Questions from Applicants and Responses

1. Share the APS application forms in world format

   The APS application form in word format is embedded in this PDF document. Click on the Attachment icon on the left. It will show the APS Application Form embedded in the PDF file. Double click on it to open it or display it.

2. Share the Application guidelines

   The application guidelines are incorporated in the Annual Program Statement document shared. Please read the document carefully.

3. I am asking if NGOs can also apply

   Yes, NGOs can also apply.

4. How many years this project will take

   Feed the Future Rwanda Hanga Akazi is a 5-year activity (2022-2027)

5. Can an individual submit an application? will it be eligible application?

   Yes, an individual with an innovative business idea or modal with a great potential to scale and create more jobs can also apply. This may include access to technology or seed capital that would unlock large investments

6. Is the applicant allowed to submit more than one application but responding to two different activities and objectives, for example one application for Innovative Business Models and another one for Skills Building and Talent Management.

   Yes, the applicant can submit more than one application. The applicant must ensure that each application fulfills the requirements. In this case, each application will be regarded and evaluated as a separate application. Each of these applications should not exceed the maximum threshold of USD 250,000.

7. In the call for proposal, you indicated that if we need support to prepare our response to this call for applications, we can request it, can you kindly assist us on this stage.
We can only be helpful if you indicate the specific support you need. You can also reach out to us by phone on 0738172856.

8. We have been working as DBS company, can we share this call with other companies or individuals so that they can attempt their interest.

   Yes, you can share it.

9. On application form, the first is to fill "APS number". what about this number?

   The APS number is APS-HA-2023-001

10. My question is that, to do this application those it requires a certificate or diploma of high school?

   No certificate or diploma required to apply.

11. Twifuzaga kumenya niba mu kwaplyinga bisaba kuba utarenegge imyaka 30

    No limitation of age to apply (Nurengeje imyaka 30 yakwapplyinga).

12. I would like to ask if application in APS 2023 is possible also form governmental institutions like a TVET School

    Yes, governmental institutions like TVET schools are also eligible to apply for this APS especially under the skills building and talent management domain if they fulfil the requirements

13. Greetings. I would like to ask for more clarifications about the language of application projects. Can we elaborate in Kinyarwanda?

    Yes, you can apply in the language you feel comfortable, Kinyarwanda or French. However, if you can apply in English, please do so. The Application must not be more than 5 pages. The 5 pages limit excludes Section I. For more information read page 6 of the APS.

14. I just want to know if the application form will be submitted together with the concept note.

    Yes, the concept note with the application must be submitted together in one package before the deadline.

15. It's possible to submit in other languages like kinyarwanda or french please.
Yes, you can submit in Kinyarwanda, French or English. The Application must not be more than 5 pages. The 5 pages limit excludes Section I. For more information read page 6 of the APS.

16. About due diligence: Let’s say the company has activities that fit the APS and hanga akazi goals, but the owner works for example with a public institution/organization/NGO that Hanga-Akazi has been meeting on co-creation basis which [unfortunately] made the company owner to have contacts of hanga akazi staff. Can this company still apply considering the rigorous due diligence process of USAID-funded projects? Will this company be a victim of fraudulent actions?

Possessing Hanga Akazi staff contacts or knowing Hanga Akazi staff does not constitute fraudulent action. In this situation the company is encouraged to apply and during the evaluation, members of the technical committee in charge of evaluation will be requested to disclose if they realize a possible conflict of interest.

17. Joint proposals: Considering how wide the agriculture sector is, it is not easy to get one-model-fit-all hence joint applications that bring together different but complementary skills and expertise can make a difference. This is to ask if joint applications will be accepted and if yes, please share some guidance.

Joint applications will be allowed on condition that the involved parties prove that they have an agreement of partnership. In this case the parties involved must (1) meet the application requirements and (2) possess all the legal requirements (tax compliance and registration certificates etc). For instance, a consortium of firms or NGO may wish or find that pooling together their expertise would enable them to achieve the APS goals and targets. In this case, the evaluators will regard this application as one but on the other hand assess on an individual basis if the parties involved do fulfill the requirements.

