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

Amendment 1

Issuance Date: Thursday February 3, 2022

Amendment #01 to Request for Applications # PAOP-RFA-2022-008 – Mini-grid Development in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Uganda

The Purpose of Amendment #01 to the above referenced RFA is to replace the RFA posted on Friday, January 7th, 2022 with a revised RFA document. Specifically, the following changes have been made and for the prospective applicants’ convenience these changes are highlighted in “Yellow” in the revised RFA document which is also attached to this amendment #01.

1. RFA page #1, the “Closing date for this RFA” is amended to **Friday, February 18th, 2022 at 17h00 SAST (GMT +2)** Late applications will not be considered.
2. RFA page #2 table is revised to:

Date of Issuance	January 7, 2022
Closing date of questions	January 17, 2022
Webinar for Q&A	January 19, 2022
Responses to be posted by RTI	January 24, 2022
Closing date for this RFA	February 18, 2022
Anticipated award date	April 15, 2022

3. RFA page # 8 last paragraph under “1. Annex and documents below are required prior to any award” is revised to

PAOP Submission email: paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org with “**PAOP-RFA-2022-008: Submission**” in email subject line as a reference. Only applications submitted to this email will be counted as official submission. **The submission deadline is Friday, February 18th, 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.



RFA Title: Mini-grid Development in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Uganda

RFA No: PAOP- RFA-2022-008

Date of Issuance: Friday, January 7th, 2022

Closing dates for questions: Monday, January 17th, 2022
(Questions should be sent via email to paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org)

RFA Live Q&A and Webinar Wednesday, January 19th, 2022 at 14h00 SAST (GMT+2)

Responses to be published: Monday, January 24th, 2022

Closing date for this RFA: Friday, February 18th, 2022 at 17h00 SAST (GMT+2)

Late applications will not be considered

Applications to be submitted to: paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org
(with RFA number PAOP-RFA-2022-008 in email subject line)

Estimated award date: Friday, April 15th, 2022

Duration of funding: Indicative 6 months

Final duration to be determined at signing stage



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 applications to fund one or multiple awards to provide incentives, in the form of grants, to mini-grid developers to collaborate on the development of mini-grids in Ntenungi village, Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Western Uganda. These mini-grids should support provision of safe and reliable electricity to refugees and host communities in areas not being served by the national grid. 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 will be conducted in Uganda. PAOP will partner directly with organizations based in Uganda and companies partnered with companies based in Uganda.

Soft copies of this document are available from the RTI International website:

www.rti.org/rfp.

To ensure uniform disclosure to all potential applicants, applicants should submit clarification questions by email to paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org with the subject line: “PAOP-RFA-2022-008: Question(s)” by January 17th, 2022 at 17h00 South African Standard Time (GMT+2). PAOP will not respond to telephone inquiries. PAOP will host a live webinar on January 19th, 2022 with further details posted to the RTI website (www.rti.org/rfp). Answers will be posted on the RTI website (www.rti.org/rfp) on January 24th, 2022.

Date of Issuance	January 7, 2022
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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 an 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.

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 mini-grids, with the goal of facilitating six million new electricity connections across SSA by November 2022.

2020 estimates suggest that 89% of the then 70.8 million refugees and displaced persons globally do not have access to basic Tier 1 modern energy services¹. In Uganda, it is estimated that 89% of 1.4 million refugees have unmet energy needs²; bridging this energy access gap would transform lives and communities.^{3,4}

Previous USAID Power Africa efforts to improve energy access in refugee settings in Uganda have included a derisking grant for PAYGO Solar Home Systems⁵. The demand for improved energy services by refugees has been proven by this grant and various market studies conducted in Kenya and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa.⁶

One of the lessons from the previous grant was the demand for higher tiers of energy access for productive use of energy (PUE) to enable economic development. These higher tiers typically require greater long-term investments, which can conflict with the scope and budgets of agencies working in refugee settings.⁷

