**Request for Applications (RFA)**

**Abt Associates Inc.**

**Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening**

**RFA No: IIAF-RFA-001-2023**

**Issue Date:** May 19, 2023

**Due date for submission of questions:** May 31, 2023

**Pre-application Conference Date:** June 5, 2023

**Closing Date for Receipt of Applications:**  June 20, 2023

**Total funding available (all grants)**: GHS 5,534,928 (approximately USD $ 450,000)

**Anticipated Number of Grants**: 17

**REF**: Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening

**Prime Contract Number:**72064122C00002

**Subject**: Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening Request for Applications (RFA) Number IIAF-RFA-001-2023

Dear Prospective Applicants,

Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening is seeking applications from qualified for-profit and not-for-profit (CSOs and Non-GovernmentalOrganizations) to implement grant activities in each of the four Regions of northern Ghana. Abt Associates, with its Consortium Partners, is implementing Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening under USAID Prime Contract # AID-72064122C00002.

The RFA is comprised of the following main sections:

1. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION
2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
3. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
4. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION
5. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Successful Applicants will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives. Please refer to Section I of this RFA entitled Funding Opportunity Description for a complete statement of goals and expected results.

Subject to availability of funds, Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening intends to provide up to GHS 5,534,928 (approximately USD $ 450,000) in total funding for activities to be implemented beginning by or before **August 1, 2023** (subject to USAID approval), with award amounts in the range of **GHS 245,997 – 430,494** (approximately USD $20,000 to $35,000). The project reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

To be eligible for award, Applicants must provide all required information in their application, including the requirements found in any attachments to this RFA. Applications that are submitted late, incomplete, or non-responsive will not be considered. Awards will be made to the responsible applicant(s) whose application(s) best meet the requirements of this RFA and the evaluation criteria contained herein.

Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening intends to use a single-stage application process to evaluate and select one or more grantees per district under this RFA. Prospective grantees are asked to submit a full application package following the instructions included in Section III of this RFA, which will be evaluated in accordance with Section IV of this RFA. Applications must be submitted electronically to the Grants Manager at [ftfring\_grants@abtassoc.com](mailto:ftfring_grants@abtassoc.com) no later than June 20, 2023

Issuing this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of Abt Associates under the Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening activity, nor does it commit Abt under Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, Abt under Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening reserves the right to reject any or all applications received. Applications are submitted at the risk of the Applicant, and all preparation and submission costs are at the Applicant's own expense.

Sincerely,

Kofi Awity

Chief of Party

**Annex:**

1. Chart of communities and ZOI Map

**Attachments:**

1. Technical Application
2. Cost Application Template
3. Sample Fixed Amount Award Grants Agreement
4. Applicant Pre-Award Questionnaire: For Pre-Award Responsibility Determination
5. Required Representations and Certifications
6. Program Monitoring Plan
7. Branding and Making

Please find below attachments



**SECTION I: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**Program Description**

The Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening activity is implemented by Abt Associates in **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 a period of 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 and 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:

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

This will be done 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 in order 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 in order 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 only Applicants having track records of operations in any 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 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 10 communities (to be selected); 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 ten of the selected communities in a District using that model.

**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 ten (10) communities where grant activities must be performed. The final selection of communities will be made by the Activity prior to grant award, in collaboration with USAID, local government entities, and other stakeholders.*

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 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.

**SECTION II: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening grants program is designed for local Ghanaian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), not-for-profits, and for-profit entities. Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening will accept grant applications from both not-for-profit and for-profit organizations.

In order to be considered eligible for a grant award under this RFA, prospective grantees must:

* Be legally registered as a not-for-profit or for-profit organization in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Ghana (registration documents required).
* Not be part of a government or any government structures.
* Not appear on any list of debarred or suspended entities (as found on www.sam.gov), or on any terrorist watch list or other published list of ineligible recipients.
* Be operating in at least one of the of the four regions in the USAID Zone of Influence (ZOI) as shown above in the list of districts and in Annex 1 (evidence required).

