



TECHNICAL BRIEF

# Donor Solicitation Analysis

## GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN SOLICITATION DESIGN

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*Photo from the Chemonics-implemented USAID/Colombia Páramos and Forests Activity.*

# Acknowledgments

Chemonics' Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) team prepared this brief and analysis. The team is comprised of:

- Alejandra Abusada, M.Sc.
- Shauna Caria, M.A.
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The team would like to acknowledge Kelly Cronen, who led this work in previous years and developed the base methodology for the solicitation analysis. Initially, the solicitation analysis and associated brief were prepared for internal learning purposes for Chemonics staff and shared with USAID's Inclusive Development Working Group. To invite further learning and discussion among others working to further inclusive development, the Chemonics GESI team shares this most recent brief with implementing partners and stakeholders.

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# A. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Analysis

Chemonics' Gender Equality and Social Inclusion practice management team maintains a database on how gender and social inclusion issues are presented in the donor solicitations to which Chemonics responds. Given that most solicitations are not focused primarily on gender or social inclusion, the purpose of this analysis is to reveal the level of GESI integration in solicitations. We examine how GESI is integrated into solicitations by the primary technical sector or functional area,<sup>1</sup>

how missions in different regions approach gender mainstreaming and social inclusion issues in their solicitations, and how those trends vary by donor. While this analysis cannot explain why solicitations were designed in a particular way, it offers conclusions about GESI trends presented by donors in solicitations and identifies ways that implementers can effectively integrate GESI in response.

We analyzed 364 solicitations from the past three years (2018 to 2020) to which Chemonics responded (see box for disaggregation).<sup>2</sup> Note that this number does not represent the complete list of solicitations released by donors between 2018 and 2020. The GESI and disability inclusion sections of the solicitations analyzed are from 2018 to 2020, and the minority inclusion and safeguarding sections are from only 2019 to 2020 because we added new categories of analysis in 2019. The solicitations include requests for proposals (RFPs), requests for task order proposals (RFTOPs) under indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contracts held by Chemonics, invitations to tender (ITT), and a small number of requests for applications (RFAs). Given the low number of RFAs to which Chemonics responds, this analysis is not an adequate representation of how gender and social inclusion issues are integrated into cooperative agreement or grant solicitations. RFPs and RFTOPs or ITTs comprise 83.5% of the 364 solicitations in this analysis. A full list of procurement mechanism types included in this analysis can be found in Annex A.

Solicitations included in this analysis are primarily from three donors: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 71%; the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO, 13%); and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (11%). Given that USAID and FCDO are Chemonics' primary funding sources, some sections in this analysis trends are disaggregated by USAID and FCDO to better understand a comparative approach

## Solicitation Records

### 364 total solicitations

- 97 solicitations in 2018
- 134 solicitations in 2019
- 133 solicitations in 2020

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<sup>1</sup> Primary technical sector is defined by how Chemonics categorizes the functional area that informs the design of the solicitation. These categories include agriculture and food security; democracy and governance, economic growth and trade; education and youth; environment and natural resources; health; peace, stability, and transition; supply chain solutions; water, energy, and sustainable cities; and GESI.

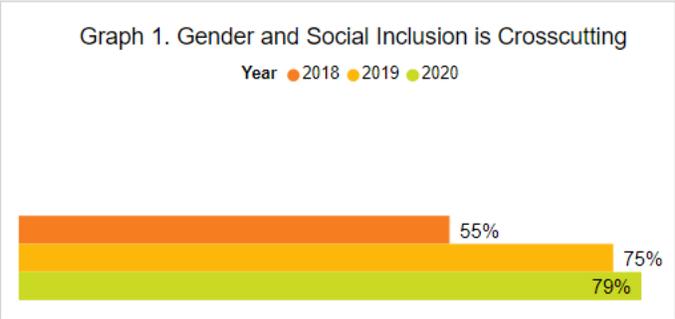
<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of these reports, some solicitations were combined, such as indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contracts and task orders when most of the solicitation content and requirements remained the same, to avoid double counting solicitations. Some solicitations that originated from unsolicited proposals were omitted to maintain accuracy of analysis in reporting donor-led solicitation design trends.

to GESI integration in solicitation design. Chemonics continues to diversify and expand the company’s client base to include other private sector organizations, foundations, multilateral organizations, and other bilateral donors, which comprise 5% of solicitations in this analysis. A full list of donors included can found in Annex B.

Following this GESI analysis section, the brief presents disability and minority inclusion trends (Section B) and safeguarding trends (Section C).

## A1. Gender and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming Trends

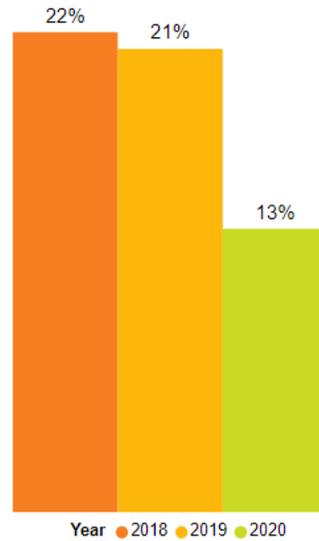
In 2020, GESI integration in solicitations increased to include greater GESI accountability measures. In 2020, 87% of solicitations Chemonics responded to included GESI mentions in the background section or in the scope of work. More significantly, there is an increase in solicitations that both mention GESI in the background section and have at least one project objective or activity dedicated to GESI, at 59% of solicitations in 2020, compared with 47% in 2019. Additionally, over the past three years there has been a steady increase in gender and social inclusion as a crosscutting principle across all solicitations, at 79% in 2020, compared with 75% in 2019 and 55% in 2018 (see Graph 1, at right). These upward trends indicate that donor solicitations are requiring an increase in GESI mainstreaming language that goes beyond a mention of GESI in the background section, to instead require targeted GESI objectives or activities in the scope of work or GESI integration as a crosscutting principle throughout the technical approach.



Overall, the past three years have seen a marked decrease of solicitations that do not include GESI language in the background section or a specific GESI activity in the scope of work, at only 13% in 2020, compared with 21% in 2019 and 22% in 2018 (see next page). This downward trend indicates that more solicitations are designed to include GESI mainstreaming language than ever before.

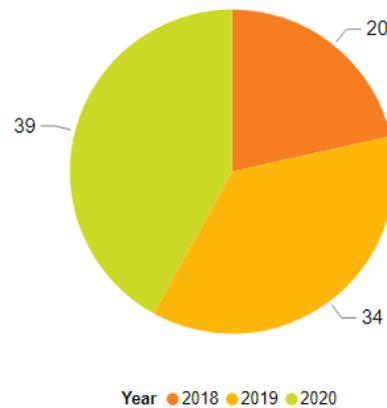
Beyond dedicated GESI activities, a project-level gender and social inclusion assessment and action plan serve as a roadmap to mainstreaming GESI. Adequately planning for GESI integration in the project design phase is important to ensure having the right resources during implementation and appropriate contextual analysis to inform inclusive activity design during the life of the project. The number of solicitations that required a GESI assessment and/or action plan as a contract deliverable increased steadily over the past three years, with 39 in 2020, compared with 34 in 2019 and 20 in 2018 (see Graph 3 below). Chemonics is observing greater trends toward GESI accountability upon award through the requirement for such contract deliverables in solicitations.

Graph 2. No Gender and Social Inclusion Language

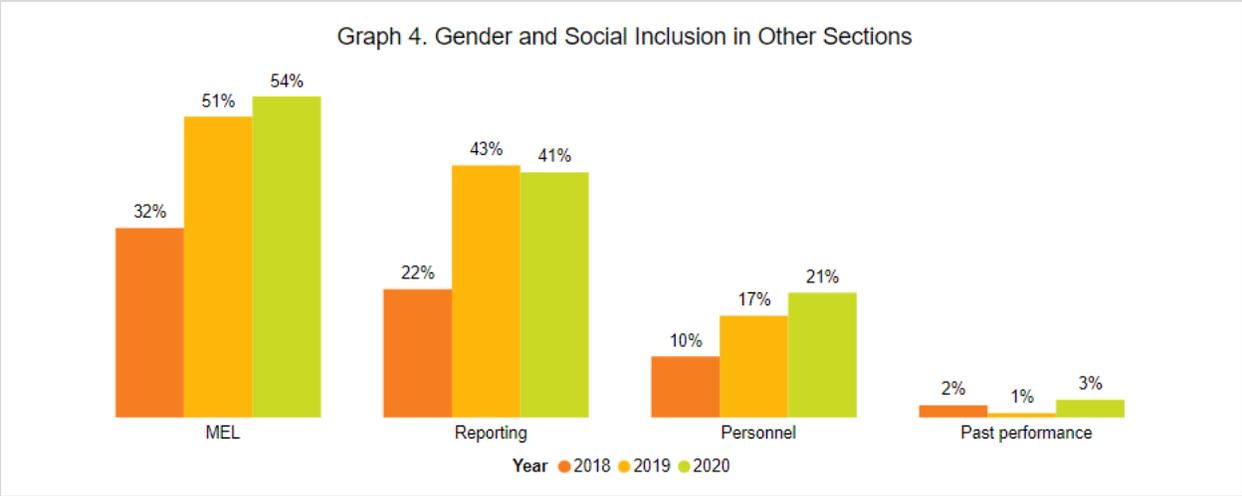


Additionally, 66% of 2020 solicitations cited GESI in the evaluation criteria, which indicates increased accountability for implementers to integrate GESI. Overall, there is an increasing trend to include GESI either directly or indirectly in the evaluation criteria compared with previous years, with GESI included in 51% of solicitations in 2019. To assess the prevalence of GESI in the evaluation criteria, we tracked direct mention of GESI, such as stating the need to consider gender in the technical response or diversity in the staffing plan, or indirect mention of GESI, such as citing the need to be responsive to crosscutting principles, which includes gender or social inclusion, in the scope of work and referencing crosscutting principles in the instructions section.

Graph 3. Gender and Social Inclusion Deliverable



Other ways to ensure GESI integration in project implementation is to establish accountability measures across the entire project design, for example, in the activity monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan, quarterly or final reports, personnel or staffing requirements, and past performance. In fact, the past three years suggest an upward trend of increased GESI accountability measures in solicitation design in MEL, personnel, and past performance sections, apart from a slight drop in reporting requirements between 2019 (43%) and 2020 (41%) (see Graph 4 on the next page).



## A2. Gender and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming by Technical Sector in 2020

Graphs 5 and 6 on the next pages outline how different components of GESI were integrated into 2020 solicitations by primary technical sector, defined by how Chemonics categorizes the functional areas that inform the design of the solicitation. These categories include agriculture and food security; democracy and governance; economic growth and trade; education and youth; environment and natural resources; health; peace, stability, and transition; supply chain solutions; and water, energy, and sustainable cities. For purposes of this analysis, we do not include primary technical sector solicitations that are categorized as GESI in this section graphically, as all percentages are 100% and do not reflect the crosscutting nature of this analysis section.

