



USAID | **MALAWI**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AMENDMENT ONE (01)

Request for Application Number: 72061224RFA00002

Kumaliza Maphunziro a Sekondale “Completing Secondary Education” (The Kumaliza Project)

RFA Issuance Date:	September 12, 2024
Amendment 01 Issue Date:	October 10, 2024
Concept Paper Submission Date:	October 24, 2024 , at 4:00PM Malawi Time
Full Application Submission Due Date:	TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE

The purpose of this amendment is to provide responses to the potential Applicants’ questions raised in writing as outlined in Attachment A below in response to the questions received.

Please note the due date has been extended to Thursday, October 24th.

Unless specifically stated herein, all other terms and conditions of the RFA remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

Natalie J. Thunberg
Agreement Officer

Attachment A - Answers to potential Applicants Questions

Question 1: On Page 4 the RFA references that the project will partner with the USAID Youth Council. Is this the same as the National Youth Council of Malawi, or a different entity? Please provide further information on the USAID Youth Council. (e.g., objectives, frequency of meetings, membership makeup).

USAID Response: The USAID Youth Council referenced on page 4 of the RFA is distinct from the National Youth Council of Malawi. The USAID Youth Council is an advisory body formed in connection with the Mission to ensure youth perspectives are integrated into project design, implementation, and evaluation. The council is made up of diverse youth leaders, advocates, and professionals from sectors like education, health, and entrepreneurship, selected for their expertise and alignment with USAID's mission.

Question 2: On page 4 the RFA states that “IPs can cultivate potential solutions with scalability in mind”.

- a. Is the intention to scale to other CDSSs, all secondary schools, or something else?

USAID Response: The program's impact on other CDSSs is expected to be indirect. For instance, teachers from Kumaliza schools who participate in additional training may, through their interactions with other schools, share and apply the knowledge gained, thereby extending the impact more broadly.

- b. Would this “expansion strategy” and implementation of the strategy be part of the four year Kumaliza Project cycle, a potential follow or an addition to the Kumaliza Project design which would include additional donor funding?

USAID Response: The expansion strategy will not require additional donor funding but will instead leverage synergies within the current project framework.

Question 3: On p. 5 USAID writes “The Kumazila Project will utilize the DREAMS layering table to identify best practices and select the most impactful activities to scale up...” Please provide the most recent version of the DREAMS layering table for Malawi.

USAID Response: The table is added as [Attachment B to this Amendment. See Below.](#)

Question 4: On page 11 the RFA states, “The Kumaliza Project will offer financial assistance to students in need by enhancing the beneficiary identification and tracking system at the school and household level.” Please provide further information as to the health of the tracking system.

USAID Response: Applicants are encouraged to design and implement improvements to the tracking system to ensure its robustness. These enhancements will focus on increasing accuracy and efficiency in identifying and monitoring beneficiaries at both the school and household levels.

Questions 5: Criterion 2, “Management and Key Personnel” on pages 28 and 29 of the RFA refers to proposed key personnel.

- a. Does USAID expect applicants to name key personnel in the concept note, or does USAID expect that key personnel positions are described along with other non-key personnel position descriptions?

USAID Response: Yes, we would like key personnel, specifically the COP and Deputy COP, to be named in the concept paper.

- b. Furthermore the required format in the concept note template (pages 57-59) does not include a section or reference to key personnel. Should applicants include key personnel and non-key personnel as mentioned in the criterion, or follow the required template that does not request for personnel at this time? Please advise.

USAID Response: Only key personnel, specifically the COP and Deputy COP, are anticipated to be named in the concept paper and can be named under SECTION II – DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY of the template provided. Supporting Information can be provided under SECTION III and is not included in the maximum of 5 pages limit. You can propose positions for the additional key personnel.

Question 6: Key personnel qualifications mentioned on page 29 include “appropriate language skills.” Please confirm what language skills and languages USAID is referring to.

USAID Response: USAID is primarily referring to proficiency in English and familiarity with Chichewa, as these are the most widely used languages in Malawi for communication and project implementation. Other local languages may also be beneficial depending on the specific project region.

Question 7: On page 57 the RFA states, “The main body of the Concept Paper (sections II and III) must not exceed 5 pages (+1-page cover page + a 1-page notional budget template).” However in the required Concept Paper Template Section III - Supporting Information, requests contact information (2 pages maximum) and a one page letter of commitment from all proposed partners. Please confirm the page maximums for each section.

USAID Response: The main body of the concept paper should just refer to Section II - Description of Proposed Activity, while Section III, Supporting Information, is not included in the maximum of 5 pages.

Question 8: Page 57 states that the submission “email subject line should follow this naming scheme identified in the RFA instructions.” Please verify the naming scheme that is required for the application submission.

USAID Response: The RFA naming in submission information is on page 31 of the RFA and is as follows: “*The subject line for every such email must include the following: RFA No. 72061224RFA00002, Kumaliza Maphunziro a Sekondale “Completing Secondary Education” (The Kumaliza Project).*”

Questions 9: On page 57 Section I – Cover Page Information the RFA requests that the cover page has the “Sub-award Organization DUNS Number(s).”

a. Please confirm this should state “Sub-award Organization UEI.”

USAID Response: It should state “Sub-award Organization UEI.” and not DUNS Number.

b. If sub-awardees are in the process of acquiring a UEI at the time of submission, can they still be included as proposed sub-awardees if they provide proof of their pending registration?

USAID Response: Yes. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the sub-awardee is registered before the award is made.

Question 10: What is the envisioned start date for this project?

USAID Response: USAID plans to award this project in Quarter 3 of FY25.

Question 11: Can USAID please share the local compensation plan?

