

U.S. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT LAB

Accelerating development
through science innovation and
partnership



The Accelerator

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THE DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

The **DIA** is a **Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)**:

- Used for research in **Science, Technology, and Innovation, and Partnership**
- Managed by the U.S. Global Development Lab
- Not, in itself, a procurement instrument, but a method to communicate to the market a general interest regarding a development problem

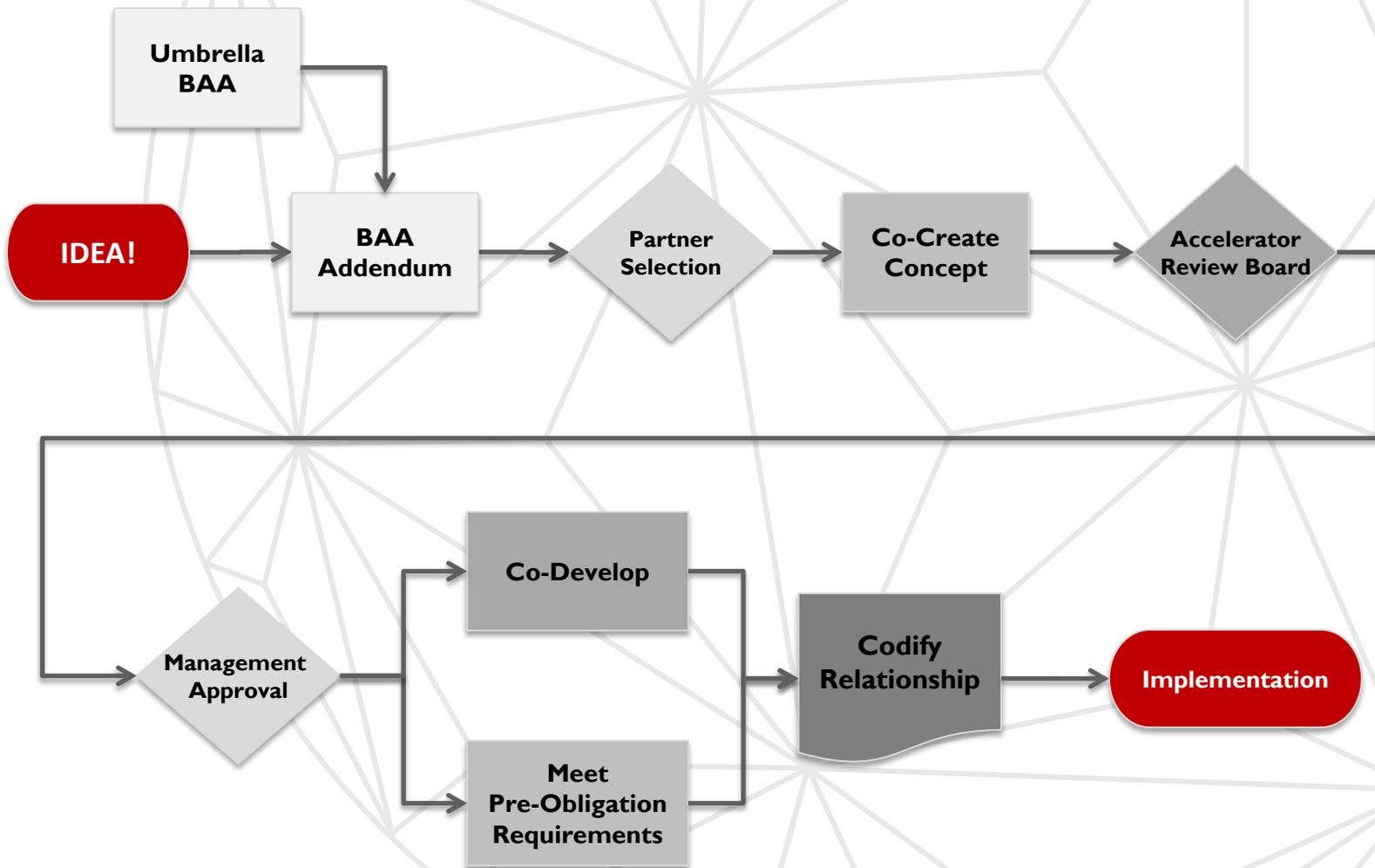
A Method to Collaborate:

- Co-create and co-design a development solution based only on an initial idea
- Is defined as a competitive process under Federal Regulations
- Can engage in any type of organization: Public, private, government, non-government, for-profit, non-profit, etc.
- Can result in a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, GDA, IAA, G2G, D2D, MOU, etc.

