



**INCREASING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
USAID/HAITI OFFICE OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE
BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT (BAA)**

I. Overview

A. This Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) seeks opportunities to co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate in basic and applied research and development for increasing women's political participation in Haiti. The United States Agency for International Development Haiti's Office of Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (USAID/Haiti/DRG) invites organizations and companies to participate with USAID/Haiti, as described below, to create innovations and technologies that increase women's political participation in Haiti.

B. Federal Agency Name: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and administered through the Office of Democracy, Human Rights and Governance in the Haiti Mission.

C. Opportunity Title: The USAID/Haiti Increasing Women's Political Participation BAA.

D. Announcement Type: This BAA serves to inform the public of the opportunity for funding for increasing women's political participation in Haiti.

E. Opportunity Number: BAA-521-DG-2015-01.

F. Authority: This BAA is issued under Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Part 35.016(c). This is not a FAR Part 15 procurement.

G. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 98.001 USAID Foreign Assistance for Programs Overseas.

H. Response Date: Open through March 4, 2016, at 5:00pm EST.

II. Overall Purpose and Specific Rights Reserved for the U.S. Government under this BAA.

A. This BAA is a competitive approach to consider proposals that harness scientific research and innovation to increase women's political participation in Haiti, allowing USAID to:

1. Reach out to potential partners with recognized expertise in relevant areas, and
2. Co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate with partners.

B. Multiple awards are anticipated. The amount of resources made available under this BAA will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds. Some award types may not include any funding.

C. This BAA reserves specific rights for the U.S. Government, in addition to rights described elsewhere in this document or by law or regulation, including:

1. The right to select for negotiation and award all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this solicitation.
2. The right to make awards without discussions, or to conduct discussions and/or negotiations, whichever is determined to be in the U.S. Government's interest.
3. The right to accept proposals in their entirety or to select only portions of proposals for award or co-investment.
4. The right to select for award an instrument type that is appropriate to the specific development context, partner relationship, and proposal selected for award. Instruments types include but are not limited to contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, Global Development Alliance agreements, Development Innovation Agreements, Inter Agency Agreements, Government to Government Agreements, Donor to Donor Agreements, and Memorandums of Understanding. In addition, USAID may craft a new instrument type to meet the needs of a specific relationship.
5. The right to co-create projects with one or more applicants/offerors under the BAA, when it is in the best interest of the U.S. Government.
6. The right to request any additional, necessary documentation upon initial review. Such additional information may include, but is not limited to, a further detailed proposal, budget, and representations and certifications.
7. The right to fund or co-invest in proposals in phases, with options for continued work at the end of one or more of the phases.

8. The right to award only portions of a proposal.

9. The right to award instruments under this BAA that do not commit or exchange monetary resources.

10. The right to remove applicants/offerors from award consideration should the parties fail to reach agreement on award terms, conditions, and cost/price within a reasonable time, the applicant/offeror fails to timely provide requested additional information, or the U.S. Government believes it is in its best interest.

III. Opportunity Information

A. USAID Haiti's Office of Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (USAID/Haiti/DRG) has incorporated increasing women's participation into all aspects of its programming, particularly, in regards to increasing the level of women's participation in politics. Such support has already been included in our support for improving the management of and participation in upcoming presidential, parliamentary and local government elections. However, USAID/Haiti/DRG continues to look for new and innovative ways to promote, strengthen and enhance the participation of women in the upcoming national and municipal elections and build a foundation for greater participation in future elections.

B. Problem Statement. After years of delay and continuing uncertainty, the electoral calendar has not yet been set as of the date of this BAA's publication, however, the following elections have been slated for 2015: Parliamentary (20 Senators, 112 Deputies), local government (420 mayors/assistant mayors, 570 commune and 570 communal section committee members) and Presidential.

These elections will be the first since Haiti's Constitution (1987) was amended in 2011 to include a mandate requiring a 30% quota for participation by women in "national life" and "public service":

ARTICLE 17.1 *Le principe du quota d'au moins trente pour cent (30%) de femmes est reconnu à tous les niveaux de la vie nationale, notamment dans les services publics.*

The principle of the quota of at least thirty percent (30%) of women is recognized at all levels of national life, notably in the public services.