USAID Response: While we can’t share the LCP, we can provide salary ranges as follows:

USAID/Malawi Local Compensation Plan (LCP) Guide- Effective November 07, 2021

Job Category	Hrs/Week	Grade Range	Basic Salary Range	Allowances Range
Senior professionals	40	FSN 13	\$52,714 - \$81,708	\$10,536 - \$15,301
Senior professionals	40	FSN 12	\$37,650 - \$58,530	\$10,536 - \$15,301
Senior professionals	40	FSN 11	\$30,074 - \$46,622	\$8,793 - \$12,599

Middle professionals	40	FSN 10	\$26,226 - \$40,646	\$7,908 - \$11,225
Middle professionals	40	FSN 09	\$19,532 - \$30,270	\$5,454 - \$7,924

Notes on table

- i. Basic Salary above is set in US Dollars.
- ii. Offeror must develop a local policy to deal with significant exchange movements that might adversely affect local salaries that are paid in local currency in accordance with the host country laws.

Questions 12: Annex 2 – Summary Budget format includes a crisis modifier line.

- a. Please confirm whether this should be included or removed.

USAID Response: Item I “*Crisis Modifier*” under ANNEX 2 - SUMMARY BUDGET TEMPLATE is not required and therefore deleted from the template.

- b. If it should be included, please advise if there is a specific amount envisioned and if it’s inclusive of related indirect costs.

USAID Response: See response 12.a. above

Question 13: In Section A.3.1, Environmental Compliance Considerations (page 16), the NOFO states that the Kumaliza Project falls under the Positive Youth Development IEE, which includes a Categorical Exclusion and a Negative Determination with Conditions. However, in Section F.4 (page 52), the NOFO indicates that the IEE contains a Positive Determination for activities. Could USAID please confirm that Section A.3.1 and the Positive Youth Development IEE are correct, and there are no Positive Determinations for anticipated activities under this project?

USAID Response: Confirmed.

Section A.3.1 and the Positive Youth Development IEE are accurate. Currently, there are no anticipated activities under this award that would result in a Positive Determination. However, ongoing environmental monitoring is required to ensure that the activities continue to fall under Categorical Exclusion or Negative Determination with conditions.

If any new activities under this award are identified that could significantly impact the environment and lead to a Positive Determination, a full environmental assessment must be completed before those activities can be implemented.

Question 14: In Section F.2.b.i, USAID indicates that annual work plans will be due on May 1st, in accordance with USAID PEB 19-02 for PEPFAR-funded awards. Could USAID please confirm that this will be a 100% PEPFAR-funded project?

USAID Response: No funds allocated to this project are sourced from PEPFAR. Section F.2.b.1 in the NOFO on page 50 reads “The recipient will submit annual work

plans per USAID guidance but no later than May 1st per USAID Procurement Executive Bulletin (PEB) No. 19-02 except for the first year. Other than the first annual work plan, annual work plans implementation begins on October 1 of each year”.

Question 15: Can USAID clarify if font size 10 can be used for headers and footers in all submission documents?

USAID Response: Confirmed. Font size 10 can be used for headers and footers in all submission documents.

Question 16: Can USAID clarify justification preference (left align, justified, etc.) for all submission documents?

USAID Response: USAID prefers left alignment.

Question 17: Can USAID confirm if “Section III – Supporting Information” can include letters of support from entities and organizations outside of the consortium?

USAID response: Yes. Please note that Section III, Supporting Information, is not included in the maximum of 5 pages.

Question 18: Applicants are required to register for a Google account in order to access the documents linked to all regulatory references and other links in the NOFO (e.g. from section 2.4). Is it possible for USAID to make the documents available to applicants without requiring them to register?

USAID response: Please see [Attachments B,C, and D below](#) for the referenced documents. The permission settings have been updated and all links should be publicly available.

Question 19 : The RFA states on pg. 26 that “All Concept Papers must be prepared and submitted in English using the provided Concept Paper Template (see Attachment A) on www.grants.gov.” The link in the RFA does not work. And the attachment within the RFA includes sections only and not a template. Can USAID share the required template with applicants?

USAID response: Applicants are required to use the outline provided in ANNEX 1: CONCEPT PAPER TEMPLATE (Page 57 of the RFA). No additional templates will be needed at this time.

Question 20:The RFA states on pg. 57 that “The main body of the Concept Paper (sections II and III) must not exceed 5 pages (+1-page cover page + a 1-page notional budget template).” However, on pg. 59 it states that “Sections II of the Concept Paper must not exceed five pages.” Can USAID confirm that Section II only must not exceed five pages? Can USAID confirm that

Section III does not have a pg. limit as multiple letters of commitment will be included in submission?

USAID response: Your understanding is correct. The main body of the Concept Paper should just refer to Section II - Description of Proposed Activity, as indicated. Section III, Supporting Information, is not included in the maximum of 5 pages.

Question 21: The RFA states on pg. 59 that the contact information for proposed partners should be in “spreadsheet format.” Can USAID confirm that a table format in Word/PDF is acceptable?

USAID response: Confirmed. A table format in Word/PDF is acceptable.

Question 22: The RFA explains on pg. 28 that the concept note submission will include a criteria review of management and key personnel. However, the concept note template on pgs. 57-59 do not include a management and key personnel section. Can USAID confirm if management and key personnel will be included in the evaluation criteria? If yes, can USAID confirm if management and key personnel should be included as a separate annex under Section III?

USAID response: Confirmed. Only key personnel should be named in the concept paper, specifically the COP and Deputy COP. They can be included under SECTION II – DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY, as outlined in the provided template. Additional details about key personnel and management can be provided under SECTION III. These details are not subject to the 5-page limit.

Question 23: The RFA states on pg. 22 under substantial involvement, “Concurrence on the substantive provisions of sub-awards (if any).” Can USAID clarify what it defines as “substantive provisions”?

