Amendment Date Issued: April 12, 2022

Subject: Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Annual Program Statement (APS) Number 72029421APS00001 People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund Grants Activity / Amendment No. 5

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The purpose of this amendment is to provide the following:

1. Responses to questions raised in the ALLMEP Roundtable held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, as well as responses to general questions received regarding the subject APS to date. All questions and answers are in Annex A to this Amendment.
2. Notify potential applicants that USAID will start the next round of review of Concept Papers on or about June 8, 2022.

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

I. ALLMEP Roundtable with Civil Society Organizations,
Wednesday, March 9, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Questions from Audience

Question No. 1: Whether we can get in writing that USAID under this new round is encouraging Palestinian - Palestinian (Israeli) joint proposals. We were verbally told under the CMM grant process from last year that they were encouraging such efforts but when we had the debriefing we were told that the only reason we didn't get the award was that it was a joint p-p proposal:

**USAID Response:** The goal of the P2P Partnership for Peace APS is to "Promote greater understanding, mutual trust, and cooperation through Israeli and Palestinian partnerships that address common social development challenges." Please note that every USAID opportunity has its own unique set of requirements. Please do not compare two funding opportunities to each other. Under previous CMM opportunities, the instructions and requirements were different. Some CMM funding opportunities requested that programming take place within Israel only due to ATCA restrictions. Others did not. Should you have submitted a Cross Border application under one of those “Israel only” calls, then your application, as explained during your debrief, could not have been considered due to USAID requirements. Therefore, it is important that you understand all requirements for each open opportunity before investing the time to respond.

Question No. 2: In light of harsher crossing policy, and considering big growth of the field in the coming years, are there any intentions of putting some resources on physical activity spaces, meeting venues, new centers, in areas where it is logistically more possible to meet?

**USAID Response:** Identifying activity spaces, meeting venues and centers largely depends on the specifics of the applicant’s proposed program. The cost needed towards these resources, when justified for program purposes, have been determined to be allowable under the separate activities.

Question No. 3: Can you please give a better idea of the types of programs you are looking to fund, and what has not worked with the applications you have received so far?

**USAID Response:** The APS provides room for Applicants to demonstrate flexibility and creativity. As long as your ideas respond to and meet the objectives of the APS they will be considered in accordance with the APS instructions and criteria. Applicants need to make a convincing argument that a proposed activity will help lay the foundation for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The main feedback provided to unsuccessful applicants to date has been the fact that they have not convincingly demonstrated how their proposed program is going to achieve the goals and objectives of the APS.

Question No. 4: What are the criteria and what is the process for approving grants?
USAID Response: All applications are reviewed in accordance with the Merit Review Criteria listed in section E of the APS posted on www.grants.gov. The overall application and award process is also described and detailed in section D of the APS under ‘Overall Application Process’.

Question 5: Can you please expand on how USAID defines "policy change"?
USAID Response: USAID has purposely not defined ‘policy change’ and it will be up to applicants to define it based on their proposed program. In general terms, it’s viewed as an institutional level impediment that needs to change in order to address a common social development challenge.

Question No. 6: We believe that there is a deep need to work within each society separately on cross-border issues. If an Israeli NGO and a Palestinian NGO are working together and meeting regularly at the design and project team level, but each NGO is working to create change within their own society around cross-border issues, would you consider this a cross-border project?
USAID Response: The APS does not include a ‘cross-border’ definition. It rather includes a People-to-People definition and it will be up to applicants to demonstrate how their proposed program meets that definition and meets the objectives of the APS.

Question No. 7: Is MEPPA able to offer capacity-building support to help smaller/newer NGOs manage compliance successfully?
USAID Response: Prior to making an award, USAID/WBG will perform a risk assessment of the organization to assess their ability to adequately meet and comply with the awards’ terms and conditions. Based on that assessment, USAID/WBG will determine the appropriate award mechanism and will identify the measures needed to be taken by both the organization as well as USAID/WBG to ensure successful compliance.

Question No. 8: Considering the challenges and limitations that Palestinian organizations are having entering the MEPPA call due to Taylor Force Act, would Palestinian organizations be eligible for funding as awardees and subawardees at the same time?
USAID Response: The Taylor Force Act (TFA) prohibits the provision of U.S. economic and development assistance directly to or directly benefitting the Palestinian Authority (PA). TFA restrictions do not pertain to non-governmental and civil society Palestinian organizations so long as their proposed program does not confer a benefit to the PA.

Question No. 9: In accordance with UNSCR 1325 and mainstream attention put on Women, Peace & Security, it is essential for peacebuilding programs and political movements to pay close attention to the needs of women in particular and gender dynamics in general. What considerations should we be paying closer attention to when developing gender-inclusive programs within the Middle East and North Africa context? What barriers might exist to gender mainstreaming? What types of programs or strategies can we implement to overcome these barriers?
USAID Response: The barriers to integrating women into all aspects of social, economic, and political life differ across the region. USAID’s policy requires that we address these barriers in the programs we fund, and it is critical that women have a voice and participate in our processes. How
this is done is up to applicants to determine and propose to USAID in order to address these broader policy goals.

