



Request for Information

Regional Political Party Strengthening Project

Issuance Date: May 19, 2016

Closing Date: June 06, 2016

Closing Time: 5:00 pm (South Africa Time)

Subject: Request for Information (RFI) for the Regional Political Party Strengthening Project RFI-674-16-000101

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback on the proposed and focus area for USAID/Southern Africa's democracy and governance project, "Regional Political Party Strengthening". Presented below is a draft Program Description of the project. USAID/Southern Africa may use feedback and comments to refine the approach and focus areas for a future Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO). If an NFO is issued, USAID/SA intends to make one award for three years in length. The potential funding available for the award(s) will be up to \$3 million in total, contingent on the availability of funds.

DISCLAIMER:

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. It is not a Request for Proposal/ Application/ Quotation, an Invitation for Bids or a Solicitation. This RFI is an opportunity for USAID/South Africa to obtain information from interested parties regarding the Program Description below. Responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the U.S. Government to form a binding contract or agreement. Responses to this RFI are strictly voluntary and USAID will not pay respondents for information provided in response to this RFI. Responses to this RFI will not be returned and respondents will not be notified of the result of the review. If an NFO is issued, it will be announced on www.grants.gov at a later date, and all interested parties must respond to that NFO/Solicitation announcement separately from any response to this announcement. This RFI does not restrict the Government's acquisition approach for a future solicitation.

USAID intends to restrict eligibility of this project to local and Southern Africa regional organizations.

INSTRUCTIONS

Responses (comments, suggestions, and enhancements) to this RFI are due to the procurement office identified below by **05:00pm (South Africa time); June 06, 2016**. Responders may provide responses through email or through attachments to email in Microsoft Word compatible format or Adobe Acrobat formats.

USAID is particularly interested in receiving comments on this concept with respect to the following questions:

- Please comment on the overall project description.
- Who are the local South African and regional organizations that are currently working in the political processes space and what are the ongoing projects?
- Are the expected results identified achievable and measurable within the budgetary, time and geographic limitations? If not, why not? Any additional recommended results?
- What are the key assumptions are missing from the design that could impede its ability to achieve the desired results if not addressed?
- If there are current water or energy policies in the targeted countries, how are they enforced?
- Other suggestions to improve the project design.

Please e-mail responses to tmokhele@usaid.gov and awalsh@usaid.gov. Please reference the e-mail with the subject title “Response to Regional Political Party Strengthening Project RFI”. Questions in reference to this RFI will not be answered.

Please note Mandatory Standard provisions as referenced in the Program description below can be found at: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303maa.pdf>

Draft Program Description

I. Purpose

The project's goal is to strengthen democratic structures and institutions of political parties in Botswana, Lesotho, and Malawi to better respond to and represent the needs of its constituents, particularly in the areas of water and energy resource management. This project will focus on intra-party and inter-party dialogues at both the bilateral and regional level in an effort to increase citizen representation and involvement in the political processes. Strengthening a political party's internal democracy is a conduit to strengthen a country's overall democracy.

To achieve this goal, the Regional Political Party Strengthening Project will build the skills of political parties to utilize surveys, focus groups, and other participatory methods to develop issue-based platforms and campaigns, increase the use of evidence-based policy making related to natural resource management, engage in ethical strategic planning, and increase political party commitment to internal democratic processes while building an innovative, accessible political party (PP) training curriculum. This project is wholly focused on facilitating democratic processes within the political landscape, encouraging balanced responsiveness to citizens, and not influencing political outcomes of elections. It will aim to achieve medium-term results and lay the foundation for progress towards long-term impact in promoting the stated program objectives while maintaining its neutrality in accordance with the USAID policy on political party assistance.

The project goal will be achieved through four key objectives:

- a. Build the capacity of parties to develop internal party structures that promote and reflect democracy, transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness.
- b. Inculcate a political culture and behavior within parties that supports meaningful participation of women, youth and marginalized individuals in identifying party policy and leadership structures.
- c. Establish a regional network of political parties that share and support best practices, lessons learned and knowledge sharing on strengthening democratic party structures
- d. Strengthen participatory policy and platform development that accurately reflects citizen-identified needs to explicitly include access to sustainable water supply clean water and energy and management of these resources.

