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## Grants Program Statement (GPS)

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| Name of Project | Feed The Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity |
| Grants Program Statement (GPS) No | GPS-2020-001 |
| Date of Issue | June 10, 2020 |
| Closing Date | June 09, 2021 (Concept paper will not be accepted after deadline) |

1. **Background and objective**

The USAID-funded Bangladesh Nutrition Activity (the Project) is designed to empower and support market and community actors to address underlying causes of malnutrition in the USAID Feed the Future Zone of Influence (ZoI). By the end of the Project, existing community structures and market actors in 18 upazilas across three districts of Patuakhali, Faridpur and Khulna will have been supported and empowered to improve nutrition outcomes through the project’s integrated market facilitation and social and behavior change (SBC) approach. A list of phase 1 upazilas, and phase 2 upazilas is attached (Annex 1).

Three results underpin the Activity’s goal:

1. Consumption of nutritious, diverse, and safe diets by rural households

2. Social and economic empowerment of women and adolescents

3. Adoption of improved water, sanitation and hygiene practices

Improvements in all three result areas are required to positively affect overall nutritional outcomes.

The project focuses on building the role of market actors in delivering nutrition-enhancing and WASH information, products and services to a greater number of consumers in the Activity’s catchment area. The Project’s main entry points are rural growth centers and the approximate 2 kilometer catchment areas around them (see Annex 1 for list of growth centers). The principal market actors targeted by the Project are agricultural input retailers providing products for better homestead production, suppliers and retailers of nuts, local fruits, vegetables, dairy and eggs, latrine producers, and suppliers and retailers of hygiene, latrine and clean water products.

The Bangladesh Nutrition Activity (BNA), the Activity, is currently accepting concept papers for activities to be funded under its Grants Program. The Grants Program supports activities and programs that complement existing Bangladesh Nutrition interventions and help achieve the Activity’s objectives.

Examples of appropriate interventions include support to increase the affordability and availability of nutrition-enhancing and WASH products and services through market channels (supply side). The Activity also aims to promote consumption of these nutrition-enhancing products (demand side). The Activity wishes to promote innovations and private sector investments in distribution techniques that include embedded services such as extension messages for improved homestead productivity or nutrition messages to enhance the quality of meals, as well as marketing practices such as courtyard information sessions and demonstrations, advertising and the provision of other embedded services that impart information or other advantages to the consumer.

1. **Objectives of this BNA Grants Program Statement**

Grant funds may be used for activities that address one or more of the following non-exhaustive list of constraints to improved nutrition outcomes:

* Lack of information on good agricultural practices and access to quality inputs for homestead production to meet household food needs as well as enhance the availability of surplus production for trade or sale, especially by women producers;
* Lack of reliable information on products including nutrition information on foods and the merits of different WASH products to address the principle safe water, sanitation and hygiene concerns in each particular area;
* Lack of consistent, reliable, year-round last mile distribution channels for nutritious foods (vegetables, dairy, eggs and local fruit) that address constraints to women’s mobility and access to markets;
* Lack of reliable, client-oriented marketing skills among horticulture and WASH market actors
* Limited involvement of young entrepreneurs and youth model retailers and services providers in the local food supply system
* Limited women’s leadership in household decision-making surrounding food production, consumption and preparation as well as WASH product investments (for example, latrine components or water filters) and consumption (menstrual hygiene products, soaps, or water purification tablets)
* Lack of access to and/or demand for reliable and affordable WASH products and services, which contribute to safer drinking water, improved hygiene (e.g. handwashing and menstrual hygiene), and improved sanitation
* Any other relevant constraints to the Nutritious foods or WASH sectors as proposed by the applicant.

