

## **Request For Applications (RFA) Power Africa Off-grid Project (PAOP)**

<b>RFA Title:</b>	Scaling Healthcare Facility Electrification
<b>RFA No:</b>	PAOP-RFA-2021-007
<b>Date of Issuance:</b>	Tuesday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021
<b>Closing dates for questions:</b>	Round 1: Friday, November 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 Round 2: Friday, December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 (Questions should be sent via email to <a href="mailto:paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org">paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org</a> )
<b>RFA Live Q&amp;A and Webinar</b>	Round 1: Monday, November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 14h00 SAST (GMT+2) Round 2: Wednesday, December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 14h00 SAST (GMT+2)
<b>Responses to be published:</b>	Round 1: Friday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021 Round 2: Monday, December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>Closing date for this RFA:</b>	Friday, January 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 at 17h00 SAST (GMT+2) <b>Late applications will not be considered</b>
<b>Estimated award date:</b>	Tuesday, March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2022
<b>Duration of funding:</b>	Indicative 7 months <b>Final duration to be determined at signing stage</b>

## Overview of funding opportunity

The Power Africa Off-grid Project (PAOP), a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-contracted project implemented by RTI International, seeks applicants for grants to implement projects that will scale up Power Africa’s Healthcare Facility Electrification (HFE) efforts. Awards to qualified organizations/companies will catalyze the market for off-grid energy access solutions that improve health care access and service delivery. This RFA provides prospective applicants with a fair opportunity to develop and submit competitive applications to PAOP for potential funding.

The grants will be awarded and implemented in accordance with USAID and US Government regulations, and PAOP grant management policies and procedures. Please see the detailed description of the application requirements in “Section III: Application Merit Review Criteria” below.

Grant activities may be conducted in Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. PAOP will partner with companies based in these countries and companies partnered with companies based in these countries.

Soft copies of this document are available from the RTI International website:  
[www.rti.org/rfp](http://www.rti.org/rfp).

To ensure uniform disclosure to all potential applicants, applicants should submit clarification questions by email to [paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org](mailto:paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org) with the subject line: “PAOP-RFA-2021-007: Question(s)” by November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 17h00 South African Standard Time (GMT+2) for the first round of questions and by December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 17h00 South African Standard Time (GMT+2) for the second round of questions. PAOP will not respond to telephone inquiries. PAOP will host live webinars on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with further details posted to the RTI website ([www.rti.org/rfp](http://www.rti.org/rfp)). Answers will be posted on the RTI website ([www.rti.org/rfp](http://www.rti.org/rfp)) on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 for the first round of questions and December 20, 2021 for the second round of questions.

Date of Issuance	November 23, 2021
Closing date for first round of questions	November 26, 2021
Webinar for Q&A - first round	November 29, 2021
Responses to first round of questions posted by RTI	December 3, 2021
Closing date for second round of questions	December 10, 2021
Webinar for Q&A - second round	December 15, 2021
Final responses to be posted on the RTI website	December 20, 2021
Closing date for this RFA	January 7, 2022
Anticipated award date	March 1, 2022



Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of PAOP or USAID, nor does it commit PAOP to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, PAOP reserves the right to reject any or all applications received. Similarly, an invitation to clarify your application is not a commitment to fund that application, nor reimburse any costs incurred during the preparation of the application.

The PAOP grant review and approval process eliminates the possibility of any unilateral decision on any given application. PAOP staff will not ask for, and applicants are prohibited from offering, any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation to obtain or reward improper favorable treatment regarding this solicitation. Any improper request from a project employee should be reported to [ethics@rti.org](mailto:ethics@rti.org).

Sincerely

**Miguel Franco**

Chief of Party, Power Africa Off-grid Project

Power Africa Contractor

## SECTION I. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

### a. Program Background

The Power Africa Off-grid Project (PAOP) is a four-year contract between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and RTI International. PAOP intends to accelerate off-grid electrification across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to support Power Africa's Beyond the Grid initiative, which contributes to the goal of facilitating 60 million new electricity connections by 2030. Power Africa defines access as the direct or actual number of new households and businesses connected to electricity via an on-grid or off-grid solution. PAOP focuses on accelerating off-grid energy access through solar home systems (SHS) and micro-grids, with the goal of facilitating six million new electricity connections by November 2022.