ARTICLE *Toute loi relative aux Partis*

Any law concerning the Political

31.1.1 politiques doit réserver dans ses structures et dans ses mécanismes de fonctionnement un traitement en conformité avec le principe du quota d'au moins trente pour cent (30%) de femmes exprimé à l'article 17.1.	<i>Parties must reserve in its structures and in its mechanisms of functioning a treatment in conformity with the principle of the quota of at least thirty percent (30%) of women as expressed in Article 17-1.</i>
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While there is a general lack of detailed statistics on the overall participation of women in Haitian politics, the Intern-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2012 ranked Haiti as one of the countries with the lowest participation of women in politics and decision-making.ⁱ In the 2011 Parliamentary elections, only 5 of 99 members elected to the Chamber of Deputies were women, and of 30 Senators, only one was a woman.ⁱⁱ Previous elections resulted in similarly low levels of women's participation in all areas of Haitian politics.

In 2011, USAID/Haiti/DRG commissioned Vanderbilt University's Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) to complete a study entitled *The Political Culture of Democracy in Haiti and the Americas, 2012: Towards Equality of Opportunity*. This study examined public opinion in Haiti regarding political inclusion (gender, disability, LGBT and marginalized groups), and compared the results with 25 other countries in the Americas. In part, LAPOP found, that, in Haiti:

Inequalities in participation exist not only along lines of class or wealth, but also along gender and ethnicity. While turnout has largely equalized between men and women, such that in most countries women vote at approximately the same rate as men, women remain underrepresented in many other forms of participation. Substantial gaps in participation persist in areas such as communicating with representatives or volunteering for campaigns. Research suggests that many inequalities are due in part to inequalities within households in the gendered division of labor. Perhaps the greatest gender inequalities are seen for the most difficult types of participation, such as running for and holding public office. Inequalities in women's rates of holding office may aggravate inequalities in participation at other levels, since studies show that women are strongly influenced to participate by visible female leaders.ⁱⁱⁱ

C. Collaboration. The intent of the BAA is to allow co-creation and co-design to the maximum extent to create high quality, effective partnerships with great efficiency in time and resources. The types of collaboration include:

1. Co-creation. Co-creation occurs before the concept is developed. The potential partner and the U.S. Government, represented by the Activity Manager, work together to write and/or revise the Concept Paper, and jointly present the Concept Paper to the USAID/Haiti Internal Review Board (IRB).

2. Co-design. Co-design occurs after the IRB recommends the project for further development, and the Contracting/Agreement Officer has determined the applicants/offers to be an Apparently Successful Partner. At this point, the Contracting/Agreement Officer may determine the general nature of the award type or the specific award type, depending on the nature of the project, to facilitate project design. During co-design, the Apparently Successful Partner and the Activity Manager will design the technical approach, general resource requirements, and management control of the project under the guidance of the Contracting/Agreement Officer.

3. Co-invest. Co-invest refers to the U.S. Government's strategic aim that the partnerships resulting from the individual BAA awards represent opportunities to achieve mutual or complimentary development goals of the Partner and USAID, and therefore embrace shared responsibility, shared risk, and shared resourcing. Shared resourcing may be accomplished through funding by both parties, either through cash resources or the exchange of other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information. Co-investing does not require equally shared resourcing (such as 1:1 leverage), but rather resource contributions that are appropriate to the specific project's objectives, considering the comparative advantages brought by the participation of each party and the award type.

IV. General Criteria for Consideration.

A. For the purposes of this BAA, USAID/Haiti/DRG seeks co-creation partners that possess a number of the following experiences:

- connecting, strengthening, and/or scaling local and regional civil society networks;
- connecting disparate communities, i.e. academia, private sector, civil society;
- innovatively addressing/harnessing challenges/opportunities to women's political participation;
- connecting with experts in nontraditional and diverse sectors;
- leading advocacy campaigns around women's political participation issues;
- employing Information Communications and Technology (ICT) tools appropriately and proportionately;

- implementing adaptive and/or iterative programming;
- managing successful peer-to-peer networks;
- catalyzing new ideas effectively; and
- shepherding design processes.

B. Criteria to be applied to all Expressions of Interest:

1. Idea/Approach: Soundness of your idea/approach, including appropriate evidence, to fostering systems that address the challenges and harness opportunities to increase women's participation as voters and candidates.

2. Partnership Expectations and Value: Strengths of your group as a partner, including your ability to provide a financial, in-kind, or leveraged match at various stages of the process.