USAID response: It means requirements of this project in regards to scope, funding, and management.

Question 24: The RFA states on pg. 10 that “If students receive financial counseling and support services, sexual and reproductive health counseling and services, and effective school and community services, then they will graduate secondary school with the skills needed to transition to higher education or the workforce.” Can USAID clarify if applicants may propose changes to the development hypothesis statement?

USAID response: Yes, applicants can propose changes.

Question 25: The RFA states on pg. 5 that “The project aims to collaborate with other secondary schools in the region, potentially extending benefits to additional schools and communities beyond the 105 CDSSs through the implementation of the secondary education

expansion strategy.” Can USAID share more about the “secondary expansion strategy” and how this affects the target?

USAID response: The government's secondary expansion strategy focuses on maximizing existing capacity through initiatives like Open Secondary Schools (OSS), double-shifting, and incorporating technology through Open and Distance e-Learning (ODEL) platforms. Additionally, while not a component of the Kumaliza Project, the government's plan includes constructing new school buildings to increase physical space.

Question 26: The RFA states on pg. 5 that “the Kumaliza Project focuses on reaching 27,140 students enrolled in the 105 rural CDSSs that were built with support from the USG.” However, on pg. 10, the RFA states that “by the end of this project, an estimated total of 47,160 students attending the 105 USG-built CDSSs will be reached through a suite of services.” Can USAID clarify this discrepancy?

USAID response: This initial calculation has been updated to include 30 SEED Urban schools. A total of 135 USG-supported CDSSs will be reached by the Kumaliza Project. An estimated 38,699 students will be reached. [See attachment C below.](#)

Question 27: Will the target population also include Standard 8 students that will begin in September 2025, or just the students that are currently enrolled in Form 1-Form 4?

USAID response: The target population will only include enrolled secondary students (Form 1 to Form 4).

Question 28: The RFA states on pg. 3 that “The Kumaliza Project will provide students entering Form 1 in select CDSSs with access to economic, academic, and health support services that will help them overcome major barriers to finishing school and increase overall graduation rates.” Can USAID clarify if the activity is meant to reach all students from Form 1-Form 4?

USAID response: Yes, it is meant to reach all students in the 135 USG-supported CDSSs. The initial school total has been updated to include 30 SEED Urban schools. A total of 135 USG-supported CDSSs will be reached by the Kumaliza Project. [See attachment C below.](#)

Question 29: The RFA states on pg. 3 that “47 percent of students in the final grade of primary school transition into secondary school.” Can USAID confirm that this activity is not intended to address transition challenges of primary students into secondary school?

USAID response: This activity is focused solely on students who have already enrolled in secondary school.

Question 30: Is the Kumaliza Project expected to deliver remediation support/classes only to new entrants to CDSSs or to all Form 1-Form 4 students in CDSSs (RFA pg. 14)?

USAID response: The Kumaliza Project will provide remediation support to Form 1 students enrolled in CDSSs. This support helps ensure that all students, regardless of their primary school background, start secondary school with a similar level of knowledge and skills. The Implementing Partner (IP) is welcome to propose additional academic interventions or remediation in their Concept Paper submission if desired, though it is not required and is not a core element of the envisioned program.

Question 31: The RFA on pg. 7 mentions the delivery of Life Skills Education (LSE) through the PROPEL Health project. The RFA on pg. 8 mentions UNESCO Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum as a curriculum that “supports the delivery of high-quality LSE that empowers adolescents and young people...” It states that this is in a pilot phase and will replace the LSE implemented by the MoE. Is the LSE curriculum referred to under PROPEL Health project the same as the UNESCO CSE curriculum that is in a pilot phase? Is the Kumaliza Project expected to scale up the piloted UNESCO CSE curriculum to the 29 districts?

USAID response: The UNESCO CSE curriculum is now integrated into the Life Skills Education (LSE) framework, which is school-based and part of the national curriculum. The PROPEL Health project is distinct from the UNESCO CSE curriculum and does not have a direct connection to school-based activities. The Kumaliza Project is not expected to scale up the PROPEL Health LSE but may be involved in expanding the piloted UNESCO CSE curriculum within the targeted districts.

Question 32: The RFA includes on pg. 20 the illustrative indicator, “Number of children (0-19 years) and youth (10-29) reached with USG assistance.” This appears to be two different indicators. Which one is the illustrative indicator recommended for tracking in the Kumaliza Project?

USAID response: These are illustrative indicators. They can be separated. The Implementing Partner (IP) can propose both standard and custom indicators to measure progress throughout the implementation period. The Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will provide a more detailed set of indicators.

Question 33: The RFA states on pg. 18 that “IPs are strongly encouraged to collaborate, especially in incorporating new USAID fisheries activities.” Can USAID clarify the expectation of collaboration regarding fisheries activities?

USAID response: Implementing Partners (IPs) are encouraged to collaborate with new USAID fisheries initiatives by aligning efforts, sharing resources, and integrating relevant fisheries-related activities where appropriate. This collaboration will take place in the lakeshore districts where the fisheries activity is being conducted. The goal is to ensure

that the benefits of the fisheries program complement the objectives of the Kumaliza Project, particularly in areas where livelihoods and education intersect.

Question 34: The RFA states on pg. 21, “The Kumaliza Project might undergo an external (third party) evaluation funded and managed by USAID, building on the SEED Impact Evaluation, which assessed the initial impact of school construction on education, health, and WASH outcomes.” Can USAID confirm that associated evaluation costs should not be included in applicants’ budget considerations for M&E?

USAID response: Yes, USAID confirms that costs associated with the external evaluation should not be included in applicants’ budget considerations for monitoring and evaluation (M&E). These costs will be covered separately by USAID.

Question 35: Is the report from the 2023 Stakeholder Consultation on CSE available (RFA pg. 8)?

