



# USAID | MACEDONIA

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## Strengthening Independent Media in Macedonia (SIMM) Program

APS Number APS-165-12-000001

Amendment # 2

Second Round of Concept Papers

**Issuance Date:** September 14, 2012  
**Deadline for Receipt of Questions:** September 28, 2012  
**Closing date & time:** October 15, 2012 5:00 PM Skopje Time  
**Subsequent Evaluation Rounds of Concept Papers:** No

**SUBJECT: USAID/ Macedonia Annual Program Statement (APS) Number APS-165-12-000001 – Amendment # 2 (Second Round of Concept Papers) for Strengthening Independent Media in Macedonia (SIMM) Program**

Pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the United States Government (USG), as represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development Mission in Macedonia (USAID/Macedonia), is seeking second round of concept papers from qualified local, nonprofit or for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to carry out the Strengthening Independent Media in Macedonia Program throughout Macedonia.

This is second and last round of concept papers under this APS, i.e. there will not be any subsequent rounds of concept papers/applications.

Submission review under this APS Amendment # 2 is comprised of two phases: first phase consists of concept papers from prospective Applicants and, second phase is through an invitation process to submit Full Applications from Applicants with the most highly-rated concept papers. Concept papers **must** be received by the closing date and time specified in this cover letter in order to be considered for the respective round of review. The period of performance of the Cooperative Agreement(s) issued under this APS Amendment # 2 will be up to 34 months (from o/a Feb 2013 through o/a Dec 2015) from the date of award. The actual number of awards under this APS Amendment # 2 is subject to the viability of applications received and the availability of funds. Accordingly, USAID' Regional Contracting Office (RCO) in Pristina, in coordination with USAID Macedonia, reserves the right to make multiple awards or no awards at all through this APS Amendment # 2. Subject to the foregoing, the total estimated amount available from the USG is \$330,000.00. The limit of the budget of the proposed individual programs is up to \$330,000.00.

An award must be made only by the USAID Mission/Regional Agreement Officer upon his/her signature to incur costs. He/she will only do so after making a positive responsibility determination that the applicant possesses, or has the ability to obtain, the necessary management competence in planning and carrying out assistance programs and that it will practice mutually agreed upon methods of accountability for funds and other assets provided by USAID.

Pursuant to 22 CFR 226.81, USAID policy is not to award fee or profit under assistance instruments. As such, any for-profit organization receiving an award under this APS will not be

eligible for fee or profit; however, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the grant program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (22 CFR 226, OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit organizations, OMB Circular A-21 for universities, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for for-profit organizations) may be recognized.

Issuance of this APS Amendment # 2 does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a concept paper or application. Concept papers are submitted at the risk of the applicant; should circumstances prevent award of a cooperative agreement, all preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense. USAID reserves the right not to enter into any awards.

This APS Amendment # 2 and any future amendments will be publicized at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), the U.S. Government-wide portal for grant opportunities. In addition the APS can be downloaded from the USAID/Macedonia web site at <http://macedonia.usaid.gov> Potential applicants should regularly check the sites to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this APS.

It is the responsibility of the recipient of this APS Amendment # 2 document to ensure that it has been received from [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) in its entirety and USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes. If you have difficulty accessing the APS Amendment # 2, please contact Mr. Risto Ricliev at [rricliev@usaid.gov](mailto:rricliev@usaid.gov) and Ms. Szidonia Szekeres at [sszekeres@usaid.gov](mailto:sszekeres@usaid.gov)

Any questions concerning this APS Amendment # 2 should be submitted in writing within the set deadline for receipt of questions to Mr. Risto Ricliev via email at [rricliev@usaid.gov](mailto:rricliev@usaid.gov) and to Ms. Szidonia Szekeres at [sszekeres@usaid.gov](mailto:sszekeres@usaid.gov) Responses to questions will be furnished to all prospective recipients as amendment(s) to this APS via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

Concept papers shall be submitted to USAID/Macedonia by no later than the set closing date and time to Mr. Risto Ricliev at [rricliev@usaid.gov](mailto:rricliev@usaid.gov) and to Ms. Szidonia Szekeres at [sszekeres@usaid.gov](mailto:sszekeres@usaid.gov) To be competitive under this solicitation, applications must:

1. Be fully responsive to all directions in this APS document, and
2. Applicants should retain for their records a copy of all enclosures that accompany their application.

