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Subject: Annual Program Statement Number (APS) No. 72064124APS00001

Program Title: Ghana Youth Activity Addendum to YouthPower 2 Annual Program Statement

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 98.001, Foreign Assistance for Programs Overseas

Pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the United States Government, as represented by the [U.S. Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#), the [Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation](#) (DDI), and USAID/Ghana, is announcing the Ghana Youth Activity Addendum to the YouthPower 2 (YP2) Annual Program Statement (APS), hereafter known as the YP2 APS.

Through this Ghana Youth Activity Addendum, USAID/Ghana aims to provide a vehicle for engaging with youth-led and youth-serving organizations, among others, and systems to generate cross-sectoral, positive youth development outcomes. Using locally led development approaches, USAID/Ghana also seeks to support local systems strengthening, achieve sustainable and resilient results, and catalyze more effective partnering for impact. This Addendum disseminates information to prospective Applicants so they may develop and submit Concept Notes in response and ultimately to be considered for USAID funding. This Addendum describes and provides:

- The type of activities for which Concept Notes will be considered;
- Available funding, process and requirements for submitting Concept Notes and Full Applications;
- The Criteria for evaluating Concept Notes; and
- Refers prospective Applicants to relevant documentation and resources.

USAID/Ghana anticipates awarding one assistance type award instrument under this Addendum. Issuance of this Addendum does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the U.S. Government to make an award, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a Concept Note or Application(s). The actual number of assistance awards, if any, is subject to the availability of funds, as well as the viability of eventual full Applications received.

USAID may not award to an applicant unless the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) registration requirements. The registration process may take many weeks to complete. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to begin registration early in the process.

Based on the submitted Concept Note(s), USAID/Ghana will determine whether to request a Full Application from an eligible organization(s). To be competitive under this Addendum to the YP2 APS, Concept Notes and Full Applications must be fully responsive to all directions under the APS except when specifically noted otherwise in this Addendum. USAID also reserves the right to not request a Full Application and move straight from Concept Note to award.

USAID is committed to engaging and working with local development partners to embrace their ideas on how to address sustainable development in the Country of Ghana. Local partners are strongly encouraged to submit Concept Notes in response to this APS.

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the entire APS and Addendum Opportunity has been downloaded from www.grants.gov and USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion process. If you have difficulty registering on www.grants.gov or accessing the APS, please contact the grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

Sheila Bumpass
Sheila Bumpass
Agreement Officer
USAID/West Africa

Digitally signed
by Sheila
Bumpass
Date: 2024.05.24
16:51:59 Z

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

Ghana Youth Activity

UNDER EXISTING

YouthPower 2 (YP2) Annual Program Statement

APS No.: 72064124APS00001

PLEASE NOTE: This is an addendum to an existing announcement. All interested organizations should carefully review both the Ghana Youth Activity addendum AND the full announcement, which can be found here: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/325906>. Important information contained in the full worldwide announcement is not repeated in the Ghana Youth Activity Addendum.

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

Through the Ghana Youth Activity addendum to the YouthPower 2 (YP2) Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 7200AA20APS00007, USAID/Ghana seeks to support a local Ghanaian applicant with a defined youth-led and locally-led program to empower Ghanaian youth to advance their own social, economic, and civic development.

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID/Ghana anticipates supporting one new award of between \$10-\$15 million over the course of five years.

USAID encourages applicants to become aware of the prohibitions associated with Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Section (a)(1)(B) and Section (b)(1) of the law. Effective August 13, 2020, 2 CFR 200.216 for U.S. organizations and the mandatory standard provision “Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (AUGUST 2020)” for non-U.S. organizations prohibits the use of award funds, including direct and indirect costs, cost-share and program income, to procure covered telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment. Applicants should reference the [USAID Section 889 Partner website](#) for more information. Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the YP2 APS apply.

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SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I. INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Youth Activity addendum seeks to support a local Ghanaian applicant with a defined youth-led and locally-led program to empower Ghanaian youth to advance their own social, economic, and civic development through improved employability, improved access to essential services, and strengthened civic engagement. USAID seeks to support an applicant whose proposed program reflects the Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach and who can independently identify and address new and impactful interventions.

Under the [YouthPower 2 \(YP2\) Annual Program Statement \(APS\)](#), USAID/Ghana will fund a program based on youth demographic trends and results and lessons learned in previous USAID-funded activities, especially those from northern Ghana. In addition, USAID encourages applicants to leverage work being supported by other donors and stakeholders, including the Government of Ghana.

USAID/Ghana prioritizes learning and adaptive management and requests applicants to incorporate these approaches in their proposed programs.

In publishing the Ghana Youth Activity addendum, USAID/Ghana is soliciting concept notes (of no more than 5 pages) from local Ghanaian applicants according to the attributes listed below. The selected applicant(s) will be asked to co-create the Ghana Youth Activity with USAID/Ghana staff and other key stakeholders.

II. BACKGROUND

In Ghana, youth are defined as 15-35 years of age¹ and constitute about one-third of the 2023 population of 34.1 million. Approximately 8 percent of Ghanaians are classified as people living with disabilities (PLD).² In recent years, there has been a shift in the rural vs urban divide for youth. In 2021, the majority of youth³ (58%) reside in urban areas. Due to north to south migration within Ghana, nearly one in five persons born in northern Ghana live in the south. Environmental degradation and climate change are important factors in this pattern of migration.

Despite Ghana's economic and social advances, social, political, and economic inequalities persist between north and south and rural and urban regions. These inequalities are particularly acute for northern Ghana's youth, who lack access to employment, entrepreneurial opportunities, education, and reproductive and other health care. This breeds discontent, which malignant actors

¹ Government of Ghana. Ministry of Youth and Sports National Youth Authority. Ghana National Youth Policy (2022-2032).

²UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Feb 14, 2024, <https://unprpd.org/programme/ghana/#:~:text=The%20latest%20population%20and%20housing.increase%20compared%20to%20previous%20data.>

³ Defined as age 10-29

can and do exploit, contributing to violent extremism and instability. To counter this, USAID/Ghana aims to:

- harness youth talents and engage with youth as partners,
- provide opportunities to further develop youth assets and agency, and
- support youth in contributing positively to their communities.

