



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NOTICE OF FUNDING: 72068519APS00001

PREVENTION OF CHILD EARLY AND FORCED
MARRIAGE ACTIVITY

USAID/SENEGAL

SAHEL REGIONAL OFFICE (SRO)

APS #: 72068519APS00001

April 2019



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Subject: **Annual Program Statement (APS): 72068519APS00001**

Program Title: **Prevention of Child Early and Forced Marriage Activity**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: **98.001**

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking concept paper from qualified entities to implement the **Prevention of Child Early and Forced Marriage Activity**.

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

Please submit concept paper and any questions you may have to Assistance Specialist Hamed Cisse at hcisse@usaid.gov with a copy to Senior Assistance Specialist Abdullahi Sadiq at asadiq@usaid.gov and Assistance Specialist Aminata Diallo at amdiallo@usaid.gov. 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,



Yves Kore
Regional 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.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Note: The term “program” as used in 2 CFR 200 and this NOFO is typically considered by USAID to be an Activity supporting one or more Project(s) pursuant to specific Development Objectives. Please see 2 CFR 700 for the USAID specific definitions of the terms “Activity” and “Project” as used in the USAID context for purposes of planning, design, and implementation of USAID development assistance.

I. OVERVIEW

The USAID Niger Country Office intends to award up to two (2) cooperative agreements, totaling no more than \$2.3 million, in order to reduce the incidence of early marriage¹ in targeted communities in Tillaberi, Maradi, or Zinder, USAID’s focus communes. Niger has the world’s highest rates of early marriage with one in three girls married before the age of 15 and three in four girls before 18². Despite continuous efforts by government authorities and its international and local partners, the rate of child marriage has barely changed in 20 years. The median age at marriage increased from 15.5 years in 2006 to 15.7 years in 2012.

These high rates of early marriage are driven by numerous, inter-connected social, cultural, and economic reasons as described in this Annual Program Statement (APS). The reasons include safeguarding against premarital sex and pregnancy, societal aspirations to find suitable husbands, reliance on girls for household work and chores versus value placed on educating girls, a way to access resources, and lack of alternate options beyond marriage, to include quality education and employment. In addition, these factors are stronger in rural areas, resulting in higher prevalence of early marriage in rural communities than urban communities.

The Government of Niger (GoN) and its international and local partners have drafted strategies and policies and implemented programming to reduce early marriage for years. These strategies and programs have focused on key issues such as increasing citizen awareness of both the benefits of delaying marriage and pregnancy and the negative health and economic aspects of these practices, engaging traditional and other key leaders on the importance of protecting girls and delaying marriage, improving the economic livelihoods of girls and their families, and scholarships for girls to continue education. While it appears that these approaches have had varied success on reducing early marriage in target populations, they have not had a sizeable,

¹ Early marriage’ refers to a formal or informal union in which at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age.

² Interestingly, the median age of marriage for girls (15.7 years) is around nine years earlier than that for boys (24.6 years). As such, the issue of early child marriage is predominantly but not exclusively one for girls.

sustainable impact as witnessed by the aforementioned statistics. What has been the missing element? There is growing evidence in Niger that access to quality education valued both by families and girls has been a critical but missing element. For example, even if girls and their families understand the benefits of delaying marriage, there is still very little incentive to change practices if there are no viable education or economic options.

In fact, USAID believes that enabling adolescent girls to be enrolled and to stay in school is one of the best approaches for ending child marriage. According to a World Bank study, an additional year of education for girls at primary level reduces child marriage by 5.4 percentage points and early pregnancies by 12.6 percentage points (Global Economic Impact of Child Marriage: Global Synthesis Report). School enrollment and attendance rates for girls in Niger are very low. In rural Niger, girls' primary and secondary enrollment rates are 44% and 14%, respectively. Findings from an ethnographic research study conducted in rural areas of Maradi - where early marriage prevalence is very high - shows that girls drop out of school for numerous reasons, including poor learning outcomes and cost, failure to pass primary completion exams, lack of secondary schools, forced withdrawal of married adolescents, never enrolling in school or enrolling too late, the influence of relatives, and demands on first daughters.

Several pilot projects in Niger focused on providing quality education to adolescent girls consistently show a decrease in early marriage, a very high transfer rate from accelerated learning programs into primary and secondary school, and increased government responsibility for quality of, and access to education.³ This program description reflects USAID's commitment to delay early marriage and builds upon USAID's current multi-faceted approach to child marriage prevention that also includes the active involvement of local communities, religious leaders, local and national authorities, and adolescent boys and girls.

II. BACKGROUND

a. EARLY MARRIAGE IN NIGER

Niger has the highest child marriage rate in the world: 28% of girls marry by age 15, and 76% marry by age 18.⁴ Early marriage occurs most frequently among girls who are poor, less educated, and living in rural areas. In Niger, the Maradi and Zinder regions have the highest prevalence of early marriage. Findings from an ethnographic research study conducted in rural Maradi show due to the scarce economic opportunities parents' first aspiration for their female children is to find suitable husbands for their daughters and save for buying her housing equipments⁵. Once a girl has started menstruation, fears of pregnancy before marriage become a major concern for parents and early marriage is often seen as a safeguard.

³ Mercy Corps Niger Safe schools report, February 2018;
Save the Children Marriage no Child's Play , 2017

⁴ <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/niger/>

⁵ https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TFXV.pdf

This research was further reinforced by a regional study on child marriage in Niger, Mali, and Togo conducted by the Women in Law and Development in Africa Network (Wildaf). One of the most common reasons for child marriage in Mali and Niger include trying to prevent pregnancy outside of marriage. Communities also saw child marriage as a way to access resources, reduce expenses, or repay debt. There, was, however, one common thread across all three countries - education; Girls with no education are more likely to marry by 18 than those with a secondary or higher education.

Unfortunately the protective nature of education is often times beyond the reach of adolescent girls living in rural areas due to the combined effect of gender roles and a weak education system. Rural women and girls are extremely overworked and subject to an unequal division of labor between them and their male counterparts, as well as unbalanced roles in the production of food and commodities. Women and girls in rural Niger can spend more than eight hours per day on domestic chores, in addition to the time they spend working in the fields, leaving little time for girls to go to school and resulting in higher illiteracy rates among women than men.

b. GIRLS' EDUCATION IN NIGER

The Niger public school system in Niger is extremely weak. There is a dearth of trained teachers,⁶ teacher strikes remain all too common, serious gaps in school coverage in rural areas persist, and schools lack even the basic resources, even for desks or books. As a result, many children who graduate from primary school have weak skills in reading and writing.

Nigerien public schools do not charge tuition, but families are informally obligated to pay for school equipment, guard fees, transport, and lunches. These expenses amount to a significant economic burden for the vast majority of citizens in USAID's focus communes. Altogether, direct costs, opportunity costs (loss of a daughter's labor), low return on investments in education, and lack of role models within communities can greatly influence a parent's decision to send and keep their daughters in school. In addition, most primary and secondary schools in rural areas are understaffed compared to urban areas. Rural schools often lack adequate health, sanitation and lodging facilities, and are therefore less attractive to many teachers. Beyond primary school, education is even more limited with secondary schools only located in major villages, often too far for students to commute easily and parents being concerned for the daughter's safety.

The result of extremely limited, quality education opportunities for girls is that girls' primary and secondary enrollment rates in rural areas are 44% and 14% respectively and, while 83 percent of students pass primary school completion exams according to the Ministry of Primary Education, USAID's experience is that most students leave primary school unprepared for higher levels of education. More importantly, girls and their parents find they have no better alternative than early marriage.

⁶ In addition, eighty percent of teachers in Niger are contractual, many of whom have no teacher training and/or are waiting to access better jobs.

c. IMPACT OF EARLY MARRIAGE

In Niger, early marriage deprives female children their rights to education, leading to serious health and livelihood consequences that ripple through the greater community. The health consequences for married adolescent girls is dire. According to the 2012 Demographic Health Survey (DHS), 76.3% of girls in Niger are married by age 18 and 75% have begun having children by age 19. Adolescent girls are up to five times more likely to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth than women in their twenties. Indeed, complications of pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of mortality and morbidity for adolescent girls in developing countries. In Niger, the leading cause of death for 15-19 year-old girls is maternal hemorrhage (17.3% of all deaths in this age group).

Early marriage also has consequences for the girls' newborns. Infants of adolescent mothers are 60% more likely to die and almost 20% more likely to be born preterm and of low birth weight compared to infants born to young women. In addition, 48% of women in Niger who have obstetric fistulas are girls between the ages of 10 and 19 who are delivering babies for the first time.

The economic consequences continue to ripple through the life cycle of a child bride. Through its impact on education, child marriage reduces earnings in adulthood for women marrying early by 9%.⁷ On a national level, ending child marriage could increase the population's earnings and productivity nationally by 1.0%.⁸ USAID's research on poverty escapes also shows that educational attainment is a strong predictor of whether a household escapes poverty and will stay of poverty in the face of shocks and stresses. The research shows that every extra year of school increased productivity by 10-30% and individual earnings increase by 10% for each year of schooling completed.⁹

Niger has one of the highest fertility rates in the world (7.6 children per women). This is due in part to the high prevalence of early and closely spaced pregnancies in the country. The rapidly growing population partially continues to impede efforts by the Nigerien authorities and its international and local partners to improve access to quality social services, particularly in education and health.

According to the World Bank, investing in girls' education contributes significantly to global socio-economic development through lowering fertility, improving nutritional status, increasing productivity, and improving health and education.

III. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The USAID Niger Country Office seeks to award two Cooperative Agreements from this NOFO to prevent early marriage in USAID's target communes under this APS. The award will be

⁷ Savadogo and Wodon (2017c) via <https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/EICM-Global-Conference-Edition-June-27-FINAL.pdf>

⁸ Id.

⁹ <https://www.usaid.gov/infographics/resilience-and-sustainable-poverty-escapes>

finalized through a process of co-creation with USAID. The total maximum award amount for the two (2) anticipated awards is not expected to exceed \$2.3 million and duration of two years.

a. THEORY OF CHANGE

USAID's theory of change for this program is below:

- **If** gatekeepers (parents, religious leaders, and other community leaders) value and prioritize the girl child;
- **If** increased quality, safe education opportunities are provided; and
- **If** adolescent girls are more aware of their rights to education, health, and personal development, and gain more self-confidence and agency;
- **THEN** adolescent girls will access quality, safe basic education opportunities; and,
- **THEREFORE**, parents will postpone the marriage of their daughters.

b. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this activity is to reduce the incidence of early marriage in targeted communities in USAID's focus communes in Tillaberi, Maradi, and/or Zinder. This activity also aims to reinforce USAID's social-behavior-change communications approach to child marriage targeted at parents, traditional and religious leaders, community leaders, and youth. As such the second component of the theory of change (adolescent girls' awareness and agency) will be achieved through layering implementation of this award with other USAID activities.

This award has two objectives in support of this overall goal as outlined below:

- **Objective 1:** Religious leaders, community leaders and parents value and prioritize the girl child in target communities.
- **Objective 2:** Adolescent girls have increased access to quality, safe basic education opportunities.

c. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The USAID Niger Country Office seeks innovative, but sustainable and evidence-based approaches, to achieve these objectives. USAID is purposely not being prescriptive on either the approach or types of activities that must be implemented under this APS. Applicants should propose their own approach and supporting interventions based on the best available evidence from Niger or similar context that will achieve the stated objectives and, more importantly, will reduce the incidence of early marriage in target communities.

Objective 1: Religious leaders, community leaders and parents value and prioritize the girl child in target communities.

Significant social and cultural barriers deter families from sending their daughters to school and influence their decision to marry their girls at a young age. Marriage is valued by many communities because it confers social status to women, who are viewed primarily as wives and mothers. Many families prefer to invest in their sons' education or training rather than their

daughters', as they feel that girls do not need schooling to become a mother or wife. Formal education is often perceived as irrelevant or lacking quality, especially in rural areas.

Often adolescent girls do not know that they have rights or are unable to give voice to those rights and make a claim on them. They are unaware of opportunities and lack the agency to advocate for their health or protect themselves against unwanted pregnancy or violence.

At the same time, certain influential religious and community leaders continue to oppose legislation or programs that offer girls greater protection against child marriage, on the basis of religion and traditions. Some politicians and local authorities are themselves influenced by culture, norms, prejudices and taboos surrounding child marriage, limiting opportunities for legal and policy changes that support further education opportunities for girls.

Under this objective, USAID aims to create an environment in which the girl child is valued, leading to parents enrolling them in education opportunities, supporting their educational ambitions and delaying marriage. When the girl child is valued, religious leaders and community members encourage and support parents to enroll their girls in education and discourage early and forced marriage. Interventions that have been shown to spark attitudinal change have included community dialogue; behavior-change efforts involving men and husbands; safe spaces for girls to discuss their future; and media campaigns that spread the word about the dangers of child marriage, the alternatives, and the rights of girls.

If this objective is achieved, families, religious leaders and community leaders will understand the value of education as a means to improve girls' health, livelihood, and well being. Parents will recognize the long-term social, economic and health benefits of investing in their daughters' basic numeracy, literacy, and social and emotional skills. Parents, community leaders and girls will come together for dialogue around the issues of girls' education, safety, and rights. Religious and community leaders will publically dismiss prejudices and taboos surrounding child marriage, while actively promoting education as a more equitable and safe alternative. Additionally, girls will have the knowledge and agency needed to better communicate, to negotiate, and make decisions that directly affect their lives.

Objective 2: Adolescent girls have increased access to quality, safe basic education opportunities.

As stated in the background section, the state of the Nigerien public education system provides limited opportunities for adolescent girls to access, persist in, or re-enter schooling. There remain precious few opportunities for adolescent girls to obtain any degree of quality education or training to put them on a path for a healthier and more productive life. Fewer than half of girls go to primary school, and the majority of those who do complete primary schooling are unable to pass the basic primary school completion exam. Enrollment rates plummet further after primary school, with only 14% of girls attending secondary school.

Despite challenges in the Nigerien education system, global and regional evidence demonstrates that one of the most effective ways to prevent early and forced child marriage is to keep girls in school. Increasing education access and the quality of education through innovative and locally appropriate interventions is crucial for helping parents overcome the barriers to education for their

children. If adolescent girls have increased opportunities to successfully complete basic education in a relatively reasonable time frame and access secondary or vocational education, they will be in a better position to play a more important role in delaying early marriage, choosing their future husbands, and even deciding the number of children they will have. Finally, when parents are educated they place more importance on their children's education, having ripple effects on future generations.

USAID is, therefore, looking to support interventions that result in increased opportunities for adolescent girls to access quality, safe education. Interventions may include non-formal education opportunities or opportunities that create pathways to re-enter the formal education system or to pursue further education and training. Education opportunities must be legitimate opportunities that are recognized by the education system and do not create a parallel education system. Quality education opportunities are defined as those that lead to relevant, measurable learning outcomes. At a minimum, interventions must ensure that USAID-supported education opportunities do not put adolescent girls at greater risk of violence, abuse or exploitation.

As described in the theory of change, USAID understands, and evidence demonstrates, that providing education opportunities is critical but not sufficient by itself to prevent early and forced marriage. In order for adolescent girls to effectively access education opportunities created under this APS and then stay enrolled, key decision-makers and support systems in girls' lives, especially parents and religious leaders, must actively support girls' education and contribute to shifting social norms around education and delayed marriage.

USAID has followed with interest a number of approaches to addressing the above challenges and providing girls with quality, safe education opportunities. These include, but are not limited to: accelerated education programs designed to get children back into formal education, the use of scholarships, and expanding vocational training.

As described below in Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning section, USAID seeks to not only support implementation of innovative approaches to increase quality, safe education opportunities for adolescent girls, but also seeks to document the effectiveness of particular approaches to achieve both the objectives and goal of this activity. By documenting evidence of effective strategies for expanding access to education for adolescent girls, USAID and the Government of Niger will be better prepared to scale effective strategies through policy engagement, donor coordination and future programming.

d. ACTIVITY MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

A major reason for the USAID Niger Country Office to issue this APS is due to the potential for in-depth learning on the best approaches to reducing the incidence of early marriage through successful applications. USAID intends to create a holistic approach to reducing early marriage by leveraging its resilience, economic livelihood, agriculture, governance, education, health, and other programming and, as such, learning will be vital to better understand the role and intersection of different investments. More specifically, USAID intends to directly incorporate learning from any successful Award into the second generation of USAID resilience programming (RISE II), portions of which are still under design or are in the initial implementation phase.

Recipient of the funding will be expected to report on applicable foreign assistance standard indicators (often called F indicators), including gender indicators. The recipient will also be encouraged to develop custom indicators for the activity.

Beyond USAID and its implementing partners, results and lessons learned will also be shared broadly with stakeholders directly or indirectly focused on early marriage in the country, to include the Government of Niger, local authorities, international organizations, civil society organizations, donors, academia, and, most importantly, the members of the Platform Towards the End of Child Marriage in Niger.

For the reasons listed above, learning under any Award will have to be well resourced, intentional, and systematic. In particular, recipients are expected to implement a robust learning agenda focused around the theory of change detailed above. USAID seeks to learn what types of interventions are more effective in providing sustainable, quality education opportunities to adolescent girls, changing behaviors towards early marriage, and delaying marriage. Recipients will be expected to report progress and findings from the learning agenda in quarterly and annual reports.

Recipients, as such, should develop learning questions centered on the theory of change to guide the learning agenda. Answers to questions will be developed through the monitoring of selected indicators, baseline and endline data collection, questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, and other research methods and tools. In addition to the learning questions, the Recipient will be expected to share best practices and lessons learned with other development actors to support scaling-up of successful models and adaptation of ongoing initiatives.

The Recipient will also be required to complete an Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP). The AMELP should outline how the recipient will track progress, identify learning questions and opportunities, and apply learning gained from monitoring, evaluation, and learning efforts in order to adapt programming to anticipate and respond to challenges and opportunities that arise. The AMELP must demonstrate how the recipient will routinely assess 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.

Within the AMELP, the Recipient will be expected to establish benchmarks upon which progress will be measured for the activity based on acceptable quantitative and qualitative measures of activity outputs and outcomes.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

a. ELEMENT OF CO-CREATION

This APS will incorporate elements of co-creation in the design of successful applications to ensure approaches adequately address the primary reasons for early marriage, account for local dynamics, and are coordinated with other USAID investments. This approach will include a simplified process for the review of concepts that encourages applicants to simply identify

specific approaches to prevent early marriage to first determine an initial interest of the Agency. Applicants will submit a concept paper of no more than two pages that describes the technical approach and supporting activities. USAID will review these concept papers to determine if the Agency has interest in the approach.

If USAID expresses interest, USAID will engage the applicant in the development of a full application. Through this collaborative one-on-one co-creation process, USAID may recommend the introduction of new partners, substantial revisions, or potential design or implementation collaboration with other applicants seeking similar support. These co-creation discussions will primarily be through the exchange of letters and participation in tele-conferences or similar consultative events to exchange knowledge and ideas leading to the development of a successful application.

