



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Issue Date: March 17, 2020  
Closing Date & Time: March 31, 2020 at 17h00 (SAST)  
Questions Due Date: March 23, 2020, at 17h00 (SAST)

Subject: USAID/Southern Africa Addendum to Global Development Alliance (GDA)  
Program Annual Program Statement APS No.: APS-OAA-16-000001/RFA-674-20-000123

Opportunity Title: Women's Economic Empowerment - Break Down Barriers  
(WEE - Break Down Barriers)  
No.: RFA-674-20-000123

To: All Interested Respondents/Parties:

The United States Government represented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through USAID/Southern Africa invites expressions of interest that **deliver transformational solutions to address the economic, legal, and cultural barriers women face to participating in the economy.** Through this addendum<sup>1</sup> to USAID's Global Development Alliance Annual Program Statement, the private sector is invited to partner with USAID/Southern Africa in the co-creation and delivery of high impact activities that enable women to operate in the formal economy or improve basic conditions for women working in the informal economy with the ultimate goal of promoting women's economic empowerment.

This APS includes two phases: 1) expression of interest phase and 2) concept paper phase. After receiving and reviewing the 2-page expressions of interest, USAID/Southern Africa will contact eligible organizations whose expressions of interest best meet the objectives of this addendum. USAID/Southern Africa will begin a co-creation process to refine the expression of interest and determine which organization(s) will be eligible to submit a concept paper via the GDA APS. Subject to the review of the expressions of interest and concept papers that best meet the objectives of this addendum, as well as subject to the availability of funds, USAID may issue a request for full application or other materials needed to enter into an award agreement with USAID. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the application(s) submitted.

Issuance of this addendum does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for any costs incurred in preparation or submission of expressions of interest, concept papers or applications. All documents are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

To be eligible for award, the organization must provide all information as required in this addendum and meet eligibility standards. This funding opportunity is posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), and may be amended. Potential applicants should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the addendum has been downloaded from [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) in its entirety and USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from

---

<sup>1</sup> Typically the USAID GDA APS issues addenda to solicit Concept Papers; this addendum will use a two-step approach and initially solicit expressions of interest. Please take note of this addendum's instructions and requirements regarding those expressions of interest.

transmission or conversion process. If you have difficulty registering or accessing [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), please contact the grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov) for technical assistance.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be posted and updated as deemed appropriate throughout the open submission period. Applicants are advised to check the FAQs frequently.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,



Bolanle Ekpe  
Agreement Officer  
USAID/Southern Africa



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT - BREAK DOWN BARRIERS  
(WEE - BREAK DOWN BARRIERS)**

**UNDER EXISTING**

**GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT  
APS No.: APS-OAA-16-000001/ RFA-674-20-000123**

**PLEASE NOTE: This is an addendum to an existing announcement. All interested organizations should carefully review both this addendum AND the full announcement, which can be found here: <https://www.usaid.gov/gda/global-development-alliance-annual-program>. Important information contained in the full worldwide announcement is not repeated in this specific addendum.**

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

Through this addendum to the FY201X Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement (APS) No. APS-OAA- 16-000001 (the GDA APS), USAID/Southern Africa is making a special call for the submission of expressions of interest that support pillar three of the [United States Government Women's Global Development Prosperity Initiative \(W-GDP\)](#). The WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum provides USAID/Southern Africa and the private sector a flexible opportunity to partner in the co-creation and delivery of high impact activities that enable women to operate in the formal economy or improve basic conditions for women working in the informal economy with the ultimate goal of promoting women's economic empowerment. This addendum serves as a call for expressions of interest.

The specific objectives of the WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum, in support of W-GDP pillar three, are to:

1. Objective One: Mitigate restrictive economic, legal, and cultural barriers to facilitate women’s meaningful participation in the economy.
2. Objective Two: Increase the cadre of male champions who meaningfully engage men in the prevention and reduction of gender-based violence (GBV).
3. Objective Three: Improve travel safety for women while increasing the application of civil and criminal legal liability against drivers who assault women passengers.

Two types of expressions of interest are welcomed:

- 1) Expressions of interest that address both objectives one and two. USAID **may** allocate **up to** \$15,000,000 to fund a portfolio of partnerships, with funding for individual partnership proposals estimated in the range of \$1 million to \$5 million but no greater than \$5 million.
- 2) Expressions of interest that address both objectives two and three. USAID **may** allocate **up to** \$2,000,000 to fund a portfolio of partnerships, with funding for individual partnership proposals estimated in the range of \$1 million to \$2 million but no greater than \$2 million.

