



# USAID | SOUTH SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

June 1, 2016

**ISSUANCE DATE:** Wednesday, April 6, 2016  
**ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT (APS)** Monday, October 10, 2016  
**CLOSING DATE:** 12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time

**SUBJECT:** Amendment No. 2 to USAID's Livelihoods, Vulnerability, and Resilience Program (LVRP) Annual Program Statement (APS)

**REFERENCE:** Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) No. APS-668-16-000002

Dear Prospective Applicants,

The purpose of this Amendment No. 2 is to amend NOFO No. APS-668-16-000002 as follows:

## I. SUBMITTED QUESTIONS AND CORRESPONDING ANSWERS

1. **Question:** APS Section 4.2.1 (page 11) states the Concept Paper must “not exceed 6 pages in length (... inclusive of any other attachments or appendices [e.g., timeline, references, summary budget, etc.]).” However, Section 4.2.2.c. (page 12) states that “Applicants must include a summary budget with the Concept Paper, which does not fall within the 6-page limitation.” Could USAID please confirm that the summary budget that must accompany the Concept Paper is included in the six page limit?

**Answer:** The Concept Paper should not exceed six pages; however, any additional information such as a budget summary will not count against the six pages and may be added in an annex. The summary budget does not fall within the 6-page limitation. The language under APS NOFO Section 4.2.1 CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT will be corrected under Amendment No. 2 SECTION IV below.

2. We intend to join a consortium to be able to obtain support from USAID for the APS call Number APS-668-16-000002.

In view of this, our registration on the [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) has experienced a few hitches – over a period of close to 2 months with the process of obtaining a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number unable to be effected subsequently making our completion of our System for Award Management (SAM) registration difficult. We hereby request for any available assistance in order for us to be able to submit our documents on time as above stated.

**Answer:** Please consult the SAM e-procurement system available at [www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/](http://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/) for more information. Below please find additional registration resources:

*Embassy of the United States in South Sudan  
Kololo Road, adjacent to the European Union's compound  
Juba, South Sudan  
Telephone: +211.912.105.107  
Website: <https://www.usaid.gov/south-sudan>*

SAM Assistance - Federal Service Desk  
U.S. Telephone: +001.866.606.8220  
[www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)

Dun & Bradstreet  
For customers located within the U.S., Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands:  
Email: [govt@dnb.com](mailto:govt@dnb.com)  
Telephone: +001.866.705.5711

For customers located outside the U.S., Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands, including  
America territories-Guam Marianas Islands and American Samoa:

[SAMhelp@dnb.com](mailto:SAMhelp@dnb.com)  
Grants Customer Support Center  
Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)  
Telephone: +001.800.518.GRANTS(4726)  
Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 07:00 AM – 21:00 PM EST

3. **Question:** Are there any limit to the number of applications one entity, co-applicant or lead applicant, may submit to the funding opportunity referred to above?

**Answer:** As per APS Section 3.3, potential applicants are reminded that “...USAID will utilize a two-tiered solicitation and review system.” First, each applicant must submit a Concept Paper not to exceed six pages. If USAID requests a given applicant to submit a Full Application, then USAID will contact the applicant to submit a Full Application. Although there is no limit to the number of applications one entity, co-applicant or lead applicant may submit, if the applicant is a consortium of entities, the applicant should submit only one Concept Paper per consortium. If the Concept Paper of the consortium is selected then they will be asked to submit a Full Application.

4. **Question:** I have a question concerning the South Sudan APS-668-16-000002 – USAID’s Livelihoods, Vulnerability, and Resilience Program (LVRP) Annual Program Statement (APS). I understand that questions are due May 6, 2016 and that all potential applicants will have access to the answers to these questions shortly after the Q&A deadline. However, I was hoping to get some clarity on the submission date prior to May 6, 2016 as it will greatly impact the proposal development timeline. As you can see in the attached image, the APS states that the first Concept Paper review date is June 6, 2016; however, below the table it says “Because funding is limited, however, those received first Concept Paper review date (i.e. May 23, 2016) will have a greater probability of invitation to submit Full Applications.” Please clarify which is the correct date for the first Concept Paper deadline, June 6, 2016 or May 23, 2016?

**Answer:** The correct date for the first Concept Paper review date is May 23, 2016. Please consult [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) for APS NOFO Amendment No. 1 that clarifies the first Concept Paper review date.

5. **Question:** The cover letter to the APS, on page two, states that funding will be apportioned on a rolling basis and applications are encouraged to submit Concept Papers as soon as possible. Will USAID please confirm that all Concept Papers received by noon Juba time on June 6, 2016 will be reviewed during the first round and considered for funding?

**Answer:** USAID will review all Concept Papers received by June 6, 2016 during the first round for funding consideration.

6. **Question:** Would USAID permit the inclusion of a cover letter exclusive of the page limit?

**Answer:** The Concept Paper should not exceed six pages. However, additional information such as a budget summary does not count against the six pages and can be placed in an annex. A cover letter to introduce the Concept Paper (not to exceed a half page) is allowable and will not count against the Concept Paper 6-page limitation. The language under APS NOFO Section 4.2.1 CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT will be corrected under Amendment No. 2 SECTION IV below.

7. **Question:** Would USAID please confirm if applicants should or should not seek to locate activities in areas where other similar projects are operating? There appears to be contradictory language in the APS. Specifically, in Section 1.3.2, it states "... applicants should build on what works by proposing interventions that link to, build on, or use complementary approaches to existing development and humanitarian assistance programs...." In Section 1.3.3, it states "Applicants should focus on underserved areas and avoid proposing areas where other similar development assistance programs are already operating."

**Answer:** Applicants should focus on underserved areas and avoid proposing areas where other similar development assistance programs are already operating. This should be informed by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), mainly stressed and crisis areas as well as any other relevant criteria that will provide USAID with a convincing approach for the selection of areas of interventions. In this context, USAID encourages applicants to build on what works by proposing interventions that link to, build on, or use complementary approaches to existing development and humanitarian assistance programs.

8. **Question:** On page 5, there is a reference to "resilience of people, households, communities, countries and systems." However, the theory of change states only "households and communities." Please confirm that USAID is primarily concerned with improving resilience at the household, community, and intercommunal system level.

**Answer:** The theory of change should be addressed at the household, community as well as intercommunal levels.

9. **Question:** On page 12, in the guidance for the concept paper, it says "Collaborative strategy should be identified." Does this refer to Collaborative Learning & Adaptation (CLA) strategy that is further described on page 6?

**Answer:** This refers to a strategic approach that the applicant will apply to collaboratively operate with other organizations and communities in areas of intervention. The CLA strategy will be addressed in full applications.

10. **Question:** On page 12, in the guidance for the concept paper, it refers to developing “future leaders in conservation,” yet there is very little information contained in the rest of the document about natural resource management. Can USAID please expand on the level of focus the LVRP program should have on natural resource management (NRM) and conservation for South Sudan?

**Answer:** The LVRP development approach is broad and covers not only livelihoods under agriculture, fisheries, and livestock and pastoralism, but also livelihoods that are linked to natural resource utilization, such as communities that live in forests and encroach on wildlife habitats, or communities impacting natural protected areas, such as parks, nature reserves, and wetlands. LVRP must have maximum impact on food insecurity, but to do so in a way that recognizes NRM and conservation issues.