Applicants are reminded that organizations are not guaranteed an award by participating in this consultative process, nor will USAID cover the costs of any engagement that occurs prior to the commencement of a successful award. USAID anticipates that a majority of concepts will not be pursued or funded. Therefore, organizations are encouraged to submit an initial concept paper prior to submitting full applications, per the instructions in this NOFO.

b. RAPID START-UP

Given that Cooperative Agreements funded under the APS will be implemented for a period of no more than two years, rapid start-up of awards will be critical to success. Successful applicant(s) will develop and implement rapid start-up plans, which shall include milestones for important administrative and programmatic achievements.

c. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

This activity will be implemented in select communes in USAID's focus communes listed below.

Maradi: Chadakori, Guidan Sori and Guidan Roudmji

Zinder: Dungas, Gouchi, Dogo Dogo, Malawa, Magaria, Sassoumbroum, Kwaya, Yekoua, Bande, Dantchio, and Wacha

Tillaberi: Abala, Sanam, Tondikandia, Oulam, Tillaberi, Tamou, Kokorou, and Tera

d. GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

This activity must be consistent with the goal of USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy (2012): to improve the lives of citizens around the world by advancing equality between females and males, and empowering women and girls to participate fully in and benefit from the development of their societies. It should be guided by best practices in gender equality and empowerment and the seven principles described in the Policy:

- Integrate gender equality and female empowerment into USAID's work;
- Pursue an inclusive approach to foster equality;
- Build partnerships across a wide range of stakeholders;

- Harness science, technology, and innovation to reduce gender gaps and empower women and girls;
- Address the unique challenges in crisis and conflict-affected environments;
- Serve as a thought leader and a learning community; and
- Hold ourselves accountable.

In addition, the RISE II design included gender considerations incorporated in sectoral analysis, project evaluations, and research efforts. As part of RISE II, USAID funded the previously cited ethnographic study on how women in Niger conceive of, and define, women's empowerment. This ethnographic study is in response to USAID's observation that improving women's standing in target communities has been one of the most challenging aspects of USAID programming, and that we need to adjust our approach to better match local cultural and religious perspectives.

The RISE II gender analysis identified gender gaps to include several directly related to this APS and its theory of change. Based on this analysis and USAID learning from program implementation, the following issues need to be addressed:

- Promoting women self-agency through access to education is critical to reducing inequality. The lack of or unequal access to education represents a lifetime impediment to fully attaining a productive and enriching life for women. Development efforts should support young girls' basic education and remedial education (i.e. literacy) to ensure a leveled playing ground for all. USAID learned through recent programming that most often resilience programs are targeted at the most vulnerable citizens but yet, this type of programming is more beneficial to educated populations. The illiterate population, often the most vulnerable, is missing the basic ability to analyze, retain, and put into practice valuable learning that ensures long lasting economic and social benefits.
- The underlying sources of gender inequality lay in discriminatory traditional beliefs and practices and that this discrimination is often translated into modern laws and policies when an appropriate gender lens is not applied.

Given the above, successful applicants should analyze and address gender gaps impacting girls' education, girls' empowerment, and early marriage. More broadly, promoting gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls is vital to achieving USAID's overall development objectives beyond this APS. As such, it is USAID policy that all awards mainstream and integrate gender into their interventions. Therefore, the recipient will be required to demonstrate compliance with USAID Policy ADS 205, and should explicitly state how this activity supports the gender policies and strategies of the United States and the GoN.

e. CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

In order to achieve the objectives defined in this activity, the USAID Niger Office requires the use of conflict-sensitive approaches in design and implementation. Conflict sensitivity refers to the capacity to:

- Understand the conflict context in which programs are being implemented;
- Understand how the context might affect programs and how programs might affect the

- context;
- Act on this understanding to minimize risk of negative impacts on programs (i.e., staff, beneficiaries, communities, results) and the conflict dynamics; *and*
- Identify opportunities to positively impact the conflict context.

Any activity being implemented inherently becomes part of the context, and thus, the impact of planned activities must be analyzed vis-a-vis how they will affect the conflict environment. Under this activity, conflict sensitivity will require both upfront and continuing contextual analysis and monitoring in order to inform interventions and adaptation throughout the life of the program.

Do No Harm: Activity design and implementation must reflect thoughtful consideration of any risks that may result from this activity, including ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place to avoid intensifying conflict drivers or creating harmful situations for participants. Under this award explicit actions will be included to mitigate against any risks to do harm and ensure children or communities will not be placed at greater risk as a consequence of the activity.

f. POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

This award will contribute to and also be consistent with USAID's Youth in Development Policy (2012). As described, positive youth development approaches aim to improve the capacities and enable the aspirations of youth so that they can contribute to and benefit from more stable, democratic, and prosperous communities and nations. It will be aligned by best practices in positive youth development and the seven guiding principles described in the Policy:

- Recognize that youth participation is vital for effective programs;
- Invest in assets that build youth resilience;
- Account for youth differences and commonalities;
- Create second-chance opportunities;
- Involve and support mentors, families, and communities;
- Pursue gender equality; and,
- Embrace innovation and technology by and for youth

In 2017, USAID conducted a Sahel Youth Analysis to help determine how to better promote meaningful youth engagement into resilience programming in a way to affect positive development outcomes. The analysis resulted in a long list of recommendations to help guide USAID programming. Specifically in terms of youth engagement, the following recommendations were made:

- Engage youth throughout the program cycle, including research, program design, implementation and feedback loops via monitoring and evaluation.
- Youth targeting and programming approaches must address different groups of youth and not treat youth as a homogenous entity (age, ethnicity, religion, gender, region, migration status, education level, rural and urban, LGBT, disability, etc.).
- Collect disaggregated data by stages of development (age brackets) and gender.
- Conduct focus groups and youth-led surveys of youth, relevant stakeholders, families, employers, health workers, etc. to find out if youth participated in programs, which youth participated, why they did or did not, and what would attract them to future programs.

In addition, USAID co-funded a countrywide youth assessment with UNICEF. The assessment is analyzing the challenges and constraints faced by youth to rethink the relevance and effectiveness of policies and programs intended for them. The assessment final report with findings and recommendations is expected by the end of March 2019.

g. SUSTAINABILITY

USAID expects that strategies and interventions be developed with a dual focus on documenting short-term results and finding scalable solutions to significantly reduce the incidence of early marriage in Niger over the longer term. In addition, successful awards should contribute to education sector policy development and the creation of systems that will enable Niger to continue progress toward long-term education goals even after the end of implementation. The implementing partners will include specific strategies for ensuring sustainability of results as part of their overall objectives and all subsequent work plans.

In addition, application should focus on locally-led programming as it is more context-relevant, tailored and sustainable, and empowers local stakeholders on their journey to self-reliance. This principle is even more critical given that the life of this activity is only 24 months. The activity should also seek to reinforce and improve existing platforms and institutions rather than creating new ones.

V. LAYERING & COORDINATION WITH US GOVERNMENT, HOST GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER DONOR ACTIVITIES

USAID recognizes that this Award will pursue a challenging goal in a difficult operating environment. Making progress toward this goal thus requires a collaborative approach with all relevant stakeholders and actors working towards the common goal of reducing the incidence of early marriage. Our efforts to implement, learn, and adapt will need to be a collective effort, not just among USAID and its implementing partners, but also together with host government counterparts, local communities, and the wider development community.

As described in Section II, numerous donors, international organizations, and civil society organizations have come together to form the Platform Towards the End of Early Marriage in Niger, all of whom are funding or implementing some degree of related programming. These organizations include but are not limited to the GoN, UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, Plan International, Femmes Actions et Développement (FAD), and USAID. Recipients must coordinate closely with these other actors to include regular attendance in Platform meetings and relevant sectoral working groups. This coordination should focus on sharing proven approaches and best practices, avoiding duplication of effort, and finding complementarities across programs. In fact, strong donor coordination can be essential in bringing together all actors to agree upon public policy, required reforms, areas for improved service delivery, and needed programming to more effectively and directly eliminate early marriage.

a. RELEVANT USAID PROGRAMMING

While USAID firmly believes that a critical, missing element to reducing the incidence of early marriage in Niger is the availability of quality and desired education for adolescent girls, the factors behind the high rates of early marriage are numerous, complex, and inter-connected. In this context, the development response cannot be one single approach or one single type of development programming. As such, USAID designed this APS to specifically nest with its substantial multi-sectoral investments in Maradi, Zinder and Tillaberi. Successful applications will need to detail collaboration with other USAID investments, particularly how these other investments can be leveraged and formed into a more holistic approach to preventing early marriage.

RISE Program

Awards under this APS will be required to collaborate with USAID activities under the Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) program. RISE, first launched in 2014, supports vulnerable citizens to effectively prepare for and respond to environmental and man-made crises, and pursue sustainable pathways out of poverty.

Under RISE, USAID's Office of Food for Peace target the most vulnerable with life-saving interventions, which include activities such as direct food provision, cash transfers, temporary employment opportunities, improved access to seeds and training in more effective livestock and agricultural practices.

At the same time, USAID's development programs increase sustainable economic well-being through increased agricultural productivity, income diversification, and increased access to markets and financial services. RISE also seeks to improve health and nutrition and strengthen institutions and governance vital to community resilience, such as local authorities, producers and community associations, and natural resource management planning.