Priority will be placed on supporting the most promising approaches that advance the objectives described above. Subject to the availability of funds, there is no predetermined limit to the number of awards made. Nor is there a set range of annual or life-of-project funding for each award.

Expressions of interest submitted under the WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum must reflect significant engagement of the private sector, focus on areas where values align and capabilities are complementary or synergistic, and leverage private sector resources on at least a 2:1 basis.<sup>2</sup>

Expressions of interest must propose activities in one or more of the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa.

Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the [GDA APS FY16-FY18 APS-OAA-16-000001](#) apply.

## **I. Background**

The United States Government (USG) has established a [Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative](#) (W-GDP) to execute the vision articulated in the President’s

---

<sup>2</sup> APS No. APS-OAA-16-000001 requires that the partnerships and alliances proposed in response to the APS should mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a minimum of 1:1. This addendum is a departure from the APS in that it requires at least a 2:1 leverage of private sector resources. Proposed alliances that do not mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a value that equals or exceeds twice the level of funding being requested from USAID will not be considered under this announcement.

National Security Strategy (NSS) to empower women worldwide to fulfill their economic potential, and in doing so, create conditions for increased stability, security, and prosperity for all. As stated in the NSS, “societies that empower women to participate fully in civic and economic life are more prosperous and peaceful. We will support efforts to advance equality, protect the rights of women and girls, and promote women and youth empowerment programs.”

W-GDP seeks to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025 through USG activities, public-private partnerships, and the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund, housed and managed by USAID. The recently published [W-GDP Annual Report 2019-2020](#) highlights the progress that W-GDP has made in its first year. The report also highlights the many new partnerships launched with companies across the world where USAID and the private sector have found that investing in women is not only the right thing to do, but also a partnership that brings value to all involved. The W-GDP Annual Report is an excellent reference to better understand the types of partnerships that W-GDP supports and the indicators that each W-GDP pillar prioritizes.

While there are many factors that influence women’s empowerment, W-GDP deliberately focuses on economic issues. When women are empowered economically, they invest back into their families and communities, producing a multiplier effect that spurs economic growth and creates more peaceful societies. Accelerating women’s economic empowerment around the world is integral to enabling developing countries to achieve economic self-reliance and transition from being recipients of foreign aid to becoming U.S. trading partners.

W-GDP aims to enhance opportunities for women to participate meaningfully in the economy and advance both prosperity and national security. W-GDP focuses on three pillars:

1. Pillar One - Women Prospering in the Workforce: Advancing women in the workforce by improving access to quality vocational and skills training, enabling women to secure jobs in their local economies.
2. Pillar Two - Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs: Increasing women’s access to capital, markets, networks, and mentorship to aid women in establishing and growing their businesses.
3. Pillar Three - Women Enabled in the Economy: Removing restrictive legal, regulatory, and cultural barriers to facilitate women’s meaningful participation in the economy.

The WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum specifically addresses W-GDP pillar three. While USAID welcomes and encourages ideas that also address pillars one and two, expressions of interest must effectively address pillar three in order to warrant further consideration. The target age group for activities proposed under the WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum is 18 years and older.

The environment for economic activity in any country often includes numerous barriers that disadvantage women as they pursue employment, business, and investment opportunities. Broadly defined, the enabling environment for women in the economy encompasses the legal and regulatory framework, policies and practices (public and private sector), and social norms that support women to operate in the formal economy, or improve basic conditions for women working in the informal economy. Conversely, each of these factors, if not addressed, can disable women’s economic empowerment.

Women are frequently discouraged and often effectively barred from economic engagement by disproportionate burdens of unpaid care, the impact of gender-based violence, and underinvestment in their education. Some of the economic barriers women face arise from foundational limitations such as laws that limit women’s rights to inherit, own property, or enter contracts in their own name. Addressing those barriers while ensuring women have the legal and policy protections they need requires deliberate efforts of government, private sector, and civil society.

Countries with a greater balance of men and women in the workplace and workforce have greater growth, innovation, and stability. The same goes for firms: those with a stronger ratio of women in leadership, management, and the workforce outperform those with less. Improvements in the enabling environment increase economic opportunities for all women in that economy, which in turn benefits their families, communities, firms, and nations as a whole through broad-based economic growth and development. Women’s economic empowerment and equality exists when the enabling environment reduces the barriers women face to participating in the economy, whether those are legal, regulatory, policy, or social.

