



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT

**THE FEED THE FUTURE EBOLA RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP
IN WEST AFRICA**

**REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT PAPERS
No. RFA-OAA-15-000022**

UNDER EXISTING

**GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT
APS No.: APS-OAA-14-000001**

PLEASE NOTE: This is an addendum to an existing announcement. All interested organizations must carefully review both this addendum AND the full announcement, which can be found here: <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program>. Important information contained in the full worldwide announcement is not repeated in this specific addendum.

This program is authorized in accordance with Part 1 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Through this Addendum to the FY2014-2015 Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement (APS) No. APS-OAA-14-000001 (the GDA APS), the Bureau for Food Security (USAID/BFS) is making a special call for the submission of Concept Papers focused on working with the private sector to revitalize the agricultural sector and livelihoods affected by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, with a preference for the three most affected countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.¹

The Feed the Future Ebola Recovery Partnership will engage and mobilize the expertise, infrastructures and resources of the private sector, foundations, and other partners, including in-country partners, to achieve a rapid and robust recovery from the Ebola outbreak and foster broad-based food security in the short, medium and long term. The Feed the Future Ebola Recovery Partnership will leverage the in-country knowledge, networks and institutions of these partners, as well as financial

¹ For public-private partnership opportunities in other sectors (other than agriculture) to address challenges faced in the ongoing response, recovery and resilience efforts in the three countries where Ebola Virus Disease has had the greatest impact—Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone - please see the Ebola Response, Recovery and Resilience in West Africa Addendum to (APS) No: APS-OAA-14-000001



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

and in-kind resources, to design and implement activities that advance the three key objectives of:

- (1) restoring food production and availability;
- (2) increasing economic access by supporting food security-related small and medium enterprises to reclaim and grow their businesses; and
- (3) raising the nutritional security of consumers so that they are less vulnerable to shocks or short term food crises.

Ideally, the portfolio of alliances and activities supported under this addendum will enable USAID to ensure that each of the above objectives is advanced. However, priority will be placed on supporting the most promising approaches, even if the resulting portfolio only advances one or two of the objectives described above.

Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the FY2014-2015 GDA APS apply (<http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program>).²

I. Background

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis has undermined the agriculture systems of the countries in the region, adding stress to already weak food systems and undermining economies that are highly dependent on farming. Ebola-related fears and restrictions have disrupted trade and markets, resulting in the stoppage of cross-border trade and the closure of local markets, especially in Liberia and Sierra Leone. As a result, food prices have increased in some areas. At the same time, restrictions on movement and mass gatherings have resulted in lost household income, thereby decreasing households' purchasing power and reducing food security. Vulnerable households that rely on local markets—as opposed to their own production—to meet most of their food needs are the most impacted.

II. Funding Opportunity

USAID is launching the Feed the Future Ebola Recovery Partnership to identify new innovations and approaches which can revitalize agricultural production and livelihoods affected by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and help create sustainable organizations that will continue building and growing local businesses.

To address this situation, USAID will partner with the local, regional, and international private sector, civil society, foundations, and other partners active in West African agriculture to create the Feed the Future Ebola Recovery Partnership.

² As stated in APS No. APS-OAA-14-000001, the partnerships and alliances proposed in any Concept Paper should mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a minimum of 1:1. Proposed alliances that do not mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a value that equals or exceeds the level of funding being requested from USAID will not be considered under this announcement.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Through this announcement, USAID seeks to develop new and innovative alliances with the private sector - including businesses, investors, foundations – as well as NGOs, universities, and other stakeholders interested in West African Agriculture (including, but not limited to, the cocoa, cashew, and rubber sectors). USAID welcomes and encourages ideas from a wide range of potential partners as we work together to address these challenges.

USAID’s private sector partners can play a vital role in revitalizing the agricultural sector and livelihoods in the affected countries. Through the Feed the Future Ebola Recovery Partnership USAID intends to mobilize cash and in-kind resources from the private sector, foundations and other partners, as well as leverage their infrastructures, networks and expertise in country to implement activities that support the rehabilitation and maintenance of physical infrastructure related to agriculture, access to agricultural inputs, and food safety. By helping to build or strengthen sound agricultural systems, the program will make these Ebola-affected countries more resilient to future shocks.