The categories presented in the graphs measure three different levels of GESI integration that go beyond solely mentioning GESI in the background section or scope of work:

- If GESI is a crosscutting pillar or principle
- If social inclusion language is mentioned<sup>3</sup>
- If there is a specific GESI objective or activity in the scope of work

Graph 5 on the next page looks at gender and social inclusion language in all donor solicitations by technical sector in 2020, and Graph 6 (on the next page) presents only USAID’s trends.

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<sup>3</sup> Social inclusion, as defined by the World Bank, is the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society — improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity. For this analysis, we tracked inclusion of specific social groups that are often underrepresented in society. Social group categories in this analysis include persons with disabilities, youth, minority groups, the LGBTIQ community, migrants or internally displaced persons, undefined, and other. See Section A4 for further explanation on categories included in this social inclusion analysis.

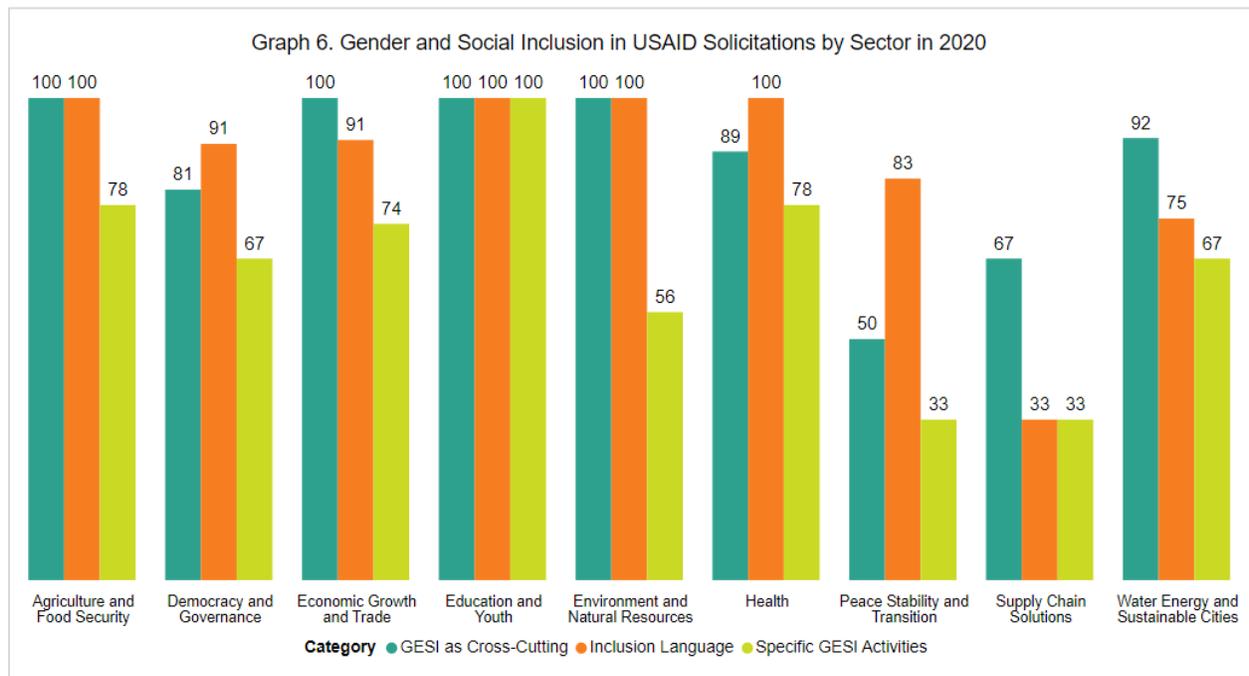
## A2a. All Donor Trends by Technical Sector

Donor solicitations for agriculture and food security, environment and natural resources, and education and youth most frequently integrate gender and social inclusion considerations into the scope of work. Other technical sectors such as economic growth and trade; democracy and governance; health; and water, energy, and sustainable cities reflect a high level of GESI mainstreaming, with 80% to 90% of these solicitations including GESI as a crosscutting pillar or mentioning social inclusion language. This suggests that for most technical sectors gender and social inclusion is a significant crosscutting component that must be considered and integrated. Peace, stability, and transition solicitations frequently integrate social inclusion in activity design (67%); however, in this category, there are fewer solicitations that mention GESI as a crosscutting pillar (44%) and specific GESI activities in the scope of work (22%). Solicitations for supply chain solutions provide the fewest mentions across all three measures of GESI integration.



## A2b. USAID Trends by Technical Sector

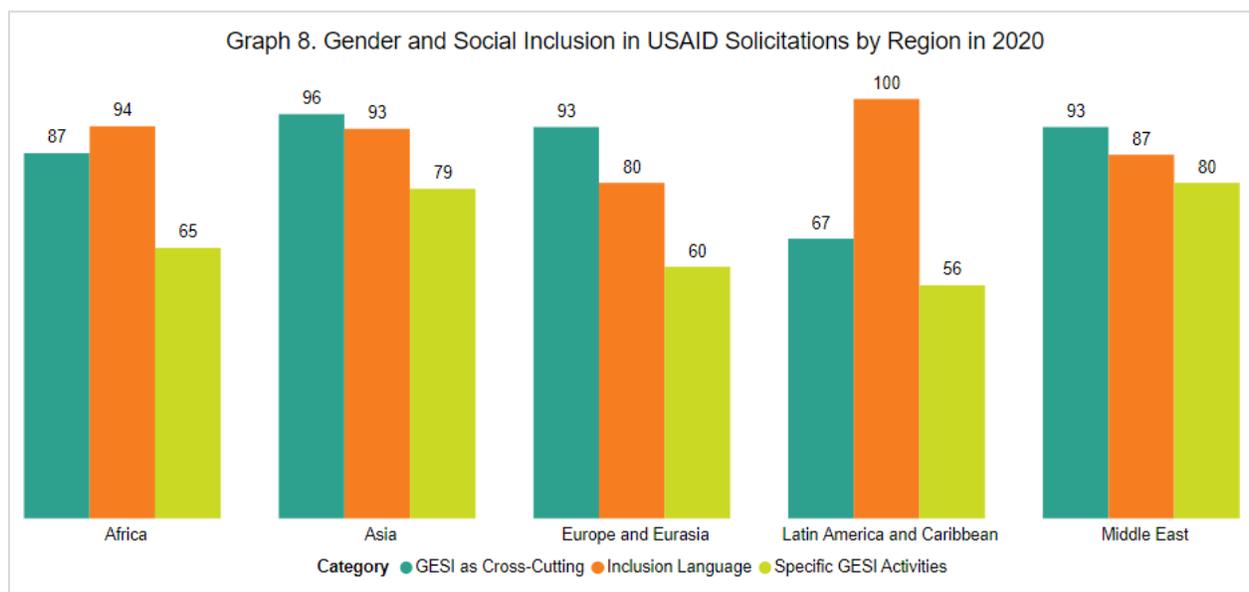
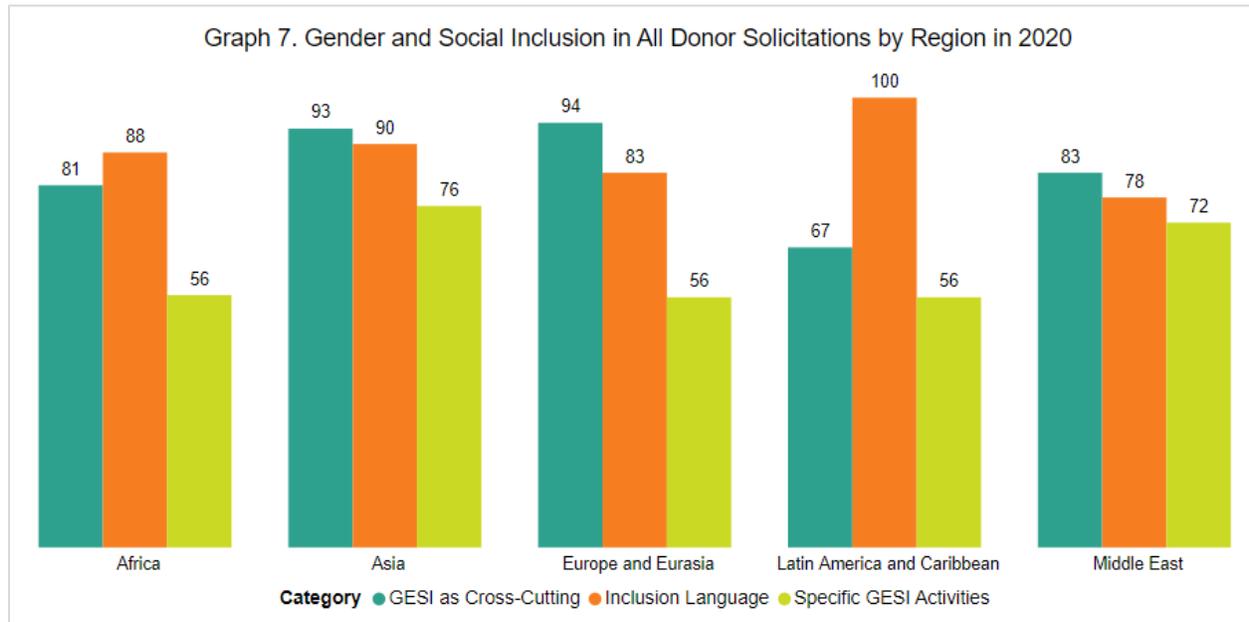
USAID solicitations for education and youth, agriculture and food security, health, environment and natural resources, and economic growth and trade provide the most frequent integration of gender and social inclusion considerations into the scope of work. Similar to trends across all donors, USAID solicitations where the primary sector is peace, stability, and transitions frequently integrate social inclusion in activity design (83%), yet fewer solicitations mention GESI as a crosscutting pillar (50%) and specific GESI activities in the scope of work (33%). Although supply chain solutions solicitations mention GESI as a crosscutting theme (67%), among the technical sectors they provide the least amount of mentions for social inclusion and specific GESI activities.



## A3. Gender and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming by Region in 2020

The analysis disaggregates findings by region to provide additional insight into GESI-related trends and reduce variability among solicitations from specific missions or by country or regional context. Given that more than 70% of solicitations Chemonics responds to are from USAID, the regions in this analysis are classified according to [USAID's geographic bureaus](#). Graphs 7 and 8 on the next page outline how different components of GESI were integrated into solicitations in 2020 by region. As with the previous section, we measured three different levels of GESI integration — if GESI is a crosscutting pillar or principle, if social inclusion language is mentioned, and if a specific GESI objective or activity is in the scope of work.