This project will reinforce USAID/Southern Africa's vision to explore new and innovative avenues to support and strengthen democratic political processes throughout the region. With the integration of natural resource management, specifically surrounding access to clean water and energy, this project will provide a unique avenue for collaborative thinking among the region's leading political figures on a shared regional concern—climate change. Efforts must align with the Agency's Water and Development Strategy and approach to spur clean energy growth and attract investments into renewable sources. A sustainable water supply is essential to both health and food production for communities; and clean energy can curb greenhouse gas emissions, improve local air quality, increase energy access and security, lower energy costs and spur economic growth. This integrated activity will ensure political leaders are equipped with the tools to develop and advocate for sound policies on natural resource

management that respond to citizen needs balanced against evidence-based and economically sustainable approaches. The regional multiparty collaboration will be complemented with a suite of bilateral activities that strengthens Democratic Party structures and operations.

II. Background

Decisions within political campaigns in Southern Africa are made based on the opinions and perspectives of party leadership without employing modern approaches to understanding voter desires, without clear platforms designed to respond to those voter interests or effective organizational strategies. Many parties are organized around individual personalities or historical legacies and lack clear ideology or policy platforms to distinguish themselves in the field. In the rapidly changing landscape of politics in Southern Africa, political parties must present a vision and plan for the country to continue to appeal to voters, particularly young voters without historical allegiances.

One reason political parties struggle to reflect the interest of voters is in large part due to weak or inadequate intra-party governance and infrastructure. As a result, there is a tendency to be reactive rather than proactive as political parties make a concerted effort to respond to citizen needs often resulting in one-off activities that are not sustainable and do not grow the capacity of the party. Many parties also lack systems to ensure transparency and accountability in the general governance of parties, which further perpetuates a top-down approach as many citizens are not aware of how to participate in intra-party governance or influence policies or platforms.

This may also fuel intraparty conflict and as is the case in Malawi, may be the reason many citizens, particularly youth, have disengaged from political parties over the past couple of years.

Often existing structures do not allow the flexibility nor the input to reform in response to changing political landscape in an effective manner, which can contribute towards citizen dissatisfaction. The rigid structures can limit the development of new ideas, which may have an adverse effect on a parties' ability to respond to evolving citizen needs and build internal cohesion. Democracies are fluid structures that require a resilient support structure permitting reforms as countries evolve. In Botswana, the governing party has seen the splintering off of groups due to an inability of parties to effectively reform in response to concerns raised internally. In Lesotho, there are many political parties that lack internal cohesion, which has resulted in financially and policy-weak parties, with an inability to respond to citizen needs.

Southern Africa is a water-scarce and energy constrained region, and the trends are demonstrating that, as a result of climate change, access to sustainable water supplies and reliable energy will worsen. With demonstrated weak natural resource management capabilities within the targeted countries, the knock-on effect can be severe, especially with respect to food security. Therefore, in the current political environment, establishing access to clean water and clean energy is increasingly becoming a priority. When these natural resources are not properly managed, conflict can arise. Unfortunately, young or under-developed democracies often overlook the need to develop sound policies used to govern their natural resources, until the stressor has already hit. As representatives of citizens, political parties have an ability to

influence the larger discourse, which can inform the decision-making process behind environment policy development, and lead communities, governments, and the private sector to a better understanding of how to work together effectively, and across borders, to manage their natural resources efficiently.

Despite these constraints in cementing democratic governance within political parties, the region, specifically Botswana, Lesotho, and Malawi, have seen a gradual shift from a one dominant party system to a viable multiparty system. This shift presents an opportunity for this project to provide technical assistance to political parties to strengthen their internal operations and address the growing concerns presented by climate change in order to serve as better citizen representatives.

