

Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) Activity Request for Applications (RFA) No. 002

Issuance Date: December 1, 2020

Dear Applicant:

The USAID-funded Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) Activity, implemented by Chemonics International, is seeking grant applications for implementation of the “The ARE Agriculture Grand Challenge” intervention.

ARE intends to award one or more grants that will be implemented in accordance with USAID and US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and ARE’s internal grant management policies.

The activity will hold a pre-application virtual workshop on *December 18, 2020* on MS Team from *10AM* to *12PM*. This workshop will allow eligible and interested applicants the chance to ask questions about the RFA and receive guidance on how to complete the application form. Interested applicants that meet the eligibility requirements defined in Section III below and would like to attend this workshop must confirm their attendance by sending the participant’s name and the organization’s name to grants@lebanonare.org. Up to two persons may attend from each organization. No reimbursement for costs of attendance will be met. Applicants may also submit questions to grants@lebanonare.org prior to the virtual workshop. The deadline for confirming attendance of the pre-application workshop and submission of clarification questions is *Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5PM*.

Applications are due not later than 05:00 pm Beirut time on January 12, 2021 (extended from January 05, 2021). Only electronic submissions to grants@lebanonare.org will be accepted. No hard copy applications will be accepted.

Activity and Chemonics employees may not ask for, and applicants are prohibited from offering, any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation to obtain or reward improper favorable treatment regarding this solicitation. Any improper request from an activity employee should be reported to the chief of party or BusinessConduct@chemonics.com.

Annexes included with this Request for Applications:

- **Annex A** - Grant Application Form
- **Annex B** – Grant Application Budget Form
- **Annex C** – Implementation Timeline
- **Annex D** – Required Certifications & Applicant Self-Assessment Form
- **Annex E** – Mandatory and Required as Applicable Standard Provisions (please refer to the links below)
 - Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mat.pdf>
 - Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303maa.pdf>
- **Annex F** – Vetting Information Form

SECTION I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

IA. OBJECTIVE

ARE intends to award one grant to a Lebanese partner organization to implement the ARE Agriculture Grand Challenge. “The ARE Agriculture Grand Challenge” is an annual competition that seeks to address pressing problems in Lebanon’s agri-food and agriculture sectors that can lead to tangible improvements in income and productivity for individuals and companies across the value chain. The activity will be implemented by a Lebanese partner organization and the challenge competition shall exclusively focus on registered Lebanese companies that have a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) that addresses a challenge that the agricultural sector in Lebanon is currently facing. Section IC lists two illustrative pre-determined but not exhaustive objectives, opportunities, and subsequent problems, stated below. Applicants are encouraged to submit additional themes and objectives as they see fit. The Challenge will be held annually starting in the spring of 2021 and will run for two years (2 cycles), with an optional third year.

IB. BACKGROUND

The USAID-funded Lebanon Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) Activity, implemented by Chemonics International, aims to develop rural economies in Lebanon through support to the agri-food sector and other industries to unlock local and export sales potential while also creating jobs and increasing farmers’ and worker’s incomes. ARE has three main objectives:

Objective 1: Increase Domestic and Export Sales

Objective 2: Increase Access to Financial Resources

Objective 3: Improve Productivity of MSMEs

IC. DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Overview:

Lebanon has shown incredible resilience since the end of its civil war, through recent events such as the Arab Spring and the Syrian armed conflict, which resulted in an influx of refugees and significant shifts in agricultural trading. However, the past year has dramatically changed the country’s economic and political outlook. Thousands of jobs and livelihoods in urban and rural communities are at risk — disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, who often rely on the agricultural sector to survive.

The current economic crisis has driven many former residents back to their villages in search of livelihood opportunities, as many have either lost their jobs or seen the purchasing power of their salaries drastically reduced and can no longer afford the living expenses in cities. As a result, many people have turned to agriculture as one of the few opportunities for generating income and addressing basic needs. Or in many cases as an additional resource to their devaluated salaries.