Proposed alliances **must target one or more of the three core objectives** of the Feed the Future ERP.

- (1) Restoring food production and availability,
- (2) Increasing economic access by supporting food security-related small and medium enterprises to reclaim and grow their businesses, and
- (3) Raising the nutritional security of consumers so that they are less vulnerable to shocks or short term food crises.

The specific objective(s) that the alliance will support must be explicitly stated. USAID will prioritize innovative, cost-effective, private-sector driven concepts that include the illustrative types of interventions and activities outlined below.

Illustrative activities include but are not limited to:

1. Training

Targeted training to affected farmers and others in the value chain to take advantage of value-added investments through employment or entrepreneurial activities. Such market-oriented improvements would be designed to increase the food and nutrition choices of people across the region.

2. Agricultural Inputs/Technologies

Increase availability and access to an inventory of technologies that could be most effectively promoted to assist farmers in the post-crisis era, and support input suppliers, agribusiness centers, and extension agents in providing demand-driven advice and training to producers. Strengthen market systems and innovation platforms to improve research, development, and distribution for seeds, fertilizers and other key technologies needed to restore and expand production. This would also support sustainable market and distribution systems in West Africa and strengthen linkages with research institutions.

3. Finance



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Expand access to private-sector finance to enable farmers and processors to invest in their operations. This may include working with relevant financial institutions to improve their ability to assess risk in the agriculture sector or to better evaluate agribusiness plans submitted by applicants.

4. Risk Management

Protect local markets from artificial price reductions resulting from massive food donations. Protect private input suppliers from market distortions caused by the emergency distribution of free and subsidized seeds and fertilizers to farmers.

5. Infrastructure

Rehabilitate and foster effective maintenance of physical infrastructure, including post-harvest handling and storage; expand access to agricultural inputs; improve food safety; and develop effective market information systems.

Consistent with the terms of the FY2014-2015 GDA APS, proposed alliances under this call for concept papers must leverage private sector resources at a ratio of at least 1:1. Applicants should refer to the GDA APS for more detailed information on the requirements for leverage of private sector resources.

Applicants are encouraged to explore and finalize their concepts and proposals with the Bureau for Food Security at USAID and the USAID mission/s in the targeted country/countries. USAID Point of Contact Jay Daniliuk will connect applications with the proper Points of Contact in each mission. Interested parties should not reach out to Mission Points of Contact directly.

USAID anticipates awarding at least \$1 million across two or more alliances developed under this addendum. However, if additional funding becomes available, USAID may invest in additional awards with especially compelling alliance opportunities. USAID also reserves the right not to fund any awards.

III. Geographic Scope

Partnership proposals should focus on West Africa, specifically in the areas most affected by the Ebola outbreak. Under the Feed the Future Ebola Recovery Partnership, regional approaches to strengthening livelihoods and the agricultural sector will be considered; however, USAID will demonstrate a preference for proposals for partnerships in the most affected countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

IV. Sectoral Scope

USAID is open to proposals that are both specific to the agriculture sector or broad-based and multi-sectoral, provided that linkages to the Feed the Future Ebola Recovery Partnership objectives are clear.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

V. Application Instructions and Review Process

USAID/BFS will be responsible for the review process and management of any awards issued under this addendum. Applicants are required to follow the Concept Paper instructions set forth in the GDA APS and submit Concept Papers using the [Concept Paper Template](#). Information provided in Section I.E of that Template should address the objectives and criteria presented above.

In accordance with page 35 of the GDA APS, Appendix II Section A “Step 1 – Consult and Clarify,” before submitting a Concept Paper, prospective applicants should contact Jay Daniliuk at jdaniuk@usaid.gov. The USAID Point of Contact can discuss the extent to which a proposed idea is appropriate and aligns with USAID’s goals. Such outreach should be based on a thorough review of USAID’s priorities and objectives in the country or countries where an alliance would be proposed, and should reflect the particular ways in which the implementer’s expertise, capabilities and experience can be assets to advancing core business interests and USAID’s development priorities in the targeted country.

