

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF ACQUISITION & ASSISTANCE

USAID/MALI ADDENDUM TO NPI APS

**CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT PAPERS TO MALI'S CONFLICT
PREVENTION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM**

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

All interested organizations should carefully review both this Addendum AND Annual Program Statement No. 7200AA19APS00012, which can be found here:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=315424> APS No.

7200AA19APS00012 is the core of this specific Addendum, and important information contained in the APS announcement is not repeated in this Addendum. This specific addendum is focused on requirements as they relate to Mali's Conflict Prevention and Recovery Program. This program is authorized in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Through this Addendum to the NPI/CPRP APS, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is making a special call for the submission of Concept Papers focused on responding to the needs of conflict-affected communities, particularly in: 1) grievances and reconciliation stemming from conflict; 2) initiatives that support cohesion and trust building, within and between communities and local government institutions; and 3) learning about the intersection of conflict and community-level needs and perceptions during the democratic transition.

Consistent with U.S. policy on assistance to Mali, awards issued under this APS will focus on recovery for beneficiary populations and the building of their continuous resilience. This APS Addendum cannot fund construction activities, as reflected in the detailed guidance in Section V below. This Addendum is also intended to diversify and broaden USAID's partner base, as described in the APS announcement.

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID may allocate up to \$1 million through one or more new awards. The proposed period of performance can be up to 24 months. The review of applications under this Addendum will place priority on supporting the most-promising approaches to the objective described herein.

All terms and conditions of this Addendum and the NPI/CPRP APS apply (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=315424>).

I. Overview of Funding Opportunity

The overarching goal of the Mali Addendum to the NPI APS is to empower local organizations to solve problems currently not adequately addressed and that directly respond to the needs of conflict-affected communities. Through this announcement and in support of USAID/Mali's overall programming, USAID/Mali invites local organizations to develop new and innovative alliances that focus on 1) grievances and reconciliation stemming from conflict; 2) initiatives that support cohesion and trust building, within and between communities and local government institutions; and 3) learning about the intersection of conflict and community-level needs and perceptions during the democratic transition to inform USAID programming decisions. In line with existing programming, USAID/Mali seeks to prioritize small activities at the community level to develop a nuanced village-by-village understanding of conflict dynamics in order to build social cohesion and trust from the bottom up by strengthening the legitimacy and effectiveness of local systems. Uniquely for this addendum, applications should highlight how they will consider flexibility in programming for Mali's on-going democratic transition.

To source new ideas and a diverse set of partners in this effort, USAID invites eligible organizations to submit concept papers for collaborations with USAID to achieve our shared development objectives. Local partners will have different levels of expertise across objectives. USAID reviewers of Concept Papers will consider the strength of technical competence on *one or more* of the listed objectives. USAID can choose to make multiple awards across the different objectives with different partners. USAID is focused on collaborations and partnerships that address the objectives found below.

USAID is seeking applications that demonstrate approaches to fulfill one or more objectives through any of the following sample of possible activities:

Objective 1 - addressing grievances and reconciliation stemming from conflict

Illustrative Activities:

- community dialogue sessions to discuss and resolve specific grievances, especially those related to the transition
- trauma-informed approaches to community reintegration and reconciliation
- efforts to work with internally-displaced persons (IDPs) to increase social cohesion in host communities and target communities for reintegration
- support women and youth to resolve grievances and advancing community cohesion
- support, strengthen and adapt existing formal and informal channels or methods for conflict resolution

Objective 2 - supporting cohesion and trust building, within and between communities and local government institutions.

Illustrative Activities:

- citizens and Malian government representatives are educated and empowered in their respective responsibilities, rights, and duties, especially those related to the transition.
- citizens and Malians government representatives work together and engage productively to overcome long standing impasses or disputes to advance common interests in their community

Objective 3 - learning about the intersection of conflict and community-level needs and perceptions during the democratic transition to inform USAID programming decisions.

Illustrative Activities:

- surveys to measure community-level needs and what communities are doing to inform peace and stability and ensure government accountability or transparency that are representative at the commune (or lower) level
- rigorous qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods approaches to measure the outcomes and impacts of programming
- support ongoing conflict analysis to monitor and adapt programming as necessary

Applicants may select one or more objectives to address in the targeted community. Knowing that a single organization may not have the competence to implement every objective above, Concept Papers may include partners with different specialties for a demonstration of technical capacity for successful program implementation. The extent to which the proposed concept uses one or more new or underutilized partners (local or locally established partners) to increase access to target communities, constituencies, or key stakeholders should also be described.