Thank you for your consideration of this USAID initiative. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

  
Brian Aaron  
Regional Agreement Officer

Attachments:

Attachment # 1: Objective 2: Governing Justly and Democratically - Project Result

Attachment # 2: Concept Paper Form

Attachment # 3: Budget Form

## 1. BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

Macedonia's media legal framework is generally respected, with the exception of criminal prosecution for libel or defamation. Freedom of the press is constitutionally-guaranteed, and Article 16 specifically states that freedom of personal conviction, conscience, thought, and public expression of thought is guaranteed. The constitution also guarantees freedom of speech, public address, public information, access to information, reception and transmission of information, and the establishment of institutions of public information. In practice, the legal system is selective in enforcement, and constitutional rights are often circumvented.

Macedonia is oversaturated with media outlets, which prevents development of a rational market. Despite a population of slightly more than two million inhabitants, Macedonia has 160 radio stations, 12 daily newspapers, eight weekly newspapers, and 76 television stations, of which six are privately-owned nationwide broadcasters and one is state-owned. Satellite broadcasters originating channels from Macedonia are a new addition to the mix. Internet use is affordable and relatively widespread in the major cities, but not in rural communities or villages.

Some of the reasons for the proliferation of media outlets are: 1) foreign direct investments in the print media; 2) majority and minority language publications serving different parts of the country; 3) indiscriminate issuance of too many licenses by the state regulatory agency, the Broadcast Council of the Republic of Macedonia; and 4) political and corporate sponsorship of media outlets which sustains otherwise unprofitable enterprises and manipulates and controls editorial policy. Of these, the last has the largest and most distorting impact on this critical sector.

There are a variety of challenges in Macedonia's deteriorating media environment and a broad range of assistance efforts could be applied. Given the Mission's limited resources and finite timelines, a more focused approach is required to address what has been identified as one of the most pressing problems: support for journalists both in associations and in the legal realm.

The economic and political intimidation of journalists has created a potent weapon: the threat of prosecution. Civil and/or criminal prosecution for libel and defamation of character are powerful methods to curtail public interest journalism. Crippling financial penalties and exorbitant legal costs have increased along with the number of libel cases. The mere threat of a lawsuit effectively ensures self-censorship as a means of survival. About half of the cases filed are processed through criminal, rather than civil proceedings. Libel remains a criminal offense, contrary to best European practices.

The laws remain sufficiently vague as to open the door to questionable, weak, or frivolous suits. Most journalists do not have faith in the courts for a fair trial as judicial independence remains suspect. Even when reporters can prove the factual basis for their reporting, they may still be found guilty. Many of the most frequent filers of libel suits are government officials, which makes reporting on government malfeasance or corruption a hazardous undertaking. Faced with ruinous fines, in addition to the cost of mounting a legal defense, journalists often choose to engage in self-censorship in order to avoid any court actions. The media owners themselves do not stand behind their journalists and are often a source of pressure for their staff. In a country with an estimated 40% unemployment rate, many journalists are in effect economic hostages.

According to a broad-based nationwide public opinion poll conducted in December 2010, only 48% believe free speech exists in Macedonia. Conversely, of the seven institutions surveyed and assessed a grade of 1-5, with 5 being most favorable, the media was ranked highest at 3.07.

## **2. LINKS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND MACEDONIA COUNTRY ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVE**

The 2011 Macedonia Country Assistance Strategy identifies Objective 1, Greater Checks and Balances in Democratic Processes as critical to stability and development in Macedonia. An independent and respected media that legitimately serves the public interest through responsible, professional journalism is critical to achieving this objective. The SIMM program will strengthen representative media associations, primarily by building the capacity of media and journalists' association. A strong professional organization that can support individual journalists, represent the interests of the profession and increase respect for their work within the media sector is crucial. Legislative changes are required, and Macedonian organizations exist with expertise in this area (See Attachment # 1 to this APS).