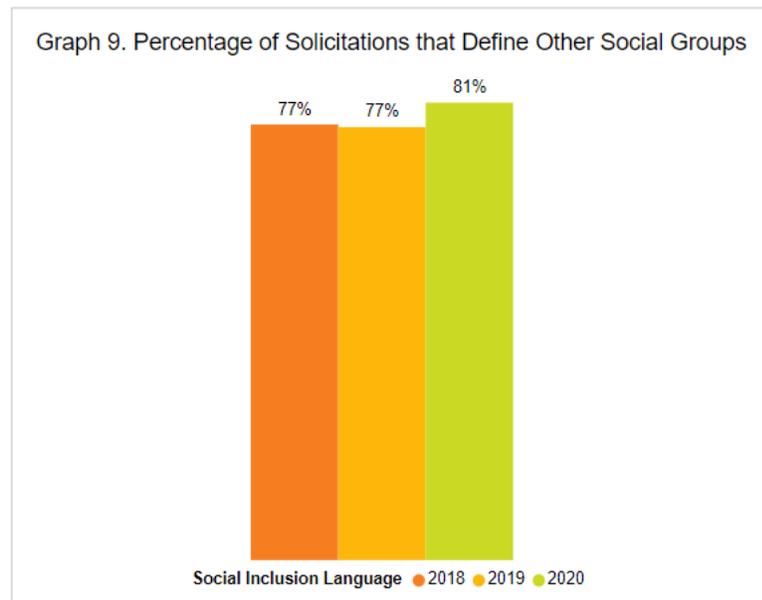
Graph 7 below looks at gender and social inclusion language in all donor solicitations by region in 2020, and Graph 8 presents USAID's trends.



All regions demonstrate commitment to GESI mainstreaming language by including GESI as a crosscutting principle or including social inclusion language. All missions to a lesser degree include specific GESI activities or objectives in the scope of work. We observe that while the Latin America and the Caribbean region mentions social inclusion language in 100% of the solicitations Chemonics responds to, compared with other geographic regions it is less likely to include GESI as a crosscutting principle. When disaggregating by USAID solicitations only, the prevalence for GESI integration increases in each GESI category, indicating that other donors include less GESI integration overall based on region.

## A4. Social Inclusion by Technical Sector and Region

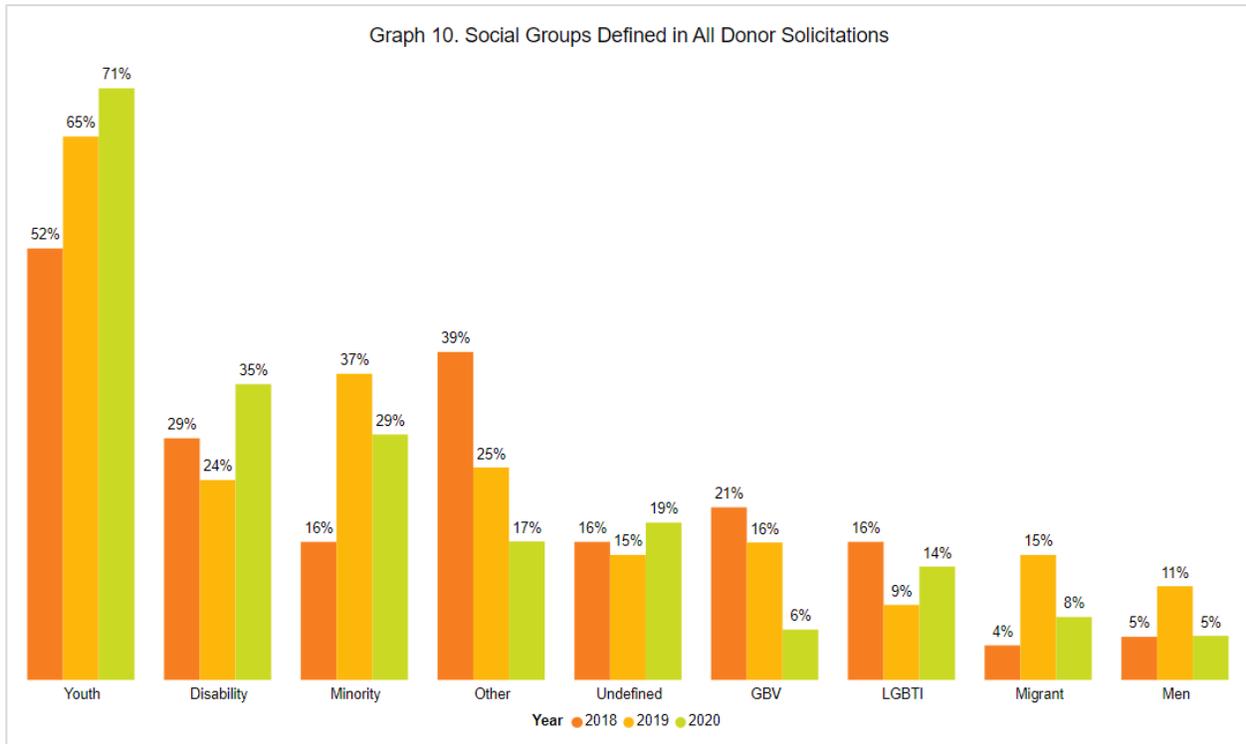
Chemonics approaches gender with the understanding that not all women and not all men are the same and that everyone has multi-layered and multidimensional identities across different social identifiers. Since we approach GESI with an intersectional lens, the Chemonics GESI team also monitors trends in how social inclusion is presented in solicitations. There has been a marked increase over the past three years in how solicitations acknowledged social inclusion — with 81% of all solicitations in 2020 making note of at least one other social group beyond gender. This is an increase from 77% of solicitations in 2018 (see below).



Graph 10 on the following page shows broad trends in how different social groups have been integrated into solicitations over the past three years. Aside from gender, the second most common social group prioritized within solicitations is youth. This trend has continued to increase in the past three years, reaching a high of 71% in 2020, nearly 20% greater compared with 2018 levels of inclusion (52%). Beyond these two categories, the other two social groups most frequently referenced in donor solicitations in 2020 are persons with

disabilities (35%) and minority groups (29%), which may include Indigenous populations, ethnic, linguistic, religious, or geographic minorities. Section B delves deeper into disability and minority inclusion trends. Other social groups measured in this analysis include LGBTIQ persons, which includes references to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) minorities; migrants, which can include immigrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, or other transitory populations; and men, which refers to solicitations that specifically cite transforming masculinities.

We also tracked safeguarding in more depth in 2019 and 2020, which includes addressing victims of gender-based violence (GBV), domestic violence, and trafficking victims. Section C further details safeguarding in solicitations. Graph 10 below suggests that the prevalence of GBV prevention and response in solicitations Chemonics has responded to has decreased in the past three years. As this trend is not representative of all solicitations released by donors, it may be more reflective of the types of procurement mechanisms to which Chemonics responds.



For the purposes of this analysis, we also monitored trends related to two additional existing categories: “other” and “undefined.” Other refers to solicitations that include highly specific but unique vulnerable groups such as rural communities with poor access to finance or pregnant women at risk to HIV. Undefined refers to solicitations that cite vulnerable or marginalized groups without any specific examples of groups to prioritize. The percentage of solicitations that includes undefined has increased in 2020, which is not a positive sign. As research indicates in the paper [“How USAID’s Solicitations and Resulting Awards Include Underrepresented Groups,”](#) the use of the phrase “vulnerable groups” to represent a wide range of social groups considered marginalized without defining who is included is ineffective and will not lead to greater inclusion during implementation.

## B. Social Inclusion Analysis

This section focuses on disability inclusion (2018 to 2020) and minority group inclusion (2019 to 2020). These groups are being included in solicitations with greater frequency, and we delve into the trends for social groups that contain a multitude of diverse experiences. As noted in Section A, following gender and youth, people with disabilities and minority groups were the most frequently referenced social group in donor solicitations in 2020, with language on persons with disabilities included in 35% and language on minority groups in 29%. Our analysis of this language looks at how these groups are being included in solicitation design and the trends based on technical sectors and region. Additionally, for disability inclusion, we analyzed which solicitation sections included people with disabilities most frequently. For minority groups, we analyzed the degree to which different terminology was used. We begin this section by detailing how we define these two groups in this analysis, followed by high-level trends for the groups. We then present further analysis for these groups in Sections B3 and B4.

**Disability inclusion.** Our analysis refers to disability inclusion as a singular social group yet acknowledges that within this group people’s needs and abilities are diverse. People with disabilities have varying types of disabilities, including sensory, physical, intellectual, and psychosocial, which uniquely impact their experiences. People living with the same type of disability will also have varied experiences, not only because their experiences are individual, but also because of the way their intersecting identities, such as gender and age, can impact their lived experiences. As a result, the trends in this analysis invite further inquiry into those technical sectors and regions where disability inclusion has been integrated more comprehensively. Typically, mentions of persons with disabilities in solicitations do not specify the type of disability, and further understanding is needed to make recommendations for distinct needs.

Policies and guidance documents for disability inclusion from FCDO (formerly DFID) have become more robust in recent years; for example, in 2018, DFID published its [Disability Inclusion Strategy 2018 to 2023](#) and [Delivery Plan](#) to implement this strategy, as well as associated standards and a theory of change. USAID’s policy framework for disability inclusion includes its [Disability Policy Paper](#). The agency has also published additional guidance on integrating disability inclusion into implementation for specific sectors and in gender assessments and analysis. For example, in 2020 USAID released [How to Note: Collecting Data on Disability Prevalence in Education Programs](#) and has published [Disability Communications Tips](#).

**Minority group inclusion.** The term “minority group” also includes diverse definitions and identities. In this analysis, we tracked mentions of the terminology listed in the text box to the right, including “undefined” as a category where “minority” was included without a more specific definition of who it was referring to.

