



Annual Program Statement Addendum
Forest Region United in Peace and Development (FRUIPaD) Program
Under APS-675-OAA-17-000001

ISSUANCE DATE: July 14, 2017
CLOSING DATE: August 13, 2017

SUBJECT: USAID/Guinea/Democracy, Rights and Governance (DRG) Annual Program Statement (APS) for a Forest Region United in Peace and Development (FRUIPaD) Program (No. APS-675-OAA-17-000001)

Pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the United States Government (USG), as represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), USAID/Guinea, invites applications for funding from qualified Local non-U.S., non-profit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to carry out activities that mitigate conflict and promote local development in the Guinea Forest Region by bringing together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict (ethnic, religious, social etc.).

The purpose of this Addendum is to disseminate information to prospective applicants so that they may develop and submit concept papers for USAID/Guinea funding. USAID/Guinea anticipates awarding a single or maximum of two grants and/or cooperative agreements as a result of this Addendum.

OBJECTIVE

USAID/Guinea through the local solution approach intends to engage with local civil society organizations (CSO)/community-based organizations (CBO) on reconciliation and local development opportunities. Recognizing the fact that conflict and development are deeply intertwined, activities will build on current and the recently concluded United States Government (USG) -funded Reconciliation and National Unity activities implemented by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) promoting participatory and inclusive dialogues in the Forest Region.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The priorities set the framework for this APS addendum, which solicits program ideas from Guinean Civil Society Organizations/Community-Based Organizations (CSO/CBOs), private sector institutions, and other Guinean nongovernmental entities, for USAID/Guinea to review and potentially support through cooperative agreements, grants and direct technical assistance. Applicants may propose concept papers for one or more activities in one or more of the components outlined below.

Component 1: Expand peacebuilding practices

Component 2: Forge common identity to facilitate constructive engagement and to mitigate future conflict

Component 3: Leveraging socio-economic opportunities to maximize youth and women's networks gains in conflict management.

The full addendum can be found at www.grants.gov, <https://gn.usembassy.gov> and <https://www.usaid.gov/guinea> under the announcement number under APS-675-OAA-17-000001

Thank you for your interest in USAID

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The purpose of this Addendum is to disseminate information to prospective applicants so that they may develop and submit concept papers for USAID/Guinea funding. This Addendum: (A) describes the type of activities for which applications will be considered; (B) describes the funding available and the process and requirements for submitting applications; (C) explains the criteria for evaluating applications; and (D) refers prospective applicants to relevant documentation available on the Internet. USAID/Guinea anticipates awarding a single or maximum of two grants and/or cooperative agreements as a result of this Addendum.

To be competitive under this solicitation, applications must be fully responsive to all directions in this APS document.

The following Annexes are included with this Addendum:

- **Annex A** – Grant Concept Paper Form
- **Annex B** – Grant Concept Paper Budget Form
- **Annex C** – Applicant Self-Assessment Form
- **Annex D** – Required Certifications
- **Annex E** - Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants. Completion by applicants is optional.
- **Annex F** – Full Application Evaluation Criteria

SECTION I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. OBJECTIVE

USAID/Guinea through the local solution approach intends to engage with local civil society organizations (CSO)/community-based organizations (CBO) on reconciliation and local development opportunities. Recognizing the fact that conflict and development are deeply intertwined, activities will build on current and the recently concluded United States Government (USG) -funded Reconciliation and National Unity activities implemented by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) promoting participatory and inclusive dialogues in the Forest Region. USG projects also supported participative, transparent, credible and peaceful elections in Guinea. Though these activities made important strides in tackling the root causes of conflict in the Region, gaps still exist. New activities will contribute to transforming the conflicting environment into a space of trust, where new ideas emerge toward a better social cohesion, respectful relationships, build sustainable peace and promote economic empowerment in the Forest Region.

Driven by USAID's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) for Guinea 2015-2019, the USAID/Guinea Democracy, Rights and Governance program supports the Mission's overall development goal, which is "More Participatory Governance for a Healthier Guinea," and the CDCS Development Objective (DO) 2: "Democratic Governance and Economic Processes Strengthened." Specifically, USAID/Guinea is awarding grants to non-governmental institutions including local civil society organizations (CSOs), in order to continue promoting Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in the Forest Region. USAID Guinea hypothesizes that if opinion leaders, including women and youth are effectively mobilized and equipped to promote inter-ethnic tolerance, reconciliation and peaceful co-existence, and if local officials and civil society jointly manage and mitigate conflict, then horizontal and vertical cohesion will be strengthened, a culture of peace will be made possible, and conflicted communities will experience greater prosperity, peace and development throughout the election cycle and beyond.

