

**Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number 72026322RFA00005**

**USAID Egyptian Pioneers**

**Compiled Questions**

**I. Business Related Questions:**

1. Are public universities eligible to apply for this opportunity?

Response: Public universities are eligible to apply. As per section C.1 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), eligibility is not restricted.

2. What are the forms required to be sent when applying for this opportunity and its direct link?

Response:

The following SF 424 Forms are required, and can be accessed electronically at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html> :

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information (SF-424A)
- Assurances (SF-424B)

For more details, please review Section D of the NOFO for the application and submission information with particular attention to D.5 for the specific application instructions.

3. Are all activities that will be implemented pre-determined by USAID or are there a plan that must be submitted when applying for this opportunity? And if everything is already specified by the USAID, what is required by the applicants in order to obtain a cooperation agreement to implement those activities? Is it only setting the budget and arranging the activities according to the specific years of grant implementation, or is there something else?

Response: Activities are not predetermined for this activity. However, activities proposed must be responsive to the Program Description found in Section A of the NOFO. Further, please review the detailed application and submission information in Section D of the NOFO.

4. Annex 2-A, Organizational Chart (no page limit) . Is this the chart of the project's departments (Technical, Financial ,,etc) or our Organization's?

Response: The organizational chart to be submitted as Annex 2-A should reflect the activity's (USAID Egyptian Pioneers) organizational structure. The organizational structure refers to describing the lines of authority as well as communication and reporting within the activity's management structure.

5. “Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient” document found at [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303 mav.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303_mav.pdf) (not working page, thus would you clarify what is meant by Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient ?)

Response: Please use the following link instead and check Section D.5.b.iii of the NOFO for more details.

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mav.pdf>

6. The budget should be stated in US Dollars and the USAID/Egypt support should total approximately \$86 million.
- a. Regarding that, does it mean the application must be for 86 million?

Response: \$86 million is the estimated amount for the activity based on market research conducted by USAID/Egypt and the application is expected to be within the same range.

- b. Also, does the project have to fulfill all the mentioned results, results 1, 2 & 3?

Response: Yes.

7. Page 24, Technical Approach: “Applicants are required to include illustrative indicators, methods, and proposed targets for measuring the three results and proposed activities.” Will USAID allow applicants to include an Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan as an annex?

Response: No. The only authorized annex under the Technical Approach, that is exclusive of the page limitation, is Annex 1 “Draft Year One Implementation Plan”. Please see section D.5.a.v. of the NOFO for the list of authorized annexes, and note that no additional annexes or other supporting documentation will be reviewed and evaluated.

8. Page 31, Section D, 5., iv. Other Budgetary Information, B. Spreadsheets Required: Item 3. requires "Separate sheets that breakdown the costs specified in Subsection B above to each of the five program years." Could USAID please clarify which items or activities for which it would like to see five-year implementation budgets? Might this requirement be referring to each of the Results under Section A, 5. Program Activities on pages 12 - 15?

Response: This is a typographical error that is corrected in the conformed version of the NOFO. Item 3 should reflect the nine program years and reads as follows: “Separate sheets that breakdown the costs specified in Subsection B above to each of **the nine** program years. NOTE: Applicants can alternatively include the detailed cost breakdown per year in the overall 108-month summary described above.”

9. Page 57 (related on page 32), Annex 1 - Budget Format and Section D, 5., iv Other Budgetary Information, F. Budget Categories, 5. Subawards (pg. 32):

- a. Annex 1 of the NOFO (pg. 57), Budget Category 5.a. Direct Program activities specifically mentions not to include cost type, subcontracts, and subawards in this section; subcategory 5.e. is only for Subgrants, and the remainder of the template makes no other mention of Subawards. However, in Section D under Budget Categories (pg. 32), the Subawards description includes subrecipient budgets, which seems to contradict the budget template.

