

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL FOR LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS ON NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY IN SENEGAL

[Feed the Future Senegal Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture]

ADDENDUM #15 TO

LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT APS No.: 7200AA19APS00007

APPLICANTS - PLEASE NOTE: This is an addendum to an existing announcement. All interested organizations must carefully review both this addendum AND the full announcement, which can be found here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>
Important information contained in the full worldwide announcement is not repeated in this specific addendum.

This program is authorized in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Through this Addendum to the Locally Led Development Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 7200AA19APS00007 USAID/Senegal is making a special call to local actors for the submission of concepts focused on Feed the Future (FTF) Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture in Senegal. The deadline for concept submissions is May 15, 2023.

Despite progress in nutrition in Senegal over the past decade, most women of reproductive age and children under five years old still do not consume food year-round that is safe, diverse, and nutritious. The FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Activity aims to leverage public and local private sector investments to improve the diet adequacy of women of reproductive age and children under five.

Up to three estimated 5-year awards will be made at approximately \$2,000,000 each, beginning on or around October 1, 2023.

The Locally Led Development APS and this addendum have been translated into French at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>. If there are discrepancies between the English language version and the local language version(s) of either document, the English language version will control.

Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the Locally Led Development APS apply (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>).

Section 1: Background

Over the past decade, USAID/Senegal has worked closely with the Government of Senegal (GOS) to empower women and to increase women's and children's availability and access to nutrient-dense foods. Such efforts have contributed to Senegal's progress in reducing stunting and anemia in women of reproductive age from 72% in 2010 to approximately 49% present day. Yet, one of the top nutrition concerns still burdening the country is micronutrient deficiency, including iron, vitamin A, and zinc, affecting 60% of children under five years old and 54% of women of reproductive age. Deficiencies are partly attributed to diets that don't provide sufficient micronutrients. In Senegal, only 20% of children aged 6-23 months meet the minimum dietary diversity score, and 31% meet the minimum meal frequency score.

Food insecurity, yearly “hunger seasons”, gender disparities, and a lack of investment in nutrition from the private sector contribute to the current state of nutrition in women and children. Women generally have lower incomes and decision-making power at home, yet also have heavy demands on their time and labor. These factors constrain women's abilities to adopt essential nutrition practices for themselves and their children.

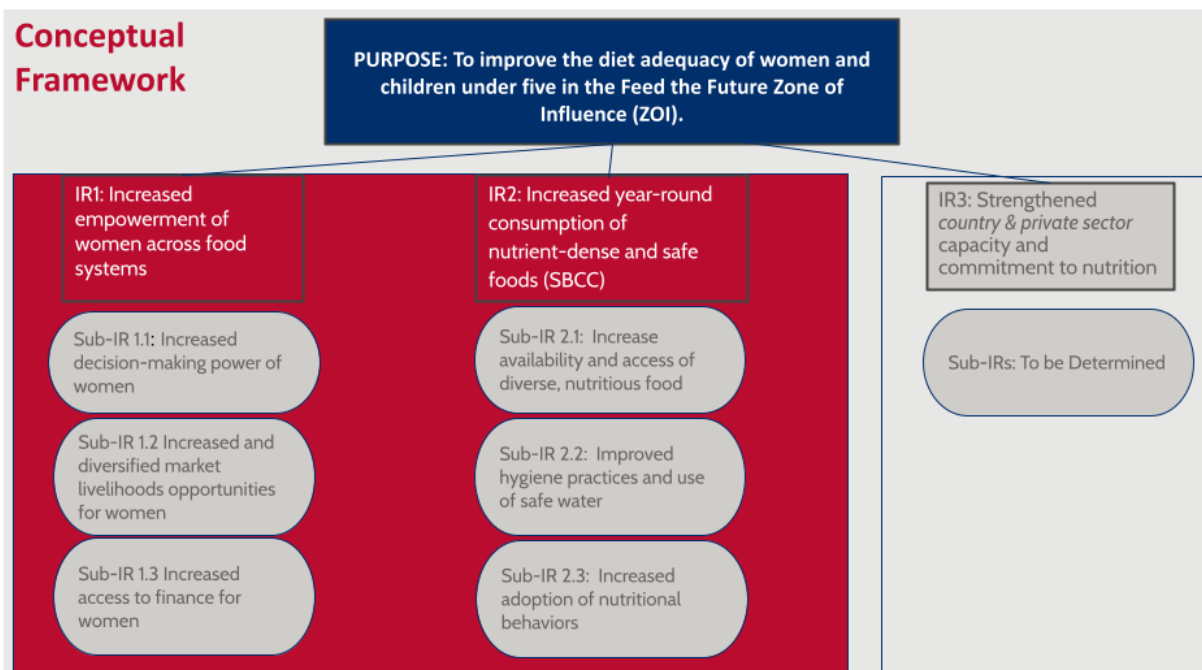
Since 2010, USAID has implemented FTF programming to help improve nutrition and food security in Senegal. USAID/Senegal's FTF Yaajeende project focused on improving the economic and nutritional status of the very poor in four rural regions of Senegal using a holistic food systems strategy. Following Yaajeende, Senegal's FTF Kawolor (Cultivating Nutrition) project increased the consumption of diverse, safe, and nutritious food for women of reproductive age and children under two years of age by: a) sustainably increasing the availability of diverse, nutritious, safe foods throughout the year; b) increasing access for these women of reproductive age and children under two years old to diverse, safe, and nutritious food; and c) increasing adoption of good nutrition and care practices. Both projects employed a Nutrition-Led Agriculture (NLA) approach, which promotes improved production, trade, and local consumption of nutritious foods.