USAID/Guinea plans to award up to two grants to Guinean organizations to implement locally driven systemic solutions to sustainable conflict mitigation and management in the Forest Region through three components aimed at a) expanding peace building practices, b) forging common identity to facilitate constructive engagement and mitigate future conflict and c), leveraging socio-economic opportunities to maximize gains of youth and women conflict management. Grants will be implemented in accordance with USAID/Guinea internal grant management policies.

USAID/Guinea will hold a pre-application workshop following the release date of this APS. The time will be from 10:00am until 12:00pm. This workshop will allow eligible and interested applicants the opportunity to ask questions about this APS and receive guidance on how to complete the application form. Interested applicants that meet the eligibility requirements defined in Section III below and that would like to attend a workshop must confirm their attendance by sending the participant's name and organization's name to USAID-Proposal-Guinea@usaid.gov no later than July 28th, 2018

B. BACKGROUND

The diverse makeup of Guinea's population is characterized by regional and ethnic cleavages that have historically provided the fault lines along which the country has fractured in its worst periods of crisis. Although seven (7) different administrative regions exist along with the capital city of Conakry, Guinea is composed of four (4) natural regions known as: Lower Guinea (*Basse Guinée*), Middle Guinea, Upper Guinea (*Haute Guinée*), and Forest Guinea (or *Guinée Forestière*). Paradoxically, Guinea's history also has been characterized by flexible alliances among the various ethnic groups. Coalitions have and continue to form non-enduring associations, but for the short-term purpose of counterbalancing the power of the ruling party block. Such constant shifting of alliances presented, and continues to pose, a serious constraint to equitable economic growth and to an improved quality of life.

Guinée Forestière is unique due to its social, cultural linguistic and religious mix. The ethnic map of this region (SIG CRAS/Macenta 2010), identified approximately 20 ethnic groups (mixed or pure). The major groups include the Kpèlè (or Guerzé), the Könön, the Toma, the Manian, the Kissi, the Konianké, and the Manon. Based on a study done by Association Mains Solidaires (AMAS) a local NGO with funding from UNDP, entitled "Diagnosis of conflicts in Guinée Forestière (April 2016), two types of causes generally difficult to disentangle highlighted: immediate causes (or triggers) and deep rooted causes, resulting in either inter- or intra-community conflicts. The triggering factors or immediate causes of conflicts observed in Guinée Forestière are grouped in seven (7) major categories: poor governance; identity resentments, land tenure, re-igniting incidents, religious leadership battles devastation of indigenous farms by cattle belonging to immigrant breeders etc. According to the AMAS study, to date stakeholders involved in conflict management in Guinée Forestière are generally more concerned with apparent causes and often ignore root causes of conflict. Among the root causes triggering inter-and intra-community tensions and conflicts in Guinea Forestière, the most prevalent are the following; accumulation of frustrations, unfamiliarity with the common history of communities, political manipulation of ethnic-religious communities and severe material and financial poverty (lack of social and economic opportunities). Approaches to conflict management and mitigation programming often fail to consider the significance of the local culture, local development needs and historical factors.

The impact of these ethno-political cleavages continues to be borne disproportionately by women and youth. To illustrate, a recent UN report and a Search for Common Ground June 2017 External Final Evaluation indicated that during the July 2013 inter-ethnic clashes in N'Zérékoré a total of 30,621 people were affected including 15,975 women. Over 75% of these victims were young people (under the age of 25).

Since 2012, USAID has supported the Government of Guinea in building the capacity of traditional and non-traditional groups, religious leaders and youth to effectively engage in processes promoting ethnic harmony, social cohesion, and reconciliation of past grievances to maintain peace during the electoral period. USAID investments also targeted enhancing citizens' capacity to engage other traditional structures and promoting the inclusion of women and youth in traditional community mechanisms for conflict resolutions and governance. USAID

funding continues to build the capacity of youth leaders in dialogue circles by carrying out “connector peace” activities such as sporting events, theater performances, music concerts, video encounters and mass media events. Care is also taken to assure that all ethnic and religious groups participate in this program and that gender representation is equal.