Response: Annex 1 “Budget Format”: Budget Category 5 is renamed as “Contractual/Subawards” for consistency with section D that describes the budget categories. Furthermore, sub-category “f” is added for subcontracts (Cost type). Budget Category 5 “Contractual/Subawards” includes the following:

- a) Direct Program activities (including fixed-price, but not cost type, subcontracts AND NOT subawards).
- b) Training;
- c) MEL;
- d) Consultants (including but not limited to expatriate consultants, local consultants, studies, analyses, etc.)
- e) Subgrants
- f) Sub-contracts (Cost type)

See conformed copy of the NOFO with these changes highlighted in yellow.

- b. Further, the budget template category 6. Other Direct Costs (pg. 57) makes no mention of direct program activities.

Response: Direct program activities are to be included under category 5 of the budget template “Contractual/Subawards”. It’s identified as category 5.a in Annex 1.

- c. Could USAID please clarify under which category and subcategory they would like non-fixed fee, direct program activities costs - and, specifically, subawards - in the budget?

Response: Budget Sub-category “5.f” is added to the budget template for cost type sub-contracts.

Budget Category 5 “Contractual/Subawards” includes the following:

- a) Direct Program activities (including fixed-price, but not cost type, subcontracts AND NOT subawards).
- b) Training;
- c) MEL;

- d) Consultants (including but not limited to expatriate consultants, local consultants, studies, analyses, etc.)
- e) Sub-grants;
- f) Sub-contracts (Cost type)

See conformed copy of the NOFO with the changes highlighted in yellow.

10. Page 57, Annex 1 - Budget Format: Would USAID permit additions or subtractions of subcategories as needed to adequately describe costs? For example, if there are no costs in a subcategory, must the submission include a line item with a \$0? And may the submission include other subcategories not listed here?

Response: Applicants may add or remove subcategories from the budget template as needed to adequately describe the costs, provided the subcategories are accurately accounted for under the correct main category line item. Further, the budget is submitted in the format required in the NOFO without change in the main categories.

11. Would it be possible to extend the submission deadline given the magnitude of this application and the extended Great Bairam Holidays (9 calendar days)?

Response: The due date for submitting the applications must remain the same.

12. In page 31 of the NOFO, "Separate sheets that breakdown the costs specified in Subsection B above to each of the five program years. NOTE: Applicants can alternatively include the detailed cost breakdown per year in the overall 108-month summary described above." Please confirm the number of the program years "five program years" as above or 9 years.

Response: Please see the answer to question number 8 above.

13. Can a governmental entity be included as a service provider for some of the project activities and receive fees against their services through federal funds?

Response: Government of Egypt entities cannot be service providers for project activities. Subawards to provide funds to partner government entities for activities to be implemented by the entity have not been authorized. However, subawards to a partner government entity solely for "in-kind" contributions, technical assistance, or other activities provided by the recipient to or on behalf of the partner government entity are allowed.

## II. Technical Questions:

1. Page 11, Target Sectors and Degree Programs: "USAID anticipates that the first cycle of undergraduate scholarships will primarily support climate- and health-related degrees, with specific programs to be identified in partnership with USAID." Can USAID define what is meant by "primarily"? For example, can USAID provide an expected percentage of cohort 1 scholarships that should support climate- and health-related degrees?

Response: As per page 11 of the NOFO, 'On an annual basis, USAID will lead a participatory process with USAID Egyptian Pioneers, other USAID activities, and the GOE to review and update priority sectors and sub-sectors'. USAID/Egypt anticipates that the majority of Cohort 1 undergraduate scholarships will support climate- and health-related degrees. Applicants should propose the numbers of undergraduate scholarships to be awarded for each cohort, but do not need to define specific sector or degree program allocations in their applications. Eligible degree programs for each cohort will be finalized with USAID/Egypt as part of the annual implementation planning process.

