



Issuance Date: January 5, 2024

Questions Deadline: January 19, 2024, 1700 West Africa Time (WAT)

Submission Deadline: February 16, 2024, 1700 WAT

Subject: Justice, Rights and Security Annual Program Statement (JRS-APS) No. 7200AA22APS00007

Opportunity Title: Rapid Action Against Impunity in Nigeria (RAIN) Activity
USAID/Nigeria Addendum APS No. 72062024APS00001

Dear Interested Parties/Respondents:

The United States Government, as represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Nigeria invites concept notes that are focused on the Rapid Action Against Impunity in Nigeria (RAIN) Activity

Subject to the availability of funds, an award will be made to the responsible applicant(s) whose application(s) best meets the objectives of this funding opportunity and the selection criteria contained herein. USAID/Nigeria anticipates up to two (2) cooperative agreements totaling \$1,727,500.00 to be implemented over three (3) years. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications received.

This NOFO and the assistance selection process contains two phases as follows:

- Phase I – Concept Notes Submission and Merit Review
- Phase II – Co-Creation, Full Application Submission and Merit Review

To be eligible for award, the application must provide all information as required in this NOFO and meet eligibility standards of this NOFO. This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov and may be amended. Interested applicants should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the entire NOFO 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 APS, please contact the grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

USAID may not award to an Applicant unless the Applicant has complied with all applicable **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)** requirements. The registration process may take several weeks or even months to complete. Therefore, Applicants are encouraged to begin registration as early in the process as possible. Proposed sub-awardees

do not need full SAM registration, they need to only obtain a UEI. **Applicants need to be registered in SAM when submitting the full application. Applicants do not need to be registered in SAM when submitting a concept paper.**

Issuance of this Addendum does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the U.S. Government to make an award, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a Concept Paper or Application(s). The actual number of assistance awards, if any, is subject to the availability of funds, as well as the viability of eventual full Applications received.

Any questions concerning this NOFO must be submitted electronically to abujasolicitations@usaid.gov and asadiq@usaid.gov, with a copy to mshirley@usaid.gov by the time indicated above.

The concept notes (Phase I) and, at a later stage, the full application (Phase II) must be submitted electronically to abujasolicitations@usaid.gov with a copy to asadiq@usaid.gov. The concept notes must be received no later than the time and date indicated above.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

Michelle Shirley
Agreement Officer

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ANNOUNCEMENT CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES
RAPID ACTION AGAINST IMPUNITY IN NIGERIA (RAIN),
APS NO. 72062024RFA00001**

UNDER EXISTING

**JUSTICE, RIGHTS, AND SECURITY ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT (JRS-APS)
NO. 7200AA22APS00007**

<u>PLEASE NOTE: This is an addendum to an existing announcement (#7200AA22APS00007). All interested organizations should carefully review both this addendum AND the full announcement, which can be found here. Important information contained in the full announcement is not necessarily repeated in this documentation.</u>
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This program is authorized in accordance with Part 1 of the Foreign Assistance act of 1961, as amended.

Through this Addendum #72062024RFA00001 to the Justice, Rights, and Security (JRS) Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 7200AA22APS00007, USAID/Nigeria is making a special call for the submission of Concept Notes focused on corruption, impunity, and violent crime in Nigeria.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the RAIN Addendum is to reduce corruption and impunity for violent crime in Plateau and Kaduna states. High levels of financial corruption inhibit the ability of Nigerian public institutions to effectively administer justice and security. At the same time, Nigeria’s embedded patronage systems facilitate widespread impunity for criminal activity of all kinds, including violence. The impunity, in turn, allows violence to continue. Without access to reliable and fair legal recourse, violence-affected communities have become more alienated from government and frequently resort to extra-legal retributive violence, or “mob justice.” As a result, many communities, particularly in Northern Nigeria, are trapped in cycles of injustice, impunity, and revenge. Through RAIN, USAID/Nigeria seeks to address the corruption at the core of these cycles of violence.