Building girls’ and women’s economic empowerment is key to transforming relations between men and women and integral to changing attitudes, behaviors, and to ultimately ending gender-based violence (GBV).<sup>3</sup> It is well documented that South Africa has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence (GBV) in the world. The economic cost to society of the levels of GBV is estimated between \$1.9 billion and \$2.8 billion per year – or between 0.9% and 1.3% of GDP annually<sup>4</sup>.

Understanding the link between women’s economic empowerment interventions and the risk of GBV is of great interest to USAID/Southern Africa. The WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum seeks to gather evidence to better understand this relationship.

## **II. W-GDP Pillar Three - Areas of Emphasis**

The WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum is based on pillar three and its five areas of emphasis, which should guide the expressions of interest. These areas of emphasis were announced in the December 23, 2019 [Presidential Memorandum on Addressing Legal and Societal Barriers to Women’s Global Development and Prosperity](#). This memorandum

---

<sup>3</sup> “A Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence Against Women.” UN Women. 2015. Web.

<sup>4</sup> “Too costly to ignore - the economic impact of Gender Based Violence”. KPMG. 2014. Web

directed USG Agencies and Departments to focus their programmatic and diplomatic efforts on the following **five areas of emphasis in support of pillar three** of W-GDP:

1. Accessing Institutions: Lifting restrictions on women's authority to sign legal documents, such as contracts and court documents, and addressing unequal access to courts and administrative bodies for women, whether officially or through lack of proper enforcement.
2. Building Credit: Ensuring women's equal access to credit and capital to start and grow their businesses, and prohibiting discrimination in access to credit on the basis of sex or marital status.
3. Owning and Managing Property: Lifting restrictions on women possessing and managing property, including limitations on inheritance and the ability to transfer, purchase, or lease property.
4. Traveling Freely: Addressing constraints on women's freedom of movement, including restrictions on obtaining passports on the basis of sex.
5. Removing Restrictions on Employment: Eliminating barriers that limit women's working hours, occupations, or tasks on the basis of sex

### **III. Solicitation**

Through this announcement, USAID seeks to develop new and innovative public-private partnerships with the private sector - including businesses, investors, foundations, NGOs, and other stakeholders focused on advancing women's economic empowerment - that address the objectives outlined above and below.

Expressions of interest must address:

- objectives one and two, or
- objectives two and three

USAID will prioritize innovative, cost-effective, private-sector driven concepts that include the key considerations outlined below. The key considerations are not meant to limit applicant creativity but rather to guide the applicant. Consistent with the terms of the 2016-2018 GDA APS, proposed GDAs under this call for expressions of interest and, if appropriate, concept papers must leverage private sector resources at a ratio of at least 2:1, and preferably greater.<sup>5 6</sup>

Applicants should refer to the GDA APS for more detailed information on the requirements for leverage of private sector resources.

---

<sup>5</sup> APS No. APS-OAA-16-000001 requires that the partnerships and alliances proposed in response to the APS should mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a minimum of 1:1. This addendum is a departure from the APS in that it requires at least a 2:1 leverage of private sector resources. Proposed alliances that do not mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a value that equals or exceeds twice the level of funding being requested from USAID will not be considered under this announcement.

<sup>6</sup> Consistent with terms of the 2016-18 GDA APS, if concept papers propose the use of funding for loans or equity investment as leverage, a 5:1 ratio is required. See the 2016-18 GDA APS for further guidance if this approach to leverage is used.

**Objective 1: Mitigate restrictive economic, legal, and cultural barriers to facilitate women’s meaningful participation in the economy.**

The [Women, Business, and the Law 2020](#) tracks how the law affects women at various stages in their lives, from the basics of transportation to the challenges of starting a job and getting a pension. Legal rights for women are both the right thing to do and good from an economic perspective. For example, removing barriers that restrict the ability of women to move freely, sign contracts, work outside the home, or manage assets has been associated with a more abundant female labor supply<sup>7</sup>.

The Women, Business and the Law index identified legal impediments to women’s economic opportunities. The 2020 study tracks legal equality between men and women in 190 economies. The index scored South Africa 88.1 (47th out of 190), Namibia 86.3 (52nd), Lesotho 75.6 (109th), Angola 73.1 (120th), Botswana 63.8 (144th), and Eswatini 46.3 (176th). The average index score amongst these countries is 72.2, indicating that women in this region have approximately 72 percent of the rights of men in the areas covered by the index. This index measures only the formal laws and regulations governing women’s ability to work or own businesses — a country’s norms and practices aren’t captured by the indicators.

