

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### CALL FOR LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT SUBMISSIONS FOR ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT USAID'S DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES IN JORDAN

#### JOLOCAL ADDENDUM #23 TO

#### LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT APS No.: 7200AA19APS00007

**APPLICANTS - PLEASE NOTE:** This is an addendum to an existing announcement. All interested organizations must carefully review both this addendum AND the full announcement, which can be found at : <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>  
Important information contained in the full worldwide announcement is not repeated in this specific addendum.

This program is authorized in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Through this addendum to the Locally Led Development Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 7200AA19APS00007, USAID/Jordan is making a special call to local actors for the submission of proposed activities focused on advancing USAID's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) development objectives in Jordan. Expressions of Interest (one page) or Concept Papers (five pages) can be submitted anytime through April 8, 2024. Prior to submitting an Expression of Interest or Concept Paper under this addendum, Applicants must read and understand the Annual Program Statement, which can be found at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>, as well as the information contained in this addendum.

USAID/Jordan will prioritize submissions in the following sectors: democracy and governance, economic development, water security, environment sustainability and climate change, education and youth as well as waste management. This addendum supports all types of assistance awards allowed by USAID's policies, including renewal awards. USAID anticipates making multiple awards for a period of up to five years in amounts of \$250,000 USD and above.

The Locally Led Development APS and this addendum have been translated into Arabic at [\[link\]](#) for reference. If there are discrepancies between the English and Arabic versions of either document, the English version will control.

Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the Locally Led Development APS apply (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>).

## **Section 1: Background**

Jordan faces several daunting challenges as it strives to attain its development and reform goals. These include a rapidly growing population, gaps in the provision of basic education, high unemployment, weak citizen participation in governance and politics, water scarcity, reliance on expensive imported energy, and gender disparities.

Effective, lasting solutions to Jordan's development challenges must build on the priorities, knowledge, and aspirations of a broad cross-section of Jordanians. At USAID/Jordan we are expanding our commitment to locally led development to create space for more people and organizations to lead and strengthen local systems, and respond to local needs.

## **Section 2: Objectives**

The awards we envision through this addendum will complement and support USAID's extensive portfolio of activities in Jordan and introduce USAID to new partners and ideas. All proposed activities under this addendum must relate to and contribute to the objectives outlined in [USAID/Jordan's Country Development Cooperation Strategy \(CDCS\) for 2020-2025](#). We will consider activities that advance any of the five USAID development objectives in Jordan:

1. Inclusive Private Sector-Led Growth
2. Jordan's Ability to Improve its Water Security Strengthened
3. Equitable, Democratic Governance Strengthened
4. Human Potential Accelerated
5. Agency and Leadership of Women and Youth Enhanced

Please review the [USAID Jordan Country Development Cooperation Strategy](#) for more details about our development objectives. USAID is particularly interested in submissions that address the areas listed below.

### **Inclusive Economic Development:**

- Conduct independent economic research on topics critical to Jordan's economy.
- Support private sector solutions to improve skills, productivity, or innovation in manufacturing, e-mobility, green industries, tourism, and creative industries.
- Increase marginalized populations' participation in the Jordanian economy, including women and youth.

### **Water Security**

- Support water conservation and/or water recycling efforts- especially interventions with high pay-off in terms of water saved or re-used per dollar invested. Illustrative ideas include:
  - Water conservation activities in households and schools
  - Rehabilitation and/or establishment of community-level water harvesting/retention ponds that are used for non-drinking purposes
  - Expanded use of treated wastewater effluent

- Conduct research activities that can advance efforts by the private sector, Government of Jordan, and/or the public to conserve water.

#### **Democracy, Rights, and Governance:**

- Address policies, attitudes, and behaviors that advance the following areas: anti-corruption, human rights, transparency and accountability, rule of law, misinformation, trafficking-in-persons, women's rights and gender equality, gender-based violence, child protection, local governance, access to information, civic and political participation, labor rights, or other relevant self-identified areas.
- Address community services and policies that target the following populations including, but not limited to: women, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, or other marginalized groups.
- Support local civil society organizations to achieve their core missions through institutional capacity building, including internal training, technical assistance, and other self-identified needs.

#### **Education:**

- Enhance public-private sector solutions in data analytics and system strengthening.
- Increase public awareness of student learning benchmarks and encourage communication and accountability between school management, teachers, and community members (particularly in boy's schools).
- Pilot innovative public-private partnership school maintenance and/or transportation models that enhance school safety and student well-being.
- Strengthen private-public partnerships for the production and provision of diverse, inclusive, and representative fiction and non-fiction leveled and decodable reading materials for KG2 through Grade 12.

#### **Youth:**

- Enhance the agency and leadership of youth to more meaningfully contribute to Jordan's economic prosperity and inclusive governance.
- Increase adoption of inclusive social norms around education and employment.
- Mitigate barriers to youth participation and leadership in the economy and public life.
- Enhance inclusive participation in the economy and public life, essential for the country's political and economic stability.