Additionally, USAID/Mali will prioritize Concept Papers that also best articulate the three areas found below.

1. Contextual Knowledge:

USAID/Mali prioritizes the following types of contextual knowledge:

- Experience in conflict areas within the past five years with explicit commitment to the “do no harm” principle
- Demonstrated degree to which activities described offer new or improved access to communities, constituencies, or key stakeholders affected by violence
- Demonstrated understanding of the political, cultural, social, and institutional norms in the conflict-affected communities
- Clear understanding of the specific vulnerabilities, grievances and resiliencies in the targeted communities and an understanding of how they fracture or connect communities
- Demonstrated understanding of how vulnerabilities, grievances and resiliencies in target communities are perceived by specific segments of communities and how these perceptions will interact with activities.
- Demonstrated descriptive understanding of the role gender, youth, and marginalized populations plays and a plan for achieving gender-integration and balance and the participation of youth and traditionally marginalized populations.

2. Community Awareness and Engagement:

Concept Papers should contain a strong analysis of the potential impact of the program on communities, and applicants should demonstrate a willingness to work directly with community leaders (both formal and informal), vulnerable community members (especially women, youth, and traditionally marginalized populations), and practitioners within the local communities.

Programs are encouraged to promote interaction and cooperation across a range of stakeholders and partners, including community leaders, non-governmental organizations, and community groups, and demonstrate how the proposed activities will complement other planned or ongoing initiatives among those agencies. Applicants, if from larger or Bamako-based organizations, should partner with local organizations as a form of mentoring and supporting relationship. Larger or Bamako-based organizations must also demonstrate how local organizations contribute to the direction of programming. Applicants must demonstrate how community participation helps develop the activities presented in the application. Applications should demonstrate knowledge of other organizations and/or programs undertaking related programs in the target area.

Should an application include implementing partners for any of the proposed activities, the applicant must demonstrate that the proposed activities were discussed with and agreed to by those implementing partner(s) and, to avoid duplication of efforts, with adequate consultation has occurred between the applicant and implementing partner(s).

Through this Addendum, USAID/Mali is prioritizing applications from local development actors based on the belief that a larger and more-diverse partner base will expand the available ideas, capabilities, and networks to address shared development challenges. (See Section X of this Addendum for the “local” partner definition). Any proposed intervention or activity must have an explicit and direct link to the achievement of USAID’s programmatic objectives in Mali as defined herein.

3. Journey to Self-Reliance:

Building partner country capabilities and commitment toward advancing the journey to self reliance is a USAID priority. Applicants should describe the extent to which the proposed forms of engagement increase the likelihood that local and locally established partners or the affected communities themselves, will be able to continue the program’s activities and/or maintain its commitment or capacity achievements after the program ends.

II. Eligible Organizations

The Global NPI/CPRP APS details what organizations are eligible to apply for awards under this Addendum. In addition to any requirements listed in the NPI/CPRP APS, this Addendum further requires that an applicant organization:

1. Be legally organized under the laws of the Republic of Mali;
2. Have its principal place of business or operations in Mali;
3. Be majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Mali;
and
4. Be managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Mali.

Pursuant to Part 25.110 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), it is not a requirement to be registered in the SAM and have a DUNS number in order to submit a concept paper under this APS and Addendum. However being registered will expedite the award process if selected.

For the organizations that do not have a DUNS number and are not registered in the SAM, if selected for an award with USAID, they must:

1. Be registered in the U.S. Government’s SAM system (<http://www.sam.gov>) before submitting its application;
2. Provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
3. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding Department or Agency.

III. Award Types

USAID has a number of assistance award types to choose when providing funds to successful Applicants. The type of award and terms and conditions included therein is based upon recipient organization type, program factors, and other due-diligence matters (including responsibility determinations). Given the operational and programmatic constraints of working in Mali, awards under this Addendum will (likely) only consist of Fixed-Amount Awards, as described below.

