



Issue Date: July 15, 2020

Deadline for Question: July 29, 2020 (2 weeks from issue date)

Closing Date: **August 21, 2020** (5 weeks from issue date)

Closing Time: 17:00 Abidjan, CDI Local Time

Subject: Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 72062420RFA00002

Program Title: Strengthening Community Resilience and Learning in Côte d'Ivoire's Border Areas to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) / Resilience for Peace (R4P)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 98.001

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a cooperative agreement from qualified entities to implement the *Strengthening Community Resilience and Learning in Côte d'Ivoire's Border Areas to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE)* also known as *Resilience for Peace (R4P)* Activity. Eligibility for this award is not restricted.

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

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

USAID may not award to an applicant unless the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) requirements detailed in Section D.6.f. The registration process may take many weeks to complete. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to begin registration early in the process.

Please send any questions to the point(s) of contact identified in Section D. 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,

//s//

Karla Camp
Agreement Officer

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SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

1. INTRODUCTION:

Côte d’Ivoire is receiving unprecedented attention from the U.S. Government (USG) at this moment due to the rise and spread of violent extremism (VE) across the Maghreb-Sahel region of Africa, with ongoing terrorist activities in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, and Algeria. Violent extremists’ attacks in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have more than doubled every year for the past five years according to the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. USAID West Africa states in its *Coastal Violent Extremism Risk and Resilience Assessment*: “As observers of the evolution and spread of VE over the past few years, a natural question is: how susceptible are coastal West African countries to VE spreading into their borders? What are the key risk factors? And what mitigation measures could the US Government and USAID take now to build these countries’ resiliencies to VE?”

At the same time, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire (GOCI) has emerged as a partner committed to improving regional stability in the fight against terrorism witnessed by the recent doubling of the Ivorian security contingent seconded to Mali for United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations. They have committed to building state and local structures to reinforce military, diplomatic, and development efforts to counter violent extremist organizations’ (VEOs) asymmetric warfare, violent extremist organization (VEO) efforts to amplify local frustrations and inter-communal conflict and increase disenchantment against the state. Regional leaders have called for more international support to fight against VEOs in coastal states. The conclusions of multiple strategies are clear that social cohesion, robust governance, conflict mitigation, and learning are imperative to determine which state and community actions may be able to mitigate VE in countries where it is an emerging threat.

In this context, USAID seeks applications for a new activity entitled: ***Strengthening Community Resilience and Learning in Côte d’Ivoire’s Border Areas to Counter Violent Extremism*** also known as ***Resilience for Peace - R4P***. This award will focus on preventing the spill-over of VE from the Sahel into Côte d’Ivoire’s northern border areas.

This activity will be the principal conflict mitigation and resilience program of a portfolio of Democracy and Governance (DG) awards that together constitute USAID’s Political Inclusion and Accountability (PIA) for Côte d’Ivoire. The other activities under the PIA project that complement the R4P activity include the Political Transition and Inclusion activity particularly sub-purpose two addressing post-conflict grievances in high-risk marginalized areas, and the Accountability for Development activity that will improve the delivery and accessibility of basic public services for women and youth in the north and the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) implemented by EISA. These efforts are designed to directly contribute to a key goal of USAID/Côte d’Ivoire’s PIA: Increase citizens’ confidence in the government and of the Integrated Country Strategy.

USAID anticipates making \$19.5 million available for this award over a five-year period of performance, subject to availability of funds. This award will include an opportunity fund for \$2.5 million (included in the \$19.5), plug figure, which will encourage flexibility, adaptation, and possible scale-up and expansion of interventions depending on the changing circumstances regarding CVE in Côte d’Ivoire. If additional

resources become available, the opportunity fund will be increased to leverage lessons-learned from USAID's CVE investments through existing bilateral and regional CVE programming in West Africa, Senegal, and the Office of Transition Initiatives. The fund will be used to provide support for Objective 2 and 3 within the scope of the existing activity. Should the opportunity fund be triggered by USAID, the implementer will rapidly submit to USAID a comprehensive proposal and budget responding to the specific requirements of the funding. The opportunity fund will require specific approval from the Agreement Officer.

As part of the technical approach and flexibility and adaptation in implementation, the implementer will be evaluated on how their technical application shows how the partner can rapidly mobilize resources and respond to changing CVE priorities, including scale-up of interventions, to capitalize on opportunities during program implementation.

2. BACKGROUND:

Despite impressive economic growth, Côte d'Ivoire's peace and democracy remain fragile. A peaceful transfer of power from one elected president to another in October 2020 would be a first for the country. Many Ivoirians are unable to fully participate in democratic processes and institutions, and of those who do participate, many do not believe their voices are heard by decision-makers. Women and youth feel marginalized by exclusionary practices such as regional inequality and discrimination in the leadership of political parties. Political elites affiliated with the government and their supporters are often perceived to have a lock on access to socio-economic opportunities. An IMF report for 2019, states that "Despite an impressive recovery following a decade of civil conflict and crisis, in many social and business indicators the economy continues to lag behind its peers". The IMF report noted important shortfalls that put further growth at risk. "The country needs to foster private enterprise and investment and bring the shadow economy into the light by improving transparency and tackling corruption. The government must take steps to support emerging sectors that spur sustainable inclusive growth." Government efforts to promote reconciliation and security sector reform and to resolve underlying post-conflict disputes have not met citizen expectations. Mutual distrust among Ivoirians and citizen disaffection with the state was manifested throughout 2018 and 2019 as violence during tense local elections, continuing strikes by students and public education-sector employees, mutinies within the security services, and intermittent local inter-community conflicts.

Interlocking social, religious, ethnic and regional differences, exacerbated by partisan and inflammatory media, create increased vulnerabilities to violent extremism (such as the 2016 terrorist attack in Grand-Bassam) and political violence (as witnessed during the recent 2018 local elections). More recently, discontent from unemployed, disgruntled ex-combatants, the availability of small arms and light weapons, drugs, and unexplored gold mines are increased risk factors. Grievances in local communities over poor local governance, youth and women unemployment, and unequal access to natural resources and basic social services such as justice security health and education, and inter-communal conflicts can exacerbate prevailing vulnerabilities and transform these communities into areas of support for criminals or violent extremists, many of whom are increasingly very active in the neighboring countries of Mali and Burkina Faso, with which Côte d'Ivoire shares porous borders.

Côte d'Ivoire's standing vis-à-vis gender indicators and youth are low. The United Nations Human Development Report ranks Côte d'Ivoire 155 of 160 countries on its gender inequality index. The same report states that less than 10 percent of women have access to land ownership in Côte d'Ivoire, while they are responsible for 75 percent of basic food production. Gender-based violence, including female

genital mutilation is an “everyday reality,” with survivors facing logistical, societal, and security challenges should they seek justice. At the same time, there is a high level of under-age pregnancies (one out of three adolescents according to the OECD 2017) which impact a girl’s opportunity for secondary education. Enrolment rates for girls are less than those for boys and the quality of education at the primary level is weak especially in rural areas. At the same time, while youth represent 75 percent of the population, youth are confronted with several challenges. While there has been progress according to a 2017 OECD report on youth in Côte d’Ivoire related to youth civic engagement and social capital; however, youth remain poorly educated and often unemployed.

3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Social Context:

Local grievances from the post-electoral conflict have yet to be fully resolved. A USAID Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG) Assessment conducted in 2015 and subsequent analysis and field visits in the north in 2019 identified lingering issues related to stability in Côte d’Ivoire. The analysis found that, in spite of the rapid restoration and extension of state authority following the 2011 post-electoral crisis in areas such as infrastructure development and institution building, the government continues to face significant challenges on the performance of the regime and delivery of tangible benefits for local populations which are frustrated by the poor quality of public services, especially education and justice provided by their government. Massive gaps between the wealthy and poor, urban and rural populations are prevalent. The gap between urban and rural citizens, adults and youth, women and men is widening in part due to rapid demographic changes and climate change leading to frustrations at all levels. The continued and sustained marginalization of women and youth becomes only more pronounced as each year passes without measurable change. In remote, border regions, such as Tchologo and Bounkani where poverty levels (65.6% and 61.8%, respectively) far outstrip the national averages, these dynamics are even more salient, reliable and qualitative public service delivery all-but- nonexistent.

There is a continued disconnect between citizens and government hinged around the political elections in 2020. There remain concerns about the credibility and intentions of those operating in the political sphere. Apathy and frustration across the board by citizens and civil society exist, while government officials at the national level were often unaware of the reasons for the underlying tensions. In addition, lack of political participation of citizens and politicization of civil society organizations, particularly among youth and women, is a symptom of inherent mistrust and general apathy with politics. According to the latest National Democratic Institute (NDI) ‘s study published in 2017 on women political participation, women are generally not interested in politics because of cultural and social barriers. Women do not feel empowered to vote nor to run as candidates. The comparative analysis of women and men political participation in the elected assemblies shows that since 1966, women have never achieved the minimum number of elected officials -- 15 percent -- as required by law. In 2016, 29 women were elected as members of parliament (MP). They represent 14% of the MPs. At the local government level, women never reached 5% of the local elected since independence in 1960. Fewer women are elected for local officials position because of lingering socio-political and cultural barriers within the community. This is an indication of the historical trends of women's weak political participation in the country from local to national levels.

Marginalized populations in some geographic areas, continue to suffer from lack of equitable and fair access to government services and natural resource management. Poverty is increasing in some areas and the social climate is fragmented. Inter-communal conflicts linked to land, farmer/herder issues and/or deforestation and rising ethnic tensions in some areas is a challenge. In addition, the exclusion of youth, combined with their apathy towards participation in political activities, threatens the long-term political

and economic development in the country (only 1 in 6 youth voted in previous elections).¹ The 2020 elections will provide a real window of opportunity to engage constructively youth who are coming of age and have never voted.

Political Context:

Afrobarometer 2017 survey data ‘Demand for Democracy in Africa’ shows that the average African prefers democracy. Results reveal in particular that Africa favors a change in regime as a manifestation of a sound democracy. Côte d’Ivoire has had a rough path towards consolidating its democracy. The current political environment is marked by a political crisis that is not conducive to peaceful elections in 2020. President Ouattara’s majority party RDR and former President Bedie’s political party PDCI officially split in July 2018 over presenting a single candidate for the 2020 presidential elections on behalf of their coalition. In addition, Guillaume Soro, the former el leader who sided with President Ouattara over President Laurent Gbagbo during the post electoral crisis, resigned as President of the National Assembly in early 2019. The October 2018 local elections were marred with electoral violence, suspicions of fraud, voter intimidation, destruction of ballot boxes and results tampering. The UN Needs Assessment Mission that concluded its visit to Côte d’Ivoire in November and December 2019 underscored the lack of political dialogue and consensus and the narrowing of political space; as the GOCI continues to reinforce the executive branch, conducting arrests on individuals, including through the use of other branches of government such as the National Assembly and Justice sector. Seven (7) months before the Presidential election there are only a few declared candidates. The political climate is polarized.

Security Context:

Given an environment in which social grievances persists, and in which the political situation is further polarized provides opportunities for VEOs to exploit these pockets of frustration among the population especially in local communities. The VE risk in Côte d’Ivoire is posed by the potential contagious threat related to terrorists’ activity in Burkina Faso and Mali as well as by the fragility in Côte d’Ivoire current socio-economic and political situation.

In Mali and Burkina, the number of attacks in the past year have doubled and the number of IDPs continue to escalate well above 500,000 for the region. As of February 2020, the UNHCR estimated that there were 765,517 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Burkina Faso and 207,751 in Mali ² In the past year, there has been a rise in attacks across the northern border areas of Côte d’Ivoire. A precipitous rise in violence and jihadist attacks in Mali and Burkina Faso (BF) in the past two years poses a direct threat to peace and security in Côte d’Ivoire. On March 31, three civilians were killed in Yendéré, a town less than five miles from the border between BF and Côte d’Ivoire. The speed at which the violence is spreading has sparked fear and exacerbated community tensions. Although, there is a lack of substantial data about the rates of gender-based violence by extremist groups. GOCI sources indicate approximately 30% of gender-based violence across the country targeted women, including in the northern borders communities. As a matter, in the northern parts of the country, lack of social service to handle GBV issues is an outstanding challenge. Populations in these areas worry that the 2016 terrorist attack in Grand Bassam near Abidjan, coupled with a rise in attacks in BF and Mali, signal that this recent wave of violence could rapidly cross into Côte d’Ivoire. A year ago, the border area of Tengréla in Côte d’Ivoire was used as a launching pad to carry-out a devastating attack in Mali. Around the same time, the leader of Al Qaeda called on his compatriots in various capitals, including Abidjan, to take up arms against the infidels.

¹ USAID DRG Assessment, 2015

² <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/malisituation>

A number of risk and vulnerability factors are more pronounced and easier to be exploited in these isolated northern border or marginalized areas. A 2018 European Union assessment on the risk factors to VE and a 2020 USAID West Africa Coastal States Assessment identified increased social inequality and the feeling of marginalization (social), ungoverned spaces and the lack of governance (political) and economic opportunities (economic), and lack of social services, including security as VE risk factors in Côte d'Ivoire.

Local authorities have stated in several field visits with USAID in 2019 that the isolation of traditionally Muslim Peuhl communities lends itself to the infiltration of extremist elements. Widespread human and drug trafficking, as well as significant deposits of gold and bauxite are exploited by a variety of criminal groups, who also take advantage of the porous borders. The GOCI is nearly absent in many of these ungoverned areas and has so far failed to address the high rates of inequality and poverty. Border communities tell USAID that they look towards BF/Mali for basic social services on the other side of the border; for example, residents of Ouangolodougou often cross into BF for medical services.

There is little access to drinking water and electricity. Schools in these areas are under extreme stress, both because of recent teacher strikes as well as an influx of Burkinabé (and to a lesser extent Malian) school children which places undue strain particularly on adolescents. These children make the trek across the border because their parents are no longer able to send their girls to schools in areas beset by jihadist activity. As the conflict spreads in BF and Mali, the resources of these border communities are becoming increasingly stretched, and scarce. Local security services are poorly equipped, leaving the burden of security in the hands of traditional hunters ("Dozos") who serve as local militia groups when their communities are threatened.

Côte d'Ivoire is a diverse and religiously accepting country and could act as a bulwark against extremism in the region. Côte d'Ivoire could play a larger regional role as a leader, particularly on CVE; however, it is still dealing with unresolved domestic security issues. A 2016 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessment stated that: "Côte d'Ivoire has been a victim of the growing regional presence of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). AQIM claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack in Grand Bassam that killed 19 people in March 2016."³ A terrorist cell was dismantled in 2019.