In addition to the rising costs of imported goods, farmers who once relied on credit for accessing inputs such as seeds and fertilizers suddenly find credit unavailable. This has resulted in less production, e.g. cucumbers along the coast, and rising food prices as demand outstrips supply. Without the solutions to lower production costs, increase productivity, or improve access to credit and finance, the situation will put farmers, especially smaller growers in a dire situation.

Problem statement:

Farmers and agri-food processors need inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, packaging, supplies and equipment, but are unable to buy them due to rising costs of imported goods to the lira devaluation coupled with the inability to obtain credit due to bank restrictions. This has led to decreasing production, lower incomes, and higher food prices which disproportionally affects lower income and rural populations.

Suggested intervention:

Within the framework of ARE Objectives 2 and 3, and in order to help alleviate the devastating impact of the current economic situation, the devaluation of the Lebanese Lira, and collapse of the banking sector in Lebanon on agricultural MSMEs–, ARE is proposing an “Agriculture Grand Challenge” to be implemented in partnership with a Lebanese partner organization (the “Partner”). The Partner will propose the approach and illustrate the competition process for one of the below potential Challenge(s) or suggest a new theme along with sound justification for the theme’s selection. Therefore, any proposed theme shall be evidence-based and include both the market opportunity and the problem to be solved.

The ARE Grand Challenge will be managed and implemented by the Partner in close collaboration with the USAID/ARE team. The format and theme(s) for the challenges shall be proposed by the local implementer, with any value-added services to USAID-ARE and participants of the intervention clearly articulated in the proposal. It is preferable for the challenge to focus on established SME’s (not startups, but early-stage companies with MVP(s) would be eligible) and to be inclusive of key stakeholders in the Lebanese ecosystem, such as but not limited to business innovation centers, investment boards, incubators, accelerators, and venture capital firms.

It is envisioned that three (3) to five (5) SMEs (winners) will be awarded in-kind grants with a total maximum prize pool of up to USD100,000 each cycle. The prize amounts will be directly granted by ARE, however, the local implementing partner shall suggest how the prize money shall be allocated (e.g. number of winners) the timing and period(s), and any suggested interim deliverables for prospective winners/grantees. The prize money will be in kind, and not cash. Working capital awards will not be allowed.

Illustrative examples of Challenge themes could include:

1. Food Security

Challenge Objective: Creating scalable commercialized innovations (products and/or services) to service the trend of agricultural self-sufficiency and strengthen food security among Lebanese residents.

Opportunity: Over the past year, there has been a marked increase in small scale agricultural production from households that have not traditionally been part of the agriculture sector in order to help mitigate the combination of economic collapse, currency devaluation leading to unemployment, and dramatic inflation on basic food stuffs, in addition to other compounding constraints. Addressing problems faced by the thousands of new hobbyist farmers through scalable, innovative products and services is a clear commercial opportunity for firms.

Problems to be addressed by the Challenge:

- Time management – Hobbyists, not full-time farmers. Many have other jobs.
- Agricultural input sourcing – sourcing of good quality inputs is becoming more challenging.

- Skills gap - Farming out of necessity, and many do not have more than basic agricultural knowledge.
- Cost and financing – Seeds, packaging and other inputs are mostly imported and pegged to the dollar. Commercial financing is not available.
- Water, water management, and irrigation – Many of these plots do not have reliable access to water.
- Storage (dry and cold) – Power cuts make storage of agricultural products, dairy, fruits, and vegetables risky.
- Selling/Market access – For small producers, the cost of transporting and selling small production outweighs the income generated. Many do not understand how the agricultural sector works, especially for selling.

2. Competitiveness and Productivity

Challenge Objective: Creating scalable, cost-efficient commercial products or services to help reduce production costs associated with imported inputs and supplies for agricultural and agri-food products.

Opportunity: Over the past year, the Lebanese Lira has depreciated by over 80% against the dollar making imported agricultural and agri-food inputs and supplies much more expensive. This is leading to increased financing challenges especially for producers that sell their products in the local market that are seeing their selling costs increase and profit margins decrease.