#### **Health:**

- Enhance public awareness and demand for primary healthcare services, especially for vulnerable populations, including refugees, through community-based approaches.
- Support innovative approaches to reduce smoking, decrease overweight/obesity rates, improve diets, and increase physical activity.
- Support public-private sector solutions for community health, primary health service delivery, referral models, health information, and health facility maintenance.

## **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change**

- Increase public awareness through key messages and communication materials, access to relevant information, and opportunities for dialogue and community engagement on environmental sustainability and Climate Change.
- Improve environmental sustainability, climate change-related information technology, education, and related research.
- Address the socio-economic impacts of climate change, such as drought, desertification, and loss of biodiversity, to strengthen the resilience of communities and vulnerable groups living in rural areas, or urban areas that lack basic services.
- Develop nature-based solutions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively.
- Support green infrastructure and urban development initiatives that enhance living conditions and resilience of vulnerable communities.

## **Waste Management**

- Support waste reduction and reuse (minimizing waste going to landfills) initiatives that engage and involve communities.
- Promote recycling awareness and behavior change in rural and urban communities.

Building on the approaches suggested above, applicants are encouraged to suggest other approaches that are important to local stakeholders in the objective areas. Local actors are not required to initially propose a fully designed activity for this addendum -- a submission that suggests a process to identify and then act on solutions from the local context is fully within the intent of the Locally Led Development APS. Successful applicants will work with USAID/Jordan to co-create a fully designed activity. Refer to [Section 8: Selection Process and Co-Creation](#)

## **Section 3: Eligibility Criteria**

USAID welcomes submissions from a wide variety of local actors who bring an understanding of the development challenges facing their communities, countries, or regions or who demonstrate a way to determine local priorities in their approach. Eligible applicants:

1. Must be local entities in **Jordan**. When determining if an entity is a “local entity” for the purposes of this APS, USAID will consider:
  - a. Whether the entity is legally organized under the laws of **Jordan**;
  - b. Whether the entity has its principal place of business or operations in **Jordan**;
  - c. Whether the entity is majority owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of **Jordan**; and
  - d. Whether the entity is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of **Jordan**.
2. Cannot have received more than \$5 million in direct funding (as a prime awardee) from USAID in the previous five fiscal years.

3. Cannot be a U.S.-based organization. U.S.-based organizations are not eligible as prime awardees under this APS.

**Note: For purposes of this definition, “majority-owned” and “managed by” include, without limitation, beneficiary interests and the power, either directly or indirectly, whether exercised or exercisable, to control the election, appointment, or tenure of the organization's managers or a majority of the organization's governing body by any means.**

Submissions can include one or more entities as partners working together (teaming arrangements) to achieve a common goal in a consortium. If the consortium itself is not a separate registered entity, then one of the organizations will receive the award as the prime recipient. In that case, the prime recipient must meet the eligibility requirements noted above.

#### **Section 4: Locally Led Development Approaches**

Applicants are encouraged to **incorporate one or more** of the following approaches in submissions, **or** propose a different approach(es) that reflects the Applicant’s own locally led development learning goals.

1. **Mechanisms** that improve the flow of information among the Applicant and its own constituents, partners, and USAID to strengthen accountability to local constituents for achieving and sustaining results.
2. **Participatory analytical approaches**, which may provide a better understanding of the complex environments in which the activity will operate.
3. **Participatory decision-making**, which includes locally led priority-setting, collaborative design, and other means of shifting decision-making power and control to local actors, including people who have traditionally been marginalized, such as women, youth, religious and ethnic minorities, and other marginalized groups ensuring inclusive local leadership.
4. **Mobilizing local resources**, which includes local philanthropy; partnerships that leverage resources from the local private sector, faith-based organizations, government, civil society, and academia; and other sources of local skills and finances to replace those of international donors.
5. **Strengthening local networks**, which may include understanding and supporting existing and emerging networks of local actors, supporting the work of local organizations, market facilitation, collective action, collective impact, and other demand-driven approaches to connecting local needs with local resources.
6. **Locally/community-led approaches to design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning** that prioritize local/community definitions of success and enhance local actors’ role in managing and using data and learning related to development solutions, the development process, and the sustainability of results achieved.
7. **Strengthening local capacity** which includes strengthening the role of local institutions and actors to sustain development outcomes with an eye toward ending the need for foreign assistance.

8. **Adapting and problem-solving in non-permissive environments**, where uncertainty, instability, inaccessibility, or insecurity constrain the ability to operate safely and effectively. This may include environments such as those affected by natural disasters, inaccessible physical geographies, active conflict, corruption, closing political spaces, criminality, and pandemics, where local approaches are essential for long-term resilience and sustainability.

For further information on USAID’s locally led development Initiatives and locally led approaches, please visit the [Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships Hub website](#).

### **Section 5: Budget Considerations**

As stated in its [Local Capacity Strengthening Policy](#), USAID must consider the potentially disruptive role that foreign assistance plays in local systems and support these systems to eventually move beyond the need for international donor funding. It is not USAID’s intention to temporarily flood a local organization with funding, artificially expanding its size beyond what can reasonably be supported through local resources after an award ends. As part of their submissions, applicants must propose a budget that reasonably reflects their existing resources and capacity to grow sustainably (sometimes referred to as “absorptive capacity”).

