



USAID | WEST BANK/GAZA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Amendment Date Issued: October 15, 2021

Subject: Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Annual Program Statement (APS)
Number 72029421APS00001 People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund Grants
Activity / Amendment No. 2

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The purpose of this amendment is to:

1. Cover Letter – Page 1 – Delete the third paragraph in its entirety and replace with the following in lieu thereof:

“Concept Papers will be reviewed on a rolling basis. This APS is open for one year, until September 1, 2022. USAID will start reviewing the first round of Concept Papers on or about **October 28, 2021**. Amendments to this APS will announce future USAID review timelines.”

2. Provide responses to questions raised to date under the subject APS under Annex A to this Amendment;
3. Provide responses to questions raised during the Pre-Application Conference held on October 5, 2021 under Annex B to this Amendment;
4. Provide the presentation shared during the Pre-Application Conference held on October 5, 2021 under Annex C 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. Would a joint project between Jews and Bedouin in the Negev meet the eligibility criteria?
USAID Response: Proposed projects need to meet the goal and objectives of the APS. There is no restriction to the categories of participants.
2. Must the program be entirely new, or can an organization have run it successfully in the past?
USAID Response: Proposed programs can be entirely new or ones that have run successfully in the past as long as they meet the goals and objectives of the APS.
3. Given the broad definition of People-to-People under this APS, could the project include only Israeli or only Jewish participants, as long as a strong case is made that the proposed activities promote greater understanding, trust, and cooperation, or support peacebuilding?
USAID Response: Yes, it will be up to the applicant to demonstrate that proposed activities promote the stated objectives in the APS.
4. The APS places emphasis on grassroots work, but it appears this is not a prerequisite for funding consideration. Would a project that involves Israeli and Palestinian or Jewish and Arab people in influential positions, such as social change leaders, academics, or public office holders, be eligible for funding?
USAID Response: To be eligible for consideration, proposed programs need to respond to the goal and objectives of the APS.
5. How does USAID see the scope of this opportunity compared to the recently-released *CMM People-to-People Reconciliation Fund Program* (NOFO 72029421RFA00001), which emphasized some similar programming in terms of promoting cooperation through Israeli/Palestinian partnerships?
USAID Response: This opportunity is broader in scope and has a more relaxed definition of the people-to-people requirement.
6. Is working with Palestinians in Israel who are citizens and working with Palestinians in the West Bank and/or Gaza eligible for this grant and would it be considered cross border work?
USAID Response: There is no requirement for the project to be cross border. It will be up to the applicant to demonstrate that proposed activities promote the stated objectives in the APS.
7. For the engagement between Palestinians and Israelis, do the Israelis need to be Jewish? If yes, can participants be Palestinian with key leaders being both Jewish and Palestinian? (Mainly in reference to capacity building, knowledge transfer, building a cross border ecosystem, etc.).
USAID Response: The Israeli participants can be either Arab or Jewish citizens, or both.
8. In the concept introduction part of the technical application, what does USAID mean by identifying “potential triggers as they relate to the proposed activities?” What is being triggered?

USAID Response: Applicants are requested to explain the triggers that caused the conflict/issue that is being addressed or targeted in the proposed program.

9. Is it beneficial to touch on more than one focus area?

USAID Response: It will be up to the applicant to demonstrate that proposed focused areas promote stated objectives in the APS

10. Can our program/application target more than one illustrative focus area?

USAID Response: Yes.

11. Are areas classified as C in the Palestinian territories considered legal boundaries, and it is permissible to work with them and target those areas in the project?

USAID Response: This funding opportunity seeks people-to-people activities between all Israelis and Palestinians.

12. Is there a minimum grant amount for a three year proposal?

USAID Response: Not at this time. Please note the information in Section B on the projected resources available

13. Am I correct in understanding that the first stage requires only the Concept Paper, and not a separate, delineated budget?

USAID Response: Correct, Phase 1 is the concept paper stage only

14. Is there an expected publication date for the future review schedule?

USAID Response: The APS is open for the year and USAID will be reviewing concepts on a rolling basis.

15. Please confirm that as a first step in the process, Applicants should only submit a 7-page Concept Paper.

USAID Response: See response to Q #13 above.