## **3. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

**Purpose:** The SIMM program seeks to open the space for independent free media and strengthen freedom of expression by empowering journalists to reduce their vulnerability to political, economic and legal intimidation. Journalists and associated organizations must also network with pertinent civil society organizations in common cause to support improved public interest journalism. Legislation will be promulgated which upon passage would de-criminalize current libel and slander laws and shift the burden of proof, reducing the power of political entities to punish the media for presenting the truth.

### **Program Objectives:**

- **Objective 1:** Build the capacity of media and journalists' associations to support members through collective action, provide legal support to mitigate lawsuits and advance legislative reform to eliminate criminal defamation.
- **Objective 2:** Monitor and enforce professional standards of practice through peer review, public discussion and condemnation of unethical journalism.
- **Objective 3:** Develop sustainable systems to network journalists with CSOs in common cause to improve public interest journalism and bolster media's legitimate role in society.

Local organizations will be instrumental in achieving these objectives. We will also work to integrate the new USAID civil society program and SIMM. We expect that the local media organizations will fully utilize the Civil Society grant component and participate in their capacity building technical assistance.

Possible activities could include: lobbying for media legislation and libel law reform, increasing access to and awareness of legal aid, offering pre-publication reviews for legal issues, and raising professional standards through peer review and condemnation of poor practices. Macedonian organizations could host an online media forum with a specific emphasis on monitoring professional standards of practice. For example, the Ukrainian "Telekritika" website ([www.telekritika.ua](http://www.telekritika.ua)) was developed with the support of USAID and is now self-sustainable. The site serves as a centralized information portal for journalists, citizens and the media industry. Telekritika monitors changes in legislation affecting the media, tracks attacks on journalists and lawsuits, offers forums for advice, discussion and links to other resources. However, its most important feature is that the website is widely respected as the single most important source for

public criticism of unprofessional journalism, overt editorial bias and monitoring of “jeansa,” the Ukrainian name for paid-for journalism.

The SIMM program will be expected to coordinate with relevant indigenous organizations to ensure activities are Macedonian-led and relevant to the needs of Macedonian journalists. The precepts of the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness demand close partnerships to ensure the processes and reforms started under SIMM will continue after the program concludes. Efforts will include coordination with other donors and indigenous partners to ensure that existing efforts/capacities are strengthened and not duplicated.

Linkages to international or Balkan regional media advocacy groups could also be explored. Given Macedonia’s small size and the similarities to problems faced by journalists across the region, more emphasis on cross-border networking could provide exposure as well as support.

**Illustrative Activities include but are not limited to:**

- Develop the institutional capacity of the media and journalists’ associations to function as the premier organizations representing all Macedonian journalists.
- Monitor, provide expert commentary and lobby for/against proposed changes to media and freedom of information legislation.
- Assist a national organization to develop a web-based platform to monitor and provide media content.
- Support peer to peer media criticism and public condemnation of poor professional practices.
- Link media organizations to other CSOs and think tanks for joint advocacy on common issues.
- Monitor and publicize media freedom violations, including attacks on journalists.
- Assist organizations who provide legal defense for journalists.
- Utilize social media to promote media issues, enlist citizen reporters.
- Advocacy networking, coalition building and links to international media support organizations.
- Support linkages to regionally-based media platforms (BIRN, RIJN, SEENPM, SEEMO)
- Monitor actions of the Broadcasting Council.
- Encourage cross border exchanges with other Balkan countries with improved media environments (Croatia).

**Expected Results**

**Objective 1:** Build the capacity of journalists’ associations to support individual members through collective action, provide legal support to mitigate lawsuits and advance legislative reform to eliminate criminal defamation.

**Result 1:** Credible journalist associations exists and build member solidarity, represent the interests of working journalists, advocates for legislative reform, protects press freedom, provide legal support and actively serve the needs its membership.

**Objective 2:** Monitor and enforce professional standards of practice through peer review, public discussion and condemnation of unethical journalism.

**Result 2:** Peer-oriented journalism and media criticism forums are created, actively used and have impact on the profession. Journalists understand their professional rights and responsibilities, and adhere to ethical standards of practices.

**Objective 3:** Develop sustainable systems to network journalists with CSOs in common cause to improve public interest journalism and bolster media's legitimate role in society.

