**SECTION I: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**Program Description**

The Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening Activity is implemented by Abt Global in the **Northern**, **North East, Upper East,** and **Upper West regions** of Ghana. There are in total 17 Districts in these four Regions, referred to as the USAID Zone of Influence (ZOI), which are among the most vulnerable regions in Ghana, with poor nutrition practices and a high prevalence of malnutrition in women of reproductive age (WRA) and children under five (CU5). Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening grant program targets improving the nutritional status and resilience of 85,000 WRA and CU5 over five years. The grant implementation period is expected to be 12 months.

1. **Scope**

The specific scope of proposed activities under this grant shall include the implementation of innovative activities to improve nutrition, health, and resilience among women of reproductive age and children under 5 years of age through the promotion of breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and dietary diversity. To improve these indicators, it is expected that applicants will suggest methods to increase the uptake of family planning services among communities. Applicants shall propose activities that incorporate collaboration with government decentralized departments such as the Ghana Health Service, the Department of Agriculture, Social Welfare Department in one or more of the districts in the ZOI noted above.

1. **Objectives**

The primary objectives of this grant program are to:

1. Improve nutrition among women and children
2. Improve early childhood development and social protection at the community level
3. Increase uptake of maternal and child health and family planning services.

These will be achieved by increasing knowledge and health-seeking behavior among women of reproductive age.

This RFA seeks applications that propose innovative approaches that will:

1. Increase knowledge and practice of improved infant, and young child feeding, including effective breastfeeding and complementary feeding, among mothers of children under 5 years of age.
2. Improve dietary diversity among pregnant and lactating women to reduce anemia and improve birth outcomes.
3. Improve early childhood development, responsive care, and social protection through innovative strategies.
4. Promote regular ante-natal care attendance among pregnant women to improve birth outcomes and increase awareness of the benefits of skilled delivery.
5. Increase awareness and promote post-natal care attendance within the first 48 hours after delivery among pregnant women for early detection of postpartum complications.
6. Improve care-seeking behaviors for newborn and childhood illnesses among women with children under 5 years.
7. Increase voluntary uptake of quality modern contraceptive methods by offering culturally appropriate interventions that: (i) positively influence people's views and opinions towards modern contraception, and (ii) encourage the use of high-quality and effective modern contraceptive methods.



1. **Activity Geographic Location**

This solicitation targets interventions to be implemented in the Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening Zone of Influence (ZOI) (see Annex 1), and Applicants having track records of operations in any of the four regions will be considered more favorable 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 ensures 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 seventeen (17) grants will be awarded across all four Regions as shown below, with each District containing 20 communities (10 new and 10 existing 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 20 selected communities in a District.

**List of Districts by Region**

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

*NOTE: Each District will comprise a minimum of 20 (10 new and 10 existing) communities where grant activities must be performed. The list of beneficiary communities will be attached in the RFA attachment H.*

1. **Requirements**

Applicants must use Attachment B, Technical Application Format, to submit an application. Instructions for submission are described in more detail in SECTION III of this RFA.

1. **Anticipated Outcomes**
2. Increased breastfeeding rates, dietary diversity, and meal frequency among children 6 - 23 months.
3. Reduction in the prevalence of anemia, underweight, and wasting among children under 5 years and women of reproductive age.
4. Improvement in community social protection and responsive care practices of caregivers and early learning for children under 5 years.
5. Increased awareness and uptake of family planning methods
6. Increased ante-natal and post-natal clinic attendance.
7. Increased care-seeking behavior for sick newborns and children under 5 years.