

Feed the Future Global Food Security BAA Solicitation

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Expressions of Interest Due: ~~12:00 PM ET (Washington DC Time) April 23, 2018~~
The Expression of Interest Submission Deadline has been extended to 12:00 PM ET (Washington DC Time) May 4, 2018. Please see Attachment 1 Q&A.

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The USAID Broad Agency Announcement for Global Food Security

I. Overview

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is issuing this Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) to invite participants to **co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate** on innovative research and development (R&D) interventions to address challenges to global food security, as outlined in this BAA.

The intent of the BAA is to create high-quality, effective partnerships to conduct cutting-edge R&D to find new and innovative ways of combating food insecurity and malnutrition. As detailed below, USAID will invite selected organizations to co-create R&D solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements, including resource providers that have ideas, expertise, and/or funding to add to potential solutions.

Under this BAA, USAID seeks partners that are committed to shared responsibility, shared risk, and shared resourcing, or co-investment. Shared resourcing requires that cash and other

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resources, are directed towards reaching the solution to the Problem/Challenge. Co-investing does not require equal shared resources (such as 1:1 leverage), rather it seeks resource contributions that are appropriate to the specific project's objectives, considering the comparative advantages brought by the participation of each party.

Announcement Type Addenda: Although it is not anticipated, USAID may issue periodic Addenda to this BAA that will present specific challenges that will focus on identified problems, solutions, scalability opportunities, feasibility studies, and other research and development initiatives addressing the problem and challenge statements described above. The terms of the BAA apply to the Addenda. Individual addenda may have specific evaluation criteria and administrative information such as requirements for Expressions of Interest, Concept Papers, and response deadlines. **NOTE:** The overall/umbrella BAA is open for 1 year with individual addendums issued to the BAA with its own specific response deadlines. Typically, EOIs are accepted under an Addendum and not the overall/umbrella BAA. However, in this case, we are requesting that the EOI be submitted to this BAA.

A. Federal Agency Name:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by the Bureau for Food Security (BFS)

B. Authority:

This BAA is issued under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 35.016(c). This is not a FAR Part 15 Procurement.

C. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

98.001 USAID Foreign Assistance Programs for Overseas

D. Open Period:

The open period for this BAA is 12 months from the date of issuance.

E. BAA Opportunity Title:

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II. Problem and Challenge Statements

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PROBLEM:

Because of Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global food security initiative, nine million more people are living free from poverty, 1.7 million households are living free from hunger, and 1.8 million more children are living free from the devastating effects of stunting in areas where we work. Despite these successes, the changing global landscape requires us to do more with fewer resources.

According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, for the first time in over a decade, global hunger levels have risen—to 815 million people—due to a significant increase in violent conflict and economic, social, environmental and health shocks and stresses. Rural communities, where 75 percent of the world's poor live, have been hit the hardest; added, these communities rely directly on agriculture for their livelihoods, not just for their food. It is therefore not surprising that the World Bank projects 702 million people still live in extreme poverty.

By 2050, the global population is projected to approach 10 billion people. Global food production will need to rise by at least 60 percent to meet growing demand, a problem that will be compounded by a significant increase in water scarcity and a marginal increase in arable land. In the same timeframe, the World Bank estimates the global demand for water will increase by 30 to 50 percent and FAO projects that arable land will expand by less than 5 percent.

To surmount current and future challenges, Feed the Future is seeking new partners with which to co-create, co-design and, in most instances, co-invest in scalable solutions.

CHALLENGE:

The planet's food systems are capable of producing enough nutritious food to meet the needs of a burgeoning global population in the developing world, but unlocking that potential will require a renewed push to invest in and transform food systems and other enabling systems. The challenge is to develop and test innovative, inclusive, market-led, and sustainable approaches and solutions that will accelerate progress towards eliminating global hunger, malnutrition, and poverty, while increasing demand and accessibility of nutritious foods.

