

Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) program
Modification #001
To
Request for Applications (RFA) No.020

Issuance Date: December 27, 2022

Modification Date: January 05, 2023 – modifications are highlighted in yellow throughout the RFA

Dear Applicant,

The USAID-funded Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) activity, implemented by Chemonics International, is seeking grant applications for the implementation of a 12 to 15 months intervention entitled “**Strengthening Lebanese Livelihoods by Supporting Agricultural Production**” to help address the food access problems that rural, agricultural families and small farmers face in the short term, supporting them with the ability to grow, consume and if desired sell the production of healthy and nutritious crops. The proposed intervention will work with one or more local partner(s) across Lebanon to distribute vegetable seeds, seedlings and/or compost to at **least 5000 small-holder open-field growers and 500 small greenhouse vegetable farmers**¹, 5,500 in total. To compliment the distribution and ensure successful production, the grantee will be tasked with providing trainings to beneficiaries which will include a mix of handouts, online, and on-farm trainings.

ARE has allocated a maximum of \$600,000 for this intervention to cover direct support (seeds, seedlings and/or compost) and implementation costs for partner(s). Applicants may apply for grants at less than the maximum amount with a proportional reduction in support accordingly.

The grants will be awarded and implemented in accordance with USAID and US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and ARE’s internal grant management policies.

ARE will hold a pre-application workshop on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**, on MS Team from **12 PM till 2 PM**. 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. The deadline for confirming attendance of the pre-application workshop is on **Friday, January 13, 2023 at 5:00 PM**. Applicants may also submit questions to grants@lebanonare.org prior to the virtual workshop. Deadline for submission of clarification questions is **Wednesday January 18, 2023, at 5PM**.

Applications are due not later than 05:00 pm Beirut time on Monday January 30, 2023, Only electronic submissions to grants@lebanonare.org will be accepted. No hard copy applications will be accepted.

ARE 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 project employee should be reported to the chief of party or BusinessConduct@chemonics.com.

¹ 10 greenhouses or less (332 Sqm/GH).

Annexes included with this Request for Applications:

- **Annex A** – Grant Application Form
- **Annex B** – Grant Application Budget Form
- **Annex C** – Detailed Implementation Plan
- **Annex D** – Required Certifications
- **Annex E** – Applicant Self-Assessment Form
- **Annex F** – Mandatory and Required As Applicable Standard Provisions
 - 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: <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mab.pdf>
- **Annex G** – List of Approved Seeds and Seedlings

SECTION I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

IA. OBJECTIVE

This intervention’s objective is to mitigate the adverse effects of rising food costs and decreased purchasing power on rural Lebanese livelihoods by 1) Decreasing monthly expenditures by supporting Lebanese families with seeds, seedlings and compost that can provide nutritious, healthy food and 2) Improving farmer yields and income through training and sales of their crops to the local market.

IB. BACKGROUND

The Lebanon Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) activity, funded by USAID and implemented by Chemonics International, has a three-year base period, two Option Years, and One Increased Quantity Option. Both option years have been activated, bringing the activity implementation period to five years, and the IQO has been exercised in order to enable scale-up of interventions in support of both of ARE’s expected results (objectives). ARE supports Lebanese rural and peri-urban communities to obtain technical and financial resources in order to facilitate increased productivity, sales, and exports, improved business income, while also ensuring livelihood sustainability. To support this purpose, ARE will increase jobs; improve incomes; improve female participation and employment opportunities; increase domestic and export sales; increase private sector investment; improve access to finance; link value chain actors to domestic and international markets; and improve production through improved practices, technology, increased volume, and/or decreased cost. ARE supports two key expected results (objectives), each with their own intermediate result (IR):

1. Increased domestic and export sales at both firm and farm levels (Result 1)
 - 1.1. Increased enterprise competitiveness (IR 1.1)
2. Livelihoods improved, especially in rural areas and for women (Result 2)
 - 2.1. Improved productivity of MSMEs, including farmers (IR 2.1)

IC. DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Overview:

The economic crisis and the subsequent lira devaluation have taken a drastic toll on rural, agricultural livelihoods in Lebanon. Food prices have skyrocketed, imported items are out of reach for many rural residents, while input costs for basic production supplies such as seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, and plastic sheeting imported from abroad have skyrocketed driving up the costs of locally grown and supplied food.

