



United States Agency for International Development
ROUND 2 CALL FOR CONCEPT PAPERS
Under existing People-to-People (P2P) Reconciliation Fund
Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 7200AA19APS00015

Issuance Date of Round 2: October 25, 2019

Questions Deadline - Round 2: November 5, 2019 at 3:00 pm EST (Local time in Washington, D.C.)

Submission Deadline - Round 2: December 20, 2019 at 3:00 pm EST (Local time in Washington, D.C.)

Please note: This is a Round to an existing USAID APS (#7200AA19APS00015). All interested organizations should carefully review both this Round AND the full APS, which can be found here: www.grants.gov. Important information contained in the full worldwide APS is not repeated in this specific Round documentation.

ROUND 2 PARTICIPATING MISSIONS:

1. **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
2. **Bosnia and Herzegovina Regional (Western Balkans)**
3. **Burundi**
4. **Georgia**
5. **Kenya**
6. **Kosovo**
7. **Libya**
8. **Sierra Leone**

In Round 2 of the P2P APS, USAID is requesting the submission of Concept Papers that employ a People-to-People approach to conflict prevention, mitigation, management and peacebuilding in conflict-affected communities in the above mentioned countries. Please see the country narratives in Annex B below for more detailed context-specific guidance. Please note that for Round 2, Concept Papers are limited to a maximum funding level of \$1,200,000, excluding any cost share, leveraging, or matching funds.

SECTION I: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. ROUND 2 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The U. S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation is pleased to issue Round 2 under the People-To-People (P2P) Reconciliation Fund Annual Program Statement (APS). Under Round 2, USAID/CMM is seeking concept papers that take an innovative approach to helping heal the wounds inflicted upon communities by violence and conflict.

Round 2 encompasses seven Missions and one regional area and strives to meet the peacebuilding and conflict mitigation needs of each unique circumstance with a tailored and innovative P2P approach. Some of the key themes in the country-specific guidelines are elaborated in Annex B below, and serve as a reference only. Organizations should respond specifically to the country-specific language for each USAID Mission(s) for which they are submitting Concept Papers.

SECTION II: AWARD INFORMATION

A. Type of Award and Substantial Involvement

Please see Section IV.B of the P2P APS for award information. Additional information pertinent to Round 2 only is included below.

USAID anticipates that either grants or cooperative agreements will be awarded as a result of this RFA. USAID Missions will determine the type of award on a case-by-case basis. USAID Missions may also decide to award a fixed amount award instead of a traditional grant.¹ Awards to PIOs will be subject to compliance with ADS 308.

Depending on the application(s) that is/are received and selected, USAID Missions may decide to be “substantially involved” in the implementation of the program, and therefore award cooperative agreement(s) instead of a grant(s).

The awardee(s) will operate in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant or cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements are identical to grants except that USAID may be substantially involved in one or more of the following areas:

- USAID approval of the recipient’s implementation plans (limited to not more frequently than annually).
- USAID approval of specified key personnel (up to five (5) positions or five percent (5%) of the recipient employees working under the award, whichever is greater).
- USAID and recipient collaboration or joint participation, which includes one or more of the following:
 - Collaborative involvement in selection of advisory committee members (USAID may also choose to become a member), if applicable;
 - USAID concurrence on the substantive provisions of sub-awards;

¹ A Fixed Amount Award is appropriate for supporting projects with very specific and defined elements, when the USAID Agreement Officer is confident that a reasonable estimate of the actual cost of the overall effort can be established, and USAID can define accomplishment of the purpose of the grant through defined milestones. USAID’s policy concerning Fixed Amount Awards can be found in ADS 303.3.25 at <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303>

- USAID approval of the recipient’s monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans (to the extent that such information is not included in the application); and
- USAID monitoring to authorize specified kinds of direction or redirection because of interrelationships with other projects.
- USAID authority to immediately halt a construction activity.

B. Funding

For Round 2, subject to the availability of funds, USAID anticipates making up to eight (8) awards. USAID also reserves the right to make no awards. The total USAID funds anticipated for Round 2 is approximately \$9,600,000. Please note that a portion of the ceiling may be funded by field support from USAID Missions. As such, the ceiling provides an estimate of the actual total award(s) funding and is not guaranteed. Further information will be included in the request for full applications for selected applicants.

C. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

For Round 2, the anticipated start date for the award(s) is on or about September 30, 2020.

SECTION III: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Please see Section III of the P2P APS for eligibility information regarding organizations.

SECTION IV: CONCEPT PAPER SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please see Section IV of the P2P APS for Concept Paper submission information.

A. Round 2 Concept Paper Instructions

For questions on this Round 2 document, please submit all questions via email to USAID at FY19CMMP2P@usaid.gov as well as copied to: joconnor@usaid.gov by the deadline specified on the Cover Page.

Applicants are required to follow the Submission Information instructions set forth in Section IV of the P2P APS and this Round 2 document, and submit Concept Papers using the Concept Paper Template in Annex A of this Round 2 document.

For Round 2, interested applicants should submit a concept paper via email to USAID at FY19CMMP2P@usaid.gov as well as copied to: joconnor@usaid.gov. Under 5 CFR 1320, the Paperwork Reduction Action, only electronic copies of concept papers will be accepted. The concept papers must be received by the deadline on the cover page of this document for Round 1 (demonstrated by the timestamp on the email when received by USAID).

When emailing a concept paper, applicants must include the APS number, Round name and number in the subject line of the email and attachment/file name(s). USAID’s email server cannot handle more than 25 MBs of attachments per email. If the applicant must divide the submission into more than one email, please number the emails in the subject line and indicate in the email’s subject line the desired sequence of emails (i.e.7200AA19APS00TBD, Round 2, Email 1 of 3). It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all necessary documentation is complete and received on time. In the event of technical difficulties, please contact USAID at the email address above.

