

2022 Annual Program Statement



USAID Resilience through
Agriculture South Sudan
(RASS) Activity

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Funding Opportunity Title: **Resilience Through Agriculture in South Sudan (RASS)**

Announcement Type:	Annual Program Statement
Funding Opportunity Number:	RASS-APS-GUC-2024-001
Issuance Date:	December 16 th , 2023
Questions for First Round of Evaluations Due By:	December 22, 2023
Deadline for Submission of Concept Papers:	December 31, 2023
Submit Concept Papers to:	rass_submission@rassactivity.org

To Interested Applicants:

The purpose of this Annual Program Statement (APS) is to solicit concept for funding. DAI through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking concept papers first and then full applications from prospective partners to implement RASS activities that create Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan as a whole. These activities will contribute to RASS objectives, as described in this APS. The geographic focus under consideration is Akobo East, Budi, Kapoeta North, Wau, Jur River, Panyijar, Baliet, Duk , Rumbek, Wulu, Yambio, Nzara and Pibor counties of South Sudan.

DAI on behalf of USAID anticipates awarding grants to fund successful applications submitted in response to this APS. All concept papers for review in the first round of evaluations are due by the date indicated at the top of this page. It is likely that all the available funds for this APS may be allocated to awards resulting from the first round of evaluations. At the discretion of DAI, applications received after the first round of evaluations may be considered on a rolling basis or as part of another round of evaluations.

The length of the proposed programs should not exceed nine (9) months duration. The total amount of funding currently available for this APS is approximately \$ 300,000, for a period of up to nine months. DAI may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the selected application(s). The number of awards and amount of available funding is subject to change and DAI reserves the right to make no awards because of this APS.

This APS is seeking applicants to propose creative and effective approaches to implement RASS's objectives as outlined in the Overview section of this APS. Applicants may choose among a range of

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initiatives or scale up small projects that have demonstrated success. Awardees will be both monitored and evaluated throughout the duration of the implementation of the grant.

Applications outside the geographic focus areas will not be considered. Applicants must demonstrate success in managing cultural and political considerations in the proposed focus areas as well as success in addressing DAI's development objectives.

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SECTION I - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

(1) Description of the Proposed Program:

Background

The Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan (RASS) Activity is a four-year (2021-2025) USAID-funded activity that is led by prime contractor DAI Global, LLC (DAI). RASS works to improve the effectiveness of local systems and strengthen the capacities of community groups to achieve gender-responsive and diversified market-sensitive production; facilitate the production of diverse, nutritious foods by strengthening productivity, reducing food loss, and improving nutrition behaviors; and expand household and community opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods. These objectives guide the activities to be proposed by the interested parties.

Overall Program Objectives

These objectives will be achieved through technology transfer, training, awareness campaigns and innovation. Where appropriate, some small-scale community level construction will be implemented to facilitate the attainment of these objectives. It will focus on promoting market driven value chains to enhance incomes of the primary producers including women and men, youth, and people with disabilities.

Specifically, grants funded under this APS will be used for the below activities and therefore the concepts should focus in any of the below activity areas:

- **Explore grant partnerships with local lenders (e.g., Kush Bank, Alpha Bank, Equity Bank, Eco Bank, etc.) to dramatically expand available tailor-made capital packages to producer and post-harvest processing and marketing groups.**
- **Identify key drivers of post-harvest losses, explore proven innovations (including local affordable solutions for safe food storage and processing), and develop and disseminate technical training through the GUCs' partners on post-harvest handling techniques to the targeted FFBS groups on improved storage and processing of cereals, legumes, oilseeds, milk, meat, vegetables, fruits, and fish.**
- **Engage local CBOs through GUC to deliver a FaaFB training program that builds the capacity and entrepreneurship skills of the producer groups in the Akobo West, Nzara, Yambio, Rumbek Centre, and Wulu counties.**
- **Explore de-risking mechanisms through GUC, without establishing a credit guarantee system, to enable mobile money operators and financial institutions partners to increase VSLA and rural client coverage as well as to cushion them from the risks of providing credit provision to small-scale farmers in selected pilot counties.**

(1) Overview:

The grants will be directly linked to, and complement, project objectives while building the institutional capacity of national Community Based Organizations/groups, Civil Society organizations, Youth Associations, Women Organizations and People with Disability.

(2) Administration of Award

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Awards to above mentioned local organizations will be administered in accordance with 2 CFR 200, ADS 303, and USAID Standard Provisions for U.S. nongovernmental organizations. For non-U.S. organizations, USAID Standard Provisions for non-U.S. non-governmental organizations would apply.

Applicants may obtain copies of the referenced material at the following websites:

Standard Provisions for US Nongovernmental Organizations:

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303maa.pdf>

or

Standard Provisions for Non-US Nongovernmental Organizations:

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mab.pdf>

SECTION II- AWARD INFORMATION

(1) Estimated Funding Level

The total amount of funding currently available for this APS is approximately \$300,000 for a period of up to nine months. DAI may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the chosen Application(s). DAI expects to award up to nine (3) grants under this APS. The number of awards and amount of available funding is subject to change.