The importance of electricity access is especially prominent now as countries throughout SSA seek to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the different sectors of society. The health sector has been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, both directly by straining existing limited health system capacity as well as indirectly through negative impacts on economies and livelihoods. The health sector has seen a lot of budget funds being shifted away from approved activities reprioritized for the COVID-19 emergency response.

The COVID-19 pandemic reemphasized a long-standing issue of available and reliable energy access for healthcare facilities in SSA. Approximately one in four healthcare facilities are without electricity access in SSA. (based on a study average).<sup>1</sup>

Without reliable electricity access, healthcare facilities are limited in the services they can offer. For example:

- On-site cold storage is limited or unavailable, hindering the ability of staff to administer important vaccines and vital medications
- Nighttime operations are limited due to a lack of effective lighting
- Power to operate medical testing equipment is insufficient or unavailable
- The ability to perform laboratory tests on-site is limited or unavailable
- Attraction and retention of skilled staff may be difficult without reliable electricity and digital connectivity

The role of the private sector in healthcare electrification is being increasingly recognized by governments and donors. Several private sector business models have been proposed or piloted in recent years, none of these have however been implemented at sufficient scale or speed to demonstrate the scalability required to bridge the current healthcare facility electrification gap.

The aim of this grant opportunity is to expand *the viability, sustainability and scalability of already piloted models* that have demonstrated success to meet the broad and urgent demand for improved access to energy for healthcare facilities which the COVID-19

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ghspjournal.org/content/1/2/249>

pandemic has exposed. Through this funding, Power Africa will scale up its efforts to address short- and long-term healthcare challenges through the rapid deployment of sustainable electrification solutions that can help address current and future health crises and emergencies.

## **b. Program Description**

This grant funding will support the scaling of already tested business models and/or technologies for the electrification of healthcare facilities. Proposals must include the following:

- Photovoltaic (PV) electrification that includes suitable levels of energy storage of a complete off-grid or weak-grid<sup>2</sup> situation faced by healthcare facilities
- A clear operation and maintenance strategy for long-term sustainability of the systems, covering a period of at least 5 years from commissioning and including a component replacement strategy
  - Remote monitoring is required and must be clearly incorporated into the operation and maintenance strategy.
- A pipeline of facilities with explicit plans for continued scaling of a healthcare portfolio
- Recent (2018 or later) experience by the applicant in electrifying healthcare facilities
  - The recent experience in electrifying healthcare facilities does not necessarily need to be within the country proposed.
- Recent (2018 or later) experience by the applicant in installation of PV systems within the country proposed
- Strict adherence to the GOGLA consumer protection code<sup>3</sup> and any national electrical or renewable energy standards and regulations
- Some form of remote monitoring capability (can include manual data retrieval, where connectivity is a challenge)

For facilities where an existing generation source exists (including a grid connection or diesel generation), proposals for PV electrification solutions that incorporate existing generation (i.e. PV hybridization) are allowed. PV-hybrid solutions that rely on the introduction of additional generation sources other than PV are not allowed.

Please note that preference will be given to applicants who already have experience implementing their proposed solution, have an active presence in the proposed country, can efficiently deploy equipment in an accelerated delivery period, and can demonstrate in detail the potential impact, scalability and commercial sustainability of their proposed solution.

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<sup>2</sup> Weak-grid is defined as a facility with an average of less than 8 hours per day of electricity access

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gogla.org/consumer-protection>

## SECTION II. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### a. Instructions to Applicants

Applicants must propose strategies for the implementation of the program scope described above, introducing innovations that are appropriate to their enterprise strengths.