The growing evidence over the last 50 years of the relationship between women’s empowerment and economic outcomes cannot be ignored. Over time, reforms increasing women’s equality of opportunity contribute to more successful economies, higher female labor force participation, and better development outcomes. These reforms allow governments to cultivate a business environment that benefits women entrepreneurs and employees, enhancing economic productivity and accelerating development. The WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum seeks expressions of interest that prioritize working with the government, civil society, and the private sector to identify economic, legal, and cultural barriers to women’s economic opportunities and then develop, implement and monitor reforms.

Expected outcomes in support of this objective could include:

- Reduced enabling environment barriers including discrimination in obtaining licenses, financing, or other resources, limitations on inheritance or property ownership, or broader restrictions on women’s rights.
- Policies and supportive practices developed or expanded with employers and organizations to promote women in management of public entities, labor organizations, private sector business, and business and agricultural associations.
- Mitigated social constraints such as limits on women’s mobility, workplace sexual harassment, and other barriers to women’s economic advancement that may have been addressed through laws, yet are still socially accepted and practiced.
- Legal instruments are adopted to promote gender equality or non-discrimination.

---

<sup>7</sup> Htun, Mala, Francesca R. Jensenius, and Jami Nelson-Nuñez. 2019. “Gender-Discriminatory Laws and Women’s Economic Agency.” *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society* 26 (1)

- Improved working conditions, progress on combatting discrimination, and/or improved compliance with worker rights and safety and labor standards.
- Attitudes, behaviors, and actions that advance women’s economic empowerment are promoted in a society, from the local to the national level.

**Objective 2: Increase the cadre of male champions who meaningfully engage men in the prevention and reduction of gender based violence (GBV).**

Gender-based violence<sup>8</sup> (GBV) is a phenomenon that transcends social, economic, and geographic borders. Gender based violence is known to be widespread in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and presents a major obstacle to attaining gender equality and equity. GBV is rooted in power imbalances between the sexes and fueled by multiple factors, including cultural norms, social acceptance of harmful practices, and insufficient implementation of legal protections and resources to enforce or uphold the legal protections.

Gender-based violence (GBV) can affect girls, boys, men and women of any age, from pre-birth to old age, and takes many forms. For the purpose of this addendum, expressions of interest must target women and men 18 years and older.

Women and girls suffer from a pandemic of violence at the hands of some men: physical violence by husbands and male partners, sexual assault (including rape in the context of marriage), trafficking of women and girls, femicide, rape as a weapon of war, sexual harassment at work, and genital mutilation. Violence against women and girls is one of the world’s most pervasive human rights abuses with severe consequences to social and economic development. Domestic violence against women and girls in particular has primarily be seen as a “women’s issue” and has remained invisible for far too long. Patriarchal structures sustain this impunity. Men’s and boys’ accountability and engagement for social transformation is essential to ensure violence-free lives for women and girls.

Gender-based violence will never be eliminated without the full participation of men and boys. Because men generally have more power than women, they often are the decision makers — in families, communities, the private sector, and governments. Men tend to control women’s access to sexual and reproductive health services, finance, and transportation, and men’s violence against women around the world is pervasive.<sup>9 10</sup> As

---

<sup>8</sup> Gender Based Violence (GBV) is violence that is directed at an individual based on biological sex, gender identity, or perceived adherence to socially defined norms of masculinity and femininity. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; threats; coercion; arbitrary deprivation of liberty; and economic deprivation. Rooted in economic, social, and political inequalities between men and women, GBV takes on many forms, including child, early, and forced marriage, and can occur throughout the life cycle. (USAID)

<sup>9</sup> “Engaging Men & Boys.” United Nations Population Fund, 2018, <https://www.unfpa.org/engaging-men-boys>

<sup>10</sup> Peacock, Dean, and Gary Barker. “Working with Men and Boys to Prevent Gender-Based Violence.” *Men and Masculinities*, vol. 17, no. 5, 2014, pp. 578–599., doi:10.1177/1097184x14558240.

the holders of social norms and as a source of influence to other men and boys, men need to be engaged to reduce and prevent GBV. There are a growing number of men who recognize the existing gender imbalance in home and child care and want to work toward a more balanced dynamic.<sup>11</sup> Research has shown that male leaders are important allies in the prevention of violence against women.<sup>12</sup>

The WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum seeks expressions of interest that integrate structural interventions into “gender transformative” programming to promote critical consciousness around gender norms and dynamics in order to shift gender inequalities in a community. For this reason, the Addendum requires that all expressions of interest support objective two on addressing GBV by engaging men.