1. **Eligibility of organizations**

Companies/firms that meet the following mandatory criteria 1-6 are requested to submit their concept papers for consideration:

1. Organization is legally registered in Bangladesh
2. Organization is not part of a government or any government structure;
3. Organization is a for-profit entity operating in the commercial space
4. Organization has the capability to successfully implement the activity
5. Organization has a financial accounting system to adequately account (as per USAID regulations) for the funds that would be provided via the award
6. Organization is in good standing with all civil and fiscal authorities

Note: Non-profit organizations, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Consulting Firms, and Associations are not eligible for funding under this GPS

1. **Concept paper evaluation**

Concept papers which meet the above eligibility requirements will be further evaluated against the following broad categories for alignment to BNA goals and objectives:

1. The problem statement is clearly stated
2. The concept addresses the objectives of BNA, as stated in Section II above
3. The concept is innovates, cost-effective and/or transformative and will build capacity in related areas
4. The proposed activity is reasonable in its scope, approach, and/or expected results
5. **Invitation to Apply**

Organizations that conform to the criteria noted above may be invited to submit a formal application to BNA. The application will be scored against the following criteria:

1. Does the proposed activity have a well-thought-out implementation plan with clearly defined objectives that address market constraints, including expected results with quantifiable target/benchmarks that align to the organization’s core business? (40 Pts)
2. Is the activity innovative, realistic and achievable within a period of time consistent with the life of project? (15 Pts)
3. Is the Applicant contributing to the overall activity cost in cash or in kind, or using other methods to leverage resources? If applicable, is their proposed contribution appropriate to the Applicant’s financial capacity? Cost effectiveness and allowability are required evaluation criteria and include the consideration of leverage, which is sought on a 1 to 1 basis--exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis if the impact is sufficiently compelling and demonstrates a clear pathway to future sustainability (10 Pts)
4. Does the activity address issue of sustainability (including exit strategy) and replicability in a compelling way? (15 Pts)
5. Does the proposed activity target have a measurable impact on the Bangladesh Nutrition Activity’s primary audiences (Geographic location, number of outreach, market actors in the food system, including women and youth) as project beneficiaries? (20 Pts)

The maximum total is 100 points. Applicants must receive a minimum overall score of 75 points total, as well as achieve a minimum of 50% under each individual supplementary criterion to be considered for funding support. A score of 75 or greater does not guarantee an award, and Abt reserves the right to award as many or as few grants as it deems appropriate, at our sole discretion.

Note: *Leveraging includes all of the non-USAID resources (Excluding cost share) that third parties bring to the program without necessarily providing them to the recipient of the USAID assistance award. These parties may include the host government, private foundations, businesses, or individuals.*

1. **Award Information**

Concept papers submitted in response to this GPS do not guarantee that an organization will be invited to submit an application; likewise an invitation to submit an application does not guarantee that a grant will be awarded The number and value of grants awarded are at Abt’s sole discretion and will be awarded to maximize project impact. The period of performance will vary but results must accrue prior to July 31, 2023.

Grants will be Fixed Amount Awards denominated in Bangladeshi Taka (BDT). Disbursements will occur in tranches according to pre-determined deliverables or after successful completion of set of program benchmarks included in the grant agreement. Amounts are not variable once agreed to by all parties in the signed grant agreement.

Grantees are expected to comply with minimal reporting requirements that provide evidence the grant contributes to the Bangladesh Nutrition Activity’s objectives. The reporting requirements will be included in the grant agreement as formal deliverables.

The GPS and the resulting awards administered by Abt Associates under USAID’s feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity will be administered in accordance with provisions contained in ADS **Chapter 303and will include the USAID Standard Provisions appropriate to the type and size of the grant and the recipient organization.** Information on these provisions can be accessed through the USAID external website at www.usaid.gov or by contacting the Bangladesh Nutrition Activity Grants Manager.

1. **Concept paper submission process**

Interested organizations who meet the eligibility criteria stated in Section III should submit a concept paper via email to the BNA Grants Manager, [**Arifa\_Choudhury@abtassoc.com**](mailto:Arifa_Choudhury@abtassoc.com)and cc to **Ekramul\_hosain@abtassoc.com** clearly stating GPS- 2020-001-“your organization Name” in the subject line of the email. Concept papers will be accepted on a rolling basis until all program funding is committed or until June 09, 2021, whichever comes first.

* Concept papers must use the template provided in Annex II.
* Concept papers should answer the questions provided in the template briefly and precisely.
* Concept papers must be submitted in English.
* Concept papers shall not exceed 3 pages.
* The concept papers must be signed by authorized representative(s) of the organization.
* BNA reserves the right not to make any award from this solicitation.
* BNA is not responsible for any failure of transmission by the applicant.