Within the terminology analyzed, there are also varied definitions for what it means to belong to a minority group, such as ethnic, religious, or linguistic. These definitions vary

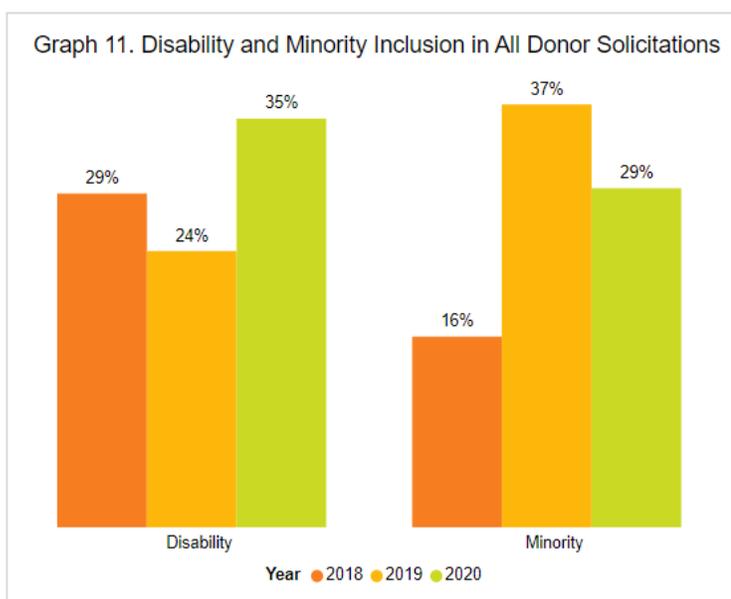
based on country context; for example, ethnic minorities may also be referred to using race, origin, or tribe. Further, many individuals identify as a combination of these groups, such as being both an ethnic and religious minority.<sup>4</sup> Indigenous peoples may be identified by their distinct language or dialect and thus may also consider themselves a linguistic minority. Further, who is considered a minority varies over time and is based on perspective. For example, people may become a minority when migrating to a new country or region or be defined as a minority by others in positions of power. With this complexity, it's critical for the population themselves to communicate how they desire to be identified.<sup>5</sup>

### Terminology Analyzed for Minority Groups

- Ethnic
- Religious
- Linguistic
- Geographic
- Indigenous
- Caste/Clan/Tribal
- Undefined

The level of consultation needed to understand the different minority populations a project will work with may be undertaken at the implementation phase, rather than presented fully in the solicitation. Understanding the degree to which minority groups are included in solicitations provides information on where the varying needs of these groups are being mentioned, and analysis of the terminology used provides trends on which minority groups are most frequently named in solicitations.

Policies and guidance documents often integrate information on including minorities within broader inclusive development areas. However, there are also documents that focus more specifically on minority group inclusion. For example, the release in 2020 of USAID's [Policy on Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) positions USAID and implementing partners to strengthen and expand upon the decades of support to Indigenous people around the world. The policy gives guidance on engagement and partnership with Indigenous people to help USAID's programs align with these communities' own priorities, while also ensuring that USAID's staff and implementing partners safeguard against unintended adverse impact. Other documents providing guidance on minority group inclusion, such as religious minorities, include the DFID 2018 [Vision for Gender Equality](#), the USAID 2018 [Suggested](#)



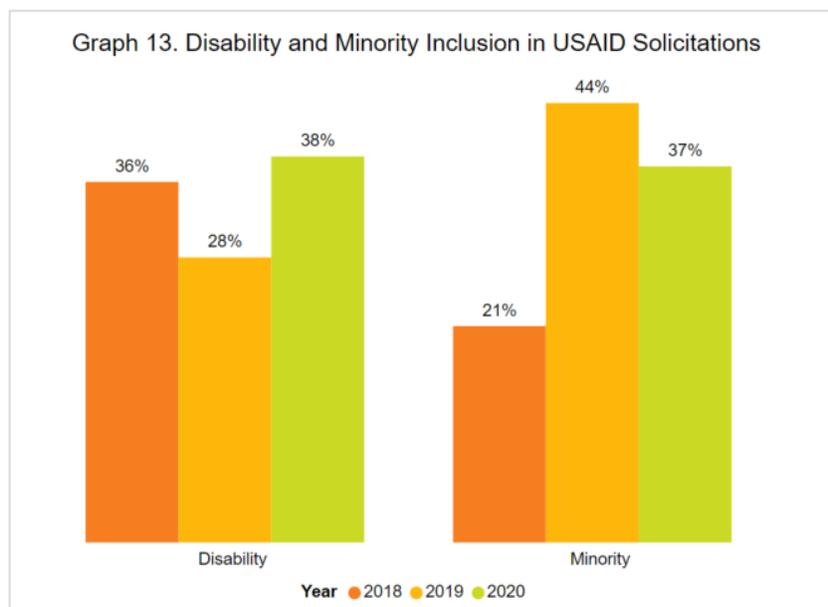
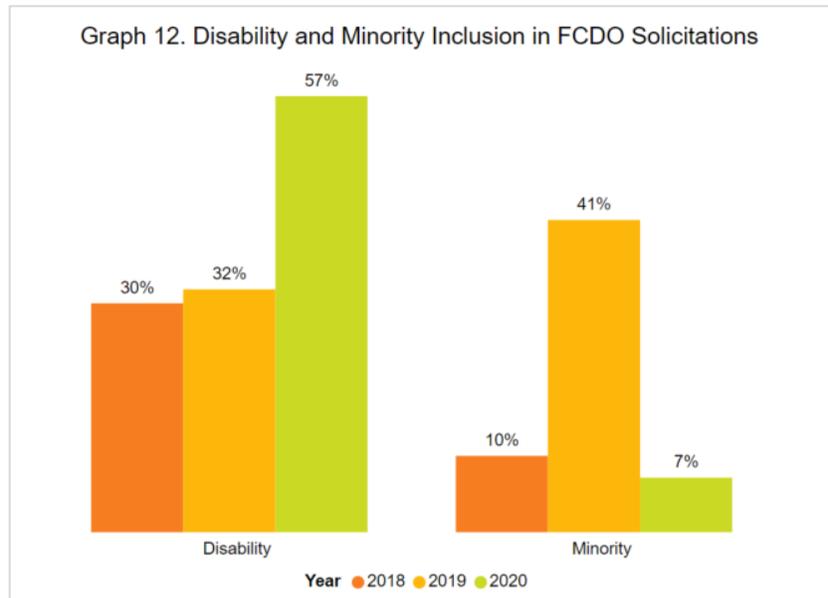
<sup>4</sup> United Nations Statistics Division. (2017). "Ethnocultural characteristics": retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/popcharmehods.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

[Approaches for Integrating Inclusive Development Across the Program Cycle and in Mission Operations](#), and the USAID 2020 [Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy](#).

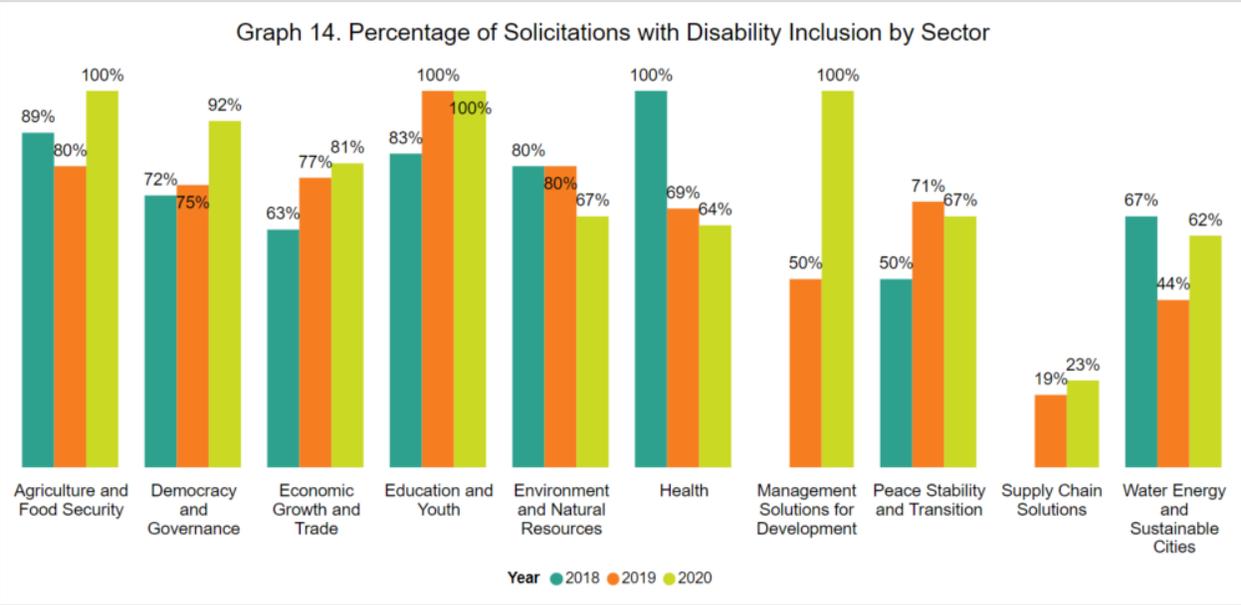
Graph 11 details the overall level of inclusion of these groups in solicitations reviewed in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Mentions of disability inclusion language increased from 24% of solicitations reviewed overall in 2019 to 35% in 2020. Mentions of minority group language decreased from 37% in 2019 to 29% in 2020. In our 2019 and 2020 analysis, we delved further into the terminology used for minority groups (see Section B4). Future analysis will need to continue tracking these specific terminology mentions.

Of note, FCDO included people with disabilities in 57% of solicitations reviewed in 2020 (see Graph 12 at right). With the DFID Disability Inclusion Strategy released in 2018 and covering the period through 2023, there is a marked increase from 2018’s level of inclusion of 30% to 57% of solicitations in 2020 that mention people with disabilities. For mentions of minority groups in FCDO solicitations reviewed, there was a significant decrease, from 41% in 2019 to 7% in 2020. For USAID solicitations (see Graph 13 at right), mentions of people with disabilities increased from 28% in 2019 to 38% in 2020; of note, the 2020 figure represents a slight increase from 36% in 2018. For USAID there was also a decrease regarding inclusion of language on minority groups, from 44% in 2019 to 38% in 2020.