All concept papers received by the submission deadline on the Cover Page will be reviewed for responsiveness to the APS, to the Round and the required format. Section V below addresses the technical review procedures for the concept papers. No additions or modifications will be accepted after the submission date. Concept papers that are submitted late or are incomplete may not be considered for the co-creation process or request for full applications (if co-creation is not held). Additional information in the concept paper not requested by the APS and this Round may adversely affect an applicant’s evaluation/review.

Clarity and specificity are important; during the merit review process, USAID may reject those Concept Papers that are vague or merely restate language found in the Round.

USAID will determine whether there will be co-creation with USAID internally or a workshop with the successful concept paper applicants (those whose concept papers receive a PASS rating). USAID also reserves the right to not conduct a co-creation phase at all and request full applications from successful concept paper applicants.

B. Round 2 Concept Paper Content and Format

From the P2P APS: NOTE -- Organizations may submit only one (1) concept paper as a primary applicant per participating country. However, Organizations may apply as a sub-applicant to more than one country, and may be a sub-applicant on multiple submissions for the same country. There is no limit to the number of applications on which a sub-applicant may participate. If an organization submits more than one concept paper as a primary applicant, only the first one received by timestamp at USAID will be evaluated.

This section presents guidance for the structure of the concept paper for Round 2. To facilitate the competitive review of the concept papers, USAID will only consider concept papers conforming to the format prescribed below. The concept paper must adhere to the template in Annex A of this document (it has been revised from the template in the P2P APS). **Any concept paper not adhering to this format below will not be evaluated.**

Concept Papers must be written in English and submitted electronically via e-mail in Word 2000 or Word 2003 text accessible or Adobe PDF. The concept paper must be written in Times New Roman 12-point font, on standard 8.5” x 11” paper, and be single spaced with no less than one-inch margins and consecutively numbered pages. The concept paper must not exceed five (5) pages, excluding responses to Section A of the template (Cover Page). **Concept Papers more than five (5) pages will not be evaluated.** Figures, graphics, and tables may have less than Times New Roman 12-point font. The required supporting information must not exceed two (2) pages in total as follows: one (1) Cover Page and one (1) Institutional Capacity page. **Any additional reference material pages will be removed prior to evaluation.**

SECTION V: Round 2 Merit Review Evaluation Criteria

Concept papers for Round 2 will be reviewed by a Merit Review Committee according to the criteria described below. The purpose of this review is to ensure that prospective partners bring appropriate capabilities, experiences and potential contributions to the co-creation process (if held) and ultimately the implementation of activities. A concept paper is determined to be successful if it receives a PASS overall based on the two criteria below, which are listed in descending order of importance. [Note: The criteria below are for the concept paper only. Additional criteria will be circulated as part of a full Request for Applications for selected successful concept paper applicants at a future date.]

| Merit Review Element | Definition |
|--|---|
| <p>Technical Approach Advances the purpose of P2P Reconciliation Programming</p> | <p>The extent to which the proposed program exemplifies the people-to-people approach by creating opportunities for communities in conflict to build mutual understanding, trust, empathy, and resilient social ties by addressing divisions that may be rooted in group differences such as ethnicity, religion, status, gender, class, or political affiliation. This is established through the following core programming principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The conflict analysis identifies the sources of conflict, impediments to reconciliation, windows of opportunity and potential triggers as it relates to the Applicant’s proposed activities, as well as incorporates gender and key stakeholder considerations and is responsive to the country-specific information in the Round. 2. The assumed connections and logic between the conflict analysis, the proposed program’s actions, and the goal of reducing violence and conflict and/or building peace is clearly explained by the theory of change (TOC). 3. The proposed program has a focused and realistic implementation plan, where activities flow from the context analysis and theory of change in a logical and clearly discernible way. Also, a single program is likely unable to realistically address the multidimensional aspects of one conflict, so a clear explicit focus and justification of that focus is part of a successful program design. 4. The proposed program ensures the safety of all participants and mitigates the risk of intensifying the drivers of conflict or worsening tensions by applying the Do No Harm principle throughout. |
| <p>Institutional Capacity</p> | <p>The proposed program is carried out by and/or promotes and strengthens local organizations. A commitment to engaging local actors is evident in the conflict analysis, activity design, implementation plan, and the monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan.</p> |

Annex A: USAID FY19 Reconciliation Fund: People 2 People (P2P) APS Round Two: Concept Paper

1. Cover Page Must Include the Following (1 page total)

- USAID Round Reference;
- Name and address of organization (physical and electronic, as applicable);
- Contact person (lead contact name, telephone number, and e-mail information);
- Period of performance: Minimum is two (2) years and maximum is five (5) years in duration;
- Total program amount (in USD)
- Total amount of funding requested from USAID and total amount leveraged (if applicable), including from what source(s) in the form of a notional budget;
- Type of organization (e.g., US, non-US, multilateral, private, for-profit, nonprofit, etc)
- Title of proposed program; country(tries) and sector(s) being proposed; total dollar amount of funds requested for the proposed period of performance;
- Identify type of applying organization (e.g., local NGO, US NGO, etc.)
- Name and title of the authorized representative of the applicant;
- Brief (one sentence) description of proposed program

2. Technical Section (Limited to five (5) Pages)

- Concept Introduction and conflict analysis** (approximately 1 page). Identify the problem your organization will address, linking it to the relevant country information provided in the Round. Identify the sources of conflict, impediments to reconciliation, windows of opportunity and potential triggers as they relate to the proposed activities. Incorporate gender and key stakeholder considerations as well.
- Theory of change** (approximately ½ page). The assumed connections and logic between the conflict analysis, the proposed program's actions, and the goal of reducing violence and conflict and/or building peace is clearly explained by the theory of change (ToC)
- P2P Approach and Implementation Plan** (approximately 1 ½ pages). Building on the introduction, propose a P2P approach for how this intervention will produce the desired impact in the focus area(s) identified. Briefly describe critical barrier(s) or problem(s) related to the focus area(s) that your organization's concept addresses. Be sure to include information describing why the approach is creative or innovative, how it is potentially scalable, and evidence to support it

as a tested solution or as an intervention likely to have a significant impact, and how it will be sustained.