11. **Question:** When assessing levels of food insecurity and targeting specific geographic regions, should there be higher priority or weight placed on areas of chronic or reoccurring food insecurity or areas of acute or current food insecurity?

**Answer:** USAID encourages applicants to focus on stressed and crisis areas on the integrated food security phase classification (IPC). However, this should not be the only criteria used to identify areas of intervention. Applicants should also observe other relevant criteria that would complement IPC and provide USAID with a compelling approach in selecting project areas.

12. **Question:** For the key personnel, are applicants to submit a ‘summary paragraph’ for only the required position (i.e., Chief of Party)? Or should applicants submit summary paragraphs for additional key personnel as well?

**Answer:** Applicants should submit a summary paragraph for all proposed key personnel.

13. **Question:** Will USAID please release available information on the projects mentioned in Annex I of the APS, particularly those where it is indicated that applicants should contact USAID for more information?

**Answer:** Potential applicants may find the available information regarding the projects mentioned in APS Annex I under the Grants.gov APS NOFO Related Documents tab.

14. **Question:** Should a budget narrative be submitted with the summary budget? If yes, will USAID please confirm that the budget narrative is not included within the six page limit for the Concept Paper?

**Answer:** As per APS Section 4.2.2.c, “[a]pplicants must include a summary budget with the Concept Paper, which does not fall within the 6-page limitation.” Further, per APS Section 4.2.4.d under FULL APPLICATION CONTENT, “A detailed budget and financial plan with major line items, identification of funding source (i.e., by partner) for each, and a

budget narrative description of what the resources will be used for.” The language under APS NOFO Section 4.2.1 CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT will be corrected under Amendment No. 2 SECTION IV below.

15. **Question:** Would USAID confirm that the summary budget is not included in the six page Concept Paper limitation?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 14 above.

16. **Question:** Where should consortium partner costs be included within the cost categories for the summary budget listed on APS page 12?

**Answer:** Depending on the nature or structure of the consortium, potential applicants may consider listing consortium costs under the “Subcontracts” cost categories. Nevertheless, it is for each applicant to determine under which cost category consortium partner costs best fits.

17. **Question:** Would USAID please confirm the contact information for the Full Application submission?

**Answer:** As per APS Section 4.7, “USAID will review submissions (i.e., Concept Papers and Full Applications) using a two-tiered solicitation and review system per the Automated Directives System (ADS) 303.3.6.1(d). Applicants must first submit a Concept Paper. After a competitive review process described below, USAID will request that successful applicants submit a Full Application.”

18. **Question:** Would USAID please confirm the information required for the Full Application cover page?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 17 above. Additionally, please refer to APS Section 4.2.4.

19. **Question:** On page 26 of the APS, the evaluation criteria of past performance is defined as “Past Performance: The Full Application must demonstrate that the respondent exhibits core competency in the activity described and has relevant past successful performance on a similar program through an existing relationship with livelihoods and food security in the target geographic regions.” Will USAID please clarify what is intended by “through an existing relationship with livelihoods and food security in the target geographic regions?”

**Answer:** In other words, does the applicant have experience working with livelihoods and food security in the areas it intends to target or in areas similar to its intended target areas.

20. **Question:** It is mentioned in the call that project will be focused on stressed or crisis level food insecure areas that are classified by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), so, Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states are prime. IPC has also mentioned that large deterioration of food security can be seen Greater Equatoria region so can we consider Greater Equatoria as proposed project area?

**Answer:** USAID will review applicant's approach on geographic focus using IPC crisis and stressed levels but also other relevant criteria that applicant deems important. USAID is looking for maximum impact on food insecurity.

21. **Question:** It is mentioned that the specific areas for implementation are subject to negotiations between the applicant and USAID. Will the negotiations take place before the submission of the proposal or should we submit our preferences in the concept paper?

**Answer:** A potential applicant should submit its preferences for specific areas for implementation in the Concept Paper.

22. **Question:** Do we have to address all three objectives mentioned in the APS?

**Answer:** A potential application must address all three objectives under APS Section 1.5.

23. **Question:** Can one organization be part of two different consortiums, provided they are not the lead agency in both?

**Answer:** Yes, one organization may list itself under two different consortiums. However, one organization listed under two different consortiums may not work on two different awards should USAID request Full Applications from both consortiums. An organization, even if not lead organization, may only operate under one award.

24. **Question:** The APS provides the Geographic Scope as prioritizing the most conflict-affected states of South Sudan that are stable enough to begin early livelihood recovery interventions. Does this mean that USAID will not consider interventions outside the Greater Upper Nile area *or* does it mean that proposed interventions outside the Greater Upper Nile area will require a stronger justification for inclusion in the APS?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 7, 11, 20 and 26 above.

25. **Question:** Given the priority for a geographic scope of the “most conflict-affected states of South Sudan that are stable enough to begin early livelihood recovery interventions”, is Warrap state (based on the old 10 states) within the geographic scope of the program given cattle, resource use, and intercommunal conflicts that exist in Warrap? Similarly is Northern Bahr El Ghazal state (based on the old 10 states) considered within the geographic scope of the program given cattle, resource use, and intercommunal conflicts that exist in this area?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 7, 11, 20 and 26 above.

26. **Question:** Given the criteria to select counties that are rated as stressed or crisis level food insecure by the IPC, how will USAID consider countries that enter or exit this classification during the time of this application or during implementation? Is there flexibility to review the changing food security status from concept to full proposal stage and subsequently with award?

**Answer:** USAID strives to achieve maximum impact on food insecurity in the context of attaining the objectives specified under APS Section 1.5, and seeks operational approaches with an ability to shift between recovery and development.

27. **Question:** For the purposes of the NOFO, would USAID like applicants to reference the old state boundaries or the newly designated 28 states when describing geographic scope and contextual issues?

**Answer:** For the purpose of this APS NOFO, USAID is using the 10-state configuration.

28. **Question:** Within the geographic priorities given, does USAID currently have priority regions, states, or counties for the LVRP?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 7, 11, 20 and 26 above.

29. **Question:** Would you please share USAID/South Sudan's conflict sensitivity requirements as referenced on page 2 of the APS if they are different or more extensive than the conflict sensitivity definition given on page 6?

**Answer:** Please review APS Section 1.6.2.a. Moreover, at the concept paper stage, an applicant will be expected to demonstrate its understanding of USAID's conflict sensitivity requirements consistent with the definition and narrative provided under APS Section 1.6.2.a. As per the definition, an applicant should design its technical approach to minimize risks of negative impacts and identify options for positively impacting conflict dynamics. Implementing partners will be expected to monitor, evaluate, and adapt activities for conflict sensitivity.

In the Concept Paper, applicants may include initial conflict sensitivity considerations or approaches as part of their proposed solution/technical approach (i.e., APS page 11, Section 4.2.2. Concept Paper Content, subsection b., 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point) *or* as part of their response to cross-cutting issues (i.e., APS, page 12, Section 4.2.2. Concept Paper Content, subsection b, 5<sup>th</sup> bullet point).

Only those applicants invited to submit a Full Application will be required to submit a draft conflict sensitivity plan, as noted on APS page 13. The required format/content for a draft conflict sensitivity plan can be found on page 10 of the Conflict Sensitivity "How to Guide for Conflict Sensitivity" under the Grants.gov APS NOFO Related Documents tab; however, draft conflict sensitivity plan is **not** required at the Concept Paper stage.

