



# **BANGLADESH ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH THROUGH ENERGY (BADGE)**

## **Request for Applications (RFA)**

**Subject:** Request for Applications for supporting BADGE activities to Improve Energy Security and Resilience.

**Opportunity Number:** BADGE-RFA-2022-GUC-001

**Issuance Date:** *April 11, 2022*

**Questions Due Date & Time:** *April 23, 2022, 11:59PM (Dhaka).*

**Grant Application Due Date & Time:** *May 26, 2022, 11:59PM (Dhaka)*

**Submit to:** [BADGE.Grants@tetrattech.com](mailto:BADGE.Grants@tetrattech.com) with subject line 'BADGE-RFA-2022-GUC-001\_Short Name of the applicant organization'

*Issuance of this Request for Application does not constitute an award commitment on the Tetra Tech ES, Inc., nor does it commit to pay for any costs incurred in preparation or submission of comments/suggestions of an application. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicants. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.*

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Dear Applicants,

Tetra Tech ES, Inc., the implementing partner of the BANGLADESH ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH THROUGH ENERGY (BADGE). Pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Bangladesh, Contract No 7200AA19D00029, Task Order No. 72038821F00002 is authorized to provide grants under contract (GUC) to meet its program objectives.

BADGE is seeking **grant applications** from local organizations and community groups, private companies, entrepreneurs, non-profit, academia and Research & Development institutions working in the area of energy access, clean energy, energy efficiency, improving quality and reliability of supply and modern energy services to support achieving results of BADGE project. Proposed grant activities should not exceed USD \$30,000 and a maximum of 24 months period depending on the grant activity. BADGE anticipates awarding 7-9 grants awards at the maximum in response to this solicitation subject to the availability of funds. Assistance will be either in the form of fixed amount award, in-kind, or a fixed amount award with in-kind grant agreements in accordance with Chapter 303 of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS 303 available at <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303>). Each applicant may submit only one application in response to this solicitation.

Applicants awarded grant agreements will carry out interventions that contribute to the achievement of BADGE's overarching goal of "Improved Energy Security and Resilience through better access to Affordable, Reliable, and sustainable Energy Systems and Transparent and Efficient Energy Markets."

Awards to U.S. and Non-U.S. Organizations and institutions will be administered in accordance with applicable regulations as follows:

- ADS 303 and Standard Provisions for U.S. organizations, non-U.S. nongovernmental organizations, or Fixed Amount Awards, as applicable, at <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303>
- 2 CFR 200 and 700 at [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200\\_main\\_02.tpl](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl)
- Applicable OMB Circulars

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Additionally, all awards pursuant to this funding opportunity are contingent upon the availability of funds and the receipt of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. Submitting an application is in no circumstance a commitment to award.

Please read this application package in its entirety before submitting your application to ensure you have completed the grant application and submit all required documentation. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for an award.** This request for applications consists of this cover letter and the following sections:



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

BANGLADESH ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH  
THROUGH ENERGY (BADGE)

- Section I.** Funding Opportunity
- Section II.** Award and Eligibility Information
- Section III.** Application Format and Submission Information
- Section IV.** Pre-Screening and Evaluation Criteria
- Section V.** Award Administration Information
- Section VI.** Other Information
- Section VII.** Attachments:
  - Attachment A: Application Format.
  - Attachment B: Budget Format with budget note guidance.
  - Attachment C: Required Certifications.
  - Attachment D: DUNS Registration Process.

Thank you in advance for the interest shown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael J. Jabba', written over a light green horizontal line.

Rafael J. Jabba  
BADGE, Chief of Party

## Section I. Funding Opportunity

### BADGE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Energy security and access continues to play a crucial role in Bangladesh's ability to meet its economic growth targets and sustain rising living standards. USAID, in collaboration with the U.S. Government (USG) interagency in Dhaka, continues to work with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and the private sector to create a more welcoming business and investment environment and a more level playing field for both local and international companies in the energy sector.