- ❑ **Intervention Results** (approximately 1 page). As specifically as possible, describe the anticipated outputs, outcomes, results and/or impact of the proposed intervention. What are the key, quantifiable metrics related to your organization’s project’s performance or expected performance? What is the scale needed to achieve results sufficient to address the identified problem? What programs are already providing such or (similar) interventions? Please include a detailed map of the focus area(s) of the intervention.
- ❑ **Risks/Assumptions** (approximately ½ page). Clearly state any assumptions regarding the conditions, behaviors, or critical events outside the control of the program that must hold true for results to be achieved, as well as risks in the program context that could have negative consequences on the achievement of results, which may include those that may result by bringing together conflicting parties. Provide sufficient explanation of risk mitigation measures, including appropriate safeguards to avoid intensifying the conflict or creating harmful situations for participants.
- ❑ **Beneficiaries** (approximately ½ page). Describe the types of benefits the intervention will produce and the types and range of people who will benefit from this intervention. Has it been, or can it be adapted to reach women and men, indigenous people, ethnic and/or religious minorities, and youth? How can the concept be scaled up to reach more people? What are the baselines that your organization will measure before the project begins?

3. Institutional Capacity (Limited to one (1) page)

- ❑ **Applicant Capacity and Partner Roles** (approximately 1 page). Describe organizational capacity--technical, managerial, financial, etc.--to carry out the proposed intervention. What is the business model for your organization’s intervention? Have you worked in this sector previously? Please describe your organization’s credibility within targeted communities, and a demonstrable commitment to coordinating your organization’s efforts within the context. Please note the extent to which the proposed program is supported by local organizations.

Annex B: COUNTRY SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

1. Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bilateral)

POC: sbuetar@usaid.gov

POC: mpopovic@usaid.gov

Background and Context: Two and a half decades after the 1992-95 war, BiH remains deeply divided along political and ethnic lines. Multiple one-sided narratives and the politics of fear dominate the political sphere and impede democratic progress. Separate ethnic identities are reinforced by segregated schools whose curricula contaminate youth with inflammatory nationalist rhetoric and dehumanizing narratives of “the other.” The media perpetuates fear and mistrust. A number of incidents in BiH – and its neighbors, Serbia and Croatia – have demonstrated that unaddressed grievances and controversial political narratives can jeopardize a fragile peace.

Windows of Opportunity for Violence Reduction and Conflict Prevention:

USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is looking to support projects that will facilitate dialogue in order to address and deconstruct competing narratives about BiH’s wartime past.

- Interventions seek to confront lingering animosities arising from these narratives, while respecting all positions, and balancing narratives with messages of hope and opportunity in order to increase understanding and promote reconciliation among various factions.
- The proposed activities should use conflict sensitive approaches and take into account political and historical narratives regarding the causes of the conflict and responsibilities of actors, the sources of grievances, and causes of political turmoil, as well as the need for memorialization.

USAID/BiH invites organizations to submit concept notes which will focus on internal country exchanges that bring together students and professors/teachers of different ethnic groups from all parts of the country. Proposed activities should:

- Foster relationships among students of different backgrounds through joint project activities on topics of common interest.
- Target and ensure the active involvement of a wide range of key stakeholders such as education representatives, government, civil society and media, and seek bottom-up buy-in.
- Ensure that local and international media show a positive interest in both the process and the expected results of the project.

USAID/BiH particularly welcomes concept notes that propose additional activities that may include engaging:

- Academics
- Educators
- Journalists
- Politically engaged artists
- Representatives of civil society organizations, and/or
- Politicians

from countries of the former Yugoslavia in discussion related to the political ramifications of the historical legacy of conflict, as well as the role and impact of this legacy on contemporary politics, society and culture.

The proposed approach should provide an opportunity for discussions on the radically different interpretations of the causes of conflict and responsibilities of the actors, memorialization, wartime grievances, political turmoil and human rights. These people-to-people activities should be shared on the prominent media platform with significant coverage and outreach.

Working with universities, applications must incorporate a people-to-people approach and may focus on

one or more of the following areas:

- Create opportunities for students from across the country to interact, exchange opinions and challenge stereotypes and expose youth to positive models of integration.
- Encourage networking and advocacy initiatives to raise issues affecting inter-ethnic relations at universities and schools, increase participation in decision making, increase accountability of decision-makers and work for resolutions to problems through changes in policy, laws, regulations or practices.
- Increase students' capacity to understand, address, and advocate against ethno-nationalist propaganda and stereotypes.
- Organize advocacy activities/campaigns that will exert public pressure to address critical issues related to peace building.

Connection to Mission's Strategy: New activities will fall under Development Objective (DO 1), "More functional and accountable institutions and actors that meet citizens' needs". More precisely, under Project 1.2 developed under Intermediate Result (IR) 1.2, "Increased citizens' participation in governance." Identified as a cross-cutting issue, Inter-ethnic Reconciliation programming will focus on promoting joint activities for individuals of different ethnic, political and religious backgrounds which positively impact peace building. Assistance will also focus on building relationships among youth of different backgrounds and will facilitate conflict reconciliation as well as transformational processes among youth by enabling ethnically and gender mixed youth-led groups to participate in joint community initiatives.

Location: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Coordination: Coordination is expected with ongoing USAID and other donors' **peacebuilding** and **reconciliation** projects.

2. Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Regional)

POC: sbueter@usaid.gov

POC: mpopovic@usaid.gov

Background and Context:

Deep-rooted distrust and fear generated by events related to the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the conflict in the 1990s are present among young people in the Western Balkans, who learned it from their parents and the systematized ethnic politics practiced by many politicians in the region. Youth of different national identities and different ethnic groups in the region rarely interact. Separation from and limited contact with peers from different ethnic groups further reinforces stereotypes and ignorance. While there are no physical barriers preventing people from different national identities to travel and meet, established norms and social structures limit the interaction among youth of different ethnic groups. Reconciliation in the Western Balkans remains a key factor in good regional relations and cooperation, and, ultimately, in the region's integration into the EU.