Uganda has long been recognized for its progressive refugee policies, which include the right to seek employment and the granting of land for agriculture.⁸ These policies clearly recognize the need for economic opportunities for refugees; but to fully realize these opportunities requires

¹ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/33951/Energy-Solutions-for-Forcibly-Displaced-Persons-and-Their-Host-Communities-Closing-the-Financing-Gap.pdf?sequence=5>

² https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/Paying_for_Darkness_Uganda_FINAL.pdf

³ <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

⁴ <https://microdata.unhcr.org/index.php/catalog/229>

⁵ https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Promoting_Energy_Access_in_Refugee_Settlements_-_Infographic_of_Best_Practices.pdf

⁶ <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2018-01-30-meeting-refugees-energy-needs-burkina-faso-kenya-mei-corbyn-vianello-final.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2019-03-25-MEIWhitehouse.pdf>

⁸

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/24736/AnAssessmentOfRefugeeManagement.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>



access to advanced tiers of modern energy, such as those provided by mini-grids, and the requisite productive use equipment to fully exploit it.⁹

The financing and promotion of productive use of energy appliances is proven not just to have positive economic development impacts for end-users when accompanied by appropriate training and promotion¹⁰, but also improve economics for mini-grid operators.¹¹

It is important that new models for refugee energy access are developed, but also documented and disseminated; with several platform such as the Smart Communities Coalition dedicated to disseminating such lessons learned.¹²

b. Program Description

This grant funding will support the development of a maximum of 3 solar photovoltaic (PV) mini-grids, along with financing and promotion of productive use of energy equipment in Ntenungi village, Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Western Uganda.

Applications must include:

- Design, installation, and a commitment to at least 5 years of operation and maintenance of off-grid solar PV and battery mini-grids in Ntenungi village
- A strategy for promotion and financing of productive use of energy equipment to stimulate energy demand and increase economic development

Preliminary market studies and socio-economic assessments including geospatial data have been conducted for the target geography; however, the successful applicant is expected to verify and update data to reflect actual situation.

The successful applicant will be required to perform the technical implementation of the project, including:

- Procurement and installation of all mini-grid equipment
- Procurement and installation of the Low Voltage (LV) distribution line
- Coordination with the Rural Electrification Program (REP) for the design and construction of the requisite distribution system and customer connections
 - REP will provide customer connections in accordance with the Electricity Connections Policy
 - During the award period, title or ownership to all property purchased and constructed, including mini-grid/distribution infrastructure, will be vested in

⁹ <https://www.usaid.gov/energy/mini-grids/economics/productive-use>

¹⁰ https://epub.wupperinst.org/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/7125/file/7125_Terrapon-Pfaff.pdf

¹¹ <https://nextbillion.net/mini-grids-and-appliance-financing/>

¹² <https://www.mastercard.us/en-us/business/governments/find-solutions/smart-communities.html>



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the grant recipient. At conclusion of the award, title to all property purchased and constructed will be transferred to REP.

- Coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister for access to Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement
- Application for license exemption from the Electricity Regulatory Authority
- Operation and maintenance of all mini-grid equipment installed
- Fulfilment of national environmental and social permitting obligations
- Execution of the proposed productive use of energy financing and promotion strategy
- Documentation and dissemination of lessons learned during implementation



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 a webinar regarding this opportunity on Wednesday, January 19th, 2022 at 14h00 SAST (GMT+2) via Zoom. Please note that you will need to register for the webinar event at: https://rtiorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RbnwfsJtQkaOCoudnfSxfg

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 with the subject line: “**PAOP-RFA-2022-008: 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. The webinar will 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 on Monday, January 24th, 2022. It is the responsibility of the organization 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 by the deadline in electronic copy to paopgrants@powerafrica-offgrid.org (with “**PAOP-RFA-2022-008: Submission**” in email subject line as a reference).