Employment, Livelihoods Development, and Agriculture

Although Ghana experienced impressive economic growth over the past two decades, external shocks in 2022 led to macroeconomic challenges resulting in a slow down. In addition, job creation has not kept pace with new entrants in the labor market. A World Bank study revealed Ghana’s economy would require nearly 20 percent annual growth to match job increases to labor market increases. While the national unemployment rate is 13.4%, the unemployment rate among young people aged 15 to 24 is significantly higher at 32.8%.⁴ The labor market is characterized by a high degree of informality, with only low-quality jobs available to most of the population. Youth and women have limited access to wage jobs, which are concentrated in the south, especially in Accra. Ghana has a high proportion of “NEET” youth (not in education, employment, or training)—about 25 percent—in comparison to neighboring countries.⁵

The root causes of youth unemployment and underemployment are a mix of demand and supply factors. The gap between the skills of the youth labor force and the skill requirements of private employers (the “skills gap”) contributes to weak labor market performance. USAID/Ghana’s private sector assessment found 66 percent of employers indicated employees lacked required skills to perform job functions. Given the paucity of formal sector employment, many youth turn to entrepreneurship. Youth-owned small businesses in Ghana have these characteristics: low capital input; easy entry and exit; and predominantly in “easy to enter” sectors, e.g., market stalls, bars, shops, and gambling. Although Ghanaian women are active entrepreneurs, Ghanaian men with self-owned businesses earn 52 percent more than women, and men in business with partnerships earn 91 percent more.⁶ A recent study found the largest impediment to women’s willingness to start and grow businesses was the stigma of a “too-successful wife”, rooted in cultural norms of males as the principal breadwinner.⁷

Agriculture is vital to Ghana’s economy, accounting for nearly 20 percent of its GDP.⁸ Women participate fully in the agriculture sector—representing approximately 52% of the agricultural

⁴ 2021 Ghana Population and Housing Census Report

⁵GSS March 2023 – Ghana Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey

⁶ The Mastercard Foundation. 2017. Invisible Lives: Understanding Youth Livelihoods in Ghana and Uganda.

⁷ USAID. Ghana Women’s Empowerment to Food Security and Youth Assessment. Feed the Future Advancing Women’s Empowerment Activity. Final Report, Public Version. May 2020.

⁸ “Ghana: Share of Economic Sectors in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2012 to 2022. Feb 14, 2024.

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/447524/share-of-economic-sectors-in-the-gdp-in-ghana/#:~:text=This%20statistic%20shows%20the%20share,sector%20contributed%20about%2042.03%20percent.>

labor force. Most youth do not regard agriculture as a desirable job, perceiving it as an occupation for aged, illiterate, and rural residents.⁹ Youth are excluded from local agricultural networks, such as associations and savings groups, due to limited finances, lack of information on off-farm opportunities¹⁰, lack of access to financial products and services, and low financial literacy. Climate change impacts the agriculture sector and poses a threat to food security, with 25% of the population in northern Ghana experiencing severe food insecurity.¹¹

Education

Ghana's educational system is unable to ensure that all youth develop basic literacy and numeracy skills, and it does not provide youth with much-needed soft skills. Gross enrollment ratios at the primary and junior high school levels in Ghana are high, but these drop off substantially at the senior high school level. With about 66 percent attaining less than a secondary education, Ghanaian youth do not learn appropriate skills for high-paying jobs. There are differences at different levels of educational attainment by sex. Overall, more females (55%) have no formal education than males (45%). In contrast, post-secondary and diploma levels have a higher female (60%) than male (40%) rate for highest educational attainment. People with disabilities have low education levels; 40 percent have never attended school and less than nine percent have completed secondary education¹².

In terms of learning outcomes, results from the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Exam (WASSCE) have been poor for core and elective science and mathematics subjects. Girls underperform in all regions of Ghana in math, science, and social studies; and, in the three northern regions, in English as well. As a result, males (26%) are more likely to qualify for tertiary education than females (20%)¹³. Access to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) has been increasing despite the stigma that TVET is a sign of underachievement. There is greater participation in TVET for males (55%) than females (45%), and participation by persons with disabilities is low. Often, TVETs have low absorption capacity, are costly, and use obsolete training equipment and outdated curriculum and pedagogy.¹⁴ Cost, accessibility, unreliability and unavailability of internet connectivity are a considerable impediment to TVET, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Health

Adolescent health programs in Ghana focus on reproductive health and teenage pregnancy, as opposed to encompassing other aspects, such as nutrition, health promotion, and well-being, including mental health. Adolescent women (15- 19 years) in the two lowest wealth quintiles are

⁹ USAID. YouthPower 2. USAID/Ghana Youth Assessment Report. Approved December 2021.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ghana Statistical Service Quarterly Review, August 2022.

¹² Ghana Statistical Service. 2010 Population & Housing Census Report: Disability in Ghana. Accra: Ghana Statistical Service, 2014.

¹³ Ministry of Education. Education Sector Analysis 2018. Accra: Ministry of Education, 2018.

¹⁴ Ibid.

more likely to bear children (21% each) than young women in the wealthiest quintile (3%).¹⁵ Rural young women have higher rates of teenage pregnancy (18%) than urban young women (8%).¹⁶ According to the 2022 Ghana Demographic Health Survey, adolescents (15-19) and adolescents (20-24) have the highest unmet need for family planning, 31 percent and 28 percent respectively.

About 62 percent of Ghanaian youth have reported moderate to high common mental illnesses.¹⁷ In addition, Ghanaians consider conditional intimate-partner violence to be acceptable—37 percent of women and 22 percent of men interviewed in a recent study believed a man is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances.¹⁸ Child labor, child early forced marriage and unions, and female genital mutilation occur in the 17 districts within USAID’s Zone of Influence (ZOI)¹⁹ in northern Ghana, with 34 percent of girls married before they turn 18.²⁰

Civic Engagement, Conflict and Security

The 2020 African Youth Survey found that 62 percent of Ghanaians aged 18-24 expressed positive feelings for their country and 86 percent believed their standard of living would be better in two years. However, youth have a limited voice in democratic structures and decision-making and young women are especially underrepresented in formal civic spheres.

Vigilantism is an increasingly disconcerting issue stemming in part from youth unemployment. Youth aged 15-35 constitute the majority of vigilante group members in Ghana. They join vigilante groups in hopes of rewards for services, recognition within parties, revenge, protection, and protection from law enforcement. Party politics have entered chieftaincy conflicts and changed the character of chieftaincy institutions from apolitical to political.²¹ In addition, northern Ghana is increasingly susceptible to violent extremism given that it borders the Sahel, where Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs) exploit porous borders, community grievances, and marginalization to stage attacks and build their influence among communities.²² The risk of youth recruitment or attacks can be higher in rural areas than urban areas due to less economic investment and government security in rural areas. Many youth express frustration with their

¹⁵ USAID. YouthPower 2. USAID/Ghana Youth Assessment Report. Approved December 2021.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Glozah, Franklin, Asante, Kwaku Oppong, and Kugbuy, Nuworza, Parental Involvement Could Mitigate the Effects of Physical Activity and Dietary Habits on Mental Distress in Ghanaian Youth. PLoS ONE 13(5): e0197551. 2018.

¹⁸ Op.cit. USAID. Ghana Women’s Empowerment to Food Security and Youth Assessment. May 2020.

¹⁹ See Annex 1 for a map of USAID/Ghana Development Programming in Northern Ghana, 2023.