I. Theory of Change

The 2014/2015 elections held in Botswana, Lesotho, and Malawi have exposed an evolving political environment in which greater competition and multiparty systems within the political processes are emerging. At this juncture, some political parties are examining their strengths and weaknesses in their ability to represent and meet the needs of its constituents in an increasingly democratic landscape. In the case of Malawi, the food insecurity crisis has brought the issue of natural resource management to the forefront of politics and all parties are looking for ways to better respond to the crisis and demonstrate leadership. This is an opportunity for parties to be introspective in examining their internal operations, leverage lessons learned from neighboring countries, and increase focus on evidence-based policy/platform formulation that responds to citizen needs. The RPPS is grounded in the following theory of change:

If:

- Political parties are equipped with the tools and structures necessary to better communicate with constituents and analyze their motivations and priorities;
- Meaningful participation of women, youth and marginalized populations in identifying party policy and leadership structures is prioritized; and
- Policy formulation is based on the expressed needs of citizens balanced against evidence-based and economically sustainable approaches; and
- A regional network of political parties is established that allows for the sharing and supporting of best practices, lessons learned and information at all levels of its party structures,

Then:

- Political parties within the region will be more democratic, transparent, accountable and inclusive, more effectively represent and respond to the needs of their constituents, and better positioned to influence the political responsiveness to climate change, which lead to greater citizen involvement and representation in the political process

a. Key Assumptions

This theory of change assumes the following:

- Both the governing and non-governing parties participate meaningfully and respectfully in the activities together and are open to sharing experiences and new ideas.
- Targeted countries have laws that protect the rights of expression, media, and public gatherings, as well as laws that protect against intimidation.
- Citizens are willing participants in their respective country's political processes.
- There is a pool of qualified women, youth and marginalized individuals ready and willing to take on leadership roles within a party.
- Parties are willing to acknowledge areas of needed improvement.
- The political culture and behavior around the involvement of women, youth and marginalized populations is conducive for change.

II. Program Goal and Objectives

The goal of RPPS is to strengthen the capacity of political parties in Botswana, Lesotho, and Malawi to better respond to and represent the needs of its constituents, particularly in the areas of water and energy resource management and access, which will lead to more democratic political processes.

- a. **Objective 1:** Develop a sustainable approach to building the capacity of internal party structures emphasizing democracy, transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness.*

Many parties have developed systems and structures that allow them to function during election years, however, most have weak infrastructure to support meaningful citizen engagement during non-election years or their structure is prone to elite capture as party leaders are also parliamentarians or ministers. In Botswana, non-governing parties do not have a well-developed political education system that would serve to train up their party staff or volunteers, for example, they do not have demonstrated communications strategies to improve intra-party dialogue to effectively develop and communicate with members about their platforms, structures and priorities or fundraising strategies to ensure a party's financial viability. In Lesotho, some parties are prone to elite capture, which adversely impacts the democratic and inclusive nature of a party. More often than not, parties are not decentralized and very little decision-making authority falls outside of the national committees of some parties. Often, members of some of national committees are cabinet members and not individuals that have risen through the ranks of the party structure from the villages. This lends itself to party policies and platforms that are not representative of its constituents. The way in which the party structures itself is crucial to ensuring it has the systems in place to represent citizens.

Key Considerations

The Applicant will closely work with the USAID-identified political parties to design and carry out an organizational capacity development strategy that addresses the main challenges faced

by the parties, sustainable and owned by the respective political parties. This strategy may encompass a combination of regional level training program, remote learning opportunities or may include targeted technical assistance and mentoring. Selected political parties will be in alignment with the USAID Political Party Assistance Policy. Development of the targeted technical assistance activities should consider the positive effects of a participative inquiry methodology to increase ownership and willingness for party reforms. Targeted technical assistance should maximize all possible forms of pedagogy and not be limited to in-class settings to ensure an effective and efficient transfer of skills.

i. Expected Results:

- Parties establish and implement policies promoting internal democratic governance with clearly communicated processes and procedures, including party elections, priority determinations, etc.
- Improved leadership and organizational capacity of political parties.
- Increased transparency and accountability of party actions to its constituents.
- Institutionalized political party governance training curricula/modules that are tailored to specific party needs, sustainable, and innovative in areas such as roles and responsibilities of parties within the political process, internal operations, fundraising, sustainability, communication, constituent outreach, strategic planning in policy/platform identification, use of technology, and monitoring and evaluation. Training should have both an in-person and distance learning component.
- Increased capacity of members and constituents to monitor and evaluate party-specific projects and activities.

ii. Illustrative Indicators: Indicators should be a combination of output and outcome.