Additionally, the GOS has substantially increased its resources and coordination for nutrition over the past years; however, there remain opportunities to work with the local private sector and other development partners to advance this work. Building synergies for nutrition between the GOS and local actors will lead to mutually beneficial outcomes and sustainable results. Private sector engagement in nutrition can also create more opportunities for women to increase their incomes while producing foods that support the diet adequacy of consumers.

The new FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Activity intends to build on the results of USAID/Senegal's FTF and GOS programming by working with local actors to develop new solutions to improving nutrition in Senegal. The Theory of Change for this new FTF nutrition agriculture Activity is: IF women are empowered socially and economically across food systems; and IF local government and private sector advance nutrition policy; and IF consumption of nutrient-dense and safe foods are promoted, THEN the diet adequacy of women of reproductive age, adolescents, and children under five in the Feed the Future Zone of Influence (ZOI) will improve.

Section 2: Objectives

USAID is committed to improving nutrition in Senegal by prioritizing programs that strengthen the country's capacity, reinforce local governance and mobilize domestic resources. For results to sustain, one needs to engage the local system as a whole - government, civil society, and the private sector - focusing on local actors, their interrelationships, and the incentives that guide them. Local ownership and local systems are the foundation for sustainable development and self-reliance. Local partners often possess the capability, connectedness, and credibility to drive change in their own countries and communities. By shifting to more local leadership, ownership, decision-making, and implementation, USAID programming will be able to meet the challenges women and children face more effectively.



The purpose of this APS addendum is to improve the diet adequacy of women and children under five in the Senegal Feed the Future Zone of Influence through two Intermediate Results:

IR:1: Increased empowerment of women across food systems

Since women are often the primary caretakers in a household, women's empowerment is considered a means to improving child nutrition through increased decision-making power and allocation of resources for the education and health of their family. Under this component, the Activity must build on work done by other FTF Senegal activities and develop appropriate mechanisms to:

- increase the decision-making power of women;
- increase and diversify market-livelihood opportunities for women;
- increase access to finance for women.

IR2: Increase year-round consumption of nutrient-dense and safe foods

Many households in Senegal lack the means to grow or buy sufficient quantities of nutritious foods and also experience hardships during the hunger season. Also, many families do not have access to resources to know how to improve hygiene and nutrition. Under this component, the Activity must develop appropriate mechanisms to:

- increase availability and access of diverse, nutritious foods;
- improve hygiene practices and use of safe water;
- increase adoption of nutritional behaviors.

Awarded local organizations must work closely with the other local partners implementing USAID programming to achieve IR1 and IR2 and also with the implementing partner of IR3, which will focus on strengthening country and private sector capacity and commitment to nutrition.

Local actors are not required to propose a fully designed Activity for this addendum -- a concept that suggests a process to identify and then act on solutions from the local context is fully within the intent of the Locally Led Development APS.