Mali's and BF's paths toward greater stability, security, and development are at best far-off. As violence continues and expands in these areas, and with increased border-threats, Côte d'Ivoire is well positioned to address regional security threats. The intelligence unit of the GOCI (CNR) has drafted an action plan on counter-terrorism: the government has significantly increased security forces in the past few months along the border areas; increased its sensitization efforts with local security actors in those areas; and have conducted research on religious establishments in the country. The GOCI have 800 forces deployed to Mali and have increased security along Côte d'Ivoire's border. The GOCI is actively participating in the Accra Initiative with other Coastal countries to prevent and counter VE.

Development Gap:

The United States enjoys a positive relationship with the GOCI. USAID is the largest donor of non-military assistance on CVE in Côte d'Ivoire. The US Embassy, through the Department of State (DOS) is working in border areas and Bouaké to increase the use of community policing methods by local security forces. While USAID through its PTI program, is fostering dialogue and forging linkages between security forces from the DOS program and citizens at the community level to increase citizen confidence. PTI activities also bolster community cohesion in at-risk areas and support citizen demands for more inclusive and responsive governance and political discourse and increasing moderate voices for youth and women on violent extremism in the PTI intervention areas. USAID/West Africa conducted a CVE

³ Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, USAID 2016

assessment in-country in 2019 that will inform R4P. International partners working on CVE focus mainly on the security threat. Morocco is training imams from all parts of the country on moderate Islam. The UN and European Union recently conducted two separate research analyses on extremist threats in Côte d'Ivoire, and the EU has launched three new activities on CVE. The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) is conducting country diagnostics which will be shared with donor partners in April 2020.

Current efforts however do not sufficiently address the push/pull risk factors for communities in northern border areas including youth women and girls' vulnerability in those border areas where inequality lags behind the rest of the country. In the context of approaching competitive and possibly contentious 2020 elections, rising social tensions and increased inter-communal conflict; lack of equitable and fair government services, and a rising threat from Burkina Faso and Mali; the window of opportunity to increase the resilience of these communities is ripe now particularly as the approaching threat is already having repercussions on Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in the north eastern part of the country which has been designated as a red zone according to the French.

COMPLEXITY AWARE THEORY OF CHANGE

The theory of change will be adapted based on the complexity aware monitoring and evaluation which will be a prime approach for this activity.

IF

Knowledge learning and understanding of communities in the northern border areas of Côte d'Ivoire around VE is increased

AND

Actors at multiple levels (state, national, community) are empowered to interact with each other and take action to deal with VE threats in northern border community areas related to the spill-over in Mali and Burkina Faso

THEN

Border communities will better know and understand the threats of VE which will enable them to have the tools required to strengthen their community resilience to take actions to address the spill-over from the Sahel conflict into Côte d'Ivoire.

4. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER USG PROGRAMS (OR AGENCIES?), GOVERNMENT OF Côte d'Ivoire, AND DONOR STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES

Relationship to USAID Strategies and Initiatives

R4P's goals and objectives are tied to USAID's larger vision to achieve significant outcomes in stability governance and resilience in Côte d'Ivoire. The multi-sectoral approach that targets research and socio-economic and political grievances will have catalyzing effects to ensure resilience in northern border communities in which other USAID activities are active. At the same time, R4P should draw upon lesson-learned from Sahel CVE programming in addition to ongoing DRG activities in Côte d'Ivoire, that can support its goal. While the Political Transition and Inclusion program has CVE activities, lessons learned from PTI will be integrated into R4P. The Accountability for Development award will also need to collaborate with R4P.

The R4P activity aligns with the USG ICS Mission Goal 1: Côte d'Ivoire strengthens governance, enhancing stability, transparency, and responsiveness to citizen needs and Mission Objective 1.1: Côte d'Ivoire increases inclusive political participation and strengthens democratic institutions mission objectives. R4P activity aims at increasing the resilience of communities in Northern Côte d'Ivoire by reducing the appeal of VEOs, reducing marginalization and inequality through inter-communal dialogue, providing space for dialogue between local officials and citizens and empowering women through targeted coaching and economic entrepreneurship activities. R4P will contribute directly to ICS Mission Goal 1 of strengthening (local) governance, enhancing stability and responsiveness to citizen's needs.

USAID West Africa Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCS) identifies violent extremism as the top regional security risk. The risk includes countries from the Sahel and coastal states. In this regard, the USAID/West Africa Regional Peace and Governance Office (RPGO) conducted a CVE assessment of five West Africa Coastal States, including Togo, Benin, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea because of the increasing risk of violent extremist activity spreading to these countries. Findings from this assessment will be integrated where appropriate in the R4P design.

USAID/Côte d'Ivoire received \$3.7 million from the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Incentive CVE Funds to counter growing extremist threats along Côte d'Ivoire's border areas by strengthening community resilience in at-risk-areas for women and girls through 1) targeted community dialogue and social cohesion and related activities that build social capital; 2) leveraging of media programming to amplify moderate voices of women and girls to provide examples of positive narratives to increase women influence at the grassroots level; 3) providing assistance to youth and women to build entrepreneurial knowledge, capacity, and skills, which will sustain the creation of bridging and bonding social capital. All of this will diminish intergroup discrimination and conflict, and thus enhance target communities' resilience to violent extremism and intergroup conflict. These WPS funds will be folded into this CVE design as always envisioned and reporting by the successful applicant will need to report on these WPS funds.

USAID also received additional ESF Supplemental resources for COVID support. Of these funds, \$350,000 will support rapid response CVE activities during a short time frame through USAID's award Accountability for Development implemented by Equal Access International. Last but not least, USAID has targeted pilot CVE activities (religious leaders, dialogue) through its Political Transition and Inclusion award implemented by the National Democratic Institute. The applicant will be required to collaborate closely with any ongoing activities so that R4P's activities are complementary and add onto lessons learned from other partners. Since the PTI program will end in 2022, and since all activities under A4D are short term ones, most of the activities of these awards will serve to guide this new R4P award.

Relationship to Government of Côte d'Ivoire Priorities

The Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS - National Security Council) is responsible for developing the overall national defense and security strategy, including the fight against terrorism or violent extremism. However, the National Intelligence Coordination (CNR) oversees the GoCI's strategy for combating terrorism and violent extremism. The CNR in 2015 prepared a draft anti-terrorism law and CVE strategy which is pending approval by the government. The UNDP and the EU are helping the GoCI finalize this policy. Once adopted by the government, the GOCI anti-terrorism and CVE strategy will provide an entry for engagement at the national level when the political climate allows it. R4P will keep abreast of developments on this policy to adapt its programming to new opportunities. Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the African Union which developed and adopted the 1325 National Action Plans (NAM). This activity contributes to the African Union peace and security agenda especially addressing gender-based violence,

conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding activities. Additionally, this activity supports the review of GOCI NAP which has expired in 2012.

The GOCI has engaged strongly on the Accra Initiative which regroups coastal countries' efforts in the fight against violent extremism. R4P will engage as necessary to provide targeted support to these efforts.

Overall, Côte d'Ivoire in 2020 will also develop its new national development plan (Plan National de Développement 2020-2025) PND, the IMF is conducting a study on economic growth in CDI, and the Government is completing a study with the World Bank on poverty. The government has been in discussion with donors about a ten-year development plan. These studies will need to be incorporated into this design's approach.

Donor Supported Initiatives

The European Union has developed three CVE activities to 1) support the development of a national CVE strategy, 2) assist with the reform of the Islamic education system and 3) provide support for the implementation of the national policy to control the illicit traffic in and circulation of small arms and light weapons and to prevent armed violence in Côte d'Ivoire. These activities complement R4P's efforts at the community level creating an enabling environment that strengthens local engagement on CVE.

In July 2015, the National Assembly voted the terrorism repression law known as law 2015-493. This law outlines the types of offenses and corresponding sentences for causing or inciting others to cause terrorist acts. Following the Grand Bassam attacks in March 2016, the government started the development of a national CVE/ security strategy, which is yet to be finalized.

The EU, through a grant to UNICEF will implement an activity to contribute to strengthening of national cohesion in Côte d'Ivoire through support for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Integration of Children of EIS (SNIESIE) in the official education system. The activity will allow the GoCI to mainstream Islamic education in the overall education system and monitor the curricula to prevent the radicalization of students. It will also reduce stigmatization and marginalization of these students. The EU is also currently developing new CVE programming for 2021. Lastly, the African Union has provided support for a new 'Observatoire on Violent Extremism' which will provide support through training civil society and local leaders on CVE throughout the country.

Following the post-electoral crisis, the GoCI initiated a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process which did not achieve the expected results. There is a significant number of weapons that are still in circulation and could be used in an armed conflict and cause harm to the population. The proposed EU activity is supporting the GoCI's efforts for an application of existing laws relating to the control of light arms and weapons of caliber which could result in a reduction of violence in the country, particularly ahead of the October 2020 presidential election.

In addition, other donors such as the AFD, GIZ, and World Bank will collaborate with R4P. They have all expressed a desire to work more closely on CVE and in particular to share research findings. Further, the World Bank has close relations with the GOCI – as such they can leverage this relationship to put in place policy measures that increase equality in the northern border areas. Lastly, the World Bank has demonstrated an interest in engaging the private sector companies to become more active in terms of employment of youth in northern border areas and R4P will engage with them on this.

5. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES:

The goal of R4P is to strengthen community resilience and learning, particularly for youth and women', to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Côte d'Ivoire's northern border areas. This program will reinforce resilience structures and factors as well as build in learning to better identify any pockets of radicalization and vulnerability. More specifically, this award will focus on improving governance in ungoverned spaces in the border regions, enhancing trust between states and their citizens and reinforcing not only the authority but also the utility of the state in the peripheral zones. This activity will proactively address the negative spill-over relating to instability and violence in Burkina Faso and Mali by working to reduce marginalization and inequality particularly around natural resource management and lack of equitable and fair government services. It will also increase economic opportunities, particularly for youth (adolescents) and women as well as increase positive narratives to increase social cohesion in northern border areas.

Technical Approach:

R4P will require a tailored localized community approach for effective implementation that is embedded in a keen attention to gender and youth and conflict sensitivity as key issues. A do no harm approach will also be critical to maintain and since this activity will utilize the USAID complexity aware monitoring and evaluation (CAMEL) which should enable rapid adaptation, flexibility, and do no harm. This activity will require engagement in multiple sectors to increase success and will require constant learning and adaptation through research. It will also carefully leverage USAID as well as other donor efforts on CVE particularly from the EU, including also the World Bank, AFD, GIZ as well as local actors as well. It should be underscored that while many areas in Côte d'Ivoire will require prevention activities, the French recently determined that the north-eastern part of the country is a red zone. The areas near and around the Park Comoe will require CVE activities while other areas may require more preventative options for programming. R4P will need to remain vigilant to the ongoing rapid changes in the region to adjust its programming. That said resilience beyond conflict with a consideration for issues related to demography will be essential to ongoing programs. Media activities will need to capitalize on work already achieved in this area to build upon accomplishments.

Objectives, Illustrative Activities, and Expected Results:

Timeline for Implementation and Level of Effort:

R4P will be composed of three objectives. Each objective will reinforce each other to achieve maximum results. Objective One *Increase knowledge, learning, and understanding (KLU) of VE in border communities* will account for 25 percent; Objective Two *Reduce socio-pol-economic marginalization and inequality in border areas* will account for 45 percent, and Objective Three *Increase positive narratives to counter radicalization and hate speech, particularly for youth women and girls in border areas* will account for 30 percent of the overall level of effort required to achieve the award's overall goal.

The timeline for implementation will be carefully selected based on geographical intervention and other critical factors such as vulnerability risk. It is critical to understand that Objective Two does not require Objective One activities to be implemented in order to undertake Objective Two activities. Rather Objective One activities will supplement and inform any missing research required to better implement Objective Two activities. Therefore, we envision Objective One and Two operating concurrently. Objective Three activities are meant to be implemented directly alongside Objective Two and Objective three to support the work being undertaken in Objective One and Two. For example, research will be required to be published or disseminated which could be done in some instances through Objective Three. At the same time, research undertaken in Objective One can also inform programming in some instances under Objective Three. Objective One and Three should be seen also as serving Objective Two; while the

work under Objective two informs Objective One and Three and so on and so forth - in a cyclical pattern. The applicant should carefully explain the linkages and synergies between objectives in its proposed approach.

Objective 1: Increase knowledge, learning, and understanding (KLU) of VE in border communities

Objective 1 will account for 25 percent of the overall level of effort in this R4P award.

1.1 Increased practical research and analysis conducted to address analytical gap areas around community resilience to violent extremism

1.1.1. Conducted research to address identified gaps on conflict mitigation governance and resilience to VE

1.1.2. Conducted monthly or bi-weekly political-security analysis

1.1.3. Developed rolling mapping/perception analysis of northern border areas

A key component to strengthen community resilience in northern border areas includes research and analysis throughout the activity to clearly understand the local dynamic. Proposed targeted research under this objective will be informed by the existing body of research conducted by the USG, USAID, European Union and other donors and stakeholders on VE in Côte d'Ivoire and the Sahel. Practical research will generate analysis on gap areas related to political-security and governance issues, and perceptions of individuals and communities in the northern border areas. Through research especially rapid action research on gaps related to conflict mitigation and resilience to VE, R4P will seek to better understand the resilience factors for community actors in northern border areas that can inform Côte d'Ivoire as a whole including other coastal countries' efforts on prevention. Women and girls are the most vulnerable to violent extremism threats. During the war (2002-2010), in the northern parts of the country, women and girls were associated with the arms groups. They played different roles as cooks, facilitators, sex wives. As a result, Women and girls have the potential to perpetrate acts of violence. This activity will include countering women's roles as potential violent extremists and addressing women and girls needs and concerns. In this specific context, resilience will be defined as women and girls capacity to mitigate the impact of cross borders violent extremism shock or disturbance and then to recover and serve as agents of peace and social cohesion.

Research topics will include but are not limited to: understanding the impact of CVE on women and girls in the target area; women and girls' resilience to addressing the spill-over effects from the conflict in Burkina Faso and Mali; the role of Dozos and other traditional structures in policing security, understanding the relations between state and non-state structures in northern and cross border areas, the changes in the practice of Islam in Côte d'Ivoire, foreign influence on Islam, what are the communications channels used (whatsapp, facebook) and messages sent by VEOs in Côte d'Ivoire, the use of illegal mining sites in Côte d'Ivoire and a cross comparison with VEOs influence in Burkina around mining sites, the infiltration of extremists groups in Côte d'Ivoire's forests, the impact of the crisis in Burkina and Mali on remittances (Maliens and Burkinabe) in Côte d'Ivoire, the economic and social impact of the crisis in Burkina and Mali in CDI. Research will be an integral approach of this R4P that will continue during the life of this activity and research specifically on women and girls' issues related to the CVE will be required.