The economic crisis and global inflation's impact on food security is affecting small farmers ability to buy productive seedlings that produce high-quality vegetables. This is reducing farmer's incomes and threatens to reduce the supply of high quality, fresh food to rural markets. Additionally, as food prices increase and wages remain stagnant or decline, food costs are making up a significant percentage of many rural families' monthly expenses, leaving very little to cover for other basic services. Regular food security and livelihoods surveys being conducted by Universities, NGOs and UN organizations like WFP state that an increasing number of households are eating less than 2 meals per day and considered this pattern as "usual pattern". Furthermore, large percentages (70%) of the respondents from all governorates reported skipping their meals to spare food.² As the economic crisis deepens with no solution in site, it's expected that the struggles of Lebanese households will increase.

Intervention approach:

ARE designed a **12 to 15 months** intervention to help address the food access problems that rural, agricultural families and small greenhouse vegetable farmers face in the short-term by supporting them with the ability to grow, consume, and, if desired, sell the production of healthy and nutritious products. The proposed intervention will work with one or more local implementing partner(s) on a nationwide program to distribute seeds, seedlings, organic mulch/compost, to both small open-field growers and greenhouse vegetable farmers. The distributions will be complemented by a sustainable agriculture training component and local market linkages when applicable to help growers effectively use their available resources and reduce reliance on imported inputs like fertilizers and pesticides. The budget ceiling for this intervention is \$600,000 and is expected to reach at least 5,000 small open-field growers and 500 greenhouse farmers.

Activity 1 – Beneficiary Outreach, Application, and Selection

The successful applicant(s) will be responsible for the farmer outreach, application, selection, and validation processes sending the proposed beneficiary applications and scoring including legal documents for approval by ARE prior to finalization. Applicants should suggest an outreach methodology, application, and selection criteria to ensure the widest programmatic coverage and reaching beneficiaries that usually do not benefit from USAID or other development programming.

At a minimum, ARE will require IDs and a Self-Certification form to be submitted at the application stage for all prospective beneficiaries. Furthermore, applicants should propose a verification methodology for 500 greenhouse farmers prior to seed distribution to ensure that their application is accurate and are planting and growing in their own greenhouse(s).

Activity 2 – Seeds, Seedlings, and Compost Distribution

² Exploring the Impact of Crises on Food Security in Lebanon: Results from a National Cross-Sectional Study Citation: Hoteit, M.; Al-Atat, Y.; Joumaa, H.; Ghali, S.E.; Mansour, R.; Mhanna, R.; Sayyed-Ahmad, F.; Salameh, P.; Al-Jawaldeh, A. Exploring the Impact of Crises on Food Security in Lebanon: Results from a National Cross-Sectional Study. Sustainability 2021, 13, 8753. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13168753>

ARE is targeting small-holder farmers in this activity and support shall be focused on growers with open-field farm size thresholds of 0.5 dunums to 5 dunums for all regions except the Beqaa. The Beqaa farm size threshold is 0.5 dunums to 8 dunums, as average farms sizes in the Beqaa are larger. Greenhouse farmers should own and/or operate 10 greenhouses or less (332 sqm/GH) to be eligible for support. Applicants should include areas that are rainfed, which generally are poorer with limited agricultural production options for residents.

Prospective applicants should suggest an initial package of seeds (found in Annex G), seedlings, and compost to be distributed along with a methodology and geographic coverage. Each open-field beneficiary will be eligible to receive enough seeds to plant at least 0.5 dunum of land. Greenhouse vegetable farmers will be given 1,000 hybrid seedlings of a single commonly grown vegetable (tomato, eggplant, zucchini, cucumbers), enough for one greenhouse. The greenhouse farmers will be allowed to select from the final list of hybrid seedlings, while open-field farmers will get a seeds package that is appropriate for the climate and agriculture season. The final seeds and seedlings support package will be finalized with ARE's technical team during the first month of implementation. The procurement of seeds, seedlings and compost shall be done by the partner in accordance with all applicable USAID rules and regulations that shall be shared by ARE. This includes seed certification or seed declaration of quality (https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/USAID-BHA_Ag_Annex_A_-_Seed_Grower_Declaration_of_Quality_September_2020.pdf). Applicants should suggest a distribution plan and an approach to ensure that local businesses are included in the procurement process to support local economic opportunities in the targeted areas.

1,500 tons of compost (no more than 1 ton/farmer) shall be provided to dryland areas or to areas with poor soil conditions to improve soil health and lower the need for imported fertilizers. The successful applicant should only procure local commercial compost that has been laboratory tested and certified to ensure good nutrient and microbiological content. USAID regulations limit distribution to 40 km from compost manufacturing source.

To ensure high quality production and improve crop management practices for the distributed material, ARE partners shall produce and distribute informational (hard copy and through messaging applications) posters and materials to the beneficiaries.