One major obstacle to engaging youth in the Western Balkan region, however, is brain drain (emigration). In a 2018 Gallup study, the Western Balkan countries were ranked with the highest percentage of brain drain in Europe. One of the main reasons for emigration in the region is youth unemployment, which is persistently very high in Western Balkan countries. Besides unemployment, the main reasons for the persistent brain drain and emigration include political instability, human rights abuses, nepotism and corruption, and the lack of opportunities, rule of law, and freedom of expression

and creativity.

Violence and Conflict Issues: While they have great potential for helping build peace, young people are also vulnerable and prone to becoming involved in violence and manipulated by extremist sentiment. According to USAID’s National Youth Survey in BiH, youth trust other ethnic groups considerably less than their own. Although most of them have some contact with other ethnic groups, these contacts are mostly within their circle of friends and professional and academic circles. A substantial portion of BiH youth lack trust in people and feel that there are divisions in BiH society. In its new strategy for enhanced EU engagement in the Western Balkans, the European Commission states that “if prejudice, stereotyping, the culture of separation and the legacy of absence of support for change continue to dominate attitudes of leaders and citizens, no meaningful progress can be achieved. Therefore, the significance of the role of youth, who have the potential to become the political, intellectual and spiritual leaders of future societies, in reconciliation could not be stressed enough.”

Windows of Opportunity for Violence Reduction and Conflict Prevention: A regional program should be implemented in the Western Balkan countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, North Macedonia, and Kosovo to engage young people from these countries as active contributors to social and economic prosperity in the region. Proposed interventions should focus on:

- Supporting activities that will result in meaningful and purposeful interaction with representatives of the government, the private sector, and civil society to address pressing issues causing youth emigration.
- Promoting the regional ownership of reconciliation initiatives, and providing opportunities for intra-regional youth cooperation, exchanges, and engagement.
- Building partnerships with regional and international organizations and promoting regional youth networks in the Western Balkans, and supporting a participatory approach to guide policy-level interventions.
- Introducing innovative approaches for youth to enhance educational opportunities, and enabling them to create a culture of mobility, intercultural exchange, and reconciliation.
- Tapping into young people’s enthusiasm and energy to advance social cohesion and reconciliation efforts, improve cross-cultural understanding, and promote the region’s unique multi-cultural identity.

Connection to Mission Strategy: New activities will fall under Development Objective (DO 1), “More functional and accountable institutions and actors that meet citizens’ needs”. More precisely, under Project 1.2 developed under Intermediate Result (IR) 1.2, “Increased citizens’ participation in governance.” Identified as a cross-cutting issue, Inter-ethnic Reconciliation programming will focus on promoting joint activities for individuals of different ethnic, political, and religious backgrounds that positively impact peacebuilding. Assistance will also focus on building relationships among youth of different backgrounds and will facilitate conflict reconciliation, as well as transformational processes among youth, by enabling ethnically and gender-mixed youth-led groups to participate in joint community initiatives.

Location: Western Balkan countries

Coordination: Coordination is envisioned with USAID offices in the Western Balkan countries, as well as with other ongoing regional and in-country reconciliation programs.

3. Country: Burundi

POC: Jean-Claude Niyongabo jniyongabo@usaid.gov

Background and Context:

USAID/Burundi welcomes applications that seek to address pre-existing, current and/or emerging conflict dynamics. All proposed programs must demonstrate a nuanced understanding of these conflict dynamics. In particular the Mission is interested in programming with a focus on healing the wounds of the political crisis and addressing social cohesion and constructive community participation, especially among youth. The issue of land in Burundi is also a source of conflict for many reasons. The Mission is most specifically interested in expanding work on women's land rights given the prevalence of intra-familial land conflict and lack of inheritance law especially around Burundian refugees returning from neighboring countries. This will be especially important as Burundi is holding general elections that could result in a new President as well as a new legislature that could yield an interest in more refugees returning home in the post-electoral and transition period. This could put added pressure on existing communities and lead to situation of conflicts that might need addressing especially on the scarcity of resources in the country land.

Applications must incorporate a people-to-people approach and may focus on, but are not limited to, one or more of the following areas:

- Addressing youth trauma and building youth resilience;
- Mitigating land conflict with a particular people-to-people focus on women's rights to land;
- Addressing the risk of violent behavior in youth through creation of economic opportunities.

USAID/Burundi particularly welcomes applications that build on an existing foundation or create synergies with existing programming, particularly with local actors. An adaptive approach to implementation should be shown by including contingency plans based upon a careful analysis of risk scenarios and likely trends in conflict dynamics.

4. Country: Georgia

POC: Eka Gamezardashvili egamezardashvili@usaid.gov

Background and Context:

Weak central government lacking legitimacy, along with Russia's efforts to maintain spheres of influence in post-Soviet space in early 1990-ies resulted flare-up of "ethno-territorial" conflicts in Abkhazia and former South Ossetia regions of Georgia. The wars of 1991-92 in former South Ossetia and 1992-93 in Abkhazia ended with the defeat of the central government forces. Ethnic Georgian population was almost entirely expelled from Abkhazia. Since then the international community started referring to both conflicts as 'frozen'. Peace was largely upheld in the years to follow despite occasional flare-ups. From 2004 the Government of Georgia (GoG) intensified efforts to engage with the de-facto Abkhaz and Ossetian elites, offering them broad autonomy within Georgia's jurisdiction. In parallel, the GoG augmented humanitarian and economic expansion into the Georgian controlled villages and territories of Abkhazia and former South Ossetia. To undermine the GoG's reintegration