Award Type:	Generally used when:	Characterized by:	More information:
Fixed-Amount Award (FAA)	Milestones can be defined; Adequate pricing information is available; Recipient has limited financial and management capacity.	Advantages for both USAID and the recipient (when used appropriately). Milestones with fixed amounts assigned to each. Focus is on outputs and results, limits risk for both parties. USAID pays the grantee when the Agency concurs the milestone is completed.	https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303saj
	Must be a grant – not a cooperative agreement.	Minimizes administrative burden on USAID and the grantee, since payment is not cost-reimbursement. Assists in building the institutional capacity of new grantees.	

USAID reserves the right to make or not to make awards through this APS Addendum. The actual number of assistance awards, if any, under this APS Addendum is subject to the availability of funds, the interests and requirements of USAID, and the viability of applications received. There is no predefined minimum or maximum number of partners or partnerships USAID will support through this APS Addendum. However, USAID will not provide funds under this APS for products and services that it would otherwise purchase through a contract.

If USAID identifies opportunities to strengthen or fund a Concept Paper or application by connecting it with other USAID mechanisms, other potential funders, and/or external partners, USAID may make that Concept Paper or application available internally or externally for appropriate consideration.

IV. Mali Applicants Bidder's Conference

USAID/Mali hosted a Virtual Bidder Conference on November 30, 2020, in Bamako, for all interested local organizations. This was an opportunity for applicants to reach an understanding of the requirements for submitting a qualifying application for assistance through this APS Addendum. The questions and answers (Q&A) of that conference and presentations are attached to this addendum for applicants' information.

V. Restrictions in Funding

While USAID seeks to work with local Malian organizations on a broad range of activities, there are several types of activities the Agency cannot fund under this opportunity:

- A. Construction. USAID cannot directly fund construction activities under this mechanism. "Construction" in this context means: construction, alteration, or repair (including dredging and excavation) of buildings, structures, or other real property.
- B. Government Services. Funds under this opportunity cannot be used in providing service - delivery functions of the Malian Government.
- C. Real Property. USAID cannot fund the purchase of any real property under this mechanism. "Real property" means land, including land improvements, structures, and appurtenances thereto, but that the adjacent material is new or excludes movable machinery and equipment.

VI. Information on Application and Submission

A. Agency Point of Contact

Questions and Answers: Questions regarding the substance and objectives of this Addendum should be directed to Leslie-Ann Nwokora at lnwokora@usaid.gov

B. Application Process

PHASE 1: Submission of Concept Papers

A Concept Paper is a short document, not to exceed five (5) pages, in which the Applicant provides an overview of its idea. USAID has provided a template in Paragraph C below.

Applicants must submit a Concept Paper in response to this Addendum to the NPI/CPRP APS by 1/22/2021 for review when submissions will be closed. USAID will acknowledge the submission of Concept Papers within three (3) business days. USAID will review Concept Papers against the merit-review criteria detailed in the NPI/CPRP APS and this Addendum.

USAID will provide individual results to each applicant within 20 work days following the meeting of the Selection Committee or Technical Evaluation Committee. USAID will notify

potential Applicants of significant changes in the review-process timeline through a written amendment to this Addendum.

USAID anticipates three (3) possible results from the Concept Paper merit-review process:

- **Conditional Acceptance - Invited for Co-Creation:** The Concept Paper generally meets the objectives of the Addendum, and receives strong ratings against the merit-review criteria in the NPI/CPRP APS and this Addendum. Additional clarity is needed. USAID invites the Applicant to engage in Co-Creation to address the weaknesses identified. If the applicant concludes the Co-Creation process successfully, USAID will follow with a request for the submission of a full application.
- **Rejection:** Concept Paper does not meet the objectives of the Addendum, and receives inadequate ratings against the merit-review criteria in the NPI/CPRP APS and this Addendum. The USAID Mission or Bureau/Independent Office (B/IO) rejects the Concept Paper.
- **Evergreening:** If USAID identifies opportunities to strengthen or fund an application by connecting with other USAID mechanisms, other potential funders, and/or external partners, USAID may make that application available internally or externally for appropriate consideration.

PHASE 2: Co-Creation

Applicants whose Concept Papers USAID invites for Co-Creation will engage with the Agency to work through areas of weakness, respond to questions, and clarify aspects of the concept that are not clear. The Co-Creation process builds on a Concept Paper that has strength and potential; it is not intended to replace Applicants' initiative or build new concepts from the ground up. During this phase, Applicants will work with USAID technical teams to address issues such as impact indicators and the evaluation of their application. USAID envisages a product of the Co-Creation process that is a strong draft project description for the full application phase, as well as quantitative and/or qualitative indicators or performance milestones.

