

**Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) program  
Modification #002  
to**

**Request for Applications (RFA) No. 007**

Issuance Date: 8 October 2021

**Modification Date:** 2 November, 2021 – modifications are highlighted in yellow throughout the RFA document.

**Modification Date:** November 19, 2021 – modifications are highlighted in green throughout the RFA document.

Dear Applicant:

The USAID-funded Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) activity, implemented by Chemonics International, is seeking grant applications for implementation of “**Agricultural Productivity Improvements to Strengthen Food Security in Lebanon**.”

ARE intends to award one or more grants to Agricultural Input Providers that will be implemented in accordance with USAID and US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and ARE’s internal grant management policies. The total grant amount is **\$810,000** for this intervention.

The activity will hold a **pre-application workshop on November 8, 2021** 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](mailto: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](mailto:grants@lebanonare.org) prior to the virtual workshop. The deadline for confirming attendance of the pre-application workshop and submission of clarification questions is **November 5, 2021 at 5PM**.

***Applications are due not later than 05:00 pm Beirut time on November 26, 2021. Only electronic submissions to [grants@lebanonare.org](mailto: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 a activity employee should be reported to the chief of party or [BusinessConduct@chemonics.com](mailto:BusinessConduct@chemonics.com).

Annexes included with this Request for Applications:

- **Annex A** – **MODIFIED VERSION** Grant Application Form
- **Annex B** – Grant Application Budget Form.
- **Annex C** – Implementation Timeline
- **Annex D** – Required Certifications
- **Annex E** – Applicant Self-Assessment Form

- **Annex F** – Mandatory and Required As Applicable Standard Provisions
- **Annex G** – Vetting Information Form

## **SECTION I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **IA. OBJECTIVE**

The objectives for this ARE intervention are to support food security in Lebanon by raising farmer incomes and increasing the supply of affordable, high quality crops to the local market. This will be done by improving square meter production yields and production costs through the upgrade of greenhouses, provision of greenhouse and planting materials and technical assistance. Implementing this intervention will demonstrate how partnerships between value chain stakeholders will be able to increase income through higher sales (*ARE Objective 1: Increased Domestic and Export Sales*), and improve quality by applying new practices at farm and firm levels (*ARE Objective 3: Improved productivity of MSMEs*).

### **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:*

The period of implementation of the intervention is expected to extend over a maximum of 24 months. ARE may award multiple grants for this intervention. **The total grant ceiling is estimated to be \$810,000** for the entire intervention.

The economic crisis and the subsequent lira devaluation have taken a drastic toll on food security and agricultural livelihoods in Lebanon. Input costs for basic production supplies such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and plastic sheeting imported from abroad have skyrocketed.

Unable to afford paying upfront for inputs, farmers are not maintaining or repairing their productive agricultural infrastructure, consequentially resulting in less planted area, lower crop yields, decreasing incomes and higher food prices. This is compounded by farmer's inability to purchase high-quality seeds, resulting in either forgone planting seasons, or use of lower quality seeds resulting in poor yields. In fact, key informants interviewed during ARE's value chain prioritization assessment reported that greenhouse vegetable production along the coast decreased by 40%, as farmers were unable to pay cash for inputs and credit was unavailable.

The urgency of addressing rising food prices, stagnant and/or falling incomes is more apparent now, as the government of Lebanon begins the transition away from subsidizing fuel. For example, pumping costs for irrigation are projected to make up 33% of cost of growing vegetables in tunnel greenhouses compared to

20% at the 8000 LBP subsidy rate<sup>1</sup>. Combined with the occurring increases in transportation costs, this will result in a sharp rise in prices of fresh and processed crops. Unfortunately, not only are farmer livelihoods at risk, the higher cost or lack of production puts a significant portion of the population at risk of food insecurity.