30. **Question:** APS page 12 indicates that the concept paper format should "Present opportunities to engage youth strategically in the implementation of the activity, as relevant, to ensure broad-based participation and nurturing of change-agents and future leaders in conservation." Could USAID please clarify this statement given conversation is not a focus of this APS?

**Answer:** This should read "future leaders in livelihoods development." Conservation per se is a subset of this.



31. **Question:** Will livelihoods and livelihood groups outside of the ones listed on page four of the APS such as retail and services be considered as part of Objective 1?

**Answer:** USAID encourages livelihood development diversification appropriate to the community context.

32. **Question:** Given the program seeks to increase resilience to shocks and stresses, can the design include a crisis modifier to respond to acute needs and fill gaps in humanitarian assistance in the likely case of conflict or other rapid onset shocks?

**Answer:** As per APS Section 1.6.1, “[a]pplicants are expected to have the ability to shift between recovery and development, addressing these conditions simultaneously when necessary, depending on beneficiary needs.”

33. **Question:** Given the need to avoid support to the central government of South Sudan (APS page 17), would working with Ministry of Agriculture or extension systems at the state and local levels be considered working with the central government? Similarly, is engaging and coordinating with local government for activities around nutrition and infrastructure considered working with the central government?

**Answer:** No direct assistance or support is permissible to the central level under the APS per the Congressional restrictions placed upon USAID in working with the government in South Sudan. However, engagement and coordination at the local level in the sectors mentioned would be acceptable.

34. **Question:** APS page 11 indicates that the summary budget is included in the 6-page limitation of the concept paper, while page 12 of the APS states that the summary budget does not fall within the 6-page limit. Please clarify if the summary budget is included or not in the 6 page limit of the concept paper.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 01, 06 and 14 above.

35. **Question:** APS page 12 states that concept papers should “provide a summary paragraph of qualifications of lead responder for key positions.” In this context what does “lead responder” mean? Is this in reference to a summary of agency qualifications or the qualifications of proposed key personnel?

**Answer:** A summary paragraph of qualifications of key positions for the prime applicant, such as Chief of Party (COP) and other proposed key personnel.

36. **Question:** APS page 12 indicates that the concept paper format should i) “Identify strategic partners and describe the EXISTING relationship the respondent has with which they propose to work, if any” as well as indicating ii) a “Collaborative strategy should be identified.” What is the difference between strategic partnerships and a collaborative strategy? Does this indicate to i) describe formal sub-partners to the program and ii) identify key areas for coordination to sequence and integrate?

**Answer:** This is a reasonable interpretation.



37. **Question:** Will USAID please clarify the Concept Paper submission dates given the review date of May 6 on the cover page and table on page 16, while page 16 also says “Because funding is limited, however, those received first Concept Paper review date (i.e., May 23, 2016) will have a greater probability of invitation to submit Full Applications. Thus, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Concept Papers as soon as possible to ensure funding availability.”

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above.

38. **Question:** Given limited space, would USAID please detail which priorities and policies are key to address on the Concept Paper cover page in response to the requirement for a “Response to the program priorities, goals, results, and aspects of government of South Sudan and U.S. government (USG) policies and strategies.” Would a brief table of the policies detailed in Section 1.3.2 Framework for Alignment of the APS be sufficient to respond to this request or would removing this requirement be considered?

**Answer:** A potential applicant should succinctly state the purpose of its proposal (i.e., the potential applicant’s response to the context as defined by “program priorities, goals, results, and aspects of government of South Sudan and USG policies and strategies”).

39. **Question:** APS page 13 indicates that for the Full Application “Letters of support: Letters of support from all subpartners” shall be annexed to technical applications. Does this include letters of support from stakeholders and collaborating agencies or does USAID only want letters of support from formal subpartners?

**Answer:** Letters of support from all subpartners refers only to subrecipient as defined under Title 2 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) §200.93.

40. **Question:** For the detailed budget as part of the full application, will USAID consider less than 12 point font and less than one inch margins for the Excel spreadsheet portion of the budget (see APS page 13)?

**Answer:** No, USAID will only consider 12-point font size.

41. **Question:** APS page 26 states that for the full application, “An applicant must provide a list of up to five of its cost-reimbursement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs during the past three (3) years.” Will USAID only consider references from the primary applicant? If references for subpartners are to be included, does USAID want 5 references per partner or five total?

**Answer:** USAID will only consider references from the primary applicant.

42. **Question:** For the Concept Paper and Full Application, will USAID evaluate annexed résumés for non-key personnel and consider these résumés as outside the 6 page and 20 page limit for the concept and full proposal respectively?

**Answer:** Potential applicants should only submit résumés for proposed key personnel. Nevertheless, potential applicants should not include résumés with the Concept Paper submission, only with the Full Application if invited to submit by USAID.

43. **Question:** Under APS Section 6.3.2 Program Reporting, Safety and Security Plan on page 33, the APS states that a draft Safety and Security plan is requested as part of the application, however this plan is not mentioned in the list of other attachments for the full application on page 12-13, 4.2.3 Full Application Format. Can USAID please clarify whether or not a Safety and Security Plan is required for the full application?

**Answer:** The Safety and Security Plan is required for submission as part of the Full Application, if invited to submit by USAID.

44. **Question:** For the Full Application submission will a table of contents and acronym list be excluded from the 20 page limit?

**Answer:** Yes, the table of contents and acronym list will be excluded from the 20-page limitation (i.e., a table of contents and acronym list do not count against the 20-page limitation).

45. **Question:** For the Full Application, is there a particular format USAID would prefer for the cover page?

**Answer:** Please review APS Sections 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 for the FULL APPLICATION FORMAT and FULL APPLICATION CONTENT, respectively.

46. **Question:** For the Full Application submission, will attachments outside of the list given on page 13 of the APS be considered and not included in the 20-page limit?

**Answer:** USAID will not consider Other Attachments outside those indicated on APS page 13. As per APS Section 4.2.3.d, the Other Attachments do not count against the 20-page limitation suggested format for the Full Application.

47. **Question:** Question: Given “USAID plans to fund approved activities starting anytime in USG fiscal year 2016 (i.e., October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016)” (page 8 of the APS), should applicants assume a program start date before September 30, 2016 even for applications submitted for the August 8, 2016 review?

**Answer:** The program start date will be dictated following negotiation of award per ADS 303.3.12.

48. **Question:** How does the assumption on page 4 that “USAID’s Operating Year Budget (OYB) levels may decrease over the coming years” affect program applications and budget proposals?

**Answer:** This program is subject to funding availability throughout the duration of program implementation.

49. **Question:** On page, 4.2.4 Full Application Content, Personnel Salaries and Wages, the APS states that “A proposed annual salary increase of more than 5 percent will be considered unreasonable.” We request that USAID allow for salary increases of more than 5 percent for local salaries taking into account currency fluctuations and cost of living increases.