18. Given that the 3rd round of application is on 3rd August 2023 when is it scheduled for embarking on the implementation stage for selected project?

For those selected for the third round, the starting date is probably October 2023, but for those selected for the first round, the estimated date of starting will be around June 2023.

19. With our experience it is complicated to apply and succeed in the application of UEI, we would request if the is someone in your network who may successively assist us to apply and get the UEI number. If yes, we wish that you may refer us to him/her so that we may start the process.

Once your project is selected by the technical committee to advance on to the next stage, Hanga Akazi staff will assist you in the process of getting the UEI number.
20. I would like to know if it's possible to elaborate one application for agriculture and cow rearing in one project. Or I can apply separately. Is it possible to send two applications one for agriculture and another for farming business?

For clarity purposes it is advisable to elaborate and send two distinct applications separately ie one for agriculture and the other one for cow rearing. Refer to question N 6 response as well.

21. Should we fill out the document attached and send it to CGF-Grants@Hanga-Akazi.org?

Yes, the entire application package must be sent via CGF-Grants@Hanga-Akazi.org

22. Should we edit the document in word and convert it back into PDF when submitting it?

The word format is attached on the first page.

23. We are Agri SME and plan to scale to process vegetables into baby food and we saw grant don't spend on infrastructure and we wonder if we can apply, and we can use grant to procure machine

This grant can be used to procure machine if the machine to be acquired would enhance job creation. However, the grant does not support construction activities of any kind.

24. I need more information about this application

Can you specify which information do you need exactly. We can only be helpful if you indicate the specific support you need.

25. Is there a difference between UEI and DUNS?

Yes, there is a difference between UEI and DUNS number. Since April 2022, USAID has switched from DUNS number to UEI number. The entities which had DUNS number will have to apply for UEI number. Here I put the link which will guide you on how to apply for UEI number: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C87wSCYKTeE

26. We are a cooperative and want to apply for this opportunity of Hanga Akazi. However, we need clarification on this point: You said that the fund is not allowed to buy any infrastructure and as far as we are concerned, we are facing the problem of not having storage facility like a cold room and as well as green house. Now we wonder if we cannot apply for be funding to buy those infrastructures above mentioned.

Depending on the proposal, Hanga Akazi can pay different elements of the green house and the construction part will be your contribution to the project. As stated on page 05 of APS, Hanga Akazi does not support construction activities of any kind.

27. Concerning eligible activities, one applicant can apply for all forms of support including grants, technical assistance, and training for enterprises?
The simple answer is Yes; one applicant can apply for more than one form of support if the applicant is comfortable that the interventions would achieve the anticipated impact and targets. However, we would like to advise the applicant to focus on areas they think they have competitive advantage and expertise.

28. With respect to illustrative partnership activities, an applicant can apply for an activity that includes multiple areas of possible support.

Yes, one applicant can apply for an activity that includes multiple areas of possible support if the applicant is convinced that the interventions would achieve the anticipated targets. However, we would like to advise the applicant to focus on areas they think they have competitive advantage and expertise.

29. We are a women-led company, and we want more explanation (and if possible, with supporting examples) on this sentence which is more specifically about women, youth and persons with disabilities: "Standard operational costs will not be considered as part of the contribution. However, special considerations on leverage amounts will be given to businesses led by women, youth, and persons with disabilities"? Also, we need more explanation for this sentence: "Applicants must demonstrate that their contributions will, in most cases, be “incremental” to the “new” effort associated with the grant. However, if the applicant can successfully demonstrate that this was a recent direct investment then the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) will consider accepting this leverage on a case-by-case basis"?

Standard operational costs may include rent, wages or salaries, insurance etc. These will not be considered as part of the leverage contribution.

Special considerations on leverage amounts will be given to businesses led by women, youth, and persons with disabilities means that special treatment or priority will be given to businesses led by women, youth, and persons with disabilities that are willing to provide their own contribution to support the in implementation of their project. For instance: If business A is owned by a man and submits a proposal with USD 50,000 as a leverage contribution and business B who is owned by a woman also submits her proposal with a leverage contribution of USD 50,000 or USD 45,000, business B will be chosen.

