal control systems (e.g. having banking accounts, book keeping system, financial statements, accounting cycle, sources of funding, financial reporting, audit and review of financial statements)
- Promoting the use of data systems for decision-making and course correction as needed
- Assessing the technical and organizational capacity of subrecipients involved in the

OVC/DREAMS activity. Increasing ability of subrecipients local partners to manage funding responsibly and efficiently

- Developing and implementing capacity development plans for subrecipients in both technical and organizational areas, including activity management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting, financial management and reporting, leadership and governance, as well as new business development.

***IR 3.2: Improved Government institutions capacity to effectively manage OVC/DREAMS programming***

This activity will support both the central and local governments to effectively manage the OVC activity. Suggested activities include but are not limited to:

- Strengthening Haitian national OVC/DREAMS programming in a cross sectoral way through advancing policies for children safety/protection, developing national programmatic tools (guidelines and SOPs), the incorporation/prioritization in policies, as well as strategic and operational plans of relevant government institutions.
- Build synergy between PEPFAR and Global Fund for OVC programming.
- Support the GOH to rollout the OVC eCMS (electronic case management system) for OVC-programming related decision making.

**Illustrative Outcomes for IR 3:**

- Implementing partner attain proficiency using PEPFAR reporting and performance management systems, and capacity for analysis and use
- Implementing partner and subrecipients develop their technical and organizational capacity and management capacities.
- Central and local governments have an increased capacity to manage the OVC/DREAMS program.

In addition to implementing OVC and DREAMS interventions, this Activity will develop a detailed sustainability plan, including continuous self-capacity building, working in partnership with other local organizations to maintain development gains after the project ends, ownership of the proposed interventions, and how capacities will be created and motivations strengthened to enable the ongoing self-sustaining delivery of results.

## 8. Guiding Principles

USAID considers the incorporation of the following programmatic principles into the interventions and approaches implemented, to be essential for the success of this Activity:

***Alignment and Coordination with the Government of Haiti, USAID, and other Development Partners***

Close collaboration, and coordination are needed at all levels of the health and social system to support the overall strengthening of all OVC and AGYW related services. Leveraging existing and on-going efforts from other sectors, especially government counterparts (i.e., Ministries of gender, youth, education), other USG, United Nations agencies, and Global Fund AGYW and education initiatives to promote effective cross sectoral implementation of interventions (e.g., prevention, treatment, care and support, nutrition and food security, livelihoods and education program) will maximize impact.

The Activity will participate in the MSPP Technical Working Group (TWG) on Pediatric AIDS and coordinate regularly with the PNLS at the central level. The Activity will collaborate closely with MSPP at the departmental level, both within the facilities and with the Directions Departmentales Sanitaires (DDS). The Activity will collaborate with the Institut du Bien Être Social et de la Recherche (IBSR) within the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Brigade de Protection des Mineurs (BPM) within the Haitian National Police (PNH), with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP) as well as the Ministry on Women's condition (MCFDF) for AGYW in the DREAMS program.

The Activity, central to the USAID/Haiti health portfolio, will be implemented in concert with other key USAID projects, and other child protection and GBV/VAC prevention and response activities. The Activity will work with other PEPFAR OVC IPs on issues related to child protection, AGYW, and children of key populations. The Activity will also work closely with key and priority populations IPs to ensure these populations, particularly FSW, have full access to OVC and DREAMS services.

As the demand for OVC and DREAMS services is high and resources are limited, collaboration with other projects will be essential to maximize results. This Activity will link closely with several USAID health activities, including the Improved Health Service Delivery (IHSD) program, Partnerships for Equity in Health and Integrated Health Resilience, to ensure acutely malnourished children and pregnant women are linked to HIV testing services and OVC platforms, as needed.

Clear collaboration frameworks (including memoranda of understanding (MOU) will be required with PEPFAR clinical IPs supporting public health facilities for referrals and case management. The activity should collaborate with relevant local providers for provision of targeted clinical services to DREAMS beneficiaries. The Activity will work closely with clinical partners, including IHSD, which provides PMTCT services at supported sites: based on MOUs with each network, the Activity meet regularly with project and facility staff to ensure HIV-positive pregnant women and their babies are linked both to key facility-based services, including early infant diagnosis and ART, and community-based support services. This linkage will also lead to improved patient tracking and help reduce interruption in treatment by engaging community health workers across both projects. The Activity will also ensure that women and children engaged through the activity will be referred as needed to a broad range of primary health care services provided within IHSD's supported facilities.

The Activity should have strong collaboration with USAID's upcoming Integrated Social and Behavior Change (SBC) Activity to assess needs, plan, design, monitor, learn and adapt SBC interventions for AGYW, OVC and parent/guardian comprehensive packages. The activity should also ensure collaboration with other USG-funded activities, where possible, including humanitarian assistance activities and the Youth Empowerment Activity through USAID. The IP must ensure impactful collaboration with, and private sector engagement. The Activity will also link OVC and AGYW to partners providing legal services for GBV survivors, and leverage, wherever possible, other USAID-supported investments in education, school feeding, economic growth, and advocacy.

***Sustainability and Resilience***

The Activity interventions will align with PEPFAR's Guidance for OVC Programming and Technical Considerations. The guidance includes shifting OVC programs from emergency-based interventions to a more sustainable approach focused on family strengthening and capacity building. The guidance highlights and defines the roles and responsibilities of key actors along the spectrum of OVC care and support. Directly in line with this guidance, the new OVC activity will provide child-focused and family-centered interventions that:

1- Support efforts to reduce educational disparities and barriers to access
2- Prioritize psychosocial care and support
3- Reduce the economic vulnerability of families and empower them to provide for the essential needs of their children
4- Improve children's and families' access to health and nutritional services
5-Develop appropriate strategies for preventing and responding to child abuse, exploitation, violence and family separation
6- Develop strategies to ensure basic legal rights
7- Build the capacity of the social service system, wherever possible

The Activity will contribute to self-reliance by strengthening the ability of local organizations and community structures to reach and support vulnerable and at-risk populations (OVC and AGYW) and increase the use of services that mitigate the impact of HIV, prevent new HIV infections, and improve HIV clinical outcomes for C/ALHIV. To achieve this, the Activity will foster community-led behavioral interventions and encourage sustainable changes in traditional practices and community structures that impact OVC and AGYW. The Activity will also work closely with the public sector through the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women Condition, Ministry of Education and training to refer and connect target populations with social and health services.

***Use of systematic methods to identify the most vulnerable AGYW***. The Activity will have to describe effective strategies for identifying the most vulnerable AGYW. Criteria and tools for identification need to be developed or adapted from existing evidence-based interventions. Identification strategies will be a vital step for tailored appropriate programming for different subgroups, age bands and geography. This entails accurate assessment of beneficiary needs and matching beneficiaries with messages and interventions as well as social protection and other services provided by government and other implementers.

***Family/Household-Centered Approach***. Client focused and family-centered approaches that strengthen the parents and caregivers at the household level are considered fundamental to a quality OVC Activity. Households are composed of people who are in some way affiliated, i.e., individuals who share common space for living, cooking, and caring for children. Supporting vulnerable households and by definition, caregivers, can assure continuity of care and support for vulnerable children. Caregivers should be respected as full participants in any activities that support the care of their children. Interventions designed to strengthen the capacity of families to achieve child wellbeing outcomes will ensure that families and caregivers have access to basic support and are able to access resources to meet important family needs (e.g., education, health costs, food).

***Child Safeguarding***. The Activity will also provide assistance to child victims of sexual abuse, raise awareness with religious communities and school leaders to reduce abuse and sexual violence against children (SVAC), and require the use of Child Safeguarding policies.

The US Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity (2012-2017) promoted coordinated, comprehensive, and effective assistance to prevent and respond to the needs of children facing severe deprivation, exploitation, and danger. The Plan promoted three principal objectives to build strong beginnings, put family care first, and protect children. The Activity will contribute to each of these objectives through effectively coordinating and targeting life-saving health programs for very young children, providing household economic strengthening and parenting education, and providing activities to enable vulnerable families to better meet the needs of children in their care. Activities will be implemented at both the health facility and community levels to prevent and respond to violence perpetrated against children.