This research will then be disseminated to local and national actors, allowing them to better understand community resilience issues particularly for youth women and girls, as well as recommendations for preventing and addressing violent extremism and conflict risks. Select recommendations will be implemented through community actions in Objective 2.

Research analysis will be coupled with conducting monthly or bi-weekly political and security analysis (which includes a timeline of events) for USAID on the evolving situation in Côte d'Ivoire. Preferably an analytical expert will draft succinct security analysis for this purpose. These will be used to adjust the program and keep abreast of any changes at the country level.

Next, R4P will conduct rapid rolling community mapping of northern border areas that complements existing information available through the PTI and A4D activities. Perception surveys will be required quarterly to track citizens' perceptions of their concerns including on security, natural resource management, intern-communal conflicts, accountable governance in their communities. The sum of these research products will inform ongoing activities.

Illustrative Activities

- Identify research gaps on resilience to VE (with a focus on youth, women, and girls; to better understand the inter-connection between traditional and state structures; on Peuhl communities in northern border areas, on illegal mining sites, on VEOs' use of social media in CDI...)
- Conduct a political economy analysis of youth women and girls' community organizations and individuals' who could be champions
- Conduct monthly political/security analyses
- Conduct rolling mapping of northern border areas
- Conduct perception surveys to better understand opinions'
- Disseminate research findings to community and national level stakeholders
- Facilitate process by which community members, particularly youth and women researchers communicate their research findings and recommendations to the public
- Increase media coverage of research findings through community radio; including through local radio talk shows
- Share data from studies through social media: Facebook, WhatsApp and YouTube, and on USAID/PTI platforms

Expected Outcomes:

- Research Gaps Identified
- Increased body of research conducted on CVE and gap areas, particularly related to gender
- Increased political-security analysis on northern border threat to VE
- Disseminated research at multiple levels to stakeholders on CVE
- Produced actionable recommendations for community actors to prevent conflict in northern border areas

Expected indicators :

- Number of context specific research and analysis focus on youth, women, and girls including targeted marginalized groups to better understand the inter-connection between traditional and state structures
- Number of community based exchange platforms established

1.2. Created a cadre of local researchers/practitioners' and key actors on CVE

- 1.2.1. Assessed training needs assessment for researchers/practitioners and key community actors
- 1.2.2. Developed and implemented a curriculum for researchers/practitioners on CVE
- 1.2.3. Facilitated practical hands-on training for researchers/practitioners at the national and local level on CVE

One of the most critical tasks that R4P will have responsibility for is building the CVE capacity and knowledge of research/practitioners as well as other key local actors primarily that will be engaged through the activity. Côte d'Ivoire has few researchers/practitioners who understand CVE and this may be due to the fact that Côte d'Ivoire has not been faced with these issues in the same way that Burkina Faso Mali and Niger have. That said, the best exercise for prevention is to increase knowledge, learning, and understanding and in order to do so the country will require its researchers/practitioners to study the dynamic in the region and to better understand its impacts. The goal through this activity will result in a cadre of local researchers and practitioners or organizations that are experts on counter-violent extremism. Activities will include assessing training gaps, developing a curriculum for key actors, and facilitating several training for actors at multiple levels. Training will be for 1) researchers/practitioners and 2) other local actors identified throughout the life of the project i.e. those identified in the targeted stakeholders section below and in particular local community actors, champions, cultural artists, local political officials, national level champions, cross-border champions.

These types of activities should be continuous throughout the life of the activity to bring in new cohorts of researchers and local community actors and also to delve deeper on CVE issues with those who have a stronger knowledge base. Practical hands-on exchanges through case studies that involve real life situations through simulations will be prioritized over basic classroom teaching methods. R4P could learn from other learning activities implemented by USAID on CVE and on resilience in Sahel. For example, the Sahel Resilience Learning Project (SAREL) program which brought together actors from multiple regions on questions related to resilience. An interesting fact from the SAREL program was the involvement of both implementing partners, international actors, and local and national government players who came together to find solutions on resilience in the sahel. The overall goal of all these networking opportunities will be actioned.

Illustrative Activities

- Assess training gaps
- Develop several curriculum/curricula for key actors and researchers/practitioners
- Facilitate trainings at the national and local level
- Conduct organizational capacity assessment to track organizations' and network progress

Expected Outcomes :

- Curriculum developed
- Trainings on CVE conducted
- Researchers and local actors' capacity on CVE increased with USG support
- Local research entities are able to conduct research on CVE
- Exchanges platforms established to enhance local capacity

Expected Indicators

Percentage of male and female who acquired technical knowledge on CVE

- Number of exchange platforms on CVE established with the engagement of citizens
- Number of trainings on CVE focus on local researchers conducted with USG support

1.3. Organized collaborative learning and adapting platforms and networking for exchanges between community actors and research/practitioners on CVE

Bringing together ordinary citizens from northern border community areas and also researchers/practitioners trained under 1.1 that are grounded in the local context will be a fundamental method associated with R4P and in this way more effective at promoting deeper exchanges on the issues that matter most to citizens. These regular CLA exercises will enable R4P to implement complex monitoring and evaluation of its program in addition to leverage local knowledge to find solutions to the complex issue of VE. These exchanges organized through regularly held forums in northern border areas should leverage recommendations from research conducted or field experiences. CLA forums will be organized throughout this -----to enable diverse actors to exchange on complex topics through networking opportunities that they may otherwise not have. The R4P will seek out innovative and creative ways to organize these CLA forums so that they are interactive, practical, and knowledge-enhancing for programmatic action. One of the other activities included the creation of several networking platforms for actors under this R4P including through cross-border and regional opportunities such as through the African Union or other bodies: researchers/practitioners, women researchers, youth and researchers, local community actors, local and national actors. Themes for CLA forums could focus on radicalization, recruitment, the role of security forces, the role of women in CVE, the impact of climate change and demography on Côte d'Ivoire forests.

Illustrative Activities

- Organize CLA forums on various themes related to CVE in northern border areas
- Initiative creative brainstorm CLA sessions to design forums
- Organize cross-border CLA sessions between Côte d'Ivoire Mali and Burkina to exchange lessons-learned or challenges on CVE

Expected Outcomes:

- CLA forums on various themes related to CVE in northern border areas organized
- Cross-border CLA sessions between Côte d'Ivoire Mali and Burkina to exchange lessons-learned or challenges on CVE organized

Expected Indicators

- # CLA forums held at the community level
- % change in knowledge gained from forums held
- # Platforms created for networking

Objective 2: Reduce socio-pol-economic marginalization and inequality in border areas

Objective 2 will account for 45 percent of the overall level of effort in this R4P award.

2.1. Increased trust between communities in northern border areas

2.1.1 Prevented inter-communal and ethnic conflicts in northern border communities or other areas as relevant

All of the activities under Objective 2 for R4P will occur concurrently to reinforce each other in increasing trust between communities. These efforts are causally linked to ongoing post-conflict grievances that resurfaced in the PTI program, were cited in a Friedrich Ebert report entitled ‘Positive Peace in Côte d’Ivoire’ as well as a European Union study on the risk factors for CVE in Côte d’Ivoire. Through the recommendations in these studies and 2019 field visits, USAID Côte d’Ivoire concluded it best that in order to increase trust in northern border communities, the R4P activity will need to improve community dialogue and collective action to address grievances, improve natural resource management, increase accountable local governance, and economic opportunities for youth and women. It is the combination of these actions that together will result in more stable communities. The applicant will submit an innovative approach for how to tackle the elements below.

While the rapid mapping under Objective 1 will be important to designing in depth local approaches for these activities however existing CVE research on Cote d’Ivoire already enables the applicant to immediately begin work on Objective two. It will be up to the applicant to determine how to implement activities considering existing research information and programming in Côte d’Ivoire. The geography and local context will dictate the set of activities that the applicant will use to change the trajectory of a community.

2.1.1.1 Improved natural resource management in northern border areas

One of the major challenges regarding inter-communal conflict in the northern border areas relate to farmer/herder conflict, land tenure disputes, and illegal gold mining, stigmatization, and age-old ethnic turf battles. These conflicts all originate from the poor management of natural resources in these border areas, lack of resources, increased demographic and climate change pressure. R4P through the research that has already been conducted through the PTI program and the USAID PRADD program will seek to prevent and address inter-communal tensions in the northern border areas.

Improving natural resource management will require practical actions that tackle issues related to illegal mining particularly gold mining, farmer/herder conflicts, deforestation, land disputes. The approach taken by the applicant will also need to consider the impact of climate change, demographics, and deforestation in Côte d’Ivoire. All activities will need to tie into existing local and international initiatives that focus on natural resource management issues however the R4P’s comparative advantage will be its conflict and CVE approach in programming. **Activities under 2.1.1.2 will reinforce existing warning systems, increase the capacity of NRM community actors on several targeted areas around climate change conservation, deforestation, mining.** Activities will also be interlinked with other activities in this objective.

Activities will include gender and youth as an important component of implementation engaging women, girls, youth on NRM. For example, in the illegal mining sector women are often used as sexual workers around illegal sites and children especially foreign children are often exploited as workers around these sites. **In fact, sex workers are considered as security threats. Some of them are engaged in drug trafficking and sex trafficking. According to the local leaders in the northern borders, sex workers are coming from different African countries including Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and South Africa.**

Another example, is that after the post-conflict period women played a major role in peace committees throughout the country – therefore considering their role as mediators or facilitators of conflict will be considered. Keeping in mind that ethnic dimensions will be key to explore in programming as certain ethnic groups are associated with work in some areas rather than others. Lastly, since illegal mining, farmer/herder conflicts are related to livelihood, actions that focus on economic livelihood efforts will be important. Activities will include reinforcement of existing local structures including through capacity

building, awareness raising of policy actions to inform communities on progress related to NRM, and concrete actions to resolve natural resource management issues and conflicts.

Illustrative Activities:

- Reinforce existing early warning and other systems
- Increase capacity of NRM actors
- Facilitate training for mediators to encourage dialogue on areas of conflict within the community

Expected Outcomes:

- Existing early warning and other systems reinforced
- NRM actors capacity increased
- Training for mediators to encourage dialogue on areas of conflict within the community facilitated

Expected Indicators:

- Number of disputes resolved
- Percent change in technical capacity of NRM actors
- Number of joint activities conducted to build trust and confidence
- Number of natural resources management tools created

2.1.1.2. Improved community dialogue and collective action to address grievances in northern border communities

R4P will work with community actors at all levels from the public, private, civil society, and informal sectors, in both rural and urban areas to hold dialogue and collective actions to address local sources of conflict, including inter-communal conflict and extremism to solve shared problems. Strengthening communities through greater inclusion of the voices of youth, women and marginalized groups in addressing issues that affect the whole community will increase community cohesion and resilience to threats of conflict and violent extremism. At the same time, diverse local partners will help communities build linkages to regional, national and cross-border level actors, and government and create opportunities for those actors to demonstrate responsiveness and accountability. Community discussions will include multiple innovative platforms such as: debates, roundtables, informal group talks, storytelling and/or other cultural communication tools to discuss local solutions to grievances and around what is working well in their communities. While most actions initially will be conducted at the community level, as R4P moves along there may be more opportunities for actions and dialogue at the national level that can have ripple effects across the country. It will therefore be critical (through the pol/sec analysis in objective one) to constantly revisit the intended impact and potential for national level interventions.

Grievance/risk and resilience factors' conversations will focus on a range of multi-sectoral themes depending on the local context in the border areas where the response is occurring: natural resource management (mining, illegal economy, farmer/herder, deforestation), service delivery conversations between citizens and local officials or just within the community around health education water electricity justice etc..., economic opportunities, discussion between security forces and the community on protection, the role of inter-faith dialogue in CVE, the role of women in peace and security, the role of youth in civic actions, girls' education, the consequence of the Mali and Burkina Faso conflict in Côte d'Ivoire... These dialogue conversations at the community level will not occur in a vacuum but rather in a local context of

seeking to create change through practical actions to make a positive difference locally or regionally where relevant.

Dialogue will take into consideration other ongoing initiatives in the country: UNICEF through the EU is funding a CVE activity that supports equity and fairness for education in various communities. R4P will need to collaborate closely with these other programs at the community level to achieve a greater impact. Activities to support girls' and boys' initiatives – particularly for adolescents will be considered especially since youth represent a force for prevention when they are engaged. Conversation with adolescents will definitely need to center on 'incivisme' which is incivility or actions related to vandalism or hooliganism. This in turn has a link to drugs, illegal mining, gang violence, political violence etc... In Côte d'Ivoire one of the major consequences of conflict created a society in some places devoid of adequate education and of moral values or social /civility/national identity. People often feel stigmatized and marginalized therefore conversations around these issues will need to be done through a do no harm approach but they are necessary and will have an important impact on the next generation. Specific actors on this element could also include talibes. Existing research and field assessments talk about the dangers of talibe children who come from the region and are sometimes led by more radical preachers.

Activities will also promote cross-border exchanges and action between communities in Côte d'Ivoire and neighboring countries in Burkina Faso and Mali. Activities will establish multiple diverse platforms for community dialogue and action on VE risk and resilience factors. It is these actions that will prevent conflict, increase trust between communities and reduce marginalization and inequality because the talk will be backed up by concrete actions that reflect local will – actions that are individual or collective on a host of issues.

Dialogue will require concrete actions of which will emanate from local actors at multiple levels depending on which grievance or sector R4P is focused on. Actions could include a host of creative ideas that span from local government projects, civic education activities directly responding to issues of incivility, civic education actions that bring security forces and civilians together for a common purpose, campaigns, advocacy efforts, increased trade promotion on specific value chains...Most importantly, the application will provide a range of interesting and innovative ideas.