Question No. 10: A barrier that some organizations might face while recruiting Palestinian participants/supporters is the concept of normalization. How can organizations that advocate for peace effectively communicate to their audiences that their organization does not seek to normalize the conflict?

**USAID Response:** Trust building is key in recruiting participants. Organizations need to ensure that they are viewed as trustworthy before initiating the recruitment process. These organizations should convey to their audiences that this program is intended to support progress towards a viable two-state solution. Also, to emphasize that creating true partnerships for peace and a just and lasting solution to the conflict is only possible when all sides are able to engage equally and confidently. Israelis and Palestinians equally deserve to live safely and deserve equal measures of freedom, security, and prosperity, and that is one of the goals of the MEPPA program as well.

Question No. 11: To what extent will proposals involving actions to strengthen equitable relations between Israeli Arabs and Jews (without the involvement of Palestinians from WB & G) be considered and funded?

**USAID Response:** Please see the APS. USAID cannot speculate on the success of various proposal ideas. This is up to applicants to determine. Please keep in mind that applications should meet the objectives of the APS and follow the instructions therein. Applications will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria.

Question No. 12: The $20/$30 million will be divided up amongst how many grantees?

**USAID Response:** Please see the APS. We hope to fund at least $15 million in the first year to awards under the APS. The number of applications selected will depend on the merit review evaluation results.

Question No. 13: How creative can we be in terms of solutions for the conflict?

**USAID Response:** That is up to applicants to decide. Activities under this solicitation should advance new, creative, and/or proven techniques for achieving the APS goal of promoting greater understanding, mutual trust, and cooperation through Israeli and Palestinian partnerships that address common social development challenges.

Question No. 14: Will there be a change on the Taylor force act that prevents us from working with the PA?

**USAID Response:** Should there be an amendment in the future to the Taylor Force Act, USAID/West Bank and Gaza will notify applicants accordingly.

Question No. 15: Can we work with schools and teachers?

**USAID Response:** In line with Taylor Force restrictions, USAID/West Bank and Gaza may work with private schools and teachers only.
Question No. 16. Many are facing the fact that there aren’t enough permits for participants. Can USAID help?
**USAID Response:** If applicable, USAID may potentially facilitate, but it depends on the specific circumstances.

Question No. 17. Can USAID reimburse us for the expenses we paid to prepare the proposal?
**USAID Response:** No that will not be possible.

Question No. 18. Can USAID support capacity building projects to increase the capacity of small organizations before they embark on applying for MEPPA?
**USAID Response:** Please refer to the response provided under questions no. 7 above.

Question No. 19. Can you help with the problem with money transfer to Palestinian organizations?
**USAID Response:** This question is vague and needs clarification. If referring to USAID’s ability to provide grant funds to an organization that is determined eligible to receive a USAID direct award, there should not be an issue with money transfers to Palestinian organizations that are properly registered.

Question No. 20. How are the decisions taken on who get funded?
**USAID Response:** Please refer to the response provided under questions no. 4 above

Question No. 21. What is USAID doing that you haven’t done before? Why not allocate a specific percentage of the funds to alumni’s of previous programs?
**USAID Response:** USAID continuously seeks innovative programs that meet its objectives through publicly issued funding opportunities such as the MEPPA APS opportunity. Sustainability is a factor that should be taken into consideration during the design of any proposed program – an alumni component under proposed programs may be considered.

Question No. 22. Who is responsible for the structure of the MEPPA board?
**USAID Response:** The structure of the board is determined by the original legislation.

**II. GENERAL QUESTIONS:**

Question No. 23. On the cover page of the Concept Paper 1. V. and Vi. Would V be what we are already spending on the program and Vi. be that plus the amount we are asking for?
**USAID Response:** V. ‘Total Program Amount’ should reflect the amount you are already spending (if the activity is an ongoing one), the amount you’re requesting from USAID as well as any potential additional amounts that will be attributed to the program in the form of Cost Share, Matching funds or Leverage for the entirety of the program duration.

Vi. ‘Total Amount of Funding Requested from USAID and total amount leveraged (if applicable)’ should reflect the amount of funds you are requesting from USAID, and any amount that you have already secured as leverage, if applicable.
**Question No. 24.** My team and I are working on 1-2 proposals to the Partnership for Peace FOA. Our company does not have a NICRA. We would like to request Indirect Costs Charged as a Fixed Amount or submit documentation to support a suggestive indirect rate that can be eventually negotiated to become a NICRA. Is there a preferred method for us to do that and would USAID negotiate a rate (based on an award) that can eventually be used as our general negotiated indirect rate?

**USAID Response:** If the apparently successful applicant does not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate, it may choose to charge a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs (see 2 CFR 200.414(f)).

**Question No. 25.** In section III on 'institutional capability' the APS calls for details of two professional contacts who have observed the organization's work. Can you please confirm that these contacts can be any individuals who have observed, in their professional capacity, our organization's relevant work, regardless of whether they are connected to the cost reimbursement grants we detail in this same section?

**USAID Response:** Confirmed. As stated in the APS, you are requested to provide professional contacts who most directly observed the work at the organization for which the service was performed.

[End of Amendment No. 5]