Innovation in many areas will be critical to addressing this challenge and achieving the goals of the Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS), as required by Feed the Future's authorizing legislation, the Global Food Security Act of 2016. USAID's Bureau for Food Security (BFS) is seeking R&D to develop new and innovative approaches to enhance agricultural systems and rural development through well-integrated interventions that empower youth and foster improved gender dynamics, particularly in the areas of:

- 1) Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth;

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- 2) Strengthened resilience among people and systems, especially to new and recurrent shocks and stresses; and
- 3) A well-nourished population, especially women and children.

Please visit <https://feedthefuture.gov/approach> for additional information, including target countries and the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy.

III. The BAA Process

The amount of resources made available under this BAA will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds from USAID and other resource partners. Some award types may not include any funding. The award process under this BAA has the following steps:

STAGE 1 - SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

Please submit an organization addressing the criteria below, in the format required in Section VII. More than one EOI can be submitted by a single organization.

USAID will review the EOIs and will select those organizations that USAID determines to have addressed the evaluation criteria/eligibility stated below to an extent that the organization will make a significant contribution to the co-creation. Not all organizations that submit an EOI will necessarily be invited to proceed to Stage 2. Due to the number of EOIs expected to be received, USAID may be unable to provide details on why EOIs were not selected.

Required Content for Expressions of Interest:

1. EOIs must indicate the research or development idea(s) that will work toward potential solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements. Ideas must be presented in a way that demonstrates a connection between the Problem/Challenge and prospective partners' efforts to increase knowledge and understanding of potential solutions; exploit scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques; advance the state of the art; or use scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service).

Awards issued under this solicitation must be for Applied Research or Development, as those terms are defined in FAR 35.001. Those definitions are reproduced below:

“Applied research” means the effort that:

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(a) normally follows basic research, but may not be severable from the related basic research;

(b) attempts to determine and exploit the potential of scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques; and

(c) attempts to advance the state of the art. When being used by contractors in cost principle applications, this term does not include efforts whose principal aim is the design, development, or testing of specific items or services to be considered for sale; these efforts are within the definition of “development,” given below.

“Development” means the systematic use of scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service) to meet specific performance requirements or objectives. It includes the functions of design engineering, prototyping, and engineering testing; it excludes subcontracted technical effort that is for the sole purpose of developing an additional source for an existing product.

2. Expressions of Interest must demonstrate the potential to have a significant impact that ultimately could achieve even greater impact at scale.

3. EOIs must indicate the background and expertise of the organization and the managerial and technical staff or team engaged in the endeavor.

4. EOIs must describe any co-investment resources that will be contributed to the solution, including those from the submitting organization and those from other third-party businesses, donors, foundations, or other organizations. Such resources may include cash and other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information.

STAGE 2 - CO-CREATION AND CO-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT PAPER

During Stage 2, selected organizations will co-create potential solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements by brainstorming and innovating solutions and resources, potentially leading to concept papers that USAID or other resource partners will consider for funding.

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Co-Creation

- In addition to the selected organizations continuing from Stage 1, the co-creation phase will include USAID and other co-investment organizations that may be able to contribute resources. Co-Creation may take the form of a workshop, conference, meeting, or other methods, including the possibility of oral presentations of concepts, at the discretion of USAID. The method of co-creation for this BAA will be determined at a later date, and communicated directly to those organizations invited to participate. An invitation to co-create is not a guarantee of funding nor is it a guarantee of moving forward to Stage 3. For more information on co-creation and its design approaches, see <https://usaidlearninglab.org/library/co-creation-discussion-note-ads-201>.
- Unless provided otherwise, organizations are responsible for all costs incurred by the organization to prepare its EOI and participate in the co-creation.
- Not all organizations that participate in the co-creation will necessarily be invited to co-design and co-develop a Concept Paper.

Co-Development of Concept Papers

- Working together, USAID and the potential partner(s) will collaborate on Concept Paper(s), taking a holistic approach to addressing the Problem/Challenge based on learnings from the co-creation, and identifying creative approaches to resourcing projects. Such Concept Papers will consider and include additional implementing and co-investment partners to complement the project, including reasonable cost sharing, leverage, or other exchange of resource arrangements.
- The Concept Paper, generally 5-10 pages, provides further details and explanation of the project.

