USAID | EL SALVADOR
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Amendment No. 2 to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) Number: NFO-596-16-000002
Questions and Answers and Updates of the NFO
Program Title: Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity

The purpose of this amendment is to:

A. Update the NFO in its entirety to reflect a more structured program description and key personnel, as well as other administrative updates; and

B. Respond to the questions received during the authorized timeframe, as indicated below.

Based on the above, the NFO is deleted in its entirety and the attached document is substituted in lieu thereof.

The following are the questions and answers:

1. Due date: Proposal Submission: The release of the RFA prior to the Christmas and New Year's holidays mean that for a minimum of 2 to 3 weeks our public sector and civil society counterparts in Central America and Mexico will be unavailable for consultation, severely hindering our ability to respond in a complete fashion to USAID's requirements. We request and extension of the due date for the proposal by two weeks – from January 28, 2016 to Friday, February 12, 2016.

A/The closing date for submission of technical applications was extended from January 28, 2016 to February 16, 2016. The closing time is changed from 2:00 p.m. to 12 p.m. El Salvador time.

2. Due date: Questions: Related to the above, we request an extension of the deadline for questions from December 22, 2015 to Friday, January 8, 2016.

A/Only the extension for submission of applications was extended.

3. Reference is made to NFO-596-16-000002 and the deadline for questions to be submitted in writing by December 22. We unfortunately missed the deadline, but we understand that the answers (to those who met the deadline) will be incorporated into an amendment to the solicitation. Can you please confirm if the amendment will be accessible through the website, and when?

A/Forthcoming amendments to the NFO will be posted in the Grants.gov website.

4. My organization is not planning to apply as main recipient, but would be very interested to provide its services as a sub-recipient. For this reason we'd like to know if organization applying as main recipients must already identify all their sub-recipients in the application by January 28, or can do so at a later stage.

A/The main recipient may decide to identify its partners at the time of submission of their application or identify them at a later time.

5. El presente correo es para consultarle si se permite aplicar a esta subvención personas individuales que hayan tenido experiencia y conocimiento de manejo de proyecto en forma individual y asesoría. Pero no hemos sido titulares de esos proyectos, es posible aplicar aunque no sea posible comprobar la integración de esos proyectos?

A/ Esta subvención requiere de organizaciones que tengan la capacidad técnica, administrativa, y financiera para ejecutar el proyecto.

6. Favor indicar si es posible, integramos un grupo de profesionales de diversas disciplinas, medicina, ciencias jurídicas, química, derechos humanos, genero, derecho indígena, entre otras.

A/Las organizaciones que estén legalmente establecidas en los países de operación de las instituciones, por ejemplo, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, etc. pueden participar en esta subvención.

7. My organization is very interested in pursuing this NFO in consortium with a number of talented local organizations. However, in Central America, most local organizations are closed until at least mid-January, which makes putting together a proposal by Jan. 28th extremely challenging. Would USAID consider changing the proposal submission date to Feb. 26th?

A/Deadline was extended. Please see response to question No. 1.

8. Page 8, first paragraph states "The Activity will also promote the replication of successful bilateral and regional in addressing human rights challenges." Can USAID please clarify the word or words that are inadvertently omitted from this sentence?

A/"interventions" after the word "regional".

9. Page 28, 8. Activity Management, 8.1 Staffing, states "Although the core team will be based in El Salvador, professional staff should also be proposed for each targeted country in order to have country presence and ensure proper coordination with each of the Missions." Can USAID please clarify if three or five project offices are required?

A/USAID expects applicants to propose an adequate staffing plan to implement this program. We expect as a minimum to have three offices in the region; but the applicants can propose more depending on the proposed technical approach and consultations with the targeted countries.

10. Page 30 states "National Directors (to be based in targeted countries such as Guatemala and Honduras)". Can USAID clarify if they are requiring that Applicants propose National Directors in each one of the five countries? Only in Guatemala and Honduras? Based upon each Applicant's staffing strategy in each country? Or by some other determination?

A/USAID expects applicants to propose an adequate staffing plan to implement this program, national directors are expected for at least two more countries: Guatemala and Honduras. But, applicants can propose more national directors depending on the proposed technical approach and consultations with the targeted countries.

11. Page 41, CONTENT - states "Applicants should structure their proposal based on the expected results identified in the Activity Description." Under the GENERAL section above, it states "Therefore technical applications must be organized as follow:" -providing a different structure which corresponds to Section E Evaluation Criteria. Can USAID confirm that the expected results identified in the Activity Description should be described under the Technical Approach section of the application?

A/ Please note that the two sections are referring to two different things:

a. The General section describes the structure of the application which includes all the required items: Executive Summary, technical approach, activity management, institutional capacity and past performance and annexes.

b. The Content section is referring to the fact that the application should be responsive to the Activity Description and to the expected results provided by USAID.

12. Considering that the holiday season places a constraint on liaising with local partners and recruiting highly qualified local staff, would USAID consider extending the application deadline until February 12?

A/Yes. Please see response to question No. 1.

13. Could USAID confirm that the applicant will not need to coordinate the program through the Central American Integration System?

A/The Central American Integration system will not be the Government counterpart to this program. Nonetheless, USAID expects a certain level of coordination with SICA as with other relevant regional organizations.

14. Page 22, Component 3: Could USAID clarify if the Early Warning System should be housed within a particular institution?

A/USAID expects applicants to propose the most adequate arrangements, to guarantee that the Early Warning System will function properly.

15. Page 29, Key Personnel: The solicitation states, "USAID has identified a Chief of Party, a Deputy Chief of Party/Activity Coordinator, 2-3 National Directors (based in targeted countries such as Guatemala and Honduras) and a Financial Manager as Key Personnel." Could USAID confirm that the applicant may propose a maximum of 5 Key Personnel?

A/Yes, maximum of 5 key positions.

16. Page 31, Award and Management of Sub-Grants: "Funding for Sub-Grants is not to exceed $7.5 million over the life of the project [...]." Could USAID confirm that the applicant may propose a plug figure lower than $7.5 million for Sub-Grants?

A/Applicants must propose a plug figure of $7.5 million for sub-grants.

17. Page 41, Technical Application Format: Could USAID please confirm that the Executive Summary, Cover Page, Cover Letter, and Dividers will not count toward the 35 page limit?

A/The executive summary is part of the 35 page limit (see page 41 of the NFO). The cover page, cover, letter and dividers do not count toward the 35 page limit.

18. Page 43, Institutional Capacity and Past Performance: Could USAID confirm that the applicant is not required to, but may, include past performance information for sub-recipients in the past performance annex?

A/Past performance information for sub-recipients is the responsibility of the prime recipient. Therefore, the prime recipient must provide concise information to that effect in the past performance annex.

19. Page 57, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: The solicitation states: "In addition to the set of indicators, baselines and targets to be proposed by the applicant, USAID/El Salvador will further request the applicant to include in its Monitoring and Evaluation Plan a set of standard indicators that are part of the Strategic Framework for U.S. Foreign Assistance, as well as applicable CARSI indicators." Could USAID please provide the CARSI indicators?

A/Yes, please see the attachment A.

20. On p28, the NFO states that the "recipient will develop at least two local organizations' capacities to become a more mature entity…" Please confirm whether these local organizations must be based in El Salvador.

A/The local organizations can be based in any of the targeted countries; preference should be given to those in greatest need of this type of initiative.

21. On p28, the NFO states that the "recipient will develop at least two local organizations' capacities to become a more mature entity…" Please confirm if this is two per country or two total?

A/Two total.

22. On p28, the NFO states that the "recipient will develop at least two local organizations' capacities to become a more mature entity…" Please confirm if USAID expects the selected organizations to receive a sub-grant under this award and whether there is a limit on the amount that can be included in the individual sub-awards.

A/ The proposed/selected organizations may receive a sub-grant. The limit on the amount that an organization can receive depends on the prime recipient's assessment of the technical and administrative capabilities of the sub-recipient organization, and other factors that the prime organization deem necessary for the implementation of the program.

23. On p 31, the NFO states that "Funding for the Sub-Grants is not to exceed $7.5 million over the life of the project." It further states "USAID/El Salvador must approve the grants manual and actual selection of the grants recipients within Central American organizations." Does the $7.5 million limit apply only to Central American organizations?

A/It applies to any of the targeted countries; preference should be given to countries/situations with greatest need for this type of initiative.

24. On p32, the NFO indicates that "USAID has determined that a categorical exclusion and negative determination with conditions applies to the proposed activities" and that this will require implementers to prepare additional environmental compliance documentation (specifically, an EMPR). The Initial Environmental Examination LAC-IEE-15-41 is not posted on USAID's environmental compliance website. Could USAID provide the report to applicants?

A/We will not share the IEE because it covers several projects in the regional Democracy and Governance program and some of these projects may have a greater impact in the environment than the Regional Human Rights & Democracy project.

25. On p39, the NFO indicates that email submissions should include the subject heading "No. NFO-596-16-000002 Regional Human Rights & Democracy Activity" and also that the subject line should say "[organization name], Cost Application, Part 1 of 2" or similar. Could USAID please clarify how subject headings should read?

A/ NFO-596-16-000002 Regional Human Rights & Democracy Activity" "[organization name], Technical [or] Cost Application, Part 1 of 2 [or 3, etc.]"

26. On p41, the NFO states that "The page length of the entire Technical Application shall not exceed 35 pages exclusive of Annexes and other pages not subject to the page limitation indicated…" Since the Executive Summary is limited to three pages, could USAID confirm that it is not part of the 35-page limit of the Technical Application?

A/The executive summary is part of the 35-page limit of the technical application.

27. On p42, the NFO indicates that applicants must provide letters of commitment for proposed staff along with a 2-page resume for each. Are letters of commitment to comprise a separate annex?

A/Yes.

28. Letters of support from key stakeholders or government agencies are currently not included the required annexes. Does USAID require letters of support from these entities and if so, can they be included as an annex in the technical application?

A/USAID does not require letters of support from key stakeholders or government agencies.

Attachment A

CARSI

INDICATORS

Indicator	**2.4.1-9 Number of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions.**
Definition	CSOs in USG programs that initiate or participate in advocacy interventions. Advocacy should be understood as a means for individuals, constituencies, or organizations to shape public agendas, change public policies, and influence other processes that impact their lives. Advocacy does not involve one march, meeting or poster, but a series of strategic, interconnected, integrated activities designed to achieve a goal. It may include a wide range of activities, such as, lobbying, public interest litigation, letter writing campaigns, civil disobedience, etc. Advocacy interventions tend to: • Be strategic (a deliberate, planned action, not random); • Involve a set of actions that are sustained in order to build and direct pressure; • Be designed to persuade; • Be targeted; • Involve alliance building. Successful advocacy efforts result in change. Operating Units should specify the type of advocacy interventions in their PMP data reference sheet and use the PPR indicator narrative to describe the impact, scale/scope of the advocacy interventions.
Linkage to Long-Term Outcome or Impact	Advocacy interventions are essential aspects of democratic policy making, citizen participation, and oversight of all branches of government. These interventions play an important role in determining social justice, political and civil liberties, and in giving voice to citizens and historically marginalized groups. At its best, advocacy expresses the power of an individual, constituency, or organization to shape public agendas and change public policies. As part of a broader civil society strategy, advocacy-oriented action goes beyond specific objectives (e.g., raising the minimum wage) to providing the means to mobilize society, ideas, and resources in an effort to bring about democratic change and/or its consolidation. It is a critical means for citizens to express their needs and concerns to government.
Indicator Type	Output
Unit of Measure	Number of CSOs
Use of Indicator	Bureaus, missions, and in-country program managers will use the data for program planning. This indicator sheds light on the extent to which Missions are working with civil society to assist them in having a voice in public decision-making and other political processes. Missions could use this indicator to report on how they are supporting local civil society. This would be relevant for the Agency's USAID Forward reforms which include a component on strengthening civil society capacity to advance aid effectiveness. This is the only indicator that captures policy advocacy as a critical civil society function.
Data Source and Reporting Frequency	Data source will be defined by the operating unit, and may include such sources as local partners' advocacy plans or strategies, implementation plans, recording of press conference, copy of testimony or press release, advocacy campaign materials, etc.
Known Data Limitations	Slightly lower reliability because reporting will come from multiple sources
Baseline Timeframe	Baseline from 2011 data of the indicator "Number of Civil Society Organizations receiving USG Assistance engaged in advocacy and watchdog functions."

Vulnerable Populations	include children, youth, and adults affected by violence, disease, poverty, or circumstances that place them at an especially elevated risk of abuse, exploitation, illness (morbidity), and/or death (mortality). Vulnerable populations identified for targeted assistance include, but are not limited to:
1	children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS, live in households made increasingly vulnerable because of HIV/AIDS, or were born to HIV-positive mothers;
2	orphaned children (those who have lost one or both parents due to any cause);
3	those who are injured, ill, or made homeless as a direct result of a disaster and require immediate assistance;
4	persons with disabilities—defined as those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder
5	separated or unaccompanied children, including children living outside of family-based or family-like care, such as orphanages or non-family-based group setting
6	refugees (someone who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of identity, including, but not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it);
7	internally displaced persons, having been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural- or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border;
8	Women and children of female-headed households;
9	children affected by armed conflict, including those who are associated with an armed force or armed group as “child soldiers” or as cooks, porters, spies or for sexual purposes, and those living in a context in which conflict has caused, for example, interruption and disintegration of basic services and sources of social protection (e.g., interruption of schools and health systems, homes, and religious institutions, collapse of political authority and rule of law, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, administrative detention, enforced displacement, sexual exploitation, and hazardous work);
10	children and adults subject to trafficking in persons (i.e., in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or subject to recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery children subject to harmful practices of child labor, including all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, prostitution, the production of

pornography or for pornographic performances, the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties, or work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children;

11. Children and adults exposed to all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including gender based violence and sexual abuse (gender-based violence refers to any harm that is perpetrated against a person's will and results from power inequities that are based on gender roles—the term highlights the relationship between women's subordinate status in society and their increased vulnerability to violence, however, in some cases men and boys may also be victims of gender-based violence, since violence may be physical, sexual, psychological, economic, or socio-cultural);

12. Children and adults with a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of identity, including, but not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion; Street children, such as those engaged in some kind of economic activity, ranging from begging to vending, who most go home at the end of the day and contribute their earnings to their family, and children who actually live on the street; and

13. Children living in extreme poverty.

14. Any person whose humanity and human dignity is intentionally disrespected, in an effort to dehumanize and therefore disassociate that person from the full range of universal human rights protections and freedoms that otherwise the person would have a claim to by the simple fact of being human.

Indicator	**3.3.2-8 Number of vulnerable people benefitting from USG-supported social services**
Definition	Number of vulnerable people receiving services from programs funded in whole or in part by the USG. (Higher = Better)
Linkage to Long.-Term Outcome or Impact	Simple output measure to enable the roll up of vulnerable people assisted through USG resources. Provides an essential link to higher order outcome measure
Indicator Type	Output
Unit of Measure	Number of people
Use of Indicator	Monitor Progress
Data Source and Reporting Frequency	Review of Project reports/Program review results Documents/Reviews of service

Known Data Limitations	Program self reporting is always subject to variability of inter rater reliabilty
Baseline Timeframe	Baseline timeframe needs to be established by the Operating Unit
Disaggregate(s)	• Sex • Other targeted vulnerable people • Victims of torture • Vulnerable children • War victims • Persons with disabilities • Males with disabilities • Females with disabilities

Indicator	**5.1.1-6 Percentage of USG-funded NGO or other international organization projects that include activities or services designed to reduce specific risks or harm to vulnerable populations**
Definition	Percentage of USG-funded NGO or other international organization projects that include activities or services designed to reduce specific risks or harm to vulnerable populations. Protection activities or services must go beyond a standard protection mainstreaming approach to: • alleviate the psychosocial and health effects of violations, threats, and abuse of children, youth, women, disabled persons, displaced persons, marginalized ethnic or religious groups, and other vulnerable populations • build the awareness, knowledge, and capacity of governmental, parastatal, NGO, community, or other entities to identify, prevent, and reduce the risk of abuse, violence, and other threats to vulnerable groups • provide legal protection; and/or • build policy and advocacy for local, regional, and national protection systems, personnel, and protocols in accordance with protection principles (e.g., Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; Human Rights Law; International Humanitarian Law; 1951 Refugee Convention) Numerator: Number of USG-funded NGO projects that have been identified as including activities or serviced designed to reduce specific risks or harm to vulnerable populations. Adjust the numerator, as necessary, following a review of NGO and IO reports.
Linkage to Long-Term Outcome or Impact	This indicator measures the extent of the commitment by USG-funded projects to reduce specific risks or harm to vulnerable populations. This indicator measures the extent to which protection, assistance, and solution activities funded by the USG in humanitarian assistance include dedicated protection programming efforts. Evidence suggests that increased vulnerability during complex humanitarian emergencies may lead to a rise in abuse, particularly sexual violence. Anticipated long-term outcomes include reduced incidence or degree of psychosocial and health effects of violations, threats, and less abuse of children, youth, women, disabled persons, displaced persons, marginalized ethnic or religious groups, and other vulnerable populations during natural disasters and complex emergencies
Indicator Type	Output
Unit of Measure	Percent

Use of Indicator	Reporting to bureau-level planners, Congress, nongovernmental stakeholders, in-country program managers, etc. for accountability of funds spent
Data Source and Reporting Frequency	Data Source: Internal award tracking system (abacus), field monitoring reports, and implementing partner reports. Reporting Frequency: Annual
Known Data Limitations	This indicator reflects the number of projects that include activities to prevent and/or respond to protection concerns, such as GBV, but it does not reflect the quality of such interventions or the outcome of activities.
Baseline Timeframe	N/A
Disaggregate(s)	Numerator, Denominator

3.3.2-15 Number of USG-assisted organizations and/or service delivery systems strengthened who serve vulnerable populations

Number of organizations or service delivery systems strengthened (providing better or more efficient services) with USG resources. (Higher = Better)

Definition: Tracks improvement in the capacity to provide social assistance and social service programs. Also serves as an indicator of a government's commitment and capacity to protect its vulnerable populations.

Linkage to Long- Term Outcome or Impact

Improvement in systems delivery is essential to long term outcome achievement

Indicator Type Output

Unit of Measure Number of organizations and/or delivery systems

Use of Indicator Tracks progress towards outcomes

Data Source and Reporting Frequency

Review of Project reports/Program review results Documents/Unit count from project records

Annual reporting

Known Data Limitations	Program self reporting is subject to error
Baseline Timeframe	Baseline timeframe needs to be established by the Operating Unit
Disaggregate(s)	Local NGO (non-DPO); DPO

DPO= development partner organization. organizaciones que reciben asistencia a traves de fondos, DPOs working under grants/coops/contracts

NGO = organizaciones que reciben asistencia sin fondos, ex: capacitaciones, asistencia sin recibir un grant

Indicator	**CBLD-1 Number of awards made directly to local organizations**
Definition	This indicator counts the number of awards made directly by the USG (not through intermediaries) to local organizations each fiscal year. It excludes awards made to public sector institutions but can include awards made to parastatals or universities. Awards can be either acquisition or assistance. For purposes of indicator reporting, at the time of the award a "local organization" must, • Be organized under the laws of the recipient country; • Have its principal place of business in the recipient country; • Be majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the recipient country or be managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of a recipient country; and • Not be controlled by a foreign entity or by an individual or individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of the recipient country. The term "controlled by" means a majority ownership or beneficiary interest as defined above , or 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, e.g., ownership, contract, or operation of law. "Foreign entity" means an organization that fails to meet any part of the "local organization" definition. Government controlled and government owned organizations in which the recipient government owns a majority interest or in which the majority of a governing body are government employees, are included in the above definition of local organization. For regional platforms the definition of a local organization can be expanded to include regional organizations that meet the following criteria: • Be organized under the laws of a country in the region served by the platform; • Have its principal place of business in the region; • Be majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the region or be managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the region; and • Not be controlled by a foreign entity or by an individual or individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of the region. Regional platforms and bilateral missions also may include obligations or sub-obligations to international organizations composed principally of countries to which membership is limited to countries within the region, provided the funds are to be implemented directly by or through the regional international organization.
Linkage to Long-Term Outcome or Impact	This indicator tracks operating unit progress towards meeting an objective of USAID Forward's Implementing Procurement Reform (IPR) objective to diversify the USG's partner base. It is a direct measure of the increase in the number of USG local partners.
Indicator Type	Output
Unit of Measure	Number of awards to local organizations in the past fiscal year.
Use of Indicator	This indicator measures progress towards the targets set under IPR Objective 2. It will be used by senior staff, Bureau-level planners and by Country-level managers to assess progress in achieving USAID Forward's Objective 2 (LCD) of IPR and to plan for improvements in LCD programming.
Data Source and Reporting Frequency	Data will be collected by each operating unit annually from acquisition and assistance records kept in the operating unit.
Known Data Limitations	None
Baseline Timeframe	2010 (each operating unit will establish a baseline figure for fiscal year 2010)
Disaggregate(s)	For-profit organizations, Not-for-profit organizations

Number of Justice Sector Personnel that received USG training

Number of municipalities with Municipal Crime Prevention Committees

Municipal Crime Prevention Committee (MCPC) is composed of local actors interested in crime and violence prevention within their municipalities and tasked with the design and implementation of Municipal Crime Prevention Plans – strategies to improve situational and personal security in the municipality and provide opportunities for youth at risk. The MCPCs are normally made up of local municipal officials, private sector representatives and civil society actors. In some cases, where appropriate, the police also participate.

