**RESET: Caribbean Resilient Economies and Sectors (RESET) Activity**

**Annual Program Statement (APS): MSMEs Advancing Climate- and Disaster- Smart Technologies, Blue and Green Economic Growth, and Blended Finance Initiatives**

**Issue Date**: 04 December 2024

**Closing Date for submission of Concept Papers**: On a rolling basis until 01 December 2025

**STATEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE**

1. **Background**

The USAID-funded five-year $20 million Resilient Economies and Sectors Activity (RESET) led by Abt Global and Partners will promote climate finance for sustainable, localized climate solutions in 11 Eastern and Southern Caribbean (ESC) countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The purpose of RESET is to reduce constraints to climate and disaster finance and increase investments in climate and disaster resilience across economic sectors. Awards will be funded that feed into the following three objectives:

* Objective 1: Increased public sector capacity to develop, update, or implement financial instruments for climate- and disaster-related risk management and investment in key sectors for resilience and green-blue economic growth.
* Objective 2: Improved private sector investment in resilience approaches and technologies.
* Objective 3: Establish and strengthen productive partnerships for resilience-building actions.

RESET’s Grants Under Contract (GUC) Program will support grantees to collaborate in developing an investment ecosystem that incentivizes commercial solutions for climate-smart approaches. A stronger blue/green MSME sector will work towards adaptation goals and grow businesses that can implement blended finance projects (**Objective 1**), as well as create growth that works against national debt in the ESC; increase private sector investment in resilience approaches and technologies (**Objective 2**); and to build economic systems that create inclusive, sustainable job opportunities, building on career development programs (**Objective 3**).

RESET's Theory of Change (TOC) hypothesizes that ***IF*** public sector capacity to develop, update, or implement financial instruments for climate/disaster risk management and investment in key sectors is increased; ***IF*** private sector investment in resilience approaches and technologies is increased; ***IF*** productive partnerships for resilience-building actions are established and strengthened; ***THEN*** countries of the ESC will have reduced systemic constraints to climate and disaster finance and increased investment in inclusive, resilient, and sustained market-based socioeconomic growth.

Aligning with USAID’s Climate Strategy (2022-2030); it is envisioned that RESET’s results will contribute to the achievement of the strategy's global vision of a resilient, prosperous, and equitable world with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. and with USAID/ESC’s Mission goals for the 2020-2025 Regional Development Cooperation Strategy that supports the ESC in creating "a safe, prosperous, and resilient Caribbean region that supports its vulnerable populations, withstands external shocks, and promotes accountable institutions, economic development, and private sector-led growth."

1. **Illustrative Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):**

RESET is aiming to achieve the following Illustrative Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) during the life of the project:

1. USD$40 million dollars in investments mobilized for climate change adaptation;
2. 900 persons supported by USG to adapt to the effects of climate change;
3. 10,000 people applied climate or disaster smart practices in their businesses/operations;
4. 2,100 private sector entities with improved access to information and services that facilitate investment in climate and disaster resilience strategies

RESET is currently accepting concept papers for activities to be funded under its Grants Program. Activities are estimated to occur between *April 1, 2025,* and *March 31, 2026*. This is the first call for submissions; there will be future opportunities to submit concept papers and proposals. The Grants Program supports activities and programs that complement existing RESET activities and help achieve the project’s mission.

**LIMITATIONS AND PARAMETERS**

* All proposed activities must specifically pertain to one or more of the following areas: *economic development/growth; climate and disaster finance; blue and green investment; institutional capacity building and partnerships; social protection; institutional sustainability.*
* All proposed activities must occur exclusively in one or more of geographic areas (as stated above, the 11 ESC countries): *Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.*
* Proposed activities should articulate the anticipated benefits and/or impacts to the following target groups and/or beneficiaries:*vulnerable or marginalized populations (women, youth, disabled, those working in/tied to economic sectors most impacted by/vulnerable to climate shocks and disasters in the ESC Region).*
* Proposed activities must focus on one or more climate smart activities:

*1. Agri-food (interventions through the value chain and the agri-food corridor).*

*2. Tourism (agri-tourism, eco-tourism, etc.)*

*3. Blue Economy (fisheries, aquaculture, fish processing and distribution, Agri-*

*Processing, maritime transportation, port activities, water related interventions)*

*4. Green Economy (renewable energy, clean cap ex related to economic activity,*

*innovations which optimize water, waste and land use)*

*5. Regenerative agriculture*

*6. Food and Nutrition Systems*

*7. Disaster Risk Management and Mitigation*

*8. Innovative activities which contribute to resilient sectors and economies.*

* Applicants should describe how they will leverage private sector investment as part of their concept note submission and specify the level of contribution (i.e. 1:1 or 1:2 ratio).
* Finally, proposed activities and their expected outputs/results, should contribute to the KPIs listed above in Section B.

The following are the kinds of illustrative activities that the RESET Grants Program may support:

* MSME technology adoption and scaling of technology provider businesses.
* Development of opportunities for inclusive participation in economic growth.
* Product design by financial institutions to increase access to finance and de-risk investment.

In support of the above, RESET is inviting eligible organizations/firms to submit concept papers as a preliminary step in applying for funding under its Grants Program for activities and programs that complement existing RESET activities and help achieve the Project’s mission. Concept papers will be accepted on a rolling basis, with those that score high enough invited to submit a full application for grant funding as described below.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants to the Grants Program must be one of the following:

* Local for-profit or not-for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
* Community-based organizations
* Association or cooperatives
* Private research institutes; and/or
* Other private sector entities (MSMEs).