This APS directly supports RISE Objective 5: Enhance social, economic, and political agency of women and youth. The activity will also support intermediate result (IR) 2.5: Improved human capacity, especially for women and girls. The potential links between this APS and RISE are numerous but could include RISE partners focusing on improving health and economic livelihoods for the families of targeted beneficiaries or leveraging each other's behavior-change programming. The RISE results framework is attached to this APS.

Per the evaluation criteria, USAID will also look for innovative approaches to leveraging and forming partnerships with USAID sectoral implementing partners, members of the Platform to End Early Marriage (see Section II.e below), and relevant local actors.

More specifically, applicants should seek to coordinate with the USAID Development Food Security Activities (DFSAs) and Health Service Delivery Activity, which are key components of the RISE program. These RISE activities are designed to address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition among extremely poor and chronically vulnerable households and communities and to provide primary maternal and child health services in the region of Zinder, Maradi and Tillaberi. Through these projects, USAID seeks to improve maternal child health and nutrition through multiple approaches, including behavior-change communication targeted towards households and traditional and religious leaders on the importance of delaying marriage.

The DFSAs, launched in October 2018, are implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Save the Children, and CARE in Maradi and Zinder across nineteen (19) communes over five years. Below is the list of communes per activity by region.

Maradi region

HAMZARI activity, implemented by CARE International

- **Communes (3):** Chadakori, Guidan Sori and Guidan Roundji
- **Number of villages:** 142
- **Number of beneficiaries:** 120,000 (17,143 households)

Zinder region

GIRMA activity, implemented by CRS:

- **Communes (11):** Dungas, Gouchi, Dogo Dogo, Malawa, Magaria, Sassoubroum, Kwaya, Yekoua, Bande, Dantchio, Wacha
- **Number of villages:** 621
- **Number of beneficiaries:** 898,914 (135,251 households)

WADATA activity, implemented by Save the Children:

- **Communes (5):** Gouré, Guidiguir, Damagaram Takaya, Guidimouni, and Mazamni
- **Number of villages:** 150
- **Number of beneficiaries:** 189,000 (27,000 households)

Bridge Program

The USAID Bridge program represents an innovative approach that explicitly and intentionally aims activities at the nexus of violent extremism and resilience. Bridge was developed from USAID's recognition that many development challenges serve as 'push' factors potentially driving the most vulnerable towards extremist groups that offer fulfillment of critical unmet needs (e.g. income, justice, identity, purpose, etc.). In this context, Bridge seeks to address the grievances that are the main drivers of violent extremist recruitment in the Sahel, which often stem from development issues: poor governance, lack of economic opportunity, and perceived exclusion from the benefits and services provided by government authorities.

The Bridge program will include flexible implementation mechanisms that can be adjusted as the influence of violent extremist organizations are diminished, security expanded, and opportunities for longer-term programming are created. Geographically, in Niger, Bridge interventions will be focused on Tillabéri, northern Tahoua, and Diffa. USAID is in the process of designing activities to be implemented under the Bridge program but, generally, the programming areas will include: 1) local governance, access to justice, and human rights, and 2) economic livelihoods. These new investments will be layered on top of existing humanitarian assistance and countering violent extremism programming already underway to include but not limited to USAID Office of Transition Initiatives' Niger Community Cohesion Program (PCCN), Voices for Peace,

Partnerships for Peace, and USAID Food for Peace and USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance humanitarian assistance programming.

Currently, USAID has one activity under implementation in Diffa and Tillabéri in support of Bridge objectives—Participatory Responsive Governance-Principal Activity (PRG-PA). PRG-PA, launched in 2016 and scheduled to end in 2021, seeks to improve government responsiveness and service delivery in three priority sectors—health, education, and security—by strengthening the ability of citizens at the local level to identify priorities, find local solutions, and more effectively advocate for their needs. At the same time, PRG-PA supports greater responsiveness by regional and local authorities to citizen needs to include via more effective and inclusive planning and budgeting processes.

USAID also recently added a Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) component to PRG-PA. The WPS component is designed to increase women’s leadership and voice within community dialogue and decision-making processes while improving their capacity in advocacy, leadership, and conflict mitigation. As a part of this effort, community needs, especially for women and girls, will be identified and prioritized. Based on these needs, PRG-PA will work with targeted central and local government agencies and civil society actors to provide gender-responsive priority services. This component will be implemented in Tillabéri and Diffa.

Tillabéri Region

Communes (8): Abala, Sanam, Tondikandia, Oulam, Tillabéri, Tamou, Kokorou, and Tera

While neither a RISE nor Bridge activity, the USAID Niger Education and Community Strengthening (NECS) activity represents an additional USAID investment with a high potential for collaboration. NECS is improving learning opportunities by strengthening community involvement in education, enhancing literacy instruction for adults, and developing and rolling out improved local-language early-grade reading curriculum for the first and second grades. Implemented in 183 communities across all eight regions of Niger, NECS is in its final year of implementation. In terms of communes targeted under this APS, NECS is supporting schools in Gouré, Guidiguir, Bande, and Magaria communes in Zinder. Ministry of Primary Education and USAID evaluations have shown an increase in reading attainment and greater community investment in education in NECS communities. Applicants should consider to what extent their proposed approach can build off of lessons learned and community structures supported by NECS.

b. GOVERNMENT OF NIGER AND OTHER DONOR INITIATIVES

Niger has ratified almost all international human rights conventions, including the 1999 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of October 1999; the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child; the 1964 Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages; and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The implementation of these conventions, however, remains a major issue as does conforming national laws to convention provisions.

National policies and strategies elaborated recently address some aspects of child marriage. For example, the National Nutritional Security Policy adopted in 2018 addresses the question of early pregnancy. The National Strategy for the Prevention and Treatment of Gender-based Violence addresses child marriage in one of its pillars and the strategy's action plan also includes actions to reduce early pregnancy. However, a detailed national action plan which specifically addresses early marriage in a holistic manner has never been elaborated. This type of national early marriage prevention and treatment action plan is needed to guide the strategies, approaches, and programming of all actors working in this space and would help ensure donors and implementing partners' child marriage prevention and treatment strategies are aligned with national priorities.

In 2017, various ministries, civil society organizations, traditional leaders as well as technical and financial partners pledged to initiate or reinforce several initiatives in order to ensure that by 2027, all girls have access to free, good quality, and compulsory education and they have completed primary school. Key initiatives include:

1. Considering girls' education and training as a top priority for the government, families, communities, civil society organizations, and technical and financial partners from 2017-2027.
2. Heavily emphasizing quality and equity by eliminating disparities between girls and boys in basic education by 2027.
3. Defining an appropriate legal framework for girls' protection in order to fight against all forms of discrimination against women, which jeopardizes girls' education and training.
4. Defining and operationalizing incentive measures for girls' education at all levels and types of education.
5. Reinforcing collaboration among different education sectors, and increasing synergies among development actors.
6. Reinforcing institutional capacities with competent, highly motivated, and sufficient human resources and female role models for girls' education and training.
7. Mobilizing and deploying necessary and sufficient financial resources for operationalizing the national child marriage prevention strategy once its defined.
8. Raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years with no exception and applicable to all judicial systems.

In 2016, the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Child Protection (MPFPE) established the National Committee for the Coordination of Actions to End Child Marriage (NCCAECM). In 2017, national and international civil society organisations created the Platform Towards the End of Child Marriage in Niger. This platform constitutes a sub-committee to facilitate exchanges between the NCCAECM and national and international civil society organizations and UN agencies. This institutional setup enables the MPFPE to coordinate actions, while having at its disposal a group of technical experts. The platform successfully advocated for three ministries, the MPFPE, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Justice to name focal points in order to ensure links with the appropriate authorities.

The United Nations Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women highlighted in its 2017 final observations the link between child marriage, the high prevalence of

child mortality, and the disproportionate rate of illiteracy and poverty among Nigerien women. The committee suggested that more efforts be put to end this situation by:

- Withdrawing Niger's reservations to essential international conventions' articles such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- Developing a national action plan to fight against these harmful practices, which includes a communication and campaign plan as well as a national education program on the impact of child marriage;
- Allocating sufficient resources to implement the national action plan;
- Taking necessary measures to guarantee that girls who gave birth return to school; and,
- Documenting, in emergency regions, cases of gender-based violence against girls, particularly cases of early and forced marriages.

Some promising practices for delaying the age of first marriage in Niger include safe spaces, husband schools, and bridge schools implemented by several organizations. Safe spaces provide an emotionally and physically safe and informal environment for adolescent girls to come together to learn new skills, develop social networks, and empower each other under the mentorship of trusted and highly-regarded women selected from their communities. The safe-space approach has been implemented by Mercy Corps, USAID's REGIS-ER, and UNFPA.

Bridge schools programs are aimed at taking out-of-school adolescent girls through an accelerated curriculum to give them a second chance to continue their formal education. The bridge school approach is being implemented by Plan International, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, and other organization. Through close partnership with the Ministry of Primary Education, regional officials have agreed to enroll the remaining students in primary schools to continue their education. Husband schools aim to educate men on the importance of reproductive health and foster behavior change at the community, level including child marriage and early pregnancy. The approach has been implemented by UNFPA, Save the Children, and Mercy Corps and other actors. The above are just a few examples of efforts underway to both increase education opportunities for girls and to reduce early marriage and pregnancy.

c. LINK TO U.S. GOVERNMENT STRATEGY

The overall success of the awards under this APS will be directly related to the Recipient's ability to implement an integrated program in which activities are closely coordinated with and leverage prior and current assistance provided by USAID and other donors. In addition, understanding how this programming fits within existing U.S. and Niger policies and existing relationships between the stakeholders will be necessary prior to developing an effective work plan.