16. If possible, please provide an indication of the estimated duration of the three-step process, from the presentation of the Concept Paper up to the award.

USAID Response: Depending on the success of an application, each submission will have their own timeline to potential award

17. In Section III, Institutional Capability, please confirm that the Applicant may include information about the prime party as well as the rest of the organizations forming part of the team.

USAID Response: The information requested is for the prime applicant. The prime applicant can determine if it is necessary to submit information forming the team/consortium.

18. Please confirm that a Start-Up organization meeting all USAID requirements of financial and management capacity can lead a team of local organizations to develop a Concept Paper Application.

USAID Response: USAID does not define the term “start-up.” If an organization is a new partner, it will be subject to USAID’s risk assessment and pre-award requirements.

19. Noting the estimated start date on or about December 2021 (pg. 9), what is USAID's anticipated notification timeline for concept notes submitted on or around October 8 to receive approval to move on to the next co-creation phase? What is the notification timeline for rejected concept notes?

USAID Response: See #16. Each application will have their own timeline to potential award

20. What are the benefits of having joint applications with co-applicants, vs. a single applicant?

USAID Response: This is up to the applicants to determine. Please submit the best application that will meet USAID criteria and objectives of this APS

21. If there are co-applicants to the application, does the money go directly from USAID to the co-applicants or does it go through the main applicant? In other words, would the co-applicants get a check from USAID or would it be funneled through the main applicant?

USAID Response: The only direct relationship USAID will have is with the prime organization. As such, US federal funds will be transferred to the prime organization only.

22. If an organization gets funding in the first year of MEPPA, are they eligible for future funding under MEPPA? Or is it recommended to apply for multi-year funding?

USAID Response: This is a stand-alone funding opportunity and is part of the overall MEPPA initiative. As applicants, you will need to decide whether you are applying for a proposed program of one year or multiple years. This APS is currently open for one year, subject to availability of funds, applications are accepted through September 2, 2022.

23. Does the grant include the cost of **building infrastructure** like building for an intended activity?

USAID Response: Yes construction costs are allowable under USAID awards. However, please note that construction awards include additional restrictions and requirements to ensure that applicable construction standards are met

24. Does it allow **procurement of a car** for the activities sustainable transportation?

USAID Response: Vehicles are considered restricted commodities and require further review and approval documentation. Approval considerations will take into account your proposed program and a cost effectiveness analysis. Please note that should applicants proceed to Phase 2, USAID will directly work with the applicant on these types of cost questions and concerns, there is no need to be concerned with these during Phase I, the Concept Paper submission.

25. Should we have a formal partnership with an **Israeli organization** as a condition?

USAID Response: That is not a condition for selection nor award.

26. Does this grant support buying equipment like medical devices

USAID Response: If determined to be allocable and reasonable, medical devices are allowable under USAID awards, however they fall under the commodities category that require additional approvals due to safety requirements. Should this be relevant and applicable under any of the

apparently successful applications, USAID will work directly with the applicant during negotiations or post award on the paperwork and documentation needed to process these approvals.

27. Does the partner organization in Israel have a specific percentage of the project budget and how much is the percentage for the partner?

USAID Response: No requirement or restriction to this extent exists under the APS. It is up to the applicants to determine the best and most optimal composition of their team given their proposed program.

28. Is it possible to buy a car in order to implement the project activities?

USAID Response: See response to # 24 above.

29. Is the leading organization in Palestinian territories, should provide copies of IDs and person names who are working in the partner organization in Israel for vetting?

USAID Response: If selected, USAID will work with the apparently successful applicants to complete all vetting requirements in accordance with Mission Order # 21 (Annex 3 of the APS)

[End of Annex A]

Annex B – Questions and Answers / Pre-Application Conference

1. Would a private sector company from Jerusalem, working in Hi Tech, be eligible? Project related to capacity building and internship
USAID Response: 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. What happened to the \$250,000,000 legislation package?
USAID Response: In 2020, through the Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA), Congress authorized \$250 million of funding over five years for its implementation. The Legislation sets forth two tracks: (1) the People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund, implemented by USAID, which will provide funding to qualified organizations that help build the foundation for peaceful co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians and for a sustainable two-state solution; and (2) the Joint Investment for Peace Initiative, implemented by the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), which will provide investments in, and support to, entities that carry out projects that contribute to the development of the Palestinian private sector economy in the West Bank and Gaza.