In light of the above, USAID/Bangladesh's new five-year energy activity, BADGE will improve energy security and resilience in Bangladesh by improving access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy systems, and promoting transparent and efficient energy markets. By supporting the deployment of advanced and clean energy systems, promotion of transparent and best-value procurement for energy, and increased participation in regional energy trade and cooperation—all overseen by high-performing energy institutions—the energy sector in Bangladesh will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of achieving prosperity, well-being, and resilience of its citizens. The activity will advance private sector investment, promote policy and regulatory environments favorable to the sector and investors, support entrepreneurs developing and distributing energy technologies, and convene platforms to share best practices in the management of the energy sector. Altogether, BADGE will support Bangladesh's transformation to a developed, decarbonized, and inclusive energy sector.

In June 2021, BADGE commenced supporting the transformation of Bangladesh's energy sector to accelerate energy security and sustainability in Bangladesh and the South Asia region. Intended outcomes from this activity align with the Asia Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy (Asia EDGE) objectives and USAID's Energizing a Net-Zero Asia initiative. Through BADGE, \$17.2 million of U.S. technical assistance will play a critical role in supporting the GoB's management and transformation of the energy sector, creating an efficient and transparent energy market for long-term investment stability and helping mobilize clean energy finance.

The BADGE activity aims to achieve the goal of improved energy security and resilience in Bangladesh by implementing interventions along with four results and 11 intermediate result areas. Four cross-cutting objectives; youth integration, gender equity, private sector engagement, and environmental pollution; are factored into the design and implementation of interventions. The main objectives of the BADGE program are as follows:

#### **RESULT 1: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR ADVANCED ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

Advanced energy technologies are poised to play an important role in increasing the reliability, affordability, and sustainability of the energy sector in Bangladesh. Significant opportunity exists to increase clean energy capacity and develop a more cost-effective, less polluting energy sector and expand access to high-quality power and modern energy services. BADGE will create an enabling environment that is conducive to increased deployment of advanced energy technologies in Bangladesh and that contributes to the overall sustainability of the sector, while

also providing affordable and reliable energy. There are four Intermediate Results expected under the Result Area 1, those are as follows:

IR 1.1: Improved enabling environment for increased deployment of clean energy.

IR 1.2: Improved adoption of Energy Efficient technology and demand side management measures.

IR 1.3: Enhanced access to high-quality reliable power and modern energy services.

IR 1.4: Increased financing for advanced energy technologies.

## **RESULT 2: HIGH-PERFORMING ENERGY INSTITUTIONS**

Energy institutions form the backbone of a functioning energy sector. BADGE will work with a variety of government institutions, including utilities, system operators, policymakers, and regulators, as well as the private sector to accelerate the modernization of utilities across the entire electricity chain, with a focus on strengthening sector planning, improving the financial and operational performance of electric utilities, improving the quality and reliability of power, enhancing the sector's human capital, and mobilizing resources and investment for electric infrastructure upgrades. There are three Intermediate Results expected under the Result Area 2, those are as follows:

IR 2.1: Improved energy sector planning.

IR 2.2: Increased adoption of efficient commercial and operational practices by energy utilities.

IR 2.3: Improved human capital of the energy sector workforce and institutions.

## **RESULT 3: TRANSPARENT AND BEST-VALUE ENERGY PROCUREMENT**

Reforms in Bangladesh's power sector have allowed independent power production and partially separated generation, transmission, and distribution. Increased competition and improved market structures are needed to improve the efficiency, transparency, accountability, and financial viability of the sector while enabling increased private sector investment. There are two Intermediate Results expected under the Result Area 3, those are as follows:

IR 3.1: Improved capacity for competitive and transparent energy procurement.

IR 3.2: Increased implementation of effective and market-driven procurement.