efforts, Moscow beefed up its military presence in Georgia's conflict regions, increased financial support to the installed regimes, and initiated the process of passportization (which simplified granting Russian citizenship to residents of Abkhazia and former South Ossetia). As provocations escalated with the ongoing Russian military buildup and open intervention, the confrontation culminated in August 2008 with the five day war between Russia and Georgia. The war left several hundred dead (both military and civilian) and a mass exodus of the entire ethnic Georgian population from South Ossetia. Emergency negotiations between Georgia and Russia, mediated by French President, culminated in the Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement that was never completely fulfilled by the Russian side. After the 2008 war, Russia recognized Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states in September 2008, followed by a handful of other countries: Venezuela, Nicaragua, Vanuatu, Nauru and most recently Syria. Georgia responded to Russia's recognition of South Ossetian and Abkhaz independence by cutting diplomatic ties with Russia. The rest of the international community continues to recognize Abkhazia and former South Ossetia as integral parts of Georgia. The unresolved conflicts of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have entered a protracted period of stalemate once again. The Geneva International Discussions convened as part of the Six-Point Agreement provided the only formal framework for maintaining relations. A few dozen rounds of talks have been held without producing meaningful progress in terms of returning ethnic Georgian internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their previous places of residence, or fulfillment of a five-point agreement.

Violence and Conflict Issues:

In a process referred to as "borderization", Russia continues to demarcate administrative boundary line (ABL) between Georgia and its occupied regions, often cutting through livelihoods. Local residents, inadvertently crossing the ABL are detained and released only after paying a substantial fine. Few of such detentions ended with alleged torture and death of detainees (Tatunashvili case). A few remaining ABL check-points with Abkhazia and former South Ossetia are often closed by de-factos, thus aggravating economic hardship of local households on both sides of ABL.

Windows of Opportunity for Violence Reduction and Conflict Prevention:

In his address to the European Parliament in 2010, the President of Georgia has made a unilateral pledge not to use force to restore control over the Russian occupied regions. Since 2010, the GoG is providing free medical care to people living in occupied regions. In 2018, the GoG developed and proposed a new peace initiative, "A Step to a Better Future." Among other components, the initiative intends to simplify trade between Georgia and its occupied regions, allow youth from Abkhazia and former South Ossetia to benefit from educational opportunities in the rest of Georgia or abroad, and intensify links around health or other social services. The plan was received with skepticism by the de facto authorities in Abkhazia and former South Ossetia, and is yet to be fulfilled. Meanwhile many Abkhazs and Ossetians residing in occupied territories are already crossing the ABL to receive free health care services, or for other purposes.

Portfolio Integration for Peace:

USAID/Georgia welcomes applications that seek reconciliation of current conflicts around the occupied territories of Abkhazia and former South Ossetia, through incorporating a people-to-people (P2P) approach. Proposed applications should build on comprehensive analysis of the context and conflict situation to be addressed and its current state. It should be built on a robust theory of change with clearly demonstrated "if-then" relationship between proposed interventions, outcomes of the activity and peace writ-large. Participation of women in decision-making and peace-building is expected to be an integral, cross-cutting part of the proposed approach. Applications should articulate creative P2P approaches centered on purposeful interaction of different groups of people (such as youth, professional groups, artists, women, entrepreneurs, etc) from across the conflict divides; provide space for private sector engagement; enhance educational opportunities and access to quality health and social services for the people living on occupied territories; and are aligned with the recent peace initiatives. Applications should clearly demonstrate how the proposed approach contributes to

Georgia's journey to self-reliance (<https://selfreliance.usaid.gov/country/georgia>). Prospective applicants may combine the interventions around conflict reconciliation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia into a single application. Applicants may also opt to address only Abkhazia or only South Ossetia conflict reconciliation in their submissions. In light of the situation in South Ossetia, applications focusing on conflict reconciliation around this region should thoroughly justify the feasibility of proposed interventions and ability to work with the Ossetian counterparts without jeopardizing the "Do No Harm" principle. The applicants may also integrate regional South Caucasus dialogue platforms in their technical approach, capturing reconciliation efforts of other regional conflicts. Applications should conform to the current Georgian and U.S. legislation requirements. Applicants should provide justification for any cross-divide meetings organized in third countries. When essential, preference should be given to organizing those meetings in countries of close proximity to Georgia. USAID/Georgia retains right to closely monitor implementation of successful applications, including attendance at the cross-divide meetings.

Connection to Mission's Strategy:

Applications should fit into the Mission's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) for Georgia 2013-2020. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Strategy focusing on Development Objective 3 (Increasingly stable, integrated and healthy society) and, more specifically, its Intermediate Result 3.1 (Increased engagement with the occupied territories) and Intermediate Result 3.2 (Increased Inclusion of target populations). USAID/Georgia currently is in the process of developing its new CDCS for the 2020-2025 period. The activity resulting from this solicitation will be integrated under the new CDCS when it's approved.

Location:

Primary location of implementation of an activity resulting from this solicitation will be Georgia (including occupied regions). Applicants may also propose third country locations for organizing cross-divide people-to-people meetings.

Coordination:

The activity implementation, resulted from this APS, will be closely coordinated with U.S. Government inter-agency, other donor agencies, as well as Georgian State Ministry of Reconciliation and Civic Equality.

Funding Restrictions:

In order to ensure that the Concept Papers received are built around coherent, medium to longer-term interventions, USAID/Georgia sets forth additional limits to the funding ranges and period of performance, defined in the APS:

- USAID/Georgia will only consider Concept Papers for a minimum period of performance of three years (36 months) to a maximum period of performance of four years (48 months).
- USAID/Georgia will not consider Concept Papers from local entities requesting less than a minimum amount of US \$600,000.
- A competitive category in the range of US \$600,000 to US \$800,000 will be exclusively for Concept Papers from local entities.
- The other competitive category, in the range of US \$800,000 to US \$1,200,000, will be open to both local and non-local entities.