USAID | EL SALVADOR
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

UPDATED NFO

Issue Date:	December 15, 2015
Deadline for Question/Clarifications:	December 22, 2015, 2:00 p.m.
El Salvador time	
Closing Date:	February 16, 2016
Closing Time:	12:00 p.m. El Salvador time

Subject: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) Number: NFO-596-16-000002

Program Title: Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a cooperative agreement from qualified U.S. and Non-U.S. organizations to fund a program entitled Human Rights & Democracy Activity. Eligibility for this award is not restricted see Section C of this NFO for eligibility requirements.

Subject to the availability of funds an award will be made to that responsible applicant(s) whose application(s) best meets the objectives of this funding opportunity and the selection criteria contained herein. While one award is anticipated as a result of this notice of funding opportunity (NFO), USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

For the purposes of this NFO the term "Grant" is synonymous with "Cooperative Agreement"; "Grantee" is synonymous with "Recipient"; and "Grant Officer" is synonymous with "Agreement Officer". Eligible organizations interested in submitting an application are encouraged to read this funding opportunity thoroughly to understand the type of program sought, application submission requirements and evaluation process.

To be eligible for award, the applicant must provide all information as required in this NFO and meet eligibility standards in Section C of this NFO. This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov, and may be amended. Potential applicants should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity. Applicants will need to have available or download Adobe program to their computers in order to view and save the Adobe forms properly. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the entire NFO has been received from the internet in its entirety and USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion process. If you have difficulty registering on www.grants.gov or accessing the NFO, please contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

The successful Applicant's program will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of this Project's objectives. Please read each section of the NFO.

Please send any questions to the point(s) of contact identified in section D. The deadline for questions is shown above. Responses to questions received prior to the deadline will be furnished to all potential applicants through an amendment to this notice posted to www.grants.gov.

Issuance of this notice of funding opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government nor does it commit the Government to pay for any costs incurred in preparation or submission of comments/suggestions or an application. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

Ross Hicks

Ross M. Hicks
Agreement Officer

SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

USAID/CAM REGIONAL PROJECT - HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

Based on full and open competition, USAID/CAM Regional Office intends to award a five-year Cooperative Agreement for the Human Rights and Democracy Activity (the Activity) to strengthen the human rights protection system in targeted countries in Central America including: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. This Activity will also support discrete interventions in Mexico and Nicaragua. Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to provide a maximum amount of $24,900,000 in total USAID funding for the five countries to be to be allocated over the five years. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) and its components and when applicable, consider creating partnerships with local organizations in each country to implement the Human Rights and Democracy Activity to obtain the desired results. Applicants are also encouraged to think creatively and propose different activities, results, and indicators than those listed below, as long as they correspond to a component and an objective.

The authorizing legislation for this NFO is the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, and the resulting award will be subject to 2 CFR 700 and 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and the Automated Directive System (ADS) 303[1].

<u>Overall Goal: National Human Rights Protection Systems Strengthened through Regional Engagement</u>

Support for human rights protection and promotion efforts requires the active engagement of the institutions, actors, processes, both State and civil society, that form the core of national human rights protection systems in the region. The purpose of this program is to strengthen a targeted set of capacities within the national human rights protections systems in Central America by supporting applicant and partner organization's existing programs to better fulfill their roles in 1) providing oversight, 2) ensuring accountability, 3) upholding the principle of non-discrimination along with other human rights norms, 4) addressing needs of victims, and 5) doing so in an independent, accountable, efficient, and effective manner. Applicants may propose interventions that can provide the Missions in the CAM region with programmatic assistance consisting of information, analysis, and recommendations and other assistance more fully described below, that effectively strengthens the protection and promotion of human rights.

This programmatic assistance may therefore entail focusing on building the capacity of the competent authorities in each country for human rights protection and promotion, specifically human rights ombudsman offices, special prosecutors, and public defenders along with the most relevant line ministries. It also may focus on human rights defenders, journalists, civil society organizations, social activists, and members of academia that contribute to national human rights protection systems and create cultures of tolerance and greater awareness and understanding of human rights.

[1] http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303.pdf

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE
Context and Problem Statement:

The Northern Triangle countries of Central America have made notable headway in efforts to establish elements of national human rights protection systems as they have transitioned over the past two decades from non-democratic rule and internal armed conflicts. Constitutions and human rights-specific laws, policies, and actions plans have been adopted. Countries in the region have also ratified core international human rights conventions and have accepted the jurisdiction of Inter-American human rights mechanisms. Human rights ombudsman offices, government commissions, and special prosecutors for a range of human rights issues have been appointed. Training on human rights has been made available to justice and security sector actors and other government officials. Special units have been mandated to assess and respond to threats against human rights defenders, journalists, and social activists. In addition, access to legal assistance and other services to victims is provided by justice sector institutions including courts and prosecutor's offices.

These and other achievements—many as a result of USAID engagement and support—are complimented by a civil society active on human rights. Human rights defenders, non-governmental organizations, victims' organizations, and academia throughout the region are advocating on behalf of victims, providing counseling and other referral services, and seeking to influence public policy and legal reform. Human rights defenders and other organizations are also documenting rights violations, petitioning government agencies and engaging in strategic litigation, and generating reports for international treaty bodies and other audiences.

Despite these achievements, protection and promotion of human rights in the region is a work in progress. Substantial needs and challenges remain as human rights violations occur with impunity in a number of major areas such as security and policing, bodily harm and threats to physical integrity, closing democratic space, and discrimination and exclusion as previously described. Shortcomings in institutional capacity, professional expertise and skills, combined with lack of appropriate resources and tools, continue to impede the independence, accountability, and efficiency of the institutions, actors, and processes that comprise national human rights protection systems in the region. This in turn has a negative impact on the systems' effectiveness and how they and their constituent parts are perceived by the public.

Human rights are universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions and omissions that interfere with the fundamental freedoms, entitlements, and human dignity of individuals and groups of individuals. States have broad authority as well as the responsibility to protect and promote human rights in accordance with international human rights norms as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and regional instruments, including those that comprise the Inter-American system. Enforcing the rights and obligations provided in these instruments are widely accepted as fundamental to the establishment of effective human rights protection systems at the national level and to strengthening the rule of law, justice and security sector reform, and the overall development of society.

Putting in place all the elements of national human rights protection systems is a complex undertaking. The challenge is particularly acute in countries, such as those that make up the Northern Triangle of Central America, that are attempting to transition from conflict to peace and stability and from authoritarian rule to democracy. This type of reform process tends to be a long-term effort with many obstacles to overcome and achievements to sustain. Surveying the human rights landscape in each of the three Northern Triangle countries reveals that effective promotion and protection of human rights in the region is still confronted with many challenges.

An environment of insecurity prevails throughout much of the region. Citizen security is threatened by an unprecedented level of crime, gang related violence and homicides. Ineffective and inadequate prevention and prosecution of crime and abuse of power undermines public confidence in the independence, effectiveness, and accountability of justice system institutions and actors. Likewise, ineffectual criminal justice systems promote impunity and are incapable of deterring crime. Unresolved legacies of the region's history of armed conflict and military rule also contribute to a climate of impunity. Increasing authoritarian rule is accompanied by corruption and use of the military for policing functions and public security. At the same time, state sovereignty, governance, and the ability to protect human rights are being eroded as criminal gangs (maras) and illicit power structures with transnational links assert effective control over territory.

Amid these phenomena Governments, due to their failure to prevent generalized crime and to maintain effective criminal justice systems, have left individuals, groups of individuals, and entire communities throughout the region in a situation where their rights to security and to access justice and due process are constantly violated. In the case of forced displacement, persons lose important rights contained in the UN Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights such as the right to health, education, employment and adequate housing. Interviews with key informants and reviews of authoritative human rights reports, including United Nations Universal Periodic Review documents and the U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights, reveal significant shortcomings in human rights protection among Northern Triangle countries and ongoing human rights violations common to each. These violations manifest themselves in a wide variety of ways. Major areas of human rights concern include: security and policing, bodily harm and threats to physical integrity, closing democratic space, and discrimination and exclusion,

To effectively tackle these sensitive human rights violations, the following gaps need to be addressed in order to strengthen the ability of national human rights protection systems to safeguard and promote human rights in the region:

- Ad hoc systemization and incomplete follow-up on recommendations from international human rights bodies and special procedures;

- Dispersion and deficiency of horizontal coordination and networking among human rights institutions and actors, both State and civil society;

- Insufficient communication, dialogue, and vertical coordination between State authorities and human rights defenders and civil society organizations;

- Improper external influences that threaten independence of key national human rights institutions and actors, specifically ombudsman offices and special prosecutors;

- Failure of justice and law enforcement actors (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and police) to internalize fundamental human rights principles and view themselves as contributing to the fight against impunity;

- Ineffective threat analysis, protection mechanisms, and prosecutions following attacks against human rights defenders, journalists, and social activists;

- Inadequate standards, methodologies, and protocols for human rights monitoring and documentation, early warning, compiling and sharing of databases and registries;

- Gaps in referral networks and services, including insufficient attention to psycho-social support and other remedies, for victims of human rights violations;

- Need for professionalizing civil society advocacy on human rights issues and efforts to seek accountability and institutional reform through strategic litigation

- Disconnect between priorities and activities of human rights defenders and civil society organizations with those of the public at large;

- Insufficient academic research, analysis, and data collection—both qualitative and quantitative—to inform policymaking and law reform for improved human rights protection;

- Lack of public awareness and understanding of human rights that impedes access to justice and contributes to popular attitudes and cultures of intolerance as well as apathy on rights issues, with particular regard to women, minorities, and vulnerable populations; and

- Incomplete transitional justice processes to deal with systematic human rights violations during past non-democratic rule and armed that feed cultures of impunity and perpetuate structural impediments to the realization of human rights guarantees.

- Lack of adequate professional expertise, human and financial resources, and institutional capacity amongst the critical bodies that comprise national human rights protection systems.

For a more detailed illustrative description of human rights problems in the region, please see Annex 1.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Areas and Interventions

The applicant and proposed partners are requested to describe solutions to the articulated development challenge and demonstrate how their programs can be expanded to strengthen the effectiveness of national human rights protection systems in Central America. The application should articulate how the solutions will advance the following three overarching areas:

1. Improve enabling environments for preventing human rights violations;
2. Strengthen responsive actions to address human rights violations; and
3. Promote sustainable Early Warning and Protection Systems for Key Vulnerable groups

These three areas reflect a holistic approach to human rights protection programming. They can be understood in temporal and cyclical terms. However, the three components are not sequential as much as they are interrelated and iterative. Each should be individually advanced throughout the course of the entire Project in a manner consistent with this holistic approach, while also recognizing that country contexts and priorities may preclude or otherwise favor engagement in some areas as opposed to others.

Applicants should note that countries included in the geographic focus of this Project can select from this program description those interventions that are most appropriate to address their particular human rights issues. Not all the areas or interventions need to be addressed in each country, and the program description is intended to provide a menu of options. Specific details will be reflected in the subsequent work plan development phase. To promote a better understanding of the human rights sector and needs in each country, the Applicant may include a political analysis of this sector as well as budget and human resource analysis of the Ombudsman's office and other institutions that form part of the human rights protection system, as needed. The findings of these assessments can help identify the most suitable interventions and help strengthen the overall strategy of this Project.

Likewise, applicants should avoid duplications with existing human rights bilateral activities. In countries where there are bilateral activities of this nature, the program may concentrate its efforts on complementing those activities through a regional strategy. USAID has included as reference material available information on ongoing human rights bilateral activities in targeted countries, please see Annex A consisting of the following: Fact Sheets for Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, and a summary of a future Youth and Gender Justice project in Guatemala.

The following sections outline specific results to be addressed and interventions to be undertaken through this Project. The anticipated interventions and indicators are illustrative.

Approach and illustrative interventions

The Applicant can illustrate how their program will take a holistic and systems approach to human rights protection and promotion. Illustrative interventions proposed may demonstrate how the applicant and partners will engage core human rights institutions and actors in ways that build individual capacities and facilitate horizontal and vertical linkages between them in order to strengthen the system as a whole. In addition, the Applicant may also explain how their proposed interventions will also contribute to overarching efforts to combat impunity that involve environment-building for preventing rights violations, responding to violations where they occur, and remedying the harm by seeking to make victims whole again.

As part of this effort, attention may also be given to understanding the root causes and risk factors associated with human rights violations. It may address a range of inter-related issues, needs, and activities that should be considered for developing rights-respecting environments.

Regional human rights programming activities need to be conscious of bilateral programs and be designed in a manner that complement and reinforce bilateral programs, while also addressing important gaps in rights protection and promotion throughout the region. Some illustrative interventions include: development of regional platforms, rapid reaction expertise, technical toolkits, education and training, and virtual clearing houses that can be deployed independently, for example, to build organizational capacity of local partners, respond to an immediate protection need, develop a tool, and undertake a study related to rights issues of common concern in the region. These same types of interventions can also be drawn upon by and integrated into bilateral programming already focused on major issues of human rights concern.

The Applicant should illustrate how their program will be implemented through three different areas, described more fully in the following sections, that will contribute to the overall goal of strengthening the national human rights protections systems in Central America and Mexico. In Central America, priority will be given to the three northern triangle countries and Nicaragua.

AREA 1: Improved Enabling Environments for Prevention of Human Rights Violations

Recognizing that each country in the region is unique in terms of legal, political, economic, social, and cultural contexts, there are common human rights violations and challenges. The Applicant can explain how their program will work to improve enabling environments for guaranteeing human rights and preventing their violation in a manner appropriate to national as well as regional contexts. Through this component, the Applicant will demonstrate how their program will improve awareness and understanding of human rights generally; enhance empirical based efforts to identify and analyze the causes and effects of specific human rights violations; and strengthen capacities for human rights early warning and threat assessment. Applicants may explain how their programs will support States in the region to meet their obligations under international law to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all members of their diverse societies. Enabling environment building efforts to prevent violation of human rights, such as those related to security and policing, physical integrity and safety of citizens, closing democratic space, and discrimination and exclusion, may involve support for relevant legal and policy reforms, institutional reform and safeguards, and networking and structured dialogues among the human rights community of practice, State institutions and actors, academia and civil society, and the private sector.

Result 1.1: Human Rights Education and Awareness Strengthened

The Applicant can demonstrate how their program can effectively improve the enabling environment for preventing human rights violations, and work with partners to elevate human rights awareness and understanding of society at large as well as among government officials associated with the national human rights protection system and the larger human rights community of practice. In undertaking this effort, the application may explain how their program will orient activities around implementation of resolutions such as the General Assembly of the OAS on "*Education on Human Rights in Formal Education in the Americas*" and achievements by OAS member states and other regional organizations in advancing regional norms and commitments with regards to human rights education and public awareness. Illustrative ideas may include: developing a regional human rights education and communications academy platform to support incorporation of human rights learning into primary, secondary, and university curricula and provide opportunities for students to explore human rights issues through extracurricular activities. Human rights education may also be integrated into in-service training and continuing education for justice and security sector officials. Themes may include the full spectrum of rights with attention given to non-discrimination, women, youth, migrants and internally displaced persons.

Illustrative Interventions:

- Facilitate a regional advisory network and/or working group of leading experts in human rights education and awareness raising to establish goals, standards, protocols, themes, and content for education, training, and strategic communications;
- Engage with regional networks to adopt and replicate a non-discrimination campaign especially regarding groups such as LGTBI, youth, migrants, internally displaced, women, children and other traditionally excluded groups.
- Engage ombudsman offices, justice sector training schools and educational institutions as appropriate/relevant in each country, in advancing the incorporation of human rights into formal academic curriculum in accordance with OAS resolutions.

- Support training and awareness raising of justice sector officials in the application of non-discriminatory laws and provisions, for improved handling of legal cases and to adequately treat users of justice services.
- Facilitate human rights study tours, scholarships for international education and moot court competitions, and internship programs;
- Support development of human rights learning guides, online and distance learning resources and portals, human rights student associations, human rights film festivals, photo and art exhibits, and rights awareness advertising in public spaces;
- Generate public campaigns, engage innovative media and social network outlets, and promote social behavior change communication strategies on human rights;

Illustrative indicators

- Number of institutions strengthened to educate on human rights issues.
- Number of awareness-raising activities on non-discrimination and other human rights issues carried out.
- Number of domestic proceedings that take into consideration emerging international jurisprudence.

Result 1.2: Human Rights Public Policy Research and Data Collection Increased
The Applicant can explain how their programs will improve environments to prevent ongoing and future human rights violations in the region by providing an empirical basis for human rights-sensitive law reform, policy making, and practice through human rights data collection, research and analysis. Through this objective, the Applicant may work with leading academic, thought leaders, and practitioners to support existing efforts to develop a comprehensive knowledge base that assists both civil society and governments in identifying and addressing the most complex and pressing human rights and justice needs of individuals and communities in countries in the region. Attention can be given to exploring the root causes of rights violations and structural impediments to the realization of human rights in the region, and rights violations of vulnerable and marginalized groups, and emerging risks to rights such as natural disasters or new challenges and opportunities affecting human rights. Outputs can be socialized through various fora organized to draw public attention to human rights issues and to engage executive and legislative authorities in data driven public policy and law making processes.

Illustrative Interventions:

- Organize and manage a working group of university-affiliated academics and key civil society and government stakeholders to spearhead region-wide data collection, research, and analysis of human rights issues, policies, and practices;

- Provide technical assistance to develop a human rights research agenda and implementation plan that leverages existing studies on the root causes of rights violation, identifies new and emerging human rights issues impacting the region, and examine root causes, contemporary challenges;

- Convene workshops, research symposia, and other fora to facilitate collaboration, refine research questions and methodologies, troubleshoot challenges, and share preliminary and final findings;

- Create and manage a virtual platform to promote data sharing, and dissemination of final studies and other outputs; and

- Facilitate press conferences, expert briefings, and entry points for consultations with legislative and executive authorities and socialize findings with civil society and the general public.

- Promote mechanisms to institutionalize public participation in governance processes, policy making, and law reform; and

- Support the implementation of public policies, laws or regulations for human rights protection and promotion.

Illustrative Indicators

- Number of studies and assessments made with USG support on human rights challenges and its root causes.

- Number of mechanisms established to promote data sharing on human rights issues.

AREA 2: Strengthened Responsive Actions to Address Human Rights Violations;
Because efforts to prevent human rights violations can sometimes be ineffective and unsuccessful, the Applicant can explain how their program will improve the ability of human rights institutions and actors, both State and civil society, that make up national human rights protection systems in the region to respond to and mitigate the immediate effect and harm of these violations on those individuals and groups of individuals at risk of ongoing violations. Countries in the region share a number of at risk populations and individuals whose rights have been violated. In addition to human rights defenders and journalists, the human rights of migrants and internally displaced persons, of women and youth, of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, LGBTI persons, and pre-trial detainees and prisoners are imperiled. Labor and land rights are also tenuous for many throughout the region. Responding to these types of violations requires particular capacities, tools, resources, and expertise that can be shared from throughout the region and be organized for rapid and effective deployment as needed. This can be done through networking of human rights institutions and actors, introduction of protection mechanisms, improvements in human rights documentation, and use of advocacy, strategic litigation and other types of interventions.

RESULT 2.1: Regional Cooperation of National Human Rights Authorities Strengthened
The Applicant can explain how their program will support competent authorities for the protection of human rights in partner countries in the region to exercise their mandates, perform their duties, and respond to key human rights challenges in the region through more effective regional cooperation and coordination. This may include working within and strengthening existing regional networks of ombudsman offices and similar mechanisms that exist for regional networking among judges, attorneys generals, and other government officials. High level dialogues and plenary meetings of institutions, such as the ombudsman office and attorneys general, may be complemented by structured meetings of their specialized units in order to enhance operational linkages between institutions in the region. In addition, attention may be given to facilitating linkages between national human rights authorities and non-governmental organizations with specialized human rights knowledge and expertise, e.g. in forensics, data collection and analysis, and organizational management. Efforts to broaden linkages outside

traditional human rights communities of practice, such as the business community, may also be undertaken.