For example, packaging costs for bottles and jars have increased to the point that in many cases such as juice, the costs of packaging outweigh the actual raw material costs.

An opportunity exists for firms to develop products and services to dramatically reduce the costs of input supplies. This includes not only locally produced supplies, but initiatives that help in reuse or mass purchasing of inputs.

Problems that may be addressed by the Challenge:

- Capital and energy intensive – Producing packaging such as glass and bottles is capital and energy intensive and requires tens of millions of dollars of investment and running costs.
- Very little waste sorting exists therefore reusable packaging is generally mixed with household waste and discarded.
- Inputs such as plastic, especially food grade material that are generally not recyclable for food-use, are imported therefore tied to the dollar.
- Low volume purchasing – Most agri-food producers in Lebanon produce small quantities compared to the minimum order required for bulk purchase discounts. Therefore, they pay more per unit than foreign competitors or large companies and do not capture economies of scale.

3. Who is eligible to participate in the Agricultural Grand Challenge?

- Companies and formal entities, including non-profits permitted to engage commercial activities. Applicants must meet the following criteria:
- Must be a Lebanese registered company.
- Must have a Minimal Viable Product (MVP).
- Have at least 3 full-time, legally employed staff not including the founders.
- Have at least 500 clients for Business to Consumer (B2C); 20 for Business to Business (B2B)
- Demonstrate a Research and Development (R&D) sponsor/partnership defined as an investment in cash or in kind with a non-profit organization, foundation, research centers, university, or other

commercial entities within the agri-food, agricultural, and industrial sector through a formal agreement e.g. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- Exceptions will be made for applicants that can demonstrate over \$500,000/year in revenue, though such companies must demonstrate internal R&D capacities.

Anticipated Impacts (ARE Results Framework):

According to the expected impact noted above, successful applicants will be required to capture, and report results from this intervention in accordance with the following mandatory indicators. Applicants are advised to align their proposals with the below list of ARE indicators. **Additional indicators may be proposed by the local implementing partner with proposed targets** and ARE reserves the right to require that additional indicators be tracked during negotiation of award(s).

Indicator No./ Reference	Indicator
USAID Lebanon Goal: Economic Opportunity Increased	
Activity goal: Equip agribusiness sector and rural communities with the technical and financial resources to generate increased productivity, sales, and exports, improving producer income	
A.1	Value of new private sector investment leveraged by USG implementation
A.2.	Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created with USG assistance
A.3. Gender	Proportion of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive employment resources
A.4. Youth	Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29)
Activity or Project Sub Purpose: Increase private sector competitiveness and improve livelihoods	
1.	Number of for-profit enterprises, producer organizations, water users' associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance
2.	Number of MSMEs, including farmers, and other organizations benefiting from new horizontal & vertical linkage
3.	Number of people with improved access to financial services as a result of USG assistance
Objective 1	Increased domestic and export sales
4.	Value of incremental sales (domestic and export) collected at firm level as a result of USG assistance
5.	Value of incremental sales (domestic and export) collected at the farm level for small holders as a result of USG assistance
6.	Increase in volume of production attributed to USAID assistance
Objective 2	Increased Access to Financial Resources
7.	Number of people with improved incomes as a result of USG assistance
8.	Total value of commercial loans accessed as result of USG assistance
9.	Number of firms accessing loans with USG assistance
Objective 3	Improve productivity of MSMEs
10.	Number of farmers and microenterprises who have applied improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance
11.	Percentage change in volume of production at the farm level attained as a result of USG assistance
12.	Percent change in cost of production at the farm level attained as a result of USG assistance
13.	Number of smallholders and SME beneficiaries receiving improved extension services

ARE recognizes that some grantees may need technical assistance to carry out the intervention more effectively. Consequently, applicants are encouraged to specify their needs for technical assistance and/or training in their application.

NOTE: The above suggested intervention, components, and illustrative action plan and activities are not exhaustive or restrictive. When, and if applicable, applicants are encouraged to suggest additional interventions and activities and targets that support ARE's objectives and address the problem statement listed above.