Illustrative activities:

- Set-up exchange discussions between those who benefit from economic opportunities and local government
- Support cross-border exchanges and dialogue and activities
- Support women led dialogue
- Integrate 'grains' 'coffee groups' where adolescents chat
- Support youth led dialogue
- Promote inter-general dialogue between girls' of all ages on extremism
- Increased community actions to implement research recommendations from Objective 1
- Support girls' education initiatives that create actions that increase community resilience
- Engagement with women and girls on various themes, including education, incivility etc...
- Increase dialogue between diverse ethnic groups on security and gender issues
- Promote women- and youth-led initiatives
- Promote activities that support local level community engagement with government

- Implement community-led actions identified by individuals or communities for projects
- Promote interfaith dialogue where relevant that promotes a collective approach to preventing violent extremism
- Security services collaborate more effectively with citizens to prevent conflict
- Create cross-border early warning groups composed of women and youth to counter VEOS
- Strengthen cross-border communication to improve cohesion/collaboration between communities and local authorities
- Increase dialogue opportunities for adolescents (girls and boys) around incivility and actions to follow-up
- Conduct campaigns to create action on grievances: natural resource management, economic opportunities...
- Promote local and national level community actions to respond to local grievances

Expected outcomes :

- Cross-border exchanges and dialogue activities organized
- Women and youth led dialogue within the community initiated
- Inter-general dialogue between girls' of all ages on extremism promoted
- Girls 'education initiatives that create actions that increase community resilience implemented
- Dialogue between diverse ethnic groups on security and gender issues facilitated
- Interfaith dialogue where relevant that promotes a collective approach to preventing violent extremism engaged
- Interagency security services collaboration organized
- Cross border early warning groups composed of women and youth to counter VEOS created
- Cross-border communication to improve cohesion/collaboration between communities and local authorities strengthened
- Dialogue opportunities for adolescents (girls and boys) around incivility and actions to follow-up increased

Expected Indicators:

- Number of actions taken at the community level that lead to positive change
- Number of campaigns that lead to change on an issue
- Percent change in accountability of local government regarding advocacy efforts
- Number of civic actions undertaken by adolescents

2.1.1.3. Increased accountable local governance for ALL in northern border areas to respond to VE threats

2.1.1.3.1. Reinforced state and non-state mechanisms and structures for coordination on CVE

2.1.1.3.2. Promoted practical actions to increase security

2.1.1.3.3. Improved administration of NRM

2.1.1.3.4. Increased fair and equitable local service delivery for ALL

2.1.1.3.5. Promote public-private partnerships *

One of the major risk factors underscored by both USAID/West Africa and by the European Union study involves ungoverned spaces ineffective legitimacy of state authorities in marginalized areas. R4P will seek to work within existing local state structures to better understand their effectiveness or lack of effectiveness in their communities. The Development Innovations Venture (DIV) through USAID has a tax digitalization award called NetCollect that works to increase tax revenues of communities. R4P will partner with NetCollect to influence where it implements this digital effort. This will increase local government revenues and in turn R4P will then work with local authorities to improve their local

development plans. R4P will also work with local authorities on a number of other priorities relevant in the specific localities whether it is natural resource management, economic opportunities, services to reinforce state mechanisms and structures. Since many structures in the northern border areas rely heavily on traditional structures such as dozos (traditional hunters).

To increase fair and equitable delivery of services, R4P will focus on education as a required service delivery issue and then depending on the local context will select other areas such as health, justice, water, electricity or other service delivery areas. Accountable governance can be verified through perception surveys in Objective 1 and therefore this will be important as an incentive for change.

The promotion of public-private partnership is an activity that will be implemented, and it is a cross-cutting activity which is discussed further under 2.1.1.5.

Illustrative activities:

- Reinforce existing local governance structures of prevention and coordination to VE, including local development plans and civ-mil groups
- Promote actions by the local government to improve NRM
- Increase exchanges between local government and community actors
- Increase collaboration between local security forces and the community
- Improve equitable service delivery in northern border areas
- Promote actions that engage women leaders to improve local government results
- Increase citizen advocacy on CVE, grievances...

Expected Outcomes:

- Existing local governance structures of prevention and coordination to VE, including local development plans and civ-mil groups reinforced
- Actions by the local government to improve NRM promoted
- Exchanges between local government and community actors increase
- Collaboration between local security forces and the community reinforced
- Equitable service delivery in northern border areas improved
- Actions that engage women leaders to improve local government results promoted

Expected indicators

- Increased capacity of local actors
- Number of joint meeting between local official, civil society organization and community-based organizations on service delivery and accountability

2.1.1.4. Promoted innovative economic livelihood opportunities in northern border areas for youth and women

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2.1.1.4.1 | Innovative economic opportunities in northern border areas |
| 2.1.1.4.2 | Created innovative public-private partnerships for youth and women working in the region |
| 2.1.1.4.3 | Promoted youth women and girls' empowerment economic activities |
| 2.1.1.4.4 | Increased literacy for youth and women in border areas |
| 2.1.1.4.5 | Increased coaching and life skills for youth women and girls' social entrepreneurs |

Lowering socio-economic barriers reduces VE risk factors. R4P will assist youth, girls and women to build entrepreneurial knowledge, capacity, and skills, which will sustain the creation of bridging and bonding social capital, trusting transactional relationships, and collaborative engagement with government authorities. All of this will diminish intergroup discrimination and conflict, and thus enhance target communities' resilience to violent extremism and intergroup conflict. Social entrepreneurs build connections within and among communities. Before engaging women and youth, USAID will conduct localized/regional mappings of entrepreneurs or use existing research from Care International CI program. USAID will engage youth women and girls in social entrepreneurship training and mentoring, including financial literacy. R4P will also add a literacy component for this element because literacy rates in Côte d'Ivoire are 50% and education is one of the areas where the government has not focused enough attention and resources. However, youth are the future of tomorrow and basic literacy has been proven to increase resilience at the community level.

Training provided will guide them in developing business ventures that reinforce social connections, collective actions and civic awareness. USAID will encourage exchanges between entrepreneurs and community members to increase trust. The beneficiaries will be selected in at-risk border areas to minimize the potential VE risk factors.

Importantly, R4P will lead collaboration with the World Bank and other partners to create public-private partnerships and quick infusion of cash initiatives. Donors have expressed an interest in discussing this approach with the GOCI to increase private sector engagement in the north. R4P will build upon these initiatives and foster opportunities for public-private sector work in the cashew and cotton sectors and other areas identified by public-private stakeholders. In addition to engaging the private sector, R4P will seek to create additional quick infusion of cash opportunities where relevant in target geographical areas.

Illustrative activities:

- Map youth and women entrepreneurs
- Create public-private partnerships (natural resource management...)
- Create public works quick infusion cash projects
- Create entrepreneurship opportunities for women
- Conduct literacy initiatives (including financial and basic) particularly for women and youth
- Facilitate coaching/life-skills opportunities
- Develop partnerships with SMEs and private sector
- Create an incentive fund for women entrepreneurs
- Increase coaching/mentorship opportunities for women and girls
- Create small community economic incentive funds
- Train women and girls on social entrepreneurship
- Link up women and girls with SMEs

Expected Indicators:

- Number of women and girls who have access to innovative economic opportunities
- Increased literacy outcomes for women and youth in northern border areas

Expected Outcomes:

- Socio-economic mapping for youth and women entrepreneurs conducted
- Public-private partnerships on natural resource management created
- Entrepreneurship opportunities for women created

- Partnerships with SMEs and private sector developed
- An incentive fund for women entrepreneurs created
- Small community economic incentive funds created
- Women and girls on social entrepreneurship trained

Objective 3: Increase positive narratives to counter radicalization and hate speech, particularly for youth women and girls in border areas'

Objective 3 will account for 30 percent of the overall level of effort in this R4P award.

- 3.1. Improved media coverage and platforms through positive narratives and increased availability of information to counter VEOS
- 3.2. Targeted Hands-on Mentoring for Investigative journalists, with a focus on youth and women, to report on VE
- 3.3. Increased use of cultural and traditional structures to increase/spread positive narratives
- 3.4. Counter-hate speech and false narratives on social media platforms

Activities under this objective will be cross-cutting and directly support objectives 1 and 2. Increasing positive narratives and moderate voices will require adequate knowledge of how VEOs use media to message in the Côte d'Ivoire context, through research undertaken in objective 1. This objective will engage the most diverse set of local and national level actors throughout this new program to include local champions, local and national level journalists -media activists- cultural and traditional actors . Since access to media is limited in the target areas, community radio and other traditional cultural means of communication – such as through storytellers will be explored. The latter will also require potentially working with private sector telecommunication companies to increase coverage in these northern border areas.

R4P will reinforce and create new platforms in traditional and social media for citizens – especially for youth, girls and women – to air their views through television, community radio, and other innovative means. The program will ensure that these new platforms are not duplicate existing efforts but complement each other. These platforms will also enhance participation in community and national conversations, especially as it relates to reconciliation, service delivery, security, justice, conflict mitigation inter-communal conflict including land disputes, violent extremism including on religious extremism and natural resource management.

Radio talk shows, Facebook and WhatsApp groups will develop innovative content to increase positive narratives and to influence communities to react in the face of potential threats. Community listening clubs as well as other innovative ways to regularly monitor these activities will be introduced. This adaptive monitoring management will enable these activities to be better adapted to local needs.

Media activities will promote gender equality and counter gender-based prejudices. This program will use community and social media to reach vulnerable populations with targeted programming for CVE; build capacity for producing positive narratives that counter extremist narratives and facilitate community dialogue; and highlight stories of inclusive political participation, and decision-making.

Activities under this objective will be centered on the promotion of moderate voices against extremism. Women and girls will participate as the key actors through the media component to increase the narratives that provide a positive narrative on their role, their questions and concerns and challenges.

USAID will create interactive radio programs to engage citizens in public discourse and promote understanding on the drivers of violent extremism, with a focus on gendered aspects of drivers. USAID will create a series that develops themes relevant to women and girls in border areas that can increase positive images for those in the community and beyond to decrease the pull factors to extremists messaging. Additionally, investigative journalists will be mentored in critical geographic areas.

Media programming will also tackle challenging content, such as stigmatization, the lingering identity question, and hate speech which are pervasive on social media, particularly on Facebook with its five million users in Côte d'Ivoire. Social media is a powerful tool to reach Ivoirians.

Illustrative activities:

- Create CVE content for community radios in northern border areas
- Create innovative radio programming
- Air 'positive narratives' content on traditional and non-traditional media
- Encourage and develop cross-border media programming
- Develop coalition/network of investigators on VE
- Train Investigative journalists in non PTI areas to report on VE
- Produce Media Series that incorporate women and girls' stories on resilience to VE
- Support social media actions to counter and disseminate CVE messaging
- Produce cartoons and schools teaching materials for girls to counter violent extremism in their community
- Engage civil society and media organizations in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso on CVE including youth, women, girls' programming on CVE
- Use cultural and traditional norms and structures such as participatory theatre or storytelling to increase information on CVE and security
- Promote youth/women role models' participation and influence throughout the traditional media and social media
- Create new communication platforms to exchange on VE and local grievances
- Develop content for traditional and non-traditional media on VE
- Develop Gender specific content for traditional and non-traditional media on VE

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved media coverage and positive narratives on CVE
- Increased availability of information on VE
- Developed innovative radio content on VE
- Increase capacity of GOCI and media to provide information on VE

Expected Indicators

- Number of media sessions and communication tools produced to channel positive narratives and provide available information on CVE
- Number of counter narrative and hate speech activities organized

TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS' COLLABORATION

Given the complex and adaptive approach of the activity, the activity will work with diverse actors across the national and local levels, including the public and private sector and civil society. Several targeted stakeholders are likely to be identified through the lessons-learned from the USAID PTI activity and Accountability for Development as well as through the rapid mapping and political economic analysis in the northern border communities, perception surveys, and targeted research that will be conducted through this R4P activity. Since R4P will work on complex conflict issues, in marginalized or ungoverned spaces special emphasis will be given to address the vulnerabilities and resiliencies of women and youth. These actors will be updated on a regular basis during the pause and reflect exercises as well as any updates to the collaborative and learning component. More specifically we anticipate that these diverse actors will include public sector actors (government appointees, locally elected officials, technical advisors); new local community based organizations which includes groups and individuals from both formal and informal networks, non-elite influencers, as well as grassroots change-makers and champions for reform on conflict/CVE/resilience issues. Other actors will also include community associations, youth and women's groups, communication experts to include journalists and radio personalities, traditional and cultural leaders, Dozos, Peuhl communities, social entrepreneurs particularly women entrepreneurs, local champions, marginalized groups (Talibes, ex-combatants, prostitutes), religious scholars, private sector actors, political actors, and civil servant champions. USAID that this activity will engage new actors especially through the USAID lens of local solutions approaches and working within informal dynamics. This activity will also seek to reinforce resilience by engaging established structures and processes for community level monitoring of outsiders, and social connections among ethnic groups. We therefore expect the implementing partner to keep this in mind and ensure that these new relationships, partnerships, collaborations, and new actors are sought after with clear vision.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:

This activity will be implemented in geographic areas which were identified during the 2019 Coastal Violent Extremism Risk and Resilience Assessment. Further, R4P will leverage USAID CVE efforts, especially on the border of the country including the northern borders of Côte d'Ivoire, reached through the Political Transition and Inclusion and the Accountability for Development activities. For Objective One, the geographic targeting will be at the local and national level; for objective two and three the level of effort will be primarily focused at the local level with some important targeted linkages at the national level where relevant. In addition, if the political context changes and political will to work on CVE becomes more open, then there could be an opportunity to engage more at the national level on all objectives in the outer years of this activity. Geographic targeting will include border areas of Côte d'Ivoire from Touba to Bouna including these towns: Odiene, Ouangolodougou, Tengrela, Mbengue, Bouna, Tehini, Doropo, Varape, Man, Bouna and could also include border areas in the south. The activity will include Abidjan as the capital of Côte d'Ivoire, and Bouake as well as San Pedro. The work plans will need to be flexible to adjust or intensify geographic targeting if and when directed by USAID or if and when the context evolves which will require adjustments in the activity.

USAID requests that the successful applicant set up a small satellite office in the north for smooth implementation of activities.

OTHER TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Gender Analysis

The United Nations Human Development Report ranks Côte d'Ivoire 155 of 160 countries on its gender inequality index. This report states that less than 10 percent of women have access to land ownership in Côte d'Ivoire, while they are responsible for 75 percent of basic food production.

Gender norms reflect deeper social structures, upheld and reinforced by numerous male dominated social institutions. This project will involve men in changing gender norms. Several gender reports in Côte d'Ivoire helped to identify the key gender gaps related to conflict and resilience that must be reduced in order to improve project outcomes. Based on the potential gaps the key areas identified in many communities across the northern areas, R4P will conduct a comprehensive gender and conflict assessment. However, health related gender analysis highlighted some key challenges:

Quality of Health Services

In the northern part of Cote d'Ivoire, particularly in Ouangolodougou and Tengrela, RPGO coastal assessment reported limited access to health care for women and girls. As a result, women are seeking health care in the nearest cities in Mali and BF.