## **RESULT 4: INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ENERGY TRADE**

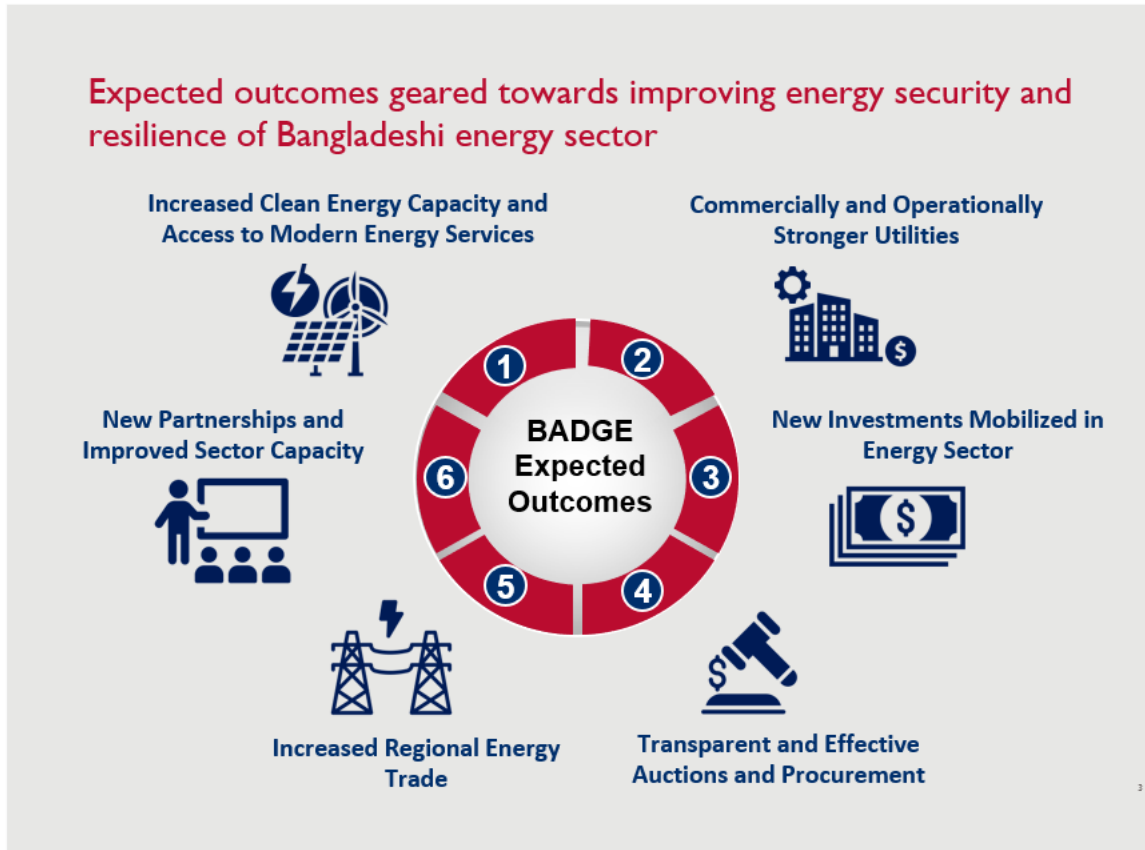
Increased cross-border integration of energy markets will enhance regional stability, increase sector revenues, generate additional employment, provide access to expanded economic opportunities, advance economic growth, and improve social services. There are two Intermediate Results expected under the Result Area 4, those are as follows:

IR 4.1: Improved policy framework for increased cross-border energy trade.

IR 4.2: Improved technical systems and regulatory regime for a synchronized regional grid.



**Figure:** BADGE expected outcomes.



**CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES**

**YOUTH, GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

Each award from Grants will be designed in alignment with the BADGE Youth, Gender, and Social Inclusion Plan. BADGE grants shall give preference to women-led organizations as well as organizations that have a significant number of women members in the senior management, or more than 30% staff are women, or organizations that produce products or services which significantly benefit women. BADGE emphasizes on gender equity as well as participation of youth and other socially marginalized communities’ in the energy sector.

**REDUCTION AND MITIGATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**

BADGE shall integrate environmental pollution concerns and mitigation into the energy sector. Each grant application will be screened to determine if there are any Environmental Impacts and corresponding mitigation plans to reduce environmental pollution should be provided as well.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND BRANDING**



BADGE Communications Strategy and Branding & Marking Plan will flow-down to all Grants under Contract awards. BADGE shall ensure USAID branding and marking visibilities in Grant awarded activities for printing and electronic materials, USAID provided assets and equipments, events, and press engagements.

#### MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL)

Grant recipients will need to provide data and reports to feed the BADGE reporting requirements as per Monitoring Evaluation and Learning plan.