Activity 3 – Sustainable/Regenerative Agriculture and Food Security Trainings, and access to local markets

The successful applicant(s) will be tasked with providing trainings to beneficiaries which will include a mix of handouts (hard and/or soft copies), online, and on-farm trainings. The partner shall suggest the training methodology and type of trainings that will be given and could include subjects like water and irrigation management, greenhouse production, regenerative agriculture, IPM, nutrition and financial literacy. When applicable, the applicant(s) should provide support to ensure access to local markets linkages for produced vegetables.

Suggested training topics shall be justified and adjusted by an evidence-based assessment of beneficiary needs and perceived skills gaps. In total, the implementing partner(s) will be expected to cover all beneficiaries with a mix of training modalities. However, ARE expects that all 500 greenhouse farmers will receive in-person or online trainings and at least 20% of open-field growers will participate in on-farm or online trainings. All beneficiaries must receive informational handouts on agricultural and/or food security related topics.

Activity 4 – Verification, Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting

The successful applicant(s) shall demonstrate their experience in data collection by providing a methodology for monitoring and data collection including but not limited to production volumes and costs, sales, and marketing channels. ARE expects that data will be collected from all 500 greenhouse growers and a statistically significant sample of the open-field growers. In addition, the applicant should provide a methodology for verification to ensure that distributed seeds went to the intended beneficiary and were planted. The data shall be delivered in a spreadsheet to ARE regularly and preferably include the use of analysis platforms with easy-to-understand dashboards and visual representations. The data collection should take place first during the application process and then throughout the production cycle to calculate returns, and results of the intervention. Accordingly, the services requested of the grantee will be complementary to, and not duplicative of, the regular work that the MEL team handles. MEL team will provide quality control oversight of the grantee.

ARE EXPECTED RESULTS AND RELATIVE INDICATORS

ARE aims to provide at least 5,500 beneficiaries with seedlings, seeds, and compost. Successful applicants will be required to capture, and report results from this intervention. ARE expects the following indicators:

1. Value of new private sector investment leveraged by USG implementation
2. Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created with USG assistance
3. Percentage of jobs retained as a result of USG assistance
4. Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance
5. Value of incremental sales (domestic and export) collected at firm level as a result of USG assistance
6. Value of incremental sales (domestic and export) collected at the farm level as a result of USG assistance
7. Number of MSMEs, including farmers, that applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance
8. Number of MSMEs, including farmers and other organizations, benefiting from new horizontal and vertical market linkages
9. Percentage of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources
10. Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29)
11. Number of people with improved incomes as a result of USG assistance
12. Percentage change in volume of production attained as a result of USG assistance
13. Percent change in cost of production attained as a result of USG assistance
14. Number of technical assistance activities delivered to enhance MSMEs' marketing capacities
15. Number of new market channels accessed by MSMEs
16. Number of MSMEs, including farmers, receiving non-financial business development services
17. Number of MSMEs, including farmers, benefitting from alternative financial solutions
18. Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs

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 and 2 CFR 700 at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=531ffcc47b660d86ca8bbc5a64eed128&mc=true&node=pt2.1.700&rgn=div5>. *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 **\$600,000** cumulative for the entire activity. Funding will be disbursed as grants through one or more anticipated grant awards to be made within the context of the grant agreement. Applicants may submit applications for only a portion of the maximum budget ceiling if desired, with support scaled proportionally. The final number of awards made, and their value will be dependent upon grant interventions proposed and final negotiation with the successful applicant.

The type of grants will be determined during the negotiation process. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be no more than **15 months with a minimum of 12 months**. The estimated start date of grants awarded under this solicitation is March 6, 2023.

SECTION III. ELIGIBILITY

IIIA. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

- Applicants must be a registered *Lebanese company/organization/association/cooperative/ NGO (or other legal entity)* 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.
- Applicants must sign certain required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The certifications are attached to this solicitation (Annex D) and applicants must sign the following certification as part of their application package in response to this RFA.
 - Representation by Organization Regarding a Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Criminal Conviction
 - Certification on 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 Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their concept note. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is made. *ARE* will assist successful applicants with this process. UEI numbers can be obtained online at <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>
- *ARE* 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

ARE encourages applications from new organizations who meet the above eligibility criteria.

ARE will prioritize applicants who have not received extensive support from other past or current USAID-funded activities. This priority will guide outreach efforts but will not mean necessarily that previously funded firms or partners shall be excluded from participation in the RFA process for selection. For firms that have been previously supported by USAID, they will need to fully demonstrate how the new proposed interventions will be complementary to, and build upon, past support, how the proposed interventions create even greater additive value within the larger value chain (VC), and shall prove that any new intervention will not duplicate or repeat past USAID support.

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. PRE-AWARD RISK 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.

