

ANNEX D

ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR FAITH-BASED & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Complying with requirements of Executive Order 13279, *Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations*, USAID ensures equal protection and opportunity for faith-based and other community organizations in administering social service programs supported with Federal financial assistance following these fundamental principles:

- (1) Federal financial assistance for social service programs must be distributed in the most effective and efficient manner possible;
- (2) All eligible organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations, must be able to compete on an equal footing for Federal financial assistance used to support social service programs;
- (3) No organization may be discriminated against on the basis of religious character or affiliation in the administration or distribution of Federal financial assistance;
- (4) Faith-based organizations may not be required as a condition of Federal assistance to sacrifice their independence, autonomy, expression, or religious character. Accordingly, a faith-based organization that applies for or participates in a USAID program may retain its independence and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs, provided that it does not use direct federal financial assistance to support any inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization. Among other things, faith-based organizations may use their facilities to provide social services supported by USAID, without removing or altering religious art, icons, scriptures, or other symbols from these facilities. In addition, a faith-based organization may retain religious terms in its name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its mission statements and other chartering or governing documents.

USAID collects data regarding the participation of faith-based and community organizations in social service programs that receive Federal financial assistance through the attached **Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants**.

All RFA's and APS's will include the attached survey. Applicant's completion of the survey is *voluntary*, and will not be a requirement of the RFA or APS. The absence of a completed survey in an application will not be a basis upon which the application is determined incomplete or non-responsive. Applicants who volunteer to complete and submit the survey under a competitive or non-competitive action will be instructed within the text of the survey to submit it as part of the application process. The information collected through the survey is intended for data collection purposes only. ProRep will provide USAID survey data, including:

1. How many applications were received under the RFA and/or APS?
2. How many applicants identified themselves as faith-based/religious organizations (FBOs)?
3. Has the recipient proposed for this award indicated it is a FBO?

Equal opportunity for faith-based and community organizations does not provide for set-asides or evaluation preferences for faith-based and community organizations, and data collected will not to be used for purposes of funding decisions. Therefore, ProRep will not:

- provide for set-asides, reservations or evaluation preferences for faith based/community organizations in RFA's or APS's.
- include participation of faith-based/community organizations as a specific evaluation factor and/or requirement for award. It may, however, be referred to as an example of one of the many

types of organizations whose participation could potentially enhance the quality and impact of development assistance programs.

- provide completed surveys to the technical evaluation committee for evaluation with technical portion of the applications.

Name: _____

Position : _____

Organization : _____