If an Applicant does not succeed at the Co-Creation phase, the process ends for that Applicant.

PHASE 3: Full Application

If Applicants successfully complete Co-Creation, USAID will request a full application based on the consensus reached during Phase 2. At this point, USAID will issue a Request for Application (RFA) to the Applicant. The RFA will provide complete instructions for the submission of a full application. The full application will detail, and expand upon, the concept developed through Co-Creation. The full application also requires the Applicant to complete specific U.S. Government forms, and to provide some additional information that USAID will need to move forward with an appropriate implementing instrument.

There are reasons why an Applicant could be unsuccessful at the full application phase. For example:

- The detailed program does not satisfy the criteria and definitions provided in the Concept Paper;

- A partner that is bringing additional, non-Federal, funds to the proposal drops out, or does not materialize, and the Applicant no longer meets the partner-eligibility criteria in Section II;
- The Applicant cannot provide evidence that it is a legal entity in the Republic of Mali; or
- USAID has other concerns after conducting due diligence or pre-award surveys.

USAID reserves the right to make no award under this Addendum at any stage of the process.

C. Content of Concept Papers

Applicants should submit only the information and materials requested, and in the format specified below.

- Concept Papers **MUST** be written in the English language, and submitted electronically via e-mail in Microsoft Word text-accessible, or Adobe PDF.
- Concept Papers shall not exceed five (5) pages, using 1” page margins with 12-point font. Applicants must follow the format below.
- Clarity and specificity are important, as is ensuring that the narrative in the Concept Paper addresses the points outlined in this Addendum used to review the Concept Paper.
- During the merit-review process, USAID may reject funding for those Concept Papers that are vague or merely restate language found in this Addendum.
- USAID will not accept Concept Papers that are more than five (5) pages in length.

D. Suggested Template

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CONFLICT PREVENTION and RECOVERY PROGRAM CONCEPT PAPER**

Application Overview – *(please complete the following questions below:)*

- 1. Proposed Activity Name/Title:** _____
- 2. Proposed Period of Performance (i.e., start date and end date):** _____
- 3. Total Program Amount (in USDs):** _____
- 4. Total Amount of Funding Requested from USAID :** _____
- 5. Applicant Organization Name:** _____
- 6. Applicant Contact Person (name, phone, e-mail):** _____
- 7. Full Address for Applicant Organization:** _____
- 8. Type of Organization (e.g., private, for-profit, non-profit and date of incorporation, etc.)**
: _____
- 9. DUNS Number:** _____

Concept Introduction *(approximately ½ page): Identify the problem you will address, and briefly describe your work for tackling this problem. Describe why there is a need for your concept, how it differs from alternatives, and any relevant partner-specific considerations for the problem or solution.*

Beneficiaries *(approximately ½ page): Describe the types of benefits your work will produce and the types and range of people who will benefit from this work. Was the concept designed with beneficiary input? 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?

Geographic Location (approximately ½ page): *In what location(s) (e.g, Region, city) are you proposing to operate? Describe key elements of, and actors in, the geographic location(s) in which you propose to work. What are the biggest challenges and opportunities? Please provide a brief description of previous work experience in this geographic location.*

Intervention Approach (approximately 1 page): *Building on the introduction, explain how this intervention will produce the desired impact. Briefly describe critical barrier(s) or problem(s), related to your focus area(s) that your concept addresses.*

Intervention Results (approximately 1 page): *As specifically as possible, describe the anticipated results and/or impact of your activity.*

Capacity of the Applicant(s) (approximately ½ page): *Describe your organization’s technical, financial, and managerial capacity to carry out the proposed work and that of any consortium partners. Have you previously done similar work, or worked in the same location(s)?*

Capacity of the Applicant(s) (approximately ½ page): *Describe your organization’s technical, financial, and managerial capacity to carry out the proposed work and that of any consortium partners. Have you previously done similar work, or worked in the same location(s)?*