STAGE 3 - REVIEW BY THE PEER AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD

- Organizations will be invited to present their Concept Paper(s) to the Peer and Scientific Review Board, which will be comprised of experts from USAID, partners, and/or outside parties. The Peer and Scientific Review Board will use its technical expertise to review Concept Papers and recommend whether to move forward with the project, as well as any revisions/additions to the project.
- Not all organizations that present a Concept Paper to the Peer and Scientific Review Board will necessarily be invited to move to Stage 4.

STAGE 4 - AWARD DETERMINATION

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USAID will review the Peer and Scientific Review Board's recommendations and consider other information, such as resource availability and Agency priorities, and will decide whether to move forward with the Concept Paper based on the above-stated evaluation criteria. For Concept Papers that demonstrate a valid innovation to address the Problem and Challenge Statements, the Contracting/Agreement Officer will assess the organization's responsibility and identify the anticipated instrument type.

Request for Additional Information. USAID may request additional information concerning the organization's technical approach, capacity, management and organization, past experience, and budget, as well as representations and certifications, as needed.

Final Review and Negotiation. The USAID Contract/Agreement Officer will engage in final review and negotiation of an award instrument with an apparently successful partner. If the organization and USAID cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement, USAID reserves the right to not move forward with an award at no cost to the Government.

Award. Awards under this BAA will be made to the Apparently Successful Partners on the basis of their ability to achieve solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements, based on the evaluation criteria as provided herein. The standard clauses or provisions for awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation and may vary by award type. Information regarding clauses and provisions will be offered to the Apparently Successful Applicant when the award type is identified.

Evaluation Criteria:

EOIs and Concept Papers will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Idea/Approach: Novelty, creativity and soundness of the R&D idea/approach and its relevance to the Problem and Challenge Statements.
2. Partnership Expectations and Value: Strengths of the organization or consortium as a partner, including ability to make a unique contribution to the challenge issued.
3. Impact: The likelihood of generating substantial, scalable and sustainable impact on the issues discussed in the Problem and Challenge Statements.
4. Past Experience: USAID also will consider the organization's past experience in assessing the ability of the organization to contribute to the co-creation.

IV. Additional Considerations

- A. EOIs will not be evaluated against other EOIs, but solely based upon whether USAID believes that the organization will be a valuable contributor to the co-creation process. USAID may limit the number of initial submissions selected to move forward based on efficiencies.
- B. Concept Papers are not evaluated against other Concept Papers, but solely based on USAID's determination as to whether the Concept Paper will successfully address the Problem and Challenges set forth herein. USAID may limit the number of Concept Papers selected to move forward based on efficiencies.
- C. Decisions regarding USAID's pursuit of a particular project, technology or relationship will be based on all available information, evidence, data, and resulting analysis.
- D. Eligibility Information. Public, private, for-profit, and nonprofit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. governmental organizations, multilateral and international donor organizations are eligible under this BAA. All organizations must be determined to be responsive to the BAA and sufficiently responsible to perform or participate in the final award type. However, if a **contract** results from any phase of this process, the contractor must be eligible in accordance with 22 CFR 228 and ADS 310. The default authorized geographic code for all US-funded contracts is 937 (See ADS 310).
- E. Funding availability and amounts will depend on the ideas generated during the collaboration process as well as the funding capacity of participating organizations, which are not necessarily limited to USAID.

V. Specific Rights Reserved for the Government under this BAA

The Government reserves specific rights, in addition to rights described elsewhere in this document or by law or regulation, including:

1. The right to make multiple awards, a single award, or no awards.
2. The right to accept Concept Papers in their entirety or to select only portions of Concept Papers for award or co-investment.

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3. The right to select an instrument type that is appropriate for the specific Concept Paper selected for award. Instrument types include, but are not limited to, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, public-private partnerships, and memorandums of understanding. In addition, USAID may craft a new instrument type to meet the needs of a specific relationship.
4. The right to co-create projects with one or more organizations under the BAA, when it is in the best interest of USAID.
5. The right to request any additional, necessary documentation after initial review. Such additional information may include, but is not limited to, a further detailed Concept Paper, budget, and representations and certifications.
6. The right to fund or co-invest in Concept Papers in phases, with options for continued work at the end of one or more of the phases.
7. The right to award instruments under this BAA that do not commit monetary resources.
8. The right to remove organizations from the BAA process if USAID determines it is no longer in the best interests of the Government to proceed with the organization.