Additionally, women and girls mentioned factors that erode their use of Ivorian services, including: lack of trust and confidence in quality of services; friendliness of staff; lack of psychological support; lack of knowledge of what services are offered, prohibitive costs of some treatments, lack of knowledge and understanding of health needs specific to youth, women and girls.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV):

GBV is a key risk factor in the northern part of the country due to traditional and cultural norms. In Côte d'Ivoire, studies on GBV are limited or outdated, and it is difficult to ascertain the prevalence rates among girls and women in northern borders areas. USAID health gender analysis findings reported that GBV has been seen as “omnipresent” and a “normal consequence of daily life.” Factors that contribute to GBV are often related to cultural views that value women less than men in society. For example, our findings show that partner violence can be seen as a way to demonstrate “love.” Furthermore, violence is often sanctioned if a woman refuses sex from her partner or if she does “something bad.” In addition, lack of information can also be a contributing factor to violence. For example, GBV may result from a lack of understanding about different forms of violence, one's sexuality, and even rights and legal/social options that are meant to mitigate violence. Perpetrators of violence are reported to be spouses, street youth, unemployed men (“vagabonds”), police, military, and persons who are under the influence of alcohol. Also, there appear to be more reports of GBV within the family circle or between spouses in rural versus urban areas.

Sustainability Analysis

Complex social, cultural, political and institutional cross-border environments are significant barriers and challenges to strengthen and sustain community resilience systems and processes in the northern part of the country. To resolve some of these challenges, the sustainability analysis will foster a coordinated and integrated approach as outlined above in the **CAMEL** approach. In close coordination with interagency and other partners, USAID will coordinate and integrate such programs with other assistance efforts. USAID will effectively communicate local ownership and partnership to achieve R4P's program objectives. USAID will empower youth, women and girls entrepreneurial capacity. USAID will specifically tailor programming to the local environment, scale up successful approaches, and discontinue ineffective investments.

This award is part of Phase 3 of the Political Inclusion and Accountability project. The R4P activity award should be designed to maintain flexibility so that activities can address the most salient issues in the security and political environment. USAID/Cote d'Ivoire has no nationality preference for any key personnel position. USAID will consider the mixture of skills across the entire management team. The management team should have a strong combination of technical, management and financial experience. The management team should include a combination of expertise in the areas of CLA, learning agenda development, analytical research, evaluation, communication, governance, natural resource management, economic opportunities and other areas that go hand in hand with the activities outlined in this RFA. Lastly, the management team must have experience with CVE and/or peace promotion. The management team must have excellent writers in both English and French languages. They should be able to write, translate (between English and French), summarize and edit documents to a quality considered polished and publishable. The USG has a comparative advantage both in Cote d'Ivoire and the region to provide assistance on CVE that can make a difference in Côte d'Ivoire.

KEY PERSONNEL

USAID/WA intends to issue this award as a cooperative agreement and shall invoke substantial involvement as contained in ADS 303.3.11 including the approval of key personnel. For this program, it is expected that the Resilience for Peace Activity shall include a strong team that reinforces USG engagement in Cote d'Ivoire. USAID anticipates that the key personnel for this award will include a Chief of Party, a Deputy Chief of Party, a Natural Resource Management Resilience and Conflict Expert, and Economic Livelihood and Opportunities Conflict Expert.

All key personnel positions and other project staff will be required to integrate strong CVE expertise on conflict issues, including issues related to violent extremism, community cohesion, reintegration. All staff will work to improve prospects for immediate medium and long-term community cohesion, security, and reconciliation by strengthening the positive resilience of communities working in partnership with local government, security officials, civil society organizations organizations, and with local communities. Key personnel should demonstrate strong technical expertise on CVE, communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to foster networks and partnerships as well as good working knowledge of information. These experts will also have knowledge in several technical areas and cross-disciplines. Lastly, USAID, a management team with significant experience in CVE will be essential for the success of this activity.

Chief of Party: The Chief of Party shall serve as the primary point of contact with USAID AOR or the alternate AOR as required. The Chief of Party shall serve as the lead manager responsible for the overall program implementation and quality control, including technical leadership, management of human resources, physical assets, financial oversight and communications.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ten years of experience managing public or private international programs in peace promotion, countering violent extremism, conflict mitigation, or governance-related programs, preferably including previous experience in Francophone West Africa
- Previous experience as a Chief of Party or Deputy Chief of Party on a donor-funded project with a strong reputation for developing excellent collaborative working relationships with counterparts, other contractors and international organizations and donors. This also entails: monitoring, evaluating and documenting progress toward meeting project objectives evaluating contractor and

grantee activities through consultative meetings, site visits and reporting requirements working out solutions to keep activities on track; and providing overall guidance and direction focusing the activity team on achieving agreed targets and long-term strategic objectives.

- A graduate degree in a relevant social, technical or political science (e.g, conflict management and peacebuilding, communications, public administration, business administration, international relations, political science, law etc.)
- Demonstrated skills in effectively working, coordinating and negotiating with donors, other USAID projects, U.S. embassies, and host-country governments and organizations
- Ability to successfully manage and develop staff in a multi-country and multi-cultural setting as demonstrated by past experience
- Ability to manage USAID awards and all required reporting requirements
- Must have demonstrated experience managing programs that effectively address gender issues and advance women's empowerment.
- Must demonstrate significant governance and conflict expertise
- Demonstrated commitment to customer service;
- Professional proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in English, professional proficiency in French.
- Technical experience in one or more of the other areas mentioned in this RFA- such as CLA, communication, or economic opportunities or one of the other disciplinary areas will be taken into consideration.

Deputy Chief of Party: The Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) will support the Chief of Party in the management of the project. The DCOP should have the skills necessary to serve as Acting Chief of Party when required. S/he will have the skills necessary to provide technical and managerial guidance and leadership including technical expertise and oversight, overseeing complex monitoring and evaluation (CAMEL) as well as CLA functions, financial management and administration and grants management. He/She should have strong CVE experience working in environments where VEOs operate. Regional experience in West Africa and the Sahel is strongly encouraged. He/She will be in charge of the administration of the project supporting the COP's efforts. The Deputy Chief of Party should also have another core technical expertise in addition to CVE mentioned in this program description that would enable him/her to provide back-up support such as in the areas of communication, media, or another discipline requisite for the success of this activity.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Eight years of experience managing public or private sector international development conflict management and peacebuilding, media, peace promotion, countering violent extremism, conflict mitigation, or governance-related programs, preferably including previous experience in Francophone Africa.
- Eight or more years as Chief of Party or Deputy Chief of Party or in a project leadership position demonstrating the project planning, high-level liaising and partnership building, team leadership, administrative management, and financial oversight skills required for this Activity.
- Five or more years of expertise in traditional and new media programming or in another area relevant to this RFA that does not duplicate other key personnel positions
- A graduate degree in a relevant social, technical or political science (e.g, communications, public administration, business administration, international relations, political science, etc.).

Demonstrated experience applying new media solutions to difficult problems and/or new environments

- Must demonstrate significant governance and conflict expertise
- Strong experience on CAMEL and CLA particularly since this activity will require flexibility and adaptation in a changing environment
- Must have demonstrated experience managing programs that effectively address gender issues and advance women's empowerment.
- Professional experience and preferably CVE experience in the Sahel or Francophone West Africa
- Professional proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in English, professional proficiency in French.

Overall, USAID reserves the right to determine relevance of education and experience. The other **two** key personnel positions should have a Minimum level of education, preferably a graduate degree in the technical discipline for the position concerned (i.e. natural resource management and conflict mitigation, livelihood or economic opportunities in a CVE setting...) These individuals will be experts in their own rights with significant past experience implementing these technical disciplines in conflict settings and preferably in settings working on CVE. Strong Africa experience is a plus. These positions should complement the other key personnel and work as a team to achieve the overall objectives of this activity.

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.

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(END OF SECTION A)

SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated

USAID intends to award one (1) Cooperative Agreement pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity. Subject to funding availability and at the discretion of the Agency, USAID intends to provide \$19.5M in total USAID funding over a five-year (5) period.

2. Start Date and Period of Performance for the Federal Award

The anticipated period of performance is five (5) years. The estimated start date is **November 30**, 2020.

3. Substantial Involvement

1. The Agency's approval of the recipient's implementation plans during performance. USAID generally only requires approval of implementation plans annually; however, where changed contexts or new information require a pivot in the activity, USAID may consider changes to an implementation plan. If the AO has delegated authority to the AOR to approve implementation plans, the AOR must review the agreement's terms and conditions to ensure the AOR does not approve inadvertent changes to them.

2. The Agency's ability to immediately halt an activity if the recipient does not meet detailed performance specifications (for example, construction specifications). These would be provisions that go beyond the ADS Chapter 303 suspension remedies of the Federal Government for noncompliance as stated in 2 CFR 200, including non-performance. The award must state that the AO may immediately halt an activity when identified specifications are not met. The award must include the identified specifications when executed. The AO and Recipient must sign a bilateral amendment for any material changes to the specifications in the award.

4. The Agency's review and approval of substantive provisions of proposed subawards or contracts (see definitions in 2 CFR 200). These would be provisions that go beyond existing policies on Federal review of recipient procurement standards and sole source procurement. 2 CFR 200.308 already requires the recipient to obtain the AO's prior approval for the subaward, transfer, or contracting out of any work under an award. This is generally limited to approving work by a third party under the agreement. If USAID wishes to reserve any further approval rights for subawards or contracts that go beyond existing policies on Federal review of grantee procurement standards, it must specifically state such Agency involvement in the substantial involvement provision of the agreement.

5. The Agency's involvement in the selection of key recipient personnel. This does not include provisions in assistance instruments for the participation of a named Principal Investigator for research projects.

6. The Agency and recipient collaboration or joint participation, such as when the recipient's successful accomplishment of program objectives would benefit from USAID's technical knowledge. There should be sufficient reason for the Agency's involvement and the involvement should be specifically tailored to support identified elements in the program description. Additionally, 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.

7. Agency monitoring to permit specific kinds of direction or redirection of the work because of the interrelationships with other projects or activities. All such direction or redirection must be within the program description budget, and other terms and conditions of the award.

4. Authorized Geographic Code

The geographic code for the procurement of commodities and services under this program is 935 defined as any country including the recipient country, but excluding any country that is a prohibited source.

5. Nature of the Relationship between USAID and the Recipient

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient and under the subject program is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation of the *Strengthening Community Resilience and Learning in Côte d'Ivoire's Border Areas to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) / Resilience for Peace (R4P)*, which is authorized by Federal statute. The successful Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives and the efficient and effective administration of the award through the application of sound management practices. The Recipient 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.

6. Selection of Instrument

The Selection of Instrument (SOI) was determined based on market research that was conducted during the planning phase. As a result of the market research, it was determined that the Agency's programmatic needs would be best met by providing funds to an organization/s to support and leverage these projects where the primary beneficiary is the recipient organization who then acts as a pass through entity to provide a benefit to a third party; as opposed to contracting for supplies or services to be provided to USAID for its direct use or benefit. The key components of the activity are to strengthen community resilience and learning, particularly for youth and women, to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) in Cote d'Ivoire's northern border areas, and reinforce resilience structures and factors as well as build in learning to better identify any pockets of radicalization and vulnerability preventing the spill-over of VE activity from Mali and Burkina Faso into Cote d'Ivoire's northern border areas. USAID/Cote d'Ivoire proposes to engage in a cooperative agreement instead of a grant. A cooperative agreement will allow for specific involvement between USAID and the partner where USAID's expertise is needed within the substantial involvement parameters.

This activity will advance USAID's goals and objectives under "Governing justly and democratically" of the Foreign Assistance Framework, the Political Competition and Consensus Building and Civil Society Program Areas in the framework and the following program elements:

- 3.2 Consensus building processes
- 4.3 Civic Education, Citizen Participation and Public Accountability

The provision of Federal financial assistance to a recipient for these Program Area purposes serves the Agency's public purpose of supporting development actors who advance the achievement of USG development objectives in the respective Program Areas. The provision of Federal financial assistance for the development purposes defined by the Resilience for Peace activities is to improve the resilience of populations along the northern Côte d'Ivoire border, mainly women and youth to counter and resist violent extremist rhetoric in their communities.

This Program Area advances the Mission of the Agency and serves a public purpose of support and stimulation authorized by the FAA and annual appropriations legislation.

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(END OF SECTION B)

SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility for this NOFO is not restricted.

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

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

USAID has established a mandatory minimum recipient cost share of **US \$975,000** for the award. Such funds may be provided directly by the recipient; other multilateral, bilateral, and foundation donors; host governments; and local organizations, communities and private businesses that contribute financially and in-kind to implementation of activities at the country level. This may include contribution of staff level of effort, office space or other facilities or equipment which may be used for the program, provided by the recipient. For guidance on cost sharing in grants and cooperative agreements see 2 CFR 200.306.

(END OF SECTION C)

SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Agency Point of Contact

The Agreement Officer for this Cooperative Agreement is:

Ms. Karla Camp
Regional Agreement Officer
USAID/West Africa/RAAO
kcamp@usaid.gov

The Acquisition and Assistance Specialists for this NOFO are:

Fatoumata Binta Camara
Sr. Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
USAID/ Côte d'Ivoire
fcamara@usaid.gov

Siata Tano
Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
USAID/Côte d'Ivoire
stano@usaid.gov

2. Questions and Answers

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

3. General Content and Form of Application

Preparation of Applications:

Each applicant must furnish the information required by this NOFO. Applications must be submitted in two separate parts: The Technical Application and the Business (Cost) Application. This subsection addresses general content requirements applying to the full application. Please see subsections 5 and 6, below, for information on the content specific to the Technical and Business (Cost) applications. The Technical application must address technical aspects only while the Business (Cost) Application must present the costs, and address risk and other related issues.

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

- Name of the organization(s) submitting the application;
- Identification and signature of the primary contact person (by name, title, organization, mailing address, telephone number and email address) and the identification of the alternate contact person (by name, title, organization, mailing address, telephone number and email address);
- Program name

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

Any erasures or other changes to the application must be initialed by the person signing the application. Applications signed by an agent on behalf of the applicant must be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

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

Applications must comply with the following:

- USAID will not review any pages in excess of the page limits noted in the subsequent sections. Please ensure that applications comply with the page limitations.
- Written in English
- Use standard 8 ½" x 11", single sided, single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1" margins, left justification and headers and/or footers on each page including consecutive page numbers, date of submission, and applicant's name.
- 10 point font can be used for graphs, charts and **text boxes**. Tables however, must comply with the 12 point Times New Roman requirement.
- Submitted via Microsoft Word or PDF formats, except budget files which must be submitted in Microsoft Excel.
- The estimated start date identified in Section B of this NOFO must be used in the cost application.
- The technical application must be a searchable and editable Word or PDF format as appropriate.
- The Cost Schedule must include an Excel spreadsheet with all cells unlocked and no hidden formulas or sheets. A PDF version of the Excel spreadsheet may be submitted in addition to the Excel version at the applicant's discretion, however, the official cost application submission is the unlocked Excel version.