**Answer:** USAID will determine the reasonableness of proposed salaries per 2 CFR § 200.430(b), which provides the following:

*“Compensation for employees engaged in work on Federal awards will be considered reasonable to the extent that it is consistent with that paid for similar work in other activities of the non-Federal entity. In cases where the kinds of employees required for Federal awards are not found in the other activities of the non-Federal entity, compensation will be considered reasonable to the extent that it is comparable to that paid for similar work in the labor market in which the non-Federal entity competes for the kind of employees involved.”*

With respect to proposed salary increases greater than 5 percent, USAID will consider the special considerations per 2 CFR § 200.430(e), which provides the following:

*“Special considerations in determining allowability of compensation will be given to any change in a non-Federal entity’s compensation policy resulting in a substantial increase in its employees’ level of compensation (particularly when the change was concurrent with an increase in the ratio of Federal awards to other activities) or any change in the treatment of allowability of specific types of compensation due to changes in Federal policy.”*

Nevertheless, USAID encourages potential applicants to propose alternative methods to mitigate exchange rate risk in their budget narrative and supporting justification per APS Section 4.2.4.

50. **Question:** Can USAID please provide further explanation regarding the Travel and Transportation requirements stated in the detailed budget breakdown listed on page 14 of the APS? It is our understanding, per the current cost principles listed in 2 CFR § 200.474 Travel Costs as well as the most recent update to Standard Provision Travel and International Air Transportation, that this level of detail, including number of trips, origin and destination, duration, and number of individuals traveling are no longer required and that prior approval is no longer required.

**Answer:** As per ADS 303.3.12.a, “The AO must review the apparently successful applicant’s budget to ensure that costs, including cost sharing, are in compliance with Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB)’s and USAID’s policies. The recipient must justify in advance the proposed costs for each element of the program.” Further, “[w]hen reviewing costs, the AO must review the cost breakdown; and evaluate and analyze specific elements of costs for reasonableness and allocability of costs in the budget, and the allowability of the costs under the applicable cost principles.” Lastly, “[t]he AO must negotiate with the applicant to resolve any issues related to proposed costs that do not comply with USAID policies before executing the award.” Thus, request for a detailed budget narrative and supporting justification for an applicant’s proposed travel and transportation budget line item constitutes review of proposed award budget for reasonableness and allocability of

costs, not prior approval of travel and transportation of an approved budget of an existing award.

51. **Question:** APS Section 3.2 on page 10 under COST SHARING OR MATCHING states that there is a 10 percent suggested cost share and that while this is not a requirement, “Concept Papers and Full Applications that include in-kind or cash cost share contributions will be more competitive.” According to ADS 303.10.2, “cost sharing may be considered in the merit review only if the funding announcement specifically addresses how it will be considered, e.g., assigning a certain number of additional points to applicants who offer cost sharing, or using cost sharing to break ties among applications with equivalent scores after evaluation against all other factors.” Would USAID please clarify if and how cost share will be evaluated or consider removing the reference that applications which include cost share being “more competitive?”

**Answer:** So as not to excessively rely on proposed cost sharing during the merit review and unfairly favor larger, better-funded organizations, USAID will use cost sharing to break ties among Concept Papers or requested Full Applications with equivalent consensus adjectival ratings after evaluation against all other factors. The language under APS Section 3.2 CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT has been amended under Amendment No. 2 SECTION II below.

52. **Question:** APS Section 4.2.1 (d) on page 11 under CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT states the Concept Paper must “[n]ot exceed 6 pages in length (not including the cover page or resumes, but inclusive of any other attachments or appendices [e.g., timeline, references, summary budget etc.]).

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 01, 06 and 14 above.

53. **Question:** APS Section 4.2.1 (c) on page 12 under CONCEPT PAPER CONTENT states regarding the budget summary “Applicants must include a summary budget with the Concept Paper, which does not fall within the 6-page limitation.” Does the budget summary count towards the concept paper 6 page limit or not? Please clarify.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 01, 06 and 14 above.

54. **Question:** APS Section 4.2.2 (b) on page 12 states “collaborative strategy should be identified.” Can USAID clarify this requirement? What is meant by ‘collaborative strategy’ and with whom/what entities?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 36 above.

55. **Question:** For a project of this size, we anticipate a sizeable procurement and some goods and services may not be readily available in the confine of 937. Given the precariousness of the political situation in South Sudan, it would be helpful to have a 935 Geographic Code instead of 937. Will USAID consider changing the Geographic code for the award to 935?

**Answer:** Title 22 CFR 228 establishes Geographic Code 937 – defined as the United States, the cooperating/recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing

countries, and excluding prohibited sources – as the default geographic code. Solicitations issued after March 1, 2012 to which 22 CFR 228 applies must reflect the default Geographic Code of 937, unless another geographic code is authorized per 22 CFR 228. Nevertheless, 22 CFR § 228.30(a) provides “USAID may waive the rules contained in subparts A, B and C of this part (except for prohibited sources as defined in § 228.01, and §§ 228.21 and 228.22), in order to accomplish project or program objectives...to permit procurement outside of Code 937 or 110 must be based on a case by case determination.” USAID will only consider case by case waivers to permit procurement outside of Code 937 after award.

56. **Question:** On APS page 10 USAID says that “Concept Papers and requested Full Applications that include in-kind or cash cost share contributions will be more competitive” but on page 28 Section 5.3 USAID says “Although USAID will consider an applicant’s proposed cost sharing in the review process, the SC will not assign an adjectival rating to the proposed cost share, if any. Where an applicant proposes no cost share, the SC will not downgrade its evaluation of the submitted Concept Paper or Full Application.” That seems to contradict the statement made on page 10. Can USAID clarify exactly how proposing and not proposing cost share affect the applicant at both the Concept Paper and Full Application Review Stages?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 51 above.

57. **Question:** APS Section 4.4 SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES on page 16 states “Because funding is limited, however, those received first Concept Paper review date (i.e., May 23, 2016) will have a greater probability of invitation to submit Full Applications.” Can USAID confirm that concept papers to be reviewed in the June 06<sup>th</sup> cycle must be submitted by May 23, 2016?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above.

58. **Question:** Can USAID confirm that responses to questions will be received before May 23, 2016 in order to ensure that applicants are responsive to any changes to the APS that occur as a result of the Q&A?

**Answer:** Potential applicants should continue to consult Grants.gov for future APS announcements, modifications to the announcements and the corresponding application packages pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity.

59. **Question:** There is a restriction on working with South Sudan central Government however at the same time the APS suggests that the recipient may have limited engagement with local authorities. Can USAID define what limited engagement means and what may be interpreted beyond that?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question No. 33 above.

60. **Question:** Will areas marked as Emergency or famine level (IPC 4) under IPC reports be eligible for funding under this call?

**Answer:** See, for example, APS Section 1.3.3, Section 1.5, and Section 1.6.1. The focus is on “stressed or crisis level” food insecurity, and the program must also be flexible.

61. **Question:** What range (months) of IPC reports is USAID referencing for the crisis level designations?

**Answer:** USAID will consider the most recent IPC report.

62. **Question:** Will USAID consider including off-farm income generating activities in the expected results?

**Answer:** Off-farm activities are important livelihood aspects and are also highly encouraged.

63. **Question:** Can USAID confirm that for Objective 1, the de-link between livelihoods and resilience is unintentional?

**Answer:** “Delink” is not mentioned in the text.

64. **Question:** Are water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) results inclusive of water for agriculture and livestock purposes?

