



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AMENDMENT NO. 5**

**ADDENDUM NO. 7200AA20APS00016 – CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT
PAPERS FOR RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC FREEDOM AND INCLUSION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

**UNDER EXISTING NEW PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (NPI): CONFLICT
PREVENTION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT
(CPRP) No. 7200AA19APS00012**

Issue Date: October 15, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The purpose of this Amendment No. 5 is to: a) Clarify that Applications submitted via Grants.gov will not be reviewed. As such, Concept Notes should ONLY be submitted via the link provided in the Addendum under SECTION D - APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION; and b) Provide, under ATTACHMENT A of this Amendment, answers to questions received during the period of September 3, 2020 through October 9, 2020. Prospective Applicants are reminded that this concludes the period of questions and Answers. Further questions will not be addressed.

Except as clarified herein, all requirements of the subject APS Addendum “Call for Partnership Concept Papers for Religious and Ethnic Freedom and Inclusion in the Middle East and North Africa” issued on July 14, 2020 and its amendments 1-4 remain unchanged.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely

Margaret Benavente
Agreement Officer

**ATTACHMENT A
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DOCUMENT**

1. What is the recommended duration of the projects proposed?

RESPONSE: Per Section B of the Addendum, the period of performance of any proposed project should not exceed 3 years. However, the period of performance of an award will be contingent to the award instrument type as there are time limits placed on certain instruments.

2. I have studied the sheet and tried to apply. Some of the documents are not opening.... Please help. And also, forward all relevant further information.

RESPONSE: Please follow this link to apply: <https://arcg.is/0ffiz0>. The link is also listed in the Addendum Section D and in Amendment No. 2. We strongly recommend you register at Grants.gov in order to view the amendments issued, with special attention to the amendments 1 and 4 that provide responses to questions raised.

3. Is it possible to receive the recordings of the webinar?

RESPONSE: Yes, please follow this [link](#), also provided in Amendment No. 4 to the Addendum.

4. Grants.gov informed me to proceed by creating a workplace. I have tried to a few times; and each time I am being informed that I can't apply to the said grant opportunity as an individual.

RESPONSE: Unfortunately, individuals are not eligible to apply under this Addendum.

5. I'm very interested in applying for a chance to receive the concept paper for North Africa Grant my number is area code XXX XXX XXXX and I would like for you to give me a call or email me to let me know the logistics of this grant thank you so much.

RESPONSE: Unfortunately, there are no individual consultations as part of this application process. All questions were submitted as outlined in the Addendum and answers were posted in subsequent amendments.

6. In addition to the online Concept Note form/application, do organizations also need to complete the application forms on Grants.gov for this grant, including the budget?

RESPONSE: At this moment, there is no need to complete and submit the application forms through Grants.gov systems for this Addendum. Please only follow carefully the instructions in the [application form](#) itself. For the budget, all you need to complete is the section titled "Total Amount of Funding Requested from USAID in US Dollars" in the form itself.

7. Does the applicant organization need to be registered in the MENA target country

in order to qualify for the grant? Can you clarify whether locally established partners need to be registered in the country?

RESPONSE: As per the solicitation, local organizations must be legally established in the country of proposed operation. Please refer to the [webinar recording](#) for discussion on eligibility. **Note:** Incorrect self-categorization does not make a concept ineligible. USAID reserves the right to review the Prospective Recipient's stated partnership approach/eligibility and to make a final determination, which will be communicated to the Prospective Applicant. In the form you will find the "Other" option to select which will allow you to explain your specific situation. USAID may work with a Prospective Partner during Co-creation to determine the appropriate eligibility category, if necessary. Every effort should be made by the Prospective Partner to submit information to support a category as initially chosen.