This APS is USAID’s first solicitation issued under the parameters of USAID’s People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund.

3. Are projects related to Jewish and Arab Israeli relevant in p2p grants?
USAID Response: Yes. The legislative framework for the Partnership for Peace Fund envisions a transformative approach to peacebuilding between Israelis and Palestinians to build broad-based, grassroots, and popular support for peaceful co-existence and a sustainable two-state solution. Under this APS USAID expects to target those beneficiaries most affected by the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

4. What is a P2P approach ?
USAID Response: 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.

5. Will smaller projects be considered? Something with a budget of \$200,000 for example
USAID Response: Yes. Please note that there is no minimum threshold under the APS.
6. Can you please let us know what type of advocacy is permitted for leveraging policy change? You don't fund lobbying, I know. How do we address interaction with powerholders on The Hill or generally in DC, please?
USAID Response: Applicants should focus on policy changes on a local level rather than Washington.
7. Is there a lower limit on amount of money (what is too small)?
USAID Response: See response to # 5 above.
8. If 15-24 is considered youth, is there a provision made for programs with younger participants? i.e. 10-14
USAID Response: While youth development programs often focus on young people in the 15--24 year age range, the policy recognizes that USAID youth programs likely engage a broader cohort of 10 and 29 year olds; with the critical understanding that the transition from childhood to adulthood is not finite or linear and varies across and within countries.
9. What is the expected timeline between the application submission and the program start date?
USAID Response: Depending on the success of an application, each submission will have their own timeline to potential award
10. Will income generating projects of NGOs whose regular programs make P2P interventions be considered?
USAID Response: Program income may be generated under awards resulting from this APS. Program Income for all award(s) resulting from this APS may be used for cost-sharing or matching in accordance with 2 CFR 200.307 (e) for US NGOs and the Required as Applicable Provision "Program Income" (December 2014) in ADS 303 for non-US NGOs.
11. What is the time schedule/ cycle for approval?
USAID Response: See response to # 9 above.
12. What is the minimum award amount? What is the target award amount?
USAID Response: Please refer to Section B.1 of the APS "Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated". There is no minimum amount. It is expected that grants provided through this APS will range up to \$5,000,000

13. Does a non-profit itself need to be based in Israel/West Bank/Gaza? Or could it be based elsewhere?
USAID Response: No. See response to # 9 above.
14. Do we need to address all 3 objectives in on application?
USAID Response: Applicants could submit Concept Papers that address one or all three objectives. There is no requirement to address all three.
15. Is it intended that we address all three of the objectives in one program design, or can we focus on a couple of them? Further, can we include an objective not given in the NOFO so long as it relates to the themes of the Fund?
USAID Response: See response to # 14 above. Proposed programs need to meet at least one of the objectives of the APS.
16. Does it need to be a new project?
USAID Response: No. Proposed programs can be entirely new or ones that have run successfully in the past as long as they meet the goals and objectives of the APS.
17. Does P2P by definition mean that the core activity must involve Israeli and Palestinian or Jewish and Arab participants? Or is it enough that the activities target those populations as indirect/direct beneficiaries?
USAID Response: See response to # 4 above. Under this APS USAID expects to target those beneficiaries most affected by the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict
18. I apologize if this was answered already, as a whole, are Arab and Jewish Israeli beneficiaries an option or does it have to be Palestinian/ Israeli population?
USAID Response: See response to #17 above.
19. Are Druze and Bedouin communities considered potential beneficiaries?
USAID Response: See response to #17 above.
20. Can you clarify the call's stance on supporting Jewish-Arab people to people activities, will they be considered
USAID Response: See response to #3 above.
21. The CMM program in earlier years included Jordanians as participants/ target audience. What is the situation in this APS? Can Israeli / Palestinian activities also held in Jordan be acceptable expenses?
USAID Response: This APS is a stand-alone Funding Opportunity and has no link to the USAID/WBG CMM Program. Expenses in general need to be allowable, allocable and reasonable to the proposed program. In the cases where applicants are selected to move to the second phase of the selection process, this review will be conducted between USAID and the applicant during the Co-Creation stage.