### b. Questions and Further Assistance

PAOP will be hosting two webinars regarding this opportunity on November 29th, 2021 and December 15th, 2021 via Zoom. Please note that you will need to register for the webinar events (applicants can register for both sessions):

- **Round 1: Monday, November 29, 2021, 14:00 (GMT +2) – [Register Here](#)**
- **Round 2: Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 14:00 (GMT +2) – [Register Here](#)**

Once you register, you will receive a confirmation with a personalized Zoom login, a link to international phone numbers, and the ability to add the event to your calendar.

Questions concerning this RFA must be submitted in writing via email to [paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org](mailto:paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org) with the subject line: **“PAOP-RFA-2021-007: Question(s)”** on or before the deadline for receipt of question(s) stated on the cover letter of this RFA. Questions will not be accepted by any other means. Additionally, a webinar will be hosted to provide answers to questions submitted. If it is determined that the answers to any questions are of sufficient importance to warrant a response, a Questions and Answers document and/or an amendment to the RFA will be issued and posted to [www.rti.org/rfp](http://www.rti.org/rfp) on **Wednesday, Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 for the first round of questions and Monday, December 20, 2021 for the second round of questions.** It is the responsibility of the applicants to monitor this website for any amendments that may be posted later. Please read the RFA in its entirety and ensure that your response addresses all the items listed in the Technical Application Instructions and in the Evaluation Criteria.

### c. Submission Information

Technical applications (together with documents listed below) shall be submitted in the format provided in **Annex A – Technical Application** and completed in English. For an application to be considered all documents listed below should be submitted in electronic copy to [paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org](mailto:paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org) (with **“PAOP-RFA-2021-007: Submission”** in email subject line as a reference).

***I. Annexes and documents below are required to be submitted by the submission deadline.***

- Annex A: Technical Application
- Annex B: Implementation Plan
- Annex C: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan
- Annex D: Detailed Budget (presented in US Dollars) and Budget Justification (separate documents)
- Proof of eligibility to undertake renewable energy installations in target country(ies), for example (as required by local regulations):
  - Renewable energy license
  - Electrical installation permit
  - Company registration
  - Renewable energy importation license
- CVs of key personnel, management and technical, who will oversee the project

***II. Annex and documents below are required prior to any award.***

- Annex E: Required Certifications (signed and dated).
- Past performance business referral letters for previously performed similar work.
- Organizational structure.
- Formal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the applicant and the respective owner of the facility (or entity that has authority to enter into an agreement on behalf of the facility)

Application documents (listed above) should be submitted in a zipped folder. The zipped folder file size should not exceed 20 Megabytes (20MB).

PAOP Submission email: [paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org](mailto:paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org) (with “**PAOP-RFA-2021-007: Submission**” in email subject line as a reference). Only applications submitted to this email will be counted as official submission. Annexes A-D are required to be submitted by the submission deadlines. Annex E - Certifications, legal registration documents, tax compliance documents, past performance letters and organizational diagram are required prior to any award. **The submission deadline is Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 17h00 SAST (GMT +2). Late applications will not be considered.** All interested applicants are encouraged to submit their application as early as possible.

#### **d. Technical Application**

Applicants are expected to develop their proposals based on their understanding of needs, their prior institutional experience, and their determination of the approaches that would be feasible, scalable, and successful within the context provided above. In all cases, applicants shall clearly explain the rationale for the proposed approaches chosen. Technical applications shall be submitted in the format provided in Annex A – Technical Application.

The Technical Application will be supported by the following Annexes and documents:

- Annex B: Implementation Plan
- Annex C: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan
- Proof of eligibility to undertake renewable energy installations in target country(ies), for example (as required by local regulations):
  - Renewable energy license
  - Electrical installation permit
  - Company registration
  - Renewable energy importation license
- CVs of key personnel, management and technical, who will oversee the project

#### **e. Cost Application**

Applicants are required to submit a detailed budget (in spreadsheet file format) with budget justification notes (in Word document format) detailing how they will allocate the grant funds during the grant term, including proposed level of effort of staff who will work on the project. Grant funds may be used for the following types of costs:

- Operational costs related to the provision of the proposed activities, including salaries of personnel, relevant financial administration, and other costs directly related to implementing the project.
- Operational costs for activities related to the delivery of proposed activities, including service provision, trainings, and communication initiatives.
- Capital expenditures for activities related to the delivery of proposed activities, including equipment, materials, and consumables.