**Answer:** WASH should be strictly linked to nutrition.

65. **Question:** On page 11 the solicitation states under Concept Paper Format “not to exceed 6 pages in length (not including the cover page or resumes, **but inclusive of any other attachments or appendices** [e.g., timeline, references, **summary budget** etc.]). However, on Page 12 section C the solicitation states “applicants must include **summary budget with the Concept Paper, which does not fall within the 6-page limitation.**” Please clarify whether the summary budget is included in the 6-page limit or not.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 01, 06 and 14 above.

66. **Question:** The APS states that the first concept paper review date is June 6<sup>th</sup>, however below the table it says “Because funding is limited, however, those received first Concept Paper review date (i.e. May 23, 2016) will have a greater probability of invitation to submit Full Applications.” Please clarify which is the correct date for the first Concept Paper deadline, June 6th or May 23rd 2016.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above.

67. **Question:** Under APS Section 4.2.2 Concept Paper content, a. Cover page must include, vii. Response to the program priorities, goals, results, and aspects of government of South Sudan and USG policies and strategies Can USAID please clarify what is meant by “response?”

**Answer:** In this case, it is about how the programmatic approach proposed by the applicant or a consortium will address LVRP’s objectives, goals, results, South Sudan government and



USG policies as well as the current USAID framework as stated in the program description of the APS.

68. **Question:** In the Concept Paper content section b. USAID mentions that a “collaborative strategy should be identified.” Does this mean USAID would like to see how the consortium will collaborate and work together to reach its objectives, or how the Project will collaborate with the government of South Sudan, other implementing partners/agencies etc.

**Answer:** The collaborative strategy should underscore how the applicant or the consortium will collaborate with existing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors that work in the same geographic area and also how collaboration/partnerships are developed with communities, households, private sector and to some extent how to engage with the local government without providing a direct support or assistance in accordance with the Congressional directive that prohibits direct assistance to South Sudan government.

69. **Question:** APS NOFO page 11 states that the Concept Paper must “Not exceed 6 pages total (not including cover page or resumes, but inclusive of any other attachments [e.g. timeline, references, summary budget, etc.]). However, Page 12 of the NFO states that the summary budget does not fall within the 6-page limitation. Could USAID please confirm that the budget does not fall within the 6 page limit?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 01, 06 and 14 above.

70. **Question:** APS NOFO page 11 states that the Concept Paper must “Not exceed 6 pages total (not including cover page or resumes, but inclusive of any other attachments [e.g. timeline, references, summary budget, etc.]). In order to visually demonstrate the geographic targets, may the applicant submit a map as an attachment, which would not count toward the 6 page limit?

**Answer:** As per APS Section 4.2.1.d, a map would constitute an attachment and will count against the Concept Paper 6-page limitation.

71. **Question:** Could USAID provide information on its Health, Education, and Humanitarian Assistance Programs in South Sudan, as specified on page 42 of the NOFO?

**Answer:** With respect to Humanitarian Assistance Programs in South Sudan, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is supporting life-saving humanitarian interventions across South Sudan, with a focus on emergency programs in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states. USAID/OFDA partners are addressing acute needs through agriculture and food security activities; health programs; humanitarian coordination and information management; logistics support and non-food relief commodity distributions; nutrition; protection; shelter and settlements; and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. In Fiscal Year 2015, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$110 million in humanitarian funding. Since the start of the crisis in December 2013, the U.S. Government has provided nearly \$1.6 billion to address humanitarian needs in South Sudan and for South Sudanese refugee populations in neighboring countries.



Potential applicants may find the additional available information regarding Health, Education, and Humanitarian Assistance Programs under the Grants.gov APS NOFO Related Documents tab.

72. **Question:** Could USAID provide the Foreign Service National (FSN) scale?

**Answer:** USAID/South Sudan does not distribute its FSN compensation plan for public consumption. Potential applicants must conduct their own market research to determine the reasonable FSN compensation labor costs.

73. **Question:** Could USAID provide a list of any existing Host Country National (HCN) allowances such as Meals, Transportation, Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), and etc.?

**Answer:** USAID/South Sudan does not distribute a list of existing HCN allowances (e.g., meals, transportation, COLA, etc.) for public consumption. Potential applicants must conduct their own market research to determine the reasonable HCN allowances.

74. **Question:** APS, Section IV: Concept Paper and Application Submission Information, sub-section 4.2.1 Concept Paper Format, part d on page 11 states “Not exceed 6 pages in length (not including the cover page or resumes, but inclusive of any other attachments or appendices [e.g., timeline, references, summary budget etc.]). USAID will not consider pages beyond the stated 6-page limitation.” However, on pg. 12 under section 4.2.2 Concept Paper Content, part c says “Applicants must include a summary budget with the Concept Paper, which does not fall within the 6-page limitation.” Can USAID please confirm that the summary budget does not fall within the 6-page limitation?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 01, 06 and 14 above.

75. **Question:** APS, Section IV: Concept Paper and Application Submission Information, sub-section 4.2.2 Concept Paper Content, part a. Cover page on page 11, can USAID please clarify what should be included under vii. Response to the program priorities, goals, results, and aspects of government of South Sudan and USG policies and strategies?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 67 above.

76. **Question:** APS, under Section IV: Concept Paper and Application Submission Information, sub-section 4.2.2 Concept Paper Content, part b. Concept Paper body format, bullet 8 on pg. 12 states “Identify potential key personnel and provide a summary paragraph of qualifications of lead responder for key positions.” Can USAID please clarify what is meant by “lead responder”?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 35 above.

77. **Question:** Can USAID also confirm that resumes of Key Personnel are not required at the time of Concept Paper submission but will be required at the Full Application stage?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 42 above.

78. **Question:** APS Section IV: Concept Paper and Application Submission Information, part 4.4 Submission Dates and Times on page 16, the table indicates that the first Concept Paper review date is June 6, 2016. However, in the paragraph below the table, it references May 23, 2016 as the first Concept Paper review date. Can USAID please confirm that June 6 is the first concept paper review date?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above.

79. **Question:** Can USAID please clarify if the Summary Budget should be submitted as an attachment to the Concept Paper, or if it should be submitted under a separate cover?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 01, 06 and 14 above.

80. **Question:** Our organization is inquiring if it can apply for two annual program statements, (i.e., Biodiversity and LVRP programs), given that the Organization plans to closely collaborate and submit joint concept papers with complementary stakeholders.

**Answer:** An organization can apply for both the Biodiversity APS and the LVRP APS, respectively.

81. **Question:** Under the proposed LVRP APS, and with particular focus on Objective 3, our organization would like to know if it is feasible to establish partnerships outside of the FSL Sector.

**Answer:** Without clarification of what the initialism “FSL” represents, USAID cannot answer this question.

82. In the NOFO, it states in several places that the first concept paper review date will be **June 6, 2016**. However, on page 16 it states “Because funding is limited, however, those received first Concept Paper review date (i.e., **May 23, 2016**) will have a greater probability of invitation to submit Full Applications. Thus, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Concept Papers as soon as possible to ensure funding availability.”

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above.

83. Can you please clarify whether the May 23 date is written in error or if in fact Concept Papers submitted by May 23 (rather than June 6), will have a greater probability of success?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above. A Concept Paper’s “probability of success” depends on its clarity to propose a conflict-sensitive and holistic approach to achieve the LVRP program objectives and the availability of funding.

