



# USAID | WEST BANK/GAZA

Amendment Date Issued: April 20, 2023

Subject: Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Annual Program Statement (APS) Number 72029423APS00001 People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund Grants Activity / Amendment No. 3

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The purpose of this amendment is to:

- I. Extend the due date for applications under the 1<sup>st</sup> Round from April 27, 2023 to May 10, 2023 as follows:
  - i. Under the APS Cover Letter, change the 'Round 1: Deadline for receipt of Applications' from 'April 27, 2023 (5PM, EST)' to '**May 10, 2023 (5PM, EST)**'.
  - ii. Under Section D.3a 'Overall Application Process' delete the first paragraph in its entirety and replace with the following:

“This APS is open for one year, and currently has two rounds. To be considered under the first round, applicants should submit their Concept Paper no later than Wednesday, **May 10, 2023 at 5:00 PM EST**. To be considered under the second round, applicants should submit their Concept Paper no later than Thursday October 19, 2023, at 5:00 PM EST. Amendments to this APS will announce any changes to USAID review timelines. “
  - iii. Under Annex 2 'APS Timeline and Communication Expectations' delete the 'Round 1: Deadline for receipt of Application' date of 'April 27, 2023' and replace with '**May 10, 2023 at 5:00PM EST**'.
- II. Provide Responses to questions raised to date under the subject APS under Annex A to this Amendment;

III. Provide the presentation shared during the Pre-Application Conferences under Round One of this APS as Annex B to this Amendment.

IV. Provide Additional Help Documents with Theory of Change guidance as 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. Please define the age range for youth.

USAID Response: USAID uses the terms youth and young people interchangeably. Youth is a life stage, one that is not finite or linear. Key multilaterals define youth as 15–24 years for statistical purposes, yet for policy and programming many countries and organizations expand this range to reflect the broader range of changes and developmental needs in the transition to adulthood, as well as the diversity among cultural and country contexts. USAID defines youth as individuals between the ages of 10 and 29; it also recognizes that those under age 18 are universally considered children and subject to numerous national and international norms and legal protections this policy seeks to reinforce. Based on international research on stages of youth development, USAID defines the different stages of youth as follows:

- Early adolescence (10–14)
- Adolescence (15–19)
- Emerging adulthood (20–24)
- Transition to adulthood (25–29)

For more details please refer to USAID’s 2022 Youth in Development Policy which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/USAID-Youth-in-Development-Policy-2022-Update-508.pdf>

2. Please define reduced reporting - currently, we advise clients to plan for a full-time USAID reporting officer when applying to MEPPA, as we have seen the struggles of awardees with the reporting burden. What % role should small grant applicants budget for in terms of reporting?

USAID Response: Reporting requirements will be determined based on the type of assistance award selected and the nature of the proposed program.

All reporting requirements under a Fixed Amount Award (FAA) (i.e. small grants) will be discussed, explained and agreed upon between USAID and the applicant during the co-creation process and negotiations phases in line with their proposed program. Based on these discussions, applicants will have a better understanding of the need and will be able to budget accordingly. All reporting requirements under FAA’s will be captured within the final agreed to milestone table which will be part of the award document.

3. Considering the deteriorating security situation inside both Israel and Palestine, and the very real threat to the wellbeing of Palestinian awardees, their staff and beneficiaries, will USAID consider reducing the visibility level of specific MEPPA grants in year 2?

USAID Response: There are currently no Branding and Marking waivers or exceptions granted under MEPPA programming.

4. In the cover letter, we are asked to list the number of joint hours. If the project also involves uni-national or uni-cultural meetings before, during and after the shared events, should these also be listed? And should they be differentiated from joint hours?

USAID Response: Yes, hours under uni-national or uni-cultural meetings should be differentiated from joint hours.

5. Apart from subscribing to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), how else can I keep informed of any Amendments/ changes?

USAID Response: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) is the official government website for all publicly announced USAID funding opportunities. This is also applicable to any issued amendments.

6. With regard to APS 72029423APS00001 I would like to ask whether programs for the benefit of mainly the Arab-Israeli population are also eligible? The program does encourage collaboration with Jewish Israelis as well, but the main beneficiaries are Arab-Israeli.

USAID Response: The proposed program referenced in this question appears to describe an initiative within the Arab-Israeli society. Please refer to the People-to People definition copied below and located in the APS under section A.V.i:

“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 and a two-state solution. As stated in the MEPPA legislation, USAID will prioritize support to efforts that “seek to build better cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.” Activities that connect Israelis and Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to achieve these goals are strongly encouraged and will be prioritized. Initiatives within societies that contribute to peaceful co-existence and mitigate the impacts of conflict will also be considered.”

In line with the above, initiatives within societies will be considered. However, please note that the definition also highlights that Activities that connect Israelis and Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza are strongly encouraged and will be prioritized.

It is up to Applicants to convincingly demonstrate how their proposed program meets the goal and one or more of the objectives listed under Section A.III of the APS.

7. For the purposes of the MEPPA funding, can you tell me how you define "Palestinian"? Is it only someone who lives within the PA? That is, Areas A and B? What about area C?