USAID response: Yes, it is available [here](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385849_eng). or use the following web address : https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385849_eng

Question 36: Is the Kumaliza project expected to strengthen the teaching of STEM education in higher education institutions or collaborate with the THES project (RFA pg. 14)?

USAID response: While the primary focus of the Kumaliza Project is on secondary education, there are opportunities for collaboration with higher education institutions, particularly through the USAID Transforming Higher Education Systems (THES) Project. This collaboration may include initiatives like career talks, mentoring, and linking students to higher education pathways, including in STEM fields.

Question 37: P.22, B.4, Title to Property. Can USAID confirm that title to property for U.S. recipients will vest with the recipient in accordance with the property standards in 2 CFR 200.310-316?

USAID response: Confirmed.

Question 38: P.36, Method 3, the MTDC definition states that “MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward.” However, the 2024 Revisions to 2 CFR 200 increased this threshold from \$25,000 to \$50,000 of each subaward. Could USAID revise this?

USAID response: MTDC definition is revised in accordance with the 2024 Interim Standard Provisions on Indirect Costs – De Minimis Rate (August 2024) for the Full Application as follows: “MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward.”

Question 39: P.61, Annex 3, includes hyperlinks to the Interim Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations, however the hyperlinks require access. Could USAID provide these Interim Standard Provisions?

USAID response:The interim provision are accessed to the public on the following links:

[2024 Interim Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations
\(https://storage.googleapis.com/strapi-media-dev/2024 Interim Standard Provisions for US Nongovernmental Organizations 56c0cec2ba/2024 Interim Standard Provisions for US Nongovernmental Organizations 56c0cec2ba.pdf \)](https://storage.googleapis.com/strapi-media-dev/2024%20Interim%20Standard%20Provisions%20for%20US%20Nongovernmental%20Organizations%2056c0cec2ba/2024%20Interim%20Standard%20Provisions%20for%20US%20Nongovernmental%20Organizations%2056c0cec2ba.pdf)

[2024 Interim Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations
\(https://storage.googleapis.com/strapi-media-dev/2024 Interim Standard Provisions for Non US Nongovernmental Organizations 3d0335f223/2024 Interim Standard Provisions for Non US Nongovernmental Organizations 3d0335f223.pdf \)](https://storage.googleapis.com/strapi-media-dev/2024%20Interim%20Standard%20Provisions%20for%20Non-US%20Nongovernmental%20Organizations%203d0335f223/2024%20Interim%20Standard%20Provisions%20for%20Non-US%20Nongovernmental%20Organizations%203d0335f223.pdf)

Question 40: The Concept Paper Template (pg 57), Section II does not include any mention of management and staffing, yet Section C – Concept Paper Merit Review Criteria and Considerations (pg 28) states that concept papers will be reviewed and evaluated on the Management and Personnel plan. Could USAID please confirm that the Management and Key Personnel plan is not required at the concept paper phase, and that concept papers will not be reviewed based on the merit review criteria provided.

USAID response: Management and staffing is required with the concept note and can be submitted as an annex.

Question 41: Could USAID please share more information about any requirements for number of or titles of the Key Personnel or confirm that applicants can propose Key Personnel as they see fit?

USAID response: Applicants should propose key personnel as they deem necessary to achieve their project objectives and results. .

Question 42: Can USAID kindly confirm if they envision that the remedial activities mentioned under IR 3 will occur during or outside of regular school hours/classes, or both?

USAID response: The remedial activities for Form 1 students outlined under IR 3 may take place both during and outside of regular school hours. Implementation will remain flexible to accommodate the needs of students and the capacity of schools to deliver these services effectively.

Question 43: Could USAID kindly confirm if the external evaluator will only be responsible for the endline evaluation, thus bidders should plan to conduct the baseline and midterm evaluations?

USAID response: The external evaluator will be responsible for conducting the endline evaluation only. Applicants/Bidders are expected to include provisions in their plans and budgets for conducting both the baseline and midterm evaluations.

Question 44: Given the large number of initiatives USAID has listed in the NOFO as requiring coordination with, does USAID prioritize significant collaboration with any selected initiatives in this list?

USAID response: USAID encourages collaboration across all listed initiatives, with a priority on those that align closely with the Kumaliza Project's objectives. This includes initiatives such as DREAMS, PEPFAR, and the SEED Project, which are focused on education, health, and cross-sectoral impacts. Additionally, USAID highlights synergies with new fisheries activities, family planning, and WASH programs, all of which play a crucial role in enhancing the project's impact on secondary education.

Question 45: On page 5 of the RFA USAID states the "The Kumaliza Project focuses on reaching 27,140 students enrolled in the 105 rural CDSSs" but then on page 10 it states, "By the end of this project, an estimated total of 47,160 students attending the 105 USG-built CDSSs will be reached through a suite of services that help them graduate and find success in higher education or a career." Can USAID please confirm the assumptions behind the larger total of 47,160 students and where they come from?

USAID response: Please see the response to question 26.

Question 46: On page 57 of the RFA it requests applicants to include a "Proposed Period of Performance". Given that USAID states on page 22 "The anticipated period of performance is 4 years. The start date will be dependent upon the timeline in which negotiations and necessary responsibility determinations will be completed.", can USAID please confirm if applicants need to include a period of performance? If so, can USAID please provide more guidance on the information we should propose?

USAID response: Yes, applicants should include a proposed period of performance in their submission. While USAID has outlined an anticipated 4-year period of performance, applicants are encouraged to propose a timeline that reflects realistic implementation phases, considering factors such as startup time, key milestones, and project completion. Applicants should also take into account possible delays related to negotiations or other preparatory activities.