²⁰ Op.cit. USAID. YouthPower 2. December 2021.

²¹ Kaderi Noagah Bukari and Patrick Osei-Kufuor and Shaibu Bukari. Chieftaincy Conflicts in Northern Ghana: A Constellation of Actors and Politics. African Security, Volume 14, number 2, pages 156-185. 2021. Routledge.

²² Pul, Hippolyt. “Rethinking Community Response Against Violent Extremism”. African Peacebuilding Network. APN Working Papers: No. 27, April 2024.

<https://www.ssrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Hippolyt-Pul-Working-Paper.pdf>.

elders' political and economic monopoly, high illiteracy, and rural and urban disparities and/or other perceived inequities.

Ghana's National Youth Policy

The Government of Ghana's National Youth Policy (2022-2032) is a "framework formulated to guide the development and implementation of interventions that will build an empowered youth for national development and their active participation in global affairs."²³ The policy is intended to serve as the principal reference document for state institutions, the private sector, and foreign partners to support the development of young people in Ghana. The Ministry of Youth and Sports through the National Youth Authority is responsible for coordinating stakeholder implementation of the multi-sectoral policy.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ghana Youth Activity is to empower Ghanaian youth to advance their own social, economic, and civic development. The theory of change for the Ghana Youth Activity is: *If* youth employability, youth's access to essential services, and youth civic engagement are improved, *then* youth will be able to advance their own social, economic, and civic development.

The Ghana Youth Activity is a youth-led and locally-led activity that incorporates a cross-sectoral approach to youth empowerment. While its focus is to empower youth and improve their agency at the community level, it also seeks to strengthen the capacity of youth-led and youth-serving organizations and Government of Ghana agencies.

The integrated and multi-sector design of the activity addresses the multifaceted nature of the challenges Ghanaian youth face and supports cross-sectoral, positive youth development outcomes. This approach to youth empowerment promotes efficiencies and facilitates innovation to create synergies that go beyond what any one sector or system might achieve working in isolation.

IV. PROGRAMMATIC AND GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Sustainable youth empowerment requires youth making decisions – as equal partners - about issues that affect them. The Ghana Youth Activity seeks Concept Notes that achieve the four objectives noted below through a program that is youth-led and locally-led.

When preparing Concept Notes, applicants should propose effective, integrated approaches that take into consideration the anticipated funding for the Ghana Youth Activity, which is estimated to be between \$10-15 million.

²³ Ghana National Youth Policy (2022-2032).

Objectives

1. Youth employability improved. The Ghana Youth Activity is designed to advance skills in key foundational areas required for youth to improve their suitability for paid employment: improved educational attainment, market-driven technical and vocational skills, and soft skills.

Educational attainment for youth improved. The applicant's program should include accelerated learning programs that improve youth's literacy and numeracy skills, particularly those of out-of-school youth. Partnership with the Government of Ghana's Ministry of Education's Complementary Education Agency (CEA) is critical to create sustainable and flexible pathways to further educational attainment or transition to employment for youth at different stages of education and different ages.

Technical and vocational skills that enable youth to meet market demand improved. The applicant's program must identify how it will engage the private sector to identify market demand skills and emerging labor opportunities as well as TVET providers that are offering training/certification aligned with local market needs. Applicants are encouraged to consider multiple and innovative approaches to skill development programming to provide different pathways and options for youth. Target skills should address local market needs and include entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and digital literacy to support youth that are un-/underemployed. Government of Ghana agencies that should be considered for partnership include the Youth Employment Agency, National Service Scheme, National Youth Authority, and Ministry of Youth & Sports. The applicant should also consider working with youth-led and youth-serving organizations.

Soft skills of youth advanced. The applicant's program must include an approach that improves the ability of youth to interact effectively with others in the workplace but also in other domains of life, including life planning, positive parenting, and financial planning. Applicants are encouraged to consider the engagement of both youth and the private sector to identify the most critical lacking skills. Effective approaches to soft skill improvement interventions and partnership with the CEA are encouraged.

2. Youth access to essential services improved. The Ghana Youth Activity is designed to improve youth access to essential services in three key areas: health care, financial services, and digital services.

Access to youth-friendly health care services expanded. The applicant's program description should address how it will raise youth awareness of the importance and availability of preventive and timely health care (e.g., sexual and reproductive health, family planning, mental health and wellbeing) that is safe for youth and 'stigma-free'. In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to focus on youth access to existing health programming (through intentional referrals and/or layering of services) and improved capacity of youth-serving organizations to deliver these services. Applicants are encouraged to consider partnerships with the Ghana Health Service,

Ministry of Health, Christian Health Association of Ghana and other non governmental organizations.

Access to youth-friendly financial services expanded. The applicant's program description should focus on improving access to and availability of youth-friendly financial services (such as credit, seed funds, savings and loan services) for youth entrepreneurs and those pursuing entrepreneurial ventures. Characteristics of youth-friendly financial products include low or no fees, ease of digital/mobile access, and reduced documentation barriers to enrollment. Engagement with both the Government of Ghana's Youth Employment Agency and Ghana Enterprises Agency is encouraged for interventions in this area.

Access to high-quality digital services improved. The applicant's program should include an approach to improve youth access to safe and reliable digital information across thematic areas such as health, education, and civic engagement. Approaches may include increasing youth access to mobile and internet services, especially for rural youth. For young entrepreneurs, training services may be provided on the use of digital and social media marketing platforms to improve their entrepreneurial and income generation efforts. These holistic, digital services will strengthen youth capacity to make safer, better informed decisions overall.

3. Youth civic engagement strengthened. The Ghana Youth Activity is designed to strengthen civic engagement through improved social cohesion, youth engagement in governance and civic affairs, and the implementation of youth-led solutions for community development.

Youth promotion of social cohesion improved. The applicant's program description should describe how it will transform relationships across potentially conflicting groups and build social trust and cohesion, especially among youth populations. Applications should consider the use of platforms such as media/social media and interventions such as peer-to-peer mediation to mitigate conflict, encourage critical thinking skills, counter misinformation and disinformation, and reduce youth susceptibility to recruitment by Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs). In addition, the program should encourage and support youth efforts/initiatives in peacebuilding in their communities.

Youth engagement in governance and civic affairs increased. The applicant's program should focus on increasing the voice and role of youth in decision-making, including their ability to serve as advocates in their communities and throughout all levels of government. Applicants are encouraged to include in their approach youth-focused networks and support for youth in leadership roles that address conflict prevention and post-conflict resolution. Youth engagement with the state as citizens is also critical, including the role of effective engagement and improved service delivery across sectors (health, education, etc.) for youth.

Youth-led solutions for community development implemented. The applicant's program description should detail its plan to improve the leadership skills of youth and youth-led

organizations to identify and address community issues, including peaceful dispute settlement. This could also include awareness-raising interventions on positive and negative socio-cultural norms and monitoring of government district-level interventions using ICT solutions. Applicants should consider the role of youth networks, including how to increase the capacity of existing networks and build new ones.