In addition to the above, Applicants must also:

* Declare that they are not affiliated with any political party nor engaged in any partisan activities.
* Submit a full and complete application, including all mandatory attachments in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFA, by or before the time and date deadline(s) stipulated in this RFA.
* Comply with the application format guidelines mandated in the RFA, including submitting a budget within the identified funding limitations of the RFA.

**All prospective Grantees under consideration for an award exceeding $25,000 (approximately 268,987 Ghanaian cedis) must have or be able to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier on www.sam.gov.**

**SECTION III: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening will award up to a total of seventeen (17) Fixed Amount Award grants resulting from this RFA to the eligible and responsible Applicants that demonstrate the capability to carry out activities conforming to the project objectives and within the funding and other parameters set by this RFA. A sample grant agreement is included as RFA Attachment C.

This solicitation does not commit The Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening to make an award, and the Activity may at its sole discretion (a) accept or reject any or all applications in part or in full without assigning a reason; and (b) waive informalities or irregularities in applications received.

1. **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**
2. **Cover Sheet**

1. Legal Name of Organization
2. Mailing Address
3. Physical Location
4. Contact Information
5. Organization’s Legal Representative
6. Tax Identification Number (TIN)
7. UEI Number (Applicants without UEI # may register using the link www.sam.gov)
8. **Instructions for Preparation of the Technical Application**

Technical Applications should be submitted in the English language, and attached with the following annexes, using the template included as Attachment A to this RFA. Applicants are encouraged to read the RFA document in its entirety and ensure that their application addresses all of the items cited in the application instructions and meets the selection criteria. All applications must be submitted by the deadline established on the cover page of this RFA. Applications received after this due date and time will not be accepted for consideration.

The Technical Application should detail activities for each Milestone and the expected outcomes and evidence of activities (Deliverable). The Technical application shall describe how the Applicant intends to carry out each milestone as defined in the Milestone template (included in FAA template attachments).

Applicants operating in more than one District in the zone of influence (ZOI) may apply for more than one grant but must submit a separate application in response to this RFA, in order to preserve competitive integrity and enable fair and accurate evaluation of applications received.

1. **Cover Letter**

Applicant must include a summary of their application(s) and its total cost, signed by an individual authorized to commit the organization. The application must be accompanied by an executive summary detailing the key elements of the applicant’s strategy, approach, targets, and expected results for implementation, as well as a cover letter typed on official organizational letterhead and signed by an individual who has signatory authority for the applicant. The Applicant must submit a complete application package on or before the due date and time noted on Page 1 of this RFA. Applications must be submitted by email with the subject line “**RFA No: IIAF-RFA-001-2023**”.

The application must be prepared in two separate volumes: 1. Technical Application; and 2. Cost Application, using the templates provided. The technical and cost applications must be kept separate. Technical applications must not make reference to cost data beyond the total requested in order to evaluate the technical application strictly on the basis of technical merit.

1. **Project Description**

Applicant should describe the proposed program activities and overarching program elements, such as the objective of the grant and the linkage to the project objectives, or how the proposed activities will contribute to these objectives; results and indicators for measuring results, intended beneficiaries, and plans for disseminating activity deliverables. Outline how the proposed elements will support progress toward organizational sustainability.

The Applicant should assume that grant activities will be performed in at least 10 communities per District and should address all elements of that assumption in their technical approach and cost application; however, the actual community selection process will not be finalized until just prior to grant award, as part of the negotiation process.

1. **Program Monitoring Plan**

Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening is committed to using data to better understand and improve how beneficiaries made up of women of reproductive Age (WRA) and children under five years of age (CU5) in various communities will be impacted by the grant activities. As such, the grants program is an integral part of collecting data and understanding the stories behind the data.

Applicants should describe the overall expected outcomes of grant activities related to their targeted beneficiary populations. Grant applications should provide a description of monitoring and data collection systems to be used, including methods and targets. Applicants should propose indicators unique to their intervention and include target estimates to be reported quarterly over the granting period using the MEL template provided as Attachment F.

Applicants are expected to propose realistic targets based on the technical area chosen for implementation. However, these will also be negotiated to meet the overall targets assigned to the project.