Applicants must review, understand, and comply with all aspects of this NOFO. Failure to do so may be considered as being non-responsive and may be evaluated accordingly. Applicants should retain a copy of the application and all enclosures for their records.

4. Application Submission Procedures

Applications in response to this NOFO must be submitted by email to abidjancontract@usaid.gov no later than the closing date and time indicated on the cover letter, as amended. Late applications will not be reviewed nor considered. Applicants must retain proof of timely delivery in the form of system generated documentation of delivery receipt date and time/confirmation from the receiving office/certified mail receipt.

Each email submission must be larger than 10 megabytes and should include the NOFO number and applicant's name in the subject line heading. In addition, for an application sent by multiple emails, the subject line must also indicate whether the email relates to the technical or cost application, and the desired sequence of the emails and their attachments (e.g. "No. 1 of 4", etc.). For example, if your cost application is being sent in two emails, the first email should have a subject line that states: "[NOFO number], [organization name], Cost Application, Part 1 of 2".

USAID's preference is that the technical application and the cost application each be submitted as consolidated email attachments, e.g. that you consolidate the various parts of a technical application into a single document before sending it. If this is not possible, please provide instructions on how to collate the attachments. USAID will not be responsible for errors in compiling electronic applications if no instructions are provided or are unclear.

After submitting an application electronically, applicants should immediately check their own email to confirm that the attachments were indeed sent. If an applicant discovers an error in transmission, please send the material again and note in the subject line of the email or indicate in the file name if submitted via grants.gov that it is a "corrected" submission. Do not send the same email more than once unless there has been a change, and if so, please note that it is a "corrected" email.

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

There may be a problem with the receipt of *.zip files due to anti-virus software. Therefore, applicants are discouraged from sending files in this format as USAID/Cote D'Ivoire cannot guarantee their acceptance by the internet server. File size must not exceed {insert max file size}.

5. Technical Application Format

The technical application should be specific, complete, and presented concisely. The application must demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. The application should take into account the requirements of the program and merit review criteria found in this NOFO.

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

(b) Table of Contents

Include major sections and page numbering to easily cross-reference and identify merit review criteria.

c) Executive Summary (2-3 pages)

The Executive Summary must provide a high-level overview of key elements of the Technical Application.

d) Technical Application (no more than 20 pages, excluding Annexes)

The Technical **Application** should be inclusive of the following Performance Reporting requirements:

- 1) Draft CAMEL (**Annex, not included in the 20 page limit**)
- 2) Draft Costed AWP (**Annex, not included in the 20 page limit**)

Additional documents such as organizational charts, a three (3) page resume/CV, one (1) page reference, a two (2) summary pages of expertise for key personnel, references, letters of commitment from proposed partners, acronym and abbreviation lists can be included as

annexes as well. Applicants can also submit a start up plan as an annex as they deem necessary.

The required documentation in support of key personnel are: (3) page resume/ CV, 3 references and a 2 page summary of expertise.

6. Business (Cost) Application Format

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

Prior to award, applicants may be required to submit additional documentation deemed necessary for the Agreement Officer to assess the applicant's risk in accordance with 2 CFR 200.205. Applicants should not submit any additional information with their initial application.

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

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

b) SF 424 Form(s)

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

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

Failure to accurately complete these forms could result in the rejection of the application.

c) Required Certifications and Assurances

The applicant must complete the following documents and submit a signed copy with their application.

- (1) "Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient" document found at <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mav.pdf>
- (2) Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)

- (3) Certificate of Compliance: Please submit a copy of your Certificate of Compliance if your organization's systems have been certified by USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA).

d) Budget and Budget Narrative

The Budget must be submitted as one unprotected Excel file (MS Office 2000 or later versions) with visible formulas and references and must be broken out by project year, including itemization of the federal and non-federal (cost share) amount. Files must not contain any hidden or otherwise inaccessible cells. Budgets with hidden cells lengthen the cost analysis time required to make award, and may result in a rejection of the cost application. The Budget Narrative must contain sufficient detail to allow USAID to understand the proposed costs. The applicant must ensure the budgeted costs address any additional requirements identified in Section F, such as Branding and Marking. The Budget Narrative must be thorough, including sources for costs to support USAID's determination that the proposed costs are fair and reasonable.

The Budget must include the following worksheets or tabs, and contents, at a minimum:

- Summary Budget, inclusive of all program costs (federal and non-federal), broken out by major budget category and by year for activities implemented by the applicant and any potential sub-applicants for the entire period of the program. See Section H, Annex 1 for Summary Budget Template
- Detailed Budget, including a breakdown by year, sufficient to allow the Agency to determine that the costs represent a realistic and efficient use of funding to implement the applicant's program and are allowable in accordance with the cost principles found in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.
- Detailed Budgets for each sub-recipient, for all federal funding and cost share, broken out by budget category and by year, for the entire implementation period of the project.

The Detailed Budget must contain the following budget categories and information, at a minimum:

- 1) Salaries and Allowances – Must be proposed consistent with 2 CFR 200.430 Compensation - Personal Services. The applicant's budget must include position title, salary rate, level of effort, and salary escalation factors for each position. Allowances, when proposed, must be broken down by specific type and by position. Applicants must explain all assumptions in the Budget Narrative. The Budget Narrative must demonstrate that the proposed compensation is reasonable for the services rendered and consistent with what is paid for similar work in other activities of the applicant. Applicants must provide their established written policies on personnel compensation. If the applicant's written policies do not address a specific element of compensation that is being proposed, the Budget Narrative must describe the rationale used and supporting market research.
- 2) Fringe Benefits – (if applicable) If the applicant has a fringe benefit rate approved by an agency of the U.S. Government, the applicant must use such rate and provide evidence of its approval. If an applicant does not have a fringe benefit rate approved, the applicant must propose a rate and explain how the applicant determined the rate. In this case, the Budget Narrative must include a detailed breakdown, comprising of all items of fringe benefits (e.g., superannuation, gratuity, etc.) and the costs of each, expressed in U.S. dollars and as a percentage of salaries.
- 3) Travel and Transportation – Provide details to explain the purpose of the trips, the number of trips, the origin and destination, the number of individuals traveling, and the duration of the trips. Per Diem and associated travel costs must be based on the applicant's normal travel policies. When appropriate

please provide supporting documentation as an attachment, such as company travel policy, and explain assumptions in the Budget Narrative.

- 4) Procurement or Rental of Goods (Equipment & Supplies), Services, and Real Property – Must include information on estimated types of equipment, models, supplies and the cost per unit and quantity. The Budget Narrative must include the purpose of the equipment and supplies and the basis for the estimates. The Budget Narrative must support the necessity of any rental costs and reasonableness in light of such factors as: rental costs of comparable property, if any; market conditions in the area; alternatives available; and the type, life expectancy, condition, and value of the property leased.
- 5) Subawards – Specify the budget for the portion of the program to be passed through to any subrecipients. See 2 CFR 200.330 for assistance in determining whether the sub-tier entity is a subrecipient or contractor. The subrecipient budgets must align with the same requirements as the applicant's budget, including those related to fringe and indirect costs.
- 6) Construction – If applicable
- 7) Other Direct Costs – This may include other costs not elsewhere specified, such as report preparation costs, passports and visas fees, medical exams and inoculations, as well as any other miscellaneous costs which directly benefit the program proposed by the applicant. The applicant should indicate the subject, venue and duration of any proposed conferences and seminars, and their relationship to the objectives of the program, along with estimates of costs. Otherwise, the narrative should be minimal.

Please include the \$2.5M plug figure amount under this line item as a placeholder. Further details on this will be provided in the award to the winning recipient.

All COVID-19 related costs should be contemplated and included in the budget at the time of application.

- 8) Indirect Costs – Applicants must indicate whether they are proposing indirect costs or will charge all costs directly. In order to better understand indirect costs please see Subpart E of 2 CFR 200.414. The application must identify which approach they are requesting and provide the applicable supporting information. Below are the most commonly used Indirect Cost Rate methods:

Method 1 - Direct Charge Only

Eligibility: Any applicant

Initial Application Requirements: See above on direct costs

Method 2 - Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)

Eligibility: Any applicant with a NICRA issued by a USG Agency must use that NICRA

Initial Application Requirements: If the applicant has a current NICRA, submit your approved NICRA and the associated disclosed practices. If your NICRA was issued by an Agency other than USAID, provide the contact information for the approving Agency. Additionally, at the Agency's discretion, a provisional rate may be set forth in the award subject to audit and finalization. See [USAID's Indirect Cost Rate Guide for Non Profit Organizations](#) for further guidance.

Method 3 - De minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC)

Eligibility: Any applicant that has never received a NICRA

Initial Application Requirements: Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity

chooses to negotiate an indirect rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time. The applicant must describe which cost elements it charges indirectly vs. directly. See 2 CFR 200.414(f) for further information.

Method 4 - Indirect Costs Charged As A Fixed Amount

Eligibility: Non U.S. non-profit organizations without a NICRA may request, but approval is at the discretion of the AO

Initial Application Requirements: Provide the proposed fixed amount and a worksheet that includes the following:

- Total costs incurred by the organization for the previous fiscal year and estimates for the current year. *Guidance to AO: If the indirect costs are expected to be minimal or easily attributed to performance of a USAID agreement, the AO should delete this first bullet.*
- Indirect costs (common costs that benefit the day-to-day operations of the organization, including categories such as salaries and expenses of executive officers, personnel administration, and accounting, or that benefit and are identifiable to more than one program or activity, such as depreciation, rental costs, operations and maintenance of facilities, and telephone expenses) for the previous fiscal year and estimates for the current year
- Proposed method for prorating the indirect costs equitably and consistently across all programs and activities of using a base that measures the benefits of that particular cost to each program or activity to which the cost applies.

If the applicant does not have an approved NICRA and does not elect to utilize the 10% de minimis rate, the Agreement Officer will provide further instructions and may request additional supporting information, including financial statements and audits, should the application still be under consideration after the merit review. USAID is under no obligation to approve the applicant's requested method.

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

e) Prior Approvals in accordance with 2 CFR 200.407

Inclusion of an item of cost in the detailed application budget does not satisfy any requirements for prior approval by the Agency. If the applicant would like the award to reflect approval of any cost elements for which prior written approval is specifically required for allowability, the applicant must specify and justify that cost. See 2 CFR 200.407 for information regarding which cost elements require prior written approval.

e) Approval of Subawards

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

- Name of organization
- DUNS Number
- Confirmation that the subrecipient does not appear on the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) list
- Confirmation that the subrecipient does not have active exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM)
- Confirmation that the subrecipient is not listed in the United Nations Security designation list

- Confirmation that the subrecipient is not suspended or debarred
- Confirmation that the applicant has completed a risk assessment of the subrecipient, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.331(b)
- Any negative findings as a result of the risk assessment and the applicant's plan for mitigation.

f) Dun and Bradstreet and SAM Requirements

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 (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is exempted from requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to:

1. Provide a 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.

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

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.

g) History of Performance

Applicants should not provide the information unless requested by the AO. **When the applicant/s will be requested by the AO to provide past performance information, the following will apply:**

The applicant must provide information regarding its recent history of performance for all its cost-reimbursement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs, not to exceed 5, as follows:

- Name of the Awarding Organization;
- Award Number;
- Activity Title;
- A brief description of the activity;
- Period of Performance;
- Award Amount;
- Reports and findings from any audits performed in the last 5; and
- Name of at least two (2) updated professional contacts who most directly observed the work at the organization for which the service was performed with complete current contact information including telephone number, and e-mail address for each proposed individual.

If the applicant encountered problems on any of the referenced Awards, it may provide a short explanation and the corrective action taken. The applicant should not provide general information on its performance. USAID reserves the right to obtain relevant information concerning an applicant's history of performance from any sources and may consider such information in its review of the applicant's risk. The Agency may request additional information and conduct a pre-award survey if it determines that it is necessary to inform the risk assessment.

h) Branding Strategy & Marking Plan

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

Pre-Award Terms

1. Branding Strategy – Assistance (June 2012)

- a. Applicants recommended for an assistance award must submit and negotiate a "Branding Strategy," describing how the program, project, or activity is named and positioned, and how it is promoted and communicated to beneficiaries and host country citizens.
- b. The request for a Branding Strategy, by the Agreement Officer from the applicant, confers no rights to the applicant and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.
- c. Failure to submit and negotiate a Branding Strategy within the time frame specified by the Agreement Officer will make the applicant ineligible for an award.
- d. The applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth, in the budget portion of the application. These costs are subject to the revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance instrument.
- e. The Branding Strategy must include, at a minimum, all of the following:
 - (1) All estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth.
 - (2) The intended name of the program, project, or activity.
 - (i) USAID requires the applicant to use the "USAID Identity," comprised of the USAID logo and brand mark, with the tagline "from the American people" as found on the USAID Web site at <http://www.usaid.gov/branding>, unless Section VI of the RFA or APS states that the USAID Administrator has approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.
 - (ii) USAID prefers local language translations of the phrase "made possible by (or with) the generous support of the American People" next to the USAID Identity when acknowledging contributions.

(iii) It is acceptable to cobrand the title with the USAID Identity and the applicant's identity.

(iv) If branding in the above manner is inappropriate or not possible, the applicant must explain how USAID's involvement will be showcased during publicity for the program or project.

(v) USAID prefers to fund projects that do not have a separate logo or identity that competes with the USAID Identity. If there is a plan to develop a separate logo to consistently identify this program, the applicant must attach a copy of the proposed logos. Section VI of the RFA or APS will state if an Administrator approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.

(3) The intended primary and secondary audiences for this project or program, including direct beneficiaries and any special target segments.

(4) Planned communication or program materials used to explain or market the program to beneficiaries.

(i) Describe the main program message.

(ii) Provide plans for training materials, posters, pamphlets, public service announcement, billboards, Web sites, and so forth, as appropriate.

(iii) Provide any plans to announce and promote publicly this program or project to host country citizens, such as media releases, press conferences, public events, and so forth. Applicant must incorporate the USAID Identity and the message, "USAID is from the American People."

(iv) Provide any additional ideas to increase awareness that the American people support this project or program.