- Number of parties with information on internal structures and management publically available.
- Number of parties with new member communication policies and procedures adopted.
- Percent change in citizen participation in party organized events.
- Percent change in citizens who believe there is a sufficient institutionalized feedback mechanism to influence party policies and platforms.
- Percent change within in parties of its leaders, staff and volunteers with the capacity to successfully execute party processes and procedures.
- Number of parties that demonstrated monitoring and evaluation tools to adjust party operations and structures.

b. Objective 2: *Inculcate a political culture and behavior that supports meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized individuals in identifying party policy and leadership structures.*

Despite the SADC Gender and Development Protocol which mandates equal participation of women in decision-making structures, women, youth and marginalized individuals are not well

represented within the government or within political parties. Lesotho maintains a quota for women in Parliament, which increases the role of women within their political parties; however, party leadership is heavily male dominated. In both Botswana and Malawi, a drop in the number of women elected into Parliament dropped between 2009 and 2014 from 19% to 13% in Botswana and from 22% to 17% in Malawi. Both countries have voluntary party quotas, but again and just as importantly, women are not significantly represented within the decision-making bodies of the parties, despite active women's leagues. Women's poor representation in the leadership of political structures is often due to financial limitations or a culture in politics and society that is hostile to it.

Youth activism, through the assistance of increased access to social media, has led to an increase in youth participation in the political process and in party leadership (although mostly young men). This is also aided by the fact that the majority of population in Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi are under the age of 30. This has been evident in Botswana where a relatively new political party won seats in the 2014 election largely due to the youth vote. On the other end of the spectrum, other marginalized individuals, such as persons with disabilities or native populations or LGBTI have limited to no representation within the political system due to a political culture, social norms, or legal challenges.

Key Considerations

The Applicant will work with USAID-identified political parties to identify the barriers to participation by women, youth and marginalized communities. Efforts to reduce or eliminate those barriers should consider the reasonableness of activities to affect attitudinal change within the party and society given the time constraints of this project. The Applicant should consider activities that will establish a foundation for a shift in political culture and behavior within the political parties towards greater inclusivity, which parties can readily continue to support long after this project ends.

i. Expected Results

- Supported parties take steps to build and maintain an informed and diverse constituency base inclusive of women, youth, and marginalized populations.
- Translated party constitutions, processes, procedures into relevant languages are available.
- Increased participation of women, youth, and marginalized populations at all levels of the parties' structures.
- Parties adopt and institutionalize a training program that builds the capacity of future women, youth and marginalized individuals as leaders.
- Institutionalized an awareness strategy on the importance and added value of women, youth and marginalized individuals in political parties. .
- Taken steps to reduce barriers to entering the political environment due to newly established party support structures that facilitate and encourage the participation of women, youth and marginalized individuals in the parties.
- Established tailored party doctrine on the inclusion and empowerment of women, youth and marginalized communities in party structures in line with the SADC Gender Protocol.

ii. *Illustrative Indicators*

- Percent change in demographic support.
- Percentage of members participating in inclusive processes such as focus groups or surveys that are women, youth and marginalized population
- Percent change in women, youth, and marginalized populations in decision-making positions within the parties' leadership structures.
- Percent of those women, youth, and marginalized individuals who participated in leadership training were subsequently in leadership positions.
- Number of political parties that have voluntarily implemented the SADC gender and development protocol.

c. **Objective 3:** *Establish a regional network of political parties to share and support best practices, lessons learned and knowledge on strengthening democratic party structures*

Some of the weaknesses found in political party strengthening activities have belied on the fact that many approaches have a Western/European bias, which may not be relevant in non-Western/European environments.¹ The integration of a regional approach into a political party strengthening activity is an opportunity for participating countries to hold a multiparty discussion on best practices or share lessons learned when facing commonly shared challenges for political parties in Africa. The regional approach permits parties the luxury of setting aside individual party ambitions to have a deeper technical discussion on strengthening internal party democracies. In doing so, it fosters the potential for greater coalition building as parties begin to find commonalities off of which to build greater interparty dialogue in their home countries. This will also serve as a forum to share and discuss regional policies intended to increase inclusive and participatory politics, such as the SADC Gender and Development Protocol. Lesotho and Malawi have ratified the 2008 Protocol, but Botswana has not. This would be an opportunity to discuss ways in which parties can voluntarily instill the spirit of the Protocol in an effort to change the political culture and behavior around gender and women.