Question 47: On page 3 and page 4, USAID references that the activity should focus on providing services to students entering Form 1 in select CDSSs. Can USAID please confirm that while the initial focus should be on new students entering Form 1, that interventions should also include support to those in later Forms, especially in out years of the project to ensure the project meets the goal of increased graduation rates?

USAID response: Please see response to question 30.

Question 48: Page 47, b) Criterion 2: Management Plan and Key Personnel, “Key Personnel will be evaluated on the extent to which they meet the requirements listed in Section B.3, Substantial Involvement, and demonstrate the ability to successfully and effectively implement the project.” However, Section B.3 on page 22 does not contain requirements for Key Personnel. Could USAID please share requirements and evaluation criteria for Key Personnel?

USAID response: This aspect will be thoroughly evaluated upon submission of a full application. Only a select group of applicants will be invited to submit the full application following the concept paper stage. Additional details will be provided at that time.

Question 49: What is the expected coverage for participating institutions? Specifically, how many schools will each institution be responsible for covering during the course of the project?

USAID response: Each institution will be responsible for covering the 135 CDSSs built with USG support across all education districts except Likoma. The coverage strategy may include collaborating with other secondary schools in the region to extend benefits and services beyond these 135 CDSSs as part of the secondary education expansion strategy.

The initial school total has been updated to include 30 SEED Urban schools. A total of 135 USG-supported CDSSs will be reached by the Kumaliza Project. Please find a breakdown of the numbers in [Attachment C below](#).

Question 50: Under Section III, section 2 Contact Information, please may you clarify what is intended by “spreadsheet format” given the request for the brief description of previous work and experience. Since the Section 2 will be included into a single PDF document with other requested content, please advise if a table containing the requested information is acceptable.

Supporting info from the NOFO:

On page 59, for guidance under Section III: 2. Contact Information, the NOFO states, “Provide contact information for all the core partners in spreadsheet format. Include organization, point of contact name, title, email, and phone numbers, as well as a brief description of each prospective partner’s previous work and experience.”

On page 57, the NOFO states, “If possible, all materials, including the notional budget, should be sent as a single PDF document.”

USAID response: Contact Information and Budget information should be submitted in a table format in Word/PDF and can be submitted as an annex to the concept paper.

Question 51: What is intended by the term “community partner” under the localized partnership approach? Is this a reference to a local entity as per USAID definition, or is it intended to refer to the smaller community-based organizations working in specific geographic areas? If possible, we request more guidance with regards to the referenced “localized partnership approach”.

Supporting info from the NOFO:

On page 29 under the Localized partnership approach: “Extent to which the proposed interventions demonstrate a commitment to engaging community partners throughout concept development, activity design, and implementation—prioritizing sub-awards to local entities or partners, fostering balanced collaboration, and empowering local actors in leadership roles while building their capacity.”

USAID response: The term "community partner" under the localized partnership approach refers to both local entities as defined by USAID and smaller community-based organizations working within specific geographic areas. The localized partnership approach emphasizes engaging local actors, including community-based organizations, to ensure that solutions are contextually relevant and sustainable. These partnerships prioritize leadership roles for local entities in project implementation while building their capacity, fostering collaboration, and empowering communities to take ownership of their development initiatives.

Question 52: Does the referenced “financial assistance” under IR 1 include monetary assistance and/or using grant funds to finance bursaries and scholarships?

Supporting info from the NOFO:

“The Kumaliza Project will offer financial assistance to students in need by enhancing the beneficiary identification and tracking system at the school and household level. This will ensure that more financially disadvantaged students can access bursaries and scholarships.” (pg. 11)

USAID response: Under IR 1, "financial assistance" does not primarily include direct monetary support to students or the use of grant funds for bursaries or scholarships. The focus is on identifying and connecting students with existing scholarships, bursaries, and other financial support mechanisms from community organizations, local entities, and non-grant-funded sources. However, if it is determined that direct bursaries are necessary, they may be provided minimally. The project will continue to strengthen systems for identifying beneficiaries and linking them to external financial assistance programs.

Question 53: In Section 2.2 TARGET POPULATION (p. 5), USAID states that the Kumaliza Project will focus on reaching “27,140 students enrolled in the 105 rural CDSSs that were built with support from the USG.” Later, in section 2.5.3. EXPECTED RESULTS (p.10), USAID states that by the end of this project, “an estimated total of 47,160 students attending the 105 USG-built CDSSs will be reached...”. Could USAID please clarify the number of student cohorts, the number of students per cohort, and the total number of students it expects the Kumaliza Project will reach in 4 years?

USAID response: Please see the response to question 26.

Question 54: Could USAID kindly provide access to the findings of the 2022 USAID Malawian Youth Landscape Study mentioned on page 4, Section A.2.1 of the RFA (BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM ANALYSIS)?

USAID response: This study is not publicly available at this time.

Question 55: In Section A.4.4 USE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS), page 21, USAID provides a link to a “SEED Project Sites” Google Sheets document that can only be accessed with approval from the document owner. Could USAID kindly facilitate access to the SEED Project Sites document for all interested applicants?

USAID response: The SEED Project Sites GIS information is added as [Attachment D to this Amendment](#). See below.

Question 56: Section B.3.7 Substantial Involvement (page 22) states the “Agency’s authority to immediately halt a construction activity (if any), if the recipient does not meet detailed performance specifications (for example, construction specifications)”. Section E.D.9. Funding Restrictions (page 44) states that “Construction may only be authorized under this award in accordance with USAID’s Automated Directive System 303maw entitled –‘USAID Implementation of Construction Activities’ Mandatory Standard Provision (entitled “LIMITING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AUGUST 2013)” will be included in the resultant awards.” Would USAID please confirm that there is no construction anticipated under this award?

USAID response: USAID confirms that there is no construction anticipated under this award.

Question 57: Please can USAID provide the full list of the 105 schools that will be engaged through this project, and their education districts?