In the Forest Region, USAID funded the “Supporting Reconciliation and National Unity in Guinea” program implemented by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) from 2012 to 2017. The activity promoted peace and reconciliation by successfully implementing community, regional and national interventions through participatory and inclusive dialogues. In addition, the project supported participative, transparent, credible and peaceful elections through peaceful messaging and accurate news reporting during the 2014-2016 election processes.

SFCG, with funds from the U.S. State Department is also working on an “Open for Business/Equitable Land Rights Protection to foster dialogue among government, the mining companies, and mine worker communities on land tenure issues. This nation-wide initiative with particular attention to *Guinée Forestière*, *Basse Guinée* and *Haute Guinée* is developing an “early warning-rapid response mechanism” to diffuse potentially violent dispute situations and avoid their escalation.

The European Union is also in partnership with SFCG through its “Engaging Youth and Children in Preventing Violence against Children program. The project promoted legislative reform by analyzing the legal framework affecting youth. It also developed training modules to help government officials raise awareness on social and economic realities of Guinea’s youth.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) funded a project implemented by two NGOs Association de Coopération et de Recherche pour le Développement (ACORD) and the West Africa Network for Peace (WANEP) from October 2015 to December 2016 with the aim to improve the coordination and dynamism of existing mechanisms for the prevention and peaceful management of conflicts in *Guinée Forestière* through promotion of dialogue, consultation and capacity building of actors in early warning, mediation and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Despite commendable gains, lingering gaps intimately linked to the status of women and youth in *Guinée Forestière* still exist. They are among the poorest in the country and their major economic activities include motor bike taxi driving, petty trading, and peasant farming as their most important means for income. Economic disenfranchisement is a root cause of conflict and the situation in the region calls for close attention and monitoring so not to jeopardize peace gains in this tension prone region. Other root causes triggering inter-and intra-community tensions and conflicts in Guinea Forestiere include, accumulation of frustrations, ignorance of the common history of communities and political manipulation of ethnic-religious communities. Past attempts at conflict mitigation have done little to involve the local private sector within which there are actors who could play a critical role in providing opportunities for livelihoods for all, especially the youth.

The following sections outline the specific activity areas to be addressed through this APS.

C. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The priorities set the framework for this APS addendum, which solicits program ideas from Guinean Civil Society Organizations/Community-Based Organizations (CSO/CBOs,), private sector institutions, and other Guinean nongovernmental entities, for USAID/Guinea to review and potentially support through cooperative agreements, grants and direct technical assistance. Applicants may propose concept papers for one or more activities in one or more of the components outlined below.

Applicants are encouraged to think creatively and may propose activities different from those suggested in this APS, as long as they contribute to achieving Democracy, Rights and Governance (DRG) objectives detailed in Section A. Examples of the kinds of programs to be supported through grants include the illustrative programs listed below, separated by Component. These EXAMPLES are ILLUSTRATIVE of the kinds of activities USAID will support through grants. They are not required, and applicants are encouraged to propose new and original ideas to address their own analysis, development hypothesis and theory of change.

A significant portion of the DRG Intermediate Results 2.2 covers the following:

Component 1: Expand peacebuilding practices

Illustrative activities:

- Institutional capacity building for traditional chieftaincies, elected officials, local government officials in peace building.
- Build capacity for evidence-based peace building techniques for associations and CSOs to enable community members to participate in mediation efforts.
- Train local elected representatives and staff of decentralized services in resource management, local governance and project oversight actions.
- Reinforce institutional capacity of local government and train local elected representatives and appointed staff in conflict mitigation and citizenship.
- Lead an awareness campaign on peace building and the risks of ethnic, religious and community conflicts on social cohesion and local development.
- Increase opinion leaders' involvement in conflicts mitigation and management to expand peacebuilding practices.
- Improve collaboration between local elected leaders and appointed authorities in conflict management.
- Set up a system of Early Warning System aimed at alerting the community (including local authorities) to social unrest and build resilience within the targeted communities.