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

- Annex A: Technical Application Form
- Annex B: Implementation Plan
- Annex C: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan



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- **Annex D:** Detailed Budget (presented in US Dollars) and Budget Justification (separate documents)
- Proof of eligibility to undertake renewable energy installations in target country, for example (as required by local regulations):
 - Company Registration Documents (License and Articles/Memorandum of Association)
 - Electrical installation permit(s)
- CVs of key personnel, management and technical, who will oversee the project and any other documents attesting the qualifications of the applicants

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 diagram.

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 with “**PAOP-RFA-2022-008: Submission**” in email subject line as a reference. Only applications submitted to this email will be counted as official submission. **The submission deadline is Friday, February 18th, 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):
 - Company Registration Documents (License and Articles/Memorandum of Association)



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- Electrical installation permit(s)
- 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. This includes any costs associated with site visits to the refugee settlement in preparation of an application. 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

Full applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria as shown below.

Merit Review Category	Points
A. Impact	15
B. Innovation and Business model	10
C. Viable and scalable solution	15
D. Gender and social inclusion	10
E. Leveraging of other funds/resources	5
F. Management and operational capacity	15
G. Commercial Sustainability	15
H. Cost efficiency	15
Overall Rating (out of 100 points)	

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below.

A. Impact (15 points). The proposed solution will have an impact by establishing mini-grids in Uganda’s Rwamwanja Refugee settlement to support the supply of safe and reliable electricity to refugees and host communities in areas not being served by the national grid. The applicant must demonstrate an understanding of the electricity needs of the refugees and host community, and the impact from the introduction of modern, reliable electricity services and the accompanying PUE equipment.

Impacts that may be considered in merit review include, but are not limited to:

- Number of mini grids to be developed
- Number of potential beneficiaries
- Number of customers
- Number of microenterprises electrified
- Number of jobs created as a result of electrification
- Number of microenterprises supported to convert from another energy source
- Number of refugee and host community persons employed during installation and operation
- Number of social services electrified (schools, health centers, worship centers, community buildings, etc.)



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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 merit review.

- B. Innovation and Business model (10 points): The proposed solution should introduce a new revenue stream, business model, scale-up of new technology, etc. This does not include the research and development of new technology but rather the introduction of a new technology and/or innovative uses of existing solutions.

The applicant's proposed demand stimulation strategy including their proposed financing and promotion mechanisms for PUE equipment will be the main input that informs this merit review category, although other innovations will also be considered.

Applicants are also encouraged to demonstrate what incentives will be put in place to facilitate acquisition of the PUE equipment by end users. The applicant should clearly state what is the value proposition of the proposed innovation or business model.

- C. Viable and scalable solution (15 points): The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed solution is technologically and economically viable, with a defined plan to deliver the proposed solution in the compressed period of performance and scale the proposed solution past the period-of-performance of this grant. The applicant must provide a proposed strategy for delivery in the compressed timeline, including (but not limited to):

- Methodology for demand assessment
- Technical design of generation and distribution infrastructure
- Proposed components
- Key components that can be utilized from existing in-country stocks
- Established supply chains for all other key components and timeline for delivery
- Credit lines with key suppliers to allow accelerated procurement
- Clear and achievable implementation schedule
- Risk matrix, identifying risks to implementation and strategies for mitigation and redundancy
- Financing strategy
- Operational strategy (i.e., staffing, offices, etc.)
- Potential partners

- D. Gender and social inclusion (10 points): The applicant should highlight how the project approach will improve gender equality and women empowerment including how women and other vulnerable groups will benefit from this project. This translates to ensuring that



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a gender perspective is part of the design and operation of the mini-grids across issues such as business model choices, community consultations and productive use of energy. This may include economic/income opportunities that are created for women, access to labor and time-saving PUE devices, job opportunities, among others.