What about someone who lives within Israel, but identifies as a Palestinian (but carries an Israeli blue ID card)? And what about someone who lives in East Jerusalem?

USAID Response: The subject APS does not define "Palestinian". When discussing programming, applicants are requested to detail within their applications the locations of targeted participants. Kindly refer to response number 6 above, which references the People-to-People definition and highlights the type of programming that is encouraged and will be prioritized.

8. We never managed a large grant / never received a grant from the US government? What options do we have? What do we need to capture under the Institutional Capacity Section of the Application?

USAID Response: Please note that it is not a requirement under this APS to have received a prior grant from the US government. USAID encourages applications from new and smaller organizations.

Under the Institutional Capacity Section of the Application you will need to demonstrate how your organization is able to implement and manage your proposed program. It is recommended that you do this by referencing past similar types of activities.

If your organization is newly established, please describe the past experience and efforts that resulted in its formation. Additionally, if newly established, please describe the experience and capabilities of the team and individual experts assembled to implement the proposed activity.

If you are requesting an amount that is substantially larger than prior managed grants, you will need to demonstrate how your organization plans to manage this activity. If you are relying on the experience and capabilities of the team (whether from within your organization, outside consultants, or partnering agreements), be sure to explain this in the Institutional Capacity section.

9. Can the proposed activity include governmental involvement/beneficiaries?

USAID Response: USAID cannot enter into an agreement with a governmental entity. Governmental entities are not eligible to apply under this APS. Activities may include governmental involvement in line with USAID/West Bank and Gaza's policies and regulations. Please note the following under Section A of the APS:

"A Special Note Regarding USAID Programs in the West Bank and Gaza

Proposed programs must comply with, and take into consideration the limitation on, the use of funds in the "Taylor Force Act" (See 22 USC 2378c-1(a)(1)). The Taylor Force Act, signed into law as part of FY 2018 Appropriations Act, limits USAID's ability to provide assistance that confers a "direct benefit" to the Palestinian Authority (PA). Proposed programs must also take into consideration U.S. restrictions on contact with Designated Terrorist Organizations, including the parameters of existing Office of Foreign Assets

Control (OFAC) licenses, particularly with regard to proposed activities in Gaza. Vetting will be required for key individuals, sub-awardees, and beneficiaries as described further in this APS and Mission Order No. 21.”

10. Is it possible to submit for both a small and large grant?

USAID Response: Yes

11. If we are several partners – how can we capture this throughout the application?

USAID Response: The application will need to explain the nature of the partnership and clarify the role of each partner and how the overall team complements each other.

12. Does USAID have a preference in terms of seeing applications that are relevant to the moment versus the long-term?

USAID Response: There is no preference.

13. Nonprofit organizations that receive municipality or state support - is that held against?

USAID Response: No.

14. Timeline - is there a timeline for activities?

USAID Response: The period of performance for the awards is estimated to range from several months to three years.

15. Cost Sharing - is one preferred when equal?

USAID Response: No. Cost Sharing is not a requirement. Applications will be evaluated in line with the Merit Review Evaluation Criteria listed under Section E of the APS.

16. Will USAID consider entering into a partnership where they are not the major donor but the minimum?

USAID Response: Yes, that is possible. The components or activities that USAID funds, however, will need to be specific and will be agreed upon during co-creation.

17. Can we use some of the funding to seed project by participants?

USAID Response: Cost allowability determinations will be agreed upon during the co-creation and negotiation phases.

18. I understand that a detailed budget is not required at this stage. Do we need to submit a budget of any kind? Do we need to submit a figure for the overall project cost?

USAID Response: The only financial information requested are the plug figures within the Cover Page of the concept paper application. Please refer to Section D.5 of the APS for detailed instructions.

19. I understand that instructions and guidelines for submitting a Concept Paper do not differ whether we are applying towards a Fixed Amount Award or towards a Cooperative Agreement. Do we need to indicate whether we are applying towards an FAA or a CA?  
USAID Response: USAID confirms that the instructions and guidelines for submitting a Concept Paper do not differ whether you are applying for a FAA or Cooperative Agreement. The Cover Page of the concept paper application requests that you identify the category you are applying under. See Section D.5.I for detailed instructions.
20. Is it possible to submit for a *grant* for up to \$5,000,000?  
USAID Response: Yes.
21. Are applicants encouraged to include dollar amounts in the technical section of the Concept paper? For example, "we anticipate that X service will cost \$X."  
USAID Response: While it is up to applicants to include the information that best demonstrates how the proposed program meets the goals and objectives of the APS, including budget figures is discouraged.
22. Is an organization allowed to submit a proposal as a lead applicant and also be written into a separate proposal as a partner or sub-awardee?  
USAID Response: Yes.
23. What is MEPPA's policy regarding allocating funds for scholarships for participants?  
USAID Response: There is no restriction within the APS.
24. Who is required to sign the application? And in what format?  
USAID Response: The Cover Page calls for a primary and secondary point of contact designated by the Prime applicant. These individuals will need to be authorized by the prime applicant as ones with authority to enter negotiations with USAID on behalf of the prime applicant.

**[End of Annex A]**