USAID response: The SEED rural and urban sites are added as [Attachment D below](#). Kumaliza will work with all 119 schools on this list. Additionally, AMAA has built 11 schools: five in Machinga (Mkotamo, Matanda, Kayuni, Ntalala, and Mwalasi) and six in Balaka (Mzimundilinde, Namichere, Chilanga, Mapo, Namikombe, and Njerenje). The

World Food Program (WFP) built five schools located in Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Nsanje, and Chikwawa. Please see the response to question 26 for more information.

The initial school total has been updated to include 30 SEED Urban schools. A total of 135 USG-supported CDSSs will be reached by the Kumaliza Project. [See Attachment C for the breakdown.](#)

Question 58: On Page 4, the NOFO states “The Kumaliza Project will provide students entering Form 1 in select CDSSs with access to economic, academic, and health support services that will help them overcome major barriers to finishing school and increase overall graduation rates.” Please can USAID clarify if the project will focus on the same cohort of Form 1 students over the four years of the project (i.e. the same group of students over their secondary school time, until they graduate in Form 4), or if the project will focus on Form 1 students only for four years (new cohorts each year)?

USAID response: The project will focus on supporting all students present in one of the 135 USG-supported CDSSs, not just Form 1 students. While each new cohort of Form 1 students will receive targeted interventions as they enter, the project will also extend support to all students enrolled in these schools throughout the four-year period, ensuring that every student is connected with the economic, academic, and health services needed to graduate.

Question 59: I write to find out if XXXX is eligible to apply for the Kumaliza Maphunziro a Sekondale Project call. XXXXX is an independent and autonomous institution registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act. It accesses funds from the government, nonprofit institutions (national and international) and the private sector. While mindful that the deadline for making enquiries is past, we still need to have this information.

USAID response: Eligibility for this RFA is not restricted. Applicants must provide all information as required in the RFA.

End of Attachment A

Attachment B: DREAMS Layering Table

DREAMS Layering Table

	Package of interventions	AGYW Age Groups (years)		
		10-14	15-19	20-24
INDIVIDUAL	Primary Individual Interventions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Asset Building (My DREAMS! My Choice! - including OGAC violence prevention modules) 2. Financial Literacy 3. Screening for HTS 4. Contraceptive Information 5. Condom Information 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Asset Building (My DREAMS! My Choice!) 2. Financial Literacy 3. Screening for HTS 4. Contraceptive Education 5. PrEP Education 6. Condom Education 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Asset Building (My DREAMS! My Choice!) 2. Financial Literacy 3. Screening for HTS 4. Contraceptive Education 5. PrEP Education 6. Condom Education
	Secondary Individual Interventions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HIV/violence prevention (IMpower) 2. Condom Provision 3. HTS 4. Education Support 5. Parenting for caregivers (Families Matter Program, Sinovuyo) 6. Contraceptives 7. Clinical services (post violence care, STI screening and treatment) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HTS 2. Condom Provision 3. Contraceptive mix 4. Education Support 5. Economic Strengthening (VSL, Siyakha, Hybrid Siyakha) 6. PrEP Screening and provision 7. Clinical Services (post violence care, STI screening and treatment, PrEP, ANC, long term contraceptives) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HTS 2. Condom Provision 3. Contraceptive mix 4. Education Support 5. Economic Strengthening (VSL, Siyakha, Hybrid Siyakha) 6. PrEP Screening and provision 7. Clinical Services (post violence care, STI screening and treatment, PrEP, ANC, long term contraceptives)
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. HIV/Violence Prevention (IMpower) 	
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Parenting for care givers (FMP, Sinovuyo?) 	
CONTEXTUAL	Contextual Level Interventions	DREAMS SNUs		
		SASA!, SASA Faith Coaching Boys into Men, IMpower		

Attachment C: SEED Student Numbers

The Kumaliza Project Projected Student Reach

SEED Rural at Full Capacity

4 classrooms per school x 60 seats per classroom = 240 students per school

89 schools x 240 students per school at full capacity = **Estimated 21,230 students reached**

SEED Urban

30 schools

<u>District</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Students</u>
Lilongwe Urban	Chigoneka	669
Lilongwe Urban	Chilambula	270
Lilongwe Urban	Chilinde	358
Lilongwe Urban	Chinkhuti	788
Lilongwe Urban	Chisamba	307
Lilongwe Urban	Chiwoko	403
Lilongwe Urban	Falls	458
Lilongwe Urban	Kaliyeka	280
Lilongwe Urban	Kamuzu Barracks	829
Lilongwe Urban	Kawale	334
Lilongwe Urban	Mbvunguti	428
Lilongwe Urban	Njewa	415
Lilongwe Urban	Tsabango	1070
Mzuzu	Lupaso	444
Mzuzu	Masasa	286
Mzuzu	Mchengautuba	711
Mzuzu	Moyale (Barracks)	270
Zomba Urban	Chilunga	496

Zomba Urban	Cobbe Barracks	793
Zomba Urban	Sadzi	431
Blantyre Urban	Bangwe	435
Blantyre Urban	Catholic Institute	464
Blantyre Urban	Chimwakhunda	312
Blantyre Urban	Chirimba	161
Blantyre Urban	Limbe	313
Blantyre Urban	Mulunguzi	331
Blantyre Urban	Naisi	371
Blantyre Urban	Nyambadwe	346
Blantyre Urban	South Lunzu	299
Zomba Urban	St. Anthony	557

Total 13,629

WFP (5 schools) + AMA (11 schools) Schools at Full Capacity

4 classrooms per school x 60 seats per classroom = 240 students per school

16 schools x 240 students per school at full capacity = **Estimated 3,840 students reached**

Total number of students reached by the Kumaliza Project in 135 USG-supported CDSSs:

Estimated 38,699 students reached in total

Attachment D: Comprehensive list of SEED Sites

Education District Name	Secondary School Site	Phase	Latitude	Longitude	Completion Date
Blantyre	Nsambamwali	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.49151213	35.02011646	Dec-2022
Blantyre	Bondo	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.66608221	35.08075217	Dec-2022
Blantyre	Mchenga	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.70982201	34.85784546	Dec-2022
Blantyre	Ng'onga	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.55023433	35.0243844	Dec-2022
Blantyre Urban	Bangwe	SEED Urban	-15.81921389	35.08725556	Jan. 2021
Blantyre Urban	Catholic Institute	SEED Urban	-15.80541944	34.99997222	Jan. 2021
Blantyre Urban	Chimwakhunda	SEED Urban	-15.82824722	35.01298056	Jan. 2021
Blantyre Urban	Chirimba	SEED Urban	-15.74420833	35.01868611	Jan. 2021
Blantyre Urban	Limbe	SEED Urban	-15.81976111	35.05293333	Jan. 2021
Blantyre Urban	Mulunguzi	SEED Urban	-15.76291389	34.98905833	Jan. 2021
Blantyre Urban	Naisi	SEED Urban	-15.83987778	35.08920833	Jan. 2021
Blantyre Urban	Nyambadwe	SEED Urban	-15.77215278	35.02928056	Jan. 2021
Blantyre Urban	South Lunzu	SEED Urban	-15.72033056	35.07790556	Jan. 2021
Chikwawa	Kandeu	SEED Rural Group 2	-15.869387	34.775698	~Mar. 2024
Chikwawa	Therere	SEED Rural Group 2	-16.375086	34.684433	~Mar. 2024
Chiradzulu	Namitembe	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.9202646	35.30132045	Dec-2022
Chiradzulu	Mthawira	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.65031263	35.24211254	Dec-2022
Chitipa	Karopa	SEED Rural Group 2	-10.215084	33.653851	~Dec. 2023
Chitipa	Mulembe	SEED Rural Group 2	-10.043215	33.368531	~Dec. 2023
Chitipa	Chuba	SEED Rural Group 2	-9.659218	33.481744	~Dec. 2023
Chitipa	Muselema	SEED Rural Group 2	-9.707298	33.317203	~Dec. 2023
Dedza	Nthulu	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.314335	34.165862	~Dec. 2023
Dedza	Bolera Chiwina	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.336952	34.551382	~Dec. 2023
Dedza	Mwalawang'ombe	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.441107	34.119557	~Dec. 2023
Dowa	Mwangala	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.504399	33.915676	~Mar. 2024
Dowa	Chunzu	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.7304334	33.8678225	~Mar. 2024
Karonga	Ipyana	SEED Rural Group 2	-9.983451	33.903957	~Dec. 2023
Karonga	Mayoka	SEED Rural Group 2	-9.6856647	33.8293389	~Dec. 2023
Karonga	Bundi	SEED Rural Group 2	-10.5147633	34.1818359	~Dec. 2023
Kasungu	Kambira	SEED Rural Group 2	-12.822512	33.789091	~Dec. 2023
Kasungu	Mpapa	SEED Rural Group 2	-12.692384	33.332234	~Dec. 2023
Lilongwe Rural East	Madzimulima	SEED Rural Group 1	-14.03912878	33.83944394	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural East	Mphesi	SEED Rural Group 1	-14.1766801	33.83754467	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural East	Mkhosi	SEED Rural Group 1	-14.01571068	34.0922974	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural East	Kachumbazi	SEED Rural Group 1	-13.88256843	34.00661653	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural East	Mpemba	SEED Rural Group 1	-14.2307801	33.84066611	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural West	Khasu	SEED Rural Group 1	-13.802769	33.300252	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural West	Mzuzi	SEED Rural Group 1	-13.9348158	33.3437478	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural West	Chiputu	SEED Rural Group 1	-14.17647494	33.47817069	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural West	Mwala	SEED Rural Group 1	-13.68805814	33.35631656	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Rural West	Kambalame	SEED Rural Group 1	-13.7395969	33.47182016	Dec-2022
Lilongwe Urban	Chigoneka	SEED Urban	-13.95308889	33.75063611	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Chilambula	SEED Urban	-13.97393333	33.76694167	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Chilinde	SEED Urban	-13.99504444	33.81333056	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Chinkhuti	SEED Urban	-13.75487222	33.80883889	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Chisamba	SEED Urban	-13.98447222	33.80124722	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Chiwoko	SEED Urban	-13.99068611	33.80850278	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Falls	SEED Urban	-14.00854167	33.78006667	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Kaliyeka	SEED Urban	-14.00480556	33.80763056	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Kamuzu Barracks	SEED Urban	-13.98764167	33.82124722	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Kawale	SEED Urban	-13.98809722	33.80137222	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Mbvunguti	SEED Urban	-13.89510556	33.758375	Dec. 2020
Lilongwe Urban	Njewa	SEED Urban	-13.97885	33.69876667	Dec. 2020