Regional level discussions on access to water and energy would be beneficial as environmental implications know no boundaries. Access to water and energy are increasingly a priority for the region in light of the regional negative trends being seen due to climate change and its potential impact on communities coupled with the politicization of natural resource management. For example, Malawi is currently experiencing a widespread humanitarian crisis, with approximately 2.8 million receiving food assistance to avoid famine. Brought on by drought and changing El Nino weather patterns, the result has been a spiraling food security crisis affecting millions of subsistence farmers. Adopting climate-smart agriculture through improved natural resource management policies are critical to breaking the cycle of humanitarian disasters, which is fast becoming a very politicized and potentially destabilizing issue. Information sharing across region can have the ability to more neutrally shape and inform the discourse around sound policies and platforms to respond to these issues and respond to a common threat.

¹ Erdman, Gero, "Lessons to be Learned: Political Party Research and Political Party Assistance", German Institute of Global and Area Studies.

Key Considerations

The Applicant should consider networks that reach beyond the leadership level of political parties to be truly effective and successful in instilling the technical discussions, lessons learned and best practices. Often regional trainings attract senior leadership and culminate in an agreement on a direction or position, but lacks sufficient follow through once individuals return to their home countries. Party leaders, especially women, youth and marginalized groups, at multiple levels must be included in regional activities, as appropriate, to ensure actionable items take root and become formalized. Furthermore, the system developed would ideally be continued by the parties within the region and potentially be expanded to include other countries within the region, if the current participating countries so desired.

i. Expected Results

- Formalized structure for continued information sharing across political parties in the targeted countries.
- Established an easily accessible online repository for tools, best practices, lessons learned, and technical papers on inclusive and participatory policy development methods.
- Increased knowledge to address water and energy constraints.
- Increased knowledge on inclusive and participatory methods and approaches.
- Provision of a series of online and in-person technical assistance to address commonly identified challenges to political parties in the region.
- Greater comprehension on the importance and added value of interparty dialogues and coalition building in strengthening democracies.
- Signed declaration of best practices.

ii. Illustrative Indicators

- Number of political parties formalizing structures to continue a regional multiparty dialogue.
- Number of political parties who incorporated best practices, lessons learned or other technical skills within their respective parties as a result of participating in the multiparty training and dialogue.
- Number of political parties that have institutionalized the best practices declaration.

d. Objective 4: *Strengthen participatory policy and platform development that accurately reflects citizen-identified needs to explicitly include access to clean water and energy and management of these resources.*

Many factors affect the strength of a democracy, not the least being the strength a political party's democracy. Political parties are the conduits through which citizens in Botswana, Lesotho, and Malawi elect their representatives in government. Given the intent and purpose of these representatives to respond to the needs of their citizens, it is paramount that political parties embody a participatory approach to policy and platform development. However, many parties do not consistently apply this approach due to a lack of qualified staff, resources, feedback mechanisms, strategic plan, etc. On the other end, some political parties hold regular

conferences, but participation by the general members and citizens is superficial at best. Participatory policy and platform development ensures citizen-identified needs are accurately represented and parties remain accountable.

In Botswana, not all political parties consistently survey citizens or conduct an analysis to gauge citizen satisfaction with party representation and direction. In Malawi, party conferences that are held are not considered conducive for meaningful membership participation and feedback in identifying party direction or platform given party leadership is weary to relinquish that level of control.

Key Considerations

The Applicant should consider appropriate methodologies to transfer the necessary skills and tools to parties to strengthen community outreach and participatory policy/platform development. These tools and resources should be sustainable, relevant and accessible by all political parties to ensure ownership and adoption of a more inclusive approach.

Given the growing regional concern over access to water and energy, the Applicant should work with parties to develop particular policy platforms as projects, which can increase knowledge on water scarcity and energy constraints and creates a new channel for policy influence. The escalation of limited access to safe water and energy constraints in the region presents itself as an opportunity for parties to apply skillsets over shared concerns. Such an opportunity could create a sphere for comparative analysis on effective participatory methodologies and enable parties to monitor and evaluate the ability of their policies and platforms to incorporate results from public consultations. Party policies and platforms also have the added benefit of influencing the larger debate over the appropriate government response to address citizen-identified concerns over water and energy resource management. Such sectoral projects also offer a mechanism through which this project can attract funding from other donors and sectors, which may help multiply the impact of this project.

i. Expected results:

- Capacitated political parties to conduct issue-based policy/platform development grounded on empirical data and broad consultations with constituent groups.
- Increased use of local CSOs as sources of empirical data and analysis to inform the platforms and policy positions of political parties.
- Institutionalized an in-person and online training program focused on research and participatory policy/platform development.
- Formalized systems for communities to hold parties accountable and track progress against policy positions.
- Established feedback mechanisms that allow for transparency and accountability to the citizen on party policies and platforms.
- Developed evidenced-based party policies and/or platforms that address access to water and energy constraints.
- Developed internal party monitoring and evaluation tools to gauge the level to which party policies and/or platforms reflect citizen-identified needs.

ii. Illustrative Indicators:

- Percent of party policies and platforms that reflect citizen-identified needs.
- Number of political parties with institutionalized training programming on research and participatory policy/platform development.
- Number of new party platforms and/or policies which were a) accompanied by a written technical analysis, opinion papers, and/or legislative study;
- Number of new party platforms and/or policies that were the subject of a public consultation.
- Number of policies, laws, agreements, regulations, or investment agreements (public or private) that promote access to improved water supply and sanitation.
- Number of policies, laws, agreements, regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) officially proposed, or adopted as result of USG assistance.
- Number of people who have received information on public participation in environmental decision making.
- Increased public consultations on access to water and energy.

III. Other Technical Areas

a. Gender

Women and men have differing needs and varied views about governance and politics, as well as distinct interests in political processes. Balanced gender representation and participation in political processes are closely tied to ensuring that men and women can exercise choices regarding political, social, and economic issues. Lack of political representation can lead to social and economic exclusion.

Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi have not sufficiently addressed the ongoing gender imbalance within their respective political systems. Efforts have been made to facilitate greater gender diversity. For example, Lesotho has a constitutionally mandated quota requirement (25%) of women in Parliament. Both Lesotho and Malawi have ratified the SADC Gender and Development Protocol in 2008. Despite these efforts, there is a significant deficit of gender balance within the party leadership structures. There has also been a decline in women in Parliament in both Botswana and Malawi; from 19% in 2009 to 13% in 2014 for Botswana and 22% in 2009 to 17% in 2014 for Malawi.

With respect to LGBTI inclusion, significant cultural and legal barriers continue to inadequately ensure that their rights are not infringed upon in society. Though, none of the three countries have explicit laws that discriminate against the LGBTI community, societal norms and other efforts to limit the civil and political rights of LGBTI advocacy groups are still in existence. In the case of Malawi there are currently discriminatory laws that have been temporarily suspended while its government reviews their constitutionality. Thus, it is not surprising that political parties have limited or no LGBTI representation within their leadership structures.

USAID will therefore place a considerable focus on the integration of gender considerations throughout the project, ensuring that men and women both benefit from USAID's support and that gender awareness is a built-in component of the project activities. In supporting effective political processes, the project will not only enhance equitable participation in decision-making processes, but will also support women's leadership roles in political processes and will put in place mechanisms to incorporate gender considerations into indigenous dialogue and political consensus-building processes. The project shall aim to build the capacity of political parties and elected leaders to respond to the gender-specific interests of all citizens. In addition, it will also promote integration of gender equality in planning and measurement of results. The project will ensure that interventions support women's groups with proven roles in political process development, to take a leading role in interventions at all levels.

b. Youth

Youth play a critical role in politics and more broadly in development. Given the region's demographic make-up, the inclusion of youth in the political arena is critical to fostering democratic multiparty consolidation for future generations. Regionally, youth represent more than half of the current population between the ages of 15-24. In Malawi, nearly two-thirds of the population is under the age of 25; in Lesotho it is 60%; and Botswana it is roughly 53%. According to the World Bank, the current youth unemployment in Botswana and Lesotho hovers around 33%, while in Malawi, though lower, is still at 13% for those in the 15-24 age bracket. In all three countries, the youth cohort also played a pivotal role in mobilizing the electorate, establishing political parties, and challenging the existing governing system as they demand for change and greater inclusion in the decision-making process.

Through training and mentoring, the Recipient shall support activities that actively engage youth in political processes. With input from beneficiary political parties RPPS will support initiatives aimed at providing youth in the targeted political parties and communities with tools and leadership skills necessary to stimulate a lifetime of political participation and activism.