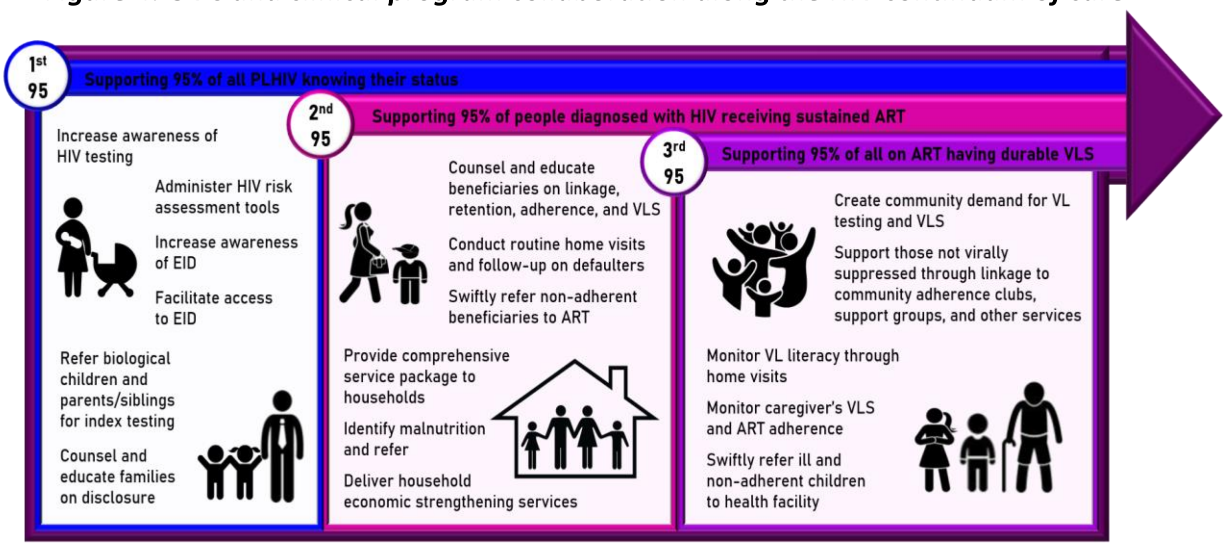
Vulnerable children need to be protected from further abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation which sometimes comes from the people that are supposed to protect them. Families, communities, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations and governments need to work together towards safe-guarding children. Child Safeguarding policies are a first step towards this goal. Activity staff must be trained on such policies and systems should be in place to ensure employment of people without a history of abusing, neglecting, exploiting, or violating children. Existing community child protection structures must be recognized and engaged as appropriate.

***Gender Equity and Integration***. To promote gender equity and mitigate structural and other gender inequalities, it is critical that this Activity articulates gender integration into all planned activities. The cross-cutting gender strategic areas to be considered include increasing gender equality in HIV/AIDS activities and services, including reproductive health; preventing and responding to GBV; engaging men and boys to address norms and behaviors; increasing understanding of women's and girls' legal rights and protection; increasing understanding of women's and girls' access to income and productive resources, including education; and increasing men's involvement in the care of their children. These needs and capacities are dynamic and evolving so require ongoing attention and evaluation.

Gender integration will be a core element in all this award's activities. A major focus at community level will be put on raising awareness of—and addressing—the detrimental impact of negative gender norms upon women, girls, men and boys. The proposed Activity should respond to USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy, address gender barriers and inequalities that impact desired HIV outcomes and foster broader gender equality. Proposed activities will reflect analysis and incorporation of gender-related considerations relevant to HIV prevention programming and outline how such considerations will be addressed.

***Approaches are informed by evidence, epidemic realities, and contribute to epidemic control.*** Programming to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS and other adversities on OVC, AGYW and PLHIV should prioritize interventions that have been proven effective through outcome evaluation and/or research and should comply with relevant PEPFAR guidance. In some cases, PEPFAR may require review and approval of a curriculum before it can be implemented.

***Figure 4: OVC and clinical program collaboration along the HIV continuum of care***




***Innovation, Flexibility, and Adaptation***. Innovative interventions to strengthen families, communities, the sub national government, and link community-based and clinical services needs to be articulated. Innovative, new, or advanced interventions or approaches that contribute to the achievement of the objectives and expected results and outcomes are encouraged. In exploring new ways of doing things, it is important to consider whether the intervention is evidence based. This includes shifting methodologies if a particular approach is not yielding results or is no longer optimal due to external shocks and change of circumstances, and pivoting levels of support for different interventions depending on need and comparative advantage.

***Building on Existing Family and Community Supports*** There is global consensus that the best psychosocial care and support for children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS is provided through everyday interpersonal interactions that occur in nurturing relationships in homes, schools, and communities. The Activity will implement interventions that facilitate these interactions through existing structures that ensure continuity and sustained support within the community. Mental health should be also considered as the population has faced continuous trauma and crisis.

## 10. Monitoring and Evaluation

### a. MER and Custom Indicators:

The Activity will implement rigorous performance management and learning to routinely track and document progress toward these Activity objectives, guide decision-making within the Activity, and contribute to the global community of practice. The activity's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning plan will serve as a performance management tool for adaptive management and to measure and monitor progress and achievements of expected results.

The Activity will implement rigorous performance management and learning to routinely track and document progress toward these Activity objectives, guide decision-making within the Activity, and contribute to the global community of practice. The activity's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning plan will serve as a performance management tool for adaptive management and to measure and monitor progress and achievements of expected results.

Overall performance of this award will be measured against the OVC and DREAMS specific PEPFAR indicators, as well as other custom indicators that will be developed to track linkage to prevention, care, and treatment. It is critical to note that disaggregation of targets and results is required by site, by age bands, and sex for the target populations specified in this Program Description.

The activity will also require reporting on DREAMS data to track and monitor layering in coordination with other IPs through the DREAMS database. All disaggregated DREAMS data for AGYW_PREV and non-DREAMS PEPFAR indicators, or any other required DREAMS related PEPFAR indicators will be reported to USAID, including through DATIM.

The PEPFAR indicators and USAID customs indicators are required to be reported through existing databases (eCMS and DREAMS database) which are listed in Table 1 below. The description of activities also offers suggestions for possible program level indicators that the awardee of this award might track.

***Table 2: PEPFAR MER and USAID Customs Indicators for measuring mechanism performance***

| MER Indicator | Description | Reporting frequency |
|---|---|---|
| OVC_SERV | Number of beneficiaries served by PEPFAR OVC programs for children and families affected by HIV | Semi-annual |
| OVC_HIVSTAT | Percentage of OVC (<18 yo) with HIV status reported to implementing partner | Semi-annual |
| AGYW_PREV | Percentage of AGYW that completed at least the DREAMS primary package of evidence-based services/interventions | Semi-annual |
| **USAID Custom Indicators** | **Description** | **Reporting frequency** |
| OVC_OFFER | Percentage of children and adolescents on ART in PEPFAR clinical settings offered enrollment into the OVC program | Semi-annual |
| OVC_ENROLL | Percentage of HIV-positive children and adolescents on ART at a PEPFAR supported health facility whose households are enrolled into the OVC comprehensive program | Semi-annual |
| OVC_VL_ELIGIBLE | Percentage of HIV-positive OVC (required) and caregivers (optional) on ART, active or graduated, who are/were served by an OVC comprehensive program, who are eligible for a VL testing. | Semi-annual |
| OVC_VLR | Percentage of HIV-positive OVC (required) or caregivers (optional) on ART, active or graduated, who are/were served by an OVC comprehensive program with a known documented VL test results in the previous 12 months. | Semi-Annual |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OVC_VLS | Percentage of HIV-positive OVC (required) and caregivers (optional) on ART, active or graduated, who are/were served by an OVC comprehensive program who are virally suppressed (<1,000 copies/ml) | Semi-annual |

**[END OF SECTION A]**

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## SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

### 1. Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated

USAID may award one (1) to two (2) Cooperative Agreement(s) pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity. Subject to funding availability and at the discretion of the Agency, USAID intends to provide $30,000,000 in total USAID funding over a five (5) year period. USAID reserves the right to not make any awards.

### 2. Expected Performance Indicators, Targets, Baseline Data, and Data Collection

Please see SECTION F; 3. Reporting Requirements

### 3. Start Date and Period of Performance for Federal Awards

The anticipated period of performance is five (5) years. The estimated start date will be upon the signature of the award, on or about.

### 4. Substantial Involvement

Substantial involvement during the period of performance may include the following:

- Agency approval of applicant key personnel, sub-awards and service agreements, and plans (e.g., implementation, procurement, AMELP, capacity development, closeout) prior to and throughout the award; USAID generally only requires approval of implementation plans annually; however, where changed contexts or new information require a pivot in the activity, USAID may consider changes to an implementation plan.
- Agency's ability to immediately halt an activity should the applicant not meet detailed performance specifications (e.g., changes to activities, locations, and beneficiary populations);
- Agency's review and approval of one stage of work, before work can begin on a subsequent stage during the period covered by the cooperative agreement.
- Agency and applicant collaboration or joint participation, such as when the applicant's successful accomplishment of program objectives would benefit from USAID's technical knowledge (e.g., if the program establishes an Advisory/Steering Committee, then USAID would participate as a member to provide advice to the applicant);
- Agency monitoring to permit specific kinds of direction or redirection of the program because of interrelationships with other projects or activities and/or to change/amplify activities in case of emergency such as the need to adjust rapidly based on emerging

infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, natural disasters, civil unrest or deteriorating security situation.

- Direct agency operational involvement or participation to ensure compliance with statutory requirements such as civil rights, environmental protection, and provisions for people with disabilities that exceeds the Agency's role that is normally part of the general statutory requirements understood in advance of the award.

**5. Authorized Geographic Code**

The geographic code for the procurement of commodities and services under this program is **937.**

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

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

**[END OF SECTION B]**

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## SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### 1. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility is restricted to local entities. Prime local entities may have US or non-US organizations as sub-awardees.