Geographic Target:

The Activity must work within the USAID/Senegal Zone of Influence (ZOI), focusing mainly on rural and peri-urban areas. The Activity must start with a manageable geographic scope and scale up as experience and opportunity allow. The Activity must support work or overlay with other projects in Senegal where there are opportunities for supporting agriculture value chains and other target commodities, community organizations, and nutritionally-beneficial agribusinesses. The target areas cover eight administrative regions (Saint Louis, Matam, Fatick, Kaolack, Kaffrine, Ziguinchor, Sedhiou, and Kolda). These regions cover diverse agricultural production systems fundamental to the country's food security and hold high potential for agriculture development. The deciding factor for area selection and expansion should be the nutritional needs of Senegalese women and children.

Up to three separate awards will be made by geographic areas. The local partner must submit a concept specific to one or more of three zones:

- 1) Casamance - Ziguinchor, Sedhiou, and Kolda;
- 2) Senegal River Valley - Saint Louis, Matam;
- 3) Central Region - Fatick, Kaolack, and Kaffrine.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL):

All FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture activities shall embed an evidence-based approach as defined in [ADS Chapter 201](#). Targets are undefined as they depend heavily on the applicant's proposed implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and learning approach. Therefore, the applicant should present targets that best match their proposed approach toward achieving the expected results. (See Merit Review Criterion A on Local Ownership, Leadership, and Relevance to Local Priorities and B on Locally Led Development Approach and Impact, which speak to learning and adaptation).

Possible Indicators include:

1. Percentage of female direct beneficiaries of USG nutrition- sensitive agriculture activities consuming a diet of minimum diversity.
2. Percent of children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet.
3. Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding of children under six months of age.
4. Number of private sector entities engaging in an activity that advances the nutrition of women and children.
5. Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources.
6. Number of children under five (0-59 months) reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported nutrition activities
7. Number of children under two (0-23 months) reached with community-level nutrition interventions through USG-supported programs

8. Number of pregnant women reached with nutrition-specific interventions through USG-supported programs

Guiding Principles:

The implementation approach of FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Activity shall adhere to the guiding principles elaborated below. Every element of the Activity should contribute to empowering women.

- Applicants are encouraged to think holistically about sustainability, and concept notes shall describe how FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture will continue beyond USAID funding (see Merit Review Criterion C on Strengthening Local Capacity). USAID expects FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture to leverage community resources and cost-share as appropriate.
- Activities shall embed [Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation](#) (CLA) throughout implementation with continuous engagement between women and communities being central to systematically monitoring, tracking, and reporting on expected outcomes. FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture will drive a learning-focused, innovative, and adaptive implementation strategy. (See Merit Review Criterion A on Local Ownership, Leadership, and Relevance to Local Priorities).
- FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture **must** consider approaches that encourage gender equity and reduce gender-related barriers to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. (See Merit Criterion B on Locally Led Development Approach and Impact).
- Additionally, FTF Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture must incorporate activities that build resilience to climate change, in line with [USAID's Climate Strategy](#). Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities and increases the vulnerability of women and youth. A successful approach to climate programming recognizes these populations as leaders with knowledge and skills vital to addressing the climate crisis, taking into account the gender and social norms that shape the lived realities of people, examining the gendered power dynamics that dictate access to and control over resources, and ensuring that climate solutions do not exacerbate inequalities or lead to unintended consequences. (See Merit Criterion B on Locally Led Development Approach and Impact).

Section 3: Minimum Requirements for Concept Submissions

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants:

1. Must be local actors in Senegal. When determining if an entity is a "local actor" for the purposes of this APS, USAID will consider:
 - a. Whether the entity is legally organized under the laws of Senegal;
 - b. Whether the entity has its principal place of business or operations in Senega];
 - c. Whether the entity is majority owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Senegal; and
 - d. Whether the entity is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Senegal.

2. Cannot have received more than \$5 million in direct funding from USAID in the past five years.
3. Cannot be a U.S.-based organization. U.S.-based organizations are not eligible as prime awardees under this APS.

Locally Led Development Approaches

Concepts **must incorporate one or more** of the following approaches, or propose a different approach(es) that reflects the Applicant's own locally led development learning goals.