A Fixed Focus on the Development Problem:

- Not Design-to-Budget, no budget allocated
- Not Design-to-Instrument, instrument type not determined in advance

THE ACCELERATOR PROCESS



ELEMENTS OF THE ACCELERATOR

Announcement:

- Lab posted the Umbrella DIA BAA on FedBizOps and Grants.gov
- Addenda to the BAA describe the particular research area of interest
- USAID evaluates Statements of Interest against partnership criteria in the Addendum and selects partners for co-creation

Initial Concept

- USAID and selected partners co-create a concept note
- The Co-Creation Team defines the problem, solution, potential for collaboration, and general resource requirements

Concept Review

- Science-Peer Review Board determines if the concepts has merit based on Umbrella BAA criteria, green-lights project
- Senior management concurs, AO/CO approves for Co-Development

Co-Development

- USAID and selected partners co-develop
- USAID, with participation of partners, completes pre-obligation
- Parties sign the agreements

GENERAL AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST (INITIAL)

1. Food, Security and Nutrition
2. Modernizing Food Assistance
3. Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths
4. Energy Access
5. Water Solutions
6. Child Literacy
7. Financial Inclusion
8. Rights, Participation and Accountability
9. Humanitarian Response

FUNDING

The purpose of the Accelerator is to co-create and co-develop

- There is no funding set aside for the Accelerator
- Funding levels are not generally announced in Addenda
- It is not usually possible to anticipate the funding required before the problem is defined, plus not all solutions require USAID funding
- It is not necessary to have funds available for the Addendum if it is clear in the Addendum that funds may not be available
- USAID is not obligated to fund any activity under the Accelerator
- Partner organizations don't propose timeframes or funding levels – these issues are addressed collaboratively
- Everyone pays their own way to come to the table – there is no funding for co-creation and co-development stages
- The partners will expect a fast engagement and no loitering

ADVANTAGES OF THE ACCELERATOR

- **Uses design to solution, not design to instrument or design to budget:**
 - Define Problem
 - Develop Solutions
 - Identify Competencies
 - Explore Resources

In this order of emphasis
- **Allows engaging talent and stakeholders early in the process**
- **Structures involvement of the CO/AO early and throughout the process**
- **Permits highly customized frameworks for relationships**
- **Modeled to make decisions late in process – maximum flexibility**
- **Focuses on creating the right relationships for what you need based on a common understanding of the project**
- **Enables contiguous engagement among development professionals, no pauses for competition sensitive processes**

EXAMPLE OF A PROJECT

- The first instruments under the Accelerator were awarded on September 12, 2014 (Addendum 00002, Innovative Fellowship Programs)
- These awards not only proved the Accelerator an effective approach for enabling collaboration, it also demonstrated that the approach can considerably shorten time to implementation
 - Six cooperative agreements awarded in less than 100 days from advertisement - standard USAID goal is 150 days, a 33% time reduction
 - Presolicitation phase – the time from the decision to use the Accelerator to issuing the Addenda has been about three weeks - this process would normally be about six months because project concept and project design is performed during the presolicitation phase, not during co-development
 - Science/Peer Review Board in three hours - which included reviewing the six concept papers as well as briefing the Board and completing administrative
- Quality of the resulting Agreements is higher, because all parties understood all requirements as the project was built
- Ramp up to implementation is immediate, because all parties knew far in advance, and in detail, what they had to do.

Contact:

**For More Information about The Accelerator
or for Organization/Individual Briefings:**

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**QUESTIONS,
THOUGHTS &
COMMENTS?**