Lilongwe Urban	Tsabango	SEED Urban	-14.008025	33.79216389	Dec. 2020
Mangochi	Lulanga	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.694096	34.911146	~Dec. 2023
Mangochi	Mtimabi	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.598037	35.098879	~Dec. 2023
Mangochi	Mandimba	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.426442	35.6190054	~Dec. 2023
Mangochi	Luwalika	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.2546326	35.4411937	~Dec. 2023
Mangochi	Mkombe	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.340538	34.955583	~Dec. 2023
Mchinji	Lipunga	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.580696	32.791016	~Mar. 2024
Mchinji	Fanuel	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.503311	33.034733	~Mar. 2024
Mchinji	Gumulira	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.018717	33.051122	~Mar. 2024
Mchinji	Kazira	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.710049	33.259841	~Mar. 2024
Mulanje	Nachimango	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.82994964	35.39025497	Dec-2022
Mulanje	Thawale	SEED Rural Group 1	-16.06953882	35.52143114	Dec-2022
Mulanje	Samson	SEED Rural Group 2	-15.9644255	35.4764865	~Mar. 2024
Mwanza	Mphete	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.63790574	34.58259371	Dec-2022
Mwanza	Kanjedza	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.53948834	34.49704503	Dec-2022
Mzimba North	Endlogloweni	SEED Rural Group 1	-11.30118401	33.88330972	~Aug. 2023
Mzimba North	Kalanga	SEED Rural Group 1	-11.2497	33.442408	~Aug. 2023
Mzimba North	Khuyu	SEED Rural Group 1	-11.1485	33.699739	~Aug. 2023
Mzimba North	Kavitengo	SEED Rural Group 1	-11.68493809	33.67733508	~Aug. 2023
Mzimba South	Malinyete	SEED Rural Group 1	-11.6989076	33.49114152	~Aug. 2023
Mzimba South	Mjinge	SEED Rural Group 1	-11.9389	33.358283	~Aug. 2023
Mzimba South	Vibangalala	SEED Rural Group 1	-12.2388	33.485017	~Aug. 2023
Mzimba South	Machelechete	SEED Rural Group 1	-11.9884	33.67112	~Aug. 2023
Mzuzu	Lupaso	SEED Urban	-11.40419444	33.98541667	Jan. 2021
Mzuzu	Masasa	SEED Urban	-11.47795278	34.01032222	Jan. 2021
Mzuzu	Mchengautuba	SEED Urban	-11.45788889	33.974525	Jan. 2021
Mzuzu	Moyale(Barracks)	SEED Urban	-11.4557	34.0396	Jan. 2021
Neno	Chitimbe	SEED Rural Group 2	-15.45506	34.52736	~Dec. 2023
Neno	Dzundu	SEED Rural Group 2	-15.443973	34.845683	~Dec. 2023
Neno	Mlindi	SEED Rural Group 2	-15.556265	34.625002	~Dec. 2023
Neno	Chiwambe	SEED Rural Group 2	-15.333547	34.710085	~Dec. 2023
Nkhatabay	Bula	SEED Rural Group 2	-11.220496	34.11543	~Dec. 2023
Nkhatabay	Makumbo	SEED Rural Group 2	-12.192571	33.744181	~Dec. 2023
Nkhatabay	Kanyazuka	SEED Rural Group 2	-11.5952472	34.0352064	~Dec. 2023
Nkhotakota	Mpamantha	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.0963494	34.2491188	~Dec. 2023
Nkhotakota	Lupachi	SEED Rural Group 2	-12.321829	33.777071	~Dec. 2023
Nkhotakota	Chilimani	SEED Rural Group 2	-12.853307	34.19012	~Dec. 2023
Nkhotakota	Kasipa	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.444631	34.239544	~Dec. 2023
Nsanje	Bambala	SEED Rural Group 2	-17.018063	35.085502	~Mar. 2024
Nsanje	Bwangu	SEED Rural Group 2	-16.764443	35.047123	~Mar. 2024
Ntcheu	Kalira	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.404494	34.738989	~Dec. 2023
Ntcheu	Tambala	SEED Rural Group 2	-14.737694	34.855316	~Dec. 2023
Ntcheu	Mokhotho	SEED Rural Group 2	-15.189989	34.824165	~Dec. 2023
Ntchisi	Mpheza	SEED Rural Group 1	-13.22807895	34.01785624	Dec-2022
Ntchisi	Masokole	SEED Rural Group 1	-13.22892377	33.83810423	Dec-2022
Ntchisi	Kaulatsitsi	SEED Rural Group 1	-13.4194457	33.90470898	Dec-2022
Ntchisi	Chibweya	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.508288	34.043171	~Dec. 2023
Phalombe	Mauzi	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.71210725	35.80961313	Jan-2023
Phalombe	Mthundu	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.73971666	35.56171925	Dec-2022
Rumphi	Bale	SEED Rural Group 2	-10.818896	34.106413	~Dec. 2023
Rumphi	Matunkha	SEED Rural Group 2	-11.083663	33.697195	~Dec. 2023
Salima	Michulu	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.526323	34.164449	~Dec. 2023
Salima	Khotekhote	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.68686	34.193279	~Dec. 2023
Salima	Chinguluwe	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.670413	34.383887	~Dec. 2023
Salima	Demera	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.81144	34.508209	~Dec. 2023
Salima	Mkanga	SEED Rural Group 2	-13.853646	34.418485	~Dec. 2023
Thyolo	Katole	SEED Rural Group 1	-16.38600856	35.2350304	Dec-2022
Thyolo	Thangadzuwa	SEED Rural Group 1	-16.10494963	35.17213397	Dec-2022

Thyolo	Mulonda	SEED Rural Group 2	-16.21558	35.2904	~Mar. 2024
Zomba	Namitoso	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.239711	35.452307	Dec-2022
Zomba	Makongwa	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.2554282	35.14212866	Jan-2023
Zomba	Muhasuwa	SEED Rural Group 1	-15.49208024	35.60018891	Dec-2022
Zomba Urban	Chilunga	SEED Urban	-15.38053611	35.33911389	Jan. 2021
Zomba Urban	Cobbe Barracks	SEED Urban	-15.39005556	35.31280833	Jan. 2021
Zomba Urban	Sadzi	SEED Urban	-15.40739167	35.31526111	Jan. 2021
Zomba Urban	St. Anthony	SEED Urban	-15.49997778	35.22264722	Jan. 2021

[END OF AMENDMENT ONE]