(5) Information on any direct involvement from the host-country government or ministry, including any planned acknowledgement of the host-country government.

(6) Any other groups whose logo or identity the applicant will use on program materials and related materials. Indicate if they are a donor or why they will be visibly acknowledged, and if they will receive the same prominence as USAID.

f. The Agreement Officer will review the Branding Strategy to ensure the above information is adequately included and consistent with the stated objectives of the award, the applicant's cost data submissions, and the performance plan.

g. If the applicant receives an assistance award, the Branding Strategy will be included in and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement

(END OF PRE-AWARD TERM)

2. Marking Plan – Assistance (June 2012)

a. Applicants recommended for an assistance award must submit and negotiate a “Marking Plan,” detailing the public communications, commodities, and program materials, and other items that will visibly bear the “USAID Identity,” which comprises of the USAID logo and brandmark, with the tagline “from the American people.” The USAID Identity is the official marking for the Agency, and is found on the USAID Web site at <http://www.usaid.gov/branding>. Section VI of the RFA or APS will state if an Administrator approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.

b. The request for a Marking Plan, by the Agreement Officer from the applicant, confers no rights to the applicant and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.

c. Failure to submit and negotiate a Marking Plan within the time frame specified by the Agreement Officer will make the applicant ineligible for an award.

d. The applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth, in the budget portion of the application. These costs are subject to the revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance instrument.

e. The Marking Plan must include all of the following:

(1) A description of the public communications, commodities, and program materials that the applicant plans to produce and which will bear the USAID Identity as part of the award, including:

(i) Program, project, or activity sites funded by USAID, including visible infrastructure projects or other sites physical in nature;

(ii) Technical assistance, studies, reports, papers, publications, audiovisual productions, public service announcements, Web sites/Internet activities, promotional, informational, media, or communications products funded by USAID;

(iii) Commodities, equipment, supplies, and other materials funded by USAID, including commodities or equipment provided under humanitarian assistance or disaster relief programs; and

(iv) It is acceptable to cobrand the title with the USAID Identity and the applicant's identity.

(v) Events financed by USAID, such as training courses, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, fairs, workshops, press conferences and other public activities. If the USAID Identity cannot be displayed, the recipient is encouraged to otherwise acknowledge USAID and the support of the American people.

(2) A table on the program deliverables with the following details:

(i) The program deliverables that the applicant plans to mark with the USAID Identity;

(ii) The type of marking and what materials the applicant will use to mark the program deliverables;

(iii) When in the performance period the applicant will mark the program deliverables, and where the applicant will place the marking;

(iv) What program deliverables the applicant does not plan to mark with the USAID Identity , and

(v) The rationale for not marking program deliverables.

(3) Any requests for an exemption from USAID marking requirements, and an explanation of why the exemption would apply. The applicant may request an exemption if USAID marking requirements would:

(i) Compromise the intrinsic independence or neutrality of a program or materials where independence or neutrality is an inherent aspect of the program and materials. The applicant must identify the USAID Development Objective, Interim Result, or program goal furthered by an appearance of neutrality, or state why an aspect of the award is presumptively neutral. Identify by category or deliverable item, examples of material for which an exemption is sought.

(ii) Diminish the credibility of audits, reports, analyses, studies, or policy recommendations whose data or findings must be seen as independent. The applicant must explain why each particular deliverable must be seen as credible.

(iii) Undercut host-country government “ownership” of constitutions, 6 laws, regulations, policies, studies, assessments, reports, publications, surveys or audits, public service announcements, or other communications. The applicant must explain why each particular item or product is better positioned as host-country government item or product.

(iv) Impair the functionality of an item. The applicant must explain how marking the item or commodity would impair its functionality.

(v) Incur substantial costs or be impractical. The applicant must explain why marking would not be cost beneficial or practical.

(vi) Offend local cultural or social norms, or be considered inappropriate. The applicant must identify the relevant norm, and explain why marking would violate that norm or otherwise be inappropriate.

(vii) Conflict with international law. The applicant must identify the applicable international law violated by the marking.

f. The Agreement Officer will consider the Marking Plan's adequacy and reasonableness and will approve or disapprove any exemption requests. The Marking Plan will be reviewed to ensure the above information is adequately included and consistent with the stated objectives of the award, the applicant's cost data submissions, and the performance plan.

g. If the applicant receives an assistance award, the Marking Plan, including any approved exemptions, will be included in and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement, and will apply for the term of the award unless provided otherwise.

(END OF PRE-AWARD TERM)

3. CONSCIENCE CLAUSE - RESERVED

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST PRE-AWARD TERM (August 2018)

a. Personal Conflict of Interest

1. An actual or appearance of a conflict of interest exists when an applicant organization or an employee of the organization has a relationship with an Agency official involved in the competitive award decision-making process that could affect that Agency official's impartiality. The term "conflict of interest" includes situations in which financial or other personal considerations may compromise, or have the appearance of compromising, the obligations and duties of a USAID employee or recipient employee.
2. The applicant must provide conflict of interest disclosures when it submits an SF-424. Should the applicant discover a previously undisclosed conflict of interest after submitting the application, the applicant must disclose the conflict of interest to the AO no later than ten (10) calendar days following discovery.

b. Organizational Conflict of Interest

The applicant must notify USAID of any actual or potential conflict of interest that they are aware of that may provide the applicant with an unfair competitive advantage in competing for this financial assistance award. Examples of an unfair competitive advantage include but are not limited to situations in which an applicant or the applicant's employee gained access to non-public information regarding a federal assistance funding opportunity, or an applicant or applicant's employee was substantially involved in the preparation of a federal assistance funding opportunity. USAID will promptly take appropriate action upon receiving any such notification from the applicant.

(END OF PRE-AWARD TERM)

i) Funding Restrictions

Profit is not allowable for recipients or subrecipients under this award. See 2 CFR 200.330 for assistance in determining whether a sub-tier entity is a subrecipient or contractor.

Construction will not be authorized under this award.

USAID will not allow the reimbursement of pre-award costs under this award without the explicit written approval of the Agreement Officer.

Except as may be specifically approved in advance by the AO, all commodities and services that will be reimbursed by USAID under this award must be from the authorized geographic code specified in Section B.4 of this NOFO and must meet the source and nationality requirements set forth in 22 CFR 228.

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(END OF SECTION D)

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

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

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

2. Review and Selection Process

a) Merit Review

USAID will conduct a merit review of all applications received that comply with the instructions in this NOFO. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the following criteria shown in descending order of importance:

Evaluation Criterion #1 - Technical Approach

A- Technical Approach

Subfactor 1 - Extent to which the Applicants' proposed technical approach represent a strategic, convincing, sound, innovative and realistic approach to achieve the specified objectives of the application and reflects a thorough understanding of the overall program description, its purpose, components, objectives and expected results.

Subfactor # 2 – An approach that takes into account the core principles of strengthening community resilience, including social cohesion; reinforcing resilience structures and factors; preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) and the integration of learning, particularly for youth and women, to better identify any pockets of radicalization and vulnerability.

Subfactor # 3 - The extent to which the proposed interventions contribute to improving governance in ungoverned spaces in the border regions, enhancing trust between states and citizens and addressing the negative spill-over of instability and violence from Burkina Faso and Mali by working to reduce marginalization and inequality particularly around natural resource management and lack of equitable and fair government services in addition to increasing economic opportunities, particularly for youth (adolescents) and women.

Evaluation Criterion #2 - Flexibility and Adaptability in Implementation

Subfactor # 1 - The extent to which the Applicant's plans are comprehensive, clear, logical, well-conceived, neatly presented, and appropriate in ensuring the achievement of project results as well as the applicant's ability to successfully implement its proposed technical approach and the Applicant proposes an implementation approach that focuses on adaptation based upon continuous learning about successes and failures in implementation. Applicants should present a vision and strategy for the program that allows adaptation of program approaches based on program performance, data and trends, experience, funding variations, and inputs from both internal and external stakeholders. This includes submitting a Draft Work Plan, and a Draft Complexity Aware Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (CAMEL), inclusive of well-thought out Collaborating Learning and Adapting (CLA) sections. Applicants should present how their adapting approaches are based upon concrete findings and "course correction" in order to improve outcomes.

Evaluation Criterion #3 - Management Approach and Institutional Capacity

Subfactor # 1 - The extent to which the proposed implementation partners are appropriate and have sufficient experience and organizational capacity to achieve the project goals and objectives.

Subfactor # 2 - The management plan is streamlined and efficient with clear organizational linkages and outlined levels of efforts for staff that are appropriate to meet the objectives. This also includes the extent to which the applicants convincingly demonstrate how the management and staffing approach will lead to successful and effective implementation of the proposed technical approach.

Subfactor # 3 - The extent to which the proposed start-up strategy is feasible and efficient and likely to achieve a rapid project mobilization and launch in all sites within the stated timelines.

Evaluation Criterion #4 - Key Personnel

Subfactor # 1 - The extent to which the proposed key personnel have the technical, analytical, and interpersonal skills and experience to convincingly demonstrate the applicants' ability to successfully achieve the project's objectives.

b) Business Review

The Agency will evaluate the cost application of the applicant(s) under consideration for an award as a result of the merit criteria review to determine whether the costs are allowable in accordance with the cost principles found in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.

The Agency will also consider (1) the extent of the applicant's understanding of the financial aspects of the program and the applicant's ability to perform the activities within the amount requested; (2) whether the applicant's plans will achieve the program objectives with reasonable economy and efficiency; and (3) whether any special conditions relating to costs should be included in the award.

Proposed cost share will be reviewed for compliance with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.306, 2 CFR 700.10, and the Standard Provision "Cost Sharing (Matching)" for U.S. entities, or the Standard Provision "Cost Share" for non-U.S. entities.

The AO will perform a risk assessment (2 CFR 200.205). The AO may determine that a pre-award survey is required to inform the risk assessment in determining whether the prospective recipient has the necessary organizational, experience, accounting and operational controls, financial resources, and technical skills – or ability to obtain them – in order to achieve the objectives of the program and comply with the terms and conditions of the award. Depending on the result of the risk assessment, the AO will decide to execute the award, not execute the award, or award with “specific conditions” (2 CFR 200.207).

(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.

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

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](#).

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

3. Reporting Requirements

- **Financial Reporting:**

The recipient must comply with the financial reporting requirements in accordance with 2 CFR 200.327 and the Federal Financial Report.

a. The Recipient must submit interim financial reports using Standard Form 425 (SF-425) on a quarterly basis. Interim reports shall be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period. The following reporting period end dates shall be used for interim reports: 3/31, 6/30, 9/30, or 12/31.

i. Electronic copies of the SF-425 can be found at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/ff_report.pdf

and

<http://www.forms.gov/bgfPortal/docDetails.do?dId=15149>.

ii. Line item instructions for completing the SF-425 can be found at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/ffr_instructions.pdf.

b. The Recipient must submit a final financial report using Standard Form 425 to the USAID/Washington, M/CFO/CMPLOC Unit, the AO, and the AOR at the end of the award. The Recipient must submit a copy of the final financial report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Final reports shall be submitted no later than 90 days after the project or grant period end date.

c. The Recipient shall prepare a quarterly financial report showing the amount of funding and level of effort

spent and accrued during the quarter, cumulative spending, and estimates for the next quarter no later than 15 days before the end of each quarter. The following quarter end dates shall be used for quarterly reports: 3/31, 6/30, 9/30, or 12/31. If the Recipient is unable to obtain these forms via the internet, forms will be made available by the AOR.

NOTE: Recipients should clearly show how the WPS funds will be allocated in the budget. In the future, the apparent successful applicant will be required to separately track and report this funding pool separately.

- **Performance Reporting**

The successful Applicant will use the standard form Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR) to report performance progress for the program under the award.

Annual Work Plans: The Recipient shall submit a draft, costed Annual Work Plan (AWP) with their Application as required under the Technical Approach section and Section E. The Annual Work Plan should be submitted with an estimated, annual operational budget that will be reviewed by the AOR. This Annual Work Plan will be able to be adjusted based on the CAMEL model used for this activity and shall be reviewed regularly to ensure adjustments along the way. The Recipient will also submit a revised AWP within ninety (90) calendar days of the effective date of the award. Subsequent AWPs must be submitted no later than August 31 each year and will cover the U.S. government fiscal year (October 1 to September 30). Note that the Annual Work Plan is also referred to as an Implementation Plan in this NOFO.

The Recipient shall ensure that the AWP appropriately reflects activity objectives and the program description. The AWP should detail the work to be accomplished during the upcoming year. All work plan activities must be within the scope of the award. The AWP will serve as a guide for activity implementation—a demonstration of links between interventions and objectives in accordance with the Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The AWP shall outline key activities and the expected results to be accomplished for that year and will be negotiated and shared with key stakeholders for comments as appropriate. The AWP will also serve as a basis for budget estimates for that year of program implementation. A budget with sufficient detail to allow the AOR to judge the efficiency of the implementation plan should be included. The AWP should delineate an overall budget by line item and a budget per objective and activity. The AWP may be revised on an occasional basis in the course of implementation, as needed, to reflect changes on the ground with the concurrence of the AOR.

Complexity Aware Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan: The Applicants shall submit a draft Complexity Aware Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (CAMEL) Plan, with their application, inclusive of well thought out CLA sections. The Recipient shall submit a revised CAMEL within ninety (90) calendar days of the effective date of the award. The revised CAMEL is expected to reflect the revised AWP to be submitted on the same date. The CAMEL will cover the entirety of the project period of performance. Its approval is part of USAID's substantial involvement in the project.

The CAMEL is a management tool that enables the Recipient and USAID to track whether desired results are being achieved and project implementation is being adapted to changing conditions. In accordance with Section E, the CAMEL shall define critical performance indicators, data collection methods and the Recipient plans for analyzing, utilizing and sharing information for reporting, accountability, learning and adaptation. The CAMEL may be revised on an occasional basis in the course of implementation, as needed, to reflect changes to the AWP with the concurrence of the AOR.

More Information on the COMPLEXITY AWARE MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING PLAN (CAMEL)

Designing and integrating complex inclusive monitoring, evaluation and learning processes will be critical to ensuring that community resilience is strengthened for youth, women and girls' regardless of their vulnerabilities and ethnic identity. R4P will prioritize an integrated approach by increasing knowledge, learning, and understanding of VE in northern border communities.

R4P is considering knowledge and learning processes of key practical research and analysis gap areas around community resilience to violent extremism as a fundamental baseline. Inclusive and integrated approaches to collect richer, more reliable data that provide insight into program interventions and interactions with communities will ultimately foster more effective, and effective programming. CAMEL is grounded in well-established principles of complex inclusive and integrated M&E approaches focusing on the drivers of violent extremism and insurgency. Our monitoring and evaluation plan will identify and prioritize drivers, set clear objectives and systematically evaluate related measures of progress and impact.

