Scoring Rubric for Awards Committee
USAID Science Champion Award for ISEF-Affiliated Fairs

Project Name	
Student Name(s)	
Judge(s)	

CRITERIA FOR SCORING	Score
RELEVANCE	
The extent to which the project is relevant to international development programming and priorities. This may include projects in 1) agriculture and food security; 2) democracy, human rights, and governance; 3) economic growth and trade; 4) education; 5) environment and global climate change; 6) gender equality and women's empowerment; 7) global health; 8) science, technology, and innovation; 9) water and sanitation; 10) working in crises and conflict (see attached sector guidance).	_____ / 3
The extent to which the student/team can articulate how this project could improve the lives of people around the world, especially those in low-and-middle income countries.	_____ / 2
SCIENTIFIC MERIT	
The extent to which the student/team articulates a sound, thoughtful approach to answering the research question. Articulates project limitations and has designed appropriate controls and/or comparisons. Appropriately interprets the data in context of the larger research question.	_____ / 5
POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT	
The extent to which the project could feasibly benefit people, and the student/team articulates this connection.	_____ / 3
The extent to which the team understands the necessary next steps to advance this project beyond additional research.	_____ / 2
PRESENTATION	
The extent to which the student/team clearly and succinctly articulates the research question in terms of what is known, where there is a knowledge gap, and the importance of filling that gap.	_____ / 3
The extent to which the presentation was clear, concise, and compelling. The student/team was able to respond to questions and criticisms intelligently and thoughtfully.	_____ / 2
TOTAL SCORE Note: If score is less than 12/20 we do not recommend making an award to the student/team.	

SECTORS/AREAS WHERE USAID WORKS: Supplement for judges evaluating relevance

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY	USAID is advancing global food security by helping families and individuals meet their need for a reliable source of quality food and sufficient resources to produce or purchase it. A family is food secure when its members do not live in hunger or fear of hunger. Food insecurity is often rooted in poverty and has long-term impacts on the ability of families, communities and countries to develop and prosper.
DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE	Democratic governance and human rights are critical components of sustainable development and lasting peace. By helping societies protect the basic rights of citizens, USAID helps prevent conflict, spur economic growth and advance human dignity. Countries with democratic freedoms are more just, peaceful and stable-and their citizens can fulfill their potential. We are supporting free and fair elections, up-to-date technology for new and traditional media, as well as the rule of law.
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE	Broad-based economic growth is essential to sustainable, long-term development. USAID is focused on activities such as giving people access to markets, where they can sell their goods and services and play a productive role in their economies; and improving infrastructure like roads, bridges, water supply and electrical grids.
EDUCATION	The primary purpose of USAID education programming is to achieve sustained, measurable improvements in learning outcomes and skills development. USAID works to ensure that children and youth, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable, have increased access to quality education that is safe, relevant, and promotes social well-being. Additionally we help children and youth gain literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills that are foundational to future learning and success and that youth gain the skills they need to lead productive lives, gain employment, and positively contribute to society.
ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE	All countries depend heavily on their environment: Forests, grasslands, rivers, lakes, coral reefs and other ecosystems provide essential resources that provide food, water, shelter and energy USAID is helping communities better manage and benefit from their natural resources, fighting deforestation and planting trees, protecting biodiversity, and mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, so countries can grow without harming the environment while strengthening their resilience to warmer temperatures and weather shocks.
GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	At USAID, we believe that gender equality and women's empowerment isn't a part of development but the core of development. Progress cannot be delivered in a vacuum. For societies to thrive, women and girls must have access to education, healthcare, and technology. They must have control of resources, lands, and markets. And they must have equal rights and equal opportunities as breadwinners, peace-builders and leaders.

GLOBAL HEALTH	For over 50 years, USAID's global health programs have saved lives, protected people most vulnerable to disease and promoted the stability of communities and nations, while advancing American security and prosperity. America is safer and stronger when people can live healthy and productive lives and when nations around the world are self-reliant and can prevent and withstand crisis. USAID's global health efforts are focused around three strategic priorities: 1) preventing child and maternal deaths; 2) controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and 3) combating infectious diseases like malaria and tuberculosis.
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION	Our focus on leveraging the promise of science, technology, innovation, and partnership reflects USAID's broad embrace of innovation to bring about positive change and solve some of the world's most pressing challenges. We channel the technical expertise of scientists and researchers to build local scientific capacity, empowering people with tools for change, and use the evidence from scientific research to drive new policies and programs. We work to increase access to digital financial services and the internet, in part by strengthening enabling environments. We identify, test, and accelerate new tools that have evidence of impact, sustainable financing, and reach, and increase the adoption of high-impact solutions.
WATER AND SANITATION	Water is essential to health and food production. USAID works with partner countries and key stakeholders to achieve four interrelated objectives. These objectives include: increasing access to sustainable safe drinking water and sanitation services and promoting hygiene; protecting freshwater resources; promoting cooperation on shared waters; and strengthening water governance and financing.
WORKING IN CRISES AND CONFLICT	With a focus on disaster prevention, response, recovery and transition, USAID provides life-saving humanitarian assistance to save lives and alleviate suffering; provide emergency food assistance while also sowing the seeds for recovery and resilience; and promote peaceful political transitions by strengthening civil society and respect for human rights, facilitating reconciliation, supporting effective democratic governance and fostering the resumption of basic economic activity.