8. What are non-local organizations and do they need to be registered in the country in order to qualify for the grant?

RESPONSE: Non-local organizations are foreign organizations. In order to receive funding, non-local or foreign organizations must be registered in the country in which they propose to implement the project in order to be considered for a grant under this Addendum. Please refer to the [webinar recording](#) for discussion on eligibility. **Note:** Incorrect self-categorization does not make a concept ineligible. USAID reserves the right to review the Prospective Recipient's stated partnership approach/eligibility and to make a final determination, which will be communicated to the Prospective Applicant. In the form you will find the "Other" option to select which will allow you to explain your specific situation. USAID may work with a Prospective Partner during Co-creation to determine the appropriate eligibility category, if necessary. Every effort should be made by the Prospective Partner to submit information to support a category as initially chosen.

9. The information on-line says awards will be given for grants between \$200,000-800,000 but on the web seminar, a USAID staff said that organizations can request funding outside of that arrange. Is that correct?

RESPONSE: Concept papers will not be rejected should the Prospective Applicant propose a higher or lower amount to the proposed range (\$200,000-\$800,000). Nevertheless, Prospective Applicants are encouraged to remain within the proposed range.

10. What steps is USAID taking to ensure participation of non-mentoring partners? How many partners will be selected from non-mentoring entities? How will you ensure the participation of new and underutilized partners that are not connected to a mentoring partner?

RESPONSE: Selection of partner will be contingent to the Concept Paper merits based on Section D.II Merit Review Criteria of the Addendum. The partnering approach is for eligibility purposes and not a specific evaluation criterion.

11. Do mentoring organizations need to have experience as a prior contractor with the

USG? What are the criteria for defining a mentoring partner? Would an organization that has experience as a sub-contractor on USG grants qualify?

RESPONSE: No prior experience with a US Government Agency, as a Prime or Subcontractor/Recipient is required to be eligible. Please refer to the [webinar recording](#) for discussion on eligibility for mentoring partners.

12. What percentage of the budget can go towards the organization's administrative costs?

RESPONSE: Administration costs should be proposed based on the organization's written and/or negotiated cost policies and procedures.

13. After creating an account, we were unable to apply, I have attached the Alert that it gives. Can you please advice on how we should move forward and what could be the reason for this alert,

RESPONSE: Please see response to question No. 4 above. Please follow carefully the instructions in the [application form](#) and provide what is requested.

14. Perhaps you might happen to know if Israel is an eligible country for the Call for Partnership: RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC FREEDOM AND INCLUSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA.

RESPONSE: Concept Notes for project implementation in Israel and West Bank Gaza are eligible where the U.S. Government is permitted to operate.

15. I'm interested in your religious freedom program to do some research papers. But I'm a British national. Could you please tell me if I could apply for this.

RESPONSE: Please refer to question No. 4.

16. How will the co-creation workshops with potential organizations be facilitated?

RESPONSE: If appropriate, virtual co-creation workshops will be facilitated by USAID Staff.

17. What are the opportunities for a Design organization to help USAID facilitate the Co-creation workshops.

RESPONSE: Unfortunately, the Addendum does not contemplate funding for organizations to facilitate any co-creation workshops.

18. We are a local volunteer non-governmental charity organization working in the Erbil city and surrounding areas in the fields of education, awareness, environment, and charity. we urgently need money for our projects and we seek your aid to help more people in Shaqlawa and surrounding areas. Could you provide some information or

direct us to somebody who could help us? If you need anymore information, please let us know? We are ready to coordinate and work as representatives of your aid. Note: we cannot access or apply on the website, could you give us direction?

RESPONSE: You will find all the information in Grants.gov. Please follow this instructions: Enter grants.gov in your browser, once you have enter the site, please select tab “SEARCH GRANTS” then under “BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA” by the subtitle “Opportunity number” insert the number for the APS (7200AA19APS00012), if you would like to see the APS or insert the number for the Addendum (7200AA20APS00016), if you would like to see the Addendum. Once you enter the solicitation, please select the TAB “RELATED DOCUMENTS” and you will find the documents to download. For the addendum select “Complete Notice”. Please follow carefully the instructions in the [application form](#) and provide what is requested.