1. **Project Milestone and Deliverables Schedule:**

The Technical application shall include the mandatory milestones and deliverables shown below, as well as additional milestones appropriate to the Applicant’s implementation strategy. The application must describe how the applicant intends to carry out each proposed milestone. It should be concise, specific, complete, and demonstrate a clear understanding of the expected work to be undertaken in each proposed Milestone as well as the expected outcomes and evidence of the activities. Applications must demonstrate applicants’ capabilities and understanding of the milestone approach to implementing grant activities targeted at achieving the grant objectives shown in Section I.5 of the RFA (above). Applications should also demonstrate how these activities are linked to the idea of ‘doing things differently’ or innovatively in conducting each step of the proposed Milestones. The table below shows four (4) mandatory milestones and associated deliverables; applicants must use this format and insert their own proposed milestones, deliverables, and timelines as part of their technical application, using the template included in Attachment A.

**Table 1: Mandatory Milestones, Deliverables and Timelines**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Mandatory Milestone** | **Deliverable** | **Due Date** |
| 1 | Initial workplan | Comprehensive workplan showing activities, tasks, and associated timelines and personnel assignments. | Within two (2) week of grant award |
| 2. | Sustainability Plan | Written plan for sustaining the proposed activities and their associated outcomes over time. | 30 days after grant award. |
| 3. | Quarterly Report | Progress report reflecting achievements to date, constraints experienced, planned activities for each quarter, using template provided. | Ten (10) days after the end of each 90-day implementation period. |
| 4. | Final Report | Final report summarizing activities completed, documented success stories, and final metrics, using template provided. | Within (14) days of the end of the Grant Period |

1. **Experience and Capacity**

Applicants should list previous and ongoing experience implementing similar activities, specifically in the target Region(s). This is a critical factor in assessing the capacity of the grantee to implement the activity. The applicant also provides contact information of at least three references that can speak to the applicant's performance and capabilities.

1. **Organizational Information and Certifications**

The applicant shall submit the following annexes to the cost application:

1. Applicant Pre-Award Questionnaire found in Attachment D of this RFA
2. “Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient” found in Attachment E of this RFA.
3. Copy of the organization's chart and bylaws.
4. Copy of the organization’s legal registration under the laws of the Republic of Ghana.
5. Copies of the last annual financial report(s) completed by an authorized/certified accountant.
6. Copies of CV of key staff and technical leads
7. **Instructions for Preparation of the Cost Application**

As part of the Cost Application and in addition to the Budget Template (Attachment C), the applicant shall provide a summary and detailed budget detailing the proposed costs in order to implement proposed activities described in Attachment C. All proposed costs and estimates must be reasonable and allowable in accordance with the US Government’s Cost Principles established in 2CFR200, Subpart E. All proposed costs must be directly applicable to implementing activities under the award and budgeted amounts should not exceed the market cost/value of an item or service.

1. **Budget Narrative and Detail**

Cost estimates must be submitted in Excel format using the attached budget template**.** The file must be unprotected and there should be no hidden columns/rows/cells. Each cost element must include a basis for estimate or rationale. Any budget submitted without the accompanying narrative or in a different template will not be accepted and the application may not be considered. Please note that applications will be judged based on efficiency of costs vs. proposed performance targets**.** The budget shall be denominated in Ghanaian Cedi (GHS) only. The budget template contains the following budget categories:

1. **Salaries (activity staff)**

The Applicant shall provide the individual’s name, position title, the unit (days), the number of units (i.e. the level of effort), the unit salary or consultant fee and the total salary or consultant fee. Unit salaries shall be stated in days. Benefits, fees, and indirect costs should not be included in the unit salary*.*

1. **Fringe Benefits**

This could include social security, health insurance, and other mandatory withholdings for relevant grantee staff.

1. **In-Country Travel and Transportation**

Travel and Transportation includes per diem and shall be broken down by traveler, transportation vehicle, number of trips and the corresponding number of days of per diem. Include a basis of estimate for each trip.

1. **Other Direct Costs (ODCs)**

As part of the detailed budget breakdown, the Applicant shall submit details of all other direct costs (ODCs) required for undertaking the award grant. ODCs include costs of direct program implementation, as well as costs for communication, meetings, expendable supplies and materials, report preparation/reproduction and publications. Include a basis of estimate for each item.