USG Integrated Country Strategy (ICS)

The activity closely aligns with and contributes to U.S. Embassy Niger's Integrated Country Strategy (ICS) 2018-2021. The activity will specifically support ICS Goal 3: **Increase Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Grow** and the following supporting Mission Objectives:

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- Mission Objective 3.2: Niger's government institutions improve delivery of public services and programs that reinforce livelihoods of the rural poor, viability of key productive sectors, and sustainability of natural resources.
- Mission Objective 3.3: Chronically vulnerable communities and communes more effectively manage shocks and stresses and reduce their levels of poverty.

In addition to the ICS, USAID highlights relevant global and regional strategies that guide USAID programming to include those related to resilience, gender, and youth.

[END OF SECTION A]

SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated

USAID intends to award two (2) cooperatives agreements pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity. Subject to funding availability and at the discretion of the Agency, USAID intends to provide \$2.3 million in total USAID funding over a two years period.

2. Start Date and Period of Performance for Federal Awards

The anticipated period of performance is two (2) years. The estimated start date for Round I successful applicant(s) will be on or about October 2019.

3. Substantial Involvement

Awards under this NOFO will be a cooperative agreement. Potential applicants should note that USAID policy prohibits the payment of fee/profit to the recipients under assistance instruments. Consistent with ADS 303.3.11, USAID will be substantially involved in the implementation of this Activity. The intended purpose of the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) involvement during the implementation of the program is to assist the recipient in achieving the supported objectives. It is expected that the Agreement Officer will delegate the following approvals to the AOR:

(a) Approval of the Recipient's Implementation Plans

USAID will approve annual work plans and the life-of-project exit strategy, and any subsequent revisions.

(b) Approval of Specified Key Personnel

USAID may designate as key personnel only those positions that are essential to the successful implementation of the Recipient's program. USAID's policy limits this to a reasonable number of positions, generally no more than five positions or five percent of Recipient employees working under the award, whichever is greater.

(c) Agency and Recipient Collaboration or Joint Participation

When the Recipient's successful accomplishment of program objectives would benefit from USAID's technical knowledge, the AO may authorize the collaboration or joint participation of USAID and the Recipient on the program. The AO may include appropriate levels of substantial involvement such as the following:

- 1) Collaborative involvement in selection of advisory committee members, if the program will establish an advisory committee that provides advice to the Recipient. USAID may participate as a member of this committee as well. Advisory committees must only deal with programmatic or technical issues and not routine administrative matters.
- 2) Concurrence on the substantive provisions of sub-awards. 2 CFR 200.308 already requires the Recipient to obtain the AO's prior approval for the sub-award, transfer, or contracting

out of any work under an award. This is generally limited to approving work by a third party under the agreement.

- 3) Approval of the Recipient's Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP).
- 4) Monitor to authorize specified kinds of direction or redirection because of interrelationships with other projects. All such activities must be included in the program description, negotiated in the budget, and made part of the award.

(d) Agency Authority to Immediately Halt a Construction Activity –construction is not authorized under this award.

An award shall be made only when the Agreement Officer makes a positive determination that the Applicant possesses, or has the ability to obtain, the necessary management competence in planning and carrying out assistance programs and that it will practice mutually agreed upon methods of accountability for funds and other assets provided by USAID. For organizations that are new to USAID, or organizations with outstanding audit findings, it may be necessary to perform a pre-award survey in accordance with ADS 303.3.9 and ADS 591.3.4.2.

4. Authorized Geographic Code

The geographic code for this program is 937 (the United States, the recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries, but excluding any country that is a prohibited source.)

5. Nature of the Relationship between USAID and the Recipient

The principle purpose of the relationship with the Recipient and under the subject program is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of **reducing the incidence of early marriage in Niger**. The successful Recipient(s) will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the Award 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. The Recipient using its own unique combination of staff, facilities, and experience, has the primary responsibility for employing whatever form of sound organization and management techniques may be necessary in order to assure proper and efficient administration of the resulting award.

6. Selection of Instrument

- 1) USAID/Niger determined, via its research and analysis on potential partners, that the market contains a wide array of international, American, and even Nigerien organizations capable of implementing a robust early marriage prevention activity focused on girl's education. The market is full of organizations implementing education, women's empowerment, behavior change, and community development activities. As a result, USAID/Niger decided that the procurement must be open to the range of potential partners

and not restrict eligibility. This approach will allow USAID/Niger to solicit the range of ideas, approaches, and solutions to address this difficult problem set.

USAID/Niger also determined that assistance as opposed to acquisition was the most appropriate instrument for this procurement. As previously mentioned, there are numerous organizations in Niger already implementing activities designed to reduce early marriage and pregnancy. USAID wants to identify the approaches with the highest potential for impact and then fund those initiatives. USAID also wants there to be a high degree of coordination and interaction directly between the implementing partner and local stakeholders as a key element in introducing sustainability. This type of relationship – funding an organizations approach to reducing early marriage and supporting their existing relationships – is one more suitable for assistance. In addition, the operating environment is complex and implementation will require the implementing partner to have the flexibility to continuously monitor activities and directly make frequent changes based on input from a large range of stakeholders, not just USAID.

- 2) The principal purpose of the recommended instrument (cooperative agreement) is to transfer a thing of value (Federal Financial Assistance) to the recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by law (the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and other authorities as provided in annual appropriation). The selection of assistance by the USAID/Niger Country Office best suites the transaction contemplated, and is the appropriate legal instrument to create the intended relationship (grantor-grantee) between the Agency and the recipient, for the Activity, rather than a buyer-seller relationship for the purchase of property or services. Substantial involvement is expected between the Agency and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated in the cooperative agreement. The selection is also consistent with the discretion and the flexibility afforded to the Agency by the FGCAA, FAA, and ADS Chapter 304.
- 3) The primary goal of this Activity is to significantly reduce the prevalence of early marriage in USAID target zones of intervention. This is a lofty goal that will require new and innovative approaches and a concentrated effort in order to have any significant level of impact. Niger has the world's highest rates of early marriage with one in three girls married before the age of fifteen and three in four girls before eighteen. To make matters worse, despite consistent efforts of government authorities and donors, the rate of child marriage has barely changed in 20 years. In fact, the median age at marriage increased from 15.5 years in 2006 to 15.7 years in 2012. The USAID Niger Country Office (USAID/Niger) believes that a missing element in efforts to date is the lack of quality education opportunities for adolescent girls along with ineffective approaches to changing societal behaviors on the importance of education and eliminating child marriage among community leaders, parents, and adolescent girls. A more complete Activity description is included in the next section but this description shows that USAID needs to seek new ideas and new approaches to expand education opportunities for girls and reduce early marriage. The USAID/Niger, as such, decided to go out far and wide to solicit new solutions to this difficult problem set.
- 4) This is a new activity, and therefore is not a change in instrument type.

[END OF SECTION B]

SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

Qualified U.S. and non-U.S. organizations (other than those from foreign policy restricted countries) are eligible to apply under this NOFO. Potential for-profit Applicants should note that, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.400(g), profit, which is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs, is not an allowable cost for Recipients of USAID assistance awards, and cannot be part of the activity budget. However, the prohibition against profit does not apply to procurement contracts made under the assistance instrument when the Recipient procures goods and services in accordance with the Procurement Standards found in 2 CFR 200.317 to 326.

Eligibility for this NOFO is not restricted.

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

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

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

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost share is not required but encouraged.

3. Other

Organizations may submit only one concept note per round under this NOFO.

[END OF SECTION C]

SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Agency Point of Contact

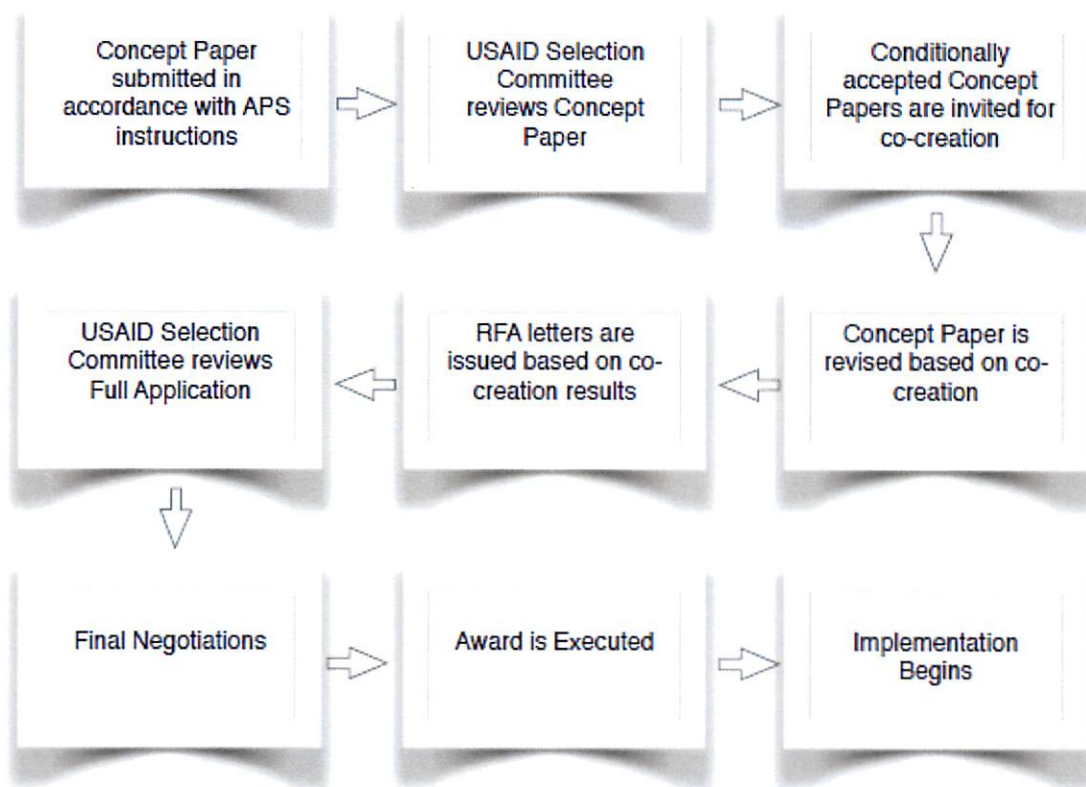
Please see cover page.