2. Page 12, Result 1: Can USAID confirm the expected frequency of sector assessments over the life of the project?

Response: As per page 4 of the NOFO, 'USAID Egyptian Pioneers' implementation, particularly in terms of targeted sectors and degree programs, will be guided by USG and Government of Egypt (GOE) priorities' and per page 11, 'On an annual basis, USAID will lead a participatory process with USAID Egyptian Pioneers, other USAID activities, and the GOE to review and update priority sectors and sub-sectors'. Identified sectors and sub-sectors will guide programming across all three results. Efficient and cost-effective sector assessments will be conducted whenever a new sector or sub-sector is introduced. USAID/Egypt anticipates that at least two sector assessments will be conducted during the first year of implementation. The timing and need for subsequent assessments will be dependent on the annual priority sector review, though USAID/Egypt anticipates no more than six sector assessments throughout the life of the activity. As noted above, these sector assessments will guide the allocation of resources in all three results, not only Result 1.

3. Page 12, Result 1: Can USAID confirm whether the initial partner Ministries for the USAID Egyptian Pioneers project have been identified? And if so, could USAID please share the partner Ministries with applicants?

Response: USAID/Egypt has not identified the initial partner ministries. Per page 9 of the NOFO, 'partner ministries will be selected based on sector priorities mutually agreed with

USAID/Egypt on an annual basis.’ The initial ministries will be confirmed as part of the finalization of the Year One Implementation Plan.

4. Page 12, Result 1: According to the NOFO Master’s degree programs can be at domestic or U.S. institutions. Result 3 (page 14) mentions guidelines in order to meet USAID/Egypt's Congressional earmark (page 14), however, there is no mention of this for Result 1. Can USAID confirm any requirements for institutions? Could USAID confirm if programs need to be taught in English?

Response: USAID/Egypt Congressional earmark guidance does not apply to Result 1. However, applicants should demonstrate and provide evidence how proposed universities and institutions are of high quality and a solid reputation before seeking approval from USAID/Egypt. As per page 13 of the NOFO, ‘final lists of beneficiaries, with associated scholarship details, should be approved by USAID’.

All scholarships for master’s degrees should be for programs taught in English.

5. Page 12, Result 1: Selection of GOE employees and whether there is an expectation that selection would have a diverse pool of trainees (by gender and/or disability, etc.) Some ministries, such as health and education, may have majorities of females and in other ministries, males. Some may not have any PWDs in a leadership pipeline, but some will have in technical positions. Perhaps there could be percentages in the aggregate?

Response: USAID/Egypt has not required fixed diversity percentages for Result 1 given the unpredictable nature of current staff demographics. However, as per page 12 of the NOFO, USAID expects that the ‘selection of individuals to benefit from scholarships will be driven by the needs of the ministries, but should also advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, with particular emphasis on supporting women to assume higher levels of leadership’.

6. Page 12, Result 1: The NOFO makes multiple references to the annual selection of priority sectors and ministries for scholarship and training purposes (Section 4.c on page 9, section 4.g on page 11, and paragraph 1 of IR1 on page 12). On page 12, reference is made to “comprehensive human capacity development plans, informed by priority sector needs assessments.” Does USAID anticipate an initial multi-sector survey and needs assessment in Year 1 that will be referenced and updated as necessary throughout the project, or will such surveys/assessments be conducted annually for the individual sectors prioritized for that year?

Response: USAID/Egypt does not anticipate a multi-sector survey. Per page 11, ‘On an annual basis, USAID will lead a participatory process with USAID Egyptian Pioneers, other USAID activities, and the GOE to review and update priority sectors and sub-sectors’. Efficient and cost-effective sector assessments will be conducted whenever a new sector or sub-sector is introduced. USAID/Egypt anticipates that at least two sector assessments will be conducted during the first year of implementation. The timing and need for subsequent assessments will be dependent on the annual priority sector review, though USAID/Egypt anticipates no more than six sector assessments throughout the life of the activity.

7. Page 12, Result 1: Understanding that the priority sectors for scholarships will be designated on an annual basis, will USAID permit engagement in short-term training opportunities and support for the formation of public-private partnerships in a particular sector to continue in subsequent years, recognizing that more than one year is often required to achieve sustainable outcomes?

Response: Sectors will be prioritized annually and USAID/Egypt expects that investments in the prioritized sectors will span across multiple years.

8. Page 13, Result 1: Can USAID confirm an estimated number of Ministries that they anticipate the USAID Egyptian Pioneers program will work with under Result 1?