Illustrative Interventions:

- Support current formal networking of national human rights authorities in regional and international fora;

- Provide assistance in convening and structuring high level dialogues to identify modes of cooperating on regional human rights issues and challenges;

- Establish regional task forces to lead engagement on common human rights challenges;

- Convene a series of regional fora to link national human rights authorities with new communities of practice, institutions and actors, and to broaden the constituency and partners for human rights protection and assistance; and

- Facilitate protocols and platforms for sharing of information, leading practices, and comparative approaches;

- Promote a regional agenda for human rights protection and promotion;

Illustrative Indicators

- Number of regional networks or mechanisms for human rights protection and promotion strengthened with USG support.

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- Number of national human rights authorities that incorporate international and regional human rights standards into their discussions.

RESULT 2.2: Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Made More Effective and Secure
The Applicant can explain how they will work with partners in the region to improve the physical and digital security of human rights defenders and journalists and their overall effectiveness in addressing their societies' most pressing human rights challenges as part of overarching national human rights protection systems. Through this Project, the Applicant can explain how their program will strengthen the networking of human rights defenders and journalists with counterparts in their own countries and in the region in order to build professional solidarity, share good practices for addressing key areas of human rights protection and promotion in the region, and develop sustainable strategies for self-protection. Attention may also be given to improving human rights documentation standards and methodologies, official and shadow reporting, techniques for interviewing and dealing with victims, providing legal and other types of victim's services. Where existing networks exists, they may be strengthened and made sustainable as well as more inclusive in terms of membership and participation. With regard to human rights defenders, attention may be given to developing strategies for protection of women human rights defenders and those from the LGBTI community as well as integrating them into broad-based human rights networks and coalitions.

Illustrative Interventions

- Support national and regional networks of human rights defenders and journalists for peer to peer learning, professional development, and collaboration in addressing significant human rights challenges;

- Compile and disseminate good practices and tools for more effective human rights monitoring and documentation, engaging and assisting victims, and conduct of strategic litigation;

- Provide technical assistance in the adoption and use of information and communication technologies and social media tools for human rights documentation, crowdsourcing, and advocacy;

- Establish rapid response emergency protection mechanisms for individuals and organizations under immediate threat, including shelter and financial support;

- Establish long-term relocation assistance mechanism, including professional fellowships and temporary employment abroad;

- Provide training in all aspects of security, e.g. physical, digital, and psycho-social, and measures for self-protection; and

- Facilitate replacement of confiscated and damaged equipment, including data recovery.

Illustrative Indicators

- Number of self-protection strategies adopted and security protocols socialized and followed.

- Number of international treaty bodies and other oversight mechanisms that take into consideration and rely upon shadow reports and other resources of human rights organizations in the region.

RESULT 2.3: Human Rights Strategic Litigation Enhanced

Countries in Central America are part of two important systems for human rights protection and promotion: the United Nations and the OAS Inter-American systems. As such, they are bound by a variety of international human rights norms and subject to the jurisdiction of a number of human rights tribunals, treaty oversight bodies, and special procedures. The Applicant can explain how their program will work with local partners and stakeholders, including human rights defenders, civil society organizations, and legal professionals, to increase knowledge about petitioning United Nations treaty oversight bodies and using the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights to respond to and mitigate human rights violations that occur throughout the region. In addition to addressing individual rights violations directly, strategic litigation may contribute to the development of jurisprudence for the region that can contribute to overall rights protection in each individual country. Attention may be given to pressing human rights challenges in the region, including those involving economic, social, and cultural rights as well as threats to bodily harm and physical security that require introduction of protective measures, compensation, and other responses, including institutional reforms. As part of this effort, the Applicant may support activities such as a Regional Strategic Litigation Center to provide expertise and produce reference materials and resources for accessing human rights courts and mechanisms, developing litigation strategies, improving drafting and trial advocacy skills, enforcing judgments, and engaging the media.

Illustrative Interventions

- Convene and manage activities and engagement of a regional advisory council to share best practices on strategic litigation and treaty body petitioning through a Regional Strategic Litigation Center;

- Increase awareness of existing reference guides and technical resources for accessing United Nations and Inter-American human rights enforcement mechanisms or develop additional resources as necessary;

- Organize workshops and trainings on strategic litigation and treaty body petitioning strategies, case selection criteria, and drafting and trial advocacy skills;

- Support if not already available the development of methodologies and case selection criteria for strategic litigation with victims associations and other relevant stakeholders and build capacity in the effective application of these litigation methods and tools;

- Convene regional meetings with potential international partners for strategic litigation.

- Provide technical assistance in developing and managing tools to coordinate and monitor strategic litigation cases, and follow-up on enforcement and;

- Compile and analyze jurisprudence (if not available) of enforcement mechanisms in key areas of human rights in the region as a resource to assist stakeholders in rights protection and promotion.

Illustrative Indicators

- Number of tools and methodologies developed to promote the use of human rights complaint systems

- Increased number of strategic litigation cases and treaty body petitions

- Number of cases where there is recognition and enforcement of international and regional judgments and awards

AREA 3: Sustainable Early Warning and Protection Systems for Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in place

RESULT 3.1: Regional Early Warning and Threat Assessment Processes Strengthened

The Applicant can explain how their program will support partners in the region to develop and institutionalize measures to prevent systematic, along with more individualized and localized, forms of human rights violations in the region and reduce to a minimum the harm they cause through early warning and threat assessment. Through this Project, the Applicant can explain how their program will assist in the adoption of sustainable strategies, mechanisms, and processes that are necessary to effectively identify current and emerging threats to human rights, analyze the nature of these threats, and mobilize resources to address imminent or impending violations before they occur. This may involve engagement of key government institutions and actors in human rights protection, principally ombudsman offices. Others may include special prosecutors for human rights, police and security personnel, and social protection ministries and administrative offices. Attention may be given to identifying and analyzing threats detonating forced displacement. This may include the development of a system to identify the trends and recurrence of threats, tracking internal displacement, further irregular migration and potential victims of trafficking in persons. The Applicant should explain how gender implications in this human flow will be taken into account. The alert system may also help to identify where and the cause of human flow on grounds of, gang violence; stigmatization and exclusion of minority populations and particular social groups and facilitate a coordinated regional state response.

Illustrative Interventions

- Undertake a region-wide needs assessment and stakeholder analysis to identify existing mechanisms and processes for early warning and threat assessment;

- Provide assistance to competent authorities, including ombudsman satellite offices, in establishing and strengthening early warning and threat assessment units at local level throughout the region;

- Support development and implementation of standing operating procedures to effectively and efficiently identify, analyze, and issue early warning and threat assessment reports;

- Equip operational units with tools and resources to identify, map, track, and analyze threats and violations;

- Provide technical assistance in establishing and/or strengthening the operation of inter-institutional commissions and other threat assessment units and;

- Convene consultations and other fora to involve civil society and media in early warning and threat assessment processes.

- Support the establishment of mechanisms to coordinate national early warning and threat assessment mechanisms in the region to exchange information and practice on a regular basis and take collective action when needed.

Illustrative Indicators

- Number of resources developed to analyze human rights threats and violations

- Number of regional networks strengthened to identify human rights threats,

RESULT 3.2 Enhanced remedies for victims and survivors of human rights violations
The Applicant may demonstrate how their program will support national human rights protection systems, including judicial and non-judicial institutions and actors, in providing longer term remedial actions that assist victims and survivors of human rights violations by State and non-state actors throughout the region in moving forward with their lives. Likewise, the Applicant can demonstrate how their program will give particular attention to respecting the rights and assist the needs of vulnerable populations without duplicating existing bilateral activities related to victim assistance. Vulnerable

populations would include migrants, internally displaced, and victims of trafficking that tend to be the most at risk of ongoing rights violations, whether it be arbitrary detention, sexual violence and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or discrimination, labor exploitation, or exclusion from public life.

In addition, illustrative interventions may also include the establishment of a regional registry to track disappearances. The registry will provide reliable information for investigations, help identify patterns, inform policies and strategies and provide critical information to families searching for a disappeared family member. Through this area of assistance, the Applicant may demonstrate how their program will strengthen efforts to address victims' assistance needs and regional coordinated efforts to combat impunity for these and other human rights violations in the region in the most comprehensive and holistic sense. This may include promoting retributive forms of justice that entail accountability for perpetrators along with ensuring access to justice and legal aid so victims and survivors can obtain other legal remedies. Remedying rights violations also may involve restorative and reparative forms of justice that can include compensation, restitution, and access to public goods and services, such as health and medical services, psycho-social support and trauma healing, economic assistance, temporary shelter and housing, and education.

Illustrative Interventions:

- Provide support to regional networks of Ombudsman's Offices, Attorney General's Offices or an appropriate independent entity to establish a regional registry to track disappearances as well as genetic database to help identify persons both dead and alive.

- Provide technical assistance to strengthen the normative framework for victims assistance and support services in the region for internally displaced persons and migrants, and victims of trafficking, including legal aid, based on best practices and international standards;

- Establish protocols and standard operating procedures for the region in the creation or improvement and management of victims assistance referral networks, hotlines, and awareness raising campaigns for internally displaced persons, migrants and victims of trafficking;

- Provide standardized protocols and best practices to assist in the introduction, and/or management of victim registries related to disappearances, trafficking, migration, internally displaced;

- Enhance capacity of civil society organizations and the legal profession to provide victims and their families with specialized services, including legal assistance;

- Assist justice sector institutions and actors develop capacity for regional coordination to investigate and prosecute serious human rights violations, in particular cross-border crimes as they relate to trafficking, migration and internally displaced persons;

- Strengthen sensitivity of justice sector institutions and actors towards victims and improve use of witness protection measures through training and education;

- Strengthen the capacity of justice sector officials to assist victims of human rights abuse by leveraging the legal profession, bar associations and non-governmental organizations in providing legal assistance and,

- Support efforts of civil society organizations, victim's groups, and social workers, working with academic institutions, to collect and analyze victimology data;

Illustrative Indicators

- Number of investigations and prosecutions of human rights violations involving State authorities increased and;

- Number of Justice sector officials and other key public servants such as police and customs agents sensitized and trained to provide assistance to victims.

- Number of referral networks established to provide professional services in a timely manner;

Plans to monitor and evaluate performance

USAID will review and approve the proposed Project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, which shall include a mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators, as well as those that assess the activity's impact on addressing gender inequalities. Applicants are also encouraged to propose a mixture of output and impact indicator that relate to the expected results. The Plan should also include CARSI indicators when applicable, which USAID/CAM regional will use to track progress towards achievement of its development objectives. The Applicant can refer to the Annex of Resource Documents for additional information on USAID's monitoring and evaluation policies and guidelines, as well as a list of CARSI indicators.

[END OF SECTION A]

SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated

Subject to funding availability, USAID intends to provide $24.9 million in total USAID funding over a five year period. Actual funding amounts are subject to availability of funds.

USAID intends to award one cooperative agreement pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity. USAID reserves the right to fund any one or none of the applications submitted.

2. Start Date and Period of Performance for Federal Awards

The period of performance anticipated herein is five years. The estimated start date will be upon the signature of the award, on or about March 30, 2016.

3. Substantial Involvement

USAID plans to negotiate a Cooperative Agreement with the successful Applicant for this activity. A Cooperative Agreement implies a level of "substantial involvement" by USAID through the Agreement Officer Representative (AOR).

The intended purpose of the AOR involvement during the award is to assist the recipient in achieving the supported objectives of the agreement. USAID will be substantially involved during the implementation of this Cooperative Agreement in the following areas:

- Review and approval of annual work plans
- Review and approval of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- Approval of the recipient's key personnel – approved by the Agreement Officer
- Agency and Recipient's collaboration or joint participation in the following areas:

a) Technical concurrence of sub-awards; b) Review and approval of consultants; c) Review and approval of public reach materials produced by the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity, per the approved Branding and Marking Plan

4. Title to Property

Property title under the resultant agreement shall vest with the recipient in accordance with the Requirements of the standard provisions.

5. Authorized Geographic Code

The geographic code for this program is 937.

6. Purpose of the Award

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient and under the subject program is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation of the Regional Human Rights and Democracy which is authorized by Federal statute.

The successful Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives and the efficient and effective administration of the award through the application of sound management practices. The Recipient will assume responsibility for administering Federal funds in a manner consistent with underlying agreements, program objectives, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. The Recipient using its own unique combination of staff, facilities, and experience, has the primary responsibility for employing whatever form of sound organization and management techniques may be necessary in order to assure proper and efficient administration of the resulting award.

7. Transition Awards

The resulting award will contain a Special Provision in which the recipient Organization will comply with USAID's recent policy on Transition Awards, per the exception to restrict eligibility contained in ADS 303.3.6.5b(3). The purpose of the Provision is to authorize USAID to award without competition to a local organization that has been a sub-recipient under a USAID prime award (the “initial award”) when certain conditions are met.

Organizational capacity development is an important element, and the recipient may provide assistance in the following key organizational areas: 1) governance, 2) administration, 3) human resources management, 4) financial management, 5) organizational management, 6) project management, 7) project performance management, and 8) leadership and team dynamic.

Further, the recipient will develop at least two local organizations’ capacities to become stronger and a more mature entity that will enable them to become eligible to receive a direct award from USAID or other donors in the future. Therefore, the prime recipient will develop a plan for strengthening key organizational areas, including appropriate training and technical assistance, and recommend the transition of these organizations by the end of this project. Indicators, baseline, and targets for local capacity development are to be included in the monitoring plan to be prepared by the applicant.

8. Activity Management

8.1. Staffing

Applicants must recruit and establish a team of experts and support staff to develop and implement the project and manage its substantive and administrative components. Although the core team will be based in El Salvador, professional staff should also be proposed for each targeted country in order to have country presence and ensure proper coordination with each of the Missions. Applicants are expected to maximize the use of staff from the region and/or US staff with in-depth knowledge of the Central America region, given the need for the team to have a profound knowledge of the technical thematic of the project.

Applicants should describe the staffing roles and responsibilities and appropriate skill sets for personnel proposed and proposed sub-recipients with defined lines of management, supervisory authority, and technical responsibilities. Applicants’ staffing plans must also describe the provision of home office support, sustained project support to target countries and potential country-based/field presence.

The application shall specify the organizational structure, personnel functions, and level of effort for carrying out project management functions. A graphic of the organizational structure would be beneficial.

8.2. Key Personnel

USAID has identified a Chief of Party, a Deputy Chief of Party/Activity Coordinator, 3 National Directors based in: Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, as Key Personnel. The functions of those key personnel positions should be described in the Applicant’s staffing and management plan. For Key Personnel not approved in the initial application, the recipient will forward the names and resumes of qualified candidates to the USAID El Salvador AOR for review and approval by the Agreements Officer before hiring decisions are finalized.

Both the Chief of Party and Deputy Chief of Party are expected to be proficient in Spanish and English, must have the ability to fully and effectively communicate, both orally and in writing. Minimum Level III in both languages, Level IV preferred.

Chief of Party

- A Master's degree in human rights, law, public administration, international relations or other related field.
- 10 years of senior management experience with progressively increasing responsibilities managing development projects.
- Experience managing projects in the human rights area.
- Experience working with senior government officials in Latin America and building consensus among diverse actors.
- Experience managing International donor contracts and agreements preferred.
- Experience working in Latin American countries is preferred.
- Speaking and writing fluency in English and Spanish, level 4.

Deputy Chief of Party

- Master's Degree in human rights, law, public administration, international relations or other related fields or 5 years of relevant experience to substitute the education requirement.
- Minimum of seven years of experience of progressively increasing responsibilities in development projects.
- Demonstrated experience in effectively working with local government structures, senior government officials, civil society actors, other donors.
- Experience in managing International donor projects preferred.
- Speaking and writing fluency in English and Spanish, level 4.

National Directors to be based in: Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua

- Master's degree in human rights, law, international relations or other related fields or 5 years of relevant experience to substitute the education requirement.
- Minimum of 8 years of experience working in human rights in the specific country assigned- Honduras and Guatemala and possibly Nicaragua
- Demonstrated experience in effectively working with local government structures, senior government officials, civil society actors, other donors.
- Speaking and writing fluency in Spanish, level 4.

USAID reserves the right to request the apparent successful Applicant to make their proposed Key Personnel candidates and other representatives available for interviews and oral discussions.

In accordance with the Substantial Involvement provision in the resulting agreement, any changes to the approved personnel and positions are also subject to the approval of the Agreement Officer prior to any placement under this project.

8.3. Award and Management of Sub-Grants

The Applicant shall describe its approach to, and how it will manage, the competition and award of grants in line with USAID best practices and policies. The applicant is strongly encouraged to build on local capacity and establish strong partnerships with local institutions and civil society organizations. The applicant will design ***an approach to grant-making*** that is cost effective and designed to be responsive to the needs of the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity; and ***procedures for identifying and approving applications*** that are not onerous and ensure flexibility. The Applicant will establish a cost-effective system for awarding and managing grants. The Applicant will emphasize the application of alliance principles to leverage private investment, and financing, and encourage public-private implementation partnerships where feasible.

Funding for the Sub-Grants is not to exceed $7.5 million over the life of the project and should be seen as one tool to achieve the results of the project; therefore, applicants should propose their use as such. USAID/El Salvador must approve the grants manual and actual selection of grant recipients with Central American organizations, including any decisions to award grants based on exclusive or predominant capability. All sub-grants must comply with 2 CFR 200 and ADS 303 requirements, as applicable. USAID/El Salvador will coordinate as needed with USAID Missions based in the target countries in the selection of grant recipients.

8.4. Environmental Compliance
Note: A Negative Determination with Conditions indicates that one or more of the project activities has no known impacts, but which can be foreseen that require specific measures to mitigate any potential threat to the environment.

In cases when the original IEE results in a NEGATIVE DETERMINATION WITH CONDITIONS implementers are required to prepare additional environmental compliance documentation. In such cases, the supplemental standard environmental compliance clauses are required as found below in subsection 2 onwards.

a. Prepare an environmental mitigation plan and report (EMPR) describing how the recipient will, in specific terms, implement all IEE and/or EA conditions that apply to proposed project activities within the scope of the award. The EMPR shall include monitoring the implementation of the conditions and their effectiveness. If the approved Regulation 216[2] documentation contains a complete EMPR the recipient does not need to complete a new plan. Guidance is available to assist with the EMPR process at Guidelines EMPR Revised June 2012 (1).doc

b. Integrate a completed EMPR into the initial work plan.

c. Integrate an EMPR into subsequent annual performance reports (which include work plans), making any necessary adjustments to activity implementation in order to minimize adverse impacts to the environment.

1a) The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, Section 117 requires that the impact of USAID's activities on the environment be considered and that USAID include environmental sustainability as a central consideration in designing and carrying out its development programs. This mandate is codified in Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Parts 201.3.11.2.b and 204 (http://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/agency-policy/series-200) which in part, require that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. Recipient environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this agreement.

[2] http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/compliance/22cfr216

1b) In addition, the recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern.

1c) No activity funded under this agreement will be implemented unless an environmental threshold determination, as defined by 22 CFR 216, has been reached for that activity, as documented in an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), duly signed by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO). Hereinafter, such documents are described as "approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation."

2) An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) LAC-IEE-15-41, has been approved for the for the Regional Citizen Security and Human Rights Project on July 30, 2015. The IEE covers activities expected to be implemented under this the Human Rights and Democracy Activity. USAID has determined that a **categorical exclusion and negative determination with conditions** applies to the proposed activities. This indicates that if these activities are implemented subject to the specified conditions, they are expected to have no significant adverse effect on the environment. The recipient shall be responsible for implementing all IEE conditions pertaining to activities to be funded under this award.

3a) As part of its initial work plan, and all annual performance reports (including annual work plans) thereafter, the recipient, in collaboration with the USAID Agreement Officer's Representative and Mission Environmental Officer or Bureau Environmental Officer as appropriate, shall review all ongoing and planned activities under this agreement to determine if they are within the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.

3b) The recipient will be responsible for periodic reporting to the USAID Agreement Officer's Representative, as specified in the Activity Description of this award.

3c) If the recipient plans any new activities outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation, it shall prepare an amendment to the documentation for USAID review and approval. No such new activities shall be undertaken prior to receiving written USAID approval of environmental documentation amendments.

3d) Any ongoing activities found to be outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation shall be halted until an amendment to the documentation is submitted and written approval is received from USAID.