ID. AUTHORITY/GOVERNING REGULATIONS

ARE grant awards are made under the authority of the U.S. Foreign Affairs Act and USAID's Advanced Directive System (ADS) 302.3.5.6, "Grants Under Contracts." Awards made to non-U.S. organizations will adhere to guidance provided under [ADS Chapter 303](#), "Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations" and will be within the terms of the USAID Standard Provisions as linked in the annexes, as well as the ARE Activity grants procedures.

ADS 303 references two additional regulatory documents issued by the U.S. Government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the U.S. Agency for International Development:

- 2 CFR 200 [Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Subpart E](#) (U.S. applicants are subject to 2 CFR 200 in its entirety)

Full text of 2 CFR 200 can be found at http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl. ARE is required to ensure that all organizations receiving USAID grant funds comply with the guidance found in the regulations referenced above, as applicable to the respective terms and conditions of their grant awards.

Under the ARE grant program, USAID retains the right at all times to terminate, in whole or in part, ARE grant-making authorities.

SECTION II. AWARD INFORMATION

The final number of awards made, and their value will be dependent upon grant interventions proposed and final negotiation with the successful applicant(s) and may be lower or higher than that range. The implementation budget proposed should be proportional to the challenge prize pool amount (\$100,000 per cycle) stated above, and clearly demonstrate cost effectiveness as defined in the merit review criteria. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be no more than two base years and an optional third year. The estimated start date for grants awarded under this solicitation will be by the end of January 2021. The grant type will be determined during the negotiation process based on assessment of the capacity of the selected applicant(s), the proposed interventions, and the needs and requirements of ARE. ARE will be awarding and managing grants in adherence with ADS 302.3.4.13 Grants Under Contract (GUCs), ADS 303 and 2 CFR 200, Subpart E for non-U.S. grantees as well as Chemonics' policies and procedures.

ARE under this RFA considers the possibility of renewing awards (as per ADS 303.3.24a) for a third year, funding of any renewal period or expansion of activities is contingent on the following:

- Availability of funds;
- Satisfactory progress towards meeting the award objectives;

- Submittal of required reports; and
- Compliance with the terms and conditions of the award, including the conditions for renewal which are:
 - ✓ The grantee has met performance and progress in a satisfactory way and still merits support;
 - ✓ Program activities are still relevant to ARE's objectives;
 - ✓ The renewal will support either the same work, or work that is within the programmatic activities of the current award or is closely related to the current programmatic activities;
 - ✓ The renewal supports the same long-term goal, with new specific targets, milestones, outputs, or indicators;
 - ✓ The grantee meets the required risk-assessment requirements; and
 - ✓ On ARE's request, the grantee submits a renewal application within three months prior to the grant's end date. That application will be reviewed and evaluated. Successful applications will be negotiated by ARE before being submitted to USAID for approval. The evaluation criteria for the renewal application will be the same as the ones listed in Section V- Application Merit Review Criteria
 - ✓ The renewal application will follow a similar format than the initial application submitted under this RFA (RFA#002).

SECTION III. ELIGIBILITY

IIIA. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

- Applicants must be a registered Lebanese non-government or private organization formally constituted, recognized by and in good standing with appropriate Lebanese authorities, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations. Private companies must be majority Lebanese owned and operated (minimum 51% Lebanese ownership).
- Applicants may only submit one application per prime organization under this RFA.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of integrated development programs related to ARE's priority areas.
- Applicants must have established outreach capabilities with linkages to the beneficiary group(s) identified in the program description. This should be reflected by the incorporation of the beneficiary perspective in the application.
- Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. ARE will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.
- The following are required to be submitted as part of the application package in response to an RFA found in Annex D.
 - Certification of "Representation by Organization Regarding a Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Criminal Conviction (AAPD 14-03, August 2014)"
 - Prohibition on Providing Federal Assistance to Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements – Representation (May 2017)