VI. Information Protection

USAID's goal is to facilitate research and development that will lead to innovative, and potentially commercially viable, solutions. Understanding the sensitive nature of organizations' information, USAID will work with organizations to protect intellectual property.

EOIs should be free of any intellectual property that the organization wishes to protect from disclosure, as the EOIs will be shared with USAID partners as part of the selection process. However, once organizations have been invited to advance beyond co-creation, organizations can work with USAID to identify proprietary information that requires protection.

Therefore, organizations making submissions under this BAA grant to USAID a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to use, disclose, reproduce, and prepare derivative works, and to have or permit others to do so to any information contained in the EOIs submitted under the BAA. If USAID further engages with the organization regarding its submission, the parties can negotiate further intellectual property protection for the organization's intellectual property.

Organizations must ensure that any submissions under this BAA are free of any third party proprietary data rights that would impact the license granted to USAID herein.

VII. Submission Requirements

Questions

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Any questions regarding this BAA should be submitted via email to FTFBAA@usaid.gov with “Questions” in the subject line along with the Opportunity Number. Responses to questions received prior to the deadline along with any applicable amendments to this BAA will be posted on fbo.gov and grants.gov.

Expression of Interest (EOI) submissions must:

- A. Be in English, no more than 2 pages in length including **any** cover letters, and no smaller than 12 point font;
- B. Be submitted electronically to FTFBAA@usaid.gov;
- C. Contain a header with the following information (included in the page count):
 - 1) Organization Name/Group and Contact Information;
 - 2) Response Title;
 - 3) BAA or Addendum, if applicable Name/Number;
 - 4) Optional graphic that fits on an 8.5”x11” or A4 piece of paper (included in the page limit);
- D. Be in .pdf, .docx, or .odf format

VIII. Obtaining the BAA and Addenda

This BAA and any Addenda, if applicable can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.fbo.gov>. Issuance of this BAA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID, nor does it commit USAID or any of its funding Partners to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, USAID reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

ATTACHMENT 1 – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Issue Date: April 18, 2018

NFO Number: 7200AA18R00032- Amendment 001

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Please see USAID’s answers to the following Questions.

1. Page 10, mention a maximum length of 2 pages including cover letters, can USAID please confirm if this means 4 pages front and back or just a single page front and back?

Answer: For EOI submissions, the maximum number of page limit is 2 pages total single page, this includes any cover letters. Submissions exceeding the page limitation will not be reviewed.

2. Page 10, require bidders to submit a formal cover letter could the information requested under the header be submitted instead of a formal cover letter or are both required?

Answer: Cover letters are not required for the EOI submission. The EOI should contain a header with the required information cited in Section VII page 10.

3. Page 5, of the solicitation contains information associated with co-investment resources that will contribute to the solution, including those from the submitting organization and those from other third-party businesses, donors, foundations, or other organizations. Can USAID provide some additional parameters and examples associated with the type of expected co-investments.

Answer: USAID does not have specific co-investment types in mind. We leave that up to the submitting organizations to determine. We have no additional parameters to provide, and examples were listed on page five as either tangible or intangible co-investment such as additional financing or in-kind contributions such as expertise, coordination (including using an organization’s “convening power), access to key people, places and information.

4. Page 10 mentions a maximum length of 2 pages including cover letters, can USAID please confirm if this means 2 pages double or single spaced?

Answer: USAID has no preference on spacing on the page. Please follow the instructions to keep the Expression of Interest a maximum of two pages with font not less than 12 point, on a standard size 8.5” by 11” document.

5. Is the age range for project beneficiaries 10-29 years or 15-29 years?

Answer: There is no age restriction for intended beneficiaries.

6. Do you prefer a youth-inclusive or youth-specific approach?

Answer: We welcome innovative ideas including, but not limited to, new youth-inclusive and youth-specific approaches. For more information, please see the new Global Food Security Strategy Technical Guidance on Youth available online at <https://feedthefuture.gov/resource/global-food-security-strategy-technical-guidance-youth>.