PAOP is not responsible for any costs associated with the development of applications in response to this RFA. All costs incurred in the preparation and submission of applications will be for the account of the applicant and will not be reimbursed. All grant activity costs must be within the normal operating practices of the applicant and in accordance with its written policies and procedures. In addition, costs must be compliant with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E, Cost Principles (<https://ecfr.io/Title-02/sp2.1.200.e>). The budget may include direct costs that will be incurred by the applicant to provide identifiable administrative and management costs that can be directly attributable to supporting the grant objective. The application form must be signed by a senior representative authorized to make commitments on behalf of the applicant.

### SECTION III. APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

Merit Review Category	Points
A. Impact	20
B. Viable and Scalable Solution	20
C. Leveraging of Other Funds/Resources	10
D. Management & Operational Capacity	20
E. Commercial Sustainability	20
F. Cost Efficiency	10
Overall Rating (out of 100 points)	

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below. The documents utilized for each merit review category are listed in parenthesis along with the available points.

#### A. Impact (20 points; Technical Application).

The proposed solution will have an impact by electrifying one or more healthcare facilities to support the delivery of healthcare services at those venues. Additionally, the proposed solution must include PV electrification of a complete off-grid or weak-grid (average of less than 8 hours a day of electricity) healthcare facility.

The selection of facilities for electrification should maximize impact while maintaining commercial sustainability (as defined in E below). The applicant must demonstrate an understanding of the needs of the surrounding community, the lack of reliable existing electricity services, and a clear connection between electrification and the subsequently improved ability of the facility to bridge healthcare service gaps.

Considerations for this Merit Review Category will include but are not limited to:

- Number of facilities proposed
- Number of potential beneficiaries:
  - Catchment population
  - Current number of patients served annually across proposed facilities
  - Expected increase in the number of patients treated annually across proposed facilities
  - Disaggregated by gender (where applicable)
- Electrification level for facilities (full facility or partial)      Increase in electrification hours for facilities; including the energy storage technology choices and operational plan
- Electrification or provision of other services for surrounding community
- Additional health services enabled
- Key medical equipment enabled

- Selection of facilities serving at-risk or disadvantaged groups

Applicants are encouraged to include a narrative description of any other impacts expected to result from the proposed activity. These additional impacts will also be considered in the scoring.

**B. Viable and Scalable Solution (20 points; Technical Application, Implementation Plan).**

The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed solution is technologically and economically viable, with a defined plan to scale the proposed solution past the period-of-performance of this grant<sup>4</sup>. The applicant must provide a proposed strategy for the next five years, including:

- Projected pipeline of facilities
- Financing strategy
- Operational strategy (i.e., staffing, offices, etc.)
  - Including any strategies to encourage gender mainstreaming
- Potential partners

**C. Leverage of Other Funds/Resources (10 points; Technical Application).**

Proposed solutions that demonstrate leveraging of resources from other sources that improve the best value for money to increase the impact of the proposed intervention will be given preference.

Considerations for this Merit Review Category will include but are not limited to:

- Direct in-kind contributions by the applicant or any other party (i.e., labor, land, overhead, etc.)
- Funding from other donors
- Funding from investors
- Funding from lenders
- Funding from other partners (i.e., government agencies, NGOs, etc.)

Direct funding will be weighted more heavily than in-kind contributions.

Funding or in-kind contributions of all periods will be considered; however, the length of the financing period will be considered in merit review. Similarly, both proposed and secured funding will be considered, however the finality of the funding will be considered in merit review.

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<sup>4</sup> Applicants from previous Power Africa HFE windows are encouraged to apply. All applications will be scored objectively and based on the merit review criteria detailed within this RFA. Previous awardees are not guaranteed to be successful under this RFA.

D. Management & Operational Capacity (20 points; Technical Application, Key Personnel CVs)

Evidence of the capability of the applicant to undertake and accomplish the proposed activities. The application should demonstrate the enterprise's effectiveness in terms of internal structure, technical capacity, and personnel. Also, the enterprise must demonstrate adequate financial management capability.