### **Section 6: Merit Review Criteria**

Submissions meeting the eligibility criteria (see [Section 3, Eligibility Criteria](#)) will be evaluated based on the merit review criteria below:

#### **A. Locally Led Development**

The applicant demonstrates a strong understanding of the local context and priorities and is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the people they serve. The proposed approach and any teaming arrangements effectively shift priority-setting and decision-making power to diverse local actors, including traditionally marginalized people, such as women, youth, and other marginalized groups. The Applicant demonstrates a strong commitment to learning that advances the practice of locally led development for themselves, their constituents, and the wider development community. USAID’s investment in this work is expected to strengthen the capacity of local organizations, networks, and/or communities to deliver results beyond the end of the funded activities.

#### **B. Advancing Jordan CDCS Development Objectives**

The extent to which the submission advances one of the five Jordan CDCS development objectives listed above. ([Jordan CDCS](#)).

The review of the submission will consider the extent to which the proposed approach is informed by available evidence and demonstrates the expected impact/benefit merits of the investment.

While merit criteria are paramount, cost considerations may also be a factor for award. The U.S. Government is not obligated to make an award based on the lowest proposed cost or to the Applicant with the highest merit evaluation score.

### **Section 7: Submission Instructions**

There are two options for applicants who wish to engage with USAID on a proposed idea:

1. An applicant may choose to first submit a one page Expression of Interest to initiate a dialogue with USAID about an idea. USAID will consider the Expression of Interest and then may request a full Concept Paper to learn more.

- OR -

2. An applicant may skip the Expression of Interest and submit a fully developed five page Concept Paper.

Instructions for each option are included below. Expressions of Interest and Concept Papers are to be sent electronically to USAID/Jordan at [JoLocal@usaid.gov](mailto:JoLocal@usaid.gov). Submissions received by any other means will not be considered. Submissions will be accepted anytime before the April 8, 2024 closing date. Only one submission per applicant organization may be considered. USAID/Jordan will confirm receipt via email within one week of submission.

#### **Option 1: Expressions of Interest**

Expressions of Interest must be submitted using the Expression of Interest [template](#), and may be submitted in either Arabic or English. Expressions of Interest must not exceed 1 page in total length. After USAID/Jordan reviews the Expressions of Interest, applicants whose Expression of Interest passes and is selected for further consideration will be contacted and requested to submit a Concept Paper. Applicants whose Expression of Interest is not selected for further consideration will be informed. Expressions of Interest are meant to be a succinct yet specific description of the Applicant's proposed idea, objectives, locally led development approach, and how it supports one of USAID/Jordan's development objectives.

#### **Option 2: Concept Paper Submission**

Concept Papers must be submitted in English using the [Concept Paper template](#). Concept Papers must not exceed 5 pages in total length and must include the signature of the individual authorized to negotiate on behalf of the prime Applicant.

### **Section 8: Selection Process and Co-Creation**

USAID/Jordan is responsible for the selection process and for the management of any awards issued under this JoLocal addendum. USAID/Jordan will convene a review committee to review Expressions of

Interest and Concept Papers and select any for further co-creation. All submissions are reviewed based upon the criteria outlined in Section 6, Merit Review Criteria. Each criterion is weighted equally. USAID may elect to engage with applicants on their ideas before deciding to proceed with a co-creation process.

If a Concept Paper is selected to co-create an activity with USAID/Jordan, the Applicant will be contacted by an Agreement Officer (AO) from USAID/Jordan and given instructions for the co-creation period and pre-award requirements. Applicants not selected to advance to co-creation will also be notified. Prior to award, USAID/Jordan and the Applicant will have significant interaction, which could be in-person, via phone, and/or electronically to co-create the activity. During co-creation, USAID and the Applicant will discuss aspects of the proposed Concept Paper to further develop the activity parameters. If agreement is reached, the co-creation will ultimately result in a program description, budget and related award elements. USAID/Jordan anticipates that the co-creation process will last approximately 16 weeks.

Section 9, Federal Award Information of the Locally Led Development APS includes the requirements that an applicant must meet if they are requested to co-create an activity and receive an award from USAID. Please note that **these requirements do not have to be met in order to submit an EOI or Concept Paper under the APS.**

### **Section 9: Sharing of Submissions**

If USAID identifies opportunities to strengthen or fund a submission by connecting it with other USAID mechanisms, other potential funders, and/or external partners, USAID may make it available internally or externally for up to one year from receipt of the submission for appropriate consideration.

### **Section 10: Questions and Further Assistance**

Questions regarding this addendum may be directed to [JoLocal@usaid.gov](mailto:JoLocal@usaid.gov).

Before submitting an Expression of Interest or Concept Paper, Applicants are encouraged to read through USAID's resources for organizations seeking funding and partnership opportunities, including [How to Work with USAID](#) and [workwithusaid.org](http://workwithusaid.org)

For additional information on the Locally Led Development APS objectives and requirements, please refer to the Locally Led Development APS, which can be found at the following website:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>