2. Questions and Answers

Questions regarding this NOFO should be submitted no later than the date and time indicated on the cover letter. 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

1. Overview of Concept Note and Application Process



2. Concept Paper and Full Application General Submission Procedures

***PLEASE NOTE* ALL ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MAY SUBMIT A CONCEPT NOTE; HOWEVER, DO NOT SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION UNLESS REQUESTED TO DO SO.**

USAID will follow a three phase process in assessing submissions.

Phase 1: Concept Paper Submission

A Concept Paper is a short document where the Applicant provides an overview of their idea. USAID has provided a template in Phase 3 sub-section below. Applicants may submit a Concept Paper at any time during the APS open period for respective ROUNDS. This APS will be amended to reflect actual dates if and when any changes are made to the APS.

The information for Concept Paper Review Round 1 and Round 2 in the table below is illustrative.

USAID will acknowledge Concept Papers upon receipt; however, USAID will meet to review Concept Papers against merit review criteria stated in Section E, and make Concept Paper selection decisions in rounds as follows:

Concept Papers received by:	USAID selection committee begins review on or about:
Round I – 5/31/ 2019	6/10/2019
Round II – TBD*	TBD

***USAID will amend the solicitation to provide actual date when Round II submission will occur.**

USAID plans to make determinations on the Concept Paper merit review process for each Concept Paper within approximately 20 work days of the Selection Committee’s initial meeting date and will notify Concept Paper Applicants with “PASS or NO-PASS” rating of their status immediately after a decision has been made.

USAID, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to review Concept Papers out of cycle.

USAID anticipates two possible results from the Concept Paper merit review process “Pass” and “No Pass”:

- **Pass - Invited for Co-Creation:** Concept Paper generally satisfies the Concept Paper merit review criteria and receives a “Pass” status. USAID invites Applicant with co-creation invitation letter to engage in co-creation. The specific details of the co-creation process will be described in the invitation letter to Applicants of conditionally accepted Concept Papers. If the co-creation process is successfully concluded, USAID will follow with a request for submission of a full application.

- **No-Pass:** Concept Paper does not satisfy the Concept Paper merit review criteria and received a “No Pass” status. USAID rejects the Concept Paper and the process is ended.

Phase 2: Co-Creation Process

Applicants will be invited to the co-creation and collaboration process to identify and develop the activities that will help achieve the results desired under this APS; identify and incorporate additional partners; and determine respective roles and responsibilities related to the implementation of those activities.

The co-creation process builds on a Concept Paper that has strength and potential; it is not intended to supplant Applicants initiative or build new concepts from the ground up. USAID envisages a product of the co-creation process is a strong draft project description for the full application phase, as well as quantitative and/or qualitative indicators or performance milestones.

If an Applicant does not succeed at the co-creation phase, the process ends for that Applicant.

Phase 3: Full Application

If Applicants successfully complete co-creation, a full application will be requested based on the consensus reached during Phase 2. At this point, USAID will issue a Request for Application (RFA) to the Applicant. The RFA will provide complete instructions for submission of a full application. The full application will detail and expand the co-designed concept. The full application also requires the Applicant to complete specific USG forms and to provide additional information that USAID will need to move forward with negotiation of award.

Note: USAID reserves the right to make multiple awards or no awards at all through this APS. USAID also reserves the right to cancel this process at any phase/stage without advance notice.

4. Concept Paper Application Content and Template

The Concept Paper must be specific, complete, presented concisely and written in English. The Concept Paper must demonstrate the Applicant’s capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the objectives.

Based on the activities proposed by the Applicant, the proposed award size and duration must be specified in the Concept Paper. Proposed award duration can be less than or up to 2 years.

Excluding the cover page described below, the Concept Paper must not exceed seven (7) pages not including the cover page, using Times New Roman 12-point font, on standard 8.5” x 11” sized paper, and single spaced with no less than one inch margins and pages numbered consecutively. 10 - point font can be used for graphs and charts. Any pages submitted beyond the seven page limit will not be evaluated. Additional documentation, such as annexes, charts

and graphs that exceed the seven pages will not be reviewed. USAID will not review any information provided in links in the Concept Paper. The Concept Paper should be in either PDF or Microsoft Word format (.docx).

USAID/NIGER CEFM CONCEPT PAPER TEMPLATE

- A. Cover Page** – to the extent possible or applicable, please complete the following questions below: [Note that #1-#9 shall be submitted as a cover page, not included in the seven page limit for the Concept Paper.]
- 1. Proposed Activity Name/Title:** _____
 - 2. Proposed Period of Performance** (*i.e., start date and end date*): _____
 - 3. Overall Estimate of Funding Requested** (*in USD\$*): _____
 - 4. Applicant Organization Name:** _____
 - 5. Applicant Contact Person** (*name, title, phone, email*): _____
 - 6. Full Address for Applicant Organization:** _____
 - 7. Type of Organization** (*e.g., non-US, multilateral, private, for-profit, non-profit*)
date of incorporation, etc.): _____
 - 8. Name(s) of Sub-Partner(s)** (*(if any) here*): _____
 - 9. DUNS number if available:** _____
- B. Concept Introduction:** (approximately ½ page). Briefly describe your proposed approach to prevent early child marriage, linking it to the USAID theory of change, goal, and two objectives. Describe why there is a strategic need for your concept and how it is more effective than alternative options.
- C. Beneficiaries:** (approximately ½ page). Describe who the target beneficiaries and how they will benefit from the proposed interventions. Was the concept designed with end user input? Can the concept be easily scaled up to reach more people?
- D. Geographic Location:** (approximately ½ page). In what target locations (e.g. region, commune) will the proposed interventions be implemented? Describe why the target locations were selected, including the existence of USAID implementing partners or other potential partnerships.
- E. Technical approach:** (approximately 2 pages) Building on the introduction, propose an approach that will produce the desired results as identified in the APS. Briefly describe how the proposed approach addresses the primary drivers to early marriage and will achieve the objectives of adolescent girls having increased access to quality, safe basic education opportunities and community leaders and parents prioritizing the girl child. Be sure to include information describing why the approach is creative or innovative, how it is potentially scalable, how it will be sustained, and evidence to support it as a tested solution or as an intervention likely to have a significant development impact. The concept paper should demonstrate current knowledge of the reasons behind early marriage in Niger and challenges to reducing its prevalence, and a strong understanding of the opportunities for achieving the APS goal.
- F. Intervention results:** (approximately 1 page) As part of the technical approach,

describe the key, quantifiable metrics related to your project's performance or expected performance? In addition, describe the anticipated outputs, outcomes, results and/or impact of the proposed intervention. Anticipated results should be realistic but yet ambitious. Going beyond metrics, within the technical approach, describe why the proposed approach is expected to yield sustainable development outcomes.

- G. Collaboration and Coordination:** (approximately ½ page) Propose and describe a strategy for identifying, engaging, and mobilizing other actors, especially USAID implementing partners, in the proposed target communes to form a more holistic approach to preventing early marriage. Describe your approach to fostering local ownership, including of the Nigerien government, of investments to expand quality education opportunities for adolescent girls and prevent early marriage. If applicable, describe and define the role of any other entities in your proposed concept. This must include a description of how roles will be divided and managed efficiently.
- H. Personnel and Management Approach:** (approximately 1 page). Describe the qualifications and qualities of proposed personnel. Personnel will be evaluated on the basis of ability to think creatively and find innovative solutions to complex problem sets, demonstrated experience implementing girls education and/or behavior change activities, dynamism and ability to form partnerships, and professional and academic background. Describe organizational capacity – technical, managerial, financial, etc. – to carry out the proposed intervention. What is the business model for your innovation?
- I. Learning and Adaptability** (approximately 1 page): Describe the extent to which the proposed technical approach is adaptable and be adjusted based on learning, new partnership opportunities, and a changing operating environment. Describe how learning generated through proposed activities, including through failure and iteration, will inform future programming and contribute to more effective policies and programs in Niger to prevent early marriage. Applicants must propose a strong learning agenda that not just tracks progress against intended results but that analyzes and documents the impact of each intervention and, most importantly, the why and how behind these impacts.

5. Dun and Bradstreet and SAM Requirements

The information below is required for Phase 3 – Request for Full Application phase.

Any questions related to this or other sections of this APS can be submitted to USAID to hcisse@usaid.gov with a copy to asadiq@usaid.gov, and amdiall@usaid.gov. The deadline for submitting questions for the First Review Opportunity (Round I) is stated on the Cover Page of this APS.

USAID may not award to an applicant unless the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier (DUNS number) and System for Award Management (SAM) requirements. Each applicant must:

1. Have valid DUNS number for the applicant and all proposed sub-recipients;
2. Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. SAM is streamlining processes, eliminating the need to enter the same data multiple times, and

consolidating hosting to make the process of doing business with the government more efficient (www.sam.gov).