84. **Question:** APS (Section 3.2 – Cost Sharing or Matching) on page 10 of indicates that “USAID has established a suggested, but not required, cost share of 10 percent for the recipient(s) of the award(s) under this APS...Further Concept Papers and requested Full Applications that include in-kind or cash cost share contributions will be more competitive.” Page 28 of the APS (section 5.3 - Evaluation Criteria related to cost share considerations) suggests that “...although USAID will consider an applicant’s proposed cost sharing in the

review process, the SC will not assign an adjectival rating to the proposed cost share, if any. Where an applicant proposes no cost share, the SC will not downgrade its evaluation of the submitted Concept Paper or Full Application.” It is not entirely clear how the SC is going to reconcile these differing messages regarding the weighting of cost share within the applications. Can USAID please confirm that concept papers and applications that include cost share will be considered more competitive than those that don’t?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 51 above.

85. **Question:** APS (Section 6.3.2 – Program Reporting, a. Annual Work Plan) on page 30 indicates that the “first draft of the Year 1 Work Plan will be due within 60 days of the award of the Cooperative Agreement.” The next following sub-section (b. Performance Management Plan (PMP)) indicates that “USAID requires the Recipient to submit a PMP within 45 days of the effective date of the award to the AOR.” On page 31 for the same section, the APS indicates that “The Recipient shall submit the PMP with the Annual Work Plan.” Will USAID confirm that the PMP can be submitted at the 60 day mark in order to be submitted, reviewed and approved simultaneous with the Year 1 Work Plan?

**Answer:** Both the Year 1 Work Plan and PMP should be submitted within 60 days of the date of award signature.

86. **Question:** APS, (Section 6.3.2 - Program Reporting, b. Performance Management Plan (PMP)) page 30 indicates “USAID requires the Recipient to submit a PMP within 45 days of the effective date of the award to the AOR.” Page 31 of the APS (section 6.3.2 Program Reporting, c. M&E Plan) indicates that “Outcome indicators will require accurate baseline data, some of which may be provided by secondary sources. Baseline data gathering will be completed within the first six months, with initial results from secondary sources provided within 60 calendar days of award.” Since it’s not clear if USAID will have provided feedback/approval on the PMP submitted at the 45 day mark, we ask that USAID share a bit more clarity on what is expected as part of the “initial results from secondary sources” required at the 60 day mark.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 85 above.

87. **Question:** APS (section 6.3.2 – Program Reporting, c. M&E Plan) page 31 indicates that “The Recipient must collect baseline data for all indicators and this baseline will be used to evaluate program progress and results in each semi-annual report.” APS (section 6.3.2 – Program Reporting, e. Quarterly Reports) page 31 indicates that progress reports are due on a quarterly (not a semi-annual) basis. Will USAID clarify whether program reports are due quarterly or semi-annually and the frequency in which information about indicators should be included?

**Answer:** USAID requires implementing partners to submit quarterly reports throughout the life of the project to the Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR) on the last day of the quarter. Semi-annual reporting **is not required**. An implementing partner must also submit a final report at the end of the project.

88. **Question:** APS (Section 1.3.3 – Geographic Scope) page 2 indicates that “The goal of LVRP is to benefit counties rated as stressed or crisis level food insecure by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).” The IPC map suggests that all states except for Western Equatoria and parts of Central Equatoria are classified as stressed or crisis level. In its “FY16 Way Forward” presentation delivered to implementing partners in March 2016, USAID introduced a revised operational framework indicating an updated institutional focus on six (as compared to 10) states. Given the difference in the IPC map of states facing stressed and crisis level food insecurity as compared to the apparent narrower focus of USAID’s way forward, will USAID consider providing additional clarification on the exact states they prioritize for LVRP implementation?

**Answer:** USAID indicated that geographic focus should consider stressed and crisis level food insecure areas but this is not exclusive as applicants can propose additional criteria that complement the IPC level classification. Because areas can shift from IPC levels throughout the life of the project, potential applicants should demonstrate programming flexibility in their geographic focus approach.

89. **Question:** Within priority states, would USAID welcome if applicants further clarified proposed counties of initial engagement at the concept stage? (As compared to holding off on this information until the full proposal stage)

**Answer:** USAID would welcome for applicants to further clarify proposed counties of initial engagement at the concept stage.

90. **Question:** Would USAID be supportive of activities being proposed in the contested area of Abiye as part of LVRP?

**Answer:** As long as the security situation is permissive to implement LVRP, Abiye is not off-limits. Applicants should demonstrate programming flexibility if they face unexpected crises that could flare up in selected program areas.

91. **Question:** To ensure geographic complementarity between applicants, and to capitalize on strong technical approaches without duplicating work in the same regions, will USAID consider providing feedback on suggested geographic scope and allowing applicants to adjust areas of implementation at the full proposal stage?

**Answer:** Applicants should put forward their strongest Concept Paper and demonstrate they have the ability to shift to other geographic areas should conditions dictate

92. **Question:** APS (Section 1.3.3 – Geographic Scope) page 2 – 3 indicates that “Applicants should focus on underserved areas and avoid proposing areas where other similar development assistance programs are already operating.” APS (Annex 1 C – USAID Development Programs) page 40 indicates that “applicants are encouraged to consult USAID programs when preparing applications.” All of the subsequent programs listed suggest ending dates of 2014, 2015 or 2016. In its “FY16 Way Forward” presentation delivered to implementing partners in March 2016, USAID included a map of ongoing programs by county in South Sudan. Will USAID provide updated information on the timeframe for ongoing programs relevant to LVRP?

**Answer:** Potential applicants may find the “Way Forward” map under the Grants.gov APS NOFO Related Documents tab.

93. **Question:** Will USAID consider sharing the data behind the “Way Forward” map so that applicants have a better understanding of where current USAID programs are being implemented? This would help ensure that duplicative efforts are not proposed.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 92 above.

94. **Question:** APS (Section 4.4 – Submission Dates and Times) page 16 includes a table that indicates the First Concept Paper Review Date is Monday, June 6 at 12:00 p.m., Juba, South Sudan local time. This is also reflected in the cover letter of the APS. *In* the paragraph below the table, the APS states that “Because funding is limited, however, those received first Concept Paper review date (i.e., May 23, 2016) will have a greater probability of invitation to submit Full Applications.” Please confirm that the submission date for the Concept Paper is June 6 (and not May 23)

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above.

95. **Question:** APS (Section 1.3.3 – Geographic Scope) page 2 states that “The goal of the LVRP is to benefit counties rated as stressed or crisis level food insecure by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) by supporting communities at the *payam* and *boma* levels to improve household-level livelihoods and community resilience.” APS (Section 1.4.2 – Goal and Objectives) page 3 states that “The goal of the LVRP is to increase the resilience of chronically vulnerable household and communities, leading in the long term to a reduction in need for humanitarian assistance as well as reduced poverty, household hunger, and acute malnutrition.” While these goal statements are similar, please clarify which one applicants should use in preparation of the Concept Paper.