4) Cost and technical applications must reflect environmental documentation preparation costs and approaches where applicable. This may include costs towards the preparation of an Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report (EMPR) during the post award stage (see attached). The recipient will be expected to comply with all conditions specified in the approved IEE.

5) USAID anticipates that environmental compliance and achieving optimal development outcomes for the proposed activities will require environmental management expertise. Respondents to the NFO should therefore include as part of their application their approach to achieving **environmental compliance and management,** to include:

a) The respondent's approach to developing and implementing an Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report (EMPR)

b) The respondent's approach to providing necessary environmental management expertise, including examples of past experience of environmental management of similar activities.

c) The respondent's illustrative budget for implementing the environmental compliance activities/EMPR. For the purposes of this solicitation applicants should reflect illustrative costs for environmental compliance implementation and monitoring in their cost proposal.

8.5. Additional Language For Awards Including Sub-Grants With An IEE Negative Determination With Conditions.

A provision for sub-grants is included under this solicitation requiring the recipient to use the Table 1 (Environmental Screening Form) of the EMPR to screen grant applications to ensure that the funded applications will result in no adverse environmental impact, to develop necessary mitigation measures and to specify monitoring and reporting. Use of Table 1 is called for when the nature of the grant applications to be funded is not known well enough, to make an informed decision about their potential environmental impacts, yet due to the type and extent of activities to be funded, any adverse impacts are expected to be easily mitigated. Implementation of sub-grant activities cannot go forward until the Table 1 checklist is completed by the recipient and approved by USAID. The recipient is responsible for ensuring that mitigation measures specified by the EMPR checklist process are implemented and addressed in annual reports.

The recipient will be responsible for periodic reporting to the USAID Agreement Officer's Representative, as specified in the Activity Description of this solicitation.

8.6. Alliances and Partnerships

Applicants are encouraged to form alliances and partnerships with traditional and non-traditional partners, private businesses, development organizations, faith-based organizations, other donors, universities, public international organizations (PIOs)[3] and think tanks to address issues and achieve results in this project. Specifically, applicants should describe the roles, responsibilities, expertise, and commitments of their alliance partners; and how the partners will share resources, risks and rewards, leveraging significant resources, apply proven expertise, work jointly with new and existing partners. USAID encourages science, technology and innovation partnerships.

8.7. Cross-Cutting Activities

8.7.1 Gender Equality and Gender Based Violence

USAID's commitment to advance gender equality and pursue gender as a key development issue should be fully reflected in this activity. In developing its programs, USAID seeks to ensure that gender considerations are incorporated into all aspects of its planned programs. Gender considerations should be integrated into the activities, ensuring that men and women both benefit from USAID support and that gender awareness is a build-in component of the activities.

This Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity will take into account the fact that men and women see and experience human rights violations and need assistance differently, and should identify effectively solutions that respond to these different needs and adequately tackle discrimination and

[3] Such as UN and OAS human rights bodies.

gender-based violence. The Activity will look to incorporate strategic and gender-sensitive elements to inform planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities.

In order to ensure that USAID assistance makes possible the optimal contribution to gender equality, USAID projects will consider the following two questions:

(1) **How will the different roles and status of women and men** within the community, political sphere, workplace, and household (for example, roles in decision-making and different access to and control over resources and services) **affect the work to be undertaken?**

(2) **How will the anticipated results of the work affect women and men** differently?

The purpose of the first question is to ensure that 1) the differences in the roles and status of women and men are examined; and 2) any inequalities or differences that will impede achieving program or project goals are addressed in the planned work design.

The second question calls for another level of analysis in which the anticipated programming results are: 1) fully examined regarding the possible different effects on women and men; and 2) the design is adjusted as necessary to ensure equitable and sustainable program or project impact.

USAID will evaluate the appropriateness of the proposed activities, staff and budget with regard to gender integration. The application should specifically demonstrate how gender issues will be addressed; what analysis will be undertaken to integrate gender considerations; how results will be determined taking gender into account; and what resources will be provided to do this.

8.7.2. Social inclusion

Since non-discrimination is the basic foundation of USAID's inclusive development approach of empowering women and girls, marginalized ethnic populations, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities, youth, and LGBTI individuals, the applicant must consider integrated programming that reaches people from all these marginalized groups. The LGBTI Vision for Action reiterates USAID's commitment to championing the human rights of LGBTI persons and promoting their inclusion in development efforts. Furthermore, USAID is committed to the inclusion of people who have physical and cognitive disabilities and those who advocate and offer services on behalf of people with disabilities. This commitment extends from the design and implementation of USAID programming to advocacy for and outreach to people with disabilities. USAID's policy on disability is as follows: To avoid discrimination against people with disabilities in programs which USAID funds and to stimulate an engagement of host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations and other
donors in promoting a climate of nondiscrimination against and equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

USAID will evaluate the ability of the application to support the active participation of all diverse vulnerable groups in design, implementation, and monitoring of activities.

8.7.3. Working with Government

USAID anticipates this activity will coordinate with key government institutions responsible for managing human rights issues such as relevant Ministries to advance regional activities such as the Ministries of Education and Justice and Security, as well the Ombudsman, Public Defender's and Attorney General Offices. At the regional level, the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity

will coordinate with the Central American Council of Human Rights, the Inter-American Human Rights Court and Human Rights Committee as well as with the UN Human Rights System, including its special procedures. For capacity building interventions, USAID will also coordinate with existing higher learning institutions such as the Inter-American Human Rights Institute, based in Costa Rica.
All coordination with key governmental entities will be done in close coordination with USAID Missions based in each country.

8.7.4. Coordination with other donors and programs

There are many multilateral and bilateral donors currently supporting various types of human rights protection activities in the region. In order not to duplicate efforts and to maximize donor output, the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity will coordinate work with other donors in the field and leverage complementary donor funding. Examples of these donors include, but are not limited to: World Bank, German Cooperation Agency, European Union, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Italian Cooperation Agency, International Labor Organization, and United Nations organizations among others.

8.7.5. Key Stakeholders

Equally important for this Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity is the engagement with local organizations and civil society groups which are crucial for continued success in human rights protection. The Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity should engage with, and foster communication and cooperation among, civil society, local institutions, and private sector stakeholders who have been involved and have expert knowledge on human rights public policy and protection and their implementation.

[END OF SECTION B]

SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

USAID welcomes applications from organizations which have not previously received financial assistance from USAID.

Applicants must have established financial management, monitoring and evaluation processes, internal control systems, and policies and procedures that comply with established U.S. Government standards, laws, and regulations. The successful applicant(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination assessment (Pre-award Survey) by the Agreement Officer (AO).

The Recipient must be a responsible entity. The AO may determine a pre-award survey is required to conduct an examination that will determine whether the prospective recipient has the necessary organization, experience, accounting and operational controls, and technical skills – or ability to obtain them – in order to achieve the objectives of the program and comply with the terms and conditions of the award.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

No cost share will be required from the recipient for the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity, however, cost share is strongly encouraged because the support of this activity should encourage the collaboration and contribution of respective governmental counterparts in the implementation of the activity. The resultant recipient must also establish partnerships that would ensure that the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity has impact and is sustainable.

Partnerships between this Activity and local counterparts are expected to potentiate impact and sustainability. USAID will accept cash and other than cash contributions, if these are new resources such as property, equipment, products, and technologies; infrastructure, services, and supplies used for the implementation of any one individual initiative or effort in human rights public policy. In-kind contributions are allowable, if they meet the Automated Directives System (ADS) 303.3.10.2 and USAID Acquisition Regulation 731.2 for for-profit entities. Funds and resources used as cost-share from other authorized governments (except host national government) or from multilateral organizations can be accepted as part of the leveraging for an alliance but these resources will be treated as in-kind and will only be counted for up to the equivalent of the USAID contribution.

Partnerships in which non-USAID resources leveraged have more clearly defined cash component are generally more competitive. However, various types of in-kind contributions can play an important role in funding alliances. Examples of in-kind contributions that USAID seeks under alliances include:

- Commodities such as equipment, etc.
- Use of training or other purpose-specific facilities necessary to a project’s implementation
- Value of time donated by technical consultants necessary to a project
- Value of salaries for staff dedicated to a project
- Innovative technology, communications and capital assets.

3. Other

N/A

[END OF SECTION C]

SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Agency Point of Contact

Ms. Blanca de Ibarra
Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance
USAID/El Salvador
Email: bibarra@usaid.gov
Phone number: (503)2501-3331

Questions and Answers:

All questions regarding this NFO should be submitted in writing to Ms. Blanca de Ibarra to the e-mail address above with a copy to Mr. Ross Hicks at rhicks@usaid.gov.

Questions regarding this NFO should be submitted via email no later than December 22, 2015, 2:00 p.m. El Salvador time to provide sufficient time to address the questions and incorporate the questions and answers as an amendment to this solicitation. Any information given to a prospective Applicant concerning this NFO will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Applicants as an amendment to this NFO, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Applications must be submitted by electronic means only to: bibarra@usaid.gov. The email must be identified with the following subject heading: No. NFO-596-16-000002 Regional Human Rights & Democracy Activity. Only electronic technical and cost proposals will be accepted and must be submitted by February 16, 2016 at 12:00 pm El Salvador time, at the following email address: bibarra@usaid.gov. Electronic files shall not exceed 10MB limit, and shall not be zipped files.

Technical and Cost applications must be separate. The Applicants are expected to review, understand, and comply with all aspects of the NFO. Given that only electronic submissions will be accepted, if an application is sent by multiple emails, please indicate in the subject line of the email whether the email relates to the technical or cost application, and the desired sequence of multiple emails (if more than one is sent) and of attachments (e.g. "No. 1 of 4", etc.). For example, if your cost application is being sent in two emails, the first email should have a subject line which says: "[organization name], Cost Application, Part 1 of 2".

Our preference is that the technical application and the cost application be submitted as single email attachments, e.g. that you consolidate the various parts of a technical application into a single document before sending them. If this is not possible, please provide instructions on how to collate the attachments. USAID will not be responsible for errors in compiling electronic applications if no instructions are provided or are unclear. All applications received by the submission deadline will be reviewed for responsiveness to the NFO and the application format. No addition or modifications will be accepted after the submission date.

After you have sent your applications electronically, immediately check your own email to confirm that the attachments you intended to send were indeed sent. If you discover an error in your transmission, please send the material again and note in the subject line of the email or indicate in the file name if submitted via grants.gov that it is a "corrected" submission. Do not send the same email more than once unless there has been a change, and if so, please note that it is a "corrected" email.

Preparation of Applications:

Each Applicant shall furnish the information required by this NFO. Applications shall be submitted in two separate parts: (a) Technical Application, and (b) Cost/Business Application.

Any erasures or other changes to the application must be initiated by the person signing the application. Applications signed by an agent on behalf of the Applicant shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the U.S. Government except for evaluation purpose, should mark the title page with the following legend:

"This application includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the U.S. Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, a grant is awarded to this Applicant as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting grant. This restriction does not limit the U.S. Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets {insert sheet numbers} and, mark each sheet of data it wished to restrict with the following legend:

"Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application."

Applicants should retain for their records one (1) copy of the application and all enclosures which accompany it.

Applicants may upload applications to http://www.grants.gov. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions.

3. Application Submission Procedures

3.1. Technical Application Format

General

The technical application will be the most important factor for consideration in selection for award of the proposed Cooperative Agreement. The technical application should be specific, complete and presented concisely. The application should demonstrate the Applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. The application should take into account the requirements of the program and evaluation criteria found in this NFO.

Applicants must organize the Technical Application to follow the technical evaluation criteria specified in Section E. The page length of the entire Technical Application shall not exceed 35 pages exclusive of Annexes and other pages not subject to the page limitation indicated below.

Therefore, technical applications must be organized as follows:

I. Executive Summary (limited to three pages)
II. Technical Approach
III. Activity Management
IV. Institutional Capacity and Past Performance
V. Annexes - USAID will not review annexes that are not included below.
i. Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (limited to 6 pages)
ii. Draft Annual work plan (limited to 7 pages)
iii. Resumes (key personnel) (limited to 2-page resumes per person)
iv. Activity Organizational Chart (1 page)
v. Past Performance Information and Summary Chart (no limit)

Page Limitation

Technical Application is limited to 35 pages. **Any pages OVER 35 PAGES WILL NOT BE EVALUATED**. Additional documentation not requested above will not be reviewed. Applications must be written in English and typed on standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper (216mm by 297mm paper), single spaced, font type Times New Roman 12, with each page numbered consecutively.

Content

The technical application should address the objectives and results defined in the Activity Description and provide a clear prioritization of activities to achieve the Results. The technical application should not merely repeat the contents of the Activity Description, rather it should offer original, critical thinking and analysis related to each result. Applicants should structure their proposal based on the expected results identified in the Activity Description.

The technical application must address the following:

1. Technical Approach (Please see section E for more detail)
Provide a comprehensive approach that addresses the human rights challenges and opportunities that confront the region, a strong regional approach to addressing these challenges, well identified partnerships and coordination with key stakeholders, adaptable and replicable products and sound integration of gender and social inclusion.

2. Activity Management

a. *Key Personnel*

Adequacy of staff key strengths (i.e., skills, education, experience) *vis-à-vis* their roles and responsibilities in the application. Requirements for Key Personnel are listed in Section B.8.2.

b. Organizational capacity and geographic coverage

Describe the staffing roles and responsibilities and appropriate skill sets for personnel proposed and proposed sub-grantees with defined lines of management, supervisory authority, and technical responsibilities. Applicants' staffing plans must also describe the provision of home office support, sustained project support to target countries (Northern Triangle, Nicaragua, and Mexico), and any potential field presence. Application demonstrates rapid program start-up within the first forty-five days of the award.

Note: On qualification and experience of proposed personnel, the Applicant is required to present resumes/curriculum vitae for proposed staff and ensure that the proposed personnel will, in fact, be available to staff the program should the Applicant be selected for award. Failure to provide such assurances and letters of commitment may disqualify the Applicant from being considered for award. Failure of the Applicant selected for award to provide the proposed personnel may result in disqualifying the winner from receiving an award.

The Applicant shall provide a biographical sketch and position description for the proposed staff. The position descriptions shall reflect a clear understanding of the technical skills necessary to achieve the results specified in the Application. Resumes/curriculum vitae may not exceed two pages in length per individual; this information should be included as an attachment to the technical application.

3. Institutional Capacity and Past Performance

Demonstrate recent and relevant technical and regional experience and successful performance in achieving results on programs of similar technical content and scope in developing countries.

If relevant, the application can include a description of experience and representative accomplishments of the organization of conducting activities of the type required under this NFO.

The applicants must provide a list of all its cost-reimbursement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs during the past three years The Applicant must provide information on past performance in accordance with the table below. USAID may use performance information obtained from other than the sources identified by the Applicant/sub recipient. USAID will utilize existing databases of recipient performance information and solicit additional information from the references provided herein and contact the individual(s) indicated as well as others. If the performance information contains negative information on which the Applicant has not previously been given an opportunity to comment, USAID will provide the Applicant an opportunity to comment on it prior to its consideration in the evaluation.

Program Description summary	Primary location of work	Term of performance	Dollar Value	Award type & Number	Organization / Contracting Entity/Technical Officer who received the services of the applicant	e-mail address and Tel. No.

NOTE: USAID relies on the prime organization's review of partner/sub recipient institutions. However, if deemed necessary to ensure prudent use of USG funds, USAID may conduct its own past performance review of proposed partners/sub recipient institutions. It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that all necessary documentation is complete and received on time.

The Cost application shall include the following sections:

4. Cost Application Format

Provide a cover page that includes the following:
a. Program title;
b. Request for Applications reference number;
c. Name of organization (s) applying for the agreement;
d. Any partnerships; and
e. Contact person and title of authorized representatives to negotiate, telephone number, email, and street address.

The Applicant must sign and submit the cost application standard form number SF-424 and SF-424A. Standard Forms can be accessed electronically at www.grants.gov.

The Cost or Business application is to be submitted under a separate cover from the Technical application. The Cost/Business application is also to be submitted via email in Microsoft Excel 2010. Applicants are required not to lock the formulas. The Applicant is requested to submit a budget broken down by program years with an accompanying detailed budget narrative (in Word 2010) which provides in detail the total costs for implementation of the program as further detailed below.

Certain documents are required to be submitted by an Applicant in order for the Agreement Officer to make a determination of responsibility. However, it is USAID policy not to burden Applicants with undue reporting requirements if that information is readily available through other sources. There is no page limit on the Cost Application. However, unnecessarily elaborate brochures or other presentations beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective application in response to this NFO is not desired. Elaborate art work, expensive paper and bindings, and expensive visual and other presentation aids are neither necessary nor wanted.

If the Applicant has established a consortium or another legal relationship among its partners, the Cost/Business application must include a copy of the legal relationship between the parties. The agreement should include a full discussion of the relationship between the Applicant and Sub-Applicant(s) including identification of the Applicant with whom USAID will work with for purposes of Agreement administration, identity of the Applicant which will have accounting responsibility, how Agreement effort will be allocated and the express agreement of the principals thereto to be held jointly and severely liable for the acts or omissions of the other.

A thorough cost analysis will be performed for the apparently successful Applicant. Budget information required from the apparently successful Applicant should be in enough detail to determine the proposed cost for the Applicant’s program to be allocable, allowable and reasonable.

The following sections describe the documentation that the Applicants must submit to USAID prior to award. While there is no page limit for this portion, Applicants are encouraged to be as concise as possible, but still provide the necessary details to address the following:

1. The budget must have an accompanying detailed budget narrative and justification that provides in detail the total program amount for implementation of the program your organization is proposing. The budget narrative should provide information regarding the basis of estimate for each line item, including reference to sources used to substantiate the cost estimate (e.g. organization's policy, payroll document, and vendor quotes, etc.).

2. A budget for each program year with an accompanying detailed budget narrative which provides in detail the total costs for implementation of the program. The budget must be submitted using Standard Form 424 which can be downloaded from the following web site at: http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15

3. A breakdown of all costs associated with the program according to the costs of, if applicable, headquarters, regional and/or country offices.

4. Applicants who intend to utilize contractors or sub-awardees should indicate the extent intended and a complete cost breakdown. Extensive contracts/agreement financial plans should follow the same cost format as submitted by the primary Applicant. A breakdown of all costs according to each partner organization, contract or sub-awardee involved in the program should be provided.

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200 Contract means a legal instrument by which the Applicant purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a resulting award. The term does not include a legal instrument when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a Federal award or sub-award (see § 200.92 Sub-award), even if the Applicant considers it a contract. The Applicant must describe the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting proposed by the contractor, and the quality of its record of past performance for similar work. For-profit contract organizations that work under the award and do not meet the above definition of a sub-awardee are eligible for profit/fee.

The cost/business application should contain the budget categories: as shown on the SF-424A

The Applicant must submit a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement NICRA if the organization has such an agreement with an agency or department of the U.S. Government. If it does not have a NICRA, the Applicant should submit the following:

Reviewed Financial Statements Report: a report issued by a Certified Public Account (CPA) documenting the review of the financial statements was performed in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services; that management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation. The account must also state the he or she is not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements; or

Audited Financial Statements Report: An auditor issues a report documenting the audit was conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), the financial statements are the responsibility of management, provides an opinion that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the company and the results of operations are in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework (or issues a qualified opinion if the financial statements are not in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The proposal should not include: Compiled financial statements as these shall not be accepted.

If the applicant proposes Cost Sharing, the Applicants should estimate the amount of cost-sharing resources to be mobilized over the life of the agreement and specify the sources of such resources, and the basis of calculation in the budget narrative. Applicants should also provide a breakdown of the cost share (financial and in-kind contributions) of all organizations involved in implementing the resulting Cooperative Agreement.

The business section of the cost/business application should include:
1. Required assurances, certifications and representations
2. Evidence of responsibility which the Agreement Officer can use to determine the Applicant
a. Has adequate financial resources or the ability to obtain such resources as require during the performance of the award;
b. Has the ability to comply with the award conditions, taking into account all existing and currently prospective commitments of the Applicant;
c. Has a satisfactory record of performance. Past relevant unsatisfactory performance is ordinarily sufficient to justify a finding of non-responsibility, unless there is clear evidence of subsequent satisfactory performance;
d. Has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics; and
e. Is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive a Cooperative Agreement under applicable laws and regulations (e.g., EEO).

3. Certificate of Compliance: Please submit a copy of your Certificate of Compliance if your organization's systems have been certified by USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA).

4. Statutory and Regulation Certifications
The Applicant shall complete the certifications in Section H. Required Certifications and sign and date in the signature space provided. The signed and dated printout must then be submitted with the application as an annex to the cost application. Original signed hardcopy of the certifications will be requested from the successful applicant prior to the agreement award.

