Amendment Date Issued: January 24, 2022

Subject**:** Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Annual Program Statement (APS) Number 72029421APS00001 People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund Grants Activity / Amendment No. 4

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The purpose of this amendment is to:

1. Provide responses to questions raised during the Pre-Application Conference held on January 18, 2022, under Annex A to this Amendment.
2. Provide the presentation shared during the Pre-Application Conference held on January 18, 2022, under Annex B to this Amendment.

All other terms and conditions of this NOFO remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Sincerely,

/s/

Daniel Harter
Agreement Officer
USAID/West Bank and Gaza

Annex A - Questions and Answers

1. May individuals apply under this APS?
USAID Response: No, individuals may not apply. Please refer to Section C 'Eligibility Information' of the APS. Qualified U.S. or non-U.S. organizations, non-profit, or for-profit entities may apply for funding under this APS.

2. Will past partners be considered under this APS?
USAID Response: Yes. Please see response to question no. 1 above.

3. Is there any minimum amount of time an organization must be able to show past performance, e.g., certain number of years in existence?
USAID Response: No. The APS instructions under Section D.5.III request that Applicants provide their recent history of performance involving similar or related programs. If an organization does not have any history of performance, applicants may describe the experience of the proposed team within the organization to demonstrate their ability to implement the proposed program.

4. What is the publicity of awarded grants? Will awardees be posted somewhere? Are co-applicants listed and where?
USAID Response: USAID will announce awards made under this APS on its public media outlets once available.

5. How detailed should the requested notional budget on the Cover Page be?
USAID Response: A detailed budget is not requested under Phase I, the Concept Paper submission. A plug figure of the estimated budget is the only budget information requested to be inserted in the Cover Page of your submission. Please refer to Section D.5 for detailed instructions.

6. Is there a way to receive feedback about concept notes submitted and rejected in the first round?
USAID Response: Yes. Applicants may request feedback on their application within 10 calendar days of receiving USAID's notification response.

7. What is your timetable in assessing proposals and making awards?
USAID Response: Depending on the success of an application, each submission will have their own timeline to potential award. An estimated range of that timeline may be between three to six months.

8. Can two partners apply together-both being applying agencies?
USAID Response: No. USAID accepts applications from one legal entity at a time. It is up to the organizations on how they would like to group or partner together for purposes of this APS. Please refer to Section C 'Eligibility Information' of the APS. Qualified U.S. or non-U.S. organizations, non-profit, or for-profit entities may apply for funding under this APS.

9. Do you recommend to first design the whole program in detail and then start writing the concept note, or can details of the program also be designed and decided about later, after a positive concept note award?

USAID Response: It is up to the applicant to determine the level of detail necessary to convey within the concept paper submission based on the proposed program.

10. Is USAID willing and able to advocate on our behalf, if we are awarded funding, for speedy approval of funds by the PA?
USAID Response: No, USAID is not able to advocate for this purpose.

11. Can you elaborate on the point that it is not mandatory to have Israeli and Palestinian participation? What would that look like, given the P2P / reconciliation goals?
USAID Response: It is not mandatory to have both Israeli and Palestinian participants in the proposed program. Please see Section 'A', subsection 'V' of the APS which includes a definition of the P2P as follows:

"For the purposes of this solicitation, the term 'people to people' is broadly defined as programming designed to reduce political, social, and economic barriers to peaceful interactions between Israeli and Palestinian societies and promote sustainable institutions and relationships for peaceful co-existence. As stated in the MEPPA legislation, USAID will prioritize support to efforts "that bring Israelis and Palestinians together." Recognizing that peacebuilding is a long-term endeavor, however, this definition includes initiatives within the respective societies that contribute to a peaceful co-existence, mitigate impacts from the current conflict, and help advance a just resolution to that conflict."

As stated within the definition above, proposed programs may include… "*initiatives within the respective societies…*". That said, it will be up to the applicant to demonstrate how their proposed program/activities contribute to a peaceful co-existence, mitigate impacts from the current conflict, and help advance a just resolution to that conflict.

12. If your NGO is part of an existing collaborative grant of USAID can you apply to additional funding with a different NGO partnership - are there any limitations on the new partnership application?
USAID Response: Please see responses to Questions no. 2 and no. 8 above.

13. While cross border is not a requirement, would it qualify as an advantage to show cooperation, joint identification of common needs and joint work to achieve solutions between Palestinians and Israelis in Jerusalem?
USAID Response: Please see response to Question no. 11 above. All applications will be reviewed in accordance with the merit review evaluation criteria stated under Section E 'Application Review Information' of the APS.

Subsection 2.a states the following: "Applications will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the following criteria shown in descending order of importance (i.e. Criterion #1 is more important than Criterion # 2):
- Selection Criterion # 1: Technical Approach
- Selection Criterion # 2: Institutional Capacity

14. Can the request be for a multi-year program?

USAID Response: Please refer to Section B.2 of the APS which states the following: "The period of performance for the grants is expected to range from several months to three years."

15. Duns and Sam are required but is it required that we complete the registration process before submitting the concept paper?
USAID Response: While SAM registration is not required under Phase I, Concept Paper submission, it is highly encouraged that applicants start the registration process as early as possible given technical difficulties that may arise.