## B1. Disability Inclusion Trends by Technical Sector

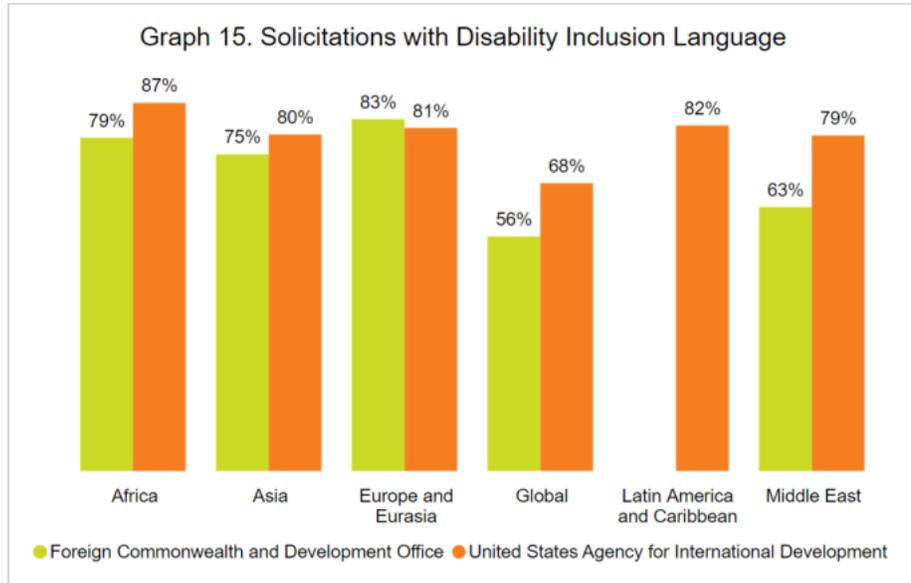
Graph 14 below details the percentage of solicitations by technical sector that included language on disability inclusion. It covers mentions of policy language, such as a standard disability clause or non-discrimination or equal opportunity language, in addition to specific mentions of disability inclusion in other solicitation sections (see more in Section B3). The majority of sectors increased or remained steady in mentions of disability inclusion language from 2019 to 2020. Notably, in agriculture and food security, 100% of solicitations reviewed in 2020 had mentions of disability inclusion; this was primarily as language on policies but there were mentions in other sections of the solicitation as well, for instance as a crosscutting component, in personnel, and as a contract deliverable. The education and youth sector also mentioned disability inclusion in 100% of the solicitations reviewed in 2019 and 2020; notably, disability inclusion language was included in multiple sections for all these solicitations. The environment and natural resources sector had a decline in mentions of disability inclusion language in 2020; 67% of solicitations mentioning it, compared with 80% in both 2018 and 2020. The health sector also had a decline in mentions of disability inclusion language, from 2018 where 100% of solicitations reviewed included disability language (primarily policy language) to 69% in 2019 and 64% in 2020.



## B2. Disability Inclusion Trends by Region

Graph 15 on the next page details the percentage of solicitations by region that included language on disability inclusion, compared across FCDO and USAID. It also includes mentions of policy language, such as a standard disability clause or non-discrimination or equal opportunity language, in addition to specific mentions of disability inclusion in other sections of the solicitations (see more in Section B3). USAID’s Africa Region had the most mentions of disability inclusion over the past three years of analysis, at 87% of solicitations reviewed (see more on trends below in Section B3). For FCDO, 83% of solicitations reviewed

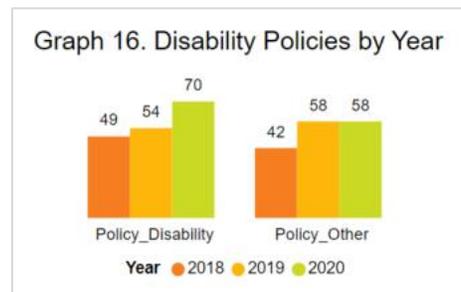
for Europe and Eurasia had disability inclusion language included, the highest level by region. The Latin America and Caribbean region is only reflected for USAID in Graph 15 as Chemonics did not respond to solicitations in this region for FCDO during the years reviewed. As shown below, FCDO and



USAID had comparable overall levels of observed disability inclusion language, apart from the Middle East and Global solicitations where USAID had a higher level.

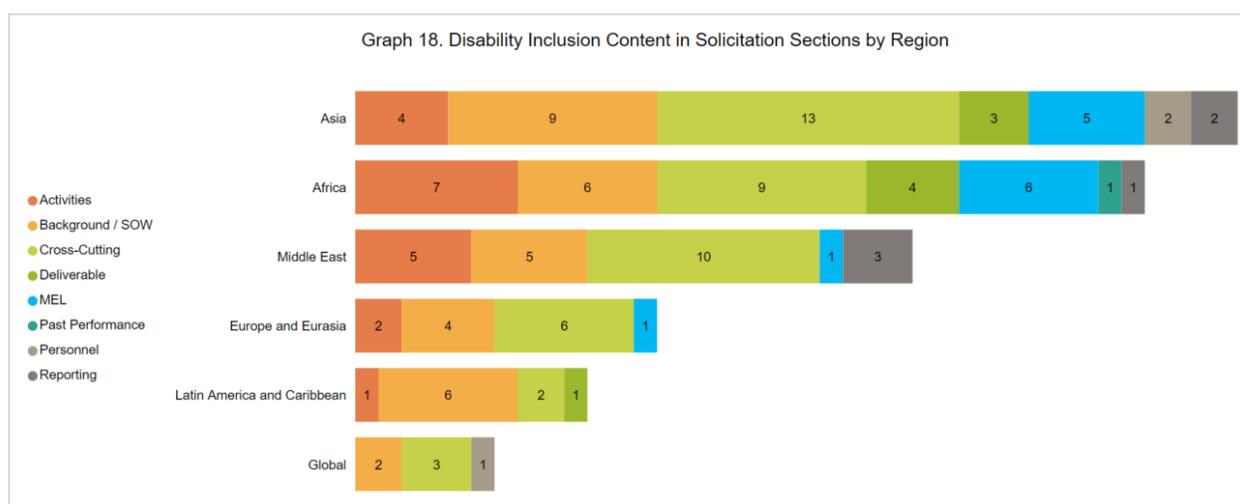
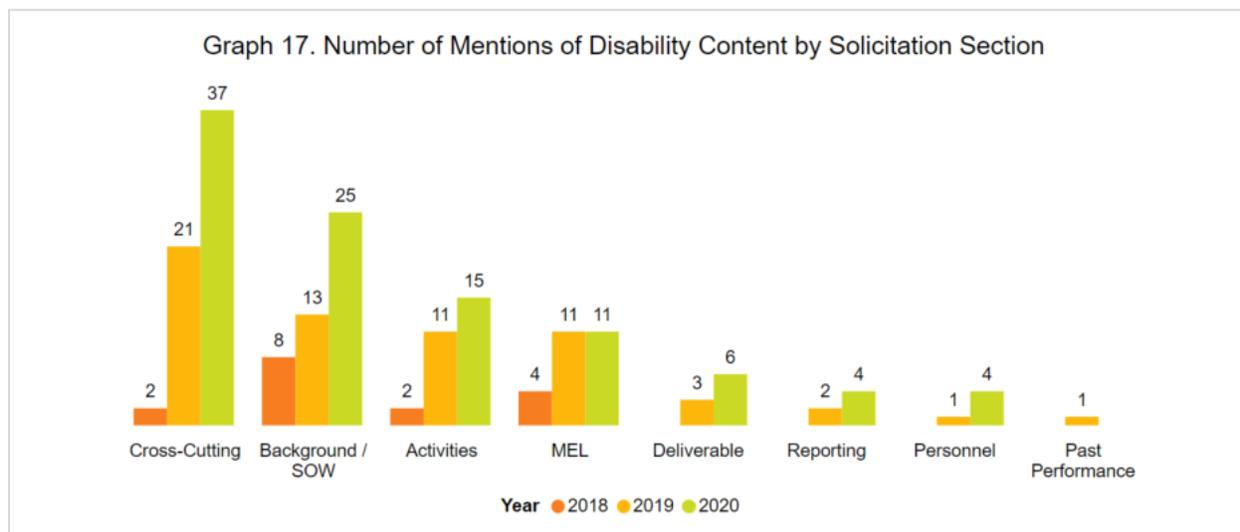
### B3. Disability Inclusion Trends Defined

In addition to reviewing disability inclusion by sector and region, we reviewed which sections of solicitations included disability inclusion language. Disability policy language (see Graph 16 at right) remains the highest area of inclusion in solicitations. Inclusion of disability inclusion in other sections (see Graph 17 on the next page) supports the practical application of these policies. Overall, disability inclusion language increased over the three years of analysis, with crosscutting and disability inclusion language most frequently in the background or scope of work sections. This increase of mentions in other sections indicates expectations are moving beyond policy-level accountability and enable us to analyze the degree to which disability inclusion language is included in other sections of solicitations.



Graph 18 on the next page details the mentions of disability inclusion language in different sections of solicitations, with the exception of policy language by region. The Africa region included the most varied mentions of disability inclusion language across sections, with Asia and the Middle East also including mentions across many sections. Mentioning disability inclusion across multiple sections provides implementers with more explicit opportunities to

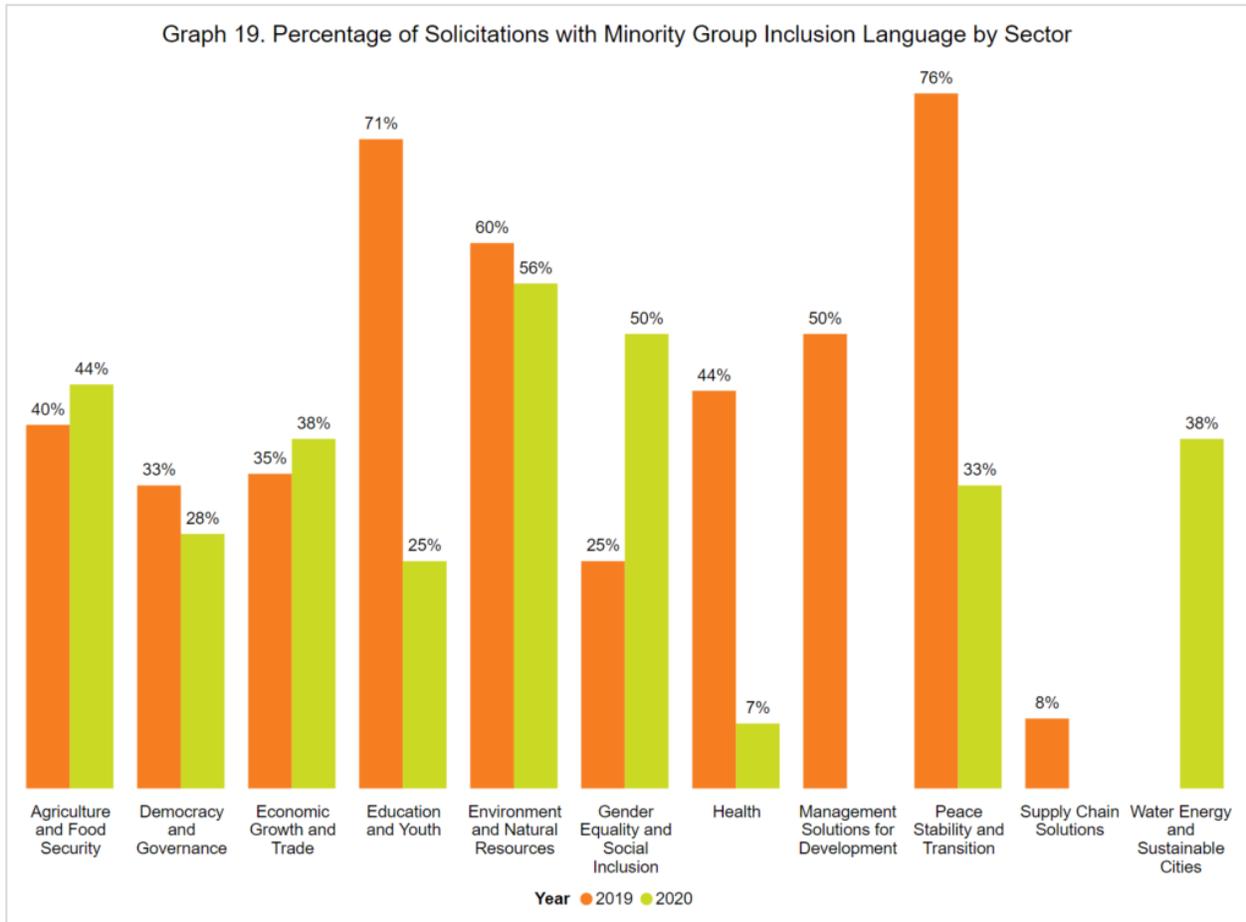
respond to disability inclusion in order to adhere to policies in practice and ultimately implement inclusive programming.