Locally led development has been identified for the Sustaining Impact for Youth Activity because implementing the Activity requires in-depth knowledge and connections within the targeted communities. Restricting eligibility to local entities for this activity supports USAID's Localization Vision and Approach, which seeks to expand the share of USAID programming that is locally led, and that engages with local actors as partners rather than as agents and beneficiaries.

Only local organizations as defined below are eligible for award. 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.

USAID welcomes applications from organizations that have not previously received financial assistance from USAID.

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.

## 2. Cost Sharing or Matching

A minimum recipient cost share of three percent (3%) of projected award amount is preferred. Such 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, the Standard Provisions and ADS 303.3.10.3.

## 3. Other

### Covered Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Equipment or Services

In accordance with the cost principles in 2 CFR § 200.471, obligating or expending costs for covered telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment or services as described in 2 CFR § 200.216 are unallowable. Recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from using award funds, including direct and indirect costs, cost share and program income, for such covered telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment, except as otherwise authorized in the award.

Please see the Standard Provision entitled “Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (July 2022).

**[END OF SECTION C]**

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## SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### 1. Agency Point of Contact

Alina Menicucci
Agreement Officer
USAID/Haiti
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Email: atmenicucci@usaid.gov

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Email: sricot@usaid.gov

### 2. Questions and Answers

Questions regarding this NOFO should be submitted to the following email addresses: sricot@usaid.gov, atmenicucci@usaid.gov; and usaidhaitioaa@usaid.gov no later than the date and time indicated on the cover letter, as amended. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this NOFO will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment to this NOFO, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicant.

### 3. General Content and Form of Application

Preparation of Applications:

Each applicant must furnish the information required by this NOFO.

**Overview of Application Process**

The award process under this NOFO will use a phased approach that will capitalize on local expertise. The purpose of this process is to identify the application with the best technical approach that will have the greatest chance of achieving the objectives of the Activity.

The selection process will go through the **three (3)** following phases:

**Phase 1: Technical Application and Summary Budget** - The applicant submits its Technical Application and Summary Budget per the Application Instructions outlined below. All applications received will be evaluated by a Selection Committee for responsiveness to the merit review/evaluation criteria outlined in Section E.

**Phase 2: Co-Creation** - The highest rated applicant(s) (the "Apparently Successful Applicant(s))" may be invited by USAID for a virtual and/or in-person co-creation and collaboration process to identify and develop the activities that will help achieve the results desired under this NOFO. This process will ensure that local perspectives and priorities are at the center of the Activity. Proposed sub-awardees may also attend the co-creation sessions. **USAID reserves the right to not conduct a co-creation workshop and to directly request a final Technical and Business (Cost) Application from the Apparently Successful Applicant(s).**

**Phase 3: Final Package** - Following the co-creation phase, if successful, the Apparently Successful Applicant(s) will be invited by USAID to submit a Final Package that includes the finalized Technical Application that incorporates the discussions, ideas, feedback, and agreed upon changes from the co-creation; a Business (Cost) Application; a Branding Strategy and Marking plan; and other documents required per the Application Instructions below. **Upon request, only the Apparently Successful Applicant(s) should submit these additional documents to USAID.**

**Notes:** USAID may cancel the negotiation(s) and award process at no cost to the Government. USAID's communication during the co-creation process provided by this NOFO should not be interpreted as a commitment to making an award of USAID funding. Further, USAID's request for a Final Package does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. Applicants are advised that participation in any phase of the NOFO process is entirely at their own risk; the Government is not responsible for any costs incurred by the applicant prior to an award. A commitment to an award of USAID funding is only made when an award agreement is signed.

Applications must be submitted in two separate parts: the Technical Application and the Summary Budget in ***Phase 1***. This subsection addresses general content requirements applying to the overall application process. Please see subsections 5 and 6, below, for information on the content specific to the Technical Application, Summary Budget for ***Phase 1***, and to the Final Package including Business (Cost) application ***for Phase 3***.

The Technical Application must address technical aspects only while the Summary Budget and subsequently the Business (Cost) Application must present the costs, and address risk and other related issues.

Both the Technical and Business (Cost) Applications must include a cover page containing the following information:

- Name of the organization(s) submitting the 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);
- Program name
- Notice of Funding Opportunity number

- Name of any proposed sub-recipients or partnerships (identify if any of the organizations are local organizations, per USAID's definition of 'local entity' under ADS 303.

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.

Applicants may choose to submit a cover letter in addition to the cover pages, but it will serve only as a transmittal letter to the Agreement Officer. The cover letter will not be reviewed as part of the merit review criteria.

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 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 estimated start date identified in Section B of this NOFO must be used in the cost application.
- 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 NOFO. 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.

## 4. Application Submission Procedures

Applications in response to this NOFO must be submitted no later than the closing date and time indicated on the cover letter, as amended. Late applications may be considered at the discretion of the Agreement Officer. Applicants must retain proof of timely delivery in the form of system generated documentation of delivery receipt date and time.

Applications must be submitted by email to sricot@usaid.gov, atmenicucci@usaid.gov; and usaidhaitioaa@usaid.gov. Email submissions must include the NOFO number and applicant's name in the subject line heading:

***"Technical Application under 72052124RFA00001 submitted by: [name of Applicant organization]."***

***"Summary Budget under 72052124RFA00001 submitted by: [name of Applicant organization]."***

In addition, for an application sent by multiple emails, the subject line must also indicate whether the email relates to the technical or cost application, and the desired sequence of the emails and their attachments (e.g. "No. 1 of 4", etc.). For example, if your cost application is being sent in two emails, the first email should have a subject line that states: "[NOFO number], [organization name], Cost Application, Part 1 of 2".

USAID's preference is that the technical application and the cost application each be submitted as consolidated email attachments, e.g. that you 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.

After submitting an application electronically, applicants should immediately check their own email to confirm that the attachments were indeed sent. If an applicant discovers an error in transmission, please send the material again and note in the subject line of the email or indicate in the file name if submitted via grants.gov that it is a "corrected" submission. 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.

Applicants are reminded that email is NOT instantaneous, and in some cases delays of several hours occur from transmission to receipt. Therefore, applicants are requested to send the application in sufficient time ahead of the deadline. For this NOFO, the initial point of entry to the government infrastructure is the USAID mail server.

There may be a problem with the receipt of *.zip files due to anti-virus software. Therefore, applicants are discouraged from sending files in this format as USAID/HAITI/OAA cannot guarantee their acceptance by the internet server. File size must not exceed 25MB.

## 5. Application Format

### 5.1 Phase 1 - Technical Application and Summary Budget

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 program. The application should take into account the requirements of the program and merit review criteria found in this NOFO.

The Technical Application should contain the following elements, described in detail below:

**5.1.1 Cover Page** (not included in the 14-page limit)
**5.1.2 Executive Summary** (1 page, not included in the 14-page limit)
**5.1.3 Implementation Plan and Sustainability Approach** (maximum 9 pages)
**5.1.4 Management Plan** (maximum 5 pages)
**5.1.5 Annex** (not included in the 14-page limit):
Key Personnel Curricula Vitae (maximum 3 pages per person) and letters of commitment (maximum 1 page per person).

The Technical Application, inclusive of the noted elements, should number a total of fourteen (14) pages.

**5.1.1. Cover Page** (not included in the 14-page limit)

In one page, the Cover Page should include: a) Activity title; b) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) reference number; c) name of organization(s) applying for the agreement; d) any partnerships; and e) contact person, telephone number, fax number (if available), physical address, and types name(s) and title(s) of person(s) who prepared the application, and corresponding signatures.

**5.1.2. Executive Summary** (1 page, not included in the 14-page limit)

The Executive Summary should address the requirements of the Activity Description including the objectives, interventions, indicators, expected results, and guiding principles. The applicant must provide a comprehensive yet concise summary of the proposed overall strategic and technical approach, including making sure to address the mandate for collaboration.

**5.1.3. Implementation Plan and Sustainability Approach** (maximum 9 pages)

This section should address each of the following issues in the order they appear below:

- ***Context.*** Describe the current context and outline the applicant's understanding of the development challenge that needs to be addressed by this Activity.

- ***Strategy.*** Describe in detail the technical strategy and approach used to achieve the proposed objectives. Interventions should apply lessons learned from previous work. At a minimum, the applicant should describe approaches to improve outcomes among OVC and AGYW, enabling children and youth in Haiti to grow into healthy, educated, young adults, free from violence and the negative effects of HIV;

- ***Proposed Interventions and timeline.*** Describe the illustrative interventions that will be undertaken to achieve the Activity objectives. Provide a general timeline of activities, including the implementation of an exit strategy and sustainability plan;

- ***Expected impact.*** Outline expected results and impacts and the mechanisms proposed to measure and monitor implementation progress, achievement, and sustainability. This section must comprehensively address how the applicant will achieve the objectives outlined in the activity description over the term of the activity;

- ***Describe a comprehensive local capacity building development strategy***, including the specialized expertise and targeted training the partner will utilize to support, guide, and direct local actors and local systems, including the Recipient, sub-awardees, and other local entities, in achieving and sustaining demonstrable results in funding and managing OVC and DREAMS programming.