**Result 3:** Journalism associations, think tanks, CSOs and individual activists are networked to publicly advocate for greater media independence. Joint activism and support for greater media legitimacy will increase citizen demand for more professionally produced, fact-based, objective news and information.

This program is in line with the USAID Forward Agenda where more direct and collaborative work with local organizations is encouraged. USAID Macedonia encourages applications that reflect strong local engagement of consultants and think-tanks as subcontracts to the award.

### **3. PROGRAM DURATION**

The duration – implementation of programs funded under the Amendment # 2 of the subject APS is anticipated for a period of approximately 34 months from the date of the individual award(s). Project will end not later than December 31, 2015. USAID reserves the right to incrementally fund activities over the duration of the program, if necessary, depending on program length, performance against approved program indicators and availability of funds.

### **4. ANTICIPATED FUNDING AVAILABLE**

USAID anticipates \$330,000.00 initially to be available to support the program(s) or activity/activities described herein, although final funding levels will depend on content, quality, number of applications received, needs, availability of funding, and competing priorities.

### **5. ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF AWARDS**

USAID plans to make from one (1) to two (2) awards under this Amendment # 2 of the APS, subject to the availability of funds. USAID reserves the right to make a single award, to fund parts of applications, or not to make any awards at all. Issuance of this APS Amendment # 2 does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the USAID, nor does it commit the USAID to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any application.

### **6. TYPE OF AWARD(S) / SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT**

The activity will be implemented primarily through Cooperative Agreements to credible domestic media and civil society organizations. Cooperative Agreements are recommended as substantial involvement is anticipated between USAID and the recipients during the implementation of the proposed activity.

Applicants are free to propose a consortium with local media and civil society organizations partners. If a consortium is proposed, the applicants must be clear about how each organization complements the project and how integration among all participants will be assured. The successful applicant should have experience in media development and be able to propose a staffing/teaming structure which will provide a wide range of strategic and technical assistance to grantees.

Depending on the evaluations and award determinations from Final Applications, USAID may decide to be “substantially involved” in the implementation of the program, and therefore award a Cooperative Agreement(s), a specific type of grant. Cooperative Agreements are identical to grants except that USAID may be substantially involved in one or more of the following areas:

1. USAID approval of the recipient’s implementation plans (limited to not more frequently than annually);
2. USAID approval of specified key personnel (limited to 5 positions or 5% of the recipient’s total team size, whichever is greater);
3. USAID and recipient collaboration or joint participation, which includes one or more of the following:
  - a. Collaborative involvement of selection of advisory committee members (USAID may also choose to become a member), if applicable;
  - b. USAID concurrence on the selection of sub-award recipients and/or the substantive technical/programmatic provisions of sub-awards;
  - c. USAID approval of a program monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan (to the extent that such information is not included in the application);
  - d. USAID monitoring to permit direction and redirection because of interrelationships with other projects; and
  - e. USAID authority to immediately halt a construction activity, if applicable.

## **7. COST SHARING (MATCHING)**

Applicants are not required to include counterpart funding. However, applications that include additional in-kind and/or cash contributions may be deemed more cost effective and thus, more competitive. Cost-sharing will be subject to 22 CFR 226.23 and the standard provision entitled “Cost-Sharing (Matching)” for non-U.S. NGOs. If proposing a public-private alliance with an organization or business, provide a copy of informal or formal agreements stipulating cash and/or in-kind contributions.

## **8. PROGRAM INCOME**

If the successful applicant(s) is/are a non-profit organization, any program income generated under the award(s) will be **added to** USAID funding (and any cost-sharing that may be provided), and used for program purposes.

However, pursuant to 22 CFR 226.82, if the successful applicant is a for-profit organization, any program income generated under the award(s) will be **deducted from** the total program cost to determine the amount of USAID funding.

Program income will be subject to 22 CFR 226.24 and the standard provision entitled “Program Income” for non-U.S. NGOs.