This approach is flexible, iterative, and adaptive so that complex challenges and opportunities are consistently addressed and barriers, needs and priorities of youth, women and girls marginalized groups are more fully considered in order to better advance program objectives and community resilience. Baseline assessment will include gender and conflict sensitivity.

Designing and implementing CAMEL efforts also promotes adaptive management by better enabling program staff to be responsive to the realities facing youth, women and girls marginalized groups and make adjustments as necessary to meet program objectives.

More information on CLA - Learning Reports

The Recipient will undertake assessments, studies, or evaluations over the course of project implementation, subject to approved by the AOR in annual work planning. Reports documenting the results of such assessments, studies, or evaluations, or information products developed by the Recipient for the purpose of learning and adapting, shall be disseminated to key project stakeholders (such as USG agencies, other donors, and other USG implementers) and include an executive summary that can function as a stand-alone document.

Learning Reports and the corresponding executive summaries shall be professionally formatted and utilize photos, maps, tables, and other graphical elements so as to improve readability and facilitate understanding. In order to maximize uptake by stakeholders with regard to the most critical learning reports, the recipient is encouraged to produce a short film in addition to, or in the place of, an executive summary. In most cases, learning reports shall be produced in both English and French.

Quarterly Reports: The Recipient shall submit quarterly reports that include narratives of quarterly achievements, and progress against the AWP and agreed-upon performance indicators. A format for the quarterly report shall be approved by the AOR on an annual basis. The Recipient shall submit quarterly reports within thirty (30) calendar days of the end of each quarter. The following quarter end dates shall be used for quarterly reports: 3/31, 6/30, 9/30, or 12/31 or the nearest work day to these. The fourth quarter report shall be drafted as an annual report and shall cover the activities of the quarter as well as overall assessment of performance and progress for prior 12 months of the program (See Annual Reports below).

The quarterly report shall describe and assess the overall progress to date based upon agreed performance indicators. The reports shall also describe the accomplishments of the Recipient and the progress made during the past quarter; include information on key activities, both ongoing and completed during the quarter (e.g. meetings, trainings, workshops, significant events, subcontracts, and grants). The quarterly report should include targets and results for each indicator agreed upon in the MEL. The quarterly report provides the opportunity to discuss the impact of learning on the program; for example, how has implementation evolved as a result of information gathered over the course of the quarter? Also, notification shall be given in the case of problems, delays, or adverse conditions which materially impair the ability to meet the objectives of the award or which may have an impact on the development hypothesis or theory of change for the activity, and/or other activities (USG-funded or not) which might be informed by such learning.

The quarterly reports shall utilize photos, maps, tables and other graphical elements useful in communicating performance data and activity implementation and include at least one success story, and linked photos from that quarter's activities. Any outreach or press reporting about the activity shall also be included, as well as reference or links to any important events or achievements during the quarter.

Annual Reports: The Recipient shall submit annual reports that include narratives of achievements, and progress against the work plan and agreed-upon performance indicators. A format for the annual report shall be approved by the AOR on an annual basis. The Recipient shall submit annual reports within thirty (30) calendar days of the end of each U.S. Government fiscal year. Annual reports should contain content appropriate for public dissemination.

Close-out and Disposition Plan: The Recipient shall submit a Close-out and Disposition Plan (CDP) detailing the phase-out of in-country operations and completion of all required actions in closing-out the award. The closeout plan will be submitted no later than ninety (90) calendar days prior to the award end date. The CDP should include but not be limited to: 1) Dates for final delivery of all goods and services for grants; 2) A property disposition plan for the Recipient, sub-recipients where applicable in accordance with government regulations; 3) Recipient's review of award and/or grant files for audit purposes and final billing to USAID; 4) A schedule to address office leases, bank accounts, utilities, cell phones, personnel notification, health insurance, outstanding travel, social payments, household shipments, severance for local staff (if appropriate), vehicle leases/disposition, phone subscriptions; 5) Receipt of all final invoices and grant performance reports; 6) Report use of funds not required for the completion of the award; 7) Report on compliance with all local labor laws, tax clearances, etc.

Development Experience Clearinghouse Requirements

Consistent with ADS 540 Development experience documentation may be submitted

- Online: <http://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/informationresources/> development-experience-clearinghouse-dec
- By mail (for pouch delivery):
USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse
M/CIO/ITSD/KM/DEC
RRB M.01-010
Washington, DC 20523-6100
For questions on DEC submissions, contact
M/CIO/ITSD/KM/DEC
Telephone: +1 202-712-0579
E-mail: DocSubmit@usaid.gov

The following agreement reports are development experience documentation:

- Annual, semi-annual, or quarterly reports describing the progress and accomplishments of the USAID-funded activity or project.
- Learning reports that document the finding of assessments, studies, or evaluations undertaken over the course of project implementation.
- Final performance reports submitted 90 days after the expiration or termination of the grant.

4. Program Income

Program income is not anticipated to be generated under the award.

5. Environmental Compliance

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. The Applicant's environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this NOFO. In addition, the contractor/recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern.

No activity funded under this Cooperative Agreement will be implemented unless an environmental threshold determination, as defined by 22 CFR 216, has been reached for that activity, as documented in a Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE), Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), or Environmental Assessment (EA) duly signed by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO). (Hereinafter, such documents are described as "approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.")

The USAID/CDI Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) Office is operating under an umbrella IEE and its subsequent amendments of the Regional Peace and Governance Office (RPGO) of the West Africa Mission. This umbrella IEE expires on September 30, 2018. In August 2017, USAID/CI launched a new integrated DRG strategy: The Political Inclusion and Accountability Project (PIA). This request for categorical exclusion (RCE) is intended to address portfolio of activities within the 2018-2022 USAID/Côte d'Ivoire DRG Program. It replaces and supersedes the Mission's RPGO IEE #39306.

The IEE provides threshold determinations for activities of USAID/WA/RPGO programs. The activities elaborated under aimed at building capacity, research, assessments, training and capacity building of organizations, civic education, and advocacy/dialogue. These activities should generally have no significant adverse environmental impacts, and would as such, generally belong to classes of activities eligible for categorical exclusion. As the project implementation progresses, the range of activities will be reviewed to ensure its continued compliance with the IEE conditions.

As part of its initial Work Plan, and all Annual Work Plans thereafter, the Recipient in collaboration with the USAID Contracting Officer's Representative and Mission Environmental Officer or Bureau Environmental Officer, as appropriate, shall review all ongoing and planned activities under this Cooperative Agreement to determine if they are within the scope of the approved Regulation 216

environmental documentation.

If the Recipient plans any new activities outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation, it shall prepare an amendment to the documentation for USAID review and approval. No such new activities shall be undertaken prior to receiving written USAID approval of environmental documentation amendments. Any ongoing activities found to be outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation shall be halted until an amendment to the documentation is submitted and written approval is received from USAID.

Climate Risk Management

Climate change is an area of concern in terms of threat to the objectives of this activity. While it is nearly impossible to mitigate the risk of severe weather, the activity will help mitigate the potential severity of health impacts resulting from severe weather. In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13677 and the Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 201 on Climate Risk Management for USAID Projects and Activities, USAID/Côte d'Ivoire conducted a climate risk assessment using the Climate Change Risk Screening and Management Tool. The conclusion of the screening determined that the R4P activity is considered to be low risk and no further action is warranted. by the Environmental Policy Specialist.

The CVE activity contributes directly to the achievements of the PIA PAD purpose and sub-purposes 1 and 2 and therefore is low risk and no further action is warranted. The analysis is based on the Climate Change Risk Screening and Management Tool as mandated by ADS 201.

If new information becomes available which indicates that any of the proposed actions to be funded under this activity might be “major” and their effects “significant”, the threshold decisions for those actions will be reviewed and revised by the AO and the AOR in coordination with the Mission’s Environmental Policy Specialist.

6. Other Requirements

The applicants will need to adapt their program approach and remain flexible to address the global challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of writing, the Government of Cote d'Ivoire still has its borders closed and its international flights halted in response to the crisis, directly impacting applicants' ability to travel to Cote d'Ivoire. Should the Government of Cote d'Ivoire ease these restrictions, travel to Cote d'Ivoire should be considered on a case-by-case basis while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff and consultants. In the meantime, and until the crisis has abated, applicants should begin the design and market research of the activity through existing resources and the use of telecommunications such as Skype and WhatsApp to collaborate with potential partners in the field and hold virtual meetings. Applicants should reflect in their submission plans and conduct preparations to be able to rapidly scale up work once travel is more feasible. This approach will allow applicants to continue limited outreach to key stakeholders during this global challenge, in response to this NOFO and later during implementation. All COVID-19 related costs should be contemplated and included in the budget at the time of application.

(END OF SECTION F)

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

1. Agreement Officer for the Award resulting from this NOFO:

Karla Camp or her designee
Regional Acquisitions and Assistance Office (RAAO)
USAID/West Africa, Accra – Ghana
E-mail Address: kcamp@usaid.gov

2. Points of Contact for Questions:

Fatoumata Binta Camara
Sr. Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
USAID/ Côte d'Ivoire
fcamara@usaid.gov

Siata Tano
Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
USAID/Côte d'Ivoire
stano@usaid.gov

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(END OF SECTION G)

SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. Any award and subsequent incremental funding will be subject to the availability of funds and continued relevance to Agency programming.

Applications with Proprietary Data

Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the U.S. Government except for evaluation purpose, should mark the cover page with the following:

“This application includes data that must not be disclosed, duplicated, 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.”

(END OF SECTION H)

ANNEX 1 - SUMMARY BUDGET TEMPLATE - RESERVED

Cost Category		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total All Years
a.	Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-
b.	Fringe Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-
c.	Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
d.	Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
e.	Supplies	-	-	-	-	-	-
f.	Contractual	-	-	-	-	-	-
g.	Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-
h.	Other Direct Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
i.	Total Direct Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
j.	Indirect Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
k.	Fee-Profit	-	-	-	-	-	-
I.	TOTALS	-	-	-	-	-	-

ANNEX 2 - 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)
		RAA4. EXCHANGE VISITORS AND PARTICIPANT TRAINING (JUNE 2012)
		RAA5. VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES – SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (JANUARY 2009)
		RAA6. PROTECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL AS A RESEARCH SUBJECT (APRIL 1998)
		RAA7. CARE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS (MARCH 2004)
		RAA8. TITLE TO AND CARE OF PROPERTY (COOPERATING COUNTRY TITLE) (NOVEMBER 1985)
		RAA9. COST SHARING (MATCHING) (FEBRUARY 2012)
		RAA10. PROHIBITION OF ASSISTANCE TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS (JUNE 1999)
		RAA11. INVESTMENT PROMOTION (NOVEMBER 2003)
		RAA12. REPORTING HOST GOVERNMENT TAXES (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA13. FOREIGN GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (JUNE 2012)
		RAA14. CONSCIENCE CLAUSE IMPLEMENTATION (ASSISTANCE) (FEBRUARY 2012)
		RAA15. CONDOMS (ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014)
		RAA16. PROHIBITION ON THE PROMOTION OR ADVOCACY OF THE LEGALIZATION OR PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION OR SEX TRAFFICKING (ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014)
		RAA17. USAID DISABILITY POLICY - ASSISTANCE (DECEMBER 2004)
		RAA18. STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED IN USAID ASSISTANCE AWARDS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION (SEPTEMBER 2004)

		RAA19. STATEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES ON LACK OF SUPPORT FOR PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012)
		RAA20. ELIGIBILITY OF SUBRECIPIENTS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS (JUNE 2012)
		RAA21. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS TO PROMOTE, SUPPORT, OR ADVOCATE FOR THE LEGALIZATION OR PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012)
		RAA22. UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM OF AWARD MANAGEMENT (July 2015)
		RAA23. REPORTING SUBAWARDS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA24. PATENT REPORTING PROCEDURES (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA25. ACCESS TO USAID FACILITIES AND USAID'S INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AUGUST 2013)
		RAA26. CONTRACT PROVISION FOR DBA INSURANCE UNDER RECIPIENT PROCUREMENTS (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA27. AWARD TERM AND CONDITION FOR RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE MATTERS (April 2016)
		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)
		RAA5. UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM OF AWARD MANAGEMENT (July 2015)
		RAA6. REPORTING SUBAWARDS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA7. SUBAWARDS (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA8. TRAVEL AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA9. OCEAN SHIPMENT OF GOODS (JUNE 2012)
		RAA10. REPORTING HOST GOVERNMENT TAXES (JUNE 2012)
		RAA11. PATENT RIGHTS (JUNE 2012)
		RAA12. EXCHANGE VISITORS AND PARTICIPANT TRAINING (JUNE 2012)
		RAA13. INVESTMENT PROMOTION (NOVEMBER 2003)

		RAA 14. COST SHARE (JUNE 2012)
		RAA15. PROGRAM INCOME (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA16. FOREIGN GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (JUNE 2012)
		RAA17. STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED IN USAID ASSISTANCE AWARDS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION (SEPTEMBER 2004)
		RAA18. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RESEARCH SUBJECTS (JUNE 2012)
		RAA19. STATEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES ON LACK OF SUPPORT FOR PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012)
		RAA20. ELIGIBILITY OF SUBRECIPIENTS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS (JUNE 2012)
		RAA21. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING FUNDS TO PROMOTE, SUPPORT, OR ADVOCATE FOR THE LEGALIZATION OR PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION (JUNE 2012)
		RAA22. VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES – SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (JANUARY 2009)
		RAA23. CONSCIENCE CLAUSE IMPLEMENTATION (ASSISTANCE) (FEBRUARY 2012)
		RAA24. CONDOMS (ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014)
		RAA25. PROHIBITION ON THE PROMOTION OR ADVOCACY OF THE LEGALIZATION OR PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION OR SEX TRAFFICKING (ASSISTANCE) (SEPTEMBER 2014)
		RAA26. LIMITATION ON SUBAWARDS TO NON-LOCAL ENTITIES (JULY 2014)
		RAA27. CONTRACT PROVISION FOR DBA INSURANCE UNDER RECIPIENT PROCUREMENTS (DECEMBER 2014)
		RAA28. CONTRACT AWARD TERM AND CONDITION FOR RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE MATTERS (April 2016)
		RAA29. PROTECTING LIFE IN GLOBAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE (MAY 2017)

The required as applicable standard provisions will be dependent on the organization that is selected and as a result, they will be determined at the award stage.