- Additionally, applicants must sign the following required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The certifications are attached to this solicitation (Annex D) and ARE will review them with applicants.
 - Certification Regarding Lobbying (if award exceeds \$100,000)
 - Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing
 - Certification of Recipient
- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind and equivalent to \$25,000 USD or more, grantees will be required to provide a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number at the time of award. If the applicant already has a DUNS number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a DUNS number before an award is made. The ARE will assist successful applicants with this process. DUNS numbers can be obtained online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/CCRSearch.jsp>
- The activity will work with the successful grantee to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the grant agreement.
- Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in ADS 303.3.28 except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.
- Grantees are subject to and must pass U.S. government partner vetting requirements per Executive Order 13224

SECTION IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

IVA. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Applicants must propose strategies for the implementation of the program description described above, introducing innovations that are appropriate to their organizational strengths.

IVA1. APPLICANT SELF-ASSESSMENT

All organizations selected for award are subject to a pre-award risk assessment conducted by ARE, to ascertain whether the organization has the minimum management capabilities required to handle US government funds. The applicant self-assessment is the first step in the pre-award risk assessment process. The Applicant Self-Assessment Form is contained in Annex D.

Instructions and a template for the full application are in Annex A. Applicants that submit full applications that meet or exceed the merit review criteria will be notified of next steps in the application process.

IVA2. GRANT APPLICATION

Templates to be utilized when developing the *application* are provided in Annex A-C. Applicants shall present their technical application and budget in the formats provided and shall follow the instructions and guidelines listed in these annexes.

All grant activity costs must be within the normal operating practices of the Applicant and in accordance with its written policies and procedures. For applicants without an audited indirect cost rate, the budget may

include direct costs that will be incurred by the Applicant to provide identifiable administrative and management costs that can be directly attributable to supporting the grant objective.

The application must be signed by an authorized agent of the Applicant.

IVA3. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

ARE grant funds may not be utilized for the following:

- Construction or infrastructure activities of any kind.
- Ceremonies, parties, celebrations, or “representation” expenses.
- Purchases of restricted goods, such as: restricted agricultural commodities, motor vehicles including motorcycles, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, contraceptive products, used equipment; without the previous approval of ARE, or prohibited goods, prohibited goods under USAID regulations, including but not limited to the following: abortion equipment and services, luxury goods, etc.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under the prevailing USAID source/nationality (Burma (Myanmar), Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria).
- Any purchase or activity, which has already been made.
- Purchases or activities unnecessary to accomplish grant purposes as determined by the ARE.
- Prior obligations of and/or, debts, fines, and penalties imposed on the Grantee.
- Creation of endowments.
- Covered telecommunication and video surveillance equipment or services produced by or provided by the companies listed in ADS 303.3.35.2.

IVB. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications shall be submitted in English and may not be more than 20 pages.

Applications (Technical and budget proposals and supporting documentation) should be submitted in electronic copy to the ARE grant email address: grants@lebanonare.org and should reference RFA No.002. Applications must be submitted no later than 05:00 PM Beirut local time, on **January 12, 2021**(*extended from January 05, 2021*). Late or unresponsive applications will not be considered.

In addition to the application forms and budget, applicants should submit the following to ARE:

- Implementation Plan
- Signed and dated Required Certifications listed under section III.A
- Applicant Self-Assessment form
- A completed Vetting Information Form
- A copy of the Applicant’s valid legal registration,
- A copy of their latest audited financial statements.
- List of portfolio and similarly previously achieved projects

Please submit all questions concerning this solicitation to the Grants email address: grants@lebanonare.org. ARE will assist applicants in understanding the application process and can provide coaching in application development at the request of applicants.

SECTION V. APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

Full applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria in the table below.

Merit Review Category	Rating (Points)
Feasibility of Design & Technical Approach	30
Impact on Target Group	5
Management & Programmatic Capacity (including sustainability and additionality of intervention)	20
Delivery time/ speed of implementation	5
Cost Effectiveness	20
Past Performance	10
Gender and Youth Awareness and inclusion	10
Overall Rating (out of 100 points)	100

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below.