5. Potential Request for Additional Documentation
Apparent successful applicants may be required to submit additional information/documentation which may result as part of the merit review or cost analysis.

Applicants should not submit the information below with their technical applications. The information in this section is provided so that Applicants may become familiar with additional documentation that may be requested by the Agreement Officer. The information submitted should substantiate:

1. Bylaws, constitution, and articles of incorporation, if applicable.
2. Whether the organizational travel, procurement, financial management, accounting manual and personnel policies and procedures, especially regarding salary, promotion, leave, differentials, etc., submitted under this section have been reviewed and approved by any agency of the Federal Government, and if so, provide the name, address, and phone number of the cognizant reviewing official. The Applicant should provide copies of the same.

6. Required Certifications
In addition to the certifications included in the Standard Form 424, applicants must execute the following certifications, assurances, and other statements from both U.S. and non-U.S. organizations before making an award and as part of the cost application.

- Certifications, Assurances, Other Statements of the Recipient
- Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

- Dun and Bradstreet and SAM.gov Requirements

Please note that USAID may not award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements. Each applicant is required to:

(i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. SAM is streamlining processes, eliminating the need to enter the same data multiple times, and consolidating hosting to make the process of doing business with the government more efficient.;

(ii) Provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and

(iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

It is the Applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all necessary documentation is complete and received on time.

7. Funding Restrictions

USAID policy is not to award profit under assistance instruments. However, all reasonable, allocable and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the agreement program and are in accordance with applicable cost principle under 2 CFR 200 Subpart E. of the Uniform Administrative Requirements may be paid under the anticipated award.

[END OF SECTION D]

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

This Section includes information regarding: a) the criteria that will be used for technical merit review; and b) a discussion of the selection process for award.

1. Criteria

The criteria presented below have been tailored to the requirements of this particular NFO. Applicants should note that these criteria serve to: (a) identify the significant matters which applicants should address in their applications, and (b) set the standard against which all applications will be evaluated.

The Selection Committee (SC) will conduct a merit review of all technical applications received in response to this NFO, in accordance with the merit review criteria listed below:

- Technical Approach
- Activity Management
- Institutional Capacity and Past Performance

The technical application which is deemed to offer the best overall value and meet USAID objectives will be selected for award. The Government reserves the right to make award without discussions.

2. Review and Selection Process

A review panel established under the direction of the Agreement Officer will evaluate all technical applications. Prior to negotiating an actual award, the Agreement Officer will review the apparently successful applicant's budget to ensure that costs are in compliance with 2 CFR 200 and USAID policies. The costs proposed must be determined to be reasonable, based on the cost application and other information provided, before an award can be made. Award will be made to the responsible applicant whose application is determined to be the best based on technical and cost factors specified in this NFO.

Proposed costs may be adjusted, for purposes of evaluation, based on results of the cost analysis, including an assessment of reasonableness, completeness, and realism.

3. Application Review Criteria

A. Technical Evaluation
Technical Approach (55 points)

- **Regional Context** Extent to which the proposed technical approach reflects understanding of the regional context, dynamics, realities and challenges relevant to the Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala), Nicaragua, and Mexico.
- **Overall Approach**: Extent to which the overall approach presents a plan that is creative, adaptable, sustainable and feasible, with an integration among activities that clearly leads to achieving project objectives and results.
- **Partnerships and coordination:** Extent to which approaches for partnering and coordinating with government counterparts, civil society organizations, and other donors' human rights projects are meaningfully addressed. The application will be evaluated on

the degree to which their program gives attention to capacity building of local partners to implement key human rights interventions in the region.

- **Gender and Social Inclusiveness**: The extent to which gender and social inclusion is integrated throughout proposed activities. The Applicant will be evaluated on the degree to which their program address discrimination, promote policy change, and address the protection of human rights of vulnerable groups.

Activity Management (30 points)

a. Key Personnel (20 points)

Adequacy of staff key strengths (i.e., skills, education, experience) *vis-à-vis* their roles and responsibilities in the application.

b. Organizational Capacity (10 points)

- ✓ USAID will review the overall staffing plan with long- and short-term experts and staff who have the relevant experience, knowledge and skills related to their roles, in order to achieve program objectives.
- ✓ Staff will be evaluated based on the skill areas proposed and their appropriateness to the technical approach outlined in the application as well as on their academic background, expertise and years of related experience.
- ✓ USAID will review how its management structure and partners will support the technical approach to achieve results.

Institutional Capacity and Past Performance (15 points)

- Demonstrate recent and relevant technical and regional experience and successful performance in achieving results on programs of similar technical content and scope in countries with similar challenges.

- Past performance reference information will be evaluated based on existing evaluations and verify or corroborate the following:

- How well an applicant performed,
- The relevancy of the work performed under the program,
- Instances of good performance,
- Instances of poor performance,
- Significant achievements,
- Significant problems, and
- Indications of excellent or exceptional performance in the most critical areas.

B. Cost Evaluation

Cost applications will be evaluated based on cost fairness, cost realism, completeness, and reasonableness. Cost realism is defined as the Applicant's ability to project costs which are realistic for the work to be performed; reflect a clear understanding of the requirements; and are consistent with the

Applicant's technical capacity. Administrative and management costs will be closely scrutinized to determine if financial resources are maximized to support the project approach.

4. Branding Strategy And Marking Plan

Pursuant to ADS 303.3.6.2(f) and ADS 320.3.1.2, the **apparent successful** applicant will be requested to submit a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan that will be negotiated and finalized as part of the assistance award. These plans shall be prepared in accordance with the guidance in ADS 320.3.3, 2 CFR 700.348 and the references therein. Please note that the Branding Strategy and Marking Plan shall not be included with the original application but shall be provided only after a written request of the Agreement Officer.

The Agreement Officer reviews and approves the Branding Strategy and a Marking Plan (including any request for exceptions) of the apparently successful applicant, consistent with the provisions "Branding Strategy", "Marking Plan", and "Marking of USAID-funded Assistance Awards" contained in **ADS 303** and **ADS 320**.

5. Award

The Agreement Officer's decision about the funding of an award is final and not subject to review. Any information that may impact the Agreement Officer's decision shall be directed to the Agreement Officer. Authority to obligate the Government: the Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the U.S. Government to the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed Agreement may be incurred before receipt of either an Agreement signed by the Agreement Officer or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

END OF SECTION E

SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the AO may notify the apparently successful awardee that they are being further considered for an award. This notice will be sent electronically to the authorized representatives of the apparent successful applicant. In addition, USAID may provide electronic debriefings to unsuccessful applicants following the procedures included in ADS 303.3.7.2.

Award of the agreement contemplated by this NFO cannot be made until funds have been appropriated, allocated and committed through internal USAID procedures. While USAID anticipates that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for the award. The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed Agreement may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Agreement or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

2. Administrative & National Policy Requirements

Any resulting award shall be made and administered in accordance with the following which may be found at http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303:

- For US organizations in accordance with 2 CFR 700, 2 CFR 200, and the applicable Standard Provisions.
- For Non-US Nongovernmental Organizations in accordance with 2 CFR 200 the Standard Provisions for Non-US Non-Governmental Organizations.
- Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Part 31 for profit organizations
- ADS 303

3. Reporting Requirements.

3.1. Financial Reporting

Quarterly financial reports shall be submitted by the recipient along with its Performance Report, providing actual information on expenditures through the reporting quarter, as well as estimated costs for the following reporting period including financial and accrual reporting.

(1) The recipient must submit the Federal Financial Form (SF-425) on a quarterly basis via electronic format to the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) and the Agreement Officer. Electronic copies of the SF-425 can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/ff_report.pdf

Line item instructions for completing the SF-425 can be found at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/ffr_instructions.pdf

Financial reports will also show the total amount of funds (cash a/o in-kind) leveraged and executed, each quarter and each fiscal year.

3.2. Accrual Reports

The recipient shall submit an estimated accrual report including the following information: (i) agreement number; (ii) recipient's name; (iii) total amount obligated; (iv) total amount invoiced for; (v) total amount expended but not yet invoiced for; (vi) remaining unexpended funds; (vii) estimated completion date; (viii) any pertinent information, such as analysis, projections for the next quarter, and an explanation of costs increases or underestimation of original costs. The accruals report shall be presented in English to the AOR and other designated administrative staff, on a quarterly basis (15 days previous to the close of each fiscal year quarter) in the format to be provided to the recipient upon award signature.

3.3. Performance Reporting

The successful Applicant will use the standard form Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR) to report performance progress for the program under the award when the program exceeds $100,000 or more per project/grant period.

The recipient will be required to submit the following performance plans and reports to the Agreement Officer Representative (AOR) and other USAID administrative staff as indicated after award signature. Plans and Reports shall be submitted in English in hard copy (one original and one copy in MS Word or PDF) and electronically with an Executive Summary in Spanish. This applies to the list below as well as any other studies, reports, briefings, or any other document for public distribution (on a case by case basis).

1. Annual Work Plans;
2. Quarterly/Annual Performance Reports;
3. Final Report;
4. Any additional documents, such as assessments, systematization, evaluations, studies, strategies, training manuals, outreach materials, or other documents produced under the agreement;
5. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan;
6. Branding Strategy and Marking Plan (this will be approved upon Agreement award);
7. Communication Plan; and
8. Participant Training

Annual Work Plans

Within <u>90 calendar days</u> of award the recipient will submit for USAID AOR approval its first Annual Work Plan in English from the effective date of the Cooperative Agreement to September 2016. Subsequent work plans in English will cover the period October 1 to September 30 of the following year and shall be submitted by August 15 of each year.

The Annual Work Plans must include:

1. Introduction.
2. Background (Problem Statement/Analysis, and any other relevant analyses).
3. Activity Approach (Development Hypothesis, Results Framework, and Implementation Strategy, including possible obstacles hindering achievement of objectives).

4. Implementation Plan Matrix organized according to project objectives/results that identify proposed accomplishments for the fiscal year, tasks, activities, timeframe, expected outputs or progress toward achieving cooperative agreement results, indicators, and targets.

5. Training Plan.

6. Gender equity and gender based violence issues will be identified by the recipient and ways to address these issues will be clearly integrated in a specific section of each year's work plan. The recipient will develop a system to measure and monitor and evaluate the impact of efforts to enhance gender equity.

7. Social exclusion issues will be identified by the recipient and ways to address these issues will be clearly integrated in a specific section of each year's work plan. The recipient will develop a system to measure and monitor and evaluate the impact of efforts to enhance social inclusion.

8. Detailed Budget: by principal activities, funding source, and also by line item, broken down by quarters. The Annual Work Plan must show planned expenditures and actual expenditures to date.

9. Activity Fact Sheet or Activity Profile, in Spanish and English, that summarizes pertinent information regarding the Human Rights Public Policy Activity that can be used for preparing media kits and for disseminating to interested stakeholders.

10. A description of any information, communication, education, and training materials planned. These materials will be submitted for approval to the AOR at the design stage prior to printing, reproducing, disseminating or airing. AOR approval will focus on the materials' technical content, presentation, and compliance with the Branding Strategy and Marking Plan. The recipient must ensure that all branding and marking specifications laid out in the Branding Strategy and Marking Plan have been followed prior to submitting the material for AOR approval.

11. Planned local and international training events and expected results.

12. Steps to be taken to monitor and ensure compliance with USAID Environmental Procedures, Reg. 216.

13. International travel plan for the year.

14. A description of the approach that the recipient will use to ensure coordination, collaboration and information sharing with other partners.

The work plan may be revised on an as needed basis to reflect changes on the ground and with the concurrence of the AOR.

3.4. Quarterly Performance Reports

The recipient shall submit quarterly performance reports 15 calendar days after the end of the reporting period, summarizing progress of the major activities in process during the period in relation to requirements of the agreement, indicating any problems encountered, and proposing remedial actions as appropriate. This report must contain progress on performance indicators as planned in the Work Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and also include a section on planned activities by each expected result for the next quarter. Progress reports shall include a specific section on gender-related activities, as well as compliance with USAID's policies relevant to vulnerable populations. Upon signature of the agreement, USAID will provide the recipient with a template including guidelines and details about the scope of quarterly performance reports.

The fourth quarterly report shall also serve as the **Annual Report** and shall be submitted by **October 31** of each year. Any implementation problems should be discussed in the reports as well as proposed corrective actions and the costs associated with the delay. These reports must include specific sections on: compliance with USAID Environmental Procedures, Reg. 216, including environmental mitigation measures monitoring, and specify gender considerations in implementation and performance during the quarter.

In each quarterly report, the recipient shall submit a list of all in country training events performed during the reporting period. This report shall include at a minimum: name of the training program, field of study, relationship to the objectives of this instrument, start and end dates, estimated cost (USAID's cost and partner's cost disaggregated by instruction, trainee, and travel) and number of male and female participants. For U.S. and third country training, the recipient shall follow the guidelines described in ADS 252 and 253 and shall allow at least twelve weeks prior to the begin date of the training program to comply with the requirements therein described. U.S. and third country training information shall also be included in each quarterly report.

The recipient is required to provide quarterly data for the indicators in the project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

Quarterly reports will include a section that describes what activities or steps have been taken during the quarter to effectively coordinate, collaborate and share information with other USAID, USG and non-USG partners.

3.5. Annual Reports

The recipient will submit Annual Reports to USAID/El Salvador in English in electronic format by October 31 of the year covered. By September 30 of the year covered, the recipient will be requested to submit <u>preliminary</u> Annual Reports and will be reviewed by USAID/El Salvador as part of the process of reviewing and approving Annual Work Plans. Annual Reports will describe:

1. The extent to which objectives and targets contained in the Annual Work Plan have been achieved;

2. Highlights of major achievements during the year;

3. Significant implementation problems encountered during the year and progress toward achievement of results;

4. Actions taken to resolve problems;

5. Performance measures, indicators and benchmarks, tied to the Annual Work Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan targets, for the quarter and the entire previous fiscal year;

6. Present data and relevant analysis on the evaluation questions identified in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan;

7. Include a summary of lessons learned, observations and recommendations that might be relevant to programming, design and implementation of similar or follow-on activities; and

8. Environmental compliance required as indicated in the USAID Environmental Threshold Decision.

The Annual Report shall consolidate data from project M&E indicators in the previous quarterly reports in order to present annual totals with a comparison with expected targets. The annual reports shall include success stories for publication.

Annual Reports are not to exceed 50 pages in length, including an Executive Summary not to exceed 5 pages in length. A Spanish version of the Executive Summary will also be provided. Additional supporting information may be included in Annexes to the report.

3.6. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan and Reports

A comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E plan) must be submitted for approval to the AOR 30 calendar days after the approval of the Annual Work Plan, covering the complete award period. The plan shall be prepared in English and submitted in hard copy to the AOR and in electronic form to other USAID administrative staff as indicated by USAID upon signature of the award. Approval or request for modifications will be within 15 calendar days, thereafter. The recipient will then have 15 calendar days to incorporate the modifications and resubmit the plan for final approval. Approval will be within 15 calendar days.

The M&E plan should include a mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators for all expected results. Annual targets (and quarterly benchmarks, as appropriate) for each indicator will also be included in the M&E plan. The M&E plan must: be rigorous; take into consideration the criteria of integrity, precision, reliability and timeliness; and in the case of at least one indicator per expected result, explain how these criteria are met.

The resulting recipient will be expected to develop and incorporate output, outcome, and impact indicators in the project that will provide USAID with a clear vision of the impact of USAID-funded activities. In addition, the resulting recipient should propose a set of questions that it will guide its own evaluation efforts and present relevant data, analysis and results in the annual reports.

The M&E plan must clearly indicate the data gathering methodology, instruments, timeframe and other relevant elements of the evaluation system, as required in the USAID performance indicator reference sheet. Indicators will be disaggregated by gender, ethnicity and age wherever possible. This will be the core information for all monitoring and evaluation exercises. To complement this information, additional data, assessments, relevant anecdotes and comments should contextualize the indicators when reported. Recipient performance will be evaluated on the basis of the M&E plan and targets met.

The recipient must submit to the AOR a comprehensive Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 30 calendar days after the end of the reporting period. The first M&E plan shall cover the period from the signature of the Agreement through the end of fiscal year 2016. Subsequent plans shall cover the period of October 1st to September 30th. Besides the submission of the hard copy and electronic versions described above, the recipient must organize a presentation of this plan to the AOR and other USAID staff, which will take place at the same meeting organized for the Annual Work Plan presentation (usually in October of each year as agreed with the AOR). The purpose of these presentations is for the recipient to show the results of its M&E plan and to demonstrate that the Work Plan for the following year is consistent with the results and findings of the M&E plan.

The following performance indicators are also required under this agreement:

1. Number of institutions strengthened to educate on human rights issues (Custom)
2. Number of awareness-raising activities on non-discrimination and other human rights issues carried out (Custom)
3. Number of regional networks strengthened with USG support (Custom)
4. Number of tools and methodologies developed to promote the use of human rights complaint systems.
5. Number of resources developed to analyze human rights threats and violations *(Custom)*
6. Number of justice sector personnel that received USG training in the treatment of human rights violations *(Custom)*

In addition to the set of indicators, baselines and targets to be proposed by the applicant, USAID/El Salvador will further request the applicant to include in its Monitoring and Evaluation Plan a set of standard indicators that are part of the Strategic Framework for U.S. Foreign Assistance, as well as applicable CARSI indicators. Targets will be set jointly by the Recipient and USAID. All people-level results and indicators must be disaggregated by sex.

USAID is committed to evaluating programs and projects using credible impact and performance evaluation methodologies.[4] In the spirit of increasing the rigor of all USAID project evaluations, the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity may require evaluations that will be solicited by USAID and conducted by objective third parties—external evaluations—and final results may be made public. The resulting recipient should consult with USAID before conducting any sub-contracted evaluations to ensure that planned evaluation efforts will not be duplicated. Moreover, the resulting recipient must cooperate with any external evaluation indicated by USAID and provide input to external evaluation team, when requested and indicated by USAID, so that the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity can benefit from objective findings on project results.

For its part, the resulting recipient is encouraged to propose a set of questions that will guide its own evaluation efforts and reports, i.e., annual reports.

Processes to monitor progress and project performance should be utilized in order to assess the on-going results of the program interventions and whether or not objectives are being achieved and if interventions should be adjusted. The Applicant will provide a proposed Monitoring and Evaluation Plan as part of a response to this NFO. The M&E plan will be reviewed as part of the selection process. The M&E plan should logically follow the annual work plan and must specify indicators, targets, and methodologies that will be used to monitor the progress of project activities towards achieving key milestones and results related to project objectives, expected outcomes, impacts, and measures of accountability. Regular M&E reports also gives USAID a tool for gauging performance and understanding any unforeseen changes in strategy needed to achieve intended results. Since the M&E

[4] See USAID's Evaluation Policy for specific information: http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2151/USAIDEvaluationPolicy.pdf

plan must monitor selected indicators on an ongoing basis, the implementer will be expected to select those indicators that best relate to outputs and outcomes. The M&E plan should incorporate required USAID indicators that will need to be monitored during project implementation.

Applicants will submit an illustrative M&E plan that includes notional indicators to objectively measure progress towards achieving each of the results included in the application, anticipated Life of Activity and annual targets for these indicators, and a strategy for monitoring these indicators during implementation. Data collection efforts may be necessary at the beginning of the project to verify or establish baseline information for many of the project indicators. Most project M&E indicators will be reported on in project quarterly and annual reports. The M&E plan must be designed to disaggregate by gender, allowing the full capture of program impact on women. The
Applicant must also address the data collection process to ensure that quality data are collected and available to inform management decisions. The key criteria for assessing the quality of performance data are: validity, reliability, timeliness, precision, and integrity.

The Applicant should be familiar with the standard indicators that USAID is obliged to measure for various agency frameworks, such as the Development Objective 3 indicators under the Regional CDCS, standard indicators, and the Foreign Assistance Standard Indicators. Applicants are encouraged to propose additional indicators other than the illustrative ones provided in this document if they better capture the application's ability to measure impact. Indicators should be gender and geographically disaggregated where appropriate.