## **9. GENDER CONSIDERATIONS**

Women in Macedonian society continue to occupy lower-level positions than men, despite the Government’s stated intention to increase women’s status. Women remain subject to high levels of domestic violence, have difficulty obtaining and retaining employment and face hurdles in becoming entrepreneurs or high-level managers. The Macedonian media exacerbates these

problems by producing content that promotes typical gender stereotypes, lack sensitivity, or do not consider gender impact. Topics of particular interest to women, or those that address gender disparities are rarely explored. The SIMM program should address gender inequities in professional capacity-building, include a focus on gender in media watch-dog activities and ensure that participation in program activities are gender-neutral.

## **10. AUTHORIZED GEOGRAPHIC CODE**

USAID's rules for *Procurement of Commodities and Services Financed by USAID Federal Program Funds* under the award(s) resulting from this APS are set forth in 22 CFR 228 (see <http://notices.usaid.gov/notice/22411> and 22 CFR Part 228, Rules on Procurement of Commodities and Services Financed by USAID Federal Program Funds). The authorized source for procurement under the awards resulting from this APS will be Geographic Code 937 unless otherwise specified in the award(s).

## **11. STANDARD PROVISIONS**

USAID will administer the award in accordance with 22 CFR 226, OMB circulars, and the Standard Provisions.

22 CFR 226 is available at the website:

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_06/22cfr226\\_06.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_06/22cfr226_06.html)

OMB Circulars are available at the website:

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars\\_default](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default)

The Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations that will apply to the award(s) resulting from this APS can be found at <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.pdf>

## **12. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

USAID will not accept applications from individuals. All applicants must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law.

### **12.1 The following types of organizations may apply for funding under this APS**

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) registered under the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations and Foundations of the Republic of Macedonia;
- For-profit consulting companies/think tanks/ registered as local entities.

### **12.2 "Responsibility" of Applicant**

In order for an award to be made, the Agreement Officer must make an affirmative determination that the applicant is "responsible," as discussed in ADS 303.3.9. This means that the applicant must possess, or have the ability to obtain, the necessary management and technical competence to conduct the proposed program, and must agree to practice mutually agreed-upon methods of accountability for funds and other assets provided or funded by USAID. In the absence of an affirmative "responsibility" determination, an award can ordinarily not be made. However, in rare cases, an award can be made with "special award conditions" (i.e., additional non-standard award

requirements designed to minimize the risk presented to USAID of making an award to an NGO for which an affirmative determination of “responsibility” cannot be made), but only where it appears likely that the applicant can correct the deficiencies in a reasonable period.

### 13. SUBMISSION PROCESS

There are two (2) steps of the application process under this APS Amendment # 2:

Step One (1): Submission of a Concept Paper; and

Step Two (2): Submission of a Full Application, **if invited**.

Do not submit a Full Application unless requested to do so by USAID Macedonia.

Missions will notify Applicants o/a December 15, 2012 whether to submit a Full Application.

Applicants should submit a Full Application only at the request of USAID Macedonia following notification inviting a Full Application. If your organization has been requested by a USAID Mission to submit a Full Application, please follow the instructions below.

#### 13.1 Concept Paper Instructions

In order to promote consistency, and for ease of review, we have established a standard Concept Paper Form. All project ideas must be presented using this form. Submissions made using other formats may not be considered.

Concept Papers must respond to the Strengthening Independent Media in Macedonia (SIMM) Program objectives.

Subject to the availability of funding, USAID may issue invitations to submit a Full Application to the applicant(s) that submitted Concept Papers that were evaluated most highly and deemed most likely to succeed.

Concept Papers must be presented following the below described structure and shall include the following outline three (3) components:

##### 13.1.1 Cover Page (1 page)

(See Attachment # 2: Concept Paper Form)

#### **USAID APS-165-12-000001 Amendment # 2 for the Strengthening Independent Media in Macedonia (SIMM) Program;**

Name of Organization

Project Title

Address

Contact Person

Position/Title of the Contact Person

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of organization (tick all that apply)

Amount of funding requested (in USD)

Project duration (total months): \_\_\_\_\_ proposed start date: \_\_\_\_\_ end date: \_\_\_\_\_

Funding is requested for (tick all that apply)