Component 2: Forge common identity to facilitate constructive engagement and to mitigate future conflict

Illustrative activities:

- Identify and value consensual symbols of common history among the different ethnic groups.
- Organize periodic regional events on common cultural history.
- Expand media coverage of best practices, through collaboration and capacity support.
- Stimulate greater engagement of women in conflict mitigation and Management.
- Increase women leaders' participation in political reconciliation activities.
- Organize interfaith conferences with ongoing dialogues on the role and impact of religion and its dignitaries in the promotion of peace and social tranquility.

Component 3: Leveraging socio-economic opportunities to maximize youth and women's networks gains in conflict management

Illustrative activities:

- Support income generation activities that promote collaboration among youth leaders for peaceful democratic decisions.
- Support operationalization of internal savings and lending groups to accompany local communities' initiatives.
- Support community-based training projects on the need for acceptance of socio-cultural differences in heterogeneous ethnic-religious areas.
- Organize regional days of repentance, apologies and request for public and inclusive pardon.
- Organize community-based training on the promotion of acceptance of differences for greater collaboration between economic and political actors of different social and cultural background.
- Organize awareness campaigns and training of ethnically mixed youth and women cooperatives and groups on multicultural diversity, local governance and peacebuilding.
- Promoting transparency in youth employment opportunities.
- Recruit and train opinion leaders to ensure transparent and equitable distribution of resource allocated to local development.

D. CROSS CUTTING/GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- *Theory of Change.* The applicant must include a development hypothesis that clearly

explains the theory or theories of change that underlie the programmatic approach that it has taken in its application. Simply put, a program hypothesis outlines the if-then statement underlying the proposed intervention. In general, a theory of change states what expected (changes) result will follow from a particular set of actions. A simple example would be, “If more fuel is added to the fire, then it will burn hotter.”

- As applied to the conflict field, theories of change refer to the assumed connections between various actions and the result of reducing conflict or building peace. The proposed theory of change must be clearly linked to the grievances and resiliencies presented in the applicant’s conflict analysis.
- Each application must have a specific theory of change in its development hypothesis. Applicants are encouraged to look at broader literature on theories of change to inform their own development hypothesis for the prevailing situation in *Guinée Forestière*¹.
- *People-to-People Approach*². “People-to-people” programs are one approach among many to conflict mitigation. While a diversity of programs and approaches may be considered people-to-people in nature, most entail bringing together representatives of conflict-affected groups to interact purposefully in a safe space. This type of work addresses divisions within a community that may be rooted in group differences such as ethnicity or religion, status, class, or political affiliation. People-to-people projects generally address patterns of prejudice and demonizing that reinforce the perceived differences between groups and hinder the development of relationships among parties to a conflict. The aim is to create opportunities for a series of interactions between conflicting groups in the community to promote mutual understanding, trust, empathy, and resilient social ties. Successful applications under this funding opportunity must incorporate the people-to-people approach based on a context and conflict analysis that leads to a concrete development hypothesis, theory of change and programmatic solution. Proposed people-to-people activities must address gaps in current responses to a conflict as identified in the context and conflict analysis.
- *Effective programs should be based on best practices*: build the capacity of local partners, and incorporate gender analysis into a proposed approach. Such an approach may include (but is not limited to) the following activities:
 - Break down barriers amongst parties through personal contact.
 - Identify and address issues of mutual concern that establish common ground for cooperation and coexistence.

¹ Additional information on Theories of Change as they apply to conflict mitigation and peacebuilding may be found in *Theories of Change and Indicator Development in Conflict Management and Mitigation*, available at http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADS460.pdf; and *Reflective Peacebuilding: A Planning, Monitoring, and Learning Toolkit* available at: http://kroc.nd.edu/sites/default/files/reflective_peacebuilding.pdf or on the *Beyond Intractability* web-site: http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/theories_of_change/?nid=1256.

² Please see “People-to-People Peacebuilding: A Program Guide” on CMM’s publication page at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/conflict/publications/other_usaid.html.