30. We are a newly created company (2022) by young people with the aim of using agriculture as a means of fighting the high level of youth unemployment. Are we eligible for this call? If yes, can we apply as a partner or grantee?

Yes, you’re eligible to apply and you will apply as a potential grantee.

31. Will the project provide start up kits for beneficiaries?
Hanga Akazi will work with new and existing agri-food system businesses with great potential to scale and create more jobs. On a case-by-case basis, the project will provide start up kits if the kits would supplement or enhance beneficiaries to apply their skills or expertise to create self-employment or business that would later create more jobs for others. For instance, provision of vet cool box to veterinary doctors or technicians that would help them to create self-employment as private vets through provision artificial insemination services.

32. Will the Grant of $250,000 include overhead?

   No, overhead will not be included in the proposal. The proposed budget should be dedicated to directing implementation of the project.

33. In a section of leverage, which percentage of contribution is required to the total budget of the project?

   No percentage required, but as specified in the APS, priority will be given to the entity which proposed a significant amount of leverage.

34. Can the Contribution for cooperatives be the land of beneficiaries (for example members of cooperatives of pineapple growers, banana growers, etc.)

   Yes, on condition that the cooperative has a certificate of registration and members possess land titles of the land they are offering as a contribution.

35. How would you consider an application where the use of the grant does not provide immediate results? Result that could appear a few months / years after as a late outcome. For example, planting trees that would only bear fruits after a certain time.

   It is possible that the grant can consider such investment. However, this will depend on the number of factors like the length of the period, the nature of investment and the number of jobs the investment will yield. Ideally, being a project with limited life cycle, projects that would start to generate results sooner will have added advantage.

36. How would you consider an application where the benefits go directly to third parties and indirectly provide results to the grant applicant? For example, seeds provided to farmers who would sell their produce to an agro-processing factory.

   This is ok so longer as the provision of seeds to farmers would create more jobs in form of increasing the numbers of farmers engaged in farming and hence creating jobs
37. To which extent and how would training provided by the applicant to third party beneficiaries be evaluated? No point seems to be given for this on the table (page 3 of the document).

In this case the applicant is encouraged to apply for skills enhancement grant and demonstrate how his/her interventions would enhance capacity and skills for the targeted beneficiaries. Hanga Akazi will evaluate applicant’s proposal or approach to enhance capacity or skills of the targeted beneficiaries.

38. As there are 3 rounds of applications, is it allowed to apply in all rounds or only one is enough?

Yes, it is allowed to apply for all rounds. However, applicants will apply for a support that is different from the one, he/she applied for in the first round.

39. As written in your documents the project requested must not go beyond 250,000 US Dollars. In which period of time to use this amount once accepted?

The period of time should be specified in the applicant’s concept note. However, applicants are advised to identify projects that can generate results as soon as possible. The shorter the payback period in terms of targets and impact the project has the better. The budget of 250,000 USD is limited to one year.

40. Is it possible to apply in more than one area?

Yes, it is possible for one applicant to apply to multiple areas if the applicant is convinced that he/she has the required capacity to achieve the anticipated targets. However, we would like to advise the applicants to focus on areas they think they have competitive advantage and expertise.

41. If someone applies in two areas, the proposed amount 250,000 US Dollars remains the same?

The proposed amount of USD 250,000 is a maximum threshold on one area and should not go beyond one year. The threshold could go beyond this if the applicant chose to submit 02 projects. These projects will, however, be treated as separate projects.

42. What type of organizations are eligible to apply, and are (for profit) social enterprises able to apply?

Existing & new businesses, Cooperatives, Training providers, & Other private sectors operating in the agri-food system in Rwanda are eligible to apply. These may include but
not limited to individuals, firms, cooperatives, associations, NGOs, TVET, IPRCs etc operating in Rwanda.

43. We aim to create jobs for youth (below 35 years) and women, is there a target population for HA Activity?

HA encourages proposals which can create jobs amount all people regardless the age. Regarding the age range for youth, Hanga Akazi align itself with the Government of Rwanda youth definition which is between 16-30 years of age.