A. Feasibility of Design & Technical Approach. The quality and feasibility of the application in terms of the viability of the proposed technical approach, (i.e., the proposed technical approach can reasonably be expected to produce the intended outcomes), appropriateness of the proposed methodology, innovativeness (Challenge approach that clearly articulates how it is not duplicative to other past or on-going sector challenges and adds demonstrated value to the private sector, and the work plan for achieving project objectives to offer the impact listed in the detailed program description section. The technical approach must directly contribute to the achievement of the ARE Activity's expected results and performance under the activity and must be measurable under one or more of the ARE Activity's indicators as indicated in the RFA (see page 5) and maximize visibility for USAID-ARE. Evaluation of approaches may include either approaches proven to be effective or new untried approaches with promise. Proposed mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation with objectively measurable indicators will also be appraised. **30 points**

B. Impact on Target Group. The extent to which the proposed intervention corresponds to the needs of target group(s) and will directly benefit them. Indicator targets proposed by applicants will be evaluated herein. In addition, to the inclusivity of the approach that reaches rural areas, and includes key stakeholders in the agricultural, agri-food, and entrepreneurial/business development industry. Also, the degree to which it will directly or indirectly stimulate other organizations and resources to replicate, develop, or implement activities supporting the objectives of ARE. **5 points**

C. Management and Programmatic Capacity, including sustainability and additionality of intervention. Evidence of the capability to link applicants to further (Non-USAID) financing and investment opportunities. The application should demonstrate the organization's effectiveness in terms of internal structure, technical capacity, and key personnel, in meeting economic development goals and help support the challenge. In addition, the organization must demonstrate adequate financial management capability. The evaluation will be based principally on the background, qualifications, reputation, appropriateness, and skills of its key personnel; and the "track record," reputation, and achievements (including development of self-sufficient, sustainable activities) of the organization.

This category will also review the extent to which the funded intervention will result in building and strengthening the capacity of the community and local organizations, and whether the intervention itself is sustainable or will promote sustainability of the MSMEs supported through the intervention. This category

will also review the additionality aspect of the proposed intervention, i.e. what would have been the adverse effects if the intervention is not funded now. **20 points**

D. *Delivery time, speed of implementation.* The extent to which the applicant can mobilize quickly and deliver the suggested project taking into consideration the urgency of this intervention and need to restore MSMEs to operation as fast as possible. **5 points**

E. *Cost Effectiveness.* The degree to which budgeting is clear and reasonable and reflects best use of organizational and grant resources. **20 points**

F. *Past Performance.* Previous or ongoing experience implementing similar interventions in running start-up competition, business plan competitions or similar. This examines an Applicant's references and experience, which is a critical factor in assessing the capacity of the organization to implement the activity. **10 points**

G. *Gender and Youth Awareness.* The extent to which the proposed activity includes a gender and youth component or represents a strong commitment to women and youth as beneficiaries. **10 points**

Additionally, ARE will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation as required by 22 CFR 216.

SECTION VI. AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

All grants will be negotiated, denominated, and funded in USD. In any time throughout the life of the award, if USAID revokes the right to pay in USD, the contract or remaining amount of the contract will be paid in local currency per Lebanon's Central Bank official exchange rate.

All costs funded by the grant must be allowable, allocable and reasonable. Grant applications must be supported by a detailed and realistic budget as described in Section IV.

Issuance of this RFA and assistance with application development do not constitute an award or commitment on the part of ARE, nor does it commit ARE to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, ARE reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask further clarifications from the offerors. Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision made regarding their application.

LIST ANNEXES

- **Annex A** – Grant Application Form
- **Annex B** – Grant Application Budget Form
- **Annex C** – Implementation Timeline
- **Annex D** – Required Certifications & Applicant Self-Assessment Form
- **Annex E** – Mandatory and Required as Applicable Standard Provisions – (please refer to the links below)
 - Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mat.pdf>
 - Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303maa.pdf>
- **Annex F** – Vetting Information Form