DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION ACCELERATOR FACTSHEET

- The Development Innovation Accelerator (DIA or the Accelerator) is a tool specifically focused on **Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnership (STIP)**, managed by the Global Development Lab.

- The Accelerator is not, in itself, a procurement instrument. It is a method to reach out a potential partner and, literally shoulder to shoulder, co-create and co-design a development solution based only on an initial idea. This is a radically different approach for USAID partnerships - it begins before the concept stage and maintains constant engagement with the partner throughout the award process while still meeting the requirements for competition.

- The Accelerator gives the Agency a great flexibility in crafting the final relationship with the partner, i.e. the instrument or relationship type does not have to be determined until the development problem and solution set are fully understood. The Accelerator may result in a contract, cooperative agreement, grant, public-private partnership, Global Development Alliance, Development Innovation Agreement, Inter Agency Agreement, Government to Government agreement, Donor to Donor agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, or a myriad of other highly-customized relationships with the route to each type of relationship following its own unique path.

- The DIA can be used by the Lab, Missions, Bureaus or any offices within USAID to engage public, private, for-profit, and non-profit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. government organizations, and international donor organizations.

THE DIA BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- The DIA was most recently publicized through a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA). The BAA is a competitive approach to consider proposals that harness scientific research and innovation to solve critical development challenges, allowing USAID to reach out to potential partners with recognized expertise in relevant areas, and co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate with partners.

- Awards under the Accelerator BAA are based on individual addenda that coincide with the Lab, Bureau or Mission's strategy or CDCS. Each addendum describes the specific research area of interest, the evaluation criteria, and application details.

- The Accelerator BAA focuses on the Lab's nine STIP priorities and will be managed by the Lab. Other Bureaus and field missions can benefit from the BAA by identifying and funding their own research priorities, then coordinating release of BAA amendments through the Lab. The terms of the BAA will apply to each Addendum.

- On May 14, 2014, the Lab issued the Accelerator BAA (with an open end date) and the first Addendum (closing date: October 1, 2014). The second addendum was issued on June 9th (closing date: June 23, 2014). The third addendum was issued on July 18th (closing date: August 17, 2014). The announcements are available both on **www.fbo.gov** and **www.grants.gov**.

Takeaways for External Partners

Why partner with USAID?

By leveraging non-traditional resources, expertise, and innovations, Accelerator partnerships increase the impact and reach of USAID's interventions. At the same time, USAID brings unique assets to these partnerships, such as long-term country presence and extensive relationships with local and national governments; technical expertise across industries and sectors; network of local, regional and global development partners; convening and coordinating power; funding; credibility and goodwill. As a result, partnerships with USAID may generate a wealth of valuable business and development results.

Why respond to the Accelerator Broad Agency Announcement?

- It is less burdensome and more direct approach to engage with USAID on a great idea. The discussion of the development challenge and best solution comes to the forefront; procurement and relationship details come later.

- The Accelerator focuses on science, technology, innovation, and partnerships (aka STIP) – your creativity and ideas will actually improve lives while achieving your organization's goals.

- The Accelerator is looking for scalable ideas. This will not only reach more people in need, but may result in increased (and potentially global) recognition of the partner thanks to the relationship with USAID.

Who Can Apply?

Public, private, for-profit, and non-profit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. government organizations, and international donor organizations are eligible under this BAA, unless otherwise stated in the individual BAA Addendum. All organizations must be properly vetted by USAID before any awards are made. In responding to BAA Addenda, organizations may be expected to provide a reasonable amount of cost share or matching funding, both cash and in-kind, to ensure projects can leverage the expertise, talent, and innovations of our partners.

How to Apply?

The Accelerator consists of an umbrella BAA with individual Critical Development Challenge Addenda (Addenda) underneath. Interested parties respond to individual Addenda, rather than to the umbrella BAA, by submitting a statement of interest (2-3 pages). Each Addendum will describe the particular research area of interest, the evaluation criteria, and administrative information such as the requirements for concept papers, statements of interest, and response deadlines. USAID anticipates issuing many Addenda that do not provide funding, leaving the conversation about resourcing until later in the process when the development solution is well understood.

QUESTIONS?

For questions and more information about the Development Innovation Accelerator or the DIA Broad Agency Announcement, please contact **Bruce McFarland**, USAID/Lab/Operational Innovations, at bmcfarland@usaid.gov.