Response: USAID/Egypt has not pre-determined the number of ministries that the Pioneers activity will work with. As per page 11 of the NOFO, 'Partner ministries will be selected based on sector priorities mutually agreed with USAID/Egypt on an annual basis'. The numbers of prioritized sectors and ministries will be informed by the levels of needed investments per sector and ministry.

9. Page 13, Result 1: Can USAID provide more information on degree fields of study preferred by the Ministries per question #1 above?

Response: Per page 11 of the NOFO, 'On an annual basis, USAID will lead a participatory process with USAID Egyptian Pioneers, other USAID activities, and the GOE to review and update priority sectors and sub-sectors'. Preferred degree fields of study will be identified through the sector-specific assessments of these prioritized sectors.

10. Page 13, Result 2 (and referred to in Result 2 (page 13) and Result 3 (page 15): NOFO states that "alumni of these scholarships will participate in alumni events that connect them with alumni of other USAID- and State-funded scholarship activities." Can USAID please clarify if the intention is that Pioneers alumni participate in alumni activities organized by the Embassy for alumni of USG-sponsored programs or if the intention is that the implementer is to develop and implement a series of Pioneers alumni activities that also include alumni of other USG-sponsored programs? If the latter, can Pioneers fund costs related to the participation of other USG-sponsored alumni? Also, is the implementer allowed to develop a series of Pioneers alumni activities and cover costs of participation of Pioneers alumni throughout the duration of the project?

Response: USAID/Egypt expects Pioneers alumni to participate in activities organized by the Embassy for alumni of USG-sponsored programs. Please note that as per CFR 200.424, costs incurred by Institutions of Higher Education for, or in support of, alumni/ae activities are unallowable.

11. Page 13, Result 2: Will USAID approve an in-person and virtual mix short-term technical training delivered by US universities?

Response: All short-term training activities must be in-person. Virtual short-term training should only be conducted if necessary, as experienced during the COVID pandemic, and with prior approval from USAID/Egypt.

12. Page 14-15, Result 3: The first paragraph describes 4–5-year undergraduate degrees "structured into four cohorts". Further, paragraph four under Result 3 states that "All scholarship recipients must have access to university preparation and English language training, including one full year of training for students enrolling in non-public universities..."
- a. Could USAID please define what is meant by "a full year"? Generally, preparation programs are an academic year and not a full twelve-month year. Also, could USAID please clarify whether a full year of English training is required for students attending non-public universities and if so, that this would mean students in five-year degree programs at non-public universities would be in the Program for a total of six academic years?

Response: 'One full year of training' refers to an academic year. The USAID Egyptian Pioneers activity will provide a 'bridge year' to students who will join non-public universities to improve their English language and other skills that might be required for these students to excel in their academic studies. This means that students in five-year degree programs at non-public universities would be supported by Pioneers for a total of six academic years. USAID/Egypt expects that exceptions to the university preparation and English language training bridge-year will be limited, with highest likelihood that they might apply for STEM school graduates who have sufficient English language proficiency.

- b. For the final cohort of students, if they attend a full bridge year of English, their 4th academic year will be Year 9 of the period of performance, which would indicate that fields of study would be restricted to four-year degree programs and students may not be able to complete their degrees if they experience any type of delay in academic progression, nor fully participate in alumni activities supported by the program.

Response: The fourth and final cohort will be restricted to four-year degree programs.

13. Page 15, Result 3: The NOFO states that "a combination of different assessment tools and techniques should be used to measure the applicant's abilities, fluency, and skills in a specific subject." Could USAID please clarify if "fluency" refers to English language proficiency and if this means that English language proficiency should be a criterion for selection? In past scholarship programs, English language proficiency was not a criterion for selection.

Response: In this context, 'fluency' does not refer to English language proficiency. English language proficiency should not be a criterion for selection of beneficiaries under Result 3.

14. Page 15, Result 3: Can the required preparation and English language training for scholarship recipients be a mix of in-person and virtual?

Response: All English language training must be in-person. Virtual English language training should only be conducted if necessary, as experienced during the COVID pandemic, and with prior approval from USAID/Egypt.