**NOTE: USAID Policy prohibits the payment of fee/profit to Grantees**.

1. **Submission of the Application:**

Applications must be submitted no later than midnight on June 20, 2023 electronically to [ftfring\_grants@abtassoc.com](mailto:ftfring_grants@abtassoc.com)

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Technical and financial applications should be submitted in two separate electronic files.**

1. **APPLICANT SELF ASSESSMENT**

The Applicant selected for this award is subject to a pre-award risk assessment conducted by LHSS and the Applicant, to ascertain whether the organization has the minimum management capabilities required to manage and implement the Fixed Amount Award. The Applicant self-assessment is the first step in the pre-award risk assessment process. The Applicant Self-Assessment Form is contained in Attachment D.

**SECTION IV: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

Applications must be fully complete in all aspects in each step. An application may not be considered if it is received after the submission deadline. Costs associated with preparation of application shall be at the expense of the applicant.

This RFA includes a single-stage review and selection process, which includes the following elements:

* + 1. Review and evaluation of applications
    2. Selection and notification of apparently successful applicant(s)

1. **PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE**

Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening will conduct pre-Application orientation sessions in each of the four (4) target Districts as shown below. All interested applicants are encouraged to attend.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Venue** | **Date** | **Time** |
| Northern | Tamale Niim Avenue Hotel | June 5, 2023 | 9:30am |
| North East | Bolga Ex-Tee Cristal Hotel | June 7, 2023 | 9:30 am |
| Upper East | Bolga Ex- Tee Cristal Hotel | June 7, 2023 | 9:30 am |
| Upper West | Wa Dellagio Hotel | June 9, 2023 | 9:30 am |
| Confirmation Email | An email confirming attendance must be sent to [ftfring\_grants@abtassoc.com](mailto:ftfring_grants@abtassoc.com) | | |

The purpose of these orientation sessions is to provide a briefing to prospective Applicants about the grants program, the RFA process, and to respond to questions or concerns. To reserve your spot at a session, please send an email to [ftfring\_grants@abtassoc.com](mailto:%20usaidring_grantsrfa@abtassoc.com) with your name, your organization, and your contact information.

If you are not able to attend a pre-application conference but have a question about this RFA, you may submit it in writing to ftfring\_grants@abtassoc.com by May 31, 2023. A consolidated Q&A document will be circulated to all interested Parties upon conclusion of all sessions.

Only written answers from Abt Associates’ authorized representative will be considered official and carry weight in the RFA process and subsequent evaluation. Any answers received outside the official channel, whether received verbally or in writing, and whether from employees of Abt Associates or another party, should not be considered official responses regarding this RFA.

1. **EVALUATION OF FULL APPLICATIONS**

Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening intends to issue up to a minimum of seventeen (17) grants to the organization(s) considered to have the best Technical Approach, Methodology, Strategic Fit, Organizational Capabilities and Past Performance, Gender and Youth Considerations, and Cost Effectiveness for the overall project. The criteria below will serve as the basis upon which each application will be evaluated. Selection will also be based on the capabilities of the organizations as detailed in the application.

**Evaluation Criteria**

The technical applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria, which are listed in order of importance, with the most important listed first. Additional details are included below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Maximum Points (100 total)** |
| 1. Technical Approach & Methodology | 30 points |
| 1. Strategic Fit | 30 points |
| 1. Organizational Capabilities | 25 points |
| 1. Gender and Youth Considerations | 10 points |
| 1. Cost Effectiveness | 5 points |

*\*Applicants must receive an average score of 70 points or higher to proceed in the grant process*

**TECHNICAL APPROACH & METHODOLOGY (30 points):**

Technical approach and methodology criteria include:

* A clearly defined problem statement (proposed services to the target population demonstrate an understanding of local needs and provide appropriate assistance).
* Goals are clearly outlined and contribute toward the project overall objectives.
* There is a clear and practical relationship between the defined problem and the solution proposed.
* The technical approach is innovative, cost-effective, transformative, and sustainable.
* Innovative products, services, and financing mechanisms are included.
* Proposed plan is realistic and demonstrates that the organization is moving toward self-sufficiency (e.g., sustainability).
* Potential obstacles are identified, and solutions sufficiently addressed.
* A grant sustainability plan is in place with future actions that the grantee will take to ensure lasting results of the grant funded.
* Sustainability of results (organization demonstrates a credible plan to reach self-sufficiency in the short to medium term)