V. Award Process.

A. The award process under this BAA will take the following steps:

1. Submission of Expression of Interest. Submissions must not exceed 1000 words, be submitted in .doc or .docx format, contain one option graphic smaller than an 8.5"x11" or A4 piece of paper (not included in word count), and must use the template below. USAID reserves the right to disregard the portion of any submissions exceeding the word limits.

a. Template for Expressions of Interest.

Header:

Contractor Name and Contact Information:

Contractor's Solution Title:

BAA Name/Number:

Description of the Solution: Identify your group's willingness to collaborate with the USAID/Haiti Women's Political Participation Initiative, describe your idea/approach for enhancing the level of women's participation in Haiti's upcoming elections, and highlight your group's value to such a partnership.

Cost-Share, Matching, or Leveraging: if applicable.

2. Expression of Interest Review: USAID will perform an initial review of the research and development idea presented in the Expression of Interest. Note that the U.S. Government may reach out to potential partners requesting an Expression of Interest.

3. Development of the Concept Paper. For Expressions of Interest that are deemed to have merit by USAID, USAID will issue an invitation to collaborate to the potential partner with instructions and evaluation criteria contained therein. Working together, USAID and the potential partner will collaborate on a Concept Paper. It is during this phase of co-creation and co-design that the parties will begin to determine additional partners and resources to complement the project. The Concept Paper, generally 5-10 pages, will further detail and explain the project as initially provided in the Expression of Interest.

4. Review by the USAID/Haiti Internal Review Board (IRB). All Concept Papers will be reviewed by the IRB, comprised of USAID technical and development experts. The IRB will recommend which Concept Papers be identified for Full Proposals. Using its technical expertise, the IRB will suggest revisions/additions to the project, and potential partners and resources.

5. Contracting/Agreement Officer Determination. The Contracting/Agreement officer will review the IRB's recommendations and consider other information, such as resource availability, preliminary partner responsibility assessment, and Agency priorities, and will make a determination whether the respondent is an Apparently Successful Partner. The Contracting/Agreement Officer may also make or narrow down the anticipated instrument type to facilitate project design.

6. Full Proposals/Applications. USAID will work with partners identified by the IRB, and co-design the project and assist the partner to prepare a full proposal or application. Full proposals/applications are generally 30–60 pages in length and describe completely the applicant's/offeree's technical approach, capacity, management and organization, past performance, and budget, as well as representations and certifications.

7. Additional Partners/Resources. During the project co-creation and co-design, both the Apparently Successful Partner and USAID will identify additional partners and resources, and whether additional mechanisms are necessary to implement the project.

8. Final Review and Negotiation. The USAID Contracting/Agreement Officer will engage in final review, negotiation, and determinations of instrument type, responsibility, cost reasonableness, etc., and will craft an award instrument with the

Apparently Successful Partner. If the Apparently Successful Partner and USAID cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement, the Contracting/Agreement Officer will cancel the project at no cost to the U.S. Government.

9. Award. The USAID Contract/ Agreement Officer will award the instrument.

VI. Award Information

A. Eligibility Information. Haitian organizations, public, private, for-profit, and non-profit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. government organizations, and international donor organizations are eligible under this BAA. All organizations must be determined to be responsive to the BAA and sufficiently responsible to perform or participate in the final award type.

B. Cost Sharing, Matching, or Leveraging. Whether cost share, match, and/or leverage are required will be determined by the final award type, and/or the mutual agreement of the parties. Applicants/offerors are encouraged to suggest creative approaches to resourcing projects.

VII. Standard Clauses and Provisions of Award. The standard clauses or provisions for awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation and will vary considerably by award type. Information regarding clauses and provisions will be offered to the applicant/offeror when the award type is identified.

VIII. Response Date. Please submit your expression of interest in English to Amy McQuade at amcquade@usaid.gov with a copy to Myriam Geffrard at mgeffrard@usaid.gov, no later than 5:00pm EST on March 4, 2016.

IX. Disclaimer. Issuance of this BAA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID, nor does it commit USAID or any of its funding Partners to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, USAID reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

ⁱ Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in Parliament in 2012 The Year in Perspective*, <http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/WIP2012e.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ Inter-Parliamentary Union, *ADVISORY GROUP OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS Mission by the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs Haiti, 24-27 February 2014*, pg.4

ⁱⁱⁱ Latin America Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), *Political Culture of Democracy in Haiti and the Americas, 2012: Towards Equality of Opportunity*, pg 42