To mitigate these imminent price increases, **ARE's intervention objectives are to increase farmer incomes and stabilize prices for locally produced food by improving production yields per square meter and production costs. This will be done through support packages that MAY include, but not limited to, the following:**

- Upgrade and modify tunnel greenhouses to vertical sides with lateral openings
- Supply of hybrid/improved seeds and seedlings (Grafted and non-grafted depending on crop type)
- Plastic sheeting
- Plastic mulch
- Greenhouse ventilation fans
- Drip Irrigation
- All packages will include at least 1 year of technical assistance/extension services provided by the implementing partner.
- Facilitate sales of produce and direct access to local markets through targeted technical assistance

**In addition, ARE may provide Implementing partners with support to implement:**

- Innovative solutions that **conclusively** reduce the cost of seedlings ( grafted and non-grafted) with initiatives to increase farmer access

Note that ARE **will not be** providing 100% in-kind support to the support packages, as growers will be expected to contribute to the support package. ARE support percentage will be determined after the RFA process.

***Problem statement:***

ARE designed an intervention based on the reality that food **affordability** due to Lira devaluation and stagnant salaries, as opposed to **availability** brought on by natural events and conflict, is the main driver of potential food insecurity in Lebanon. It is clear from visits to farms, wholesale markets, bakeries, restaurants, supermarkets and retail outlets that food is available in sufficient quantities. However, the problem many people are facing is the inability to afford buying what they need for their households. This results in long lines and subsequent shortages for subsidized food stuffs and ingredients like flour for bread.

***Intervention approach and guidelines:***

ARE intends to partner with more than one agricultural input supplier to implement the assistance packages aimed at improving per square meter yields and production costs in greenhouse production. ARE will finalize the assistance packages, equipment and supply specifications, farmer selection criteria and implementation schedule with the Implementing Partners (IPs). The selection of partner agricultural input providers will be based on the selection criteria presented in Section V. The amount by which ARE will support the provision of assistance packages will be the same for all selected implementing partners. The base price upon which the final support amount will be applied will be determined according to the lowest price offered from amongst the selected applicant(s). All goods and services offered by selected applicants

must meet a minimum level of quality. Minimum specifications can be found in **Annex 1 – Minimum Equipment Specifications and Pricing**.

The support percentage applied against the lowest price offered will represent the maximum allowable support amount that ARE will cover and will be applicable to all applicants that meet the eligibility criteria and minimum specifications. Selected applicants may charge prices that are higher than the lowest cost received assuming the minimum quality standards are applied, however the support that ARE will provide shall be fixed based on the lowest price received. ARE’s in-kind assistance will be based on a percentage amount package type, with farmers expected to contribute to the remaining amount. The table below demonstrates how the support could be applied in practice with two illustrative implementing partners.

**Table 1. Illustrative Support Packages with Cost Share and Support Amount**

Package #	Price Offered IP#1	Price Offered IP#2	ARE Fixed Support	Cost Share Required IP#1	Cost Share Required IP#2
250 sq. meter Greenhouse Upgrade (Add side walls, add ventilation, add drip irrigation)	\$2500 Per Square Meter Price: \$10	\$3500 Per Square Meter Price: \$14	60% Support applied against lowest price received (IP#1) \$6/square meter support	\$4/square meter cost share	\$8/square meter cost share
Planting materials (seeds/seedlings) including Technical Assistance/Extension for 12 months 250Sqm	\$80 Per Square Meter Price \$32	\$100 Per Square Meter Price \$40	80% Support applied against lowest price received (IP#1) \$.26/sqm support	\$.06/sqm cost share	\$.14/Sqm cost share
Plastic Sheeting including technical assistance 250 Sqm	\$520 Per Sqm price \$2.08	\$400 Per Sqm price \$1.60	80% Support applied against lowest price received (IP#2) \$1.28/sqm support	\$.80 per Sqm	\$.32 per sqm
Both IPs may market the package on a per square meter basis with a fixed ARE support of \$7.54/square meter up to a maximum of 1,000 square meters of potential upgrades, resulting in a maximum ARE subsidy of \$7,540 for a single beneficiary farmer.					
<b>**Note** The numbers above are for illustrative purposes ONLY, actual packages that will be eligible for support actual support amounts (per square meter) and the maximum allowable support per farmer will be determined only after applications are reviewed and implementing partners selected.</b>					

The percentage of ARE support toward the assistance packages will be determined following the selection of implementing partners. ARE expects to have multiple implementation partners on this activity, with each partner assigned to a specific region as per their qualifications, resources, and experience.