Considerations for this Merit Review Category will include but are not limited to:

- Documented past performance in healthcare facility electrification within the country proposed, and in other geographies
- Documented relevant expertise among the proposed team
- Clearly defined roles of key personnel
- Identification of expertise gaps and proposed solution(s) to bridge those gaps
- Risks and proposed mitigation strategies
- Women as percentage of management and staff

E. Commercial Sustainability (20 points; Technical Application)

The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed solution will be financially self-reliant after the period-of-performance of the grant.

Considerations for this Merit Review Category will include but are not limited to:

- Percent of capital expenditures subsidized by this grant
- Percent of operational expenditures subsidized by this grant
- Expected revenue streams enabled by the electrification, including:
  - Any performance-based payments
  - Revenues from microenterprises
  - Payments from the off-taker
  - Service agreements

F. Cost efficiency (10 points; Technical Application, Detailed Budget, Budget Justification, Milestone Schedule)

The degree to which budgeting is clear and reasonable and reflects the best use of enterprise and grant resources while also demonstrating a clear commitment of investment by the applicant.

Considerations for this Merit Review Category will include but are not limited to:

- Long term costs including initial capital expenditure and 5 years of operation, maintenance, and replacement costs

- \$/Wp installed
- \$/kWh for the storage solution(s) proposed (and the duration of planned storage)
- \$/facility electrified

## **SECTION IV. AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **a. Catalyzing Off-grid Investment (COIN) Fund**

The overall purpose of the PAOP's COIN Fund is to issue grants to project developers, projects, and private sector companies/actors that directly contribute to PAOP's goals through their own activities. The COIN Fund is structured to encourage leveraged funding as parallel funding of similar activities that help achieve common goals and accelerate results. Successful applicants are encouraged to demonstrate this specific aspect of generating other funding from non-PAOP sources to be applied to the program.

### **b. Award Information**

#### ***i. Program Duration***

Programs funded under this RFA will conclude no later than 30 September 30, 2022. PAOP reserves the right to incrementally fund activities over the duration of the program, if necessary, depending on program length, performance against approved program indicators, and availability of funds.

#### ***ii. Anticipated Funding Availability***

Final funding levels will depend on the content and quality of applications received, needs, availability of funding, and competing priorities. Individual grants awarded as a result of this RFA and submission of a final application are intended to be for a maximum of USD500,000.

All grants will be negotiated, denominated, and funded in US Dollars. All costs funded by the grant must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Grant applications must be supported by a detailed and realistic budget.

#### ***iii. Type of Award***

Grants awarded under this RFA may either be fixed amount award grants (FAA) or cost reimbursable grants. PAOP / USAID shall retain the right to terminate the grant activities unilaterally in extraordinary circumstances.

For FAAs, PAOP will make payments based on submission and acceptance of specific verifiable milestones. Once an award is issued, it will include a fixed price payment schedule with milestones and deliverables negotiated during the final application and award process.

For cost-reimbursable grants, the disbursement will be done only after submission of a claim (invoice) to PAOP, and after verification of expenditures incurred and found reasonable, allocable, and allowable. Cost reimbursable grants will be primarily used for larger interventions. Reimbursement will be scheduled on frequencies not more than monthly and upon review and acceptance of financial reports.

Both types of grants require detailed budgets that indicate the intended use of the funds as this detail helps define reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenditures.

### **c. Applicant Eligibility**

- Applications from joint ventures (JVs) are permitted, however applications must specify a lead applicant and have no more than 3 JV members. If a JV application is successful, contracting and payments will be exclusively with the lead applicant specified in the original application. Each eligibility criteria must be fulfilled by at least 1 JV member.
- Applicants or at least one joint venture member must be a registered company/enterprise (including micro-enterprises or groups of micro-enterprises), associations, cooperatives, and cooperative unions in the country/ies they are proposing to work and be in operation for at least one year at the time of application. All Applicants should:
  - Be legal persons;
  - Be formally constituted at the time of grant award;
  - Be compliant with the host country regulations (submit tax compliance certificate or equivalent);
  - Hold all required renewable energy and electrical licenses or permits;
  - Have their principal place of business in the proposed country, if a single country is proposed;
  - Have a presence or current operations in all proposed countries, if multiple countries are proposed;
  - Have realized revenues of at least 50% of the grant funding sought within the calendar year 2019 or 2020;
- Grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation will be required to provide a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number at the time of the award. If the applicant already has a DUNS number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to obtain a DUNS number before an award is made. PAOP will assist successful applicants with this process. DUNS numbers may