4. Youth agency strengthened. The applicant’s program description should also focus on a crosscutting objective: strengthening youth agency through an improved enabling environment that encourages and recognizes youth and their assets. Key actors should include parents, community members, and Government of Ghana representatives at all levels (national, regional, district, and community). This crosscutting objective aligns with the Positive Youth Development approach that is expected to be utilized for this activity (see Programmatic Priorities below).

Target Population and Geographic Area

The target population for this activity are marginalized, “forgotten” youth ages 15-24 in rural and/or urban communities, especially girls and young women, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups.²⁴ This demographic is targeted because of several interrelated factors including youth NEET, low educational attainment, and high teenage pregnancy. Programming should be adapted, as appropriate, to different age bands: adolescents (ages 15-19) and emerging adults (ages 20-24). Initially, the geographic focus area are the 17 districts in the ZOI in northern Ghana, with expansion to other regions with high rates of NEET, such as Savannah, Ashanti, and Greater Accra regions. Conflict-affected areas in which there is a lack of social cohesion may also be considered. The applicant should propose the estimated total number of youth that will benefit from this activity.

Strategic Alignment

The Ghana Youth Activity aligns and advances the U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability (U.S. SPCPS), USAID/Ghana Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS),

²⁴ USAID defines marginalized groups as people who are typically denied full access to legal protection or social and economic participation and programs (such as police protection, political participation, access to healthcare, education, employment, etc.), whether in practice or in principle, for either historical, cultural, political, or other contextual reasons. Such groups may include but are not limited to: women and girls, persons with disabilities, LGBTI people, displaced persons, economic migrants, indigenous individuals and communities, youth and the elderly, religious minorities, ethnic minorities, people in lower castes, and people of diverse economic class and political opinions. These groups often suffer from discrimination in the application of laws and policy and/or access to resources, services, and social protection, and may be subject to persecution, harassment, and/or violence. They may also be described as “underrepresented,” “at-risk,” or “vulnerable.”

https://usaidlearninglab.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/additional_help_for_ads_201_inclusive_development_180726_final_r.pdf

USAID Youth in Development Policy (2022 Update), Government of Ghana National Youth Policy and the YP2 APS.

Alignment with U.S. SPCPS

The Ghana Youth Activity will advance the U.S. SPCPS through its efforts to prevent the destabilizing expansion of terrorism and violent extremism through improved civic engagement. The activity will achieve this by focusing on three distinct aspects of civic engagement: improved social cohesion, youth engagement in governance and civic affairs, and the implementation of youth-led solutions for community development. The integrated activity design will support the holistic approach defined in the strategy and will ensure efforts are African-led, and more specifically, youth led. The activity will advance the three objectives of the SPCPS:

- Partnerships to innovate how the U.S. government works with partners to advance shared interests in conflict prevention and stabilization;
- Analysis that outlines an initial assessment of complex and multifaceted drivers of violence and instability and will rely on data-informed analysis throughout their implementation; and
- Learning through rigorous monitoring and evaluation to document lessons learned and guide decisions.

Alignment with USAID/Ghana CDCS

The Ghana Youth Activity will support USAID/Ghana's CDCS in the following Development Objectives (DOs), Intermediate Results (IRs):

DO 1: Broad-based economic growth accelerated and sustained

- IR 1.3 - Healthy, skilled citizens contribute to economic growth

DO 2: Quality services delivered with accountability

- IR 2.3 - Service providers adhere to national quality standards
- IR 2.4 - Citizens demand responsive governance

DO 3: Sustainable development accelerated in northern Ghana

- IR 3.1 - Government improves equitable delivery of quality services in health, education, and agriculture
- IR 3.3 - Citizens adopt improved practices to advance their well-being and resilience
- IR 3.4 - Citizens sustain peaceful communities

USAID Youth in Development Policy (2022 Update)

As a youth-led activity, the Ghana Youth Activity will support the goal of the USAID Youth in Development policy to increase the meaningful participation of youth within their communities, schools, organizations, economies, peer groups, and families by enhancing their skills, providing

opportunities, and fostering healthy relationships so they may build on their collective leadership. Specifically, the activity will advance all three objectives included in the policy:

1. Access: Youth are better able to access high-quality information, safe services, and livelihood opportunities and build the skills they need to lead healthy, productive, and engaged lives.
2. Participation: Youth have the right to fully participate in decision-making as key partners to contribute to individual, household, community, and national well-being.
3. Systems: Youth have a stronger collective voice in, and are better served by, local and national systems through more coordinated and effective services, practices, and policies that embody the principles of positive youth development.

Alignment with the Youth Power 2 (YP2) Annual Program Statement (APS)

The Ghana Youth Activity contributes to the Agency's efforts to mainstream youth in development across sectors using a positive youth development approach as detailed in the YP2 APS. The Ghana Youth Activity addendum supports programming that reflects the priorities in the YP2 APS:

- Engaging Youth as Partners and Leaders: By harnessing youth talents and engaging with youth as partners, the Ghana Youth Activity will provide them with opportunities to further develop their assets and agency, and to contribute positively to their communities.
- Integrating a Holistic and Cross-Sectoral Design Approach: The Ghana Youth Activity incorporates a cross-sectoral approach that considers and addresses youth's needs to advance social, economic and civic development.

The Ghana Youth Activity aligns with the YP2 APS through its:

- Focus on innovative, cross-sectoral programming that both addresses priority development challenges for and with youth,
- Creation of knowledge and solution gaps that traditional, single sector-based USAID programming does not address.
- Prioritization of marginalized and vulnerable youth, with an emphasis on women/girls, the disabled and other disadvantaged groups.

Alignment with the Government of Ghana National Youth Policy

The Ghana Youth Activity will support the following objectives from the Ghana National Youth Policy 2022-2032:

- To promote decent job creation, employability and livelihood empowerment for the youth.
- To promote universal health coverage, inclusive health service delivery, healthy lifestyles and total wellbeing of the youth.
- To develop institutional capacities and schemes that support youth skills transfer, creativity and innovation.

- To enhance the participation of the youth in governance, community development, decision-making, and elevate their sense of civic responsibility.
- To promote the fundamental human rights, physical and reformative development of young persons, including young women and young persons with disabilities, at all levels.
- To develop resilient and self-reliant youth.

Additional Strategy Alignment

In addition, applicants should ensure alignment with the following strategy documents:

- USAID Policy Framework March 2023
- USAID 2023 Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy
- USAID Disability Policy Paper
- USAID Local Capacity Strengthening Policy
- USAID Private Sector Engagement Policy
- USG Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity

Programmatic Priorities

USAID/Ghana requests applicants to incorporate the following programmatic priorities in designing their program.