After successful concept paper evaluation an organization may be invited to respond to further questions or clarifications about their concept, after which they may be invited to submit a full application. If selected, prospective grantees may be required to participate in a joint design process with the relevant Bangladesh Nutrition Activity members.

ANNEXES

Annex I- List of Growth Centers

Annex II– Concept Paper Form

**Annex I**

**The relevant geographic target districts areas under the Bangladesh Nutrition Activity are:**

Feed The Future (FTF) zone of influence (ZOI), which comprises 21 upazilas in Barisal, Dhaka, and Khulna Divisions. The Activity is currently working in the 27 growth centers listed below. 27 more growth centers from new Upazials will be added to the portfolio as part of Phase 2 expansion.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **District** | **Upazila** | **Growth Center** | **Villages** | **Households** |
| Faridpur | Charbhadrasan | Char Bhadrasan Bazar | 8 | 2494 |
| Char Haziganj Bazar | 10 | 1763 |
| Moulavir Char Hat | 5 | 1165 |
| Faridpur\_Sadar | Bakhunda Bazar | 6 | 3967 |
| Laxmi Dasher Hat | 7 | 3963 |
| Momin Khar Bazar | 11 | 1113 |
| Sadarpur | Baroir Hat | 3 | 2597 |
| Krishnapur Hat | 7 | 3825 |
| Saresat Rashi | 7 | 2964 |
| Khulna | Dumuria | Boruna Hat | 2 | 1564 |
| Chuknagar Hat | 6 | 5694 |
| Dumuria Hat | 6 | 6846 |
| Shahpur | 3 | 2845 |
| Phultala | Eastern gate Bazar | 6 | 9085 |
| Jamira Bazar | 4 | 3145 |
| Phultala Hat | 5 | 8074 |
| Rupsa | Alaipur Hat | 3 | 2556 |
| Sener Bazar | 7 | 8780 |
| Patuakhali | Kalapara | Banati Bazar | 14 | 2234 |
| Kalapara (Khepupara) | 28 | 6856 |
| Mohipur Bazar | 8 | 3548 |
| Mirzaganj | Kathaltali Hat | 9 | 2660 |
| Subidkhali Hat | 10 | 8665 |
| Bhayang Hat | 7 | 2947 |
| Patuakhali\_Sadar | Khatasiya | 2 | 2133 |
| Pukurjana | 5 | 3767 |
| Khaser Hat | 4 | 3857 |
| **Total** |  | **27** | **193** | **109,107** |

**Annex II**

**Concept Paper Form**

**Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Organization:** |  |
| **Organization Registered Address:** |  |
| **Contact Person** (Authorized person on behalf of organization) | **(Name, Title, phone number, email)** |
| **Estimated Funding requested from the Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity** |  |
| **Proposed contribution** |  |
| **Are you legally registered in Bangladesh? Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Are you a part of the government or any government structure? Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date and Type of Registration \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Please provide copies of registration documents with your completed form:** | |
| **1. Describe your organization’s mission, objectives and the objectives of the proposed program** [Include number of word limits i.e. 500 words]  **2.Problem Statement** [Include number of word limits i.e. 500 words]  **Briefly explain the problem/challenge your organization is facing and how Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity can help your organization overcome this problem/challenge.**  **3.Proposed Activity**  a. **Provide a general description of the proposed activities your organization is seeking to implement. Who will benefit from the proposed activity and how?** *[including the market catchment areas targeted, estimates of how many people and the target population(s)]*  b. **Describe how your organization will implement the activities proposed above.** *[A description of who and how the program will be implemented as an integral part of the applicant's Implementation Plan, including leadership and number of staff or workers]*  **c. Provide an estimate of the total amount of Grant Program funding required to implement the program, as well as an estimate of your organization’s contribution, in cash and in kind.**  d. **Describe how the activities proposed contribute to the objectives of the Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity**.  **4.Technical Experience** [Include number of word limits i.e. 500 words]  **Describe your organization’s past experience carrying out similar activities,** **geographic range and their impacts.** | |

**CERTIFICATION**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_hereby certify that this concept paper is current, complete and accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name

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Signature Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Authorized Signatory