Four (4) of the 10 points will also be awarded based on gender balance in the project team:

- 1) 0 points: no women in management or part of the implementation team
- 2) 1 point: less than 25% of Lead Applicant's employees are female
- 3) 2 points: between 25% and 50% of Lead Applicant's employees are female
- 4) 3 points: between 50% and 75% of Lead Applicant's employees are female
- 5) 4 points: between 75% and 100% of Lead Applicant's employees are female

E. Leveraging of other funds/resources (5 points). 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. This can include, but is 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.)

Funds leveraged will be scored as follows:

- 1) 0 pts: no external funds leveraged (note contributions from the entity applying for funding do not count towards this criteria)
- 2) 1 pts: up to 20% of the grant funding is matched by an external funding source
- 3) 2 pts: up to 40% of the grant funding is matched by an external funding source
- 4) 3 pts: up to 60% of the grant funding is matched by an external funding source
- 5) 4 pts: up to 80% of the grant funding is matched by an external funding source
- 6) 5 pts: up to 100% of the grant funding is matched by an external funding source

Grant funding sought and funds leveraged should sum to total eligible project budget.

F. Management and operational capacity (15 points). 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. The evaluation will be based principally on the following:



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- Documented past-performance (similar models implemented in other countries/geographies, # of sites under operation, # of customers, etc.) with contact people per reference
- Documented relevant expertise among the proposed team (CVs attached of key personnel)
- Clearly defined roles of key personnel
- Identification of expertise gaps and proposed solution(s) to bridge those gaps
- Risks and proposed mitigation strategies
- Excellent knowledge of the process of application for mini-grid license exemption from ERA. Prior experience obtaining Mini-grid License Exemption(s) from ERA is a Plus.
- Prior experience of operating in refugee settings

G. Commercial Sustainability/Financial Self-Reliance (15 points). The applicant must demonstrate that they are in good financial standing and that the proposed solution will be sustainable after the period-of-performance of the grant. Criteria used to judge this category will include:

- Percent of capital expenditures subsidized by this grant
- Percent of operational expenditures subsidized by this grant
- Financial statements for past fiscal year (2020)
- Proposed tariff
- Expected revenue streams enabled by the grant, including:
 - Any performance-based payments
 - Revenues from microenterprises
 - Payments from off-takers
 - Sales of PUE appliances

H. Cost efficiency (15 points). 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. Criteria used to judge this category will include:

- Net present cost per mini grid developed, based on initial capital expenditure and 5 years of operation, maintenance, and replacement costs (inputs requested in Annex B)
- Grant requested per connection
- Grant requested per Wp of solar PV
- Grant requested per PUE device provided
- Sound economic and financial analysis with documented assumptions
- Average revenue per user
- Levelized Cost of Electricity



SECTION IV. AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Catalyzing Off-grid Investment (COIN) Fund

The overall purpose of 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.

a. 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. PAOP may extend the period of performance of the grant should circumstances and funding permit.

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 USD 500,000. The USD 500,000 is the maximum value of an individual grant award, not the maximum value of combined grant awards. Final funding levels and number of awards will depend on the content and quality of applications received, needs, availability of funding, and competing priorities.

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.

iv. 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 Uganda and be in operation for at least one year at the time of application. Applicants should:
 - Be legal persons;
 - Be formally constituted at the time of grant award;
 - Be compliant with the Uganda's regulations (submit tax compliance certificate or equivalent);
 - Have a physical presence in Uganda (employees, offices, operations, etc.) or be partnering with an entity that has a physical presence in Uganda;
 - Have realized financing (income, grant, debt, equity) of at least the amount of grant funding sought within 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.



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v. 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.

vi. 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>

vii. False Statements in Applications

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

viii. 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.

ix. 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, and other legislation that govern USAID funding. Programs that are found to transact in any of these shall be disqualified:



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- 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

x. 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

xi. Disclaimers:

- PAOP may cancel solicitation and not award.
- PAOP reserves 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 Form

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