



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

January 26, 2009

To all USAID Recipients:

The purpose of this letter is to amend the Standard Provisions of all grants and cooperative agreements involving any aspect of voluntary population planning activities and which contain the provision VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES - SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (May 2006). This provision is deleted and replaced by the new provision VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES - SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (January 2009) which removes the conditions relating to the Mexico City Policy that were set forth in the May 2006 version of the provision.

On January 23, 2009, President Obama rescinded the Mexico City Policy, noting that its conditions are not required by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, or any other law. In rescinding the policy, President Obama directed USAID to immediately waive the policy's conditions in any current grants and notify current grantees, as soon as possible, that these conditions have been waived. Accordingly, USAID waives the Mexico City Policy requirements effective January 23, 2009 for all existing awards. The revised provision removes the conditions relating to the Mexico City Policy that were set forth in the standard provisions for assistance awards.

USAID is prohibited from providing funds to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortion, as stipulated by the Helms Amendment enacted in 1973. This and all other statutory and policy requirements relating to family planning remain in effect and will continue to be reflected in the standard provisions set forth in the ADS Chapter 303 Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Shauket
Director, Office of Acquisition &
Assistance and Senior Procurement
Executive

Attachment:

VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES - SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS
(January 2009)

ATTACHMENT

VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES – SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (JANUARY 2009)

APPLICABILITY: This provision is applicable to all awards involving any aspect of voluntary population planning activities.

VOLUNTARY POPULATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES – SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (JANUARY 2009)

- a. Voluntary Participation and Family Planning Methods:
 - (1) The recipient agrees to take any steps necessary to ensure that funds made available under this award will not be used to coerce any individual to practice methods of family planning inconsistent with such individual's moral, philosophical, or religious beliefs. Further, the recipient agrees to conduct its activities in a manner which safeguards the rights, health and welfare of all individuals who take part in the program.
 - (2) Activities which provide family planning services or information to individuals, financed in whole or in part under this agreement, shall provide a broad range of family planning methods and services available in the country in which the activity is conducted or shall provide information to such individuals regarding where such methods and services may be obtained.

- b. Requirements for Voluntary Family Planning Projects
 - (1) A Family planning project must comply with the requirements of this paragraph.
 - (2) A project is a discrete activity through which a governmental or nongovernmental organization or public international organization provides family planning services to people and for which funds obligated under this award, or goods or services financed with such funds, are provided under this award, except funds solely for the participation of personnel in short-term, widely attended training conferences or programs.
 - (3) Service providers and referral agents in the project shall not implement or be subject to quotas or other numerical targets of total number of births,

number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning. Quantitative estimates or indicators of the number of births, acceptors, and acceptors of a particular method that are used for the purpose of budgeting, planning, or reporting with respect to the project are not quotas or targets under this paragraph, unless service providers or referral agents in the project are required to achieve the estimates or indicators.

- (4) The project shall not include the payment of incentives, bribes, gratuities or financial rewards to (i) any individual in exchange for becoming a family planning acceptor or (ii) any personnel performing functions under the project for achieving a numerical quota or target of total number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of contraception. This restriction applies to salaries or payments paid or made to personnel performing functions under the project if the amount of the salary or payment increases or decreases based on a predetermined number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or number of acceptors of a particular method of contraception that the personnel affect or achieve.
- (5) No person shall be denied any right or benefit, including the right of access to participate in any program of general welfare or health care, based on the person's decision not to accept family planning services offered by the project.
- (6) The project shall provide family planning acceptors comprehensible information about the health benefits and risks of the method chosen, including those conditions that might render the use of the method inadvisable and those adverse side effects known to be consequent to the use of the method. This requirement may be satisfied by providing information in accordance with the medical practices and standards and health conditions in the country where the project is conducted through counseling, brochures, posters, or package inserts.
- (7) The project shall ensure that experimental contraceptive drugs and devices and medical procedures are provided only in the context of a scientific study in which participants are advised of potential risks and benefits.
- (8) With respect to projects for which USAID provides, or finances the contribution of, contraceptive commodities or technical services and for which there is no subaward or contract under this award, the organization implementing a project for which such assistance is provided shall agree

that the project will comply with the requirements of this paragraph while using such commodities or receiving such services.

- (9)
 - i) The recipient shall notify USAID when it learns about an alleged violation in a project of the requirements of subparagraphs (3), (4), (5) or (7) of this paragraph;
 - ii) the recipient shall investigate and take appropriate corrective action, if necessary, when it learns about an alleged violation in a project of subparagraph (6) of this paragraph and shall notify USAID about violations in a project affecting a number of people over a period of time that indicate there is a systemic problem in the project.
 - iii) The recipient shall provide USAID such additional information about violations as USAID may request.

c. Additional Requirements for Voluntary Sterilization Programs

- (1) None of the funds made available under this award shall be used to pay for the performance of involuntary sterilization as a method of family planning or to coerce or provide any financial incentive to any individual to practice sterilization.
- (2) The recipient shall ensure that any surgical sterilization procedures supported in whole or in part by funds from this award are performed only after the individual has voluntarily appeared at the treatment facility and has given informed consent to the sterilization procedure. Informed consent means the voluntary, knowing assent from the individual after being advised of the surgical procedures to be followed, the attendant discomforts and risks, the benefits to be expected, the availability of alternative methods of family planning, the purpose of the operation and its irreversibility, and the option to withdraw consent anytime prior to the operation. An individual's consent is considered voluntary if it is based upon the exercise of free choice and is not obtained by any special inducement or any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, or other forms of coercion or misrepresentation.
- (3) Further, the recipient shall document the patient's informed consent by (i) a written consent document in a language the patient understands and speaks, which explains the basic elements of informed consent, as set out above, and which is signed by the individual and by the attending physician or by the authorized assistant of the attending physician; or (ii) when a patient is unable to read adequately a written certification by the attending physician or by the authorized assistant of the attending

physician that the basic elements of informed consent above were orally presented to the patient, and that the patient thereafter consented to the performance of the operation. The receipt of this oral explanation shall be acknowledged by the patient's mark on the certification and by the signature or mark of a witness who shall speak the same language as the patient.

- (4) The recipient must retain copies of informed consent forms and certification documents for each voluntary sterilization procedure for a period of three years after performance of the sterilization procedure.

d. Prohibition on Abortion-Related Activities:

- (1) No funds made available under this award will be used to finance, support, or be attributed to the following activities: (i) procurement or distribution of equipment intended to be used for the purpose of inducing abortions as a method of family planning; (ii) special fees or incentives to any person to coerce or motivate them to have abortions; (iii) payments to persons to perform abortions or to solicit persons to undergo abortions; (iv) information, education, training, or communication programs that seek to promote abortion as a method of family planning; and (v) lobbying for or against abortion. The term "motivate", as it relates to family planning assistance, shall not be construed to prohibit the provision, consistent with local law, of information or counseling about all pregnancy options.
- (2) No funds made available under this award will be used to pay for any biomedical research which relates, in whole or in part, to methods of, or the performance of, abortions or involuntary sterilizations as a means of family planning. Epidemiologic or descriptive research to assess the incidence, extent or consequences of abortions is not precluded.

- e. The recipient shall insert this provision in all subsequent subagreements and contracts involving family planning or population activities that will be supported in whole or in part from funds under this award. The term subagreement means subgrants and subcooperative agreements.

[END OF PROVISION]