be obtained online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/CCRSearch.jsp>

- Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. PAOP will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant. Any falsification of proposal information may result in rejection/cancellation of the award.

#### **d. Environmental Compliance**

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, Section 117 requires that the impact of USAID funded activities on the environment be considered and that environmental sustainability be considered in designing and carrying out development programs. The environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities must be identified prior to a final decision to proceed and appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities.

Additionally, PAOP will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation as required by [22 CFR 216 Agency Environmental Procedures](#).

As part of its application/proposal, the recipient, in collaboration with the PAOP technical staff shall review all planned activities under the grant to determine if any environmental action and/or documentation must be completed prior to implementation.

#### **e. Authority /Governing Regulations**

PAOP COIN Fund awards are issued in the form of grants under contract and made under the authority of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act and USAID's Advanced Directive System (ADS) 303. Grantees are expected to comply with the provisions of these guidelines and regulations, as applicable. USAID ADS 303 can be accessed at <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303>

2 CFR 200 is not directly applicable to non-U.S. organizations; however, USAID applies some of these regulations to non-U.S. organizations through ADS 303 and the Standard provisions (USAID ADS 303.3.1). 2 CFR 200 can be accessed at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=12ac87ccfe859ca4c02abc695baa6227&mc=true&node=pt2.1.200&rgn=div5>

#### **f. False Statements in Applications**

Applicants must provide full, accurate and complete information as required by this solicitation and its attachments.

**g. Conflict of Interest Clause**

Applicants must provide disclosure of any past, present or future relationships with any parties associated with the issuance, review or management of this solicitation and anticipated award. Failure to provide full and open disclosure may result in PAOP having to re-evaluate selection of a potential applicant.

**h. Prohibited goods and services**

Under no circumstances shall the recipient procure any of the following under this award, as these items are excluded by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and other legislation that govern USAID funding. Programs that are found to transact in any of these shall be disqualified:

- a. Military equipment
- b. Surveillance equipment
- c. Commodities and services for support of police or other law enforcement activities
- d. Abortion equipment and services
- e. Luxury goods and gambling equipment
- f. Weather modification equipment

**i. Restricted goods**

The following costs are restricted by USAID and require prior written approval from PAOP and USAID to be allowable costs:

- a. Agricultural commodities
- b. Motor vehicles
- c. Pharmaceuticals
- d. Pesticides
- e. Fertilizer
- f. Contraceptives
- g. Used equipment
- h. Immovable property

**j. Disclaimers:**

- PAOP may cancel solicitation and not award.

- PAOP reserve the right to accept or reject any or all applications received.
- Issuance of solicitation does not constitute award commitment by PAOP.
- PAOP reserves the right to disqualify any application based on applicant failure to follow solicitation instructions.
- PAOP will not compensate applicants for response to solicitation.
- PAOP reserves the right to issue an award based on an initial evaluation of applications without further discussion.
- PAOP may choose to award only part of the activities in the solicitation or issue multiple awards based on the solicitation activities.
- PAOP reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the applicants or negotiate for adjustments on the nature, scope, or scale of the investment prior to award determination to promote competition.
- PAOP will be contacting all applicants to confirm the contact person, address, and that the bid was submitted for this solicitation.

The following Annexures are included with this RFA:

**ANNEX A:** Technical Application

**ANNEX B:** Implementation Plan

**ANNEX C:** Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan

**ANNEX D:** Detailed Budget and Budget Justification (separate documents)

**ANNEX E:** Required Certifications