The M&E plan will be finalized after project start-up, in consultation with USAID, and submitted to USAID for approval 30 calendar days after the approval of the first annual work plan. Subsequent annual M&E plans must be submitted along with annual work plans—see reporting section for more information on dates. Any subsequent changes in the M&E plan will require concurrence from the AOR at USAID. The finalized project M&E plan will include a narrative outlining, at a minimum, the following:

- The Activity's Results Framework, development hypothesis and/or theory of change;
- List of process, output, and outcome indicators that will allow USAID to gage the project's progress and impact;
- The recipient's data collection method (e.g., how often data is collected, who collects the data, who analyzes the data collected, controls in place to safeguard data);
- Data quality information for all relevant indicators (USAID proposed / recipient proposed indicators). Data quality includes: a precise definition of the indicator, unit of measure, and disaggregation information to include women and men, youth, members of vulnerable populations and people with disabilities;
- Indicator validity (i.e., the relationship between the indicator and the desired output or result);
- Life of project targets for each relevant indicator for each fiscal year of this program;
- The recipients procedures for ensuring data quality of sub-recipients' reported data; and
- Key evaluation question that will guide performance reports.

3.7. Learning
Experimentation is essential to innovation and effectiveness. The Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity must utilize a knowledge/learning methodology that builds on continuous learning and evaluation about "what works" and "what does not." Ongoing monitoring and outcome-related evaluations will allow the Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity to learn from these experiments, obtain timely feedback on their success, and make adjustments in intervention design, as needed.

3.8. Internal Evaluations.
If the recipient decides to engage in evaluative work for their own institutional learning or accountability purposes, they should discuss plans for an internal evaluation with the AOR and include it in their M&E plan and annual work plan. In addition, the recipient should provide the AOR with the evaluation statement of work for review, CVs of the consultants hired or assigned (if any) to conduct the internal evaluation, and the final evaluation report for feedback and approval.

3.9. External Evaluations.
In addition to the evaluation that may be conducted by the recipient to determine lessons learned, USAID/El Salvador will conduct an external performance evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the activities implemented, per the USAID Evaluation Policy.

The external performance evaluation will focus on: a) the extent to which the activities have been achieved and the intended results; b) the impact of the program; c) conclusions and recommendations for the recipient and USAID, and d) lessons learned that could merit a change or realignment of the technical approach of this or similar crime and violence prevention activities in the future. This evaluation will take into consideration any baseline data gathered by the recipient prior to implementation, other relevant data gathered during the life of the program, feedback from government entities, municipalities and other organizations participating in the program, and the accomplished results. The recipient shall cooperate with the external evaluators in order to enable the effective evaluation of results and impact.

Following is a list of example questions to be considered for the external evaluation:

- To what extent did the project contribute to increased knowledge and application of international human rights standards?
- To what extent did the project strengthened networks or set up mechanisms (including early warning systems) for increased collaboration to identify and control human rights violations?
- To what extent did the project provide protection mechanisms to human rights defenders under threat?
- To what extent did the project promote expanded use of human rights treaty bodies (ex: complaint mechanisms)?
- To what extent did the project promote increased investigations and prosecutions of human rights violations involving State authorities?

3.10. Monthly Highlights and Success Stories
The recipient should submit input for USAID/El Salvador's a monthly bulleted Report to the AOR. The recipient should provide occasional "success stories" for publication by USAID, if applicable on a

quarterly basis. These success stories are utilized by USAID's Communications team and are an important mechanism to communicate through real life stories the impact of the activity.

3.11. Final Performance Report

A final performance report in English is required within 90 days of the expiration of the Cooperative Agreement. The final performance report shall be presented in English. Two hard copies and an electronic version (Microsoft Word preferred). The final performance report should include a description of the activity, the accomplishments, successes achieved, and lessons learned during the Agreement period in terms of the expectations of activity design and changes in the project environment as well as any shortcomings and/or difficulties encountered; an assessment of the progress towards achievement of the objectives or results, including gender and social inclusion aspects, and reasons why expected results were not met, if appropriate; a summary of performance indicators used and an assessment of their relative usefulness. The final report shall include a summary of lessons learned and recommendations that might be relevant to programming, design and implementation of similar or follow-on activities, as well as pertinent information related to the financial status of the activity.

It also must include a list of all publications, evaluations and media products that were sent to the USAID DEC during the life of the Agreement. The recipient will be required to submit technical reports, in English to Development Experience Clearinghouse through the public-facing and searchable https://dec.usaid.gov/ through e-mail (docsubmit@usaid.gov), or through the U.S. Postal Service delivery.

3.12. Submissions to the USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse.

The recipient will be required to submit technical reports, in English to USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse through the public-facing and searchable https://dec.usaid.gov/ , through e-mail (docsubmit@usaid.gov), or through the U.S. Postal Service delivery to the following address:

USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse
M/CIO/ITSD/KM
Ronald Reagan Building M. 01
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523

For DEC information, refer to ADS 540, http://auslnxapvweb01.usaid.gov/ADS/500/540.pdf

[END OF SECTION F]

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

1. Agency Point of Contact:

Ms. Blanca de Ibarra
Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance
USAID/El Salvador
Email: bibarra@usaid.gov
Phone number: (503)2501-3331

All questions regarding this NFO should be submitted in writing to Ms. Blanca de Ibarra to the e-mail address above with a copy to Mr. Ross Hicks at email: rhicks@usaid.gov.

SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

1. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

2. Value Added Tax in El Salvador

The Value Added Tax (VAT) charged in El Salvador is to be excluded from the price of the Award and is generally not an allowable cost under the Award. USAID will work with the Awardee and the Government of El Salvador to provide the Awardee the necessary documentation to obtain the VAT tax exemption.

3. Annexes to the NFO

The following annexes are made a part of this NFO:

Annex 1 Background Information
Annex A consisting of the following: Fact Sheets for Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, and a summary of a future Youth and Gender Justice project in Guatemala.

4. Certifications, Assurances, Other Statements of the Recipient and Solicitation Provisions.

ANNEX 1 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project's Relationship to USAID's RDCS

The overall goal for the draft USAID Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCS) for 2015-2019 for Central America and Mexico (CAM) is: "A more inclusive, prosperous, stable, and safe Central America region." To achieve this goal, four Development Objectives (DOs) have been identified:

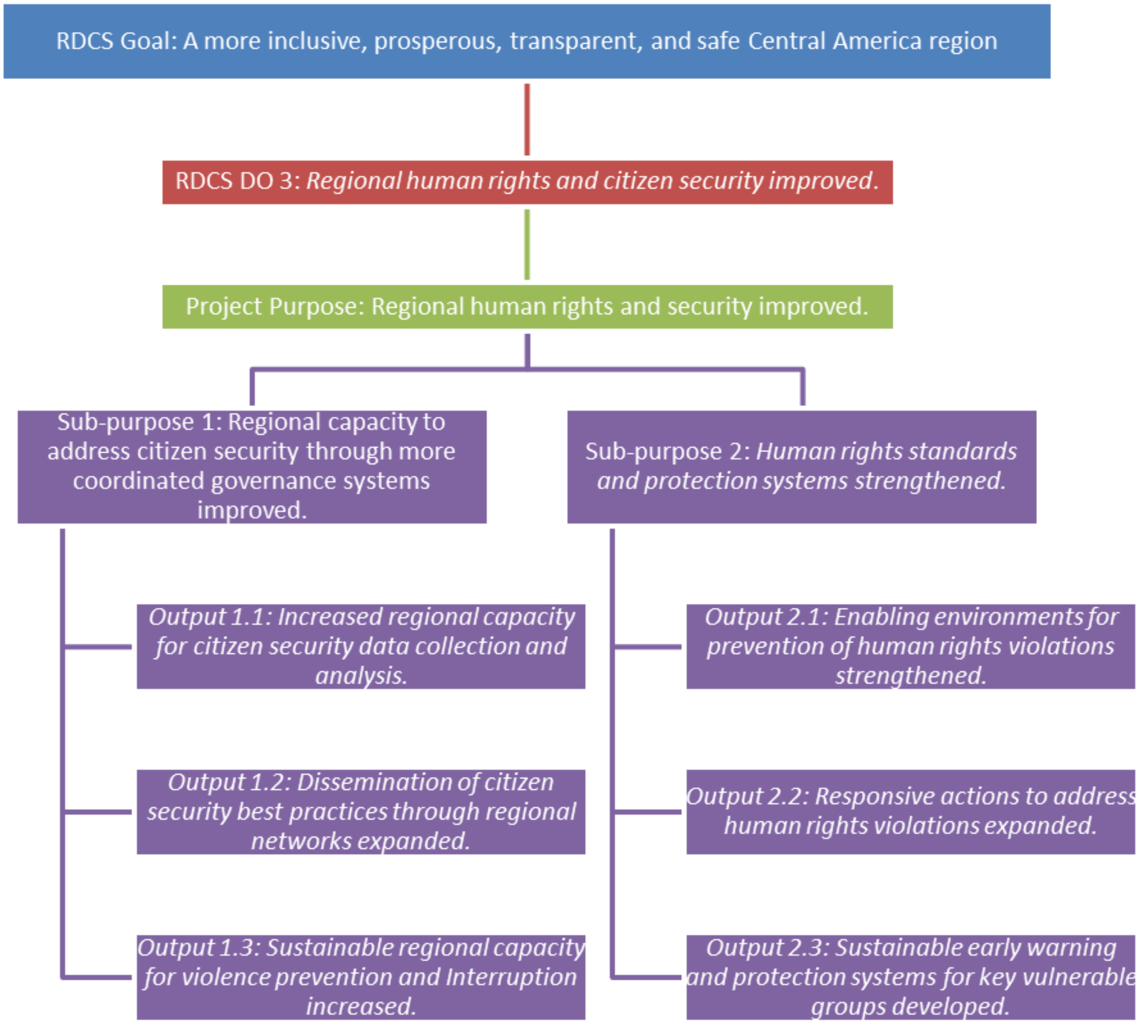
- DO1: Regional economic integration increased
- DO2: Regional climate-smart economic growth enhanced
- DO3: Regional citizen security improved
- DO4: HIV prevalence in Central America contained

DO 3: Regional citizen security improved will be achieved through the following two Intermediate Results (IRs):

- IR 3.1 Regional capacity to address citizen security through more coordinated governance systems improved.
- IR 3.2 Human rights standards and protection systems strengthened.

The proposed Human Rights and Democracy Activity, is part of the Regional Security and Human Rights Project No. 596-0205, which contributes to the achievement of DO3 and specifically to IR 3.2 or Project Sub-purpose 2 : Human rights standards and protection systems strengthened as shown below:

[Please see chart next page]



RDCS Goal: A more inclusive, prosperous, transparent, and safe Central America region
The RDCS is still in its final development stage and approval is expected during the fisrt or second quarter of FY 2016. As shown in the chart above, this Activity is consistent with the draft RDCS.

Relationship and coordination with other USG Programs, USG regional strategy regional institutions and other donors

USAID's assistance in achieving this Activity's purpose and objectives will be conducted in close coordination with and complemented by other USG agencies, USG CEN strategy, and the Plan for the Alliance for Prosperity of Northern Triangle Countries of Central America (Alliance for Prosperity). USAID will explore opportunities to work with other USG agencies including the Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and the Department of Justice, to coordinate interventions with common Government Counterparts such as the Attorney General's the Public Defender's Offices and other Justice Sector agencies and regional networks. USAID will also coordinate activities with USG agencies that work in issues related to internal displacement and freedom of expression, to ensure the complementarity of efforts.

USAID will also seek to create synergies between activities with similar or complementary Activities in the rule of law, good governance and crime prevention areas, in the different Missions and will place particular emphasis on aligning regional and bilateral interventions. The Activity will also promote the replication of successful bilateral and regional in addressing human rights challenges.

Relationship to the U.S. Strategy for Engagement with Central America and Alliance for Prosperity

As part of the Regional Citizen Security and Human Rights Project, this Activity is greatly influenced by and contributes directly toward achievement of the CEN Strategy. The CEN Strategy lays out an interagency-driven vision for the region as an economically-integrated Central America that provides economic opportunities to its people; democratic, accountable, transparent, and effective public institutions; and a safe environment for its citizens to build their lives in peace and stability. The key pillars of the strategy are prosperity, governance, and security. The CEN Strategy is very much in alignment with the Alliance for Prosperity that was presented by the Northern Triangle governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras on November 14, 2014, at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The Alliance for Prosperity highlights the strategic objectives that Northern Triangle governments seek to collectively accomplish by addressing broad-based economic growth.

Engaging the region holistically in terms of human rights protection and promotion can contribute to achieving the objectives of the overall U.S. strategy for engagement in Central America and goals to enhance security, improve governance, and promote prosperity through improved regional coordination mechanisms and activities. Stressing compliance with international and regional human rights frameworks, such as those obligations associated with membership in the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American human rights protection system which includes the United States as well as Central American countries, can be an effective means of forging a common understanding of and commitment to human rights in the region and enforcing them at the national level

The Activity will advance identified goals under the CEN Strategy and more specifically to:

- Goal 5: Civil society (Non-governmental organizations -NGOs-, religious groups, universities, private sector, etc.) and media are able to operate independently, participate in the democratic process, and hold government institutions accountable.
- Goal 6: Criminal and civil justice systems are more efficient, transparent, accountable, and independent.

This Activity will also contribute to the strategic lines of action identified in the Alliance for Prosperity: 1) Improving public safety ***and access to the justice system***; and 2) Strengthening institutions.

Relationship to National and Regional Institutions, and Other Donor Programs

USAID assistance in achieving the Activity's objectives will rely on strong partnerships with Government institutions, regional organizations and networks, civil society and other donor organizations. USAID will seek to coordinate with relevant Ministries to advance regional activities such as the Ministries of Education and Justice and Security, as well the Ombudsman, Public Defender's and Attorney General Offices. A key element of coordination with also include developing strong relationships with regional networks of human rights and justice sector agencies, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders that play a fundamental role in regional programming. In addition, during implementation of the Activity, USAID will coordinate with the Central American Council of Human Rights, the Interamerican Human Rights Court and Human Rights Committee as well as with the UN Human Rights System, including its special procedures. For capacity building interventions, USAID will also coordinate with existing higher learning institutions such as the Interamerican Human Rights Institute, based in Costa Rica.

Donor coordination will be a priority and critical element to complement USAID interventions at the regional and national level. Several other bilateral and multilateral donors also provide assistance for human rights issues. Organizations that work regionally include but are not limited to the following:

World Bank, German Cooperation Agency, European Union, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Italian Cooperation Agency, International Labour Organization, and United Nations organizations among others. Donor coordination in general at a regional level needs improvement. Through this Activity USAID will continue to explore effective ways to engage with regional and bilateral donors.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON CONTEXT AND PROBLEMS

Major Areas of Human Rights Violations

Human rights are universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions and omissions that interfere with the fundamental freedoms, entitlements, and human dignity of individuals and groups of individuals. States have broad authority as well as the responsibility to protect and promote human rights in accordance with international human rights norms as set forth in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and other international and regional instruments, including those that comprise the Inter-American system. Enforcing the rights and obligations provided in these instruments are widely accepted as fundamental to the establishment of effective human rights protection systems at the national level and to strengthening the rule of law, justice and security sector reform, and the overall development of society.

Putting in place all the elements of national human rights protection systems is a complex undertaking. The challenge is particularly acute in countries, such as those that make up the Northern Triangle of Central America, that are attempting to transition from conflict to peace and stability and from authoritarian rule to democracy. This type of reform process tends to be a long-term effort with many obstacles to overcome and achievements to sustain. Surveying the human rights landscape in each of the three Northern Triangle countries reveals that effective promotion and protection of human rights in the region remains a work in progress and is confronted with many challenges.

An environment of insecurity prevails throughout much of the region. Citizen security is threatened by an unprecedented level of crime, gang related violence and homicides. Ineffective and inadequate prevention and prosecution of crime and abuse of power undermines public confidence in the independence, effectiveness, and accountability of justice system institutions and actors. Likewise, ineffectual criminal justice systems promote impunity and are incapable of deterring crime. Unresolved legacies of the region’s history of armed conflict and military rule also contribute to a climate of impunity. Increasing authoritarian rule is accompanied by corruption and use of the military for policing functions and public security. At the same time, state sovereignty, governance, and the ability to protect human rights are being eroded as criminal gangs (*maras*) and illicit power structures with transnational links assert effective control over territory.

Amid these phenomena Governments, due to their failure to prevent generalized crime and to maintain effective criminal justice systems, have left individuals, groups of individuals, and entire communities throughout the region in a situation where their rights to security and to access justice and due process are constantly violated. In the case of forced displacement, persons lose important rights contained in the UN Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights such as the right to health, education, employment and adequate housing. Interviews with key informants and reviews of authoritative human rights reports, including United Nations Universal Periodic Review documents and the U.S. Department of State’s *Country Reports on Human Rights*, reveal significant shortcomings in human rights protection among Northern Triangle countries and ongoing human rights violations common to each. These violations manifest themselves in a wide variety of ways. Major areas of human rights concern include: security and policing, bodily harm and threats to physical integrity, closing democratic space, and discrimination and exclusion, as described below.

Security and Policing

Excessive Use of Force: Efforts to combat serious crime and gang activity by security sector actors (law enforcement and military forces) threaten fundamental rights to life, liberty, and security, and prohibitions on torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearances. Reports of excessive use of force in contravention of international standards and "police brutality" are common. Human rights defenders and others point to extrajudicial killings and disappearances as growing issues of concern along with abuse of the witness and victims assistance system, withholding of protection, arbitrary detention, and wrongful convictions.

Poor Detention and Prison Conditions: In addition to excessive use of force and abuse of authority by security sector actors, corrections institutions in the region are under significant strain. Conditions in places of detention, such as police holding cells, jails (*bartolinas*), and penitentiaries, also implicate serious human rights violations. Persons deprived of their liberty under the color of law, arguably among the most vulnerable of populations in society, can be subject to physical and mental abuse, and conditions that border on inhuman and cruel. Overcrowding, mixing of pre-trial detainees and convicted inmates, lack of food and water, and other violations of international standards are reported to be common. Lack of effective tools to manage detainee and inmate populations exacerbate other capacity gaps in ensuring safe, secure, humane, and transparent facilities and treatment.

Bodily Harm and Threats to Physical Integrity of Citizens

Violence against Women and Femicide: Violence against women, including the killing of women and girls, and (femicide) murder of women and girls with special aggravating factors, occurs at very high rates in each of the countries in the region making it one of the most dangerous in the world for women and girls. Violence against women is a crime and a human rights violation with traumatic effects on the victim, families, and also the community. Many instances of this violence go unreported due to stigma and lack of confidence in the justice system. Despite adoption of important laws and policies to address violence again women in the region, the phenomenon persists. Institutions that have been created to investigate and prosecute violence against women are not yet effective in deterring or ensuring accountability. Related to this type of violence is the physical and mental abuse of domestic workers, many of whom are women members of indigenous or other minority populations and the poor. Another form of gender-based violence and a hate crime, the assault and murder of LGBTI members of the population, is also a significant human rights concern in the region.

Internal Displacement: Guaranteeing and protecting the human rights of the region's population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is also a growing concern of local human rights organization and the international community. Recent reporting on the number of persons forced to flee their homes and communities, yet who remain within the borders of their own countries, as a result of threats and intimidation of gangs and related-violence reveal sizable internally displaced populations in the Northern Triangle countries and Mexico (El Salvador: 288,900; Guatemala: 248,500; Honduras: 29,400; Mexico: 281,400). Tens of thousands of persons are also thought to be internally displaced as a result of natural disasters. Owing to their displacement, these individuals and often entire families, can be subject to physical violence, discrimination, and no access to government services. Governments in the region are reticent to acknowledge this phenomenon let alone develop the laws, policies, and institutions to address IDP protection and assistance needs.

Irregular Migration: The rapid increase in irregular migrants, including unaccompanied children, making the journey northward from the region has created a significant humanitarian and human rights challenge. Because the vast majority of these individuals rely on human smuggling networks to facilitate their journey, many become victims of extortion and violent crime, including murder and sexual abuse, along their way through the region. Mistreatment and human rights violations by detaining authorities, including prolonged detention in criminal corrections facilities, overcrowding and unsafe conditions, and shackling during return to countries of origin, are also alleged. Return and reintegration efforts, which are benefiting from international support, require additional socialization and institutionalization of human rights safeguards.

Disappearances and Clandestine Graves: Dealing with enforced disappearances and missing persons is one of the enduring legacies of conflict and authoritarian rule in the Central America region. Tens of thousands of persons, including many children, disappeared during this period and remain missing some 20-30 years later. In addition, a new wave of disappearances has emerged in the past decade with linkages to crime and gang-violence, irregular migration, and violence against women. Many of the missing are believed to be located in "clandestine graves", both old and new, that are being discovered throughout the region. Children that were abducted and then illegally adopted are also being found around the world. Disappearances are not only a human rights violation and tragedy for the person concerned but can also cause physical and pscyho-social harm of family members. The right to know the truth about the missing is recognized by international law, however, many families have little information and face legal and administrative obstacles in identifying and recovering the remains and having the missing declared deceased so they can exercising basic rights of inheritance, property ownership, and child custody. Limited exhumation and forensic expertise and tools such as genetic databases as well as lack of effective investigations are chronic problems.