5. Country: Kenya
POC: Beatrice Wamalwa bwamalwa@usaid.gov

Background and Context:

Over 80% of Kenya's land mass is Arid and Semi-arid (ASAL). Northern Kenya holds 70% of the country's extreme arid lands, with frequent and most severe droughts, floods and weather variability. This region hosts the country's poorest population. Recent estimates² show that 18 of the 20 poorest constituencies in Kenya where 74% - 97% of people live below the poverty line are in Northern Kenya. The basic foundations of development such as access to education, water, health and infrastructure are well below the national average, largely attributed to long historical marginalization of Northern Kenya prior to the devolved governance system. The region hosts Kenya's most diverse wildlife species, several globally endangered species and the second largest population of elephants in the country. While at the same time, 70% of Kenya's livestock population is found in this region, exerting massive pressure, competition and violent conflict over limited grazing areas and natural resources. Insecure land tenure, further complicates the problem and fuels violent conflicts, especially in privately owned lands.

Northern Kenya is the most ethnically diverse part of the country, with over 12 ethnicities, and majority practicing pastoralism in a rapidly degrading and climate-stressed landscape. Historical ethnic conflicts and a culture of cattle raids among the different ethnicities are further complicated by the influx of illegal arms, that are now used to gain power over opponents and over grazing areas. This is further compounded by heavily armed wildlife poachers, and wildlife traffickers in this diverse wildlife area.

Violence and Conflict Issues:

Ethnic conflicts such as cultural cattle raids were historically common but manageable in Northern Kenya. However, the context has significantly changed influenced by several factors:

- **Break-down of traditional conflict management systems:** over time, the strength of traditional conflict governance systems in many communities in Northern Kenya are slowly eroding away. Mistrust of police interventions in the absence of strong locally-based community governance systems as first-line responders in many cases complicates and escalates conflict situations.
- **Political incitement and elections:** With devolution, political competition during elections has increased at the local level. Ethnically-inflamed political incitement by politicians for political gain in resource-based and land-based conflicts intensifies violence. In Kenya's 2017 election and peak drought period, the country experienced some of the worst resource-based conflicts and loss of lives in the Laikipia and larger Northern Kenya attributed to political incitement.
- **Wildlife trafficking and poaching:** Kenya is a significant transit route for illegal wildlife products to Asian markets. The country experienced one of the worst cases of poaching in 2012. Resource-based conflicts and the influx of illegal arms in parts of Northern Kenya provided ungoverned spaces for wildlife criminals to infiltrate the region, driving poaching of elephants to its highest levels, 77%. While multiple factors led to this outcome, the absence of peace makes it even harder to control wildlife crimes to this day.
- **Frequent climate shocks and extreme weather variability:** frequent droughts and floods exert extreme stress on the highly overgrazed rangelands in this region. Competition for pasture increases conflicts especially in periods of scarcity such as during drought.
- **Extreme marginalization and poverty:** Livestock are the main assets and sources of wealth for the majority of pastoralists in Northern Kenya. Inter-ethnic cattle raids are at their highest after drought periods when most pastoralists have experienced losses of livestock to droughts. Cultural raids are their adaptive measure for restocking their herds after experiencing such

² Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2015

losses, this has become a cyclical practice in this region. The cattle raids are often conducted by young poor men that are out-of-school and are unemployed.

- **Religious divides and influence:** Northern Kenya has a high population of Christians and Muslims, and slowly, religious influences and divisions are fueling conflicts that were traditionally cultural and resource-based in nature.

Windows of Opportunity for Violence Reduction and Conflict prevention:

- **Devolved governance system:** devolution provides an opportunity for intra-county and inter-county conflict resolution and mitigation, particularly over grazing areas and natural resources that transcend administrative units.
- **Community Conservancies:** Community conservancies provide a window of opportunity for grass-root community-led, community-owned and community-managed governance systems for people-to-people conflict mitigation, resolution and reconciliation. There are over 30 community conservancies in Northern Kenya legally recognized under Kenyan law, with majority composed of multiple ethnicities formed across conflict lines to foster reconciliation, healing and conflict management. Conservancies work with County Governments, the Kenya Police and the Kenya Wildlife Service to resolve conflicts and insecurity, while protecting natural resources. Conservancies are also increasingly becoming platforms for integrated rural development in their communities.

Portfolio Integration for Peace:

Concept Notes may support, but are not limited to, activities that address the following:

- **Conflict Analysis and Evidence-based implementation:** undertake analysis of historical trends of conflict in the region as a first step to inform activities. Baseline surveys will be required prior to implementation.
- **Local Community Governance Institutions,** as entry points for grass-root conflict management, and people to people reconciliation. Preference will be given to approaches that are locally-led, locally-owned and locally-managed.
- **Gender inclusion and women empowerment,** recognizing that men and women experience and influence conflict differently
- **Youth engagement,** to reduce their influence on conflicts and positively promote youth empowerment and voices

Location: Proposed interventions should take place in Northern Kenya's conflict hot spots.

6. Country: Kosovo

POC: Albana Kusari, akusari@usaid.gov

POC: Dukagjin Hasani, dhasani@usaid.gov

Background and Context:

After almost two decades have passed, the process of reconciliation between Kosovo- Serbs and Kosovo Albanians is still under question. Even though most of the efforts towards reconciliation in Kosovo are attempted from the top-down level of government, there are significant efforts at the grassroots level with a bottom-up approach.

Violence and Conflict Issues:

Windows of Opportunity for Violence Reduction and Conflict Prevention:

Currently, the goal of the Brussels Dialogue process between Kosovo and Serbia is to conclude with a final agreement this year and that process will hopefully create stability. However grievances over the

outcome are expected from both sides. USAID/Kosovo welcomes applications from local CSOs that seek to implement a people-to-people approach for enhanced peace-building, reconciliation, and integration between ethnic communities, especially between majority Kosovo-Albanian and non-majority Kosovo-Serb populations in order to address and deconstruct various narratives and lingering beliefs about Kosovo's wartime past, which hinder the reconciliation and acceptance processes.