15. Page 15, Result 3: The NOFO states that students receiving scholarships for undergraduate study at non-public universities must have “access to” university prep and English language training. Are these students required to participate in a year-long bridge program (definition requested in question 12 above), or can those with sufficient English language proficiency enroll directly in a non-public university?

Response: USAID/Egypt expects that exceptions to the university preparation and English language training bridge year will be limited, with highest likelihood that they might apply for STEM school graduates who have sufficient English language proficiency.

16. Page 15, Result 3: Does USAID envision the bridge year for scholarship students selected to attend non-public universities to include remedial or other instruction in academic subjects such as math and science, or only in English language and academic skills?

Response: The bridge year is not intended for remedial or academic subject training aside from English. The bridge year provides students who will join non-public universities an opportunity to have English language training in addition to other skills that might be required for these students to excel in their academic studies.

17. Page 15, Result 3: Can study abroad students in the U.S.--particularly those in the public universities who have not had the benefit of a full year of pre-academic English, take English courses while in the U.S. to improve their English further in an immersive environment?

Response: No. U.S.-based programs may not include English language training. Per page 15 of the NOFO, students in public universities will receive ‘continuous supplemental training’ while studying in Egypt.

18. Result 3, p 15, Expected Results: The majority of high school graduates with disabilities have studied in the arts (adabi) track in high school, which makes them ineligible for science/engineering/nursing studies in university (at least at the public universities). While there could be a small number of students with physical disabilities who have studied in the math/science track in high school, it will be challenging to find a sufficient number who are eligible (studying math/science and reach the required score), are disadvantaged, and are interested in these fields. Is there a possibility of including some scholarships in fields that can be related to climate change (for example) but are not direct studies in this field (studying HR for example) and bidders would provide parallel training in climate change awareness and internships so that we can reach more students with disabilities?

Response: As per page 13 of the NOFO, ‘Result 3 will focus on the same priority sectors as the prior results and the selection of universities and undergraduate degree programs will be driven by the sector assessments and human capacity development plans described under Result 1.’ In the aggregate, at least 10% of scholarships must be awarded to students with

disabilities, but percentages may vary across sectors and cohorts, depending on availability of degree programs.

19. Page 15, Result 3: Where it says “Packages must include wellbeing services” can we define wellbeing as, at a minimum, counseling services? And can the counseling services be provided by an off-campus provider?

Response: The applicant should propose the wellbeing services to be provided. These may include counseling services and such services may be provided by an off-campus provider.

20. Result 1: “GOE ministries and other government institutions at the forefront of Egypt’s strategic development have greater leadership and technical capacity to develop and implement policies and practices to advance national priorities.”

- a. Can non-governmental Egyptian universities benefit from the funding of result 1?

Response: No. Only GOE ministries and other government institutions are eligible for scholarships and training under Result 1.

- b. Can they apply as applicant (awardee) or can be sub awardee?

Response: Non-governmental Egyptian universities can apply as applicants. As per section C.1 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), eligibility is not restricted. Please refer to the subaward explanation provided above.

- c. In what capacity can non-governmental Egyptian universities engage in the framework of result 1?

Response: While only GOE ministries and other government institutions are eligible for scholarships and training under Result 1, non-governmental Egyptian universities may be consulted as part of the sector assessments or engaged to provide training. As noted above, non-governmental Egyptian universities can also apply as applicants.

21. Result 2: “Emerging leaders at non-GOE entities modernize their knowledge, skills, and practice in priority sectors to tackle Egypt’s evolving public and private sector challenges and advance Egypt’s regional and international competitiveness.”

How can non-governmental Egyptian universities benefit from this result – if applicable?

Response: Individuals from non-governmental Egyptian universities may receive scholarships or training dependent on the results of the sector needs assessments and human capacity development plans.

22. Result 3: “Young Egyptians of high financial need gain market-relevant knowledge and skills in fields that situate them to effectively fuel Egypt’s long-term inclusive economic growth.”