- Seek reconciliation for past violence or ongoing grievances between opposing parties in a conflict.
- Strengthen the technical and organizational capacity of local organizations to fulfill the above functions, as appropriate.
- *Context & Conflict Analysis.* The applicant must identify the sources of conflict and impediments to reconciliation in a brief context and conflict analysis. A conflict analysis is the systematic study of the profile, causes, actors, and dynamics of conflict. The analysis must touch upon the sources of grievance and resilience, the key actors and resources that could facilitate the transformation of grievances into violence, and any upcoming events which might trigger violence or represent an opportunity to bring adversaries together. The analysis must explicitly examine the separate and distinct way men and women experience the conflict. The context and conflict analysis must also include a brief description of other donor, government, private sector or NGO activities to address the identified problem, including gaps in current programming and response.³
- *Gender Integration.* The program design must recognize gender in a substantive and an integrated manner. Recognizing the different cultural roles of males and females, applicants will describe specific approaches for ensuring equitable participation and capitalizing on men’s and women’s potential to contribute to conflict mitigation. The program activities should reflect the gender analysis articulated in the context analysis. **Applicants should provide a detailed rationale if gender is not relevant to the proposed activity.** For more guidance on gender analysis and integration, please see the following references:
 - ADS 201.3.9.3 “Gender Considerations” (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/201.pdf>)
 - ADS 201.3.11.6 “Project/Activity Planning Step 2: Conduct Project-level Analysis as Needed” (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/201.pdf>)
 - Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider the guidance contained in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. For additional information, please see http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/ and http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/conflict/in_the_spotlight.html

Do no harm. Applicants should demonstrate through the application(s) thoughtful consideration of any risks that may result by bringing together conflicting parties and should provide sufficient explanation of how appropriate safeguards will be put in place to avoid intensifying the conflict or creating harmful situations for participants. It is not satisfactory to simply indicate that the program will do no harm. This fundamental principle dictates that interventions must not place participants at greater risk than they would otherwise face without the intervention. For additional guidance on a ‘do no harm’ approach to conflict mitigation and reconciliation, please

³ Applications can review the USAID Conflict Assessment Framework for further understanding of conflict analysis available at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/conflict/publications/docs/CMM_ConflAssessFrmwrk_8-17-04.pdf This is DCHA/CMM’s guiding publication for conducting in-country assessments of sources of grievances and resilience and may assist in clarifying what is expected in this section.

see the link to *People-to-People Peacebuilding: A Program Guide* per footnote below.⁴

Reflect strong local engagement: Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate engagement of local partners in leading and conducting substantive development work with components focused on strengthening the technical and organizational capacity. Applicants should specifically highlight strategy to build local capacity in planning, designing, implementing, monitoring (technical and financial), assessing, evaluating and coordinating conflict mitigation and management processes.

- *Resilience:* The concept papers and the narrative section of program descriptions submitted by retained applicants should include a section on Resilience—the ability of a community to recover from shocks independently. Our efforts/investments in Conflict Mitigation and Management (CMM) should be about resilience considering the Mission diminishing resources and a CDCS that calls for sustainability of the development programs.
- *Apply a systems approach and tools:* Applicants shall demonstrate the promotion of conflict mitigation and management by paying attention to the dynamic relationships between the different cultural, social, economic and political factors (poverty, ethnicity, political crises, gender, youth, weak public services, etc.) and actors, identifying strategic leverage points for change and focusing interventions on what is truly driving the conflict.
- *Flexible and adaptive approach:* Continuous feedback loops, pause and reflection moments and other strategic learning tools and methods should be built into activity planning and implementation to inform ongoing adaptations.
- *Employ a collaborative approach:* Applicants should seek to achieve collaboration by strategically targeting like-minded partners implementing similar activities in the region to avoid duplication, promote shared learning around effective locally led approaches, and leveraging efforts for greater impact including the facilitation of linkages and networks between communities and service providers.
- *Private Sector Engagement:* Participation of the private sector is a critical component in this presentation considering the fact that poverty and economic disenfranchisement are root causes of the conflict in the Forest Region. Applicants should demonstrate how, in collaboration with the private sector, they will sustain investments or partner to integrate diverse community stakeholders including youth and women into economically viable opportunities. Overall, applicants should highlight when feasible how a Public Private Partnership (PPP) or a typical CMM program integrates the private sector actors which are at times culprits and contributors to the conflicts should be a part of the permanent conflict mitigation and management strategy. Applicants should be able to make that assessment and show their own illustrative interventions.