#### OBJECTIVES OF BADGE GRANTS PROGRAM

The BADGE Grants Under Contract (GUC) program aims to provide awards that support BADGE's overall objectives and contribute to its result areas. All awards must be consistent with BADGE's technical strategies and priorities. To ensure sustainability of activities and encourage local ownership, BADGE will prioritize applications that complement, consolidate, or expand ongoing efforts and initiatives related to its objectives. Grant funds will be directed primarily towards local grass-root organizations, private companies, non-profit, entrepreneurs, academic and Research & Development institutions working in the area of energy access, clean energy, improving quality and reliability of supply and modern energy services. Grantees may be required to cost-share, or bring in matching funds. The use of the grants fund will be to

- Encourage diverse groups' participation.
- Leverage funding from non-USAID sources for pilots.
- Overcome financial and institutional barriers to private sector investment; and
- Address barriers to adopting innovative technologies and new business models.

#### PURPOSE OF THIS RFA

**Expected Period of Performance:** a maximum period 24 months depending on the grant activities.

**Place of Performance:** Anywhere in Bangladesh.

**Anticipated start date of grants agreement:** July 01, 2022

**Anticipated award size:** Not more than equivalent to US \$30,000

The Grants Funds will be used as a tool to augment the results of BADGE by engaging local organizations, non-profit, academic, and Research & Development institutions, private sector, and new and underutilized partners working in the area of energy access, clean energy, energy efficiency, improving quality and reliability of supply and modern energy services. It will also harness innovative energy business models, solutions, technologies, resources, experiences, and networks of relationships that exist across stakeholders.

Through this RFA, BADGE is inviting applications to fund qualified organizations for supporting activities and programs consistent with the BADGE's purpose of improving access to improved energy security and resilience through better access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable



energy systems and transparent and efficient energy markets. All grant applications should address one or more of the relevant thematic areas and align with the scope of work. Activities may include but not limited to the following:

- **Facilitate adoption of advanced clean energy technologies:** Propose new RE based business models or technology(s) that can be explored within the timeline. This may include thermal solar, energy storage, Renewable Energy hybrid projects, land-neutral systems like floating solar or offshore wind.
- **Support adoption of electric vehicles (EVs):** Conduct study/assessment on current Electric Vehicles, its impact on the grid, level of carbon emission, available charging facilities, charging station mapping local or regional level; explore innovative and cost effective charging solutions integrating RE; improve the quality of the charging components of EV to maximize utilization.
- **Build capacity of the private sector to implement Energy Efficiency projects:** Implement Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master plan (EECMP) through creating awareness on energy efficient best practices. Improve private sector capacity through knowledge sharing and training
- **Build entrepreneurial skills in newly electrified communities:** Developing entrepreneurial skill and business models for efficient electricity use in the rural business sector with a special focus on ethnic, women and youth led businesses and income generation activities.
- **Facilitate private sector solar pumping solutions:** Developing scalable business models for private finance and maintenance; facilitate energy demand aggregation for retaining the economic advantages, engaging banks on financing for solar pumping solutions; facilitate net-metering; with a special focus on ethnic, women and youth.
- **GreenHouse Gas (GHG) reductions campaigns:** Engaging youth and women, develop and implement GHG reductions campaigns through film, advertisements, and/or social media communications.

## **MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES AND DUE DATES**

All final materials in the framework of this grant to be produced in English.

Organization should be available to start implementation of activities under this RFA within 15 days after the award notice. In case there are any changes in the composition of the proposed personnel indicated in the application form, the organization must obtain BADGE's agreement before the award.

The successful applicant shall submit the deliverables in accordance with the following indicative schedule.





This is an indicative schedule. However, it shall be specified based on each selected grants activity work plan.