By engaging community leaders in a people-to-people approach on the issues that both divide and bind them, and by expanding their individual and organizational capacities to conduct interethnic initiatives, they can find meaningful ways to cooperate with one another and create opportunities for other citizens to have constructive dialogue, normalization of relations and cooperate on issues of shared concern.

Interventions should seek to confront lingering animosities, while respecting all positions, in order to increase understanding and promote reconciliation among distinct factions that exist mainly between majority Kosovo-Albanian and non-majority Kosovo-Serb populations.

Concept Papers should focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Engaging local community leaders from different sectors (such as, but not limited to, emerging leaders, community activists, theater and media representatives, interfaith leaders, environmental groups, business representatives) in dialogue and supporting initiatives emphasizing the importance of sustainable peace and integration of various ethnicities. This may include capacity building trainings for community leaders on interethnic reconciliation.
- Engaging leaders, both informal and formal, which may include religious leaders, elected leaders, and/or informal community leaders, among others, at the central level and local levels in dialogue. This may include open forums with leaders, or developing spaces for citizens to advocate against ethno-nationalist propaganda.
- Increasing the capacity of youth of different ethnic backgrounds to understand, condemn, and advocate against ethno-nationalist propaganda and stereotypes. Supporting youth to participate in and implement initiatives with themes of dealing with the past and reconciling differences in the present.

We are looking for creative, innovative approaches which are genuinely inclusive, maximize impact, and builds on local ownership to ensure sustainability of peace and reconciliation efforts/outcomes beyond the duration of the activity.

Eligible Organizations: For programming in Kosovo, only local entities may apply as the principal applicants.

7. Country: Libya

POC: Maher Al-Frijat

POC: Sara Hamida

Background and Context:

Gaddafi-era policies had detrimental effects on Libya's social components, minorities and tribes in Libya. Many groups faced discrimination and violence based on culture, geographic origin, tribal affiliation and skin color. Many Libyans received sub-standard/minimal or no services from municipalities, faced widespread social and economic discrimination and some did not receive their national identity numbers.

The post-revolution era resulted in the emergence of a political and social system that could be described as supporters of Gadhafi v.s. supporters of the revolution. Tribes and regions loyal to the former political regime continue to be excluded from political decision-making processes even though

they constitute a sizeable proportion of Libya's population. Such tribes include the Tuareg, Al-Qadhadhfa, Werfalla, Tarhouna, Wershafana and Tawergha. The political exclusion of large and influential tribes has the potential to contribute to the prolongation of conflict and instability. The tribes control territory and are able to challenge or support any political process, which is why they are critical to any type of political settlement.

After the fall of the Gaddafi regime, groups such as the Tebu, Amazigh and Taureg advocated for the recognition of civil, political, socio-economic, and cultural rights. A new era of political and socio-economic marginalization arose that excluded former Gaddafi-affiliated members from the political process.

Violence and Conflict Issues:

USAID has experience working in conflict communities, most recently with the Private Sector Engagement for Stabilization project implemented by DAI and UNDP's Stronger for Libya program. Experience in this area shows that conflict dynamics are different in each community and efforts to promote national unity and social cohesion are needed. Local conflicts are either ideological, ethnic, or tribal. For example, the conflict in Ghadames is of an ethnic nature between Arabs and Amazigh versus Tuareg. The conflict is currently latent due to the geographic separation of the communities. In Bani Walid the conflict is ideological and historic between pro-Gaddafi and anti-Gaddafi residents. In the city of Kufra, the conflict is ethnic and is between Arabs and Africans which include Zway Arab versus Tebu. This conflict is characterized by hostilities with ongoing fighting and kidnapping. In the city of Sebha, the conflict is a tribal conflict between tribes such as Awlad Suleiman and the Gadadfa. This conflict includes intermittent active fighting and kidnapping and is concentrated in specific parts of the city. Finally, in the city of Murzuq, the conflict is a tribal inter-communal one between the Ahaali tribe and Tebu. Given their African roots and Arabic language skills, the Ahaali tribe played a third-party mediator role during previous conflicts yet has engaged in inter-communal conflicts with other tribes.

Windows of Opportunity for Violence Reduction and Conflict Prevention:

USAID/Libya has programs on the ground that could benefit from a complementary CMM people-to-people approach that empowers civil society, communities, local leaders and other actors to identify and address drivers of conflict such as societal and political exclusion. These efforts will build upon USAID/Libya's democracy and governance programs, including the Local Governance and Civil Society program as well as current work through the Elections and Legislative Strengthening programming. The CMM people-to-people approach reasons that "*strong, positive relationships will mitigate against the forces of dehumanization, stereotyping, and distancing that facilitate violence. This intervention will bring representatives of conflicting groups together to interact purposefully in a safe, co-equal space to forge trust and empathy*".

Libyan youth are critical to shaping the future of the country and are poised to make meaningful contributions to their communities. However, their vast potential is limited by the conflict and other restrictions. The continuation of tribal and local conflicts hinders the potential youth could bring in combating historical disputes. Providing youth with the space, skills, and positive means to engage would help in redirecting their role to serve as change agents in their communities. Applicants are encouraged to develop strategic partnerships with youth organizations and other CSOs to promote youth development, inclusion, and civic participation that fosters national unity and political dialogue.

Program Focus Area(s):

The proposed focus would be on promoting a unified Libya through dialogue that brings groups together to propose implementable solutions. Themes might include cultural rights; economic development; political representation both at the national and local levels; participation in the public

sphere; combating hate speech; reconciliation, among other issues.

Programs should engage civil society organizations, universities, women's, ethnic minority, and youth groups, formal and informal community leaders, private sector, and other stakeholders that have a role to play in promoting social cohesion. Please see USAID/Libya's Program Plan for more information.

