**SECTION I: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**Program Description**

The Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening Activity is being implemented by Abt Global (formerly **Abt Associates**) in the **Northern**, **North East, Upper East,** and **Upper West Regions** of Ghana. In total, there are 17 districts in these four regions, referred to as the USAID Zone of Influence (ZOI), which are among the most vulnerable regions in Ghana. The Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening Activity grant program targets to advance the well-being and resilience of women of reproductive age (WRA) and children under five years (CU5) through providing support for activities that advocate farmers’ adoption of improved agronomic practices, creation of linkages to profitable markets, and facilitating access to credit. These activities are aimed at achieving resilience through improving agriculture productivity and promoting alternative livelihood activities. The activity grants program seeks to improve the nutritional status and resilience of 85,000 WRA and CU5 over a period of five years. The Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening’s grants program intends to engage CSOs, NGOs, and private sector actors to support the provision of social services where local governments lack the capacity to deliver.

1. **Scope**

The specific scope of proposed activities under this RFA shall include the implementation of innovative agriculture and livelihoods interventions that seek to improve practices that advance the well-being and resilience of WRA and CU5 through promoting the production and consumption of nutrition-sensitive crops (cowpea, soybean, groundnut, moringa, vegetables) and animal protein (chicken, eggs, meat, fish, etc.) through a sustainable program, diversification of household incomes through the provision of alternative livelihood sources by training and building the capacity of women and youth, establishing profitable markets for agricultural produce, and creating alternative income generating sources in times of unanticipated financial hardship. Grantees shall propose activities that incorporate collaboration with government decentralized departments in the four regions such as the Department of Agriculture, Social Welfare, and Community Development Department.

1. **Objectives**
2. Promote dietary diversity (consumption of various food groups -protein, grains, milk, legumes, dark leafy vegetables, Vitamin A rich foods, and vegetables) through the cultivation of diversified nutrition-sensitive crops using Climate Smart Agriculture, Good Agronomic Practices and promoting the consumption of animal protein through sustainable program.
3. Promote the diversification (expansion) of household income sources through alternative livelihood sources by training and building the capacity of women and youth in alternative income-generating activities.

This RFA seeks to:

* 1. Promote dietary diversity through the cultivation of diversified nutrition-sensitive crops using Climate Smart Agriculture / Good Agronomic Practices.
  2. Facilitate access of women and youth to productive resources (agriculture inputs, land, credit, loans, good pricing for produce) to empower women and increase their resilience.
  3. Promote the consumption of animal protein through sustainable programs (for example small ruminant and poultry/guinea fowl husbandry, fish farming)
  4. Provide alternative livelihood sources through training and capacity building in Women of Reproductive Age (WRA) and youth to increase household incomes.
  5. Build the capacity of the VSLAs/MTMSGs by partnering with private sector organizations (Limited liabilities, Enterprises, and Ventures) that are already working in ventures that have the propensity to provide alternative income sources of livelihood for Women and Youth.
  6. Promote dry season cultivation and consumption of vegetables among youth and women in areas with sufficient water resources.



1. **Activity Geographic Location**

This solicitation targets interventions to be implemented in the Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening ZOI (see Annex 1), and only Applicants having operational experience in at least one of the four regions will be considered for an award under this RFA.

The ZOI is divided into four Regions (Northern, North East, Upper East, and Upper West). Each Applicant must clearly identify the Region(s) they are applying for funding to support in the technical application template; if an Applicant wishes to apply for grant funding in more than one Region, they must submit independent cost and technical applications for each. This is to ensure fair and equitable competition among applicants of similar organizational size and capacity within each region and encourages applicants to address regional and district-specific interventions. It is anticipated that a maximum of ten (10) grants will be awarded across all four Regions as shown below, with each District containing 10 communities; however, Abt reserves the right to award as many or as few grants as practical to accomplish the intended outcomes of the grant program. To be considered eligible, each Applicant must demonstrate sufficient capacity and technical capability to implement activities in all 10 of the selected communities in a given District.

**List of Districts by Region**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northern** | **North East** | **Upper East** | **Upper West** |
| 1. Yendi | 1. East Mamprusi | 1. Bawku Municipal | 1.Daffiama Bussie Issa |
| 1. Mion | 2. Mamprugu Moagduri | 2. Bawku West | 2. Nadowli-Kaleo |
| 1. Karaga |  | 3. Garu | 3. Sissala East |
| 1. Gushegu |  | 4. Tempane | 4. Sissala West |
| 1. Nanton |  |  | 5. Wa East |
| 1. Sagnarigu |  |  |  |

*NOTE: Each District comprises 10 communities where grant activities must be performed.*

1. **Requirements**

Applications must conform to the structure in Attachment B, Technical Application Format, described in more detail in SECTION III of this RFA.

1. **Anticipated Outcomes**
2. Increased consumption of diverse foods among women of reproductive age through the cultivation of diversified nutrition-sensitive crops.
3. Increased consumption of animal protein among women of reproductive age and CU5.
4. Diversification of household income sources for women and youth among beneficiary communities.
5. Increased knowledge of women and youth on Climate Smart Agriculture and Good agronomic practices.
6. **Indicators**

Proposed activities must respond to the following:

1. Number of women beneficiaries consuming a diet of minimum diversity (including at least five of these food groups - Meat, poultry and fish, pulses, dark leafy vegetables, grains, dairy, nuts & seeds, other vitamin A-rich fruits & vegetables, other vegetables, other fruits, eggs) as a result of grant activities
2. Change in project participants’ knowledge, attitude, and practices on nutrition (Social Behavior Change) as a result of grant activities.
3. Number of participants who experience increased resilience to the effects of climate change through grant activities.
4. Number of women who gain access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, employment, etc.) as a result of grant activities.
5. Number of youth (aged 15-29) who gain access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, employment, etc.) as a result of grant activities.