19. We have never applied for USAID support before but this call (CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT PAPERS FOR RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC FREEDOM AND INCLUSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA) resonates particularly well with our mission and organizational history. We have worked closely with organizations in Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey on issues related to the sources of religious pluralism and reviving Islamic traditions of toleration. Can you please confirm that we are eligible to submit an application?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 7.

20. Is there a platform in the concept paper or other method where we can submit photos and graphics and perhaps a short video of the project to accompany the paper?

RESPONSE: Prospective Applicants should follow the instructions on the [application form](#) and be mindful that USAID’s review will be limited to the information required by the Addendum, within the established word count limitations.

21. Our group does not have an NICRA rate for indirect costs. What rate should be used for estimating purposes at this early stage? (if it is needed at this early stage).

RESPONSE: For Prospective Applicants not having a NICRA, indirect costs may be proposed as direct costs charged to the award or the Prospective Applicant may propose the [de minimis rate](#), per 2 CFR 200.414.

22. Hereby writing to request your permission to apply to your call for partnership with religious organizations, we are interested to apply and we need to have your help to complete the application procedures. I will be happy to get your assistance.

RESPONSE: You will find all the information in Grants.gov. Please follow this instructions: Enter grants.gov in your browser, once you have enter the site, please select tab “SEARCH GRANTS” then under “BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA” by the subtitle “Opportunity number” insert the number for the APS (7200AA19APS00012), if you would like to see the APS or insert the number for the Addendum (7200AA20APS00016), if you would like to see the Addendum.

Once you enter the solicitation, please select the TAB “RELATED DOCUMENTS” and you will find the documents to download. For the addendum select “Complete Notice”. Please follow carefully the instructions in the [application form](#) and provide what is requested.

23. Can you tell me if construction or renovation projects would be applicable under this funding opportunity? Are there any other funding restrictions?

RESPONSE: This Addendum will not fund construction¹ projects or activities that involve construction work. Please refer to USAID Implementation of Construction Activities for more information <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303maw.pdf>

24. Are all costs associated with the physical conservation of tangible cultural assets (e.g. buildings and cemeteries) permissible under the terms of the grant?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 23.

25. Is new construction (e.g. visitor facilities, community centers) permissible under the terms of the grant

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 23.

26. Is the cataloging, archiving and digitization of existing archives permissible under the terms of the grant. This might be in case a collaboration would be possible relating to the archive that was given to the Ministry of Culture some time ago.

RESPONSE: Please read carefully the intent of the Addendum.

27. I'm a US citizen, who spent a number of years in the Middle East/North Africa region with a background in development economics. The eligibility criteria is "Unrestricted" - is it possible to apply as an individual? I'm looking into either registering an LLC or a non-profit but the process may take a few weeks. Could you please let me know if "unrestricted" also means "individual" for this particular grant?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 4.

28. We are an NGO based in Lebanon, we are interested in applying for Opportunity Number: 7200AA20APS00016.

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 18.

¹ Construction, alteration, or repair (including dredging and excavation) of buildings, structures, or other real property and includes, without limitation, improvements, renovation, alteration and refurbishment. The term includes, without limitation, roads, power plants, buildings, bridges, water treatment facilities, and vertical structures.

29. We would like to know, in the Lebanon area, which ethnic and religious minorities this opportunity is reaching for, and in which areas of the Lebanon if the location is not the entirety of the country. Please advise.

RESPONSE: Potential applicants are encouraged to read USAID’s strategy in the proposed country of implementation to determine a technical approach. Please review Lebanon’s Country Development Cooperation Strategy for additional context: <https://www.usaid.gov/lebanon/cdcs>.

30. We would like to know if in the context of this addendum, persons with disabilities are considered as marginalized or a minority for inclusion into society? Also, would like to know, for Lebanon, what communities are considered marginalized and/or minorities?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No.26.

31. We are a local NGO registered in Israel, and our intended project’s participants/primary beneficiaries will be Palestinians (Muslims, Christians). However, they are not only living in the Westbank, but some of them also in Israel – is this “residency in Israel” in any way an exclusion criterion?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No.14.

