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Closing Date: December 4th, 2020

Contact Information: RFAMauritanie2021@usadf.gov

www.usadf.gov

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) NUMBER: RFA-MRT-11-21

**“USADF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM:
Support to USADF Partner Organizations”
In Mauritania**

The United States African Development Foundation (“USADF”) has established the Community Development Institutions Program (“Program”) to assist local development institutions to strengthen their capacity to support community-based and other activities that benefit the underserved. Under the Program, USADF and a local development agency (“Partner”) enter into a cooperative agreement that provides direct support to the Partner to: a) build its capacity; and b) provide support to grassroots entities who are seeking or who are recipients of grant funds from USADF (“Grant Applicants/Grantees”). USADF is requesting applications from potential Partner organizations that have the expertise and experience to provide technical assistance and project implementation and management support to USADF Grant Applicants/Grantees.

Who we are: USADF is an independent federal agency of the United States Government established by Congress to support and invest in African owned and led enterprises which improve lives and livelihoods in poor and vulnerable communities in Africa.

What we do: USADF supports private businesses, farmers’ cooperatives, associations, and various community-based organizations, especially those reaching underserved rural communities, engaged in economic and social development activities. The Foundation launched its program in Mauritania in 2008. The current portfolio in Mauritania consists of 10 active projects valued at over \$1.5 million USD in the agricultural and energy sectors.

Who we fund: USADF provides funds to small enterprises and community-based groups in Mauritania in diverse sectors, particularly those benefiting youth and women, to secure the technical, managerial, and marketing assistance they need to build internal capacity and enhance their impact and sustainability. Funding criteria emphasize the following principles:

- community participation and ownership;
- significant economic and social impact on low-income communities; and
- impact commensurate with the level of investment, sustainability, and potential for replication and expansion of the activity.

How the Partner works with USADF: The Partner will work with USADF program personnel in Nouakchott and USADF Headquarters staff in Washington, DC, to provide on-going support to projects that have been financed. The role of the USADF Mauritania Program Office is to identify viable local small and medium-sized enterprises that show potential to create employment opportunities, generate income, and have broad social impact beyond the project activity. Project proposals identified and authorized by USADF/Washington for development will be turned over to

the Partner organization for development; and once projects are funded, the Partner will work with the Grantees to obtain needed technical assistance during project implementation. The partner may assist in identifying potential applicants and forwarding their applications to USADF/W.

Through this RFA, USADF is seeking applications from qualified not-for-profit organizations and for-profit firms that have the core competencies and experience needed to assist small enterprises and community-based economic interest groups in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of community-based enterprise development and expansion projects in Mauritania.

Core experiences/competencies required to serve as USADF Partner Mauritania: Applicants must have experience providing technical assistance and training, and possess strong skills in communication, organizational and financial management, business development, marketing and financial analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and production and planning. It is imperative that applicants for the position are familiar with *participatory development methods* and have the ability to work with grassroots groups to help them develop and implement their own business strategies.

The prospective Partner organization will be based in Mauritania. The authority for this RFA is found in the [African Development Foundation Act](#). USADF partners with host country entities to ensure that the Foundation's Grant Applicants and Grantees have access to the support services they may need to successfully plan and implement their self-help economic development activities.

USADF established the Community Development Institutions Program in support of a public purpose rather than the acquisition by USADF of services from an organization. Accordingly, USADF has determined that an assistance instrument (a cooperative agreement in this case), rather than a contractual instrument, is the most appropriate mechanism for the implementation of this Program. An assistance instrument is used when the principal purpose of the relationship between USADF and the other party or parties is the transfer of funds, services, or anything of value to the Grantee in order to accomplish a public purpose, through support or stimulation of the Grantee's own program or project.

USADF anticipates awarding one renewable 12-month cooperative agreement for a total possible length of five years. The cooperative agreement will be awarded in US Dollars. USADF reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications it receives in response to this RFA. Please refer to the Program Description for a complete statement of goals and expected results.

USADF does not award profit under assistance instruments. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses which are related to the cooperative agreement program and are in accordance with United States Government regulations may be paid under the cooperative agreement.

For the purposes of this Program, this RFA is issued and consists of a cover letter and the following Sections:

1. Section A – Grant Application Format
2. Section B – Selection Criteria
3. Section C – Program Description
4. Section D – Budget Details

If your organization decides to submit an application, USADF should receive it by the closing date indicated at the top of this cover letter by e-mail to RFAMauritanie2021@usadf.gov. For the purposes of this RFA, the organization applying is considered to be the Applicant.

Award will be made to that Applicant whose application offers the best value to USADF in terms of quality and cost factors.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USADF, nor does it commit USADF to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, USADF reserves the right to reject any or all applications it receives. In addition, final award of any resultant cooperative agreement cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated and committed through internal USADF procedures. While it is anticipated that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for award. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the Applicant's expense.

If you have questions regarding this RFA, you may contact the email address provided above. All proposals in response to this RFA may be in French or English.

Sincerely,

Mauritania Program Team

U.S. African Development Foundation

Additional information about USADF can be obtained from our website at <http://www.USADF.gov/>. Any questions regarding the RFA may also be addressed to RFAMauritanie2021@usadf.gov. **The submission deadline for proposals is Friday December 4th, 2020 at 17:59 hours Eastern Standard Time (23:59 Nouakchott time).**