Signature of individual with authority to obligate your organization

VII. Merit Review Criteria

USAID will review for merit all Concept Paper applications that comply with the instructions in this Addendum to the NPI/CPRP Annual Program Statement. The merit-based review of Concept papers under this Addendum must include the following criteria:

Merit Review Element	Scale
1. Contextual Knowledge (10%)	Contextual knowledge found in the Concept Papers will be measured on a scale of 1 to 3; 1) no or minimal contextual knowledge; 2) some contextual knowledge; or 3) significant contextual knowledge
2. Community Awareness and Engagement (15%)	Concept Papers should contain a strong analysis of the potential impact of the program on communities and will be measured on a scale of 1 to 3; 1) no or minimal awareness and engagement of communities; 2) some awareness and engagement of communities; or 3) significant awareness and engagement of communities

3. Intervention Approach and Results (30%)	Concept Papers will be reviewed for its ability to achieve its stated objectives as per its proposed interventions’ approach and results, using the following scale: 1) No additional benefit towards the accomplishment of the program’s objectives; 2) Some additional benefit toward the accomplishment of the program’s objectives; or 3) Significant additional benefit toward the accomplishment of the program’s objectives.
4. Technical Competence (30%)	This will be rated on the 1 to 3 scale of: 1) no or minimal competence in one or more objective; 2) some competence in one or more objective; or 3) significant competence in one or more objective.
5. Strengthening the Journey to Self-Reliance (15%)	The Concept Papers’ sustainability will be measured on the following scale: 1) No or minimal chance of sustainment; 2) Some chance of sustainment; or 3) Significant chance of sustainment.

The schedule for notifying applicants of conditional acceptance or rejection of their Concept Papers is as follows:

- The review of the concept papers will start on or around January 25, 2021 and applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt within 3 days of submission. Applicants will be notified within 20 days if selected to participate in Co-Creation with USAID/Mali.
- On or around February 22, 2021 selected organizations will participate in Co-Creation with USAID; organizations that are not selected for Co-Creation will be informed.
- USAID will request full applications from organizations selected for awards on or around March 15, 2021.

VIII. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REVIEW PROCESS

Applicants must follow the Application and Submission Information instructions set forth in Section VI and submit Concept Papers by using the Concept Paper Template in Section D. Information provided in the Concept Paper should address the objectives and criteria presented in Section VII.

Prospective applicants can ask questions regarding this Addendum to the NPI/CPRP APS directed to Leslie-Ann Nwokora at lnwokora@usaid.gov. For inquiries, please use the email subject line, “Mali NPI/CPRP APS Consultation.”

Applicants should submit completed Concept Papers (including any Supporting Information) to bamakoao@usaid.gov

When submitting Concept Papers, please use the email subject line, “Mali NPI/CPRP APS Concept Paper Submission.” USAID will confirm receipt of Concept Papers within 3 number of

days. Applicants under the NPI/CPRP APS will receive an initial response from USAID within 20 business days.

After USAID reviews a Concept Paper, the Agency will inform the applicant whether further development discussions are warranted, and, subsequent to those discussions, whether it will request a full application. Applicants must submit Concept Papers by the deadline for USAID to consider them.

If USAID identifies opportunities to strengthen or fund a Concept Paper or application by connecting it with other USAID mechanisms, other potential funders, and/or external partners, USAID may make that Concept Paper or application available, internally or externally, for appropriate consideration.

IX. QUESTIONS AND FURTHER ASSISTANCE

The Agency will furnish promptly to all prospective applicants as an amendment to this APS any information concerning this APS given to a particular prospective Applicant, if that information is necessary in submitting applications, or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

Applicants must submit Concept Papers to bamakoao@usaid.gov

X. DEFINITIONS FOR THE NPI

Key definitions related to the NPI are the following:

“Local” partner/entity: An individual or organization that: (1) Is legally organized under the laws of a country that is receiving assistance from USAID; (2) Has as its principal place of business or operations in a country that is receiving assistance from USAID; (3) Is majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of a country that is receiving assistance from USAID ; and, (4) Is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country that is receiving assistance from USAID.

ATTACHMENT 1: USAID/Mali Bidder's Conference Presentations

ATTADNMENT 2: USAID/Mali Bidder's Conference Q&A

ATTACHMENT 3: Presentation sur l'Enquete avant Attribution de la Subvention a une
Organization non Americaine (NUPAS).