What does the condition “accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, or meets standards equivalent to those required for

United States institutional accreditation by a regional accrediting agency recognized by such Department.” mean? Does it mean:

- *Academic accreditation by Egyptian Higher Education Ministry & the Egyptian Supreme Council of universities (SCU)?*

**Or**

- *Quality accreditation by separate entities such as: The National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education “NAQAEE”?*

Response: As per page 14 of the NOFO, under Result 3, the award recipient is responsible for providing evidence that each institution selected to enroll undergraduate scholarship recipients satisfies USAID/Egypt’s Congressional earmark. Eligibility is not restricted to any one accreditation authority. Approval of any partner university will be based on the evidence that the applicant provides of adherence to Congressional earmark guidance.

23. Result 3: “Scholarships to earn four- or five-year undergraduate degrees at Egyptian public and non-public universities will be structured into four cohorts, beginning with a smaller number of students for the first two cohorts and increasing to larger numbers for cohorts three and four. Specific numbers of scholarships to be awarded in each cohort will be finalized with USAID as part of the annual work planning process.”

How many is acceptable for the first 2 cohorts? and how many is acceptable for 3 & 4?

Response: As per page 14 of the NOFO, ‘Specific numbers of scholarships to be awarded in each cohort will be finalized with USAID as part of the annual work planning process’. However, USAID/Egypt anticipates that cohort 1 will have approximately 15% of the undergraduate scholarships, cohort 2 approximately 25%, cohort 3 approximately 40% and cohort 4 approximately 20%.

24. In the target population section on page 9, it is stated that “For the postgraduate scholarships and training opportunities for GOE key entities, partner ministries will be selected based on sector priorities mutually agreed with USAID/Egypt on an annual basis.” There is a concern about the “annual basis” part as applying for postgraduate programs and getting accepted takes time and effort, never mind identifying and selecting the right candidates etc. It seems like a short time span for potential change to other ministries or sectors. Please advise.

Response: Per page 11 of the NOFO, ‘On an annual basis, USAID will lead a participatory process with USAID Egyptian Pioneers, other USAID activities, and the GOE to review and update priority sectors and sub-sectors’. When new sectors are introduced, USAID/Egypt expects that investments to those sectors will span across multiple years.

25. Please elaborate on the definition for a non-public university. Does it include private universities realizing profits?

Response: For the purposes of the Pioneers activity, ‘non-public university’ refers only to non-public and not-for-profit institutions.

26. Would the ‘Egypt University of Informatics (EUI)’ be considered eligible to be part of the partner universities consortium?

Response: Per page 14 of the NOFO, under Result 3, the award recipient is responsible for confirming that each institution selected to enroll undergraduate scholarship recipients satisfies USAID/Egypt’s Congressional earmark. Approval of any partner university will be based on the evidence that the applicant provides of adherence to Congressional earmark guidance.

27. Would a public economic organization with the government heading its board be considered eligible as a partner under Result 1?

Response: USAID/Egypt is not able to make blanket determinations about the eligibility of such organizations under Result 1. The award recipient will identify and document eligibility of organizations as part of the finalization of the sector-specific human capacity development plans. As per page 12 of the NOFO, ‘Final lists of beneficiaries, with associated scholarship details, should be approved by USAID/Egypt’.

28. With regards to the second expected result under Result 1, “*At least 50 3-6 month scholarships for mid-career GOE professionals to pursue post-doctoral studies at U.S. universities*”, can the post-doctoral studies be held in U.S. universities in Egypt, or do they have to be in universities based in the U.S.?

Response: Post-doctoral studies must be carried out at U.S. universities located in the U.S.

29. With regards to the third expected sub-result under Result 1, “*Short-term technical training delivered through U.S. university programs or visiting scholars to at least 250 mid-career GOE professionals*”:

- a. Can you define short-term?

Response: ‘Short-term’ refers to training of a duration of up to six months.

- b. What do you mean by technical training? Should the training involve topics related to the priority master’s degrees in expected result #1? Or should the training take a more general form of leadership training, etc.?