IVA2. GRANT APPLICATION

Templates to be utilized when developing the grant application are provided in Annex A-B. 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 **legal representative of the Applicant**.

IVA3. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

ARE grant funds may not be utilized for the following:

- Construction or infrastructure activities of any kind is not eligible for reimbursement under grants resulting from this solicitation. Construction also includes improvements, renovation, alteration, and refurbishment.
- Ceremonies, parties, celebrations, or “representation” expenses.
- Purchases of restricted goods, such as: restricted agricultural commodities³, 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.
- Covered telecommunication and video surveillance equipment or services – per ADS 303.3.35.2 and as further explained in 2 CFR 200.216 for U.S. organizations and the standard provision entitled, “Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment” applicable to non U.S. organizations, grant funds including direct and indirect costs, cost share and program income may not be used to purchase covered telecommunications equipment and services produced by or provided by the companies listed in the referenced provisions. The definition of “covered telecommunication equipment or services” is provided in the referenced provisions. Note that there is a temporary waiver in place that allows for the purchase of covered internet and phone service through September 30, 2022.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under the prevailing USAID source/nationality (Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria).

³ For this intervention, ARE intends to secure a waiver from USAID for the purchase of the restricted commodities under this RFA.

- 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

Grant applications shall be submitted in English and may not exceed 15 pages

Grant Applications including the budget and relative supporting documents specified in the Annexes should be submitted in electronic format ONLY to the ARE grants team email address: grants@lebanonare.org and should reference in the Subject Line: “RFA No.020. Applications must be submitted no later than 05:00 PM Beirut local time, on **January 30, 2023**. Late or unresponsive applications will not be considered at the discretion of ARE.

In addition to the application form and budget, applicants should submit the following attachments to the submitted application:

- Implementation Plan. Refer to annex C
- Signed and dated Required Certifications included in Annex D
- Applicant Self-Assessment included in annex E
- 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 and a copy of the latest audited financial statements).

Please submit all questions concerning this solicitation to the attention to grants@lebanonare.org. Emails will be answered within 10 working days. **ARE will not accept phone calls or in-person inquiries.**

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 and methodology (including impact on gender and youth inclusion)	30
Management, Administrative & Programmatic Capacity	20
Delivery time/ speed of implementation	10
Cost Effectiveness	10
Past Performance	20
Impact on ARE goals and indicators	10
Overall Rating (out of 100 points)	100

These merit review criteria elements are described in more details below.

A. Feasibility of Design & Technical Approach and methodology: The quality and feasibility of the application in terms of the reason and rationale used in the proposed technical approach and outreach methodology, adequacy and reasonableness of the proposed areas of focus and farmer identification

methodology. The technical approach must directly contribute to the achievement of the ARE Program's expected results and performance under the activity and must be measurable under one or more of the ARE Program's indicators as indicated in the RFA. Clear and realistic approach to validation and verification of beneficiaries. Moreover, the gender and youth inclusion component will measure the extent to which the proposed activity includes a gender and youth component or represents a strong commitment to women and young people as beneficiaries (refer to **ARE EXPECTED RESULTS AND RELATIVE INDICATORS**). **30 points**

B. Management, Administrative and Programmatic Capacity: Evidence of the capability to undertake and accomplish the proposed activities and cover the whole targeted areas efficiently. The application should demonstrate the organization's success in terms of internal structure, technical capacity, and key personnel, in meeting economic development goals. In addition, the organization must demonstrate satisfactory financial management capability, especially in procurement and mass delivery of goods. Applicant should describe any systems or processes within the organization to ensure that activity results are met. The evaluation will be based principally on the background, qualifications, reputation, suitability, and skills of its key personnel; and the "track record," reputation, and achievements 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. **20 points**

C. Delivery time, speed of implementation: The extent to which the applicant is able to mobilize quickly and deliver the suggested project taking into consideration the timeframe required for this activity. **10 points**

D. Cost Effectiveness: The degree to which budgeting is clear, reasonable and reflects best use of organizational and grant resources. Applications with financial contribution will be scored more favorably on this criterion. **10 points**

E. Past Performance: Successful previous or ongoing experience implementing similar activities. This section examines the applicant's references and experience, which is a critical factor in assessing the capacity of the organization to implement the activity. **20 points**

F. Impact on ARE goals and indicators: The extent to which the proposed activity targets ARE expected results and relative indicators including innovative and robust data collection and analysis. **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.

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

The following Annexes are included with this RFA:

- **Annex A** - Grant Application Form
- **Annex B** - Grant Application Budget Form
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<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:
<http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mab.pdf>
- **Annex G** – List of Approved Seeds and Seedlings