**5.1.4. Management Plan** (maximum 5 pages)

In the Management Plan, the applicant should propose a comprehensive management plan for the Activity that demonstrates the applicant's ability to effectively launch, develop, manage, and transition results in the public sector, while also engaging private sector organizations.

The Management Plan should address the following points in the same order as they appear below:

- ***Roles and Responsibilities:*** The applicant should articulate the roles and responsibilities of all key stakeholders, differentiating the applicant versus proposed sub-awardee(s), if any.

If the applicant proposes sub-awardee(s), the applicant must briefly describe the method of identifying these sub-awardee(s), indicating whether or not they have pre-existing relationships and the nature of the relationship. If the proposed management plan includes partners, the applicant should demonstrate experience leading an effective consortium team. In the event of two (2) or more organizations applying together, USAID prefers a well-defined prime and sub-awardees relationship. USAID has no restrictions on the number of organizations forming a consortium. In order to award directly to a consortium, it must be legally registered, otherwise an award would be made to a prime applicant and consortium members would be sub-awardees. Consortiums without a clear hierarchy and delineation of authority among members are discouraged.

- ***Staffing Plan and Organizational Chart:*** The applicant should include a summary staffing plan and organizational chart, which, together, show the totality of staff positions proposed for all components of the implementation plan, inter-staff relationships, and lines of reporting, and where they will be located. The applicant should include a narrative that explains the staffing plan and organization chart and describes the advantages of the management approach.

- ***Flexibility and Adaptation:*** The applicant should describe how flexibility and adaptability are integrated in its management approach, in particular with respect to security risks that may affect implementation of the Activity.

- ***Transition:*** The applicant should describe practical steps that would be taken to ensure the applicant makes a smooth transition from the current OVC project, *IMPACT Youth* and continues with significant and measurable progress towards its objectives.

- ***Collaboration:*** The applicant should describe how it will build close collaboration with all USAID, PEPFAR, and other donor-funded partners in its catchment area. The Management Plan should detail how the applicant will work with national and local government officials, over the life of the award.

- ***Staff Retention:*** The applicant should present its strategy to retain key personnel throughout the life of the Activity (especially the Chief of Party), as well as its contingency plan in the event any of the key personnel leaves the activity.

- ***Key Personnel:*** Key personnel are those individuals whose performance is critical to the success of the Activity. USAID/Haiti has determined the following three (3) positions to be key to the success of the activity:

- Chief of Party
- Deputy Chief of Party
- Senior Technical Advisor OVC/Early Infant Diagnosis (EID)/Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW)

The applicant should propose individuals whom they deem appropriate for the anticipated role of each position and have the sufficient managerial as well as technical capacity, expertise, experience and academic qualification to meet the minimum requirements of the positions and effectively manage and support the overall success of the activity.

Key personnel positions and minimum qualifications are shown below. The CVs for all key personnel should be included in an Annex to the technical application.

***Chief of Party (COP)/Project Director:***

The Chief of Party (COP)/Project Director is expected to be responsible for the overall planning, implementation, and management of the performance of the OVC project and to provide vision and strategic leadership as well as to establish the administrative and technical oversight framework to monitor and assure progress toward the achievement of the goals and objectives. The COP has the responsibility for coordination with USAID, and to ensure coordination among relevant USAID-funded projects and other relevant donor and non-governmental organization-sponsored activities. The COP provides guidance to senior technical staff, ensures the responsiveness and quality of all OVC project work, and leads efforts to collaborate and coordinate with the Government of Haiti. The COP is intended to be a seasoned health sector professional, thoroughly familiar with the current and historic health service delivery activities, and OVC implementation in Haiti. He/she will serve as the institutional liaison and will be responsible for the design of interventions to support the capacity development of local organizations and service providers targeted by this project.

The Chief of Party is expected to have the following qualifications, skills, and expertise:

- Advanced degree (masters or equivalent) in Public Health, or related field; At least ten (10) years of experience implementing and managing donor-funded projects in developing countries. USAID will consider five years OVC program management experience with an additional five years of relevant work or experience as meeting the 10-year experience requirement.
- At least eight years of experience in related pediatric HIV and/or community-based activities, and/or other relevant activities;
- Demonstrated experience in leadership roles, promoting strategic planning, and careful budget management;

- Strong interpersonal, oral and written communication skills in French and English; working knowledge of Haitian Creole is preferred.

***Deputy Chief of Party (COP):***

The Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), directly assists the COP in technical leadership and activity design implementation, and management of the team in the absence of the COP. The DCOP shall have complementary technical skills and experience with the COP. The DCOP is responsible for various technical components of the program and makes operational decisions in the absence of COP. The DCOP ensures high-quality deliverables and participates in technical meetings, maintaining positive relationships with host government officials and other project stakeholders.

The Deputy Chief of Party is expected to have the following qualifications, skills, and expertise:

- Medical Degree or Master's Degree in health management or relevant field with 6 years of experience or BA degree in related field with 10 years of health project management experience.
- Proven experience in the administration of similar scope international donor support programs with skills in strategic planning, management, supervision, and budgeting.
- Proven ability to communicate with and lead multi-disciplinary teams.
- Strong interpersonal, oral and written communication skills in French and English; working knowledge of Haitian Kreyol is preferred.

***Senior Technical Advisor OVC/EID/AGYW:***

The Senior Technical Advisor, OVC/EID/AGYW recommended as local staff, is expected to be responsible for the internal team management as well as provide overall strategic leadership support to the COP.

The Senior Technical Advisor, OVC/EID/AGYW is expected to have the following qualifications, skills, and expertise:

- Master's Degree in Public Health, or related field;
- At least eight years of experience in OVC, EID, AGYW other/or relevant activities;
- At least five years of experience implementing and managing donor-funded projects in developing countries;
- At least five years of experience managing a fast-paced multi-disciplinary team to achieve development results;
- Demonstrated experience in leadership roles, promoting strategic planning, and careful budget management

- Strong interpersonal, oral and written communication skills in French and English; working knowledge of Haitian Creole is preferred.

**5.1.5 Annex** (not included in the 14-page limit):

In an Annex, the applicant is requested to include:

Key Personnel Curricula Vitae (maximum 3 pages per person) and letters of commitment (maximum 1 page per person).

**5.1.6. Summary Budget - Phase 1**

The Summary Budget must be submitted separately from the Technical Application using the budget format shown in the SF-424A. The Standard Form 424A can be accessed electronically at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html.

***The full cost application will be only requested from the Apparently Successful Applicant.***

**5.2 Phase 2 - Co-creation**

The highest rated applicant(s) (the "Apparently Successful Applicant)" will be invited by USAID for a virtual and/or in-person co-creation and collaboration process. This will allow the applicant (s) to identify and develop the activities that will help achieve the results desired under this NOFO based on the discussions during the co-creation sessions. It will also be an opportunity to discuss USAID processes and requirements.

**5.3 Phase 3 - Final Package Instructions**

During Phase 3, the final Technical Application, as well as the following documents outlined in section 6 below. The instructions for the final Technical Application will be provided in the invitation letter. These documents should be submitted **only** by the Apparently Successful Applicant upon request from USAID after a successful co-creation process.

**6. Business (Cost) Application Format**

**Phase 3 - Apparently Successful Applicant (s)**

The Business (Cost) Application must be submitted separately from the Technical Application. While no page limit exists for the full cost application, the apparently successful applicant is encouraged to be as concise as possible while still providing the necessary details. The business (cost) application must illustrate the entire period of performance, using the budget format shown in the SF-424A.

Prior to award, the apparently successful applicant (s) may be required to submit additional documentation deemed necessary for the Agreement Officer to assess the applicant's risk in accordance with 2 CFR 200.206.   The applicant (s) should not submit any additional information with their initial application.

The Cost Application must contain the following sections (which are further elaborated below this listing with the letters for each requirement):

**a) Cover Page** (See Section D.3 above for requirements)

**b) SF 424 Form(s)**

The applicant (s) must sign and submit the cost application using the SF-424 series. Standard Forms can be accessed electronically at www.grants.gov or using the following links:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Instructions for SF-424** | http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424-instructions.html |
| **Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)** | https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html |
| **Instructions for SF-424A** | http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424a-instructions.html |
| **Budget Information (SF-424A)** | https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html |
| **Instructions for SF-424B** | http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424b-instructions.html |
| **Assurances (SF-424B)** | https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html |

**c) Required Certifications and Assurances**

The apparently successful applicant (s) must complete the following documents and submit a signed copy with their application.

(1) "Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient" ADS 303mav document found at https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mav
(2) Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)
(3) Certificate of Compliance: Please submit a copy of your Certificate of Compliance if your organization's systems have been certified by USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA).