<b>Major/Broader Activities/Milestones</b>	<b>Tentative Schedule (depending on the work plan)</b>
Project kick-off meeting and Resources Mobilization	
Project operational planning, e.g. work plan, M&E plan, etc.	
Commencement of Field level implementation (if required)	
Technical implementation of planned activities	
Monitoring, data collection and reporting of deliverables/milestones	
Completion of the project, evaluation and final reporting	

## Section II. Award and Eligibility Information

1. BADGE anticipates awarding several grants in response to this RFA. Allowable costs must be consistent with USAID policies and procedures and be reasonable, allocable, well documented and justified for the proposed grant activities and budget.
2. The following restrictions apply to awards issued under this RFA:
  - The award will not allow the reimbursement of pre-award costs. That is, only allowable obligations incurred during the period defined within the grant agreement will be reimbursed.
  - Commercial Fee/Profit will not be allowed and so cannot be included in the budget
  - Nonrefundable VAT is not considered allowable under this RFA. USAID funded projects in Bangladesh are VAT exempted. BADGE will provide VAT coupons against VAT deposited to the Government Treasury (if any) by the third-party vendors of grant recipients, throughout the implementation of the proposed activities.
  - 'Construction' as defined in ADS 303maw is not allowable:  
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303maw.pdf>
  - The award will not allow the reimbursement of any goods and/or services that utilize telecommunications and video surveillance products from the following companies: Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company, or any subsidiary or affiliate thereof, in compliance with 2 CFR 200.216.



- Equipment and materials are allowed under this award. A complete list of allowable and eligible commodities can be found at ADS 312:  
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/312.pdf>

3. After reading the RFA in its entirety, applicants may submit clarification questions to the BADGE Grants Specialist via email at [BADGE.Grants@tetrattech.com](mailto:BADGE.Grants@tetrattech.com) before the deadline indicated on the cover page of this RFA. BADGE will share clarification responses with all the potential applicants who requested the application format and/or submitted questions in response to this RFA document.
4. **Cost Share:** BADGE encourages grant recipients to provide as much cost matching as they reasonably can. When possible, for standard grants, cost share should equal at least 10 (ten) percent of the cost of proposed activities to be undertaken by the grant.

Grant cost share must adhere to applicable USAID guidance, such as ADS 303.3.10, Acquisition and Assistance Policy Directive (AAPD) 02-10, and any other applicable Standard Provision. It is USAID's policy not to apply its source, origin, and nationality requirements or the restricted goods provision established in the Standard Provision entitled "USAID Eligibility Rules for Goods and Services" on cost share amounts. In accordance with Title 2 of CFR 200.207, program income may be used to finance the required non-U.S. government cost-share portion of the grant award.

Cost sharing or matching refers to that portion of project or program costs not borne by BADGE. All contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, are acceptable as part of the recipient's cost share or match when they meet the criteria established in the Standard Provision governing recipient contributions.

For instance, the cost share may be in the form of funds from other (non-U.S. Government) donors; it may be the labor of the grant recipient employees or volunteers; or it may be the use of a recipient's meeting room to hold a workshop for the grant activity or any contribution which has monetary value.

Backup documentation is used to verify the source and value of the cost share contributions. The types of backup documentation required vary according to the type of cost share.

5. Organizations with and without prior USAID experience are encouraged to apply. The following organizations are eligible for BADGE grant funding:
  - Private sector organizations participating in the energy sector;
  - Non-U.S. NGOs;
  - U.S. NGOs;
  - Foundations and universities;
  - Small or medium enterprises (profit will not be funded under grant activities and therefore, cannot be proposed in the budget);



- Faith-based organizations excluding those that are not in compliance with ADS 303.3.6.4.m, which is in accordance with Executive Order 13279, Equal Protection for the Laws of Faith-based Community Organizations; and/or whose objectives are discriminatory or religious in nature;
- Associations, community organizations, indigenous groups, and cooperatives;
- Legally organized associations of the above organizations; and
- Other civil society organizations.

6. The following organizations are NOT eligible for BADGE grant funding:

- Political parties, their subsidiaries, or affiliates;
- Any governmental organization as defined in ADS 220;<sup>1</sup>
- Organizations that appear with active restrictions on the SAM, OFAC, or U.N. 1267 lists;
- Organizations that promote or engage in illegal or anti-democratic activities;
- Faith-based organizations that are not in compliance with ADS 303.3.28, which is in accordance with Executive Order 13279, Equal Protection for the Laws of Faith-based Community Organizations; and/or whose objectives are discriminatory or religious in nature;
- Organizations that are debarred or suspended from the eligibility to receive funding from the United States Government (USG);
- Any governmental organization (including Public International Organizations) not approved by USAID; and
- Organizations that are not legally registered in Bangladesh.