44. Although we are developing its own porridge brand, we are interested in learning from experts and other organizations in the field of nutrition. Does the proposal also provide TA support?

Yes, the project can provide TA support to its partners but not in the form of grant.

45. Is co-funding required, and are companies able to partly co-fund in kind?

Yes, co-funding is an option under this grant. However, co-funding will be allowed on condition that the parties involved prove to have an agreement of partnership. In this case the parties involved must (1) meet the application requirements and (2) possess all the legal requirements (tax compliance and registration certificates etc). For instance, a consortium of firms or NGO may wish or find that pooling together their expertise would enable them to achieve the APS goals and targets. In this case, the evaluators will regard this application as one but on the other hand assess on an individual basis if the parties involved do fulfill the requirements.

46. Is this experienced company as our business partner in business plan development, capacity building and M&E activities allowed to submit its concept note requesting the grant that can facilitate it to continue supporting this large and long-term synergized projects? Or We will try to include the cost of these activities in our concept note?

If your business partner has an agreement of partnership with other, you chose to jointly submit one application, or each company send its own application.

47. If agree, one will submit its own concept note and other submit another one to ensure the proper Business plan implementation, Good M&E and new job created for youth and women. The expertise of the second will allow our Project to succeed and can be part of RTI /Feed the Future HANGA AKAZI Activity to promote many small succeeding enterprises in Rwanda.

If the other is your business partner and has an agreement of partnership with yours, you chose to jointly submit one application, or each company send its own application.
48. What is the ceiling Budget for the proposal?

The proposed activities should not go above $250,000 per year.

49. Can we do this project in consortium?

Yes, consortium is an option under this grant. However, parties will be allowed on condition that the parties involved prove to have an agreement of partnership. In this case the parties involved must (1) meet the application requirements and (2) possess all the legal requirements (tax compliance and registration certificates etc). For instance, a consortium of firms or NGO may wish or find that pooling together their expertise would enable them to achieve the APS goals and targets. In this case, the evaluators will regard this application as one but on the other hand assess on an individual basis if the parties involved do fulfill the requirements.

50. How many youths that the IP is supposed to support?

Since youth is one of the areas of focus, we would prefer as many as possible. The same applies to women and persons with disabilities. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to determine the suitable number. Hanga Akazi does not have a specific number of percentages of youth that the proposal must adhere to.

51. Is there any limited area to work in Rwanda?

Hanga Akazi has the ability to operate in all geographic zone in Rwanda.

52. How many employees will this project take care of?

No cost of employees should be included in the proposed budget, Hanga Akazi will not pay the cost of overhead.

53. What is the holistic approach of the project?

Hanga Akazi activity use a market systems approach to support access to productive resources for enterprises and entrepreneurs in the agri-food system that are poised to grow and hire

54. Is there any specific area that you want to focus on?

Read page 4 of this APS on illustrative partnership activities

55. What is the maximum amount that can be financed by HANGA AKAZI Project?
The maximum amount is USD 250,000 per project.

56. Can HANGA AKAZI Project finance the working capital expenses (salaries, Inputs, seeds, animal feed, rent, etc.)

   Standard operational costs that include rent, wages or salaries, insurance etc will not be considered as part of this grant.

57. Is land acquisition an eligible expense?

   Land acquisition is also regarded as a standard operational cost and therefore will not be considered as part of this grant.

58. What are the expected dates to provide responses to the applications?

   In the APS, the deadline for response to questions is March 31, 2023. Regarding the feedback to the applications, Hanga Akazi will provide feedback beginning May 2023.

59. In this program (APS) are individuals and private companies allowed to apply?

   Existing & new businesses, Cooperatives, Training providers, & Other private sectors operating in the agri-food system in Rwanda are eligible to apply. These may include but not limited to individuals, firms, cooperatives, associations, NGOs, TVET, IPRCs etc operating in Rwanda.

60. If we are an educational and training center and operating in social training though wish to introduce agricultural training, are we allowed.

   Yes, TVET schools are also eligible to apply for this APS especially under the skills building and talent management domain if they fulfil the requirements. In this case TVET has to demonstrate how the agricultural training they wish to introduce is market driven and will create jobs for the beneficiaries.