**<u>Note</u>:** Effective August 13, 2020, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from using grant funds, including **direct and indirect costs**, **program income**, and any **cost share**, for covered telecommunication equipment or services to:

(1) Procure or obtain, extend, or renew a contract to procure or obtain;

(2) Enter into a contract (extend or renew a contract to procure); or

(3) Obtain the equipment, services, or systems.

Additional information regarding this regulation and the prohibited companies can be found in ADS 303.3.35.2 "Covered Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Equipment or Services."

**d) 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) amount. Files must not contain any hidden or otherwise inaccessible cells. <u>Budgets with hidden cells lengthen the cost analysis time required to make award, and may result in a rejection of the cost application.</u> 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 Section H, Annex 1 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, 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. Applicants 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. Applicant must provide their established written policies on personnel compensation. 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 supporting 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. In this case, the Budget Narrative must include a detailed breakdown comprised 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. When appropriate please provide supporting documentation as an attachment, such as company travel policy, and explain assumptions 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 in light of 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 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 – If applicable (See ADS 303.3.30)

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 – Applicant must indicate whether they are proposing indirect costs or will charge all costs directly. In order to better understand indirect costs please see Subpart E of 2 CFR 200.

**The application must identify which approach they are requesting and provide the applicable supporting information. Below are the most commonly used Indirect Cost Rate 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 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC)
Eligibility: Any applicant that does not have a current NICRA
Initial Application Requirements: Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate an indirect rate, which the non-Federal entity may

apply to do at any time. The applicant must describe which cost elements it charges indirectly vs. directly. See 2 CFR 200 for further information.

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. Guidance *to AO: If the indirect costs are expected to be minimal or easily attributed to performance of a USAID agreement, the AO should delete this first bullet.*
- 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.

9) Cost Sharing – The apparently successful applicant (s) should estimate the amount of cost-sharing resources to be provided over the life of the agreement and specify the sources of such resources, and the basis of calculation in the budget narrative. The Applicant (s) should also provide a breakdown of the cost share (financial and in-kind contributions) of all organizations involved in implementing the resulting award.

**e) 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 (s) 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.

### f) Approval of Subawards

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

- Name of organization
- **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**
- 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.

### g) Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and SAM Registration

On April 4, 2022, the federal government stopped using the DUNS Number to uniquely identify entities. Now, entities doing business with the federal government use the **Unique Entity ID** created in **SAM.gov**. The Unique Entity ID is a 12-character alphanumeric identifier used in SAM.gov and other federal government systems to identify a unique entity.

**Applicants must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and register in the System for Award Management (SAM) (https://sam.gov/) in order to be eligible to receive federal assistance, such as grants and cooperative agreements**. **Unless an exemption applies (see ADS 303maz), applicants must be registered in SAM prior to submitting an application for award for USAID's consideration.**

Recipients must maintain an active SAM registration while they have an active award. Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or entity that is exempted from UEI/SAM requirements under 2 CFR 25.110) is required to:

1. Provide a valid UEI for the applicant and all proposed sub-recipients;
2. Be registered in SAM before submitting its application.
3. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

**The registration process may take many weeks to complete. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the process early**. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements above by the time USAID is ready to make an award, USAID may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Applicants can find additional resources for registering in SAM, including a Quick Start Guide and a video, on https://sam.gov

### h) History of Performance

The apparently successful applicant (s) must 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 five (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 5 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 applicant (s) encountered problems on any of the referenced Awards, it may provide a short explanation and the corrective action taken. The applicant (s) 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.

## i) Branding Strategy & Marking Plan

The apparently successful applicant(s) will be asked to provide a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan to be evaluated and approved by the Agreement Officer and incorporated into any resulting award.

**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 athttp://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 announcement, 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. Applicant 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 included in and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement.

(END OF PRE-AWARD TERM)

**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 brandmark, 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 of 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, Websites/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 particular deliverable must be seen as credible.

(iii) Undercut host-country government “ownership” of constitutions, laws, regulations, policies, studies, assessments, reports, publications, surveys or audits, public service announcements, or other communications. The applicant must explain why each particular item or product is better positioned as 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)

### i) 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.

Construction will not be authorized under this award.

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 NOFO and must meet the source and nationality requirements set forth in 22 CFR 228.

Effective August 13, 2020, recipients as well as their sub-recipients (if applicable) must comply with Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) regarding Covered Telecommunication equipment or services. Additional information regarding this regulation can be found in ADS 303.3.35.2 “Covered Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Equipment or Services”.

### j) Conscience Clause

**CONSCIENCE CLAUSE IMPLEMENTATION (ASSISTANCE) – SOLICITATION PROVISION.**
(a) An organization, including a faith-based organization, that is otherwise eligible to receive funds under this agreement for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, or care—

1) Shall not be required, as a condition of receiving such assistance—

(i) to endorse or utilize a multisectoral or comprehensive approach to combating HIV/AIDS; or

(ii) to endorse, utilize, make a referral to, become integrated with, or otherwise participate in any program or activity to which the organization has a religious or moral objection; and

2) Shall not be discriminated against in the solicitation or issuance of grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements for refusing to meet any requirement described in paragraph (a)(1) above.

(b) An applicant who believes that this solicitation contains provisions or requirements that would require it to endorse or use an approach or participate in an activity to which it has a religious or moral objection must so notify the cognizant Agreement Officer in accordance with the Mandatory Standard Provision titled “Notices” as soon as possible, and in any event not later than 15 calendar days before the deadline for submission of applications under this solicitation. The applicant must advise which activity(ies) it could not implement and the nature of the religious or moral objection.

(c) In responding to the solicitation, an applicant with a religious or moral objection may compete for any funding opportunity as a prime partner, or as a leader or member of a consortium that comes together to compete for an award. Alternatively, such applicant may limit its application to those activities it can undertake and must indicate in its submission the activity(ies) it has excluded based on religious or moral objection. The offeror’s proposal will be evaluated based on the activities for which a proposal is submitted and will not be evaluated favorably or unfavorably due to the absence of a proposal addressing the activity(ies) to which it objected and which it thus omitted. In addition to the notification in paragraph (b) above, the applicant must meet the submission date provided for in the solicitation.

(END OF PRE-AWARD TERM)

**k) Conflict of Interest Pre-Award Term (August 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)

**l) Additional Information**

Applicants should submit additional evidence of responsibility they deem necessary for the Agreement Officer to make a determination of responsibility. The information submitted should substantiate that the Applicant:

1. Has adequate financial resources or the ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of the award.
2. Has the ability to comply with the award conditions, taking into account all existing and currently prospective commitments of the Applicant, non-governmental and governmental.
3. Has a satisfactory record of performance. Past relevant unsatisfactory performance is ordinarily sufficient to justify a finding of non-responsibility unless there is clear evidence of subsequent satisfactory performance.
4. Has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics; and,
5. Is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive a cooperative agreement under applicable laws and regulations (e.g., EEO).

**[END OF SECTION D]**

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## SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### 1. Criteria

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

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

### 2. Review and Selection Process

USAID will conduct a merit review of all applications received that comply with the instructions in this NOFO.

### 2.1 Merit Review – Phase 1

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the following criteria shown in descending order of importance:

#### 2.1.1 Evaluation Criteria

#### a) Merit Review Criterion 1 - Implementation Plan and Sustainability Approach:

The extent to which the applicant describes a clear and comprehensive understanding of the development challenge and applicable context, and clearly describes a credible, feasible, and sustainable approach to implementation that will achieve the Activity's objectives and guiding principles outlined in the NOFO, including its strategy; proposed interventions and timeline; expected impact; and local capacity development.

#### b) Merit Review Criterion 2 - Management Plan:

The extent to which the Management Plan clearly demonstrates the applicant's sound, flexible and feasible management structure, and requisite capacity of itself, proposed sub-awardees, and Key Personnel to successfully implement the Activity.

### 2.1.2 Budget Summary review – Phase 1

The Summary Budget submitted in Phase 1 will not be rated but will be reviewed to understand the applicant's consideration of costs and its understanding of the work to be performed in the implementation of the Activity.

## 2.2 Merit Review - Phase 2

There is no merit review during the co-creation process. If the co-creation is successful and the apparently successful applicant(s) is (are) invited to submit a Final Package, it will be reviewed under Phase 3 per the merit review criteria outlined below.

## 2.3 Merit Review - Phase 3

The Final Package submitted by the Apparently Successful Applicant(s) upon USAID request under Phase 3 will be evaluated based on the following:

**1. Technical Application**

The Technical Application received as part of the Final Package after the co-creation sessions is the most important part of consideration in making the award decision. At this stage, USAID/Haiti will evaluate the Technical Application of the Apparently Successful Applicant (s) as ***"Acceptable"*** or ***"Unacceptable"*** based on the extent to which it adequately incorporates the discussions, ideas, feedback, and agreed upon changes from the co-creation. If co-creation and negotiations fail to improve the Apparently Successful Applicant's Technical Application, the Agreement Officer may determine the application as "unacceptable."

**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).

**[END OF SECTION E]**

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**SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

## 1. Federal Award Notices

Award of the agreement contemplated by this NOFO cannot be made until funds have been appropriated, allocated and committed through internal USAID procedures. While USAID anticipates that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for the award.