1. **Feedback mechanisms** that improve the flow of information among local constituents, partners, and USAID to improve program effectiveness and to strengthen accountability to local constituents for achieving and sustaining results.
2. **Systems-based analytical approaches**, which may allow us to better understand the complex environments in which we operate.
3. **Participatory decision-making**, which includes locally led priority-setting, collaborative design, and other means of shifting decision-making power and control to local actors and ensuring inclusive local leadership.
4. **Mobilizing local resources**, which includes community philanthropy; partnerships that leverage resources from the local private sector, faith-based organizations, government, civil society, and academia; and other sources of local skills and finances to replace those of international donors.
5. **Strengthening local networks**, which may include understanding and supporting existing and emerging networks of local actors, supporting the work of local organizations, market facilitation, collective action, collective impact, and other demand-driven approaches to connecting local needs with local resources.
6. **Locally led approaches to design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning** that prioritize local definitions of success and enhance local actors' role in managing and using data and learning related to development solutions, the development process, and the sustainability of results achieved.
7. **Supporting strategic transitions**, which includes strengthening the role of local institutions and actors to sustain development outcomes with an eye toward ending the need for foreign assistance.
8. **Locally led development in non-permissive environments**, which allows us to better understand how local actors adaptively manage and find creative ways of advancing local development objectives in complex environments where uncertainty, instability, inaccessibility, or insecurity constrain USAID's ability to operate safely and effectively. This may include environments such as those affected by natural disasters, inaccessible physical geographies, active conflict, corruption, closing political spaces, criminality, and pandemics, where local approaches are essential for long-term resilience and sustainability.

For further information on USAID's Locally Led Development Initiatives and locally led development approaches, please visit the [Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships Hub website](#).

Local Resources

USAID encourages applicants to propose opportunities for cost share and leverage. Applicants should consider what resources their organization can contribute or leverage from other local actors

to demonstrate strong local support for proposed approaches during and after the life of the award. This should include securing appropriate in-kind resources from the communities identified in their Geographic Focus.

Cost share may include cash, in-kind resources, or a combination of the two. In-kind resources include, but are not limited to, services, property, goods, staff time, and intellectual property. For more information on eligible cost share sources, please refer to the requirements of [2 CFR 200.306](#).

Leverage includes resources that the awardee brings to the partnership, which otherwise would not have been accessible. It can consist of anything measurable value, including financial contributions, third-party contributions, donated services or property, or intellectual property. Leverage cannot be audited. More information on the difference between cost share and leverage is available [here](#).

Award Amount Considerations

As part of their concept submissions, applicants must propose a budget that reasonably reflects their existing resources and capacity to grow and provide justification for this. It is not USAID's intention to temporarily flood a local organization with funding that artificially expands its size beyond what can reasonably be sustained through local resources after an award ends.

Section 4: Merit Review Criteria

Concepts meeting the minimum requirements will be evaluated based on the criteria below:

A. Local Ownership, Leadership, and Relevance to Local Priorities

The Applicant demonstrates a strong understanding of the local context and is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the people they serve. The proposed strategy substantively responds to local priorities or demonstrates a way to determine local priorities before beginning implementation. The proposed strategy and any teaming arrangements effectively shift the locus of development priority setting and response to local actors. The Applicant demonstrates a strong commitment to learning that advances the practice of locally led development for themselves, their constituents, and the wider development community.

B. Locally Led Development Approach and Impact

The proposed strategy lays out a logical path for utilizing a locally led development approach(es) to achieve anticipated results. The Applicant demonstrates a commitment to adaptive management in response to shifting local realities as they carry out the proposed strategy. The proposed strategy integrates issues of gender equality and female empowerment through program design, implementation, and staffing in accordance with [USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy](#). The proposed strategy incorporates activities that build resilience to climate change, in line with [USAID's Climate Strategy](#).

C. Strengthening Local Capacity

The Applicant presents a clear explanation for how their strategy will lead to sustainability of results. USAID's investment in this work is expected to strengthen capacity of local organizations, networks, and/or communities to deliver results beyond the end of the funded activities.

In addition, the following evaluation criteria specific to USAID/Senegal will be used:

D. Private Sector Engagement

The applicant demonstrates their ability to align interests and build partnerships with the private sector, which includes, but is not limited to, cooperatives, financial entities, business associations, small and medium enterprises, corporate foundations, etc. The successful applicant must illustrate that their technical approach is sustainable beyond the award period, seeking market-based solutions that demonstrate a business interest from the private sector to support initiatives in a sustainable way including where possible bringing additional resource leveraging. This includes the extent to which proposed activities are likely to be adopted and/or scaled up by partners, according to the [USAID PSE Policy](#).

E. Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy

The proposed strategy lays out a logical path for utilizing [USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy](#) approach(es) to achieve anticipated results. The applicant also demonstrates an understanding of women and child constraints to improving nutrition in Senegal and describes an approach to improve minimum dietary diversity and increase women's economic empowerment.