22. Will you facilitate partnerships between applicants?

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.

23. What is the percentage of the partner regarding the total project budget? What is also the admin cost percentage?

USAID Response: This is up to the applicants to determine. Please submit the best application that will meet USAID criteria and objectives of this APS

24. Is there a max % of the project that USAID will fund?

USAID Response: See response to #12 above.

25. With respect to procurement guidelines, are water pumps/local irrigation system considered eligible costs?

USAID Response: Expenses in general need to be allowable, allocable and reasonable to the proposed program. In the case where applicants are selected to move to the second phase of the selection process, this review will be conducted between USAID and the applicant during the Co-Creation stage.

26. Is USAID using an evaluation chart with points specified to evaluate the concept note? Can the chart be shared?

USAID Response: See 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

27. What is the relationship here between USAID and State Department/Embassy in evaluating concept notes?

USAID Response: All concept papers received will be evaluated by a USAID Merit Review Committee (MRC) for responsiveness to the merit review/evaluation criteria outlined in Section E. USAID may designate officials outside of USAID as they deem appropriate to act as procurement evaluation officials on behalf of USAID.

28. Do you have any recommendations how much "weight" should be given to different questions in the Concept Paper?

USAID Response: See response to #26 above.

29. Will you be offering feedback to individual organizations whose concept notes are not accepted?

USAID Response: Applicants may request feedback on their application within 10 calendar days of receiving USAID's notification response.

30. Will the merit review criteria for the concept note phase be made public in advance?

USAID Response: See response to #26 above.

31. Other than the 7 page concept note, what else needs to be submitted in round 1? And do all the organizations involved (if it is a collaborative effort) need to be SAM/DUNS/NCAGE registered before submission of the concept note?

USAID Response: A Concept Paper application is the only requested submission during Phase 1. While SAM registration is not required to submit a concept paper, it is highly encouraged that applicants start the registration process as early as possible given technical difficulties that may arise.

32. Can American Identities perform as leading partner? Must they be non-profits? If not what should be their legal status? Is it allowed to have American companies as leading partners? How many projects can be funded if we are not leading it? Is there a grid that shows how much points each of the sections is worth?

USAID Response: See response to #1 and #26 above.

33. Can you include an explanation of the difference between MEPPA and MEPI

USAID Response: MEPPA is referring to the 2020 Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA) legislation. The legislation is attached to the APS as Annex 4.

MEPI is referring to the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Program under the of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Office of Assistance Coordination (NEA/AC) offers assistance, training, and support to groups and individuals striving to create positive change in the society. More about this initiative can be found at the following link:

<https://il.usembassy.gov/education-culture/exchangescholarship-programs/middle-east-partnership-initiative-mepi/>

34. Will you be accepting requests for meetings with organizations to discuss a potential project and the process?

USAID Response: No. The only discussions USAID will enter into with Applicants will be during Phase 2, the Co-Creation Stage.

35. If we're debating between different projects, can we consult with you on those as well?

USAID Response: See response to #34 above.

36. From USAID's perspective, can organizations submit multiple concept notes - either at once or in sequence (whether the first is accepted or not)?

USAID Response: There is no restriction to the number of applications an organization submits.

37. If the concept note is submitted towards the end of the application year, can we still apply for three years?

USAID Response: Yes.

38. If we applied for CMM and were rejected, can we apply with the same project, assuming it meets the criteria?

USAID Response: As previously stated, this APS is a stand-alone funding opportunity and has no relation to prior USAID/WBG/CMM opportunities issued in the past. Applications submitted need to respond to the subject APS's instructions, goals and objectives.

39. Under the "alternate contact" - can it be a person outside the submitting organization?

USAID Response: It is up to the applicant to make that determination.

40. Should the cover page include the organization's information or should it be detailed within the 7 page long concept paper?

USAID Response: The 7 Page Concept paper includes the following sections:

1. Cover Page;
2. Technical Section;
3. Institutional Capability.

Section D.5 details the information that should be included in the Cover Page (limited to 1 page) which includes the organization's information and other program related information.