ARE expects to reach at least 400 growers in total with support throughout the country, mostly be medium-sized commercial growers ranging from 10 – 35 greenhouses. The primary support will be upgrading existing standard tunnel greenhouses with vertical sidewall modifications with roll-up sidewalls which is expected to reach 200 – 240 farmers. Additional support packages will include a combination of hybrid/improved seeds, grafted and non-grafted seedlings, ventilation fans , plastic mulch, drip irrigation, and plastic sheeting along with at least 1 year of extension services.

In addition to the extension services provided by the selected implementing partners, ARE will provide regular monitoring visits to ensure the farmers are not facing production and/or marketing issues and anticipate any challenges they may have. For those farmers, facing challenges, especially in marketing their products, ARE will deploy T/A resources in the form of one-on-one or group trainings and support.

**Support in Reducing Seedling Cost (*Grant Application Addendum included in the MODIFIED VERSION of the grant application*)**

**ARE may support implementing partners with innovative solutions that result in a dramatic (greater than 25% decrease) in cost of seedling production. This support can be provided directly at the nursery or at a IP-owned facility that manufactures the raw material for propagating and delivering seedlings. Interested applications shall apply using the grant application addendum provided as part of this call. ARE will provide this support as part of a wholistic assistance package, therefore applicants must apply to implement the entire assistance package. ARE may deploy technical experts to validate the specifications and proposed savings on the proposed installation. The total ceiling for this support is \$300,000 as multiple awards. Implementing partners will be expected to provide a co-investment to the installation.**

**Examples of innovative solutions include but are not limited to:**

- **Machinery and processes that reduce the need for imported potting soil and plastic trays.**
- **Renewable energy or energy efficiency applications in production and logistics to offset costs directly related to seedling production**
- **Machinery and processes that reduce the costs of rootstocks and/or seeds.**

**Farmer Selection Criteria:**

Farmer selection criteria will be finalized with the implementation partner. However, criteria will include:

- Farm Size including number and type of greenhouses
- Types of crops grown
- Varieties grown
- Crop production yields and sales in 2019, 2020, 2021
- Sales/Market channels (type)
- % production sold to local vs. export
- Full time vs Part-time farmer
- Type and condition of agricultural infrastructure

**Partner Roles**

In this intervention, the **implementing partners** will be responsible for:

- Supporting the ARE technical team in the finalization of farmer selection criteria and in-kind support packages and specifications;
- Farmer outreach and identification. This includes communicating the program to farmers via in-person outreach events, social media advertisements, and phone calls. Implementing partners will support farmers in completing the application process;
- Completion, collection and data entry of applications, including collecting required documents ( eg. Id's, land titles, rental contracts);
- Manufacturing, growing, delivery, installation and commissioning of agricultural equipment and supplies depending on support packages;
- Collecting support package contribution payment from growers;
- Supporting the farmer in data collection including but not limited to production costs, yields, sales, and marketing channels. IPs will be responsible for collecting production and marketing data regularly on each farm, first during the application process and then throughout the production cycle in order to calculate production costs, returns, and results of the intervention. IPs should deliver data in an excel database to ARE regularly;
- At least 1 year of production technical assistance and extension provided by the agricultural input supplier partners.

### ***Anticipated Results***

According to the expected impact noted above, successful applicants will be required to capture, and report results from this intervention. At a minimum, ARE expects the following cumulative results from this intervention:

- At least 400 growers with improved productivity, higher yields and lower production costs compared to 2021
- \$150,000 in additional agricultural investments
- 30% improvements in sales compared to 2021
- 20% improvement in farmer income compared to 2021
- 30% improvement in crop yields compared to 2021
- Number of new market linkages
- 25% decrease in seedling production costs
- 10% increase in seedling sales from 2021

The Intervention will directly feed into ARE's below indicators:

1. (PSD IR1.a) 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. (PSD IR 1.b) Number of MSMEs, including farmers, and other organizations benefiting from new horizontal & vertical linkage
3. (PSD IR 1.1.a (IR 2.1 d)) Value of incremental sales (domestic and export) collected at firm level as a result of USG assistance