## B4. Minority Inclusion Trends by Technical Sector

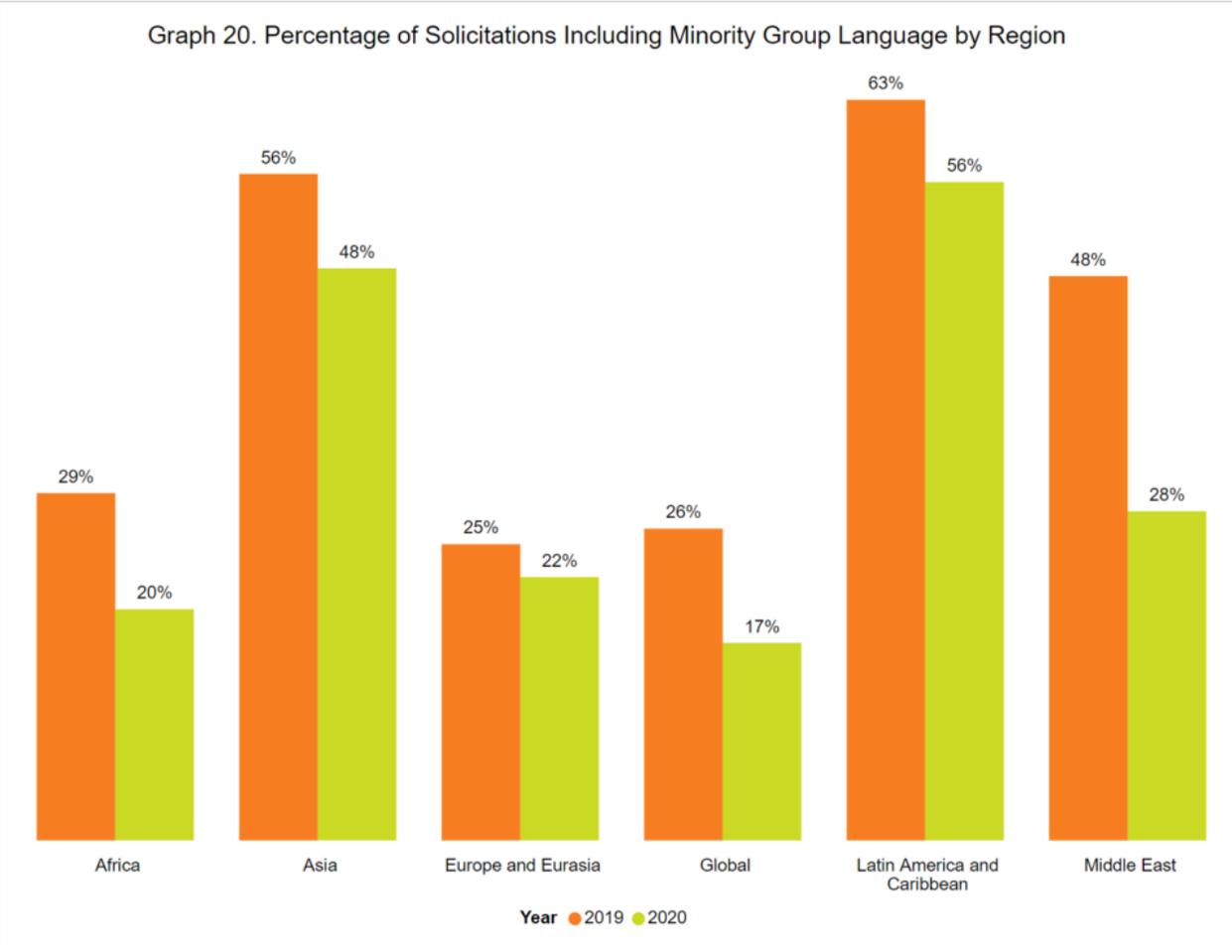
In 2019 and 2020 we added additional categories of analysis to understand trends in minority inclusion. Although our disability inclusion analysis identifies which solicitation sections include disability, the analysis does not provide this level of detail for trends in minority inclusion at this time. Typically, minority groups are discussed within the background or contextual information and the scope of work. Graph 19 on the next page details the percentage of solicitations with minority group inclusion language by technical sector, for 2019 and 2020. Solicitations for the peace, stability, and transition; education and youth; and health sectors significantly declined in mentions of minority groups. Conversely, solicitations in the GESI sector, though few, had increased numbers in mentions of minority groups. Water, energy, and sustainable cities solicitations had significant increase in mentions of minority groups. There was also a modest increase in the mention of minority groups in

agriculture and food security (40% in 2019 and 44% in 2020) and in economic growth and trade (35% in 2019 and 39% in 2020).



## B5. Minority Inclusion Trends by Region

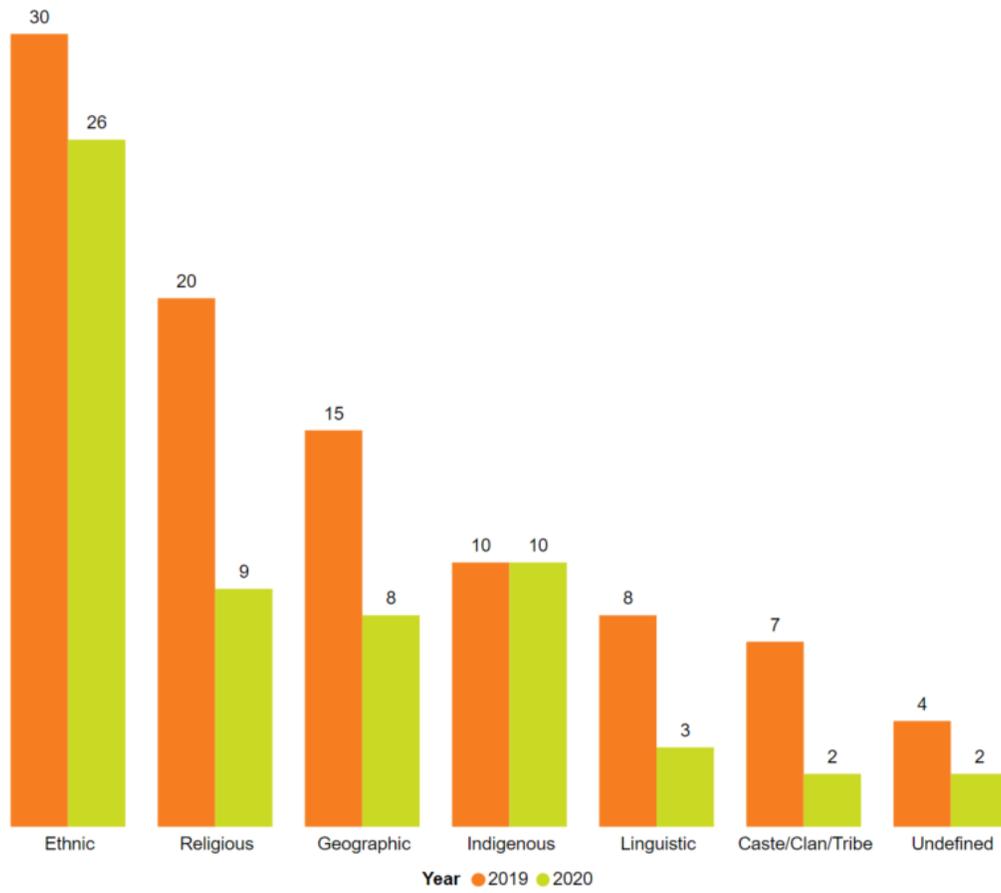
Graph 20 on the next page presents the data in 2019 and 2020 for mentions of minority groups across the different regions. As discussed in the start of this Social Inclusion section, overall references to minority groups declined between 2019 and 2020. The Asia and Latin America and Caribbean regions had the highest levels of mentions for 2019 and 2020 compared with the other regions.



### B6. Minority Inclusion Trends Defined

Most minority group terms analyzed declined in their number of mentions between 2019 and 2020, with the exception of mentions of Indigenous populations which remained steady. The term “undefined” refers to when a “minority” group was mentioned in the solicitation but more specific terminology or information to define this group was not provided. Within the regions mentioned in Section B5 above with more robust minority group inclusion, namely the Latin America and Caribbean and Asia regions, we also reviewed the mention of these specific groups by region. The Latin America and Caribbean region had seven solicitations mentioning Indigenous peoples and six that mentioned ethnic minorities, as well as single mentions of geographic, linguistic, and undefined minority groups. The Asia region had diverse mentions of these groups, with four caste/clan/tribe mentions, 11 mentions of ethnic minorities, four mentions of geographic minorities, five mentions of Indigenous people, two mentions of linguistic minorities, and five mentions of religious minorities.

Graph 21. Number of Mentions of Minority Group Terms in Solicitations



## C. Safeguarding Analysis

For 2019 and 2020, we tracked how safeguarding is included in solicitations to which Chemonics has responded. Safeguarding broadly refers to measures to protect people from unintended harm in the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance.<sup>6</sup>

Safeguarding has become increasingly recognized as a critical component of effectively implementing international development programming across sectors and from different donors to ensure programs do no harm. In the wake of the #MeToo movement in 2018, the international development industry also had more transparent conversations through the #AidToo movement. Since then, donors have developed a more robust policy framework to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse. For instance, in 2020 the U.K. government released its [Strategy on Safeguarding Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment within the Aid Sector](#) and USAID released its [Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(PSEA\) Policy](#). This builds on USAID's existing policies such as Counter-Trafficking in Persons and the Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence globally.