Location: Illustrative areas: Ubari, Murzuq, Sebha, Ghadames, Dirj, Zawiya, Kufra, Zintan, Brega, Ajdabiya, Bani Walid, Sirt, Derna, Benghazi

Coordination:

The organization must be able to work at the community level with Libya stakeholders and collaborate with local civil society actors and organizations that address similar issues in the same geographic areas.

We are looking for creative, innovative approaches which are genuinely inclusive, maximize impact, and builds on local ownership to ensure sustainability of peace and reconciliation efforts/outcomes beyond the duration of the activity.

8. Country: Sierra Leone

POC: Mark Koenig mkoening@usaid.gov

Background and Context:

Following an unusually gruesome civil war from 1991 to 2001, Sierra Leone engaged the dual challenges of post-conflict economic and political recovery. With considerable international aid, economic reconstruction and growth re-started during the post-conflict period. Strong growth was interrupted by the Ebola virus epidemic of 2014-16 and declining prices of iron ore (an important export). The Ebola epidemic, in particular, caused nearly 4,000 deaths and sharply reduced economic growth during the epidemic period. Recent economic reports, however, suggest a return to growth, with extreme poverty declining from 64.4% in 2011 to 56.8% in 2018, a still seriously troubling level of poverty for most citizens. Sierra Leone remains among the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2018, the country ranked 184 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index. According to the same index, Sierra Leoneans had only 3.5 average years of schooling and a life expectancy at birth of 52.2 years.

Sierra Leone is an emerging democracy. Since 2002, the country has conducted four general elections deemed competitive, free and fair by international observers, and underwent two peaceful transfers of political power in 2007 and 2018, respectively. Nevertheless, political tensions have simmered, sometimes sparking localized incidents of violent conflict between the followers of two dominant ethno-regionally-based political parties: the All People's Congress (APC) largely supported by the Temne in the North and the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) supported particularly by the Mende in the South.

Violence and Conflict Issues:

Many violent clashes occur during election campaign periods, ranging from scattered local incidents during general elections to violent flare-ups sparked by local by-elections as happened most recently in the northern province (in Tonko-Limba) in April 2019 and in the Hamilton constituency of far west Freetown in August, 2019. Tensions persist at the level of the national Parliament due to sharply contested results after the 2018 general elections plus ongoing procedural battles in the legislative branch. Partisan hate speech and false rumors disseminated by social media can further aggravate ethno-political tensions, sparking violent responses.

Gold deposits and so-called “conflict diamonds” proved to be serious drivers to conflict during the civil war. Depending on the quality of governance of the mining sector, the country’s rich mineral endowments (iron, titanium, bauxite and chromite) can potentially contribute either to economic growth or to intensified struggles to control of valuable natural resources. Additional sources of violent conflict arise from disputes over land, water, fishing rights, forestry resources, police abuses and human rights violations. Frustrated youths, facing a 70% unemployment rate, remain particularly vulnerable to being drawn into violent confrontations. Poor governance and very low standards of living thus represent underlying causal factors, not only sparking conflicts, but also limiting the resources available to address conflict situations.

Windows of Opportunity for Violence Reduction and Conflict Prevention:

Sierra Leonean conditions suggest several leverage points or potential windows of opportunity for violence reduction and conflict prevention. Memories of the civil war serve as a deterrent to resorting to violence in many cases, since older citizens particularly (less so youths) remain painfully aware of the terrible costs of violent conflict. It is important to note that Sierra Leone has conducted four consecutive, more or less peaceful general elections since 2001, despite a context of fierce partisan competition.

A series of national dialogue forums, hosted by and named after the Bintumani Conference Center in Freetown, plus President Bio’s calls for the formation of an Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, could potentially help build a better framework for national reconciliation efforts, although some observers question the inclusiveness of these processes thus far or the ability of an additional institutional structure to address the challenges of rebuilding national cohesion.

Another positive indicator or window of opportunity concerns the promising levels of religious tolerance and inter-ethnic linkages found among the 16 major ethnic groups of Sierra Leone. For example, significant inter-ethnic marriages rates are found throughout the country, an important marker of positive inter-cultural ties at the community level.

USAID’s Office of Sierra Leone Coordination (OSLC) would welcome APS proposals to leverage windows of opportunity to control or mitigate conflict. Illustrative activities include:

- People to people (P2P) approaches to enrich inter-communal linkages, such as local dialogues, joint community development activities, inter-communal empowerment of women and/or youth, strengthening inter-communal cooperation at the local, chiefdom, regional, and/or national levels of governance.
- Technical support to promote the inclusiveness of local and national government councils and institutions.
- Inclusive peace-building platforms that facilitate the early detection and timely resolution of conflicts among key local stakeholders, including diverse community representatives, religious leaders, women, local officials, etc.
- Other activities (invitation for additional ideas from OSLC)
- Activities that complement USAID’s ongoing Sierra Leone Elections Dialogue Series (SLEDS), described immediately below.

Portfolio Integration for Peace:

USAID currently supports at least one major activity, SLEDS, which builds multiple elections and political process capacities, often helping to build political consensus and mitigate conflicts. SLEDS supports constructive public dialogues that have featured highly popular debates among aspiring candidates at national and local levels on key political, social, and economic issues affecting citizens of Sierra Leone. A stress on resolving development issues can reduce otherwise excessive public attention on political competition and conflict. The project also reinforces media capacities for

constructive issue-oriented coverage of the news, including journalism skills in: fact checking, issues analysis, and evidence-based elections and political process reporting. This has included a social media professional WhatsApp group to monitor, fact-check and quickly correct unconfirmed rumors that can sometimes provoke conflicts by spreading fake news.

Connection to Mission's Strategy:

P2P activities to control or mitigate conflict will importantly promote a stabler environment that can enable faster economic development and strengthened governance. Facilitating peaceful, constructive solutions to conflicts would support the Mission's Integrated Country Strategy, Objective #1, "Sierra Leone Improves Good Governance, Transparency and Accountability."