**STRATEGIC FIT (30 points)**

Strategic fit criteria include:

* Contribution toward the project overall objectives
* Sustainability of results (organization demonstrates a credible plan to reach self-sufficiency in the short to medium term)
* Anticipated benefits to the beneficiaries.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND PAST PERFORMANCE (25 points)**

Organizational capabilities criteria include:

* Organizational, financial, and technical capabilities and resources to implement activities.
* Previous successful experience implementing similar activities.
* Proposed staffing structure and grant award management to allow for successful implementation. Include technical/programmatic and financial/administrative staff.
* Experience in the geographic region.
* Soundness of accounting and procurement practices.
* Capacity to adhere to USAID financial guidelines.

**GENDER AND YOUTH CONSIDERATIONS (10 points)**

Gender considerations include:

* Impact on women’s empowerment: opportunities for women’s participation and involvement in governing bodies
* Anticipated benefits to the beneficiaries (WRA, CU5, Youth)
* Engagement of Women-led organizations and male involvement
* Engagement of Youth-led organizations

**COST EFFECTIVENESS (5 points)**

Costs will be evaluated in terms of their feasibility, cost realism, reasonableness, completeness, allowability, and cost-effectiveness for undertaking activities outlined in the application. As technical scores converge, applications that maximize the portion of direct activity costs including cost sharing and leveraging and that minimize administrative costs will be more favorably considered. The cost evaluation criteria will allow the project to evaluate the applicant’s cost application.

* Reasonableness of proposed budget based on scope of activities proposed.
* Summary budget, detailed budget, and budget notes included.
* Proposed budget is reasonable and cost-effective.

Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening will evaluate applications primarily by considering the technical and cost quality prior to award. If the application is successful in the technical and cost evaluation process, it will be submitted to USAID for approval of an award following a pre-award responsibility determination. The project will notify applicants of the results of the grant evaluation process in writing and will offer them an opportunity to contact the project’s Grants Manager within 10 days to respond to or ask questions. All grant awards are contingent on a positive applicant responsibility determination and final approval by USAID.

**SECTION V: AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

1. **Award Notices**

If selected for award, prospective Grantees will receive an official notice from Feed the Future Resilience in Northern Ghana Systems Strengthening and will be invited to proceed to the next steps, which may include participating in co-development of the final program statement, milestones, deliverables, and timelines. Once these elements are final, the grant agreement will be finalized and executed.

1. **Award Administration Standards**

Grants resulting from this solicitation will be administered in accordance with the approved Project Grants Manual, and the following regulations (as applicable):

* FAR Part 31 – Cost Principles for For-Profit organizations used to negotiate award amounts and terminations per 2 C.F.R. 200.201 (b)(1))
* Automated Directives System (ADS) Chapter 303 Grants & Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations: 303.3.25 Fixed Amount Awards to Non-Governmental Organizations
* ADS 302.3.4.13 Grants Under Contracts (GUCs)
* 2. C.F.R. 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles for non-profit and educational organizations – used to negotiate award amounts and terminations per 2 C.F.R. 200.201 (b)(1))

1. **Reporting**

Grant reporting cycles are defined in the milestone schedules included in each grant agreement. Payments are made upon receipt and acceptance of pre-defined deliverables, in compliance with the terms of the award and receipt of Grantees voucher requesting payment for each deliverable. Financial reports are not a requirement under an FAA.