7. In addition, all applicants are required to:

- a) Provide a valid Dun and Bradstreet Universal Number System (DUNS) number; and
- b) Submit signed copies of the certifications required of this solicitation.

The BADGE Grants Specialist can assist successful organizations in obtaining a DUNS number. BADGE may not issue awards until these conditions have been met.

8. All applications submitted to BADGE by the Deadline for Submittal of Applications will be reviewed for compliance against the submission and format criteria in **Section III** of this RFA. Applicants judged compliant will then be scored according to the evaluation criteria outlined in **Section IV** of this RFA by the BADGE Grants Evaluation Committee (GEC) within two weeks of the submission deadline. Applications scored at or above the minimum scoring threshold necessary to proceed in cycle will enter pre-award negotiations in the

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<sup>1</sup> “An office, organization or body at any level of a public administration system (ministry, department, agency, service, district or municipality) of a bilateral foreign assistance recipient country that implements activities financed by or jointly programmed as a result of funds disbursed by USAID directly to the partner government public financial management system” (ADS 220).



order of highest score to lowest score, subject to the limitation of the number of available awards to be issued in response to this RFA and the availability of BADGE grant funding.

9. Following the submission of an application, the BADGE Grants Specialist will send the applicant an e-mail confirmation of receipt.
10. Submissions received after the Deadline for Submittal of Applications will not be considered or evaluated by BADGE.
11. BADGE anticipates awarding Fixed Amount Award, or In-Kind, or Fixed Amount Award with In-Kind support grant agreements from this solicitation.
12. USAID reserves the right to fund or not to fund any application. Additionally, any award pursuant to this funding opportunity is contingent upon the availability of funds and USAID approval.

### Section III. Application Format and Submission Information

The following instructions should be read thoroughly to understand the requirements of a full application.

1. Applications must be submitted electronically to the BADGE Grants Specialist at [BADGE.Grants@tetrattech.com](mailto:BADGE.Grants@tetrattech.com). Full application emails will consist of one Microsoft Word or PDF file of the narrative application and annexes, and one Microsoft Excel file of the budget application. **Please begin the subject line of electronic submissions with BADGE-RFA-2022-GUC-001, followed by the name of the organization (for example: BADGE-RFA-2022-GUC-01-XXXX).**
2. The technical narrative application (which does not include the required Excel budget or documents that the applicant is required to submit as “attachments”) should be submitted using the following suggested format:
  - a. Language must be **English**;
  - b. Length of no more than **25 single-spaced pages**;
  - c. Font must be **Times New Roman**;
  - d. Font size must be **11**;
  - e. Paper size must be **A4 (8.27” X 11.69”)**;
  - f. Margins must be **1”** on all 4 sides of the page.



3. The structure of the technical narrative application should follow the sequential order and page limitations outlined in **Annex B** of this RFA.
4. The required attachments to the technical narrative are outlined in **Annex C** of this RFA.
5. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified, in writing, within 60 business days following the completion of the Grants Evaluation Committee scoring process that their application was “Declined to fund.”
6. Grant agreement technical progress and financial reporting requirements will be established during pre-award negotiations.
7. Successful applicants who are awarded a grant agreement will be required to comply with the terms and conditions of the BADGE Branding and Marking Plan, which includes the condition that the recipients must co-brand all projects, activities, public communications and commodities with USAID. Co-branding is placing the USAID identity next to the award recipient’s logo and ensuring equal or greater size and prominence.

In addition, applicants are reminded of the following United States Government requirements:



### **PREVENTING TERRORIST FINANCING (August 2013)**

- a) The recipient must not engage in transactions with, or provide resources or support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism including those individuals or entities that appear on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List maintained by the U.S. Treasury (online at: <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/SDNList/Pages/default.aspx>) or the United Nations Security designation list (online at: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list> ).
- b) This provision must be included in all subawards and contracts issued under this award.