(2) Anticipated Start Date of this Award and Performance Period

DAI/RASS anticipates grants resulting from issuance of this APS (if any) will begin in April 2024, with a performance period of up to 9 months. All grant activities must conclude on or before December 30th, 2024

(3) Award Type

DAI anticipates awarding grants (hereafter called “Agreements”) to fund successful applications submitted in response through this concept call.

SECTION III- ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

(1) Types of Entities that May Apply

National organizations, CBOs, CSOs, and Youth and Women Associations, and for-profit organizations willing to forego profit may apply.

This APS is issued as a public notice to ensure that all interested and qualified organizations have a fair opportunity to submit applications for funding. Eligible organizations could include, for example, foundations, national non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations (FBOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), host country local organizations, private organizations affiliated with public academic institutions and international non-governmental organizations, private companies, professional

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associations, and consortiums of the above. DAI encourages an approach that establishes partnerships with several partner organizations and builds them into legacy institutions capable of sustaining development projects in the future.

(2) Potential New Partners:

DAI strongly encourages applications from potential new partners who have not worked with us in the past.

(3) Partner Contributions:

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to propose contributions (e.g., in-kind or financial support); applicants are encouraged to contribute resources from their own private or other sources for the implementation of this program where feasible.

(4) Gender

Applicants are strongly encouraged to address gender equality issues in their grant application.

SECTION IV- APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

(1) Application Process

DAI will review proposals using a two-stage process. Applicants must first submit a concept paper of no more than five pages directly to DAI before submitting a full application if guided to do so. Concept papers must meet the identified needs of this solicitation. If your proposed project meets the needs of this APS, prepare a five-page concept paper ensuring that the concept meets all APS criteria.

- Do not submit a full application unless requested by DAI. Should DAI request a full application for consideration, only at that time should you prepare a full application, using the criteria below.

The concept paper must be submitted in accordance with the instructions in SECTIONS IV (2), (3) and (4) below.

(2) Concept Paper

In the first stage, all applicants are required to submit a short technical concept paper no longer than 5 pages, that is specific, complete, and concise. The concept paper should demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. The instructions for developing the concept paper should take into account the instructions listed in the next section.

Concept papers will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the APS. Specifically, this includes the following factors:

- Based on RASS partnership design and desire to achieve greatest impact, preferences will be given to national NGOs and registered local groups with demonstrated presence in our counties of operations and with experience in technical objective areas.
- Concepts that best speaks to RASS APS objectives and key activities spelled in section I above

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- Potential impact on the targeted counties of RASS activities including food security.
- Feasibility and sustainability of the proposed activities.
- Scaling up/replicability.
- Institutional and technical capacity of the partners proposed.
- Degree to which the proposal leverages significant financial or in-kind resources.

3. Concept Paper Instructions

The concept paper must be submitted in Gill Sans MT and font size 11 and must include page numbers. Each page must be marked with the APS title and number.

Prepare the concept paper according to the structural format set forth below:

1-Cover Page (no more than one (1) page). The cover page must include:

- a. The APS numbers
- b. Name of the organization
- c. Address of organization
- d. Type of organization (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, association, etc.).
- e. Contact point (lead contact name; relevant telephone and e-mail information).
- f. Names of partner/consortium organizations (if any); and
- g. Signature of authorized representative of the applicant.

2- Technical approach (no more than three (3) pages).

- a. This section should address the program summary and selected objectives in Section I of this document and should include:
 - Concise title and objectives of proposed activity
 - Proposed duration of the activity
 - Discussion of the objectives, the method of approach, the amount of effort to be employed, the anticipated results, and how the work will help accomplish DAI's goal of RASS activities, and
 - Type of support the applicant requests from RASS (e.g., funds, facilities, equipment, materials, personnel resources, etc.).

(4) Submission Instructions

All materials must be in English.

Concept Paper: The concept paper must be submitted by email to rass_submission@rassactivity.org no later than the deadline on the cover page of this APS or subsequently announced deadlines if additional reviews are announced. All correspondence must include the relevant APS number and title.

SECTION V – APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

I. Eligible Organizations

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DAI will consider proposals related to this APS from national organizations, CBOs, CSOs, and Youth and Women Associations. Some organizations are legally restricted from receiving U.S. Government funded assistance. In addition, applicants should:

- Be legally recognized and registered to operate in South Sudan. Registration documents and statutes must be submitted.
- Not be affiliated with a political party nor engaged in any political activities.
- Not be focused solely on religious activities.

2. Evaluation Criteria for Concept Paper

Concept papers will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the APS, appropriateness of subject matter, and creativeness. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed work will contribute to RASS objectives especially within the RASS project activities counties in South Sudan.

SECTION VI – AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

(1) Post- Selection Information

Following selection of successful concepts, DAI will inform the successful applicant concerning the outcome and successfully applicants will be guided on developing full grants application.

SECTION VII- DAI/RASS PROJECT CONTACTS

The points of contact for this APS and any questions during the APS should be directed to:

rass_procurement@rassactivity.org

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this APS must request it in writing by the date listed on the cover letter to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a grant will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this APS will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this APS, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

SECTION VIII - OTHER INFORMATION

Issuance of this APS concept call does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of DAI, nor does it commit DAI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the concept.

DAI reserves the right to consider any or none of the concepts submitted. Further, DAI reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this APS concepts call.