Areas of proposed project activities

**13.1.2 Technical Narrative (5 pages maximum) including**  
(See Attachment # 2: Concept Paper Form)

- Program Approach - Explain the problem to be addressed, the expected goals to be achieved, how this activity supports USG Strategic Framework and USAID Macedonia Country Assistance Objective, and a short description of the approach to be used to achieve the proposed goals;
- Development Plan and Activity Description - Include a short description of the activities that will be undertaken to achieve the proposed objectives, and provide a general time line. Include a description of the role of proposed implementing partners if any (NGOs and/or alliances with private businesses);
- Expected Impact & Sustainability - Outline expected results and impacts and the mechanisms proposed to measure and monitor progress, achievement and sustainability;
- Gender-defined characteristics and details of the partner organizations; all concept papers should include a brief statement addressing gender issues;
- Project Management - Proposed project management structure and proposed staff roles and responsibilities; and
- Organization Capability - A brief statement of the history of the organization; its primary development focus, capabilities and challenges; its past development experience.
- Key personnel and program team - A brief description of the ability, experience, knowledge, and skills of the proposed key personnel and program team (CVs to be enclosed to the concept paper as attachments).

**Note:** If a concept paper exceeds five pages **ONLY** the first five pages will be reviewed when evaluating the concept paper (The attachments, such as CVs and other documents will not be counted within the page limitation of the concept paper).

**13.1.3 Concept Paper Budget (2 page maximum)**  
(See Attachment # 3: Budget Form)

Provide a two-page budget including budget summary and budget notes/narrative explaining the basis for determination of the proposed costs in the format provided in the Attachment # 2 of this APS. The Budget should include the total funding requested from USAID/Macedonia and any cost share contribution that will be contributed by other sources. Applicants are not required to include counterpart funding. However, applications that include additional in-kind and/or cash contributions may be deemed more cost effective and thus, more competitive. Budgets should be in US dollars.

**13.1.4 Concept Paper Evaluation Criteria**

Concept Papers will be evaluated based on the extent to which they convincingly describe the following (listed in relative order of importance with points assigned to each criterion):

- The extent to which the proposed programs directly respond to the objectives, requirements and parameters sought under this APS – **30 points**;
- The extent to which the proposed activities will lead to anticipated results and impact and the approach is logical, and feasible – **15 points**;
- The capability of the applicant organization to implement the activities efficiently and effectively – **15 points**;
- The degree to which the Concept has potential for sustainability beyond the program period – **10 points**; and

- The degree to which costs are realistic and demonstrate an effective and efficient use of resources – **10 points**.
- The extent to which the proposed programs engage local consultants and local think-tanks as sub grantees under the award – **10 points**.
- The ability, experience, knowledge, and skills of the proposed key personnel and program team - **10 points**.

#### **13.1.5 Concept Paper Submission Deadline**

There is **no potential for other rounds of applications**, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by the “Second Round” published deadline. Concept papers received no later than the set closing date and time will be included in the first batch for review. Concept papers shall be submitted to USAID/Macedonia to the attention of Mr. Risto Ricliev at [rricliev@usaid.gov](mailto:rricliev@usaid.gov) and to Ms. Szidonia Szekeres at [sszekeres@usaid.gov](mailto:sszekeres@usaid.gov). If invited, the second round of Full Applications will likely be due o/a December 31, 2012. It is expected that the award(s) under this second round concept papers APS Amendment # 2 will be made in early 2013, and USAID reserves the right to amend this APS to add subsequent application due dates subject to funding availability.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that files are complete and transmitted by the deadline. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors or omissions. USAID may accept applications past the deadline due to transmission difficulties that are not the fault of, or within the control of, the applicant with the approval of the USAID Regional Agreement Officer.

Facsimile proposal submissions will not be accepted without advance approval of the USAID Regional Agreement Officer.

#### **13.1.6 Notification of Status of Concept Paper**

USAID will notify applicants whether or not their concept paper is under further consideration. USAID will issue invitations to submit a Full Application to the applicant(s) whose submitted Concept Papers are most highly-rated and have been deemed most likely to succeed, subject to availability of funding.

### **14. FULL APPLICATIONS**

**Do not submit a Full Application unless requested to do so by USAID.**

USAID will notify Applicants whether to submit a Full Application. More detailed instructions will be provided at the time of notification.