**(END OF PROVISION)**

### **USAID DISABILITY POLICY - ASSISTANCE (June 2012)**

The recipient must not discriminate against people with disabilities in the implementation of USAID funded programs and should demonstrate a comprehensive and consistent approach for including men, women, and children with disabilities.

**(END OF PROVISION)**

### **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (JULY 2015)**

- a) The recipient, sub awardee, or contractor, at any tier, or their employees, labor recruiters, brokers or other agents, must not engage in:
  - 1) Trafficking in persons (as defined in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime) during the period of this award;
  - 2) Procurement of a commercial sex act during the period of this award;
  - 3) Use of forced labor in the performance of this award,
  - 4) Acts that directly support or advance trafficking in persons, including the following acts:
    - i. Destroying, concealing, confiscating, or otherwise denying an employee access to that employee's identity or immigration documents;
    - ii. Failing to provide return transportation or pay for return transportation costs to an employee from a country outside the United States to the country from which the employee was recruited upon the end of employment if requested by the employee, unless:



1. exempted from the requirement to provide or pay for such return transportation by USAID under this award; or
  2. the employee is a victim of human trafficking seeking victim services or legal redress in the country of employment or a witness in a human trafficking enforcement action;
  - iii. Soliciting a person for the purpose of employment, or offering employment, by means of materially false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises regarding that employment;
  - iv. Charging employees recruitment fees; or
  - v. Providing or arranging housing that fails to meet the host country housing and safety standards.
- b) In the event of a violation of section (a) of this provision, USAID is authorized to terminate this award, without penalty, and is also authorized to pursue any other remedial actions authorized as stated in section 1704(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Pub. L. 112-239, enacted January 2, 2013).
- c) If the estimated value of services required to be performed under the award outside the United States exceeds \$500,000, the recipient must submit to the BADGE, the annual “Certification regarding Trafficking in Persons, Implementing Title XVII of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013” as required prior to this award, and must implement a compliance plan to prevent the activities described above in section (a) of this provision. The recipient must provide a copy of the compliance plan to BADGE upon request and must post the useful and relevant contents of the plan or related materials on its website (if one is maintained) and at the workplace. - NOT APPLICABLE FOR BADGE GRANTS

**(END OF PROVISION)**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST PRE-AWARD TERM (August 2018)**

**a. Personal Conflict of Interest**

1. An actual or appearance of a conflict of interest exists when an applicant organization or an employee of the organization has a relationship with a USAID/BADGE official involved in the competitive award decision-making process that could affect that USAID/BADGE official’s impartiality. The term “conflict of interest” includes situations in which financial or other personal considerations may compromise, or have the appearance of compromising, the obligations and duties of a USAID/BADGE employee or recipient employee.
2. The applicant must provide conflict of interest disclosures when it submits a concept paper or application. Should the applicant discover a previously undisclosed conflict of interest after submitting the application, the applicant must disclose the conflict of interest to the BADGE Grants Specialist no later than ten (10) calendar days following discovery.



b. Organizational Conflict of Interest

The applicant must notify USAID/BADGE of any actual or potential conflict of interest that they are aware of that may provide the applicant with an unfair competitive advantage in competing for this financial assistance award. Examples of an unfair competitive advantage include but are not limited to situations in which an applicant or the applicant's employee gained access to non-public information regarding a federal assistance funding opportunity, or an applicant or applicant's employee was substantially involved in the preparation of a federal assistance funding opportunity. USAID/BADGE will promptly take appropriate action upon receiving any such notification from the applicant.

**(END OF PROVISION)**

**PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS**

In the event the recipient or any of its employees, subrecipients, or contractors are found to have been convicted of a narcotics offense or to have been engaged in drug trafficking as defined in 22 CFR 140, USAID reserves the right to terminate this award, in whole or in part, or take any other appropriate measures including, without limitation, refund or recall of any award amount. Additionally, the recipient must make a good-faith effort to maintain a drug-free workplace and USAID reserves the right to terminate or suspend this award if the recipient materially fails to do so.