16. Your publication of Qs and As in the past has been very helpful. Would you also consider creating a "final review checklist" that orgs can use to double-check that they hit the key points/requirements before submitting (especially in light of lessons learned you shared)? While understanding that the entire APS is the final word, this could be a helpful tool to minimize deficient applications.
USAID Response: USAID will not be providing a checklist. The concept paper instructions found in Section D of the APS, have been written in a checklist type manner. Furthermore, submission guidance and instructions have been streamlined to the maximum extent practicable to make this less burdensome to applicants.

17. If the applicant organization is both an Israeli nonprofit and has a US 501c3 Friends organization, should the applicant be the Israeli organization?
USAID Response: The two types of organizations are eligible organizations in line with eligibility instructions found in Section C of the APS. It is up to the applicant to determine which organization is a better fit for the proposed program while considering the goals of the APS and the merit review criteria.

18. How does the rolling basis work? Is the pot not being emptied as each award is made?
USAID Response: USAID is accepting applications at any time up until the closing date of the APS which is September 2, 2022. Amendment No. 3 to the APS announced that the 2nd review will take place o/a February 7, 2022. Amendments to this APS will announce additional future USAID review timelines. Changes and/or updates to the availability of funds under this APS will be announced via future amendments.

19. Can you say anything about the size of the grant? What do you anticipate the average grant size will be?
USAID Response: As stated in Section B.1 of the APS, it is expected that grants provided through this APS will range up to $5,000,000.

20. It was announced that Concept Papers will begin to be reviewed on Feb 7. Does that mean that Concept Papers received Feb 8-Feb 28 will be put aside and considered only after you review those received by Feb 7?
USAID Response: Yes that is generally correct but the announced timeline does not preclude USAID from preceding to review concept paper applications submitted at any other time. As previously stated, amendments to this APS will announce additional future USAID review timelines.

21. CMM has a strong visibility / publicity requirement. Does MEPPA also require visibility / publicity?
USAID Response: All USAID awards follow the same Branding and Marking requirements. Additional information can be found under Section F.6 of the APS which provides references to USAID Branding and Marking regulations.

22. Will you tell us today the projects accepted to date to move to Co-creation phase?
USAID Response: Projects accepted to move to the Co-creation phase are still considered procurement sensitive information and therefore cannot be shared publicly. Please see the response to Question no. 4 above.

23. To what extent does USAID expect to identify details such as specific project geography at the concept note stage versus the co-creation phase?
USAID Response: Please see the response provided under Question no. 9 above.

24. Roughly, what percentage who get to Phase 2 will get to Phase 3?
USAID Response: We do not have a percentage to provide. It all depends on the success of the applicant and ability of their proposed concept to meet USAID requirements.

25. Do you recognize a need to bring together Palestinian residents of Israel with Palestinians living in the West Bank & Gaza?
USAID Response: Applications will be deemed responsive if they demonstrate through their proposed program how they will meet the objectives of the APS.

26. The Concept Paper doesn't need a detailed budget but does it require to state how much we are requesting and what the overall budget of the project will be (i.e. how much will we be bringing in from other sources)?
USAID Response: Yes. Please refer to the instructions provided in Section D.5 on what to include under the Cover Page of the application.

27. Can you please explain on the feedback you will give to a negative responses to concept note, and if it is possible to learn it and re-apply with a corrected concept note?
USAID Responses: The feedback provided will include both the strengths and weaknesses identified during the review of applications in line with the merit review evaluation criteria. There is no restriction to re-apply under the APS. Yes, your organization is highly encouraged to take this feedback into consideration. However, please note that additional submissions will not be referred to as a 'corrected concept note'. Each submission is a stand alone submission and will be evaluated separately based on the merit review criteria listed in the APS.

28. Any indication on how long each phase takes?
USAID Response: Please see response to Question no. 7 above.

29. How many concept papers you are capable to approve in phase 1?
USAID Response: There is no set amount. The number of applications selected to proceed to phase II will depend on the merit review evaluation results.

30. Can the amount requested be updated in the co-creation phase in order to allow for amendments to the original plan to be implemented?
USAID Response: Yes.

31. Can you share a top line number overview of concept notes received to date, accepted, rejected and co.creations in progress, and any outlook on likely grant making windows resulting?
USAID Response: No. This information is considered procurement sensitive information. Please also see the response provided to Question no. 4 above.

32. Can government agencies apply?
USAID Response: No. Please see the response provided under Question no. 1 above.

33. How do you feel about collaborations between two or more orgs.? Is this a priority for you?
USAID Response: Applicants are welcome to propose partnership ideas as long as it helps meet the goal and objectives of the APS. Identifying potential consortia and partnerships may also take place during the Co-Creation stage under Phase II. Please also see the responses to Questions no. 1 and no. 8 above.

34. Can a Palestinian org. without an Israeli partner apply?
USAID Response: Yes. Please see the response provided under Questions no. 1 and no. 11 above.

35. If a concept paper is rejected, are we able to re-submit the same paper after modification and reconstruction?
USAID Response: Please see the response provided under Question no. 27 above.

36. To have an idea on the importance of P2P and other projects with similar objectives like BREB, can you tell us how much budget is allocated to P2P?
USAID Response: As stated in Section B.1 of the APS, subject to funding availability, USAID intends to provide at least US $15,000,000 in total USAID funding under this People to People Partnership for Peace Fund Grants Activity APS which is open through September 2, 2022. Please monitor the following USAID/MEPPA page for information and updates on present and future initiatives: https://www.usaid.gov/west-bank-and-gaza/meppa

[End of Amendment No. 4]