Positive Youth Development

Proposed activities are based on the input of youth, fit the Positive Youth Development²⁵ (PYD) framework, and focus on the following two distinct age bands: Adolescence (15-19 years) and Emerging Adulthood (20-24 years).

Conflict Sensitivity

Proposed interventions account for the prevailing context and account for how the context and the interventions affect each other, either positively or negatively (SaferWorld). The Conflict Sensitivity Consortium’s definition of conflict sensitive is: “A conflict sensitive approach involves gaining a sound understanding of the two-way interaction between activities and context and acting to minimize negative impacts and maximize positive impacts of intervention on conflict, within an organization’s given priorities/objectives (mandate).”

Inclusive Development²⁶

USAID/Ghana promotes a nondiscriminatory, inclusive, and integrated approach that brings those with limited access to benefits, legal protections, or social participation into development processes and ensuing benefits. Marginalized and underrepresented communities (and youth from these communities) are central to design and implementation of interventions. Fulbe youth, girls and women, youth living with disabilities, and youth living with HIV/AIDS are among marginal populations to be included.

²⁵ Positive Youth Development Framework

<https://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development-pyd-framework>

²⁶ <https://www.usaid.gov/inclusivedevelopment>

Do No Harm

USAID/Ghana’s programs cannot put individuals or groups at increased risk of harm or raise their public profile in a way that could lead to backlash. This applies especially to contexts in which violence, discrimination, stigma, and criminalization affect youth. Under “do no harm”, safety and security concerns of participants are addressed, such as holding meetings in safe places, not displaying names or photographs of vulnerable beneficiaries or groups, using marking and branding exemptions in high-exposure activities, and training implementing partners on safety of their staff and of vulnerable youth.

Localization

The sustainability of the Ghana Youth Activity is linked intrinsically to a local systems approach to creating lasting change in Ghana. In addition to making the award to a local Ghanaian organization, interventions will put local actors, including Government of Ghana agencies, local organizations and youth, in the lead, strengthen local systems and foster local capacity strengthening.²⁷ Marginalized youth will be partners and leaders in starting and continuing interventions to advance their development. Programs must include an initial community mapping of youth-friendly services and the involvement of youth-led/youth-serving organizations in implementation.

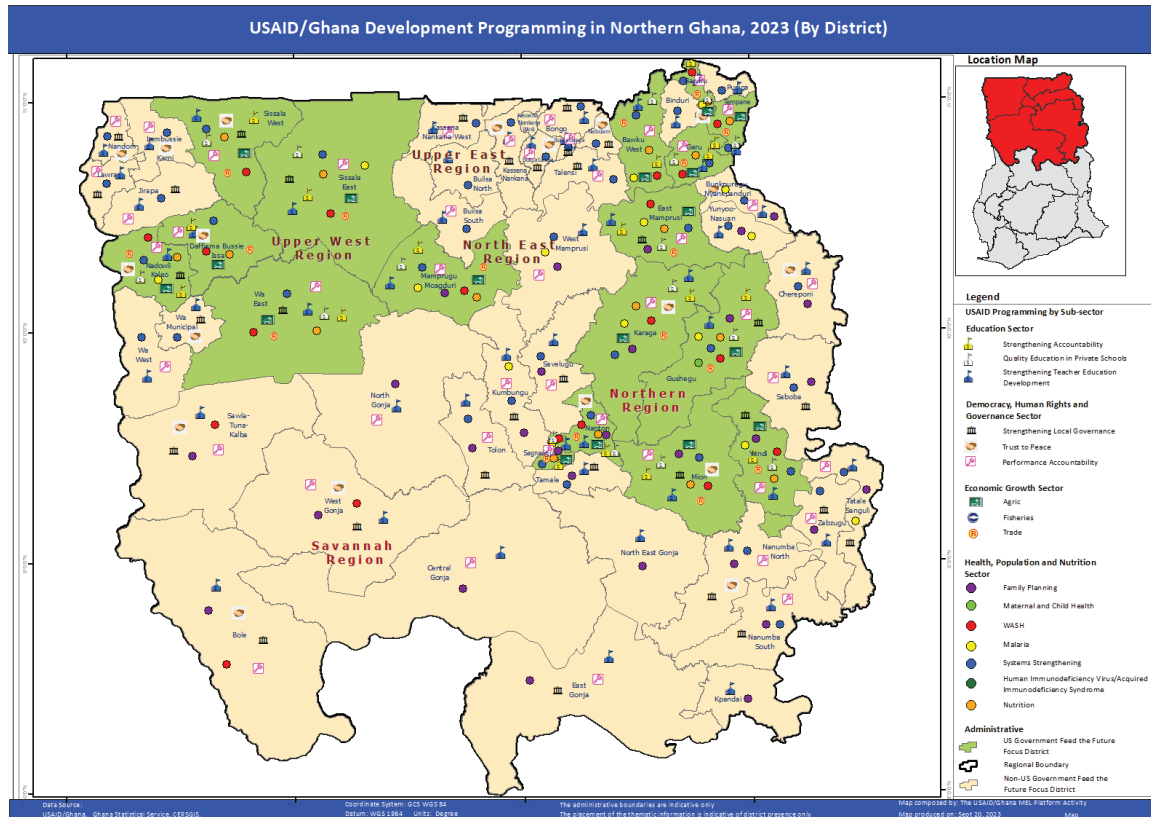
Climate Change and Resilience

Climate change and resilience is expected to be incorporated and addressed throughout the design of the activity. In addition, it will be a fundamental consideration during the co-creation design process.

Private Sector

Applicants are encouraged to identify how they will strategize, align, collaborate and implement their program with private sector actors. In particular, the design should incorporate private sector engagement to support increased employability and digital and financial services for marginalized youth. Programs should identify how the private sector will be utilized to increase scale, sustainability and contribute to developing models for expanding interventions to other areas.

²⁷ <https://www.usaid.gov/localization>



V. COORDINATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES

Activity Level Integration and Coordination

USAID/Ghana requests applicants to link to other activities that target youth in the northern Ghana, including activities of USAID and other donors. The most relevant ones are listed below.

USAID-funded activities:

Health:

- *Social Marketing and Private Sector Activity:* The USAID Social Marketing and Private Sector Activity seeks to increase access to quality commodities and services for family planning, maternal and child health in the private sector. This is achieved through social marketing and private sector engagement activities. The activity has a national focus and includes key interventions targeted at enabling adolescent girls and young women to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives.
- *Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health:* The Global Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health is a USAID-funded project that aims to improve the enabling environment for equitable and sustainable health services, supplies, and delivery systems through policy development and implementation; adequate, predictable, and sustainable health financing; enhanced government stewardship, transparency, and accountability;

and use of evidence-based advocacy approaches at global, national, and subnational levels to promote best practices. In the area of youth development, PROPEL is working to support youth to play a more significant role in advocating for adequate budgetary provisions for family planning.