**(END OF PROVISION)**

**NEW RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING (22 CFR 227)**

- a) No appropriated funds may be expended by the recipient of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any of the following covered Federal actions: the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- b) Each person who requests or receives from an agency a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement shall file with that agency a certification, set forth in appendix A, that the person has not made, and will not make, any payment prohibited by paragraph (a) of this section.
- c) Each person who requests or receives from an agency a Federal contract, grant, loan, or a cooperative agreement shall file with that agency a disclosure form, set forth in appendix B, if such person has made or has agreed to make any payment using nonappropriated funds (to include profits from any covered Federal action), which would be prohibited under paragraph (a) of this section if paid for with appropriated funds.





- d) Each person who requests or receives from an agency a commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan shall file with that agency a statement, set forth in appendix A, whether that person has made or has agreed to make any payment to influence or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with that loan insurance or guarantee.
  
- e) Each person who requests or receives from an agency a commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan shall file with that agency a disclosure form, set forth in appendix B, if that person has made or has agreed to make any payment to influence or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with that loan insurance or guarantee.

**(END OF PROVISION)**



## Section IV. Pre-Screening and Scoring Evaluation Criteria

### Pre-Screening

Following the closing date and time, the BADGE Grants Specialist will open all application emails and conduct an initial pre-screening to determine which grants will move forward. A “NO” to any of the below screening questions will result in a disqualification.

1. Is the organization a legally registered entity?
2. Is the organization eligible for funding per requirements of this solicitation?
3. Has the applicant been searched in the SAM, OFAC, and UN 1267 and not been found with any negative findings?
4. Did the applicant submit a technical application with the required format and attachments?

### Selection Criteria

Those applications that pass the initial pre-screening will be passed along to the Grants Evaluation Committee (GEC). The following criteria will be used by the GEC to evaluate and score applications – the number to the right indicates relative importance. A minimum score of 70 out of the available 100 points is required to “proceed in cycle” to pre-award negotiations. The GEC, consisting of at least three people, will formally score and rank all applications independently and uniformly in writing, using an Application Evaluation Form. Applications scored at or above the minimum scoring threshold necessary to “proceed in cycle” will enter pre-award negotiations in the order of highest score to lowest score, subject to the limitation of the number of available awards to be issued in response to this RFA and the availability of BADGE grant funding.

Rankings will be based on the criteria and points, based on score of 100 as the maximum points allowed, as follows:

1. Description of the Project (Technical): **40 points**
  - a. Clearly defined problem statement or rationality of proposed project-**10 points**
  - b. Innovative technical approach with clearly outlined goal, objectives and indicators-**20 points**
  - c. Environmental compliance-**10 points**
2. Organizational capabilities: **30 points**
  - a. Past performance on similar projects and experience in geographic region -**10 points**
  - b. Technical and management skills and expertise of the proposed team-**10 points**
  - c. Established policies and manuals on financial, procurement, administrative, and HR management to adhere USAID regulations and GoB compliances. -**10 points**
3. Gender and youth inclusiveness: **15 points**



- a. Women-led organization, and contribution to gender equality and women empowerment. - **10 points.**
  - b. Youth Integration and Social Inclusion - **5 points.**
4. Cost effectiveness: **15 Points.**
- a. Reasonableness of proposed budget-**5 points**
  - b. Cost share/matching fund- **10 points.**

### Section V. Award Administration Information

For the application(s) selected to “proceed in cycle,” BADGE will send additional information and schedule the following tasks:

- 1) Pre-award responsibility determination – to assess the organization’s capacity to adequately perform the grant activities in accordance with USAID requirements
- 2) Cost analysis and negotiation – to determine that all costs are deemed reasonable, allowable and allocable.
- 3) Technical negotiations – to finalize the project description that will be submitted to USAID for approval.
- 4) Reporting requirements – depending on the type of grant, BADGE will discuss the reporting requirements with your organization ahead of time.

All grants will be administered in accordance with the following applicable regulations:

- ADS 303 and Standard Provisions for U.S. organizations, non-U.S. nongovernmental organizations, or Fixed Amount Awards, as applicable
- 2 CFR 200 and 700
- Applicable OMB Circulars

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing by BADGE.



## **Section VI. Attachments**

Attachment A: Grant Application Format.

Attachment B: Budget Format with budget note guidance.

Attachment C: Required Certifications.

Attachment D: DUNS Registration Process Guide.