32. Furthermore, will there be additional requirements or prerequisites for Palestinian participants in case the funding is approved? E.g. providing any declarations regarding anti-terrorism / compliance / sanctions list checks, etc.?

RESPONSE: Should USAID decide to fund a Concept Paper, participants may be subject to requirements established for the Cooperating Country of implementation.

33. Can you please share the shown slides of the webinar (on August, 31)? There is only another slide deck linked under the webinar, but not the one that was presented: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/section-889-partner-information>

RESPONSE: Webinar slides were not shared. You may view the Webinar presentation via the following link: [webinar recording](#).

34. Does USAID require that all partners in a consortium be registered in the country where the activity will be delivered, or only the prime?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No.8.

35. If applying as a “Locally Established Partner”, does USAID require that all partners in a consortium meet all of the requirements for a LEP, or only the prime?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No.8.

36. Can USAID confirm that the requirements for a LEP are only the following:

- a. **Demonstrate continuous locally-implemented programs for the past 5 years;**
- b. **Legally registered entities under applicable law and eligible under the relevant laws to receive funding from a foreign source;**
- c. **Maintain a local office with at least 50% of office personnel comprised of local staff;**
- d. **Maintain a local bank account.**

RESPONSE: Please follow the application instruction provided in the Addendum.

37. I am writing you for clarity on the Closing Date of this announcement. The General Information reflects a Closing Date of November 04, 2020 while Paragraph D.3 states the Closing Date is August 16, 2020. Which is correct?

RESPONSE: Per Amendment No. 2 to the Addendum, the closing date has been extended through November 4, 2020.

38. It is not clear to us if it is possible to have a project cover more than one country, say Iraq and Syria at the same time? On the Solicitation Application for Potential Partners webpage, it is only possible to enter one country. Hence our question.

RESPONSE: There is no limit on the number of projects an organization may submit. Nevertheless, USAID is seeking only single-country projects, thus each country would require a separate submission and it will be treated as such.

39. Is it possible to cover more than one main theme, e.g. Social Constraints on religious and/or ethnic minorities AND education and health constraints on religious and/or ethnic minorities? In extension of that can we cover multiple sub-sections under the main theme(s) or do we have to address only one?

RESPONSE: For the Concept Papers, Prospective Applicants are advised to select one main theme and one sub-sector that best represents your concept and proposed intervention. If there are other components, please highlight in the narratives.

40. Are West Bank/Gaza organizations eligible for funding?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 14.

41. This email is in relationship to the Religious and Ethnic Freedom and Inclusion in the Middle East and North Africa project. Am I correct in saying to apply at this stage you only have to complete the survey at <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/daf9b312df7543b295c990b484f5b7b5?>

RESPONSE: There are no additional forms or documents required other than those stated in the Addendum’s [application form](#). Prospective Applicants should be mindful that USAID will not review any information in addition to the information required under the Addendum.

42. Our project involves the preservation of community cultural assets, including objects, documentary material, and intangible heritage documentation. We would like to preserve this heritage and make it globally accessible via inventory, documentation, and digitization of records and the creation of web-based collections and exhibitions.

RESPONSE: Cultural heritage preservation is among the potential funding opportunities.

43. Is construction allowed? On pg. 4 “Providing essential services and reconstruction for communities persecuted as a result of religion, belief, and practice.”

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 23.

44. Is the purchase of commodities allowed? On pg. 4 “Providing essential services and reconstruction for communities persecuted as a result of religion, belief, and practice.”

RESPONSE: In general, purchase of commodities is allowed. However, the acquisition of commodities is contingent on compliance with ADS 312 restrictions. For reference, please see USAID’s guidance on commodities <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1876/312.pdf>

45. Is the payment of the rent of spaces where the programs are run allowed?

RESPONSE: Yes, rental space where the programs are run are allowed. Nevertheless, rental costs must comply with the conditions and restrictions contained in 2 CFR 200.465.