- *Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) II*: This Government-to-Government (G2G) activity and complementary Systems Strengthening activity seek to reduce poverty and malnutrition in the most vulnerable households in northern Ghana. RING II supports local government structures in target districts in four regions in northern Ghana to plan, finance, and implement programs to improve livelihoods, food security, and nutritional outcomes of vulnerable populations, with a focus on women and children. RING II is implemented in 17 target districts in the Feed the Future ZOI in northern Ghana.
- *Accelerating Social and Behavior Change (ASBC)*: ASBC supports the government of Ghana and the Ghana Health Service Health Promotion Division (GHS-HPD) to lead social and behavior change (SBC) efforts using tested mass media and community engagement strategies. ASBC aims to contribute to an increase in the sustained adoption of health behaviors and practices, including timely use of health services and products, nationally and in the 17 districts in the ZOI in northern Ghana, where severe health disparities persist.

Democracy, Rights and Governance (DRG):

- *Trust2Peace Activity*: This activity transforms relationships across potentially conflicting groups and builds social trust and cohesion with the aim of mitigating violent extremism. The activity includes the provision of leadership opportunities to build the resilience of youth.
- *Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI's) Littorals Regional Initiative (LRI)*: LRI builds the capacity of local and national actors to help them own, address, and strengthen local vulnerabilities. Programming addresses the vulnerability of youth to help reduce their exploitation by violent extremist organizations (VEOs).

Economic Growth (EG):

- *Agricultural Governance, Resilience And Economic Empowerment (AGREE)*: AGREE aims to ensure responsive governance for improved agricultural development in Ghana. The activity operates in 31 districts across five regions of northern Ghana. Programming aims to improve coordination between key institutional actors, participation of civil society organizations and the private sector in decentralized agricultural development and women economic empowerment.
- *Feed the Future: Ghana Trade and Investment (GTI)*: GTI aims to enhance Ghana's economic growth environment by integrating enterprise-driven and market systems development principles to boost productivity and growth. Objectives include improving agricultural product quality, reducing time-in-trade costs, fostering SME growth, creating innovative financing opportunities, and increasing investment opportunities for bankable firms. Through collaboration with public and private sector stakeholders, GTI aims to

- diversify agricultural exports, strengthen SME support systems, streamline trading procedures, and promote job creation and economic diversification, particularly among women, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- **Feed the Future Market Systems and Resilience (MSR):** This activity, in collaboration with Agri Info Hub, is empowering youth groups committed to environmental sustainability by establishing Community Climate Change Champions. After providing an initial training on climate-smart agriculture to youth groups, MSR and Agri Info Hub supported Climate Change Champions to conduct follow-up trainings. These training enhanced youth group capacity to mitigate climate change impacts on agriculture, fostering advocacy and implementation of climate-smart practices, with plans to scale the initiative in Q2 of FY24 across USAID's ZOI with support from Agri Info Hub.

Other Donor-Funded Activities

- *European Union (EU)-Ghana Pact for Skills:* Support for the Transformation of the TVET System (STTSG) - partnership between the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union.

Government of Ghana Collaboration and Partnership

USAID/Ghana requests applicants to identify opportunities to collaborate and partner with key Government of Ghana stakeholders. The most relevant ones are listed below:

- *Ministry of Education: Complementary Education Agency:* Established in 2020, the Complementary Education Agency has a mandate to oversee the provision and administration of quality, complementary education, including: creating a legal and institutional framework to oversee the provision and administration of complementary education; continuing to provide enhanced literacy programs for youth who have missed formal education; developing complementary education structures for Occupational Skills Development (OSD) and align graduates to TVET institutions; and increasing complementary education pathways for drop-outs from basic to tertiary level.
- *Ministry of Youth and Sports:* This Ministry is mandated to initiate and formulate youth policies as well as to coordinate and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the performance of the sector to achieve national integration and international recognition. Its youth development functions are supposed to initiate and formulate policies, taking into account the needs and aspirations of youth themselves.
- *Ghana Enterprises Agency, including the YouStart Program:* The Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA) is dedicated to the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises in Ghana. GEA's YouStart Program, also known as the Ghana Jobs and Skills Project, is a recent program launched by the Government of Ghana in 2022 with funding from the World Bank. It serves as a vehicle through which the Government of Ghana intends to provide funding and technical support to youth and youth-led businesses to assist them start, build and grow their own businesses. Through YouStart, GEA intends to support skills development and job creation for at least one million youth

over three years (2022-2025).

- *Youth Employment Agency's National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program:* The National Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme (NEIP) is a flagship policy initiative of the Government of Ghana. Its primary objective is to support start-ups and small businesses. NEIP primarily focuses on providing business development services; startup incubators and funding for young businesses to enable them to grow and become successful. NEIP aligns with Ghana's long-term strategic vision of consolidating its middle-income status, building an industry-driven economy capable of providing decent jobs that are suitable and sustainable for development.
- *National Service Scheme:* The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a Government of Ghana program under the Ministry of Education of Ghana. The scheme is mandated to deploy a pool of skilled manpower drawn primarily from tertiary institutions to support the development efforts of both the public and private sectors in Ghana. Although it is a citizenry requirement for all Ghanaians who are eighteen years above, it is currently limited to, and mandatory for all Ghanaians graduating from tertiary educational institutions who are not less than eighteen years old.
- *National Youth Authority:* The National Youth Authority (NYA) exists to provide a relevant and conducive environment that defines and supports the implementation of effective youth empowerment practices, focusing on young people's participation in socio-economic and political development while facilitating private sector investments in youth empowerment.
- *Ministry of Health:* The Ministry of Health seeks to improve the health status of all people living in Ghana thereby contributing to the Government of Ghana's vision of universal health coverage and a healthy population. The Ministry of Health, working in partnership with its agencies and stakeholders aims at improving the human capital thus "creating wealth through health" through the development and implementation of proactive policies that will ensure improved health and vitality.
- *Ghana Health Service:* The Ghana Health Service (GHS) is an autonomous agency responsible for implementation of national policies under the control of the Minister for Health through its governing Council – the Ghana Health Service Council. Its mandate is to provide and prudently manage comprehensive and accessible health service with special emphasis on primary health care at regional, district and sub-district levels in accordance with approved national policies.

SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

I. ESTIMATED PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE FOR FEDERAL AWARD

USAID anticipates awarding the five-year Ghana Youth Activity in or before mid-November, 2024. However, submitted concepts are not required to be for a five-year implementation period.

II. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID/Ghana anticipates supporting one assistance type award of \$10-\$15 million over the life of the award. USAID reserves the right to award more or fewer awards than this estimate and is not obligated to make any awards.

III. GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Activities fall under Geographic Code 937.

[END OF SECTION B]

SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

I. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligibility is limited to local entities. A local entity means an individual, a corporation, a nonprofit organization, or another body of persons that— (1) is legally organized under the laws of; (2) has as its principal place of business or operations in; and (3) is (A) majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of; and (B) managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of a country receiving assistance. For purposes of this definition, “majority-owned” and “-managed by” include, without limitation, beneficiary interests and the power, either directly or indirectly, whether exercised or exercisable, to control the election, appointment, or tenure of the organization's managers or a majority of the organization's governing body by any means.”

All interested organizations are restricted to submitting one Concept Note as the Prime Applicant. If more than one Concept Note is received with the same Prime Applicant, USAID will seek written clarification from the relevant entity regarding which Concept Note should be considered for review. If clarification is not resolved within five (5) business days, all Concept Notes submitted by the Applicant will be deemed ineligible.

Please note that Applicants can serve as sub-awardees or supporting partners on multiple Concept Notes under this Addendum.

Applicants must have established financial management, monitoring and evaluation processes, internal control systems, and policies and procedures that comply with established U.S. Government Standards, laws, and regulations.

USAID will perform a risk assessment in accordance with 2 CFR 200.205 to determine the responsibility of Applicants considered for award. USAID may determine that a pre-award survey is required to conduct an examination that will serve as the basis for determining whether the prospective recipient had the necessary organization, experience, accounting and operational controls, financial resources, and technical skills - or the ability to obtain them - in order to achieve the program objectives and to comply with the terms and conditions of the award. Depending on the results of the risk assessment, USAID will determine to execute the award, not execute the award, or to award with “specific conditions” (2 CFR 200.207).

USAID welcomes applications from organizations that have not previously received financial assistance from USAID.

[END OF SECTION C]

SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

I. AGENCY POINT OF CONTACT

Questions regarding this *Ghana Youth Activity* Addendum must be submitted to Ruth Amegashie (ramegashie@usaid.gov) and Prince Nduroh (pnduroh@usaid.gov), with a copy to the Regional Agreement Officer (AO) at tbaldwinowusu@usaid.gov no later than June 7, 2024, 17:00 GMT. If a full application is awarded, the AO will appoint an Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) at that time to provide technical and administrative oversight of the specific award.

Prospective Applicants may send questions regarding the substance and objectives of the Ghana Youth Activity addendum to persons named above by the deadline of June 7, 2024, 17:00 GMT. Responses to questions received prior to the deadline will be furnished to all potential applicants through an amendment to this notice posted to www.grants.gov.

The Agency will furnish promptly to all prospective applicants as an amendment to this Addendum any information concerning this Addendum given to a particular prospective Applicant, if that information is necessary in submitting applications, or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

II. APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process for Ghana Youth Activity Addendum will happen in four phases:

1. An open call for a brief Concept Note (no more than 5 pages);
2. Review of Concept Notes by USAID as outlined below;
3. Oral Presentation;
4. Co-Design of Activity

USAID/Ghana will be responsible for the review of Concept Notes and Full Applications and management of any subsequent awards issued under this Addendum. Additional information about each phase of the Application and Review process is provided below.

Concept Note Submission

All concept notes must be prepared and submitted in English using the provided template (see **Attachment A**). Respondents are asked to download the template in Word format, provide responses in that document, and email a PDF saved copy of the document to Ruth Amegashie (ramegashie@usaid.gov) and Prince Nduroh (pnduroh@usaid.gov), with a copy to Taniece Owusu, the Agreement Officer, at tbaldwinowusu@usaid.gov, with the file name saved as: ***"Ghana Youth Activity_Concept Note_[respondent's institution]."*** Concept notes must be no more than five pages with 12 point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins on the electronic equivalent of 8.5 x 11 inch paper. Content above five pages will not be reviewed. Concept Notes are due no later than July 26, 2024, 17:00 GMT. Concept Notes submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed.

Concept Note Review

Concept notes will be reviewed based on the merit review criteria for Concept Notes in Section E below. Additionally, concepts should be consistent with USAID legal and policy restrictions, as identified in this APS and in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

USAID/Ghana anticipates two possible results from the concept paper merit review process:

1. Conditional acceptance whereby competition requirements have been met and Applicant is invited to an oral presentation of their concept: If the concept paper meets APS objectives and receives sufficient ratings against the merit review criteria, USAID/Ghana will invite the Applicant to present their concept orally. At this time, the Applicant will be requested to provide a summary budget (see Attachment B for the required budget template). More detailed instructions on the oral presentation and details for scheduling the presentation will be provided in the letter.

2. Concept paper receives a low rating or does not meet APS objectives: If it is determined that an Applicant's concept does not meet or will not advance USAID/Ghana's objectives, an Applicant's concept receives a low rating against the merit review criteria, or funding is not available, the Applicant will receive a Decision to Not Proceed letter and the process will end.

After a Concept Note is received, USAID/Ghana reserves the right to request supplementary information or pose clarifying questions to any applicant. Requesting supplementary information or posing clarifying questions to one applicant does not obligate USAID/Ghana to do so with all applicants, nor does it guarantee invitation to submit a full application.

Oral Presentation

Applicants invited to make an oral presentation of their concept will be required to make a 30-minute presentation on their concept and then answer any questions that USAID/Ghana may have for an additional 30 minutes. The Applicant will also be asked to provide a summary budget for discussion. **(See Attachment B)** The intent of this oral presentation is to allow applicants to further detail their concept and to address any uncertainties identified by USAID/Ghana in its concept paper review.

USAID/Ghana anticipates two possible results from the oral presentation:

1. Invitation to Co-Design: If USAID/Ghana determines that an Applicant's concept, as presented orally, continues to meet the objectives of the APS and the concept continues to receive sufficient ratings against the merit review criteria, USAID/Ghana will invite the Applicant to an in-person co-design workshop. Applicants will receive an Invitation to Co-Design letter. More detailed instructions on the co-design workshop and details for scheduling will be provided in the letter.

2. Concept presented receives a low rating or does not meet APS objectives: If it is determined, following oral presentation, that an Applicant's concept does not meet or will not

advance USAID/Ghana's objectives, an Applicant's concept receives a low rating against the merit review criteria, or funding is not available, the Applicant will receive a Decision to Not Proceed letter and the process will end.

Co-Design of Activity

Upon receipt of the Invitation for Co-Design letter, competition has been met, and the Applicant will continue the design process working with USAID/Ghana's guidance. USAID/Ghana will provide additional information on this process to successful applicants in the Invitation to Co-Design letter. During this phase, applicants will work with USAID design teams to develop a clearer understanding of the activity. During this co-design process, USAID staff will also help ensure that USAID activity requirements, such as environmental compliance and gender integration, are considered.