All applicants meeting the above eligibility standard must ALSO be formally constituted, recognized by and in good standing with appropriate *Country* authorities and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations. Applicants must not be debarred, suspended, sanctioned, or otherwise ineligible to receive US Government funding. Governmental organizations are not eligible to receive grants under this APS.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS**

Grant award amounts under this APS will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the activities proposed but will not in any case be greater than USD $150,000 (note: this is the currency that grants are denominated in; grants will be negotiated and funded in local currency depending on the country where the grantee organization is based). Grant activities are expected to last *up to 12 months* in duration (starting on/about April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026).

Eligible Applicants should follow the below format to submit their **not-more-than five-page concept paper** (excluding Annexes, please see guidance below). The template requests the following information:

* A general description of who will benefit from the proposed activities (i.e. who are the target population(s), and what would be the proposed impact on them, in line with the Key Performance Indicators in Section B, above).
* A description of the problem that the solution is addressing, the solution being proposed, and who and how the program will be implemented as an integral part of the applicant's solution;
* An estimate of the total amount of Grant Program funding which would be required to implement the activities, as well as details of Applicant’s contribution, in cash and in kind, if any.
* The purpose (mission) and objectives of the organization and the proposed program;
* Documentation of the organization’s past history, geographic range sites of past and current activities, and specific programs and their impacts (this may be included in the Annex).

Please include the name of the person in your organization who will be primarily responsible for your concept papers as well as your telephone number and email address. The concept paper must be signed by an authorized agent of the applicant and must be submitted in *English* with a maximum of 5 pages (Annexes are not counted). The required Annexes are as follows:

* A copy of the organization’s legal registration
* Completed organizational self-assessment form, Word document (Annex A Attachment)

Concept papers and all annexes may be submitted electronically via email to the RESET projectat the following coordinates*:* [RESETgrants@abtglobal.com](mailto:RESETgrants@abtglobal.com)

All concept papers will be reviewed by the RESET team and evaluated and scored objectively using an established criteria presented below. Only concept papers from applicants that meet the following general eligibility requirements will be reviewed, as follows:

* Is the Applicant an eligible organization as defined on Page 2 of this APS?
* Is the purpose (mission) of the activity specified in the application consistent with RESET’s objectives?
* Does the Applicant have the organizational capability to successfully implement the activity specified in the concept paper?
* Has the Applicant provided a copy of its legal registration with its concept paper and the completed self-assessment form?

Applicants whose concept papers meet the above criteria will then be invited to submit a formal application, which will be scored according to these supplementary criteria:

1. **Relevance to RESET Objectives (30 points):** Do the proposed activitiescontribute to the RESET’s overall objectives, suggest sustainability of results and anticipated benefits (impact) to the beneficiaries, number of beneficiaries served and duration of the proposed activities.
2. **Technical Approach/Design (30 points):** Does the activity have a realistic and well thought out implementation plan with clearly defined objectives, expected results, and quantifiable target/benchmarks with a technical approach and rationale that is feasible and cost-effective, yet also presents opportunities for innovation and mechanisms to ensure sustainability? Does the applicant clearly articulate their private sector investment strategy and level of contribution?
3. **Organizational Capabilities (20 points):** does the applicant have past experience in the proposed geographic areas in similar projects? Are the staff skills relevant to the proposed activity? Does the applicant possess sound accounting system and procurement practices and capacity to adhere to USAID financial guidelines?
4. **GEDSI and Youth Considerations (10 points):** Does the activity directly or indirectly offeremployment opportunities for women, indigenous persons and/or youth? What are the potential benefits to women’s and youth empowerment, participation and involvement? What are the envisioned impacts to social inclusion and access for vulnerable groups (women, youth, disabled, workers tied to economic sectors most impacted by/vulnerable to climate shocks and disasters in the ESC region, and other marginalized populations)?
5. **Cost Effectiveness (10 points):** Is the value of the proposed grant reasonable, allocable, allowable, and cost effective? Is the Applicant contributing to the overall activity cost in cash or in kind, or using other methods to leverage resources? Applications that maximize the portion of direct activity costs including leveraging of the organizational contribution and that minimize administrative costs will be more favorably considered.

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.

Issuing this APS does not constitute an award commitment on the part of Abt Global or RESET, nor does it commit Abt (the USAID Contractor implementing RESET) to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of concept papers or applications. Abt Global reserves the right to reject any or all concept papers/applications, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of the Activity or if directed to do so by USAID, at their sole discretion.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The RESET Grants Program is authorized in accordance with USAID Contract #72053824C00001. Awards will be administered in accordance with provisions contained in ADS Chapter 303, “Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations,” and/or within the terms of the USAID Standard Provisions applicable to Non-U.S. Non-Governmental Recipients.

**Submission Address**:

Attention: RESET Grants

[RESETgrants@abtglobal.com](mailto:RESETgrants@abtglobal.com)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** RESET will conduct several pre-application briefing sessions. The purpose of these pre-application briefing sessions is to provide a briefing to prospective Applicants about the grants program, the APS process, and to respond to questions or concerns. To reserve your spot at one of these Conferences, please send an email to [RESETgrants@abtglobal.com](mailto:RESETgrants@abtglobal.com) with your name, your organization, your contact information, and which conference you want to attend. After all sessions are completed, a consolidated Q&A document will be circulated to all interested Parties upon conclusion of all sessions.

Additional questions concerning this APS should be submitted in writing via email to [RESETgrants@abtglobal.com](mailto:RESETgrants@abtglobal.com). No questions will be answered by phone. For all questions submitted, a written response will be circulated to all applicants.

Issuance of this notice does not constitute a binding commitment on the part of RESET to issue an award, nor does it commit RESET to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any concept papers, engagement, collaboration, co-creation, or full applications. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted under this APS.