Expected outcomes in support of this objective could include:

- Mitigated social and cultural norms that perpetuate violence.
- Reduced impact of social norms that contribute towards gender inequality in family and household responsibilities.
- Increased gender equity in the total care burden, especially in the context of HIV and AIDS and other chronic diseases.
- Institutionalized holistic strategies from the national to local level to engage men and boys in challenging attitudes that give men dominance.

**Objective Three:** Improve travel safety for women while increasing the application of civil and criminal legal liability against anyone in the transportation industry who assaults women passengers.

In Southern Africa, women’s mobility can be restricted by legislation, social, or cultural norms, or insufficient infrastructure. These limitations can restrict access to domestic and international travel, affect employment and education, and exacerbate existing inequalities. Other challenges to freedom of movement are transportation infrastructure such as poorly developed road networks and unsafe transportation stations and crime. Women face higher levels of sexual harassment, banditry, and petty crime. The increasing availability of ride-hailing, rail, taxis, buses, motorbikes, and bicycles has given all women increased mobility options. However, women remain concerned about the availability and safety of transport, particularly to and from work and school.

As a consequence of unsafe transportation services, research has shown that if women feel that going somewhere would put them at risk, in many cases, women will not go. The outcomes are girls missing school or university women removing themselves from employment or potential work opportunities, or even being unable to access essential healthcare services. This is particularly important in this region which has the highest HIV prevalence rates globally.

---

<sup>11</sup> Heilman, Brian. State of the World’s Fathers: Time for Action. Men Care, 2017, <http://men-care.org/resources/state-worlds-fathers-time-action/>.

<sup>12</sup> “Engaging Men & Boys.” United Nations Population Fund, .

African region studies show that sexual harassment is a big concern for women, particularly at night, thereby restricting their working hours. Studies have shown that South African women increasingly face numerous challenges in accessing urban public transport. The problems related to public transportation include long commuting times, as well as lack of affordability, poor quality and unsafe transport services, bus stops and taxi ranks. The poor public services in the transportation sector is the result of years of poorly provided, yet heavily subsidized, systems, and networks among spatial segregation and other roots of unequal provision of infrastructure. Further exacerbating the situation is the limited policing and responsiveness from the police to take action to mitigate crimes or to investigate and report crimes that occur. The state of policing and responsiveness is influenced by poor training, limited resources, and social, cultural norms and practices among other things. The percentage of South Africans who were satisfied with police response in 2017/18 was 54%, a decrease of 5.5% from the previous year. The most common (34.4%) reason for dissatisfaction with the police was that “they don’t respond in time”.<sup>13</sup>

Victims of crime may decide not to report to the police due to the negative perceptions of police action due to previous negative experiences. Of the crimes that are reported to the courts, 50% of the population are unsatisfied with how the courts deal with perpetrators of crime. There is the perception that “the courts are too lenient on criminals (21.6%)” and “matters drag on for too long/postponements (7.9%)”.<sup>14</sup>

Partnerships are needed with law enforcement to address the visibility, police response time, and action taken when crimes related to women’s safety in transportation services are committed. Furthermore, working with the courts to ensure that the perpetrators are convicted and the adequate sentences are applied would change the paradigm on GBV, supporting the view that GBV is politically significant, and serious enough to be labeled a civil or human rights violation.

Expected outcomes in support of this objective could include:

- Legislative framework developed, expanded and/or implemented to ensure the safety of women in public transport and address the fear of harassment that remains a barrier to women’s mobility and access to public transport.
- Transport master plans feature women’s need for personal safety, such as proper lighting, secure paved sidewalks, surveillance, and digital platforms for women to share their experiences, report incidents, etc.
- Businesses, the government and private sector investors held accountable for ensuring that the transportation infrastructure is maintained and that the safety of women is prioritized and safety is at the center of the design proposed.
- Government or private sector partnerships developed with minibus taxi organizations, ride-hailing corporations, and the automotive industry to advocate for women’s safety.