4. (PSD IR 1.1.b) Value of incremental sales (domestic and export) collected at farm level for small holders as a result of USG assistance
5. (PSD IR 2.2.a (IR 2.1a)) Number of farmers and microenterprises who have applied improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance
6. (custom) Increase in volume (and/or decrease in cost) of production at the farm level as a result of USG assistance
7. [PSD 2a] Number of people with improved incomes as a result of USG assistance
8. (custom) Number of SME clients receiving improved extension services

## **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* 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](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). *ARE* anticipates awarding up to **\$810,000** cumulative for the entire activity. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be no more than 24 months. The estimated start date of grants awarded under this solicitation is December 15, 2021.

The detailed implementation plan, final budget and 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.

## **SECTION III. ELIGIBILITY**

### **IIIA. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS**

- Applicants must be a registered Lebanese 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 (April 2015)
- 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
  - FFATA Subaward Reporting Questionnaire and Certification
- 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 E.

Instructions and a **MODIFIED VERSION** of the 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 (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 Activity.
- Prior obligations of and/or, debts, fines, and penalties imposed on the Grantee.
- Creation of endowments.

## IVB. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications shall be submitted in English and may not be more than 10 pages.

Applications (Technical and budget proposals and supporting documentation) should be submitted in electronic copy to the ARE grant email address: [grants@lebanonare.org](mailto:grants@lebanonare.org) and should reference RFA No.007. Applications must be submitted no later than **05:00 PM Beirut local time, on November 26, 2021**. Late or unresponsive applications will not be considered.

Applicants to be considered for evaluation should submit the following documents 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 (Commercial Circular, Commercial Register, and Ministry of Finance Registration **OR** equivalent from other ministries based on nature of legal entity)
- A copy of their latest audited financial statements.
- List of portfolio and similarly previously achieved projects

All questions concerning this solicitation should be submitted to the Grants email address: [grants@lebanonare.org](mailto:grants@lebanonare.org). ARE will assist applicants in understanding the application process and can provide coaching in application development at the request of applicants. **ARE will not accept phone calls or in-person inquiries.**

## SECTION V. APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

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

<b>Merit Review Category</b>	<b>Rating (Points)</b>
Applicant Technical Resources including manufacturing and/or assembly facilities, technical employees, production expertise, extension services	25
Organizational Experience including farmer network and geographic breadth	20
Management & Programmatic Capacity (including sustainability and additionality of intervention)	15
Delivery time/speed of implementation	10
Cost Effectiveness including resource contribution	15
Past Performance	10
Gender and Youth Awareness and inclusion	5
<b>Overall Rating (out of 100 points)</b>	<b>100</b>

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below.

**A. Applicant Technical Resources including manufacturing and/or assembly facilities, technical employees, production expertise, extension services.** The physical and technical resources that the offeror has to put toward the project. This includes including capacity of manufacturing and/or assembly

facilities, in-house agricultural production infrastructure (i.e. nurseries, # of in-house technical employees with ag production expertise and field-based extension services). **25 points**

**B. Organizational Experience including farmer network and and geographic breadth.**

Applicant should demonstrate organizational experience carrying out similar types of activities including but not limited to farmer outreach and training, agricultural production, post-harvest, marketing. Applicant should highlight the breadth of the farmer network ( regions and number), geographical experience based on regions/caza. **20 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 applicant should designate a single point of contact, who will be responsible for the management of the grant.

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. **15 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 leverage the opportunity as fast as possible considering the type of crop proposed. The applicant should highlight seasonality and when specific upgrades or provision of planting materials and support should be provided **10 points**

**E. Cost Effectiveness.** The degree to which budgeting is clear and reasonable, the level of resource contribution and reflects best use of organizational and grant resources. **15 points**

**F. Past Performance.** Previous or ongoing experience implementing donor-funded interventions similar interventions in greenhouse production, installation and commissioning, farmer outreach and training and extension services. 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. **5 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** – **MODIFIED VERSION** Grant Application Form
- **Annex B** – Grant Application Budget Form.
- **Annex C** – Implementation Timeline
- **Annex D** – Required Certifications
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