7. Does the focus of the project include peri-urban areas as well as rural areas?

Answer: The scope of this BAA includes both peri-urban as well as rural areas, as detailed in the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy (<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/agriculture-and-food-security/us-government-global-food-security-strategy>).

8. "interventions that empower youth" - Can you define this a little more? Do you consider youth as children? Or, would you consider a project that strives to attract young farmers to the field through an innovative technology that allows them to improve their crop yield? I feel our goals match your three areas of interest almost verbatim...but I wouldn't consider us a 'youth' project.

Answer: For the purposes of this BAA, youth means a life stage that starts in adolescence and continues through young adulthood. The specific age range associated with those stages may vary by the socio-cultural context, programmatic context, and the organization funding or implementing the program. Yes, we would consider an idea that “strives to attract young farmers to the field through an innovative technology that allows them to improve their crop yield.”

9. Would FtF prefer to see these additional countries in our EOI or would FtF prefer to see us focus on making our pilot project in Kenya?

Answer: For the purposes of this BAA we are interested new and innovative approaches to combating food insecurity and malnutrition, especially those focused in the 12 Feed the Future target countries (<https://feedthefuture.gov/countries>) and resilience focus countries (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya).

10. We have taken a training on the Women's Ag Empowerment Index. We have also been reading through the MEL Plan materials. Do you want this evaluation plan covered in the EOI or should that be addressed later?

Answer: Expressions of Interest should cover:

1. The research or development idea(s) that will work toward potential solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements.

2. The potential to have a significant impact that ultimately could achieve even greater impact at scale.
3. The background and expertise of the organization and the managerial and technical staff or team engaged in the endeavor.
4. Any co-investment resources that will be contributed to the solution, including those from the submitting organization and those from other third-party businesses, donors, foundations, or other organizations.

11. Is there a floor or ceiling amount?

Answer: The focus on the BAA process is to focus on the development problem and challenge statements as specified in the announcement rather than budget amount or any potential funding instruments. Any budget amounts or ceiling are not known as this stage of the process. Funding level and availability will depend on the ideas generated during the collaboration process as well as the funding capacity of participating organizations, which are not necessarily limited to USAID.

12. As a Public International Organization (PIO), we would like to confirm that should we be successful, the applicable funding mechanism would be the CGIAR mechanism and that the ADS 308 provisions would apply to us. We also would like to verify that should we participate as a sub-awardee under a prime applicant, in accordance with ADS 303.3.21 (c) “for sub-awards to PIOs”, it would be subject to the terms and conditions contained in the “Standard Provisions for Cost-Type Awards to PIOs in ADS 308”?

Answer: Your assumption is correct. The instrument type is not known at this stage but the applicable provisions will apply based on the resultant instrument type.

13. Could USAID provide an expected project duration for the potential interventions? Is there an expectation that this be a one year or a multi-year intervention?

Answer: This BAA is open to one-year and multi-year interventions.

14. Would USAID consider a proposed intervention that will work in Feed the Future target countries while leveraging work in other Feed the Future focus countries?

Answer: See answer to Question 9.

15. What is the funding level for the “Feed the Future Global Food Security BAA Solicitation” - 7200AA18R00032?

Answer: Please also see answer to Question 11.

16. Related to Section VI. Information Protection, would USAID or would partners hold Intellectual Property rights over innovations developed during implementation under any contract or agreement resulting from this BAA?

Answer: Under standard terms and conditions of our awards, our partners receive the ownership of any intellectual property created or used with USAID funding, and USAID obtains a broad license to use and allow others to use the intellectual property. So while the partner owns the IP, the government is able to use the IP for government uses and sublicense such IP to third parties for government uses. There are many variations on how IP is handled, all dependant on the clauses included in the awards, but they generally fit this model.

17. Are you inviting individuals to take part in the research or organizations? What are the provisions (the work entails, travel, availability of staff for coordinating the research, data collection and documenting lessons etc). Do you allocate resources to support the collaborating individual or organization).

Answer: We are inviting legal entities, not individuals. There are no provisions for cost in response to this solicitation.

18. Should we submit an EOI as individual organization or as a consortium of organizations?

Answer: Either one is acceptable.