Response: ‘Technical training’ is training addressing technical needs. Training will support the same sectors as the master’s degrees, but topics will be informed by the sector assessments and human capacity development plans.

- c. What is meant by U.S. university programs?

Response: ‘U.S. university programs’ are programs designed and delivered at U.S. higher education institutions in the U.S.

d. Does the result entail travel to the U.S., and if so, for approximately what duration? Can the training be conducted virtually?

Response: Yes, Result 1 includes travel to the U.S. for up to six months. Virtual short-term training should only be conducted if necessary, as experienced during the COVID pandemic, and with prior approval from USAID/Egypt.

30. With regards to the expected result under Result 2, “Short-term technical training delivered through U.S. university programs or visiting scholars to at least 200 mid-career professionals”, can the “organizations, companies, and individuals to receive scholarships and training,” include NGOs?

Response: Per page 13 of the NOFO, ‘Result 2 is designed to be complementary to Result 1, providing for private sector advancements that support overall GOE development priorities’ and therefore, the primary target for this result is private sector organizations. The award recipient may, however, propose scholarships and training for other non-GOE entities, including NGOs, in their sector-specific human capacity development plans when driven by the needs of the sector. As per page 13 of the NOFO, ‘Final lists of beneficiaries, with associated scholarship details, should be approved by USAID/Egypt’.

31. Would the ‘Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport’ be considered eligible to be part of the partner universities consortium?

Response: Per page 14 of the NOFO, under Result 3, the award recipient is responsible for confirming that each institution selected to enroll undergraduate scholarship recipients satisfies USAID/Egypt’s Congressional earmark. Approval of any partner university will be based on the evidence that the applicant provides of adherence to Congressional earmark guidance.

32. There is no mention of home visits or selection camps in the NOFO. Will this be part of the process for Result 3?

Response: Applicants are free to propose their preferred and recommended selection process and tools. However, the applicant is expected to propose a recruitment and selection process for Result 3 that will best identify young Egyptians of high financial need and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, with particular emphasis on geographic representation and inclusion of women and people with disabilities in currently under-represented fields.

33. What is the timeline/number of cohorts for results 1 and 2? Would it follow the same structure of the undergraduate scholarships i.e. would it be divided into 4 cohorts, beginning with a smaller number of beneficiaries for the first two cohorts and increasing to larger numbers for cohorts three and four?

Response: Result 1 and Result 2 will be structured around sectors rather than cohorts. The timelines and numbers of beneficiaries for each sector will be driven by the sector assessments and human capacity development plans.

34. Under Result 3, *“In order to satisfy USAID/Egypt’s Congressional earmark, all scholarship recipients must be enrolled in not-for-profit institutions of higher education in Egypt that are currently accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, or meets standards equivalent to those required for United States institutional accreditation by a regional accrediting agency recognized by such Department...The curriculum of such institutions should encourage critical thinking and be taught in the English language. At a minimum, partner universities must be officially accredited, offer high-quality credit hour programs, and have active student clubs and activities.”*

The above is the criteria for the universities where Undergraduate students should be placed. Do the same criteria apply to the universities in Egypt under Result 1.1 where mid-career GOE professionals would be placed to obtain Master’s degrees?

Response: No, USAID/Egypt Congressional earmark guidance does not apply to Result 1.

35. With regards to the short-term technical training of GOE professionals under Result 1.3, should the training be conducted fully in English? For individuals selected who are not well-versed in English, can their training be conducted in Arabic or translated directly?

Response: All U.S.-based short-term training of GOE professionals under Result 1 must be delivered in English. Egypt-based short-term training of GOE professionals under Result 1 may be delivered in Arabic with prior approval from USAID/Egypt.

36. Based on our research, the universities in the New Capital are not yet accredited. Would they qualify as partner universities meeting the earmark language?

Response: Per page 14 of the NOFO, under Result 3, the award recipient is responsible for confirming that each institution selected to enroll undergraduate scholarship recipients satisfies USAID/Egypt’s Congressional earmark. Approval of any partner university will be based on the evidence that the applicant provides of adherence to Congressional earmark guidance.