<u>Closing Democratic Space</u>

Threats to Journalists and Media Freedoms. Many journalists have been victims of threats, harassment, and violence resulting in a general climate of insecurity and fear among journalists and media outlets in the region. The recent rise in physical attacks, including murders, on investigative journalists is considered by many as a form of reprisal for reporting on sensitive issues sensitive such as corruption, abuse of authority, and organized crime. Reporting on issues involving land management and commercial development of natural resources can also trigger intimidation. Most cases are not effectively investigated and prosecuted, contributing to a sense of vulnerability among members of the press. In addition, restrictive administrative practices, denial of licenses, and official criticism of reporting suggests growing intolerance of dissent and freedom of expression. As the space for independent media outlets and journalists is restricted, individuals in the region are denied access to information about public affairs and government activities.

Intimidation and Marginalization of Human Rights Defenders: Space for human rights defenders and civil society organizations, including victims' associations, working to protect and promote human rights is also closing throughout the region. Communication and cooperation between human rights defenders and government authorities is mostly *ad hoc* and increasingly infrequent. Efforts to investigate and prosecute activities of some human rights defenders threaten fundamental freedoms of expression and association and undermine their standing within society. Many have experienced direct attacks, both physical and cyber, along with threats and intimidation from both state and non-state actors. Mechanisms to identify and analyze threats to human right defenders are inadequate as are investigations and prosecutions. While requests for police protection are granted, many human rights defenders and civil society organizations are left to their own devices in terms of security.

<u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u>

Marginalized and Vulnerable Populations. Despite the adoption of anti-discrimination laws and establishment of special commissions, administrative offices, and units to promote inclusion and respect for the rights of minorities, the poor, and other groups, discrimination and exclusion persist. In addition to the poor and indigent populations, those likely to experience social and economic discrimination in the region include ethnic and racial minorities, such as indigenous peoples and persons of African-Caribbean descent. Discrimination against women and girls as well as members of the LGBTI community based on their sexual orientation and gender identity is also common. Others that can be excluded and stigmatized include youth, internally displaced persons, and families of gang members. These groups tend to be denied or limited in their access to public goods and services like education, health, and security. They also lack effective access to justice to assert their rights and to seek remedies when they are violated. Violation of land rights, the right to political participation, and right to employment is also common among these groups.

CERTIFICATIONS, ASSURANCES, OTHER STATEMENTS OF THE RECIPIENT AND SOLICITATIONS STANDARD PROVISIONS

NOTE: When these Certifications, Assurances, and other Statements of Recipient are used for cooperative agreements, the term 'Grant' means 'Cooperative Agreement'

PART I - CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES STANDARD PROVISIONS

Assurance of Compliance with Laws and Regulations Governing Non-Discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs

Note: This certification applies to Non-U.S. organizations if any part of the program will be undertaken in the United States.

(a) The recipient hereby assures that no person in the United States will, on the bases set forth below, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving financial assistance from USAID, and that with respect to the Cooperative Agreement for which application is being made, it will comply with the requirements of:

(1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub. L. 88-352, 42 U.S.C. 2000-d), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin, in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance;

(2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance;

(3) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (Pub. L. 95-478), which prohibits discrimination based on age in the delivery of services and benefits supported with Federal funds;

(4) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681, et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance (whether or not the programs or activities are offered or sponsored by an educational institution); and

(5) USAID regulations implementing the above nondiscrimination laws, set forth in Chapter II of Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) If the recipient is an institution of higher education, the Assurances given herein extend to admission practices and to all other practices relating to the treatment of students or clients of the institution, or relating to the opportunity to participate in the provision of services or other benefits to such individuals, and must be applicable to the entire institution unless the recipient establishes to the satisfaction of the USAID Administrator that the institution's practices in designated parts or programs of the institution will in no way affect its practices in the program of the institution for which financial assistance is sought, or the beneficiaries of, or participants in, such programs.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal Cooperative Agreement, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned must complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned must require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients must certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, United States Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification will be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

"The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that: If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned must complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement will be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure."

Prohibition on Assistance to Drug Traffickers for Covered Countries and Individuals (ADS 206)

USAID reserves the right to terminate this Agreement, to demand a refund or take other appropriate measures if the Grantee is found to have been convicted of a narcotics offense or to have been engaged in drug trafficking as defined in 22 CFR Part 140. The undersigned must review USAID ADS 206 to determine if any certifications are required for Key Individuals or Covered Participants.

If there are COVERED PARTICIPANTS: USAID reserves the right to terminate assistance to or take other appropriate measures with respect to, any participant approved by USAID who is found to have been convicted of a narcotics offense or to have been engaged in drug trafficking as defined in 22 CFR Part 140.

Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing, Implementing Executive Order 13224

By signing and submitting this application, the prospective recipient provides the certification set out below:

1. The Recipient, to the best of its current knowledge, did not provide, within the previous ten years, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it does not and will not knowingly provide, material support or resources to any individual or entity that commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts, as that term is defined in paragraph 3.

2. The following steps may enable the Recipient to comply with its obligations under paragraph 1:

a. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient will verify that the individual or entity does not (i) appear on the master list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons, which is maintained by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), or (ii) is not included in any supplementary information concerning prohibited individuals or entities that may be provided by USAID to the Recipient.

b. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient also will verify that the individual or entity has not been designated by the United Nations Security (UNSC) sanctions committee established under UNSC Resolution 1267 (1999) (the "1267 Committee") (individuals and entities linked to the Taliban, Usama bin Laden, or the Al-Qaida Organization). To determine whether there has been a published designation of an individual or entity by the 1267 Committee, the Recipient should refer to the consolidated list available online at the Committee's Web site: http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm.

c. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient will consider all information about that individual or entity of which it is aware and all public information that is reasonably available to it or of which it should be aware.

d. The Recipient also will implement reasonable monitoring and oversight procedures to safeguard against assistance being diverted to support terrorist activity.

3. For purposes of this Certification-

a. "Material support and resources" means currency or monetary instruments or financial securities, financial services, lodging, training, expert advice or assistance, safehouses, false documentation or identification, communications equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel, transportation, and other physical assets, except medicine or religious materials."

b. "Terrorist act" means-

(i) an act prohibited pursuant to one of the 12 United Nations Conventions and Protocols related to terrorism (see UN terrorism conventions Internet site: http://untreaty.un.org/English/Terrorism.asp); or

(ii) an act of premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents; or

(iii) any other act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.

c. "Entity" means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group or subgroup.

d. References in this Certification to the provision of material support and resources must not be deemed to include the furnishing of USAID funds or USAID-financed commodities to the ultimate beneficiaries of USAID assistance, such as recipients of food, medical care, micro-enterprise loans, shelter, etc., unless the Recipient has reason to believe that one or more of these beneficiaries commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.

e. The Recipient's obligations under paragraph 1 are not applicable to the procurement of goods and/or services by the Recipient that are acquired in the ordinary course of business through contract or purchase, e.g., utilities, rents, office supplies, gasoline, etc., unless the Recipient has reason to believe that a vendor or supplier of such goods and services commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.

This Certification is an express term and condition of any agreement issued as a result of this application, and any violation of it will be grounds for unilateral termination of the agreement by USAID prior to the end of its term.

Certification of Recipient

By signing below the recipient provides certifications and assurances for (1) the Assurance of Compliance with Laws and Regulations Governing Non-Discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs, (2) the Certification Regarding Lobbying, (3) the Prohibition on Assistance to Drug Traffickers for Covered Countries and Individuals (ADS 206) and (4) the Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing Implementing Executive Order 13224 above.

These certifications and assurances are given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts, or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipient by the Agency, including installment payments after such date on account of applications for Federal financial assistance which was approved before such date. The recipient recognizes and agrees that such Federal financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in these assurances, and that the United States will have the right to seek judicial enforcement of these assurances. These assurances are binding on the recipient, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and the person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign these assurances on behalf of the recipient.

Notice of Funding Opportunity No. NFO-596-16-000002

Application No. ________________________________

Date of Application ________________________________

Name of Recipient ________________________________

Typed Name and Title ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Date ________________________________

PART II Key Individual Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking

I hereby certify that within the last ten years:

1. I have not been convicted of a violation of, or a conspiracy to violate, any law or regulation of the United States or any other country concerning narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances.

2. I am not and have not been an illicit trafficker in any such drug or controlled substance.

3. I am not and have not been a knowing assistor, abettor, conspirator, or colluder with others in the illicit trafficking in any such drug or substance.

Signature: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

Name: ____________________________

Title/Position: ____________________________

Organization: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

____

Date of Birth: ____________________________

NOTICE:

1. You are required to sign this Certification under the provisions of 22 CFR Part 140, Prohibition on Assistance to Drug Traffickers. These regulations were issued by the Department of State and require that certain key individuals of organizations must sign this Certification.

2. If you make a false Certification you are subject to U.S. criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

PART III Participant Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking

1. I hereby certify that within the last ten years:

a. I have not been convicted of a violation of, or a conspiracy to violate, any law or regulation of the United States or any other country concerning narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances.

b. I am not and have not been an illicit trafficker in any such drug or controlled substance.

c. I am not or have not been a knowing assistor, abettor, conspirator, or colluder with others in the illicit trafficking in any such drug or substance.

2. I understand that USAID may terminate my training if it is determined that I engaged in the above conduct during the last ten years or during my USAID training.

Signature: ___________________________________

Name: ___________________________________

Date: ___________________________________

Address: ___________________________________

____

Date of Birth: ___________________________________

NOTICE:

1. You are required to sign this Certification under the provisions of 22 CFR Part 140, Prohibition on Assistance to Drug Traffickers. These regulations were issued by the Department of State and require that certain participants must sign this Certification.

2. If you make a false Certification you are subject to U.S. criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

PART V - OTHER STATEMENTS OF RECIPIENT

Authorized Individuals

The recipient represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate on its behalf with the Government and to bind the recipient in connection with this application or grant:

Name Title Telephone No. Facsimile No.

____
____
____

Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

If the recipient is a U.S. organization, or a foreign organization which has income effectively connected with the conduct of activities in the U.S. or has an office or a place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the U.S., please indicate the recipient's TIN:

TIN: ________________________________

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number

(a) Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation using an applicable exemption, in the space provided at the end of this provision, the recipient should supply the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number applicable to that name and address. Recipients should take care to report the number that identifies the recipient's name and address exactly as stated in the proposal.

(b) The DUNS is a 9-digit number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet Information Services. If the recipient does not have a DUNS number, the recipient should call Dun and Bradstreet directly at 1-800-333-0505. A DUNS number will be provided immediately by telephone at no charge to the recipient. The recipient should be prepared to provide the following information:

(1) Recipient's name.

(2) Recipient's address.

(3) Recipient's telephone number.

(4) Line of business.

(5) Chief executive officer/key manager.

(6) Date the organization was started.

(7) Number of people employed by the recipient.

(8) Company affiliation.

(c) Recipients located outside the United States may e-mail Dun and Bradstreet at globalinfo@dbisma.com to obtain the location and phone number of the local Dun and Bradstreet Information Services office.

The DUNS system is distinct from the Federal Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) system.

DUNS: ______________________________________

Letter of Credit (LOC) Number

If the recipient has an existing Letter of Credit (LOC) with USAID, please indicate the LOC number:

LOC: _______________________________________

Procurement Information

(a) Applicability. This applies to the procurement of goods and services planned by the recipient (i.e., contracts, purchase orders, etc.) from a supplier of goods or services for the direct use or benefit of the recipient in conducting the program supported by the grant, and not to assistance provided by the recipient (i.e., a subgrant or subagreement) to a subgrantee or subrecipient in support of the subgrantee's or subrecipient's program. Provision by the recipient of the requested information does not, in and of itself, constitute USAID approval.

(b) Amount of Procurement. Please indicate the total estimated dollar amount of goods and services which the recipient plans to purchase under the grant:

$_________________________

(c) Nonexpendable Property. If the recipient plans to purchase nonexpendable equipment which would require the approval of the Agreement Officer, indicate below (using a continuation page, as necessary) the types, quantities of each, and estimated unit costs. Nonexpendable equipment for which the Agreement Officer's approval to purchase is required is any article of nonexpendable tangible personal property charged directly to the grant, having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit.

TYPE/DESCRIPTION (Generic) ___________________________
QUANTITY ___________________________
ESTIMATED UNIT COST ___________________________

(d) Source If the recipient plans to purchase any goods/commodities which are not in accordance with the Standard Provision "USAID Eligibility Rules for Procurement of Commodities and Services," indicate below (using a continuation page, as necessary) the types and quantities of each, estimated unit costs of each, and probable source. "Source" means the country from which a commodity is shipped to the cooperating country or the cooperating country itself if the commodity is located in the cooperating country at the time of purchase. However, where a commodity is shipped from a free port or bonded warehouse in the form in which received, "source" means the country from which the commodity was shipped to the free port or bonded warehouse. Additionally, "available for purchase" includes "offered for sale at the time of purchase" if the commodity is listed in a vendor's catalog or other statement of inventory, kept as part of the vendor's customary business practices and regularly offered for sale, even if the commodities are not physically on the vendors' shelves or even in the source country at the time of the order. In such cases, the recipient must document that the commodity was listed in the vendor's catalog or other statement of inventory; that the vendor has a regular and customary business practice of selling the commodity through "just in time" or other similar inventory practices; and the recipient did not engage the vendor to list the commodity in its catalog or other statement of inventory just to fulfill the recipient's request for the commodity.

TYPE/DESCRIPTION ______________________________
QUANTITY ______________________________
ESTIMATED GOODS ______________________________
PROBABLE GOODS ______________________________
PROBABLE (Generic) ______________________________
UNIT COST ______________________________
SOURCE ______________________________

(e) Restricted Goods. If the recipient plans to purchase any restricted goods, indicate below (using a continuation page, as necessary) the types and quantities of each, estimated unit costs of each, intended use, and probable source. Restricted goods are Agricultural Commodities, Motor Vehicles, Pharmaceuticals, Pesticides, Used Equipment, U.S. Government-Owned Excess Property, and Fertilizer.

TYPE/DESCRIPTION _______________________________
QUANTITY _______________________________
ESTIMATED _______________________________
PROBABLE _______________________________
INTENDED USE (Generic) _______________________________
UNIT COST _______________________________
SOURCE _______________________________

(f) Supplier Nationality. If the recipient plans to purchase any goods or services from suppliers of goods and services whose nationality is not in accordance with the Standard Provision "USAID Eligibility Rules for Procurement of Commodities and Services," indicate below (using a continuation page, as necessary) the types and quantities of each good or service, estimated costs of each, probable nationality of each non-U.S. supplier of each good or service, and the rationale for purchasing from a non-U.S. supplier.

TYPE/DESCRIPTION ______________________________
QUANTITY ______________________________
ESTIMATED ______________________________
PROBABLE SUPPLIER ______________________________
NATIONALITY ______________________________
RATIONALE (Generic) ______________________________
UNIT COST (Non-US Only) ______________________________
FOR NON-US ______________________________

Past Performance References

On a continuation page, please provide past performance information requested in the NFO.

Type of Organization

The recipient, by checking the applicable box, represents that -

(a) If the recipient is a U.S. entity, it operates as [ ] a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of, [ ] an individual, [ ] a partnership, [ ] a nongovernmental nonprofit organization, [ ] a state or local governmental organization, [ ] a private college or university, [ ] a public college or university, [ ] an international organization, or [ ] a joint venture; or

(b) If the recipient is a non-U.S. entity, it operates as [ ] a corporation organized under the laws of [______________________________ *(country)*], [ ] an individual, [ ] a partnership, [ ] a nongovernmental nonprofit organization, [ ] a nongovernmental educational institution, [ ] a governmental organization, [ ] an international organization, or [ ] a joint venture.

Estimated Costs of Communications Products

The following are the estimate(s) of the cost of each separate communications product (i.e., any printed material [other than non-color photocopy material], photographic services, or video production services) which is anticipated under the grant. Each estimate must include all the costs associated with preparation and execution of the product. Use a continuation page as necessary.

PART VI - STANDARD PROVISIONS FOR SOLICITATIONS

Branding Strategy - Assistance (JUN 2012)

a. Applicants recommended for an assistance award must submit and negotiate a "Branding Strategy," describing how the program, project, or activity is named and positioned, and how it is promoted and communicated to beneficiaries and host country citizens.

b. The request for a Branding Strategy, by the Agreement Officer from the applicant, confers no rights to the applicant and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.

c. Failure to submit and negotiate a Branding Strategy within the time frame specified by the Agreement Officer will make the applicant ineligible for an award.

d. The applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth, in the budget portion of the application. These costs are subject to the revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance instrument.

e. The Branding Strategy must include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(1) All estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth.

(2) The intended name of the program, project, or activity.

(i) USAID requires the applicant to use the "USAID Identity," comprised of the USAID logo and brandmark, with the tagline "from the American people" as found on the USAID Web site at transition.usaid.gov/branding, unless Section VI of the RFA or APS states that the USAID Administrator has approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.

(ii) USAID prefers local language translations of the phrase "made possible by (or with) the generous support of the American People" next to the USAID Identity when acknowledging contributions.

(iii) It is acceptable to cobrand the title with the USAID Identity and the applicant's identity.

(iv) If branding in the above manner is inappropriate or not possible, the applicant must explain how USAID's involvement will be showcased during publicity for the program or project.

(v) USAID prefers to fund projects that do not have a separate logo or identity that competes with the USAID Identity. If there is a plan to develop a separate logo to consistently identify this program, the applicant must attach a copy of the proposed logos. Section VI of the RFA or APS will state if an Administrator approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.

(3) The intended primary and secondary audiences for this project or program, including direct beneficiaries and any special target segments.

(4) Planned communication or program materials used to explain or market the program to beneficiaries.

(i) Describe the main program message.

(ii) Provide plans for training materials, posters, pamphlets, public service announcement, billboards, Web sites, and so forth, as appropriate.

(iii) Provide any plans to announce and promote publicly this program or project to host country citizens, such as media releases, press conferences, public events, and so forth. Applicant must incorporate the USAID Identity and the message, "USAID is from the American People."

(iv) Provide any additional ideas to increase awareness that the American people support this project or program.

(5) Information on any direct involvement from host-country government or ministry, including any planned acknowledgement of the host-country government.

(6) Any other groups whose logo or identity the applicant will use on program materials and related materials. Indicate if they are a donor or why they will be visibly acknowledged, and if they will receive the same prominence as USAID.

e. The Agreement Officer will review the Branding Strategy to ensure the above information is adequately included and consistent with the stated objectives of the award, the applicant's cost data submissions, and the performance plan.

f. If the applicant receives an assistance award, the Branding Strategy will be included in and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement

(END OF PROVISION)

Marking Plan - Assistance (JUN 2012)

a. Applicants recommended for an assistance award must submit and negotiate a "Marking Plan," detailing the public communications, commodities, and program materials, and other items that will visibly bear the "USAID Identity," which comprises of the USAID logo and brand mark, with the tagline "from the American people." The USAID Identity is the official marking for the Agency, and is found on the USAID Web site at http://www.usaid.gov/branding. Section VI of the RFA or APS will state if an Administrator approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.

b. The request for a Marking Plan, by the Agreement Officer from the applicant, confers no rights to the applicant and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.

c. Failure to submit and negotiate a Marking Plan within the time frame specified by the Agreement Officer will make the applicant ineligible for an award.

d. The applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth, in the budget portion of the application. These costs are subject to the revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance instrument.

e. The Marking Plan must include all of the following:

(1) A description of the public communications, commodities, and program materials that the applicant plans to produce and which will bear the USAID Identity as part of the award, including:

(i) Program, project, or activity sites funded by USAID, including visible infrastructure projects or other sites physical in nature;

(ii) Technical assistance, studies, reports, papers, publications, audio-visual productions, public service announcements, Web sites/Internet activities, promotional, informational, media, or communications products funded by USAID;

(iii) Commodities, equipment, supplies, and other materials funded by USAID, including commodities or equipment provided under humanitarian assistance or disaster relief programs; and

(iv) It is acceptable to cobrand the title with the USAID Identity and the applicant's identity.

(v) Events financed by USAID, such as training courses, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, fairs, workshops, press conferences and other public activities. If the USAID Identity cannot be displayed, the recipient is encouraged to otherwise acknowledge USAID and the support of the American people.