41. Section B.4. talks about the awards taking the form of a "grant, a fixed amount award or a cooperative agreement". This distinction is not mentioned elsewhere. Can you elaborate on this?

USAID Response: The distinctions between the mechanisms can be found under Section F.2 'Types of Awards' of the APS. Please note however, that USAID/WBG is not requesting you to apply with a stated mechanism. This determination will be made collaboratively between USAID and the applicant during Phases 2 and 3 of the procurement process based on the applicant's proposed program, type of organization, financial, technical and organizational capabilities.

42. Does USAID have an expectation for how long the co-creation / full application process will run (ideally)? We realize this may depend on the complexity of the process, etc.

USAID Response: See response to #9 above.

43. Does USAID have an affirmative goal in the co-creation phase to try to get the project in order for final approval? Or is it simply to offer technical advice and to test the waters to see if the concept/submitting org can clear the bar?

USAID Response: A detailed description of the objective of Phase 2, the Co-Creation stage is included under Section D of the APS.

44. Can there be a partnership between an Israeli based NGO and an NGO in Europe?

USAID Response: Yes

45. Can an NGO request more than \$5M?

USAID Response: As stated under Section B of the APS, USAID expects that grants provided through this APS will range up to \$5,000,000. As such, applicants should not be exceeding this threshold at the point of application submission.

46. What information, if any are we required to submit to USAID regarding beneficiaries participating in the project?

USAID Response: Under this APS USAID expects to target those beneficiaries most affected by the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Applicants need to demonstrate that within their application.

47. If a concept paper is rejected, can a new one be submitted in the same year?

USAID Response: Yes that's feasible under the terms of this APS. However, USAID encourages applicants who were unsuccessful in their initial attempt to request a feedback session with USAID and based on that feedback diligently assess whether it will be sensible to re-apply.

48. What level of budget details you are expecting at the concept stage i.e. Stage One

USAID Response: No budget details are expected at the concept stage. The budget figures requested on the Cover Page of the Concept Paper are plug figures only.

49. Is there a limit for how many concept papers we can apply for?

USAID Response: There is no limit stated in the APS. Please also refer to response # 47 above.

50. You spoke previously about giving an emphasis on shared societies programs that promote economic dev. and growth. Is this a requirement? Are innovative programs to promote co-existence in other fields also acceptable?

USAID Response: No, that is not a requirement. Yes, all applications responding to the goal and objectives of the APS are acceptable.

51. What is the timeframe allowed for projects' duration?

USAID Response: See 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."

52. Can the activities take place both in Israel (shared society) AND cross border or do you need to apply as working in one or the other?
USAID Response: There is no requirement for the project to be cross border. It will be up to the applicant to demonstrate that proposed activities promote the stated objectives in the APS.
53. Should the concept paper describe the program itinerary and is there any way to attach files?
USAID Response: The Concept Paper should follow the instructions and guidance found in Section D.5 of the APS. Attachments are not acceptable.
54. If the proposal is for a certain award and the proposed project is accepted but not the award amount, would it have a chance to go to phase 2 and adjust the budget and award amount asked or will it be rejected?
USAID Response: Yes that is possible. If the proposed program has been determined successful under Phase 1 in accordance with the APS' merit review criteria they will be selected to go to Phase 2. During the co-creation stage, phase 2, applicants will work with USAID technical teams to address any identified issues.
55. Hyperlinks get reviewed in Concept Notes?
USAID Response: No.
56. Can smaller font be used for tables and graphics, if included in the 7 pages?
USAID Response: As stated in Section D.4 'Application Submission Procedures', Figures, graphics, and tables may have less than Times New Roman 12-point font.
57. When is the first due date submission?
USAID Response: The APS is open for the year and USAID will be reviewing concepts on a rolling basis.
58. Did you address the Jewish-Arab issue? Is it relevant under this APS?
USAID Response: Please see responses #'s 2, 3 and 4.
59. Could you clarify the range - during the conference it was mentioned that there is a preference for what constitutes a "larger award"? What sum is that?
USAID Response: Please see the stated guidelines in Section B that USAID expects that grants provided through this APS will range up to \$5,000,000.

[End of Annex B]