The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed Agreement may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Agreement or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

The Cooperative Agreement signed by the Agreement Officer is the authorizing document, which shall be transmitted to the Recipient for countersignature to the authorized agent of the successful organization(s) electronically, to be followed by original copies for execution.

Notification will also be made electronically to unsuccessful applicants pursuant to ADS 303.3.7.1.b. USAID will consider requests for additional information pursuant to ADS 303.3.7.2.

## 2. Administrative & National Policy Requirements

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

For Non US organizations: ADS 303, Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Organizations.

See Annex 2 for a list of the Standard Provisions that will be applicable to any awards resulting from this NOFO.

## 3. Reporting Requirements

### 3.1 Financial Reporting:

- The Recipient must submit the Federal Financial Form (FFR): (SF-425) on a quarterly basis via electronic format to the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) and the USAID 's Financial Management Office. The recipient must submit a copy of the FFR at the same time to the Agreement Officer (AO).

- The Recipient must submit the original and two copies of all final financial reports to the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) and the USAID 's Financial Management Office. The recipient must also submit an electronic version of the final Federal Financial Form (SF-425) to the Agreement Officer (AO) in accordance with paragraph above.

- On a quarterly basis, the AOR may require additional information related to financial accruals and pipeline of funds. This information will help to ensure that the activity has an adequate pipeline to conduct its programs. These reports/forms will be submitted when requested within 30 calendar days from the end of each quarter. In addition to this, Awardee will submit accruals reports to the AOR 15 days before the end of each quarter; and must contain at a minimum the following information:

    - Total funds obligated to date by USAID into the award
    - Total funds expended to date, including a breakdown of the budget categories with additional detail to be provided upon request by the AOR.
    - Pipeline (obligated funds minus expended funds)
    - Funds and time remaining in the award
    - Breakdown of expenditures by type of funding.

**3.2 Performance Reporting**

The Recipient must submit a copy of quarterly, annual, and final performance reports to the AOR in accordance with 2 CFR 200.328. The applicant may also be required to submit other ad hoc reports as requested by USAID and/or the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC).

**a) Annual Implementation Plan:**

The Applicant is encouraged to work with other donors and implementing partners, including local non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and civil society as well as the DREAMS program to inform this. Co-creation is expected to feature prominently post-award, bringing together the private sector, local organizations, and individuals to find solutions to OVC challenges and foster local ownership once the award has been made. The annual work planning process will specifically provide an opportunity to foster input and collaboration during activity implementation.

Within 60 days of award, the Recipient should include a draft first year Implementation Plan, which displays expected activities per month to achieve the annual performance targets, as specified in the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP) (below). The Implementation Plan will describe activities to be conducted at a greater level of detail than in the Program Description but should cross-reference the applicable sections in the Program Description.

The Recipient must submit a final annual implementation plan within thirty (90) days of the award date. The Recipient will work with the AOR throughout the annual implementation plan development process to ensure the annual implementation plan appropriately reflects activity objectives and the activity description. The annual implementation plan must detail the work to be accomplished during the upcoming year.

The due date for draft Annual Implementation Plans for subsequent years will be no later than June 1st, and final Annual Implementation Plans will be due no later than September 30th.

Annual Implementation Plans should include all sections described in the initial implementation plan. In addition, the subsequent annual implementation plans shall review the activities of the year that is ending, the activities that were implemented, the results achieved, and any problems that existed and how they were resolved. These subsequent annual plans should propose activity adjustments to reflect any lessons learned. As with the initial implementation plan, the AOR will review the plan and provide comments and recommendations to be incorporated into the final version submitted to the AOR for approval. In addition, all substantial changes in the annual implementation plan require prior written approval of the AOR.

The Annual Implementation Plan must also include a section on **security and contingency plans** as well as **risk-based analysis** that relate to different planned interventions as well as overall management approach and monitoring.

### b) Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP)

The Recipient must develop a comprehensive activity monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan (AMELP) that outlines how the activity will track progress and performance, identify learning opportunities, and effectively adapt programming to anticipate and respond to challenges and opportunities as they arise. The AMELP must also demonstrate how the Activity will routinely assess the quality of data; the status of activities; whether these activities are resulting in their intended outcomes; if those outcomes are leading to the desired objectives; whether critical assumptions remain valid; and whether course corrections should be made. In addition, the AMELP should be consistent with the Mission’s Performance Management Plan (PMP) and meet the Mission’s needs for monitoring, evaluation, learning, collaboration, and adaptive management, including meeting external reporting requirements, such as the Mission’s annual Performance Plan and Report (PPR).

The first draft of the AMELP must be submitted to the AOR within 60 days of the award and the final draft within 90 days of the award. The AMELP must be updated regularly, prioritize gender equality and youth inclusion, and include a data management plan which describes how performance data will be collected, stored, protected, analyzed, disseminated, and reported. The plan must furthermore describe the staffing structure of roles and responsibilities for all proposed monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) tasks. Performance monitoring based on USAID best practices, including a balanced set of outcomes and output indicators, will be required for this Activity. Proposed indicators must meet Agency and Mission Sustainable Landscapes, Climate Change Adaptation, and Resilience reporting requirements[5]. The AMELP must include standard indicators that are required under different streams of USAID funding. As Haiti is a country prone to natural, human-made disasters and disease outbreaks, it is expected that implementing partners may receive additional funds to respond to any outbreak of Cholera, COVID-19, and other health issues. In that regard, there will be reporting requirements for any additional and/or existing funding received.

Finally, the Recipient must take into consideration the need for continued monitoring and evaluation of activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, security issues, natural disasters, and other shocks or stressors. Therefore, the Recipient must indicate the monitoring approaches it plans to utilize for safe execution of the AMELP and potential contingency plans for data collection in the face of shocks/stresses. The plan must explain how certain indicators will be analyzed, including any specific software that may be necessary for analysis. This is also an opportunity for the applicant to ensure a consistent data analysis approach among multiple partners. In addition, the AMELP must describe the Activity’s procedures for collecting feedback from beneficiaries; responding to feedback from beneficiaries; and reporting to USAID on beneficiary feedback.

Given the uniquely challenging operating environment, the monitoring approach must include both performance and context monitoring. Partners are responsible for collecting baseline data for their performance indicators, when applicable and needed.

Performance monitoring refers to monitoring the quantity, quality, and timeliness of activity outputs within the control of the implementer, as well as the monitoring of activity outcomes that are expected to result from the combination of these outputs. Performance monitoring includes operational monitoring such as checking back later to see if completed activities still function. For example, if an individual is trained, does he or she apply the training properly, or if a livelihood activity is supported, how much income does the activity contribute to a household?

Context monitoring is the monitoring of local conditions that may directly affect implementation and performance (such as non-USAID projects operating within the same sector or area as USAID projects). Context monitoring also monitors external factors that may directly or indirectly affect implementation and performance (such as macro-economic, social, or political conditions). Context monitoring should be used to monitor assumptions and risks identified that could affect the achievement of the activity’s outcomes. In order to have a sound monitoring system,

[5] USAID/Haiti is currently planning a large resilience focus zone baseline survey that will provide baseline data relevant to this Activity.

applicants will propose indicators, determine ways to set baselines, realistic targets (only for performance indicators), and effective procedures for internal data quality control. Final targets will be established in collaboration with USAID at the onset of the Activity and will be based on PEPFAR OVC targets for Haiti.

In addition to the standard required indicators for USAID sustainable landscapes funding and GIS data, a robust Learning Agenda[6] must also be included in the AMELP. The Learning Agenda will detail the learning priority areas (or key learning questions) that will inform the entire MEL approach, including indicator and non-indicator monitoring (performance and context) and evaluation planning. A USAID-funded performance evaluation will be required for this Activity. The AMELP will need to include a description of how the recipient will work with USAID to prepare for, coordinate, and learn from the planned external evaluation.

The AMELP must consider indicator disaggregation by geographic location when feasible and useful for management purposes. When geographically disaggregated indicators are included, the MEL Plan must indicate the level of geographic detail at which the indicator data will be collected. It is recommended to collect performance data at the sub-national level (Commune, Section Communale).

Additionally, the recipient must collect and submit Activity Location Data according to the following requirements and the geographic data collection and submission standards outlined in below:

- At a minimum, the location(s) where the Activity is implemented must be collected at the Populated Place (i.e., city or town latitude/longitude); Exact Site Location (e.g., facility latitude/longitude); and/or Exact Line or Area Feature (e.g., an area of land or a segment of roadway level.
- At a minimum, the location of the Activity's intended beneficiaries must be collected at the sub-watershed and commune levels unless the Location of Intended Beneficiaries is considered nationwide, in which case it will be collected at the country level.