19. While we understand the overall goal of this BAA is to co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate on innovative R&D interventions to address challenges to global food security, it is not clear to us if potential collaborations should be proposed at Stage 1 or later during Stage 2 among selected organizations only?

Answer: The intent is to have collaborations take place in stage two, however if you want to form alignments or consortiums at stage one, that is also an acceptable approach.

20. Is there a template EOI available for this BAA?

Answer: No, there is not. Please follow the instructions on page 10 of the BAA document.

21. In what scenario would we be encouraged to submit more than one EOI?

Answer: The BAA clarifies that a single organization may submit more than EOI if they choose.

22. What is the time frame, perhaps responding with a minimum and maximum number of months, for the initiatives proposed in the Expression of Interest/Concept Notes.

Answer: There is no timeline established at this point. USAID is interested in receiving innovative ideas to our research questions.

23. What is the minimum and maximum budget that would be considered by USAID?

Answer: Please see answer to Question 11. There is no budget amount determined at this time. Under a BAA solicitation, budgets are determined after successful development of concepts (after stage 2).

24. What is the geographic scope? Feed the Future countries? Lower/middle income countries with a USAID presence?

Answer: See answer to Question 9.

25. The BAA document refers applicants to the website for a list of target countries for this opportunity. However, the Feed the Future website includes both a list of 12 “Target” countries and an expanded list of 19 FtF “Focus” countries, and a note, under the heading TARGET COUNTRIES, that “the U.S. government continues to invest in high-need countries outside the target list to sustain gains and capitalize on opportunities.” Could USAID clarify whether all of the 19 Focus countries are eligible under this BAA, or only the 12 Target countries?

Answer: See answer to Question 9.

26. As it is currently written no country is specified and the three main areas of focus for FtF are all listed. Typically, there is an addenda that limits the focus of responses. We don't see this document. Is this true?

Answer: Correct. Typically, there is an overall/umbrella BAA that is open for 1 year with individual addendums issued under the BAA with its own response deadlines, evaluation criteria, focus areas, and administrative information. Typically EOIs are accepted under the Addendum and not the BAA. However, in this instance, we decided to conceptually combine the first addendum and BAA and are requesting EOI be submitted to this announcement.

27. Could you please clarify the applicability of the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy to awards funded under this BAA? Will PLGHA apply to all awards made to non-US NGOs under this BAA? Or, for instance, would PLGHA not be applicable if a project did not address nutrition and only focused on non-health

activities under area 1, agriculture-led economic growth? If that is the case, is the BFS interested in supporting projects that focus on addressing only one of the areas or should proposed interventions address all three (economic growth, resilience and nutrition) in an integrated way?

Answer: We are seeking innovative research and development interventions to enhance agricultural systems, nutrition, and rural development. The Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy applies to funding for global health assistance, and the PLGHA standard provision must be included in integrated awards that include any funding for global health assistance. The PLGHA standard provision is not included in awards that do not include funding for global health assistance.

It is not possible at this time to determine if and how PLGHA would apply to any awards funded under this BAA because it will depend on the nature of the activities and funding in any such awards. For example, nutrition activities may be solely agricultural in nature and not funded with global health assistance, or may include funding for both health and agricultural components and therefore would be subject to PLGHA. USAID will work with applicants during the negotiation process to ensure prospective awardees understand how PLGHA would apply to their proposal.

28. The BAA states an intent “***to create high-quality, effective partnerships to conduct cutting-edge R&D to find new and innovative ways of combating food insecurity and malnutrition***”. It also states that “***Feed the Future is seeking new partners with which to co-create, co-design and, in most instances, co-invest in scalable solutions.***” Could you please clarify the extent to which social and cultural barriers, including attitudes, practices and social norms have been considered as part of previous challenge/problem statements, and if these endemic issues are to be considered as part of future problems/challenge statements? Similarly can you clarify the extent to which social and behaviour change interventions, particularly through mass media and communications may be considered?

Answer: Social and cultural barriers should be taken into account when developing Expressions of Interest.