**Answer:** These goals complement each other. USAID seeks maximum impact in reducing food insecurity.

96. **Question:** APS (Section 1.6.1 – Required Operational Approaches) page 6 includes a comprehensive description of the importance of Collaborative Learning and Adaptation (CLA) and explains that “a goal of USAID programming is to institutionalize adaptability in programming to changing circumstance, new knowledge, and new evidence...” APS (Section 4.2.2 – Concept Paper Content, b. concept paper body format) page 12 instructs that a “Collaborative Strategy should be identified.” Please confirm that the instruction to include a “collaborative strategy” in the concept paper body is a reference to CLA.

**Answer:** These are related. CLA is a learning framework; the collaborative strategy refers to the concept paper’s approach to collaboration under the LVRP.

97. **Question:** The APS cover page states that “USAID will furnish responses to questions received prior to the deadline provided above (i.e., June 6, 2016) however, **Page 16, NOFO Section IV, Clause 4.4 Submission Dates and Times, states** that those received first Concept Paper review date (i.e., May 23, 2016) will have a greater probability of

invitation to submit Full Applications. Please confirm that all concept papers received prior to the initial review of June 6, 2016 will receive equal consideration in the first tier review and will have equal opportunity for consideration for an invitation to Full Application.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above. All Concept Paper received before June 6, 2016 will receive equal consideration in the first tier review.

98. **Question:** APS cover page states that “USAID will furnish responses to questions received prior to the deadline provided above (i.e., June 6, 2016) however, applicants are encouraged to submit concept papers early. Will USAID/South Sudan issue responses to questions as they are received in order to enable all applicants to benefit from the responses and follow the guidance to submit concept papers early?”

**Answer:** No, USAID will collect all questions received prior to the deadline and furnish responses to all potential applicants through an amendment to this notice posted to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

99. **Question:** APS NOFO Section II, Clause 2.5 Authorized Geographic Code page 8, states the geographic code authorized under the resultant award is 937. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of an authorization of Code 935 to facilitate procurement of services and goods in this difficult operating environment that will most efficiently meet the requirements of the APS.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 55 above.

100. **Question:** APS NOFO Section IV, Clause 4.2.1.d Concept Paper Format page 11, identifies that the cover page and resumes are excluded from the six page limitation. The Applicant respectfully requests USAID/South Sudan to consider excluding additional items such as an acronym list, an Executive Summary, a Partner Organization Chart, page dividers, graphics, Summary Budget, etc. from the six page limitation.

**Answer:** With the exception of the summary budget, an acronym list, executive summary, a partner organization chart, page dividers, and graphics are not excluded from the six-page long concept paper (i.e., an acronym list, executive summary, a partner organization chart, page dividers, and graphics count against the Concept Paper 6-page limitation). The language under APS NOFO Section 4.2.1 CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT will be corrected under Amendment No. 2 SECTION IV below.

101. **Question:** APS NOFO Section IV, Clause 4.2.2 Concept Paper Content, subsection a. vii. page 11 states “[r]esponse to the program priorities, goals, results, and aspects of government of South Sudan and USG policies and strategies.” The Applicant respectfully requests USAID/South Sudan to consider that this information cannot be easily and succinctly summarized on a cover page to an application. Please confirm that this information is not required on the cover page.

**Answer:** It is required in summary on the cover page. Please refer to the answer under question No. 38 above.



102. APS NOFO Section IV, Clause 4.2.2 Concept Paper Content, subsection b. pages 11 – 12 states “[c]oncept Paper body should follow the format below:

- Present a specific problem statement and development hypothesis;
- Present proposed solution/technical approach and basic implementation plan;
- Identify tangible expected results of the program;
- Identify strategic partners and describe the EXISTING relationship the respondent has with which they propose to work, if any; Identify cross-cutting issues related to conflict, gender equity, youth and women’s empowerment as they relates to your development hypothesis and proposed conflict and gender-sensitive approaches;
- Include a sustainability approach and goals (define what sustainability means to your program, what is realistic in the current context, and how to get there), particularly in the context of a successful conflict mitigation and livelihoods resilience approach to the program;
- Present opportunities to engage youth strategically in the implementation of the activity, as relevant, to ensure broad-based participation and nurturing of change-agents and future leaders in conservation;
- Identify potential key personnel and provide a summary paragraph of qualifications of lead responder for key positions; and
- Collaborative strategy should be identified”

APS NOFO Section V, Clause 5.1.2 Concept Paper Eligibility Evaluation Criteria page 24 states “[t]here are four criteria against which USAID will evaluate Concept Papers provided below in descending order of importance:

- a. Technical Approach: Provide a clear overview of program approach and objectives to livelihoods, vulnerability, and resilience as presented under the program statement. The Technical Approach should demonstrate an understanding of the challenge or opportunity, the target populations, and the country context (including conflict dynamics);
- b. Methodology: The extent to which the proposed methodology and activities provide an evidence-based approach, with clear causal links to intended impacts, and reflect both conflict- and gender-sensitivity;
- c. Feasibility: The degree to which the expected results can be reasonably achieved in the proposed program given the proposed activities, notional budget, and proposed timeframe;
- d. Sustainability: The extent to which the activities of the program can be sustained beyond USAID assistance.”

**Question:** The Offeror respectfully requests USAID/South Sudan to confirm that the Offeror may embed each **Concept Paper Content** portion within the respective **Concept Paper Eligibility Criterion** as a more clear organization of the concept paper against which the content will be evaluated. This will establish the Table of Contents of the Concept Paper as the four criteria areas.

**Answer:** It is up to each potential applicant to decide how to structure its Concept Paper.



103. **Question:** APS NOFO Section IV, Clause 4.2.4 Full Application Content page 12 provides the detailed information that may be requested from an invited applicant. Please confirm that a period of clarifications will be provided by USAID/South Sudan for the invited applicants in the second phase of this NOFO.

**Answer:** USAID/South Sudan OAA will inform the successful applicant(s) from whom Full Applications will be selected and provide a timeline for application submission per ADS 303.3.12.

104. **Question:** APS NOFO Section VI, Clause f. Annual Reports, 7<sup>th</sup> bullet page 33 requires collaboration with other USAID programs...” Please provide implementation information for the recently awarded Community Engagement Project (CEP), specifically the geographic areas in which the project is operating and in which collaboration is expected by USAID/South Sudan.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 93 above.

105. **Question:** I would like to inquire from you about the Livelihood, Vulnerable, resilience Program. I saw that as a very big program that cannot be implemented by an individual. As a person who may know some sources for individual grants can you help me know them? I am a South Sudanese in western Equatoria state seeking small fund/grant to invest on onion farming.

**Answer:** To remain transparent and fair, USAID can neither suggest nor recommend other funding avenues to individuals besides those posted on Grants.gov. An individual may wish to contact the awardee of LVRP once identified.

106. **Question:** We have a faculty member in Agriculture who is interested in the LVRP South Sudan opportunity. In reading through the synopsis, however, I noticed that the grant category is labeled “earmarked.” Does that refer to awardees who have a better chance at this than our institution does or is that in reference to the process in which the money was allocated to USAID? Please advise, and we will proceed accordingly.

**Answer:** As per ADS 634.6, an “earmark” are “funds provided by the Congress for projects or programs where the Congressional direction (in bill or report language) circumvents Executive Branch merit-based or competitive allocation processes, or specifies the location or recipient, or otherwise curtail the ability of the Executive Branch to manage critical aspects of the funds allocation process (i.e., Congressional restrictions on USAID funding).

107. **Question:** How can I apply to this grant? Can I apply individually or Not?