The AMELP should also apply USAID's Collaboration, Learning, and Adapting (CLA) principles (see ADS 201.3.4.10)[7] to effectively collaborate with other implementing partners and integrate real time monitoring and learning back into the project strategy and program implementation. This approach must ensure that knowledge is shared not only with USAID, but also with the broader set of stakeholders, including communities, watershed groups, local government, and other donors. Within the AMELP, the recipient must demonstrate how CLA practices will be

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[6] *Learning Agenda*

[7] *Understanding CLA | USAID Learning Lab*

incorporated into the design of the proposed intervention as well as in implementation and show how the theory of change of the proposed solution aligns with the USAID/Haiti 2022-2024 Strategic Framework. The recipient must demonstrate how it plans to ensure that the implementing team, systems, and processes are well-developed for advancing an adaptive approach, ensuring that the learning that emerges can be translated to an adjusted activity implementation approach in collaboration with partners and USAID. The recipient will need to consider what types of regular or targeted, short, focused studies and methods will facilitate rapid activity feedback and serve as compelling evidence for developing and making in-course corrections throughout the life of the Activity.

**c) Other Reporting**

During the life of the award, the Recipient may be required to prepare and submit to USAID other special reports concerning specific interventions and/or analyses. These requests will be in writing and will specify the due date. The substance of this reporting may include special award interventions (including short-term consultants reports detailing interventions and findings and making recommendations as appropriate), coordination with other USAID projects, USG agencies, or coordination with other donors. USAID may also request the attendance of project staff to Partners' Meetings.

**d) Quarterly Performance Report:**

Within thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter, the applicant must submit one (1) original and one (1) copy of a performance report to the AOR. The performance reports are required to be submitted quarterly and must contain the following:

- quantitative and qualitative analysis of progress against objectives, results, and targets;
- summary of key activities planned for the next quarter;
- discussion of lessons learned, good practices, and success stories;
- description of progress towards local capacity building goals, description of activities, successes, and challenges;
- Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report (EMMR) on the status of the environmental management conditions established in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Climate Risk Management analysis documentation (presented in a table organized per department per service delivery point) to be included in the quarterly report;
- quarterly meetings with the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) and the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO)/Deputy Mission Environmental Officer (DMEO) to discuss the compliance status of the project activities;
- challenges outside the scope of the Activity Description that affect implementation;
- summary table of indicators, targets, and results to date; and

- financials for the quarter and projections for the next two (2) quarters.

Furthermore, notification must be given in the case of problems, delays, or adverse conditions, which materially impair the ability to meet the objectives of the award. These notifications must include a statement of the action taken and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. Following receipt of the report, a “quarterly review” meeting with the AOR and other relevant Mission staff will be held to discuss results, challenges, and the way forward. In addition, the implementing partner is expected to abide by the High Frequency Technical Data reporting as per PEPFAR requirement.

**Annual Reports**

Within ninety (90) days after the close of each award year, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.329(c), the recipient must submit to the AOR an annual report, inclusive of the final quarter report, which reflects the progress of the program activities over the last year against the work plan/performance targets. The report should indicate the outputs and impact the program is having on the target beneficiaries. Annual and cumulative to date data should be included. Anecdotal stories and case studies, pictures and any other information that gives insight into the success of the program should be included.

**Final Report**

The final performance report is due ninety (90) days after the expiration or termination of the award in accordance with 2 CFR 200.329(c). The final report shall include an executive summary of the applicant’s accomplishments in achieving results and conclusions about areas in need of future assistance; an overall description of the applicant’s activities and attainment of results by country or region, as appropriate during the life of the cooperative agreement; an assessment of the progress made toward accomplishing the objective and expected results significance of these activities; important research findings, comments and recommendations, and a fiscal report that describes how the applicant’s funds were used. The report should also indicate the contextual opportunities remaining that could easily be harnessed to sustain the results of the activity.

**Closeout Plan**

Ninety (90) days prior to the end of the Agreement, the recipient shall submit a closeout plan to the AOR and the Acquisition and Assistance Office. The closeout plan shall include: brief program summary; brief program timeline; financial status report; final Financial Status Report timeline; latest NICRA or indirect cost rates; anticipated balance of federal funds after expiration of the instrument; final inventory of residual non- expendable property, which was acquired or furnished under the instrument; program and activity end date; recipient responsibilities during phase out; Subawardees and/or partnership phase out; status of all program audit reports per the instrument’s provisions; final audit report timeline; final report timeline; personnel phase-out timeline; personnel phase-out plan; and job descriptions for personnel anticipated to serve during the closeout phase.

**Reports Table**

All reports must be submitted to the AO and/or the AOR by the due dates specified above and below.

| **Reports** | **Due Date** | **Due to** |
|---|---|---|
| **Annual Implementation Plan** | First year: draft within sixty (60) days of award, final within ninety (90) days of the award date.<br>Subsequent years: August 30th. | AOR |
| **Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP)** | Draft within sixty (60 days of the award, final within ninety (90) days of the award.<br>Updated annually and submitted to USAID for approval annually on August 30th. | AOR |
| **Quarterly Performance Report** | Within thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter | AOR |
| **Annual Report** | Within ninety (90) days after the close of each award year | AOR |
| **Final Report** | Due ninety (90) days after the expiration or termination of the award | AOR |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Closeout Plan** | Due Ninety (90) days prior to the end of the Agreement | AOR and AO |
| **Branding & Marking Plan** | Within 30 days of the award | AOR and AO |
| **Development Experience Clearinghouse Requirements** | Quarterly, annual, and final performance reports | AOR for clearance prior to submission to USAID'S Development Experience Clearinghouse |
| **Gender Framework** | Within 90 days of the award | AOR |
| **Security and Contingency Plan** | Within 30 days of the award and updated as applicable. | AOR and AO |
| **Local capacity development and sustainability plan** | Within 90 days of the award | AOR |

**4. Other Requirements**

**4.1 Branding & Marking Plan**

The apparently successful applicant will be required to submit a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan to be evaluated and approved by the Agreement Officer within 30 days of the award. A Branding Implementation Strategy and Marking Plan must be in accordance with USAID Branding and Marking Plan as required per ADS 320 at the following link: http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/.

**4.2 Development Experience Clearinghouse Requirements:**

Per ADS 540, "USAID maintains the DEC as its primary institutional memory resource. It provides Agency staff and development partners with accurate, comprehensive, and timely information on the Agency's development experience."

The Recipient must submit quarterly, annual, and final performance reports to the AOR for clearance prior to timely submission to USAID'S Development Experience Clearinghouse in accordance with ADS 540 requirements at the DEC website https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/home/Default.aspx .

The Recipient must upload the quarterly performance reports, annual reports and the final report to the USAID's DEC within 10 business days after receiving AOR clearance by email, and then notify the AOR by email when the upload has been completed.

**4.3 Gender Adolescents and Youth**

Gender issues are central to achieving equitable, sustainable health outcomes. USAID strives to promote gender equality, in which both women and men have equal opportunity to benefit from and contribute to economic, social, cultural, and political development; enjoy socially valued resources and rewards; and realize their human rights.

The Activity must therefore account for gender differentiated rights, roles, and responsibilities in developing strategies and interventions, while also supporting positive gender roles for women, especially young women, and men within communities. Adult and young women need support to enhance their roles in decision-making and control over resources and services. Adult men and young men, especially, need assistance to redefine masculinity as being supportive and discouraging of risk behaviors. The applicant must therefore develop gender transformative approaches that will shift how men and women interact with each other and the health system.

The Activity must also demonstrate gender equity considerations in all program interventions, including monitoring and evaluation, using disaggregated information by gender and age, and considering the differing impacts on women, youth, children, and vulnerable groups.

Adolescents are unique clients of health care due to their rapid and varied physical, emotional, and psychological changes, and the number of social determinants and ecological factors at play in their lives, health seeking behaviors, and risk factors. Adolescents represent the majority of the population in Haiti and are an underserved population. The applicant must take into account the many needs of young people rooted in the U.N Convention on the Rights of the Child, while also aligning with the *MSPP/DSF/SJA Plan Stratégique National Santé Jeunes et Adolescents (2014-2017).* The applicant will plan to meaningfully engage the adolescents in program implementation.

Establishing an understanding of equitable gender roles and conveying the negative impacts of gender-based violence (GBV), which is extremely high, should begin with very young adolescents (VYA) from 10 to 14 years of age. This is the optimal time frame to initiate discussion on inequitable gender norms that perpetuate disparities and even unhealthy behaviors such as non-consensual sex, coercion, or transactional sex. The Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) published in 2012 is a useful reference.

This intervention package must include use of a multi-sectoral and gendered approach, where multi-dimensional barriers can be addressed to confront girls' and young women's disempowerment and the complex factors that lead to poor health. The applicant must include gender and youth considerations, including VYA considerations, into all Activity components to help reduce gender and age disparities in OVC activities. The applicant must achieve measurable gains in gender- and youth-related norms and barriers across the priority health areas. The integration of gender and youth into all activities is critical to the success of USAID/Haiti's investment in OVC activities.

The applicant must adhere to USAID's gender policy, which requires that all policies, programs, implementation and monitoring plans, and budgets be gender sensitive in pursuit of sustainable economic growth, job creation, household security, and poverty reduction.

