

Request for Information (RFI)

Senegal Governance for Local Development Activity

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Activity Title:	Governance for Local Development Activity

This USAID/Senegal Request for Information (RFI) is issued for the purpose of providing stakeholders an opportunity to review, comment, suggest, and enhance areas in the attached draft program description (PD) for the USAID/Senegal activity: **Governance for Local Development**.

The Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) Integrated Activity, or Governance for Local Development project activity, is expected to be a five-year program with an approximate ceiling of \$20,000,000, subject to availability of funds. It will serve as a Mission platform for tackling local governance, citizen-state relations, and accountability concerns that are common across all USAID/Senegal program areas. Specifically, the DRG Integrated Activity seeks to strengthen:

- Collectivités Locales' (decentralized government authorities at the municipal and district levels, henceforth referred to as "CL") and citizens' understanding of the roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed CL officials;
- The planning, budget management, and administrative capacity of local government entities to mobilize and accountably manage resources for local service and infrastructure needs; and
- Community participation in the local governance process and ability to provide oversight for improved service delivery.

As appropriate, USAID/Senegal will incorporate responses to the RFI into the development of the PD that may lead to a formal solicitation. The attached draft PD presents the current draft objectives and key elements of the activity. USAID/Senegal may significantly revise this proposed new activity and planned solicitation resulting from the comments received and further internal discussions.

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a Request for Applications or Proposals (RFA/RFP). Responses to this RFI shall not be portrayed as proposals and will not be accepted by the U.S. Government (USG) to form a binding agreement. This RFI is not to be construed as a commitment by the USG to issue any solicitation or ultimately award of an assistance agreement on the basis of this RFI, or to pay for any information submitted as a result of this request. Responders are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI.

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If the requirement is released in the form of an RFA, it will be synopsisized in, but not limited to, grants.gov and Agency websites. It is the potential responder's responsibility to monitor the above forums for the release of any further information.

It should be noted that responding to or providing comment on this RFI will not give any advantage to any organization in any subsequent procurement. USAID/Senegal will not provide answers to any question submitted in response to this request.

By issuing the draft for comment, USAID/Senegal aims to consult with the broad community of actors involved with democracy and governance services. Your comments are requested to help refine the PD to ensure clarity, maximum development impact, sound coordination with existing activities, and alignment with the Government of Senegal's top priorities. Please ensure your comments are concise and specific to information included within the draft PD. While there are no limits on the length of submissions accepted, we value concise, issue-specific responses with reference to page and section numbers in the draft PD.

Areas of particular interest include:

- 1) Have we identified the key challenges to effective local government? Are there issues we should have included instead?
- 2) Are the results expected from the DRG Integrated Activity clear and realistic?
- 3) Is it clear what USAID expects regarding "integration" and the DRG Integrated Activity's role in strengthening it?
 - a. As identified in the draft PD, the goal of integration is to create greater returns on investment and build sustainability into sector interventions. What target should be included in the PD that measures the extent to which an awardee's proposed integration approach includes actions that achieve a greater result for the same cost and/or the same result for less cost?
- 4) What challenges and remedies around coordination can you identify between Donors/Development Partners, between the government programs in this sector and government entities, between USAID and its sector governance implementing partners, and between all of these stakeholders?
- 5) Do you think the DRG Integrated Activity has the potential to move the status of decentralization forward?
 - a. If so, in which particular targeted sector (technical service responsibilities) and why?
 - b. If not, what do you think is missing for that to happen?

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- 6) What do you think will strengthen local development plans and make them more participatory?
- 7) How can CLs engage more effectively with the local business community and enhance opportunities for local revenue generation?
- 8) Have we identified useful M&E approaches to accurately reflect the DRG Integrated Activity programmatic results? Are there different or further approaches we could consider to strengthen our ability to collaborate, learn, and adapt?

Please address your comments and questions to Beyola Belizaire and send them to bbelizaire@usaid.gov with a copy to ddedeyan@usaid.gov no later than the closing date shown above.

Annexes:

Annex A: Draft Program Description: Governance for Local Development

Annex B: Draft LogFrame Matrix