(2) A table on the program deliverables with the following details:

(i) The program deliverables that the applicant plans to mark with the USAID Identity;

(ii) The type of marking and what materials the applicant will use to mark the program deliverables;

(iii) When in the performance period the applicant will mark the program deliverables, and where the applicant will place the marking;

(iv) What program deliverables the applicant does not plan to mark with the USAID Identity , and

(v) The rationale for not marking program deliverables.

(3) Any requests for an exemption from USAID marking requirements, and an explanation of why the exemption would apply. The applicant may request an exemption if USAID marking requirements would:

(i) Compromise the intrinsic independence or neutrality of a program or materials where independence or neutrality is an inherent aspect of the program and materials. The applicant must identify the USAID Development Objective, Interim Result, or program goal furthered by an appearance of neutrality, or state why an aspect of the award is presumptively neutral. Identify by category or deliverable item, examples of material for which an exemption is sought.

(ii) Diminish the credibility of audits, reports, analyses, studies, or policy recommendations whose data or findings must be seen as independent. The applicant must explain why each particular deliverable must be seen as credible.

(iii) Undercut host-country government "ownership" of constitutions, laws, regulations, policies, studies, assessments, reports, publications, surveys or audits, public service announcements, or other communications. The applicant must explain why each particular item or product is better positioned as host-country government item or product.

(iv) Impair the functionality of an item. The applicant must explain how marking the item or commodity would impair its functionality.

(v) Incur substantial costs or be impractical. The applicant must explain why marking would not be cost beneficial or practical.

(vi) Offend local cultural or social norms, or be considered inappropriate. The applicant must identify the relevant norm, and explain why marking would violate that norm or otherwise be inappropriate.

(vii) Conflict with international law. The applicant must identify the applicable international law violated by the marking.

f. The Agreement Officer will consider the Marking Plan's adequacy and reasonableness and will approve or disapprove any exemption requests. The Marking Plan will be reviewed to ensure the above information is adequately included and consistent with the stated objectives of the award, the applicant's cost data submissions, and the performance plan.

g. If the applicant receives an assistance award, the Marking Plan, including any approved exemptions, will be included in and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement, and will apply for the term of the award unless provided otherwise.

(END OF PROVISION)

Conscience Clause Implementation (Assistance) - Solicitation Provision (FEB 2012)

a. An organization, including a faith-based organization, that is otherwise eligible to receive funds under this agreement for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, or care-

(1) Must not be required, as a condition of receiving such assistance-

(i) to endorse or utilize a multisectoral or comprehensive approach to combating HIV/AIDS; or

(ii) to endorse, utilize, make a referral to, become integrated with, or otherwise participate in any program or activity to which the organization has a religious or moral objection; and

(2) Must not be discriminated against in the solicitation or issuance of grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements for refusing to meet any requirement described in paragraph (a)(1) above.

b. An applicant who believes that this solicitation contains provisions or requirements that would require it to endorse or use an approach or participate in an activity to which it has a religious or moral objection must so notify the cognizant Agreement Officer in accordance with the Standard Provision "Notices" as soon as possible, and in any event not later than 15 calendar days before the deadline for submission of applications under this solicitation. The applicant must advise which activity(ies) it could not implement and the nature of the religious or moral objection.

c. In responding to the solicitation, an applicant with a religious or moral objection may compete for any funding opportunity as a prime partner, or as a leader or member of a consortium that comes together to compete for an award. Alternatively, such applicant may limit its application to those activities it can undertake and must indicate in its submission the activity(ies) it has excluded based on religious or moral objection. The offeror's proposal will be evaluated based on the activities for which a proposal is submitted, and will not be evaluated favorably or unfavorably due to the absence of a proposal addressing the activity(ies) to which it objected and which it thus omitted. In addition to the notification in paragraph (b) above, the applicant must meet the submission date provided for in the solicitation.

3006.4 4. Prohibition on Providing Federal Assistance to Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements – Representation (APR 2015)

APPLICABILITY: This pre-award provision must be included in Section IV of all assistance solicitations.

PROHIBITION ON PROVIDING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO ENTITIES THAT REQUIRE CERTAIN INTERNAL CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS – REPRESENTATION (APRIL 2015)

(a) In accordance with section 743 of Division E, Title VII, of the Consolidated and further Continuing Resolution Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235), Government agencies are not permitted to use funds appropriated (or otherwise made available) under that or any other Act for providing federal assistance to an entity that requires employees, subawardees or contractors of such entity seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees, subawardees, or contractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

(b) The prohibition in paragraph (a) of this provision does not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Form 4414, or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

(c) By submission of its application, the prospective recipient represents that it does not require employees, subawardees, or contractors of such entity seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees, subawardees, or contractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

(END OF PROVISION)

AAPD 14-03 REPRESENTATION BY ORGANIZATION REGARDING A DELINQUENT TAX LIABILITY OR A FELONY CRIMINAL CONVICTION (August 2014)

(a) In accordance with section 7073 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Pub. L. 113-76) none of the funds made available by that Act may be used to enter into an assistance award with any organization that –

(1)Was "convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency has direct knowledge of the conviction, unless the agency has considered, in accordance with its procedures, that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government"; or

(2)Has any "unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency has direct knowledge of the unpaid tax liability, unless the Federal agency has considered, in accordance with its procedures, that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government".

For the purposes of section 7073, it is USAID's policy that no award may be made to any organization covered by (1) or (2) above, unless the M/OAA Compliance Division has made a determination that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

(b) Applicant Representation:

(1)The Applicant represents that it is [ ] is not [ ] an organization that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under a Federal law within the preceding 24 months.

(2)The Applicant represents that it is [ ] is not [ ] an organization that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

USAID | GUATEMALA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Attachment A

Project Fact Sheet
Support Electoral and Political Parties Reform and Strengthen the Guatemalan Congress

Implementer: CEPPS (NDI – IFES – IRI)
Budget: $7.9M USD
Timeline: August, 2012 – January, 2017

Contact Information

Democracy and Governance Office
Km. 6.5 Final Boulevard Los Próceres
Santa Catarina Pinula, Guatemala
Tel: (502) 2422-4340

Development Challenge

Twenty-seven years after the transition to democracy, Guatemala demonstrates the contradictions characteristic of democracies in the region. Although there has been an expansion of civil and political rights, periods of institutional stability, and transitions of power through elections, democratic development in the country still faces major challenges. The Guatemalan political system faces numerous challenges, among them low public confidence in the country's fragile democratic institutions and a highly fragmented polit ical party system. Furthermore, state institutions have been unable to effectively respond to growing citizen security threats generated by corruption, impunity and the increased influence of organized crime.

The 2007 and 2011 elections demonstrated the need for reforms to the electoral and political system. These include reforms to the Law on Elections and Political Parties (*Ley Electoral y de Partidos Políticos*, LEPP) as well as a nationwide debate on ways to make the political system more transparent, responsive and accountable. Although there are divisions between those that believe that the Guatemalan political system requires comprehensive reforms and those that believe only partial reforms or adjustments are needed, there is a general consensus that legislative action must be taken so that the political system becomes more responsive to citizen needs. This is particularly relevant in the face of the country's growing citizen security challenges.

The LEPP, established 1985, is Guatemala's general law regulating the electoral and political party system. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (*Tribunal Supremo Electoral,* TSE) is the agency in charge of administering the country's elections. The TSE's five magistrates will be concluding their current terms in 2014. New magistrates are elected by Congress from the nominees identified by a special nomination committee consisting of nongovernmental legal and university leaders in the country. Within the National Congress, the Committee on Electoral Affairs (*Comisión Especifica de Asuntos Electorales*, CEAE) is tasked with overseeing legislation on electoral issues.

For reforms to the electoral and political system to be effective, they must be accompanied by efforts to strengthen democratic institutions including the Guatemalan Congress, which has suffered a severe crisis of legitimacy in recent years. Although there have been some efforts to reform and modernize the Congress, a wide gap continues to exist between public expectations and the actual performance of the legislature.

Program Initiative

The objective of this activity is to support the reform of the Electoral and Political Parties Law (LEPP). Additionally, the Program will strengthen the National Congress' capacity in its oversight role, as well as strengthen the Guatemala political system so that it is more transparent, responsive, and accountable.

The Program will work towards the overarching goal of supporting the reform of the LEPP. Partners will provide appropriate and timely support to the TSE and other political stakeholders in a number of key areas to achieve this goal. Partners will also support the Guatemalan Congress in reaching agreement on and adopting reforms to the LEPP. This will be an important step in creating a more sustainable and credible electoral process and a more representative, democratic political party system. The Project will encourage Congress to engage with the TSE and civil society to reach consensus on the needed reforms and ensure that they are adopted, implemented and maintained.

The Program will also support the Guatemalan Congress in reaching agreements on and adopting measures to improve the regulation of internal procedures and functions. Additionally, the Project will promote means to more effectively develop and approve priority legislation, with a particular focus on citizen security and justice, to achieve greater public engagement and confidence in legislative processes. This will involve working with congressional leaders on reforms to the Internal Rules and Procedures Law of Congress (*Ley Orgánica y de Régimen Interior del Congreso*, LORI) and building knowledge and skills of internal offices, committees, legislators and staff to more effectively carry out their duties.
Partners will carry out activities focused on strengthening congressional oversight capacity.
Based on the observed needs as well as those requested by Congress, partners will develop a series of training and technical assistance activities focused on strengthening oversight and lawmaking capacity within the Guatemalan Congress.

Program Impact
The Support Electoral and Political Parties Reform and Strengthen the Guatemalan Congress Project will achieve the two Lower Level Results (LLRs) below, and thus contribute to USAID's Country Development Cooperation Strategy Development Objective 1, "Greater Security and Justice for Citizens":

- LLR1: Increase government, congress, electoral body, political party and civil society capacity to promote and implement electoral reforms.
- LLR2: Increase congressional oversight and lawmaking capacity.

The objective of this activity is to support the reform of the Electoral and Political Parties Law (LEPP). Additionally, the Program will strengthen the National Congress' capacity in its oversight role, as well as strengthen the Guatemala political system so that it is more transparent, responsive, and accountable.

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USAID | MEXICO
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Human Rights

Data at a Glance

- It is estimated that 151,233 people in Mexico were killed between December 2006 and August 2015. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, at least 26,000 persons have gone missing since 2007, many as a result of forced disappearances.
- The United Nations' and the Organization of American States' human rights protection bodies have repeatedly cited the high prevalence of impunity for human rights violations in Mexico.
- Mexico is considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a journalist. Since 2000, 88 journalists have been killed.

Overview

It is widely-known that significant human rights violations persist in Mexico. They include police and military involvement in serious abuses, such as unlawful killings, torture, disappearances, and physical abuse, as well as the inability of the state to effectively address the high levels of kidnapping and violence by organized criminal groups. Civil society organizations (CSOs), the United Nations, Inter-American Human Rights System and the country's National Human Rights Commission also highlighted additional human rights challenges in Mexico, including poor prison conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention; and threats and violence against human rights defenders and journalists. Impunity for human rights abuses remains a problem throughout the country, with extremely low rates of prosecution for all forms of crime. While the Government of Mexico (GOM) has taken many positive steps, such as promulgating the constitutional reform that elevates Mexico's obligations under international treaties to the level of its Constitution and establishing a National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists ("the Protection Mechanism"), challenges still remain. CSOs recognize a need in particular for an improved legislative framework at both federal and state levels, effective implementation of public policy, and access to justice.

Objective: Enabling Environment to Protect Human Rights and Prevent Abuses Improved

Under USAID/Mexico's Country Development Cooperation Strategy, for Fiscal Years 2014-2018, USAID's programming works to advance the protection of human rights and prevent abuses by supporting GOM and civil society efforts on protection, outreach, and awareness. USAID promotes the incorporation of human rights-based approaches into federal- and state-level policies, and facilitates dialogue and engagement between the GOM and civil society on human rights issues. USAID's human rights programming has been in place since August 2009. USAID is dedicating $25 million for the 2014 to 2018 period to address human rights in Mexico. In addition to the activities described below, USAID's support to criminal justice sector reform also builds GOM capacity to assist victims of human rights abuses and train criminal justice sector operators on human rights protection.

Key Achievements

- USAID played a key role in supporting the GOM to in standing up its Protection Mechanism, which currently, provides protection measures to more than 400 human rights defenders and journalists.
- 2008 USAID human rights-related activities reached beneficiaries in 22 states and trained over 1,100 journalists on self-protection and digital security to help them safely conduct their work.
- Local CSOs, supported by USAID, played an indispensable role in squarely placing the issue of torture by security forces on the public policy agenda.
- USAID's support to more than 30 local CSOs, nearly half of them outside of Mexico City, contributed to the growing strength of civil society in Mexico, to address human rights violations.
- USAID supported the GOM's development of its action-oriented National Human Rights Plan, 2014-2018, through targeted technical assistance.

USAID Human Rights Activities

Human Rights Public Policy Activity, Implementer: Chemonics
This activity supports the implementation of the GOM's National Human Rights Plan, 2014-2018, with special attention to urgent and priority issues. The activity provides support in four areas: (a) strengthening the existing mechanisms and inter-agency coordination to prevent human rights violations (Early Warning System Alert); (b) supporting the implementation of measures to address national and international recommendations to address gross human rights violations; (c) strengthening the institutional capacity to design and implement public policies with a human rights approach with special emphasis on civil society participation; and (d) designing and supporting implementation of impact evaluation mechanisms to measure the human rights situation and advances on implementation of human rights public policies. The activity emphasizes gender considerations and inclusion of marginalized populations.

Protection of Human Rights and Freedom of Expression, Implementer: Freedom House
This activity seeks to improve state and civil society actions to protect journalists and human rights defenders under attack or at risk for their work. The activity aims to provide technical assistance to the GOM to continue strengthening the Protection Mechanism, advocate for increased protection, and apply lessons learned from international best practices in protecting freedom of expression.

Protection from Torture and Enforced Disappearances Together PROTECT, Implementer: *Instituto para la Seguridad y la Democracia* (INSYDE)
This activity will build institutional and human capacity of the GOM and CSOs to address cases of torture and enforced disappearances in line with human rights standards. Specifically, it will support USAID's efforts to improve access to justice and the well-being of victims of torture and enforced disappearances building on previous USAID-funded efforts in preventing torture. The activity is focused on developing a comprehensive model to strengthen judicial investigations with a focus on a care model for victims during the criminal proceedings and enhancing CSOs' ability to effectively engage with government officials to promote effective investigations and prosecutions.

Dialogue on Journalist's Protection, Implementer: Article 19/Mexico
This two-year activity aims to promote protection for journalists by facilitating a safer environment for the exercise of freedom of expression in Mexico. The activity promotes freedom of expression and protection of rights of journalists through: a) monitoring and documenting cases of aggressions against journalists; b) capacity-building and outreach to journalist and CSO networks throughout the country and international actors; and c) increased engagement with the GOM on a solution-focused approach. In addition, the activity looks to increase availability of self-protection tools and support networks for those journalists at risk. This activity tailors its approach to take into account issues of gender.

Communications for Human Rights Awareness, Implementer: *Centro Nacional de Comunicacion Social* (Cencos)
The activity will build the capacity of human rights and media civil society organizations to address and advocate on human rights issues, to improve their communication strategies and support greater exchange between journalists and CSOs. The proposed activities utilize a trainer-of-trainer approach and incorporate gender considerations.

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USAID | EL SALVADOR

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

October 2013

FACT SHEET

Justice Sector Strengthening Project

This project was designed by USAID in collaboration with the Government of El Salvador (GOES) to respond to various goals under the Partnership for Growth Initiative (PfG), in the criminal justice area. Thus, its components respond directly to Goals 1, 2 and 9 of the PFG Action Plan in the security constrains: professionalize justice sector institutions, improved criminal procedures and practices, and expansion of the community policing model. Additionally, the project incorporates two special components that complement USAID's work in two key areas: judicial transparency, and citizen participation and national ownership.

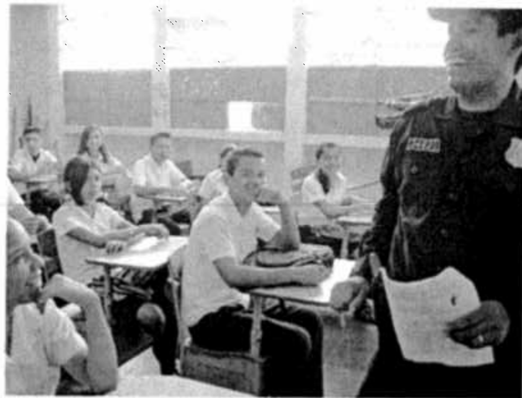

Photo: Karen Azucena, USAID

An agent of the National Police (PNC) talks with students at a public school in San Salvador. The community policing initiative facilitates the approach of PNC to the people

The purpose of the project is to better satisfy the needs of the citizens through a more cohesive, effective and transparent justice system. The assumption is that, if the justice system functions more effectively and transparently in solving criminal cases, it will reduce impunity and improve citizen's trust in its institutions. Thus, the rule of law program supports the efforts of the Democracy and Governance office in the area of security and violence prevention.

Current Activities

- *Criminal Justice Reform* – This component seeks to expand pilot initiatives nation-wide, to improve efficiency, access to justice and due process. Activities will be aimed at raising professional standards of justice sector institutions to implement a Code of Criminal Procedures, improve the current criminal justice procedures and practices to solve cases more effectively, and expand the community-oriented policing model for a more cooperative and productive relationship of the police with the citizens.

- *Judicial Transparency* – The project will work with the Supreme Court (CSJ) to strengthen units in the Supreme Court that are responsible for investigating illicit enrichment by public officials and illegal or corrupt practices of judges and attorneys. The project will also work with the Judicial Council (CNJ) to improve the entrance and promotion mechanisms for the judicial career and the evaluation system for judge's performance.

- *Citizen Participation and Host Country Ownership* – With USAID support, a citizen participation campaign will be conducted to encourage public awareness and generate citizen's oversight of the reforms being carried out in the justice sector in areas like customer service, transparency and access to public information. Additionally, special efforts will be made to identify justice sector programs that may be implemented through different government agencies and civil society organizations.

Expected results

- **Criminal Justice Reform:** The overall expected result is a more cohesive and effective justice system to prosecute crimes. More specific results include: an expanded use of scientific evidence in solving violent crimes, improved services and due process for victims of gender violence and other violent crimes, improve the managerial capacity of justice sector institutions, more efficient investigation of minor and flagrant crimes, and the expansion of a community policing model nation-wide.

Photo: Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc.

Accountability and citizen participation are fundamental in the strengthening of the justice sector. USAID will support the institutions that make up the Justice Sector Coordinating Committee to increase the use of mechanisms for citizen participation in the country.

- **Judicial Transparency:** Results in this component include a revised and updated legal framework in place and new procedures developed to strengthen the attributions of the Integrity Unit to prevent, detect, and control corrupt practices by public officials; help the CNJ and CSJ develop new merit-based procedures for entrance into and promotion in the judicial career; and modern systems introduced to assign, distribute, and track cases, and to produce performance reports in selected localities.

- **Citizen Participation and Host Country Ownership:** Results in this component include increased citizen participation in oversight activities that measure the performance of the criminal justice sector, and a feasibility study to implement future development projects through host country systems and civil society organizations.

Total Program Investment: $21,416,000
Time period: March 2013 – March 2018
Geographic Areas: Nationwide
Government partners:

- Justice Sector Coordinating Committee (Supreme Court, Attorney General's Office, People Defender's Office, National Judiciary Council and National Civil Police)
- Technical Executive Unit of the Justice Sector (UTE)

Contractors: Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc.

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YOUTH AND GENDER JUSTICE PROJECT

USAID/Guatemala is currently procuring the Youth and Gender Justice Project.

The primary Objective of this Project is to provide technical assistance and support for improved provision of services for victims of violence including youth, women, and other vulnerable populations; and to improve the Government of Guatemala's juvenile justice system to reduce recidivism in juvenile offenders. These actions when combined will increase the number of prosecutions to support a decrease in violence and impunity.

With this new project, USAID/Guatemala expects to improve the services provided by the Government of Guatemala (GOG) including the juvenile justice system, the specialized court system for violence against women and TIP as well as services stipulated in Guatemalan legislation and international human rights treaties and agreements ratified by Guatemala. Additionally, the Project will work with civil society and nongovernmental organizations, both with proven and emerging leadership in these issues, to ensure a holistic and complementary approach.

Results:

1. Government of Guatemala (GOG) capacity to provide juvenile justice services improved
2. GOG services for gender based violence victims improved
3. GOG's response to trafficking in persons strengthened

All three results are interrelated because they focus in improving service provision to vulnerable populations. Additionally, they involve many of the same Government of Guatemala counterparts which will facilitate linking activities for obtaining results.