Based on the findings of the USAID/Haiti Strategic Framework Gender Analysis, the applicant must include gender norms and primary prevention of GBV as key focus areas. Additionally, the applicant is responsible for complying with USAID's 2020 policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Because the activities to be funded under this Activity involve direct contact with children and therefore could raise the potential of child abuse, the Activity must conduct a comprehensive assessment of potential risks and must develop and implement appropriate measures to prevent, mitigate, and respond to child abuse by Activity personnel. A description of these measures should be submitted with the first annual implementation plan for approval by USAID/Haiti.

The Award Recipient must submit a Gender Framework within 90 calendar days of the award of the Sustaining Impact for Youth cooperative agreement. The exact format and content of the Gender Framework will be determined in collaboration with the AOR.

### 4.4 Environmental Compliance Requirements

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 the Code of Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's Automated Directives System Parts 201.5.10g and 204 which, in part, require the identification of 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. The recipient environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this program description.

A stand-alone Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) has been approved for the Sustaining Impact for Youth activities. The IEE will cover activities expected to be implemented under this cooperative agreement. The recipient shall be responsible for implementation of all IEE conditions pertaining to activities to be funded under this solicitation.

As part of its initial implementation plan, and all annual implementation plans thereafter, the recipient, in collaboration with the USAID Agreement Officer's Representative and Mission Environmental Officer or Bureau Environmental Officer, as appropriate, shall review all ongoing and planned activities under this agreement to determine if they are within the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation. 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.

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.

When the approved Regulation 216 documentation is (1) an IEE that contains one or more Negative Determinations with conditions and/or (2) an environmental assessment (EA), the recipient shall:

- Unless the approved Regulation 216 documentation contains a complete Environmental

Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) or a project mitigation and monitoring (M&M) plan, the recipient shall prepare an EMMP or M&M Plan describing how the recipient will, in specific terms, implement all IEE and/or EA conditions that apply to proposed project activities within the scope of the award. The EMMP or M&M Plan shall include monitoring the implementation of the conditions and their effectiveness.

- Integrate a completed EMMP or M&M Plan into the initial implementation plan. Integrate an EMMP or M&M Plan into subsequent annual implementation plans, making any necessary adjustments to activity implementation in order to minimize adverse impacts to the environment.

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

**4.5 Foreign Tax Reports**

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

**4.6 Development Information Solution (DIS)**

The Mission has established and manages a web-based performance monitoring information management system called "Development Information Solution (DIS)", to which designated USAID Staff and all implementing partners are required to submit performance results each quarter. DIS Haiti serves as a repository for all Mission-related performance indicators at the strategy, project, and activity/implementing mechanism (IM) levels. Indicator information includes, but may not be limited to, indicator definition, baseline values and time frames, targets and rationales for targets, and actual values.

All USAID/Haiti implementing partners must assign a Point of Contact (POC) who will be responsible for ensuring that project information is entered into the DIS Haiti reporting system. Additional information and guidance about the DIS platform will be shared at time of award.

**4.7 Local Capacity Development and Sustainability**

The Activity will align with USAID/Haiti's focus on increasing local partnership and participation and making development more inclusive of marginalized groups. In accordance with the new Agency-wide policy on local capacity development, the applicant (s) will develop a local capacity development and sustainability plan (the "Capacity Development Plan") to be submitted to the

AOR within 90 days of the award. This plan will make strategic and intentional decisions about why and how to invest in the capacity of local actors, based on a shared understanding of the principles for effective local capacity development that contribute to achieving and sustaining development outcomes.

The applicant should include the Capacity Development and Sustainability Plan guided by the seven core principles in the local capacity development policy for review and approval by the USAID/Haiti AOR. The plan should be no more than five (5) pages in length. The Capacity Development and Sustainability Plan should reflect the Agency's shift from "viewing successful local capacity building as an organization's ability to receive and manage federal funding directly to measuring success by the strengthened performance of local actors and local systems in achieving and sustaining demonstrable results."

Each quarter the Activity will report on local capacity development and sustainability activities as described above in the M&E section. In addition, in each annual report, the prime partner will prepare a summary report of the Capacity Development and Sustainability Plan to summarize the implemented capacity building activities, the performance of local partners (as sub-awardees), and local systems in achieving and sustaining demonstrable results.

**[END OF SECTION F]**

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## SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

### 1. NOFO Points of Contact

The Point of Contact for questions is Sandra Ricot. Questions should be submitted via email to sricot@usaid.gov, with a copy to Alina Menicucci at atmenicucci@usaid.gov , by the deadline listed on the cover page of this NOFO.

### 2. Acquisition and Assistance Ombudsman

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

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

**[END OF SECTION G]**

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**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 disclosed, duplicated or used – 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."

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**ANNEX 1 - SUMMARY BUDGET TEMPLATE**

The template below illustrates the summary budget sample.

| **Cost Category** | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3** | **Year 4** | **Year 5** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personnel | | | | | |
| Fringe Benefits | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | |
| Subawards | | | | | |
| Construction | | | | | |
| Program Activities | | | | | |
| Other Direct Costs | | | | | |
| Total Direct Charges | | | | | |
| Indirect Charges | | | | | |
| **TOTAL** | | | | | |

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**ANNEX 2 - STANDARD PROVISIONS**

(Note: the full text of these provisions may be found at:
https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303maa,
https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mab, and
https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mat).

The actual Standard Provisions included in the award will be dependent on the organization that is selected (or the type of award, in the case of a fixed amount award). The award will include the latest Mandatory Provisions for either U.S. or non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations, as appropriate**.** The award will also contain the following "required as applicable" Standard Provisions:

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

**REQUIRED AS APPLICABLE STANDARD PROVISIONS FOR NON-U.S. NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

| Required | Not Required | TBD | Standard Provisions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | √ | RAA1. ADVANCE PAYMENT AND REFUNDS (NOVEMBER 2020) |
| | | √ | RAA2. REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENT AND REFUNDS (DECEMBER 2014) |
| | | √ | RAA3. INDIRECT COSTS – NEGOTIATED INDIRECT COST RATE AGREEMENT (NICRA) (NOVEMBER 2020) |
| | | √ | RAA4. INDIRECT COSTS – CHARGED AS A FIXED AMOUNT (NONPROFIT) (JUNE 2012) |
| | | √ | RAA5. INDIRECT COST – DE MINIMIS RATE (NOVEMBER 2020) |
| √ | | | RAA6. UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM OF AWARD MANAGEMENT (NOVEMBER 2020) |
| √ | | | RAA7. REPORTING SUBAWARDS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (NOVEMBER 2020) |
| | | √` | RAA8. SUBAWARDS (DECEMBER 2014) |
| | | √ | RAA9. TRAVEL AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION (DECEMBER 2014) |
| √ | | | RAA10. OCEAN SHIPMENT OF GOODS (JUNE 2012) |
| √ | | | RAA11. REPORTING HOST GOVERNMENT TAXES (JUNE 2012) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | √ | | RAA12. PATENT RIGHTS (JUNE 2012) |
| | | √ | RAA13. EXCHANGE VISITORS AND PARTICIPANT TRAINING (JUNE 2012) |
| | | √ | RAA14. INVESTMENT PROMOTION (NOVEMBER 2003) |
| √ | | | RAA15. COST SHARE (JUNE 2012) |
| | √ | | RAA16. PROGRAM INCOME (AUGUST 2020) |
| √ | | | RAA17. FOREIGN GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (JUNE 2012) |
| | √ | | RAA18. STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED IN USAID ASSISTANCE AWARDS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION (SEPTEMBER 2004) |
| | √ | | RAA19. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RESEARCH SUBJECTS (JUNE 2012) |
| | √ | | RAA20. STATEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES ON LACK OF SUPPORT FOR PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012) |
| | √ | | RAA21. ELIGIBILITY OF SUBRECIPIENTS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS (JUNE 2012) |
| | √ | | RAA22. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS TO PROMOTE, SUPPORT, OR ADVOCATE FOR THE LEGALIZATION OR PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012) |
| √ | | | RAA23. VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES – SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (JANUARY 2009) |
| √ | | | RAA24. CONSCIENCE CLAUSE IMPLEMENTATION (ASSISTANCE) (FEBRUARY 2012) |
| √ | | | RAA25. CONDOMS (ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014) |
| √ | | | RAA256 PROHIBITION ON THE PROMOTION OR ADVOCACY OF THE LEGALIZATION OR PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION OR SEX TRAFFICKING(ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014) |
| √ | | | RAA27. LIMITATION ON SUBAWARDS TO NON-LOCAL ENTITIES (JULY 2014) |
| √ | | | RAA28. CONTRACT PROVISION FOR DBA INSURANCE UNDER RECIPIENT PROCUREMENTS (DECEMBER 2014) |
| √ | | | RAA29. CONTRACT AWARD TERM AND CONDITION FOR RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE MATTERS (April 2016) |
| √ | | | RAA30. RESERVED |
| √ | | | RAA31. NEVER CONTRACT WITH THE ENEMY (NOVEMBER 2020) |

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## ANNEX 3 - ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Insert a list of any abbreviations and acronyms used in the application.

**[END OF SECTION H]**

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