---

<sup>13</sup> Victims of Crime Survey, 2017, [http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page\\_id=1854&PPN=P0341&SCH=7373](http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1854&PPN=P0341&SCH=7373)

<sup>14</sup> Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey, 2018/19, <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0341/P03412018.pdf>

## **Geographic Scope**

Participating countries in this call for expressions of interest have been identified by USAID/Southern Africa. Participating countries include: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa. Expressions of interest must have a geographic focus in one or more of these countries.

## **Sectoral Scope**

USAID is open to proposals that are both sector-specific or multi-sectoral. Expressions of interest under the WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum should, at a minimum, propose approaches that include one or more of USAID/Southern Africa's sector priorities: Agriculture and Food Security, Democracy, Human Rights and Governance, Economic Growth and Trade, Environment, and Global Health. The [USAID/Southern Africa Regional website](#) for more information on these sectors.

## **IV. Evaluation Criteria**

Proposed expressions of interest will be evaluated based on the general criteria set forth below. If the expression of interest is selected and a concept paper is requested, the GDA APS Section VI: Concept Paper Evaluation Criteria and Considerations must be met.

As stated in the WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum USAID expects to receive alliance proposals that mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a minimum of 2:1, preferably greater. In addition, the following criteria will also be used:

- Addresses W-GDP pillar three and any of the five areas of emphasis (see [Presidential Memorandum of December 23, 2019](#)).
- Aligns to the three objectives articulated in this addendum. Expressions of interests must align with either objectives one and two or objectives two and three.
- Has a geographic focus in one or more of the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa.
- Includes a thoughtful and logical high-level theory of change and illustrative W-GDP indicators likely to generate actionable evidence.
- Includes ambitious ideas and alliances that demonstrate a recognized business and/or development interest and long-term commitment to the targeted geography.
- Proposes programs whose target audience is persons 18 years or older.
- Proposes programs with a multiplier effect to reach a large number of beneficiaries directly and indirectly.

Preference will be given to alliances that include private sector partners who demonstrate long term commitment to the targeted region and a recognized business interest in the proposed expression of interest.

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

## **V. Application Instructions and Review Process**

USAID/Southern Africa will be responsible for the review process and management of any awards issued under this addendum. For the expression of interest phase, applicants are required to follow **Annex 1: WEE - Break Down Barriers Expressions of Interest Template** set forth in this WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum. If the expression of interest is favorably reviewed USAID/Southern Africa will contact the organization and begin a co-creation process to refine the expression of interest. **The expression of interest must be submitted to PretoriaApplications@usaid.gov and copied to gda@usaid.gov.**

If USAID/Southern Africa determines an expression of interest has been successfully refined to warrant submission of a concept paper, the applicant(s) will be eligible to submit a concept paper and will be required to use the [Concept Paper Template](#) provided under the GDA APS. Do not submit a Concept Paper unless USAID/Southern Africa indicates your organization is eligible to do so.

Consistent with the requirements of the GDA APS, any proposed GDA must involve one or more core private sector partners with whom USAID can co-create and collaborate as the process moves forward. Expressions of interest must identify the private sector partner(s) and the proposed GDA must result from and reflect engagement of and collaboration with the private sector partner(s). Typically, prior to developing and submitting an expression of interest or concept paper under the GDA APS, an applicant is required to connect USAID to the prospective private sector partner(s). For purposes of this WEE - Break Down Barriers addendum, applicants do not need to do this prior to submitting an expression of interest. However, private sector partners named in the expression of interest will be expected to participate in the subsequent co-creation process.

## **V. Questions and Further Assistance**

Questions regarding the substance and objectives of this addendum should be directed to PretoriaApplications@usaid.gov, with copy to [gda@usaid.gov](mailto:gda@usaid.gov).

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to submit questions as soon as possible. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) and/or select questions that reveal a need for clarification of matters in the addendum will be posted at <https://www.grants.gov/>. The list of FAQs may be revised on an ongoing basis and applicants should regularly check the link for new questions that might get posted. USAID will not post all questions that are submitted; USAID will only post recurring or specific questions USAID determines warrant posting to clarify matters under the addendum.

Questions regarding the substance and terms of the 2016 – 2018 GDA APS should be directed to Ken Lee at kenlee@usaid, with copy to [gda@usaid.gov](mailto:gda@usaid.gov). For additional information regarding guidelines and procedures to submit a concept paper, please refer to the GDA APS which can be found at the following website:  
<https://www.usaid.gov/gda/global-development-alliance-annual-program>.