If an Applicant at any point in the Co-Design phase does not meet USAID's expectations, the process will end for that Applicant. Reasons why an Applicant may be unsuccessful at the co-design phase could include, but are not limited to, among other reasons:

- After discussions, the USAID design team determines that the detailed program does not satisfy the criteria of the APS or the Development Objectives of USAID/Ghana;
- The Applicant cannot provide evidence that it is an entity capable of operating in Ghana;
- USAID/Ghana has other concerns after conducting due diligence or pre-award reviews of the Applicant.

The foregoing examples are non-exhaustive; there may be other situations, such as a lack of funding, for which a design process may be ended by USAID. **USAID/Ghana reserves the right not to make an award at any stage of the process.**

Anticipated timelines, which are subject to change, are as follow:

- June 7, 2024: Deadline for receipt of questions regarding the addendum.
- July 26, 2024: Deadline for receipt of concept papers for consideration in primary Co-Design workshop.
- August 9, 2024: Notifications to conditionally accepted applicants
- September 4-6, 2024: Oral Presentations (In-person in Ghana).
- September 13, 2024: Invitation to Co-Design letters sent.
- October 14-25, 2024: Co-Design workshop (In-person in Ghana).

III. UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER (UEI) AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM) REGISTRATION

Applicants must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and register in the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://sam.gov/>) in order to be eligible to receive federal assistance, such as grants and cooperative agreements. Unless an exemption applies (see ADS 303maz),

applicants must be registered in SAM prior to submitting an application for award for USAID's consideration. Recipients must maintain an active SAM registration while they have an active award. Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or entity that is exempted from UEI/SAM requirements under 2 CFR 25.110) is required to:

1. Provide a valid UEI for the applicant and all proposed sub-recipients;
2. Be registered in SAM before submitting its application.
3. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

The registration process may take many weeks to complete. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to begin the process early. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements above by the time USAID is ready to make an award, USAID may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Applicants can find additional resources for registering in SAM, including a Quick Start Guide and a video, on <https://sam.gov/>.

[END OF SECTION D]

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

I. REVIEW OF CONCEPT NOTES

Once a Concept Note has been submitted in response to the *Ghana Youth Activity* Addendum, USAID/Ghana will conduct an initial review of the Concept Note using the criteria outlined in the Merit Review Criteria and Considerations section below.

The purpose of the initial review and related communication is to determine whether USAID/Ghana wishes to engage in further discussions regarding the proposed approach and activities. The initial review and communication will result in one of two outcomes:

- A decision to forego further consideration of the approach proposed in the Concept Note;
- An invitation to make an oral presentation.

II. MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

USAID/Ghana will review all concept paper applications that comply with the instructions in this APS. USAID/Ghana will use the following merit review elements, with the following weights:

	Merit Review Element Definition
USAID/Ghana will review each concept paper and evaluate it to the degree it meets the criteria on the right:	1. Quality of Partnership and Collaboration Approach for Youth Engagement and Capacity Building (Most Important) Extent to which the proposed partnerships, research, projects, or activities describes a commitment to equitable collaboration and deep partnership with youth-led and youth-serving organizations, including marginalized groups as defined by the reference to ADS 201 Additional Help , at every stage of the concept development, activity design, and implementation; proposes appropriate, inclusive, equitable, and effective capacity building strategies for youth-serving and youth-led organizational partners; and demonstrates partner commitment to proposed collaboration(s), including a brief synopsis of how each partner will engage within the partnership.

	<p>2. Technical Merit Including PYD Approach and Alignment with USAID Programming Priorities (Most Important)</p> <p>Extent to which the proposed partnerships, research, projects, or activities and PYD Approach align with USAID Strategies and Policies, particularly the Youth in Development Policy and reflects youth’s cross-sectoral needs; ensures effective youth engagement; demonstrates relevant technical expertise in PYD programming; and proposes effective approach(es) to achieving objectives/outcomes that are technically sound, well-defined, and achievable.</p> <p>3. Sustainability of Anticipated Outcomes and Impact (Very Important)</p> <p>Extent to which the proposed partnerships, research, projects, or activities demonstrates contribution to sustainable outcomes beyond the lifetime of the award; demonstrates engagement with the private sector and leverages new or existing resources; and proposes an evidence-informed plan for analyzing, synthesizing and disseminating data and findings that will inform ongoing and future programming and contribute to sustainable outcomes and impact; and contribute to evidence and learning on PYD.</p>
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Note: More comprehensive information regarding the application and review processes can be found in the umbrella YP2 APS, located at grants.gov. Applicants are advised to refer to both the umbrella APS and this addendum in preparing Concept Notes.

III. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Applicants should ensure that their Concept Note is aligned with USAID strategies, policies, and priorities, such as the USAID/Ghana CDCS, [USAID Youth in Development Policy](#), [USAID Education Policy](#), [USG International Basic Education Strategy](#), [Strategy on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance](#), [USAID Global Health Research and Development Strategy](#), [Children in Adversity](#), [USG Global Food Security Strategy](#), [USG Feed the Future Initiative](#), and [Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy](#).

[END OF SECTION E]

SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

I. FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES

The USAID Agreement Officer (AO) is the only individual who may legally commit the U.S. Government to the expenditure of public funds. Applicants are prohibited from charging or incurring costs to the proposed award prior to receipt of either a fully executed award or a specific, written authorization from the AO. USAID will administer awards in accordance with Parts 700 and 200 of Title 2 of the CFR, and Standard Provisions for U.S./non-U.S. organizations.

II. TYPE OF AWARD

USAID has a number of assistance award types to choose when providing funds under this Annual Program Statement to successful Applicants. The type of award and terms and conditions included therein depends upon the type of recipient organization, programmatic factors, and other due-diligence matters (including responsibility determinations.)

III. AWARD DISCRETION

USAID reserves the right to make, or not to make, an award through this Addendum to the YP2 APS. An award, if any, under this Addendum is subject to the availability of funds, the interests and requirements of USAID, and the viability of Concept Notes/Applications received.

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Instructions: M/B/IOs are welcome to edit or add resources to this list. Remove this instructional text from your final Addendum.

- Grant and Contract Process:
<https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/grant-and-contract-process>
- USAID Graphic Standards Manual and Partner Co-branding Guide:
https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1869/USAID_GSM_03_05_2019.pdf
- Youth Activity Synthesis Report, April 2024, Executive Summary (Attachment C)

[END OF SECTION F]

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

The points of contact for this NOFO and any questions during the award process is as follows:

Taniece Owusu
Regional Agreement Officer
U.S Agency for International Development
U.S Embassy , Ghana Accra
No. 24 Fourth Circular Road, Cantonments,
P.O. Box 1630 Accra, Ghana Email: tbaldwinowusu@usaid.gov

Ruth Amegashie
Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
U.S Agency for International Development
U.S Embassy , Ghana Accra
No. 24 Fourth Circular Road, Cantonments,
P.O. Box 1630 Accra, Ghana Email: ramegashie@usaid.gov

[END OF SECTION G]

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