In addition, prospective applicants must connect the prospective applicant’s private sector partners to Jay Daniliuk. Under the GDA APS, the USAID Point of Contact is expected to have robust and extensive discussions with prospective private sector partners with regard to potential alliance ideas and activities, so long as that partner is not seeking to receive and manage award funding from USAID.³ Such discussions help foster the co-creation that is core to the Global Development Alliance approach.

In accordance with the 2014-2015 GDA APS Appendix II, Section B “**Step 2 - Submit a Promising Idea for Consideration and Development**” the completed Concept Paper Template (including the Concept Paper and required Supporting Information) should be sent to USAID/BFS through Jay Daniliuk **with a copy to gda@usaid.gov**.

After review by the Bureau for Food Security (BFS) and relevant USAID Mission(s), applicants will receive instructions from BFS on whether to proceed with alliance development discussions and, if and when appropriate, a full application. Concept papers must be submitted by November 6, 2015 in order to be considered. **However, potential applicants are encouraged to submit concept papers as soon as possible. Given the importance of prompt action, USAID is hoping to develop and provide award support for quality alliances as rapidly as feasible.** Therefore, USAID will be reviewing concept papers on a rolling basis. USAID hopes to quickly identify at least one prospective alliance worthy of further discussion and development, preferably identifying such an alliance within 30 days of the issuance date of this addendum. While USAID will review concept papers on a rolling basis, USAID has

³ Note: If the private sector partner is seeking to receive and manage USAID funding, the discussions will need to be more limited. Questions regarding the nature and scope of partner discussions prior to the submission of a concept paper, as well as any questions regarding the terms of the Global Development Alliance Annual Program Statement, can be directed to gda@usaid.gov or Ken Lee at kenlee@usaid.gov.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

until December 22, 2015 to respond to any concept paper submitted under this addendum.

For more detailed information on the application and review process, applicants are encouraged to review sections V, VI, and VII full announcement for the Global Development Alliance Annual Program Statement. As indicated above, this full announcement can be found here: <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program>.

VI. Evaluation Criteria

Proposed alliances will be evaluated based on the general criteria set forth in the GDA APS in Section VI: Concept Paper Evaluation Criteria and Considerations, **including how well the proposed alliances will advance the objectives set forth in this addendum**. As stated in APS No. APS-OAA-14-000001, USAID will only consider alliance proposals that mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a minimum of 1:1.

Additionally, preference will be given to alliances that include private sector partners who demonstrate long term commitment to the targeted region and a recognized business interest in the proposed concept. Alliances with foreign and domestic firms, particularly local/regional private sector, are encouraged and will be considered equally.

Successful applicants will demonstrate how their proposed activities will contribute to any relevant local USAID Mission(s)'s development strategy(ies) as well as complement any existing activities. These strategies and activities can be found at

<http://feedthefuture.gov/countries>

and

<http://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work>

Proposed alliances should be consistent with USAID legal and policy restrictions, including those set forth in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS), in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and 2 CFR 200⁴.

V. Questions and Further Assistance

Questions regarding the substance and objectives of this addendum should be directed to Jay Daniliuk at jdaniulik@usaid.gov, with copy to gda@usaid.gov.

⁴ Although the original 2014-2015 GDA APS cites 22 CFR 226 as the applicable regulation for assistance agreements to be issued under this announcement, all assistance mechanisms (cooperative agreements, grants, etc.) awarded under this addendum will adhere to 2 CFR 200.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Questions regarding the substance and terms of the 2014 – 2015 GDA APS should be directed to Ken Lee at kenlee@usaid.gov, with copy to gda@usaid.gov.

For additional information regarding guidelines and procedures to submit a concept paper, please refer to the GDA APS which can be found at the following website: <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program>.

Additional information on alliances can be found at <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program-0>.