Proposed concepts must be consistent with USAID's legal and policy restrictions, including those outlined in USAID's Automated Directives System and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

While merit criteria are paramount, cost considerations may also be a factor for the award. The U.S. Government is not obligated to make an award based on the lowest proposed cost or to the applicant with the highest merit evaluation score.

Section 5: Concept Format and Submission Instructions

Concepts are to be sent to USAID/Senegal] at dakaregosolicitations@usaid.gov. Concepts must be submitted by May 15, 2023 to be considered.

Concepts must be submitted as:

- A concept paper not exceeding five pages in total length

Concepts must be submitted in English or French.

Applicants must provide the following information in concept submissions:

A. SUMMARY INFORMATION

1. Name and contact information of Applicant
2. Organization type and country of legal registration
3. Statement that the Applicant has not received more than \$5 million in direct funding from USAID in the past five years
4. Title of proposed Activity
5. Location of proposed Activity
6. Name, contact information, and country of legal registration for other partner organizations collaborating on concept (if any)
7. Name of the USAID OU to which this concept is submitted
8. Overall objective of Activity (1-2 sentences)

9. Brief description of the locally led development approaches included in the proposed Activity (1-2 sentences)
10. Brief description of the approach to local resources included in the proposed Activity, if applicable (1-2 sentences)
11. Amount of funding requested from USAID \$ _____
12. Explanation of how the requested funding amount reasonably reflects the organization's existing resources and capacity to grow

B. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Successful narrative descriptions will include a discussion of the components below. Please note that each component aligns with a specific merit review criterion.

Local Ownership, Leadership, and Relevance to Local Priorities:

- How do local people experience the challenge(s) that the concept addresses, and what is important to them? How do you know?
- How will local actors, including any partners, lead priority setting and response?
- How will your strategy enable and share learning to advance the practice of locally led development? With whom?

Locally Led Development Approach and Impact:

- What is your strategy for addressing the challenge(s)?
- How will your locally led development approach(es) and activities lead to expected results?
- How will you adapt your strategy based on what you are learning during implementation, especially when realities shift in the local context?
- How does your strategy integrate gender equality and female empowerment?
- How does your strategy integrate climate change resilience?

Strengthening Local Capacity

- How do you define sustainability of results of your strategy? What will this look like in local communities?
- How does your strategy strengthen the capacity of local organizations, networks, and/or communities to deliver results beyond the end of the funded activities?

Private Sector Engagement

- What is your strategy for building partnerships with and leveraging funds from the private sector?
- How will your private sector engagement strategy ensure the project is sustainable beyond the award period?

Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy

- What are the main constraints to improve women and children's nutrition in Senegal and how will you address them?
- What approach will you use to improve minimum dietary diversity and increase women's economic empowerment?

Section 6: Concept Review Process and Co-Creation

USAID/Senegal is responsible for the review process and management of any awards issued under this Addendum.

USAID/Senegal will confirm receipt of the concept within one week of submission.

If selected to co-create an Activity with USAID/Senegal, the Applicant will be contacted by an Agreement Officer (AO) from USAID/Senegal and given instructions for the co-creation period and pre-award requirements. Applicants not selected to advance will also be notified.

USAID/Senegal may also review all concepts and decide to invite selected Applicants to enter a period of multi-stakeholder co-creation, in which they will collaborate on and refine approach(es) with one another and USAID for award consideration.

Prior to award, USAID/Senegal and the Applicant must have significant interaction in-person, via phone, and/or electronically to co-create the Activity.

The subsequent steps in the award process can be found in Section 7: Concept Submission Instructions and Next Steps for Applicants of the Locally Led Development APS. Section 10, Federal Award Information of the Locally Led Development APS includes the requirements that an applicant must meet if they are requested to co-create an Activity and receive an award from USAID. **Please note that these requirements do not have to be met in order to submit a concept under the APS.**

Section 7: Sharing of Concepts

If USAID identifies opportunities to strengthen or fund a concept or application by connecting it with other USAID mechanisms, other potential funders, and/or external partners, USAID may make that concept or application available internally or externally for appropriate consideration.

Section 8: Questions and Further Assistance

Questions regarding this addendum may be directed to dakaregosolicitations@usaid.gov.

For additional information regarding guidelines and procedures to submit a concept, please refer to the Locally Led Development APS, which can be found at the following website:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>