1. **Environmental Compliance**

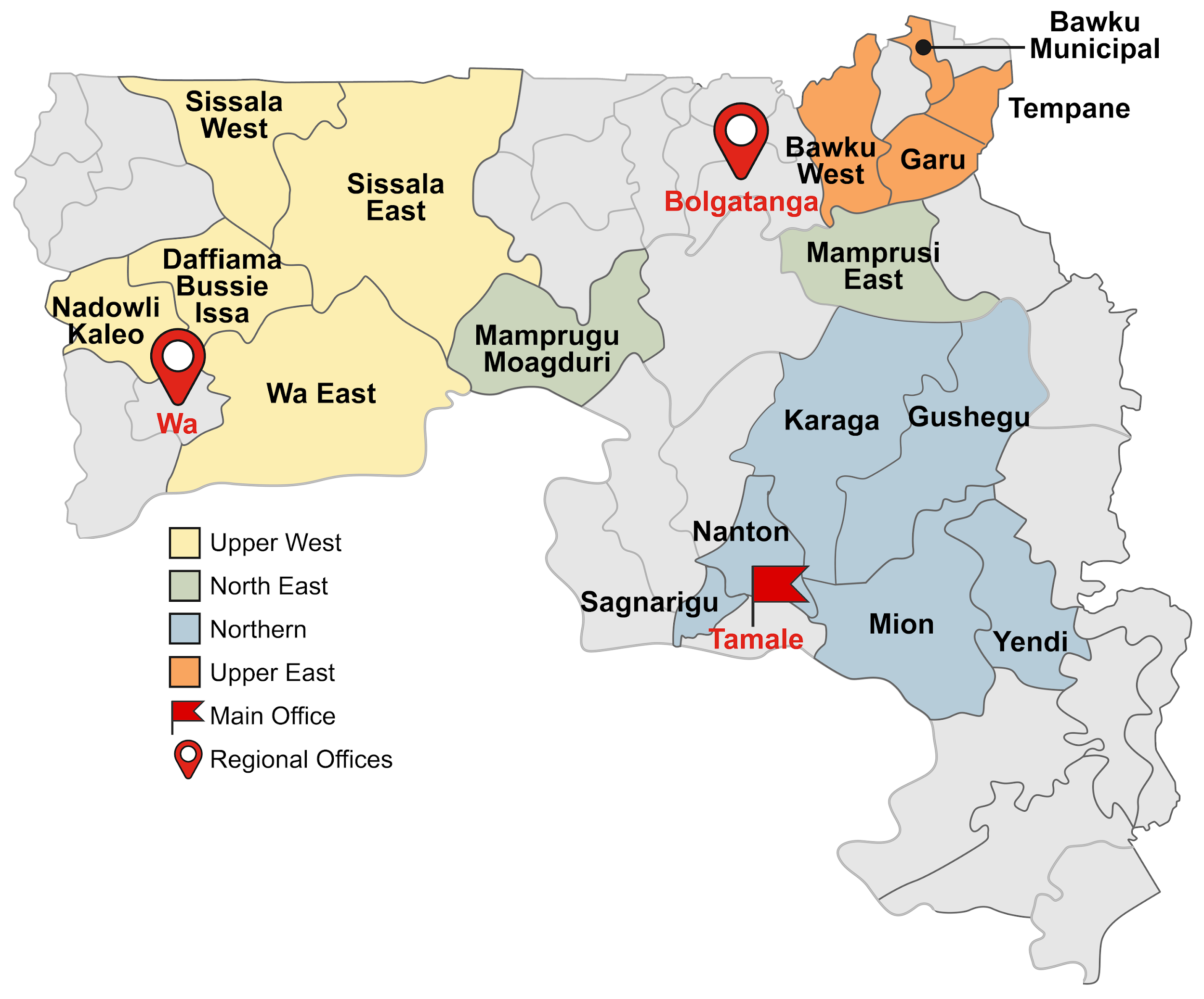
The grants program anticipates funding only activities that fall under the categorical exclusions of “USAID Environmental Guidelines.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Therefore, if all activities under a specific grant are identified as categorical exclusions, the project will not conduct any additional environmental assessment or will not require prior review by USAID’s environmental officer. However, in instances where the proposed activity may directly affect the environment outside the exclusions, the project will seek guidance from the COR, to ensure compliance with 22 CFR 216 and the “USAID Environmental Guidelines.”

**ANNEX 1**

**CHART OF DISTRICTS BY REGION AND ZOI MAP**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | 2. 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 |  |  |  |

**MAP OF THE USAID/RING II ZONE OF INFLUENCE (ZOI)**



1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)