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.

If your organization does not have a DUNS or is not registered in SAM for Phase 1, please ensure you are registered before Phase 3 application submission. Your application will not be accepted without a DUNS number or SAM registration.

DUNS number: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

SAM registration: <http://www.sam.gov>

Non-U.S. applicants can find additional resources for registering in SAM, including a Quick Start Guide and a video on how to obtain an NCAGE code, on www.sam.gov, navigate to Help, then to International Registrants.

[END OF SECTION D]

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

The Merit Review Criteria are tailored to the requirements of the Program Description and are described below. The Applicant should note that these criteria serve as the standard against which their technical application will be evaluated, and serve to identify the significant aspects which Applicants should address in their application.

The selection decision will be based on evaluation of the following factors:

A. There are four rated technical non-business cost criteria against which technical applications will be evaluated:

The merit review criteria below are listed in descending order of importance:

Factor 1: Technical Approach

Extent to which the applicant provides a sound and innovative technical approach to prevent early marriage taking into consideration the social, cultural, economic, and other factors that result in high rates of early marriage as defined in the Program Description. (40 pts)

Factor 2: Collaboration and Coordination

Extent to which the proposed plan provides a sound approach to leveraging and forming partnerships with USAID sectoral implementing partners, members of the Platform to End Early Marriage, and relevant local actors. (25 pts)

Factor 3: Personnel and Management Approach

Extent to which the proposed personnel, supported by a strong management approach, demonstrate strong communication, technical, and managerial competencies to successfully implement the activity. (20 pts)

Factor 4: Learning and Adaptability

Extent to which the proposed approach is realistic and flexible and adaptable to ensure timely programmatic adjustments based on a strong and continuous learning agenda. (15 pts)

Total 100 points possible.

[END OF SECTION E]

SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

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

2. Administrative & National Policy Requirements

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

For US organizations: ADS 303, 2 CFR 700, 2 CFR 200, and Standard Provisions for U.S. Non-governmental organizations.

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

3. Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will be required to provide the following reports in compliance with USAID regulations.

- **Annual Work Plans:** The work plan should include major activities that will be undertaken, rationale behind these activities, anticipated results of these efforts and how they will be measured, any outside technical assistance that may be required to complete the activity, and a timeframe for when activities will commence and end.
- **Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP):** An Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP) is required within thirty days after any Award. The AMELP shall track progress towards indicators proposed by and agreed upon with USAID.
- **Quarterly Reports:** Quarterly progress reports are due to USAID within 30 days from the end of each quarter. These reports should document overall progress towards, activities completed during the reporting period, any problems encountered during implementation (including financial issues), data on all indicators established in the AMELP, and specific activities planned for the next quarter.
- **Annual Report:** The recipient should submit an annual report limited to thirty (30) pages, not including annexes. The annual report should contain the same components, including annexes, as the quarterly reports as described above and be submitted within ninety (90) calendar days following the end of the reporting period. For all results that either exceed or fall short of the annual target by ten (10)% or more, a narrative explanation must be included in the reporting. The recipient should highlight in green all indicators that exceeded targets and highlight in red indicators that fell short (red) of their targets. The

annual report can also double as the quarterly report for the final quarter of the reporting period.

- **Final Report:** A final performance report is due within 90 calendar days after the expiration or termination of an Award. The final performance report must be completed in English and submitted to the AOR and the Agreement Officer for review and approval.
- **Final Presentations and Learning:** Conduct a presentation based on the Final Report, to describe and discuss the following: methodology used and activities implemented; accomplishments; challenges and opportunities; unexpected outcomes; and learning. The exact content, timing and duration will be determined in conjunction with USAID but must include: One presentation to USAID/Washington & USAID/Niger, with a focus on how USAID could replicate, scale, and/or integrate the learning at Missions or regional programming; and one workshop (workshop space provided) with USAID and CEFM stakeholders to discuss lessons learned and brainstorm strategies to use the learning positively.
- **Geographic Information System (GIS) data:** USAID is required to make nonproprietary geospatial data available to the public. Awardees must submit the following information to USAID by October 30 of each year of implementation:
 - Digital spatial data according to Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Level 1 metadata standards capturing GIS at the regional, administrative, commune, and village level for their zones of intervention; and
 - Digital copies of spatial data with accompanying metadata.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, Section 117 requires that the impact of USAID's activities on the environment be considered and that USAID include environmental sustainability as a central consideration in designing and carrying out its development programs. This mandate is codified in Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Parts 201.5.10g and 204 (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ADS/200/>), which, in part, require that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. As of the issuance of this APS, the USAID Niger Country Office had submitted an Initial Environment Evaluation (IEE), with recommendation of Categorical Exclusion, for review and clearance within the Agency.

As part of annual work plan development, the recipient, in collaboration with the USAID AOR and Mission Environmental Officer, will review all ongoing and planned activities to determine if they are within the scope of the IEE and a Categorical Exclusion determination, if received. If the Recipient plans new activities outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation, it shall work with the AOR and the Mission Environmental Officer to ensure that any supplemental environmental impact analyses or other determinations are completed before USAID approves the new activity. No new activities shall be undertaken prior to receiving written USAID review and approval. Any ongoing activities found to be outside the scope of the activities projected in the IEE and Determination of Categorical Exclusion shall be halted until

USAID completes the required environmental impact analysis and/or determination of categorical exclusion.

5. BRANDING AND MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Branding and marking requirements for Awards under this APS must conform to [ADS 320.3.3](#) (effective 01/08/2007 and revised 01/02/2015). It is a federal statutory and regulatory requirement that all USAID programs, projects, activities, public communications, and commodities that USAID partially or fully funds under a grant or cooperative agreement or other assistance award or sub award, must be marked appropriately with the USAID Identity. USAID will require the submission of a Branding Strategy and a Marking Plan for any successful applications. For more information, see: <http://www.usaid.gov/branding/assistance.html>.

The recipient will also need to acknowledge USAID as the donor both verbally and in writing in all activity documents and media, as well as during meetings, public events, and technical assistance sessions with government stakeholders, local partners, and beneficiaries. This includes radio and TV spots, billboards and other signage, and documents/materials developed by the project.

[END OF SECTION F]

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

Refer to cover letter.

[END OF SECTION G]

SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

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

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

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

2. List of Annexes:

- a) Annex #1: Standard Provisions
- b) Annex #2: SAM Quick Start Guide For New Foreign Registration
- c) Annex #3: SAM Quick Start Guide For New Grantee Registration

[END OF SECTION H]

ANNEX 1 - STANDARD PROVISIONS

(Note: the full text of these provisions may be found at: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303maa> and <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mab>). The actual Standard Provisions included in the award will be dependent on the organization that is selected. The award will include the latest Mandatory Provisions for either U.S. or non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations. The award will also contain the following “required as applicable” Standard Provisions:

REQUIRED AS APPLICABLE STANDARD PROVISIONS FOR U.S. NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Required	Not Required	Standard Provision
TBD		RAA1. NEGOTIATED INDIRECT COST RATES - PREDETERMINED (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA2. NEGOTIATED INDIRECT COST RATES - PROVISIONAL (Nonprofit) (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA3. NEGOTIATED INDIRECT COST RATE - PROVISIONAL (Profit) (DECEMBER 2014)
X		RAA4. EXCHANGE VISITORS AND PARTICIPANT TRAINING (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA5. VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES – SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (JANUARY 2009)
	X	RAA6. PROTECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL AS A RESEARCH SUBJECT (APRIL 1998)
	X	RAA7. CARE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS (MARCH 2004)
	X	RAA8. TITLE TO AND CARE OF PROPERTY (COOPERATING COUNTRY TITLE) (NOVEMBER 1985)
	X	RAA9. COST SHARING (MATCHING) (FEBRUARY 2012)
X		RAA10. PROHIBITION OF ASSISTANCE TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS (JUNE 1999)
	X	RAA11. INVESTMENT PROMOTION (NOVEMBER 2003)
X		RAA12. REPORTING HOST GOVERNMENT TAXES (DECEMBER 2014)
X		RAA13. FOREIGN GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA14. CONSCIENCE CLAUSE IMPLEMENTATION (ASSISTANCE) (FEBRUARY 2012)
	X	RAA15. CONDOMS (ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014)
	X	RAA16. PROHIBITION ON THE PROMOTION OR ADVOCACY OF THE LEGALIZATION OR PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION OR SEX TRAFFICKING (ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014)
X		RAA17. USAID DISABILITY POLICY - ASSISTANCE (DECEMBER 2004)
	X	RAA18. STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED IN USAID ASSISTANCE AWARDS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION (SEPTEMBER 2004)
	X	RAA19. STATEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES ON LACK OF SUPPORT FOR PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA20. ELIGIBILITY OF SUBRECIPIENTS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA21. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS TO PROMOTE, SUPPORT, OR ADVOCATE FOR THE LEGALIZATION OR

		PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012)
X		RAA22. UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM OF AWARD MANAGEMENT (July 2015)
X		RAA23. REPORTING SUBAWARDS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (DECEMBER 2014)
	X	RAA24. PATENT REPORTING PROCEDURES (DECEMBER 2014)
	X	RAA25. ACCESS TO USAID FACILITIES AND USAID'S INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AUGUST 2013)
X		RAA26. CONTRACT PROVISION FOR DBA INSURANCE UNDER RECIPIENT PROCUREMENTS (DECEMBER 2014)
X		RAA27. AWARD TERM AND CONDITION FOR RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE MATTERS (April 2016)
	X	RAA28. PROTECTING LIFE IN GLOBAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE (MAY 2017)