**Answer:** As envisaged, this program is to be implemented by registered organizations and vetted by USAID.

108. **Question:** We are writing to request information on the announcement dates for the programme above – it was indicated as 18.03 on the business forecast but we can’t see the APS on this link. Please advise or point us in the right direction where we can source for the dates.

**Answer:** Potential applicants should continue to consult Grants.gov for future APS announcements, modifications to the announcements and the corresponding application packages pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity.

109. **Question:** We are small National NGO founded in March 2015 and now working in peace building, food security and WASH in South Sudan, Lakes and Warrap States. We are asking your kindly office if we will apply directly for funding for (APS) or we need an international NGO to be partner with us before we applied.

**Answer:** As per APS Section 3.1, “USAID invites Concept Papers and, if later requested, Full Applications from all eligible and qualified entities including: U.S. and non-U.S., non-profit or for-profit NGOs, or Public International Organizations or international organizations (PIO or IO), respectively. Further, USAID strongly encourages submissions from new and varied partners.”

110. **Question:** I would appreciate your efforts in making it possible to send me the application form-USAID project (APS-668-16-000002) which aiming to avert the high poverty rates in South Sudan and build their resilience together with partners in field.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 108 above.

111. **Question:** Here in South Sudan, I am facing difficulties in downloading the full electronic version, and hence request if you could be of help. I am looking also for eligibility criteria, closing dates, and any other details that you may like to share relating to this call please. Besides what I have mentioned in my earlier mail below, may I ask if my understanding is correct that the first round of concept paper reviews is 6 June?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answers under question Nos. 04 and 108 above.

112. **Question:** Also, if I may know the deadline for submission please?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04.

113. **Question:** What I have mentioned in my earlier mail below, may I ask if my understanding is correct that the first round of concept paper reviews is 6 June? Also, if I may know the deadline for submission please?

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 04 above.

114. **Question:** I am a Professor of Practice in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University. I am writing to request more information about the USAID “USAID’s Livelihoods, Vulnerability, and Resilience Program (LVRP)” program; Funding Opportunity Number: APS-668-16-000002.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 108 above.

115. **Question:** I am the head of department Food, Nutrition and Sugar Technology university of Juba. We would like to send a proposal for nutrition component of the USAID LVRP project for South Sudan. However, I failed to down load forms and therefore would be grateful if you can send me a copy.

**Answer:** Please refer to the answer under question No. 101 above.

**[END OF SECTION I]**

**II. APS NOFO COVER PAGE**

- A. APS NOFO Cover Page submission deadline table** is hereby DELETED in its entirety and REPLACED with the following:

<b>ISSUANCE DATE:</b>	Wednesday, April 6, 2016
<b>DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF</b>	Friday, May 6, 2016
<b>QUESTIONS:</b>	12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time
<b>FIRST CONCEPT PAPER REVIEW</b>	<b>Wednesday, June 8, 2016</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time</b>
<b>SECOND CONCEPT PAPER REVIEW</b>	Monday, August 8, 2016
<b>DATE:</b>	12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time
<b>ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT</b>	Monday, October 10, 2016
<b>(APS) CLOSING DATE:</b>	12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time
<b>AWARD No.:</b>	APS-668-16-000002

**[END OF APS NOFO Cover Page Deadline Table]**

**[END OF APS NOFO COVER PAGE]**

**III. SECTION III: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

- B. APS NOFO Section 3.2 COST SHARING OR MATCHING** is hereby DELETED in its entirety and REPLACED with the following:

**“3.2 COST SHARING OR MATCHING**

As per ADS 303.3.10 cost share refers to the resources a recipient contributes to the total cost of an agreement. Cost share becomes a condition of an award when it is part of the approved award budget. The cost share must be verifiable from the recipient's records; for U.S. organizations it is subject to the requirements of 2 CFR 200.306, and for non-U.S. organizations it is subject to the Standard Provision “Cost Share;” and can be audited.

USAID has established a suggested, but not required, cost share of 10 percent for the recipient(s) of the award(s) under this APS. Although there is no general legislative requirement that recipients of grants or cooperative agreements must cost share, USAID policy is that cost sharing is an important element of the USAID-recipient relationship.

**USAID will use cost sharing to break ties among Concept Papers or requested Full Applications with equivalent consensus adjectival ratings after evaluation against all other**

**factors. Thus,** Concept Papers and requested Full Applications that include in-kind or cash cost share contributions will be more competitive. In addition to USAID funds, applicants are encouraged to contribute resources from their own private or local sources for the implementation of this program, where feasible. Such funds may be mobilized from the recipient; other multilateral, bilateral, and foundation donors; host governments; and local organizations, communities and private businesses that contribute financially and in-kind to implementation of activities at the country level. Nevertheless, as per Procurement Executive's Bulletin (PEB) No. 2007-02 contributions "[a]re not paid by the Federal Government under another award, except where authorized by Federal statute to be used for cost sharing or matching "(i.e., applicant may not make cost share contributions by other USG funding sources). Applicants can find further guidance on cost sharing in grants and cooperative agreements under ADS 303.3.10, 303.3.10.1 *and* 303.3.10.2, respectively."

**[END OF APS NOFO Section 3.2]**

**[END OF APS NOFO SECTION III]**

#### **IV. APS NOFO SECTION IV: CONCEPT PAPER AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

**C. APS NOFO Section 4.2.1 CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT** is hereby DELETED in its entirety and REPLACED with the following:

##### **"4.2.1 CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT**

The Concept Paper must:

- a. Be written in English;
- b. Be written on 8.5 inch by 11-inch (210mm by 297mm) letter size paper with at least 12 point font. All page margins shall be at least one inch and legible (USAID will not consider illegible Concept Papers);
- c. Be single-spaced with consecutively numbered pagination; *and*
- d. Not exceed 6 pages in length (**excluding** the **cover page, resumes, or summary budget; however,** inclusive of any other attachments or appendices [e.g., timeline, maps, acronym list, executive summary, a partner organization chart, page dividers, and graphics, references, etc.]). USAID will not consider pages beyond the stated 6-page limitation."

**[END OF APS NOFO Section 4.2.1]**

**D. APS NOFO Section 4.4 SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES** is hereby DELETED in its entirety and REPLACED with the following:

##### **"4.4 SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES**

USAID will consider Concept Papers received between the APS Issuance and Closing Dates on the review dates specified below:

<b>ISSUANCE DATE:</b>	Wednesday, April 6, 2016
<b>DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS:</b>	Friday, May 6, 2016 12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time
<b>FIRST CONCEPT PAPER REVIEW DATE:</b>	Wednesday, June 8, 2016 12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time
<b>SECOND CONCEPT PAPER REVIEW DATE:</b>	Monday, August 8, 2016 12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time
<b>ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT (APS) CLOSING DATE:</b>	Monday, October 10, 2016 12:00 PM, Juba, South Sudan local time

Because funding is limited, however, those received first Concept Paper review date (*i.e.*, **June 8, 2016**) will have a greater probability of invitation to submit Full Applications. Thus, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Concept Papers as soon as possible to ensure funding availability.”

**[END OF APS NOFO Section 4.4]**

**[END OF APS NOFO SECTION IV]**

**[END OF SECTION IV]**

**[END OF AMENDMENT No. 02]**