This analysis defines safeguarding to include the following categories:

- Anti-trafficking and modern-day slavery
- Child safeguarding and protection
- Do No Harm principle
- GBV prevention and response which also includes school-related GBV (SRGBV) and domestic violence
- Psychosocial support and mental health
- Sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse(SHEA) prevention and response
- Trauma-sensitive or trauma-informed programming;
- Safeguarding donor policy, which is used when a safeguarding policy clause is included in the solicitation, such as CFR 752.7037 on child protection or FAR 52.222-50 on counter-trafficking in persons
- Safeguarding undefined, which is used when the term safeguarding is cited without explanation as to what it means or who is included

### Solicitations that Include Safeguarding

A total of 184 solicitations in the 2019 and 2020 analysis included safeguarding:

- 85 solicitations in 2019
- 99 solicitations in 2020

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<sup>6</sup> Definition sourced and modified from the Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub, "What is Safeguarding?" (n.d.): <https://safeguardingsupporthub.org/what-safeguarding>

## C1. Safeguarding Trends

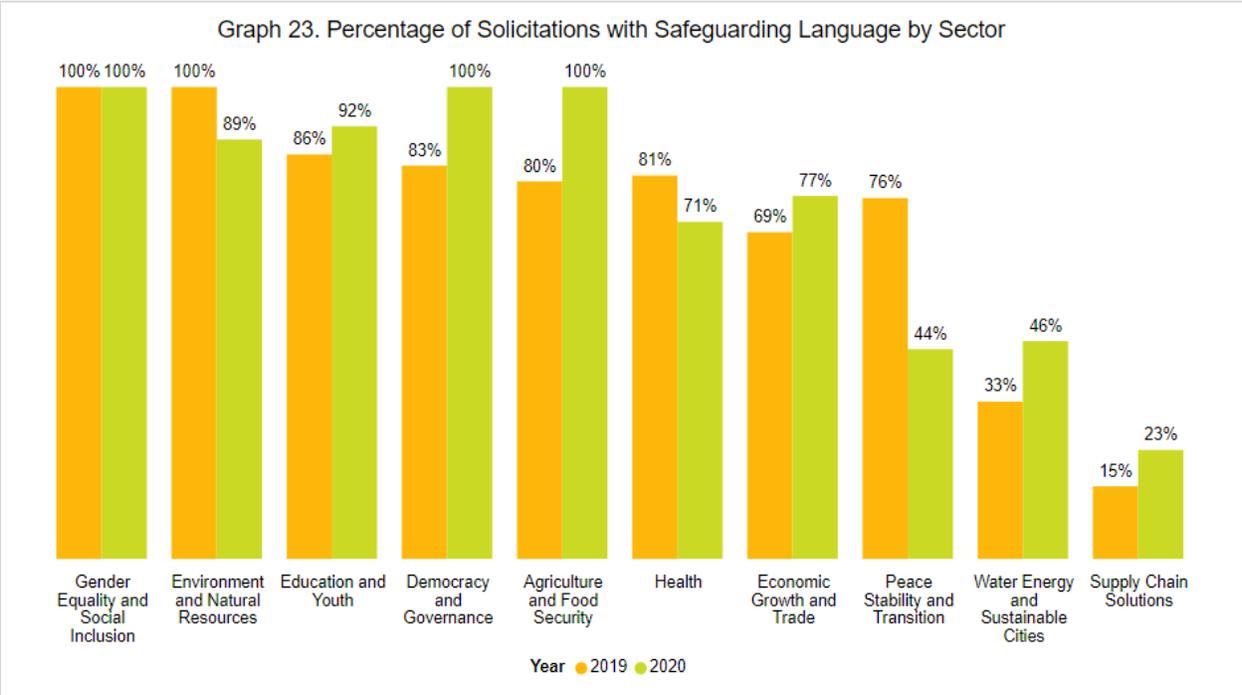
For 2019 and 2020 combined, 69% of all solicitations Chemonics responded to mentioned safeguarding topics. There was an increase in the percentage of solicitations that mention safeguarding in 2020 (74%), compared with 2019 (63%, see Graph 22 below). This upward trend suggests an increasing importance on safeguarding in solicitation design and integration of safeguarding accountability measures in the solicitation response.

## C2. Safeguarding Trends by Technical Sector

Graph 23 on the next page presents the percentage of solicitations including safeguarding language by primary technical sector. Donor solicitations for GESI, environment and natural resources, education and youth, democracy and governance, and agriculture and food security had the most frequent inclusion of safeguarding. Other technical sectors, such as economic growth and trade and health, reflect a high level of safeguarding, at 70% to 80% of the solicitations Chemonics responded to in 2019 and 2020. This indicates that across most technical sectors, safeguarding is a significant aspect of solicitation design and must be thoughtfully included in response. While solicitations from the peace, stability, and transitions sector reflected a high level of safeguarding in 2019 (77%), that figure significantly decreased in 2020 (44%). Of those solicitations from the peace, stability, and transitions sector to which Chemonics responded that did *not* include safeguarding in 2019 and 2020 (nine solicitations total), six were from USAID, including three from the Office of Transition Initiatives; two from the U.S. Department of State; and one from FCDO. Solicitations from supply chain solutions and from water, energy, and sustainable cities had the fewest mentions of safeguarding.

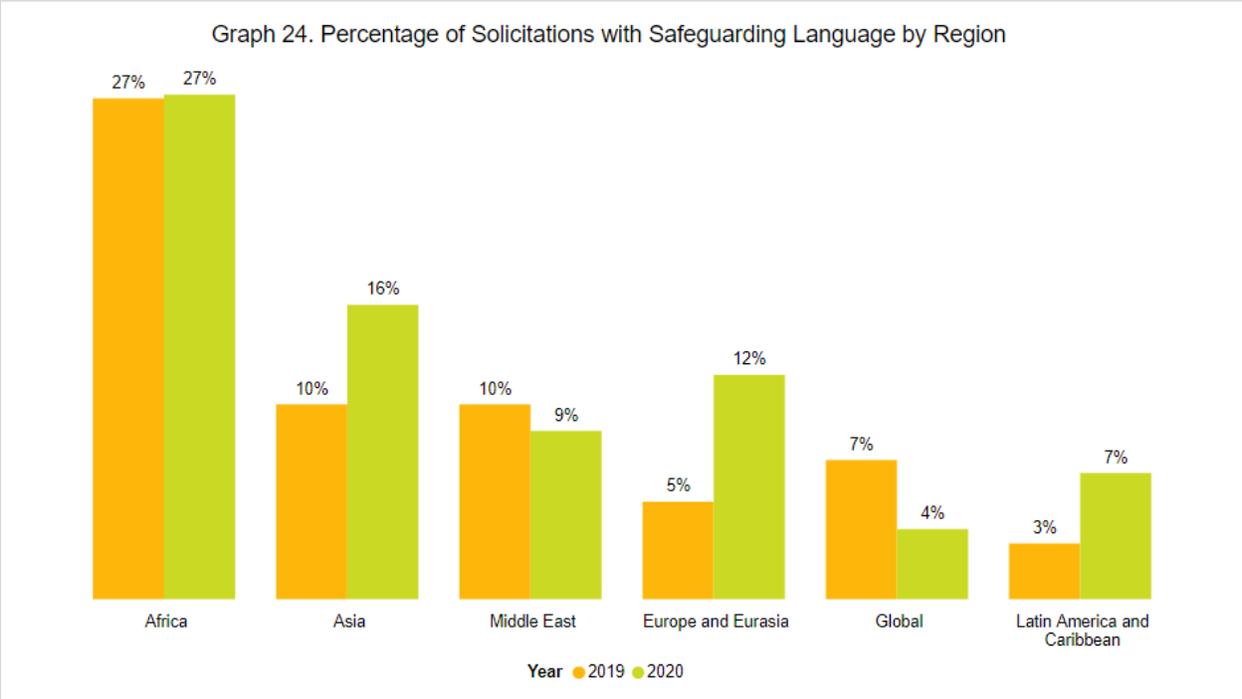
Graph 22. Percentage of Solicitations with Safeguarding Language





### C3. Safeguarding Trends by Region

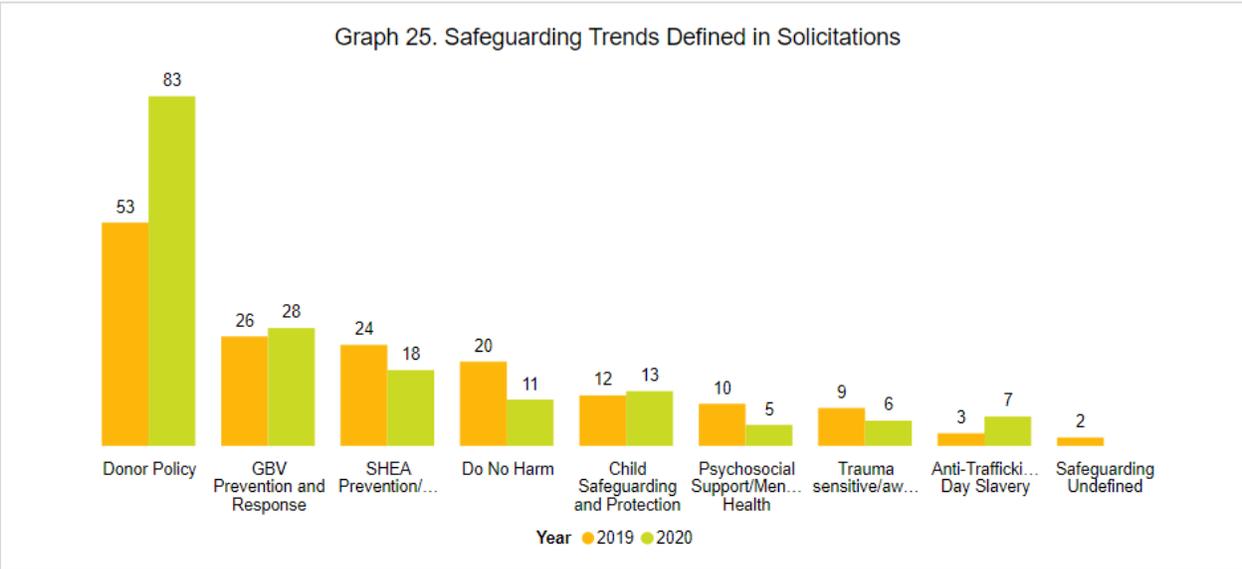
Graph 24 below presents the percentage of solicitations including safeguarding language by geographic region. Donor solicitations from the Africa region provided the most frequent inclusion of safeguarding, accounting for 27% of total solicitations from the region in 2019 and 2020. For most geographic regions, including Asia, Europe and Eurasia, and Latin



America and the Caribbean, inclusion of safeguarding increased from 2019 to 2020. This suggests that donors are placing increasing emphasis on safeguarding across more regions, yet further analysis is required in the coming years to determine if that upward trend persists. Solicitations from the Middle East region had a slight decrease in safeguarding mentions between 2019 and 2020. Notably, solicitations that have a global scope had the most significant decrease in safeguarding from 2019 to 2020. Of the 13 global solicitations that did not include safeguarding in 2020, eight were from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, followed by USAID (three); and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the European Investment Bank (one each).