The activity will, in design and implementation, utilize the energy and potential of youth in political processes. In particular, it will innovatively use technology and other youth sensitive media platforms to promote participation in and oversight of political processes by youth.

c. STIP

USAID/Southern Africa seeks to increase the application of science, technology, innovation and partnerships (STIP) to achieve, sustain and extend the Agency's development impact in Southern Africa. The Applicant should consider the use a diverse array of technological and innovative approaches that are easily accessible, replicable and sustainable to garner greater ownership for reforms.

d. Participant Training

Any proposed Participant Training activities will be in accordance with ADS

253(<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/253.pdf>) "Participant Training for

Capacity Development”. (Note: In the application of the ADS the Applicant is considered a “Program Implementer” and USAID/Southern Africa is considered “Sponsoring Unit”.)

IV. Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMEP)

The application shall contain an illustrative AMEP responding to objectives and expected results listed in this Program Description. The Applicant is encouraged to propose other indicators that will assist in gauging project performance. The AMEP shall contain project objectives and results, performance indicators, data sources and collection methods, baseline information or a timeline for collecting it, annual targets, and names of individuals responsible for data collection and analysis. Performance indicators should comply with the following criteria: direct, objective, practical, adequate, and useful in managing for results. AMEP data should be based on fiscal year calendar.

The AMEP shall have the following structure:

- List of key project objectives, expected results and project outputs (output is a count of services delivered or items produced) and outcomes as well as a brief description of the linkages between the project outputs and its expected results.
- Definition and detailed description of the performance indicators to be tracked including: unit of measure and disaggregation by gender, as appropriate and feasible; justification/management utility; annual baselines/targets; schedule for data collection; individual responsibility for data collection and availability of data at USAID; and, detailed plans for data analysis, review and reporting. This will be captured in USAID’s Performance Indicator Reference Sheet format.

Further, the Recipient together with USAID will capture emerging opportunities to seize and challenges to mitigate as part of the Mission’s collaborative learning and adaptation (CLA) efforts. The project should have a plan in place for capturing lessons learned and best practices as well as understanding best fit for each country context. As part of the CLA, a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) should be conducted at the onset of the award for each country to establish the contextual underpinnings of the environments in which these activities will be implemented and opportunities to affect change as it relates to the project.

Questions to frame the ongoing CLA analysis include:

- Who are the key actors with the ability to affect the greatest change?
- What are the incentives to support the desired outcomes?
- What are the top three ways one might improve the efficacy of this project?
- What are the most important challenges to which the project should adapt to address, and how?
- What are the most important unforeseen opportunities the project should adapt to seize?
- How can this program capitalize on or contribute to the success of other projects in DRG and other technical sectors?
- Are there more efficient means of accomplishing the same results?

- Can this project be replicated or scaled up given locally available resources?
- Is there evidence that project interventions will be sustainable beyond the project lifetime?

V. Coordination

a. Relationship to Mission RDCS

This project directly falls under DO 3 “Improved rule of law and respect for human rights” and specifically IR 3.2 *Increase promotion of rule of law and human rights by regional networks and institutions*. Outcomes that fall under IR 3.2 include:

- Elections administration improved;
- Internal democracy in political parties improved;
- Oversight and constituency engagement of the legislative branch improved.

b. Relationship to other Donor programming

The Applicant should take into consideration other ongoing and complementary activities within the region when designing this project. Coordination will be done to reduce redundancy and increase complementarity in all relevant space. Activities should not compete with other existing efforts, but rather leverage each other’s resource in order to amplify the development outcomes. The Applicant should reference other ongoing donor programming, if applicable, with whom coordination will be critical to ensure success, and how they envision that level of coordination to be facilitated.

USAID/Southern Africa will ensure appropriate higher level donor coordination with other programming occurring either regionally or bilaterally within the same technical sphere. USAID/Southern Africa will work with the bilateral missions in identifying relevant donor programs and ways in which to leverage activities within those shared spaces.

VI. Gender

Activities in this program must be responsive to gender considerations, and ensure that the assistance and results are beneficial to both men and women.

VII. Partnership Approach

We encourage organizations to form a consortium that optimally combines complementary strengths and experience to best address the different target groups and approaches represented by the systemic approach of this program.