⁴ Please see “People-to-People Peacebuilding: A Program Guide” on CMM’s publication page at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/conflict/publications/docs/CMMP2PGuidelines2010-01-19.pdf

**USAID GUINEA and SIERRA LEONE
Annual Program Statement Addendum 01
Forest Region United in Peace and Development (FRUIPaD) Program
Under APS-675-OAA-17-000001
Amendment 02**

ISSUANCE DATE: July 14, 2017 (no Change)
CLOSING DATE: August 21, 2017, 3:00 PM Local Guinean Time (**CHANGE**)
OUTREACH CONFERENCE: August 3rd, 2017 (10:00 am-12:00 pm) (no Change)
Prima Center Conference Room
Transversal 2- Conakry Republic of Guinea

SUBJECT: USAID/Guinea and Sierra Leone/Democracy, Rights and Governance (DRG) Addendum 01, Forest Region United in Peace and Development (FRUIPaD) Program under APS-675-OAA-17-000001

Dear Potential Applicant:

The purpose of this amendment (02) is to extend the closing date **FROM** August 13, 2017 **TO** August 21, 2017 at 3:00 PM local Guinean time.

//s//
Charlie Brown
Agreement Officer

USAID GUINEA and SIERRA LEONE
Annual Program Statement Addendum 01
Forest Region United in Peace and Development (FRUIPaD) Program
Under APS-675-OAA-17-000001
Amendment 03

ISSUANCE DATE: July 14, 2017 (no Change)
CLOSING DATE: August 21, 2017 (**CHANGE**)
OUTREACH CONFERENCE: August 3rd, 2017 (10:00 am-12:00 pm) (no Change)
Prima Center Conference Room
Transversal 2- Conakry Republic of Guinea

SUBJECT: USAID/Guinea and Sierra Leone/Democracy, Rights and Governance (DRG) Addendum 01, Forest Region United in Peace and Development (FRUIPaD) Program under APS-675-OAA-17-000001

Dear Potential Applicant:

The purpose of this amendment (03) is to provide answers to questions raised by potential applicants on August 3, 2017, Outreach Conference regarding Addendum 01 and those questions emailed.

Q:1. Where to apply for DUNS number?

USAID Response: Please visit the following website: <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> and click on the following link: [Click here to request your D-U-N-S Number via the Web](#)

Q:2. Where to register for SAM? And how often one must renew registration?

USAID Response: Please visit the following website: WWW.SAM.GOV and follow the instructions to register. Registration must be renewed and revalidate every 12 months from the date of certification.

Q:3. Is the private sector partnership mandatory?

USAID Response: It is recommended but **NOT** mandatory.

Q:4. Is it permissible to combine forces with other local NGOs to submit one concept paper or application?

USAID Response: Yes, it is possible for two or more local NGOs to form a partnership and submit one concept paper and one application. NOTE: If a concept paper is accepted for application submission, the same partners must submit an application. Any deviation from the original concept paper may disqualify applicants.

Q:5. Can one entity apply to both solicitations?

USAID Response: Applicants are not restricted to one funding opportunity. However, if applicants are interested in applying to two or more funding opportunities, the applicant must submit a separate application for each funding opportunity announcement. Recommend that applicants read carefully each funding opportunity, for each funding opportunity is distinctively different from one other.

Q:6. Does USAID protect the intellectual propriety (technical approach within the technical application) and not share with other applicants or winning applicants?

USAID Response: Yes. Intellectual Property is protected. Applicants should insert a disclaimer on every page of their respected application to ensure protection.

Q:7. USAID's funds are exempt of any sort of taxation. However, taxes are included in the price of most commercial items such as gas at the pump. What does USAID propose to get this exemption applied when procuring these items from local vendors?

USAID Response: Yes. Partners could request a copy of the agreement between USAID and Guinea government that states that USAID funds are exempted and present that to vendors. In the instance that a vendor does not accept, partners can send a list of purchased items with the details to USAID's Office of Finance and Management which will take the necessary steps to get reimbursed.

Q:8. Will USAID accept a concept paper and application in French?

USAID Response: Yes, concept paper and application in French are acceptable; however, a US English translated version must accompany the French version. NOTE: 1) any translation errors between English and French may disqualify potential applicants; and 2) all awards issued by USAID are in US English, there are no exceptions.

//s//
Charlie Brown
Agreement Officer