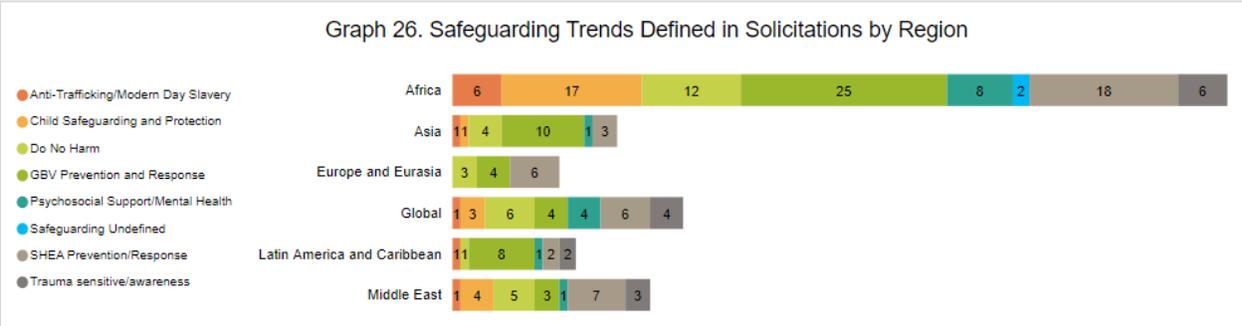
### C4. Safeguarding Trends Defined

As mentioned in the beginning of the safeguarding analysis, we define safeguarding to include measures to protect people from unintended harm in the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance. We tracked how safeguarding was included in donor solicitations by mentions of specific categories throughout each solicitation. Graph 25 on the next page presents how these specific safeguarding categories were defined and reflected in solicitation design. It is ordered by prevalence and clearly shows that safeguarding donor policies are by far the most significant source of safeguarding inclusion in solicitation design. The number of solicitations that include safeguarding policies in 2019 (53) increased significantly in 2020 (83), though the total number of solicitations Chemonics responded to remained relatively constant between the two years. This suggests that donors are increasingly holding implementers accountable to uphold safeguarding protections in project implementation as reflected in their specific policies. Of the solicitations that include safeguarding policies in 2019, 41 are from USAID and 12 from FCDO. When compared with 2020, there is a significant increase in solicitations citing safeguarding policies, with 74 from USAID, six from FCDO, and three from other donors.



While donor policies are important from a minimum standard level of accountability, policies alone do not significantly impact how safeguarding is integrated into the scope of work or solicitation response. Therefore, it is also important to measure what other safeguarding categories are included in the solicitation. The second most prevalent category is gender-based violence prevention and response, where we observed a slight increase from 2019 (26) to 2020 (28). The next highest mentions are SHEA prevention and response, and Do No Harm though both categories had an aggregate decrease in mentions from 2019 to 2020.

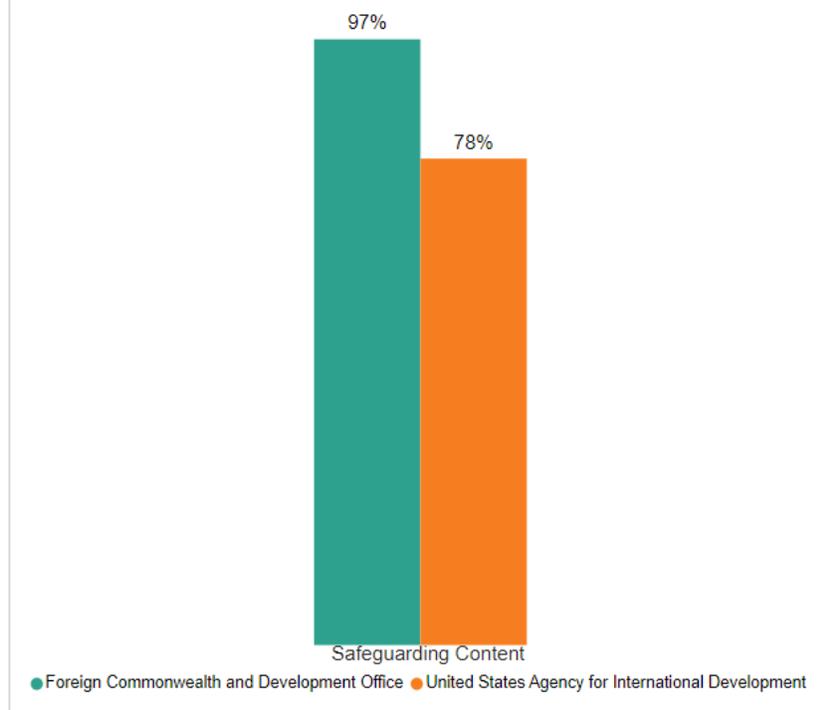
Graph 26 below presents safeguarding trends defined in solicitations and the prevalence of specific safeguarding categories by geographic region, not including mentions of safeguarding policies. Broadly, Graph 26 shows that GBV prevention and response is the most prevalent safeguarding category in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This graph is useful because it shows how safeguarding trends vary by region and which topics are the most prevalent. For example, in Africa, GBV prevention and response (25), SHEA prevention and response (18), and child safeguarding and protection (17) are the three most significant categories mentioned in solicitations. Trends across the regions as shown below illustrate varying degrees of safeguarding integration and prioritization that might reflect regional contexts or priorities.



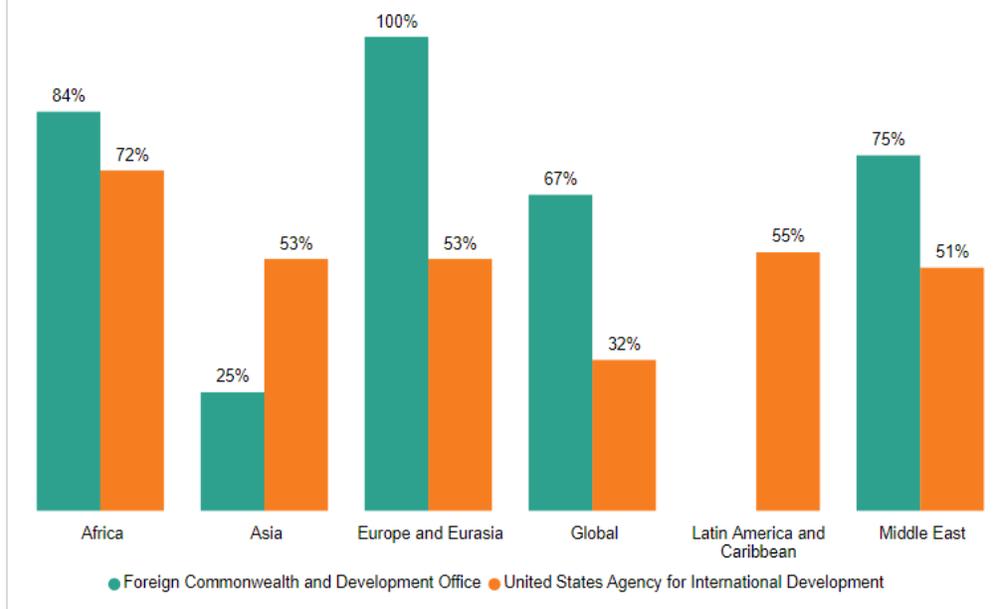
## C5. Safeguarding Trends Comparing FCDO and USAID

This section compares safeguarding trends in solicitations from FCDO and USAID during 2019 and 2020. Solicitations from FCDO that Chemonics responded to included safeguarding more frequently (97%) than did solicitations from USAID (78%). FCDO also included safeguarding in a higher percentage of solicitations than USAID on a regional basis, except for Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. This could also be partially because Chemonics responds to fewer FCDO solicitations in Asia and has responded to none in Latin America and the Caribbean in the past two years, which skews the results. Aside from global solicitations, USAID does include safeguarding in more than 50% of solicitations across all regions, which is significant.

Graph 27. Percentage of Solicitations with Safeguarding Language by Donor



Graph 28. Percentage of Solicitations with Safeguarding Language by Region and Donor



Further longitudinal comparison of safeguarding trends in donor solicitations will be required to establish a consistent data set that can inform trends.

# Conclusion

From 2018 to 2020 GESI integration in solicitation design increased, with greater prevalence as a crosscutting principle across all solicitations. This trend stands across most technical sectors and geographic regions. Further, solicitations included greater accountability measures, such as mentions of GESI directly or indirectly in the evaluation criteria. This upward trend indicates that donor solicitations are requiring an increase in GESI mainstreaming language and accountability by implementing partners.

Over the past three years, our analysis has also shown increased levels of disability inclusion language in reviewed solicitations, particularly in other sections in addition to mentions in policy language. This presents more opportunities for inclusion of people with disabilities in project implementation. In the past two years, we reviewed the more specific mentions of terminology related to minority group inclusion; while there were decreases in the mentions of specific minority group language in solicitations, we are keen to see how these trends evolve in the coming years, particularly with how varied minority group belonging is based on context and how groups themselves desire to be identified. Overall, the more explicit solicitations and responses from implementing partners are in who they are referencing with this language, the more opportunities for inclusion will exist.

In the past two years, we also observed an increase in the percentage of solicitations that mention safeguarding and specifically a significant increase in the number of solicitations that include safeguarding policies. This suggests a greater importance on integration of safeguarding accountability measures in the solicitation response.

Overall, we observe increasing emphasis in solicitation design to integrate GESI, including greater accountability measures, and to ensure greater protections and safeguarding measures. Further longitudinal analysis of GESI, disability and minority inclusion, and safeguarding trends in solicitation design will provide opportunity for additional comparison and analysis.

# Annex A. Procurement Mechanism Type

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Number (total 364)</b>
Request for proposal or invitation to tender	207
Request for task order proposal or call down	97
Request for application	34
Request for quotation	15
Indefinite delivery indefinite quantity or framework lot	9
Broad agency announcement	2

## Annex B. Solicitations Reviewed by Client

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Number (total 364)</b>
United States Agency for International Development	257
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	46
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria	39
United States Department of State	3
United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	2
World Bank	2
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	1
Cargill, Inc.	1
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	1
Coca-Cola / United States Agency for International Development	1
EuropeAid	1
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	1
European Investment Bank	1
European Union	1
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance	1
Japan International Cooperation Agency	1
Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Authority	1
Somalia Stability Fund	1
Takeda Pharmaceuticals	1
United States General Services Administration	1
USAID Bureau for Global Health	1