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

Required	Not Required	Standard Provision
TBD		RAA1. ADVANCE PAYMENT AND REFUNDS (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA2. REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENT AND REFUNDS (DECEMBER 2014)
TBD		RAA3. INDIRECT COSTS – NEGOTIATED INDIRECT COST RATE AGREEMENT (NICRA) (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA4. INDIRECT COSTS – CHARGED AS A FIXED AMOUNT (NONPROFIT) (JUNE 2012)
X		RAA5. UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM OF AWARD MANAGEMENT (July 2015)
X		RAA6. REPORTING SUBAWARDS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (DECEMBER 2014)
X		RAA7. SUBAWARDS (DECEMBER 2014)
X		RAA8. TRAVEL AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION (DECEMBER 2014)
	X	RAA9. OCEAN SHIPMENT OF GOODS (JUNE 2012)
X		RAA10. REPORTING HOST GOVERNMENT TAXES (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA11. PATENT RIGHTS (JUNE 2012)
X		RAA12. EXCHANGE VISITORS AND PARTICIPANT TRAINING (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA13. INVESTMENT PROMOTION (NOVEMBER 2003)
	X	RAA 14. COST SHARE (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA15. PROGRAM INCOME (DECEMBER 2014)
X		RAA16. FOREIGN GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA17. STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED IN USAID ASSISTANCE AWARDS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION (SEPTEMBER 2004)
	X	RAA18. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RESEARCH SUBJECTS (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA19. STATEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES ON LACK OF SUPPORT FOR PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA20. ELIGIBILITY OF SUBRECIPIENTS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA21. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS TO PROMOTE, SUPPORT, OR ADVOCATE FOR THE LEGALIZATION OR

		PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012)
	X	RAA22. VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES – SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (JANUARY 2009)
	X	RAA23. CONSCIENCE CLAUSE IMPLEMENTATION (ASSISTANCE) (FEBRUARY 2012)
	X	RAA24. CONDOMS (ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014)
	X	RAA25. PROHIBITION ON THE PROMOTION OR ADVOCACY OF THE LEGALIZATION OR PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION OR SEX TRAFFICKING(ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014)
	X	RAA26. LIMITATION ON SUBAWARDS TO NON-LOCAL ENTITIES (JULY 2014)
	X	RAA27. CONTRACT PROVISION FOR DBA INSURANCE UNDER RECIPIENT PROCUREMENTS (DECEMBER 2014)
X		RAA28. CONTRACT AWARD TERM AND CONDITION FOR RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE MATTERS (April 2016)
	X	RAA29. PROTECTING LIFE IN GLOBAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE (MAY 2017)

Annex 2: SAM Quick Start Guide For New Foreign Registration



Quick Start Guide For New Foreign Registrations

Helpful Information

SAM is the official free, government-operated website – there is NO charge to register or maintain your entity registration record in SAM.

What is an Entity?

In SAM, your company / business / organization is referred to as an "Entity." You register your entity to do business with the U.S. Federal government by completing the registration process in SAM.

What do I need to get started?

1. **DUNS Number:** You need a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to register your entity in SAM. DUNS numbers are unique for each physical location you want to register.
2. **NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) Code:** Foreign entities must obtain a NCAGE code for each DUNS number they plan to register in SAM before you start the registration process.

How do I get a DUNS number?

If you do not have one, you can request a DUNS number for free to do business with the U.S. Federal government by visiting Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. It takes up to 5 business days to obtain an international DUNS number.

How do I get an NCAGE code?

For instructions on obtaining a NCAGE, visit: http://www.dhs.gov/Forms/Form_AC135.asp. Make sure the name and address information you provide to get your NCAGE code is the same as what you used to get your DUNS number. It takes up to 3 business days to obtain a NCAGE code.

What about a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)?

You only need a TIN if your entity pays U.S. taxes. If you are a foreign entity that does not pay taxes in the U.S., do not enter a number in the TIN field during registration.

Steps for Registering

1. Type www.sam.gov in your Internet browser address bar.
2. Create a SAM Individual User Account (be sure to validate your e-mail address to activate the user account), then Login.
3. Select "Register New Entity" under "Register/Update Entity" on your "My SAM" page.
4. Select your type of Entity, most likely "Business or Organization." Definitions are in the Content Glossary on the right side of the page.
5. Tell the system why you are registering in SAM. This determines what information you have to provide.
 - Are you interested in bidding on Federal contracts? If you say "Yes," you will complete all four sections in SAM.
 - Are you just interested in becoming eligible to apply for grants or other Federal financial assistance? If you say "No" to the contracts question and "Yes" to the grants question, you will only have to complete the grant-related information.

6. Complete your registration. On each page, required information that you must provide has a red asterisk (*) next to the name of the field. Here are a few helpful hints:

- On the Business Information page, you will create a Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN). Write your MPIN down. It is used as a password in other government systems.
- If you do not pay U.S. taxes, do not enter a TIN or select a TIN type. Leave those fields blank.
- Only use the NCAGE code you got for your DUNS number. Remember, the name and address information must match on the DUNS and NCAGE records.
- Make sure to select "Foreign Owned and Located" on the General Information page.
- As a foreign entity, you do not need to provide Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) banking information on the Financial Information page. If you do choose to provide this electronic banking information, it must be for a U.S. bank: SAM cannot accept foreign banking information. The remittance name and address are the only mandatory information for you on this page.
- In the "Points of Contact" section, list the names of people in your organization who know about this registration in SAM and why you want to do business with the U.S. Federal government. These are called "Points of Contact" or POCs.

7. Make sure to hit [Submit] after your final review. You will get a Congratulations message on the screen. If you do not see this message, you did not submit your registration. What happens next?

- Once approved by the IRS (if you entered a TIN) and the Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) system, you will get an email from SAM.gov when your entity registration is active.

Please give yourself plenty of time before your contract or grant application deadline. Allow up to 10 business days after you submit before your registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for other systems such as Grants.gov to recognize your information.

For help registering in SAM, contact the supporting Federal Service Desk (FSD) at <https://www.fsa.gov/>



Annex 3: SAM Quick Start Guide for New Grantee Registration



Quick Start Guide For New Grantee Registration

Helpful Information

What is an Entity?

In SAM, your company / business / organization is referred to as an "Entity." You register your entity to do business with the U.S. Federal government by completing the registration process in SAM.

SAM is the official free, government-operated website – there is NO charge to register or maintain your entity registration record in SAM.

What do I need to get started?

DUNS Number

You need a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to register your entity in SAM. DUNS numbers are unique for each physical location you are registering.

If you do not have one, you can request a DUNS number for free to do business with the U.S. Federal government by visiting Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. It takes no more than 1-2 business days to obtain a DUNS number.

Taxpayer Identification Number

You need your entity's Taxpayer ID Number (TIN) and taxpayer name (as it appears on your most recent tax return). Foreign entities that do not pay employees within the U.S. do not need to provide a TIN. Your TIN is usually your Employer Identification Number (EIN) assigned by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Sole proprietors may use their Social Security Number (SSN) assigned by the Social Security Administration (SSA) as their TIN, but are strongly encouraged to obtain a free EIN from the IRS by visiting: <http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&-Self-Employed/How-to-Apply-for-an-EIN>. Allow approximately two weeks before your new EIN is ready for use when registering in SAM.

Steps for Registering

1. Type www.sam.gov in your Internet browser address bar.
2. Create a SAM Individual User Account (be sure to validate your e-mail address), then Login.
3. Select "Register New Entity" under "Register/Update Entity" on your "My SAM" page.
4. Select your type of Entity. Definitions are in the Glossary to the right.
5. If you are registering in SAM.gov so you can apply for a Federal financial assistance opportunity on Grants.gov, and are not interested in pursuing Federal contracts, you will have a much shorter registration path. To chose this "grants only" path:
 - Select "No" to "Do you wish to bid on contracts?"
 - Select "Yes" to "Do you want to be eligible for grants and other federal assistance?"
6. Complete the "Core Data" pages:
 - Validate your DUNS information.
 - Enter Business Information (TIN, etc.) This page is also where you create your Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN). Write the MPIN down as it will serve as a password for you in other government systems. You will need it for your Grants.gov registration.
 - Enter your CAGE code if you have one, but remember, CAGE codes are tied to DUNS numbers and cannot be reused. Don't worry if you don't have a CAGE code for the DUNS number you are registering: one will be assigned to you after your registration is submitted. Foreign registrants must enter their NCAGE code before proceeding.
 - Enter General Information (business types, organization structure, etc.) about your entity.
 - Provide your entity's Financial Information, i.e. U.S. bank Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) information for Federal government payment purposes. Foreign entities do not need to provide EFT information.
 - Answer the Executive Compensation questions.
 - Answer the Proceedings Details questions.
7. Complete the "Points of Contact" pages:
 - Your Electronic Business POC is integral to your Grants.gov registration and application process. Your Government POC will be used by other government systems, such as CAGE, when they contact you. List someone with direct knowledge of this registration for both of those POCs.
8. Make sure to hit [Submit] after your final review. You will get a Congratulations message on the screen. If you do not see this message, you have not submitted your registration.
 - There are two external validation steps, one with the IRS and another with CAGE, after you submit. You will receive an email from SAM.gov when your registration is active.

Please give yourself plenty of time before your grant application submission deadline. Allow up to 7-10 business days after you submit before your registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize your information.

For help registering in SAM, contact the supporting Federal Service Desk (FSD) at <https://www.fsa.gov/>.



[END OF ANNEXES]
[END OF NOFO]