46. Would scholarships for quality education of vulnerable children from multi-religious background be allowed?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 26.

47. Would the overall operating costs of an educational program for vulnerable children from minority religious backgrounds be eligible?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 26.

48. Pg. 5 “Helping ensure that all forms of primary and secondary education heed the importance of inclusion of religious and ethnic minorities, from the formal school system to non-formal and privately sponsored learning environments”. Would this allow for reconstruction of schools?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 23.

49. On pg. 8 of the funding notice, leveraged funding requirements are mentioned. Where on the concept paper application should we indicate the 1:2 ratio of local leveraged funds and USAID requested support funds?

RESPONSE: Please include this information in the “Sustainability” narrative box on the [application form](#).

50. Would humanitarian relief items (meaning food, hygiene, and basic health items, blankets in winter) be allowed (for families of students/beneficiaries of the educational programs)?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 26.

51. Would rehabilitation/repair works (no new buildings) of schools damaged by the blast of August 4 in Lebanon need to be in compliance with all USAID construction requirements?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 23.

52. Is a multi-country project under one entity eligible for consideration?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 38.

53. Would payment of salaries and operational expenses of educational programs (formal school and non-formal education) be allowed? If yes, focusing on salaries, would payment to personnel without an official contract be allowed as well? Refugees are not allowed to have job contracts in Lebanon.

RESPONSE: Please refer to the response provided to Question No. 26.

54. Would administration, Monitoring & Evaluation including travel, and audit costs be allowed?

RESPONSE: Please follow the application instruction provided in the Addendum.

55. Egyptian authorities (national Security), require a security clearance for any NGO or entity that is planning to implement activities and projects. Does USAID will help in this regard, helping grantees to get this kind of security clearance?

RESPONSE: Should USAID decide to fund a Concept Paper, participants may be subject to requirements established for the Cooperating Country of implementation. If selected, USAID will work with the applicant to determine compliance.

56. I am seeking clarification on the scope of countries covered by the ‘CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT PAPERS FOR RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC FREEDOM AND INCLUSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA’ in the MENA

region, especially the IoPT. Please do let us know all the countries that are included in this call for our review and consideration.

RESPONSE: This grant applies to applicants to any religious group in relation to the middle east and north Africa. A complete list of countries are found on the online submission form. This is the link to the form: <https://arcg.is/0ffiz0>.

57. Can organizations submit more than one application if they want to do two similar projects in two different countries? It appeared there was no limit to the projects, but they would like to confirm.

RESPONSE: There is no limit on the number of projects an organization may submit. Nevertheless, USAID is seeking only single-country projects, thus each country would require a separate submission and it will be treated as such.

58. I've looked over sections 205 and 201 in regards to integrating gender equality. Is a gender analysis required for the grant application, as part of the project, or neither?

RESPONSE: Under the “Narrative” section of the [application form](#), please see “Gender Equality and Female Empowerment”. At this stage, a description of how female empowerment and gender equality will be integrated into your program is only required. More formal analysis may be requested if a Concept Paper is selected for award.

59. My question involves the actual application. I have a copy of the blank Solicitation Application for Potential Partners. Is this the whole application? Does it serve as the vehicle for our concept paper and has to be in on November 4?

RESPONSE: The application is the only required document at this stage. Please refer to the response provided to question No. 41.

60. I am sorting out Workspace access with the organization I'm working with to actually see the application on the [grant.gov](#) website and suspect there are more application forms in the Related Documents section, but I'm not sure. Are there more required forms there? And is there simple checklist on exactly what we need to submit and where the forms are? I did listen to the webinar and couldn't sort it out.

RESPONSE: There are no additional forms or documents required other than those stated in the Addendum's [application form](#). Prospective Applicants should be mindful that USAID will not review any information in addition to the information required under the Addendum.

61. Am I interpreting the responds correctly that funds can be used for construction as it focus and support religious freedom and ethic inclusion. Any additional information or clarification will be helpful.

RESPONSE: Please refer to the answer provided to question No 23.