29. The BAA states that

“Under this BAA, USAID seeks partners that are committed to shared responsibility, shared risk, and shared resourcing, or co-investment. Shared resourcing requires that cash and other resources, are directed towards reaching the solution to the

Problem/Challenge. Co-investing does not require equal shared resources (such as 1:1 leverage), rather it seeks resource contributions that are appropriate to the specific project's objectives, considering the comparative advantages brought by the participation of each party."

- a) Can you please say more about what may constitute "shared responsibility" and "shared risk"?

Please see answer to Question 3.

- b) Are there pre-defined ratios of shared resourcing that should be cash Vs 'in-kind/other resources?

Under the BAA process, there are no pre-defined ratios for shared resourcing.

- c) What kind of "comparative advantages" would affect the ratio of the applicant's resource contribution in relation to USAID's contribution? Have any formulas been applied previously?

Answer: USAID does not have a specific ratio or target regarding an Applicant's resource contribution.

30. At the EOI stage are you looking for description of specific interventions, or rather explanation of the approach and novelty of the organization?

Answer: Please see answer to Question 10.

31. In the explanation of our idea/approach should we identify specific countries, or at this point only indicate the regions where this work is applicable

Answer: The geographic focus of EOIs should be included as applicable.

32. Can you provide more guidance on the level of detail to be included when describing co-investment resources?

Answer: Please see answer to Question 3.

33. The idea of co-creating, co-designing, co-investing, and collaborating on new research is an interesting process though it is unclear how long USAID expects this process to take. Would it be possible for you to outline a possible/expected timeline that all of the activities (stages 1-4) would take place? I know you can't commit to an exact timeline, but even some broad strokes would be useful. I am curious as some possible interventions/data collection are dependent on things like the timing of rainy season and/or the timing of sabbatical leave, and depending on how long stages 1-4 might take,

could impact whether a particular project idea could work under this solicitation. Additionally, if it is possible, are there any past successful proposals/partnerships that could be shared as an example of the types of things that USAID anticipates supporting?

Answer: Timeline: We do not have a timeline for how long the process would take. Some BAA processes have taken as short as six weeks from receiving Expressions of Interest to award. Others have taken 1.5 years. It really depends on the Agency's research challenges, and the ideas we receive. We usually do not have a better understanding of timeline until we get into phase two.

Successful Partnerships: The intent of the BAA is to create high-quality, effective partnerships to conduct cutting-edge R&D to find new and innovative ways of combating food insecurity and malnutrition, therefore past proposals are not relevant to this BAA. We ask that submissions are innovative and creative in how they respond to the research challenge the Agency has outlined.

34. Page 4, Section III, The BAA Process, details the steps in the process leading to an apparent awardee, however does not indicate an anticipated timeline. Question: The Offeror respectfully requests USAID to share its anticipated schedule to reach an Apparently Successful Partner.

Answer: Unfortunately, we do not have a timeline. It is anticipated that at least one award would be issued by September 30, 2018, but that is not confirmed nor guaranteed.

35. Page 4, Section III, The BAA Process, Stage 4 Award Determination states that Awards under this BAA will be made to the Apparently Successful Partners on the basis of their ability to achieve solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements, based on the evaluation criteria as provided herein. Question: If new USAID-funded opportunities result from the ideas/approaches developed and taken to scale under this BAA, and are incorporated in a program design on a future solicitation, will the Offeror be excluded from bidding on that future solicitation?

Answer: The existence of a conflict of interest on a future competitive procurement cannot be determined at this time and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The incorporation of a contractor's research findings into a future solicitation does not necessarily create an organizational conflict of interest. We recommend reviewing FAR 9.505-1; FAR 9.505-2 and consulting with counsel if this is of concern.

36. Should proposals be for one country only, or is there interest from USAID to support projects with a multi-country / regional scope?

Answer: This BAA is interested in innovative approaches at both the country and regional levels.

37. What is the (typical) phase / project duration?

Answer: At this time, the answer is unknown, however typical projects resulting from a BAA have been one to three years in length. Sometimes they have been up to five years in duration. See answer to Question 33.

38. Should EOI / proposals be limited to the 12 target countries, or will proposed solutions for other countries be considered, too?

Answer: Please see answer to Question 9.