Approach. In line with USAID’s new Rule of Law Policy, RAIN interventions will take a people-centered justice (PCJ) approach. Whereas rule of law work previously focused on institutional capacity building for state justice and security institutions without consideration for the public’s justice needs and wants, PCJ prioritizes the interests and experience of the individual. PCJ is focused on addressing the justice needs of everyday people that can be delivered through traditional, formal, and restorative justice. PCJ improves the experiences of justice seekers by ensuring that justice services are evidence-based, data-driven, user-friendly, solution-focused, prevention-oriented, and pathway-promoting. More information on PCJ can be found in the [USAID Rule of Law Policy](#).

Geographic Focus. RAIN will focus on Plateau and Kaduna states. These states present a strategic cross section of serious violent crime and active USG programming. This includes two conflict mitigation activities supported by USAID/Nigeria. Respondents may propose activities in one or both states. Concept Papers should target local governance areas impacted by high rates of violent crime including, but not limited to, murder, banditry, and sexual and gender-based violence. Rural and urban locations may be considered.

II. BACKGROUND

From brazen embezzlement to padded payrolls, public graft drains government institutions of the vital resources needed to provide basic services. The Anti-Corruption Agencies of Nigeria, an umbrella group of government agencies, estimates that \$18 billion in public funds are stolen every single year. For a population of over 210 million, there are only 220,000 police serving the Nigerian public because senior police commanders have illegally sold the services of 110,000 police to protect Nigerian elites. This leaves the majority of the country, especially in rural areas, without physical security. Police officers that do serve the Nigerian public are often rendered ineffective in emergencies without phone credit, vehicles, or fuel. The justice system, in turn, faces a critical backlog of cases due to insufficient resources and staff, including judges. These deficiencies can cause criminal court proceedings to stretch up to 10 years.

Almost all aspects of Nigerian political, military, and economic life are governed via elite patronage networks. Political godfathers mobilize violence and give bribes to advance and protect their political and business interests. The result is near total impunity for godfathers and their patrons.

Against this backdrop of stolen public resources and criminal impunity, violent crime has exploded across the country. In 2021, bandits, or organized crime groups, killed over 2,600 people, a 250 percent increase from 2020. In 2022, these groups killed over 10,000 people. Over 4,600 Nigerians were kidnapped in 2022 and 1,110 kidnapped just in the first three months of 2023. A nominal number of these crimes are investigated. Far fewer are prosecuted.

Without reliable and fair legal recourse, many aggrieved Nigerians feel compelled to commit reprisal attacks for a sense of justice. For example in May 2023, unknown gunmen killed an estimated 15 to 38 farmers in Nasarawa state in retaliation for the murder of an 18-year old herder two days previously. In Plateau, over 400 Nigerians were murdered between April and October 2023 in dozens of retributive communal attacks between farming and herding communities. As injustices compound, Nigeria's cycle of corruption, violence, and impunity grows more lethal.

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the RAIN Addendum is to reduce corruption and impunity for violent crime in Plateau and Kaduna states (see Geographic Focus in Section IV below). This goal is supported by the

following objectives:

1. Increase accountability for corruption related to cases of violent crime.
2. Increase public advocacy against corruption within the security and justice systems.
3. Facilitate justice solutions for violent crime-affected individuals in Plateau and Kaduna states.

Coordination with Other Initiatives

Successful applicants will be expected to actively coordinate with other USAID and USG-funded activities in Kaduna and Plateau states. This includes, but is not limited to, INL justice and security programming.

This activity will complement ongoing USAID investments to mitigate conflict in Kaduna and Plateau states. The Community Initiatives to Promote Peace (CIPP) activity works in Kaduna and Plateau to train conflict mediators and establish community structures to report conflicts before they become violent. The Peace Action for Rapid and Transformative Nigerian Early Response (PARTNER) activity works in Kaduna and Plateau states to bolster the capacity of state and federal governments to better coordinate responses to conflict.

IV. SOLICITATION

In publishing this addendum to the Justice, Rights, and Security Annual Program Statement (JRS-APS) APS #7200AA22APS00007, USAID is making a special call for the submission of concept notes focused on reducing corruption and impunity to violence.

Subject to the availability of funding, USAID/SA anticipates supporting up to one (1) new award under this addendum, over the course of five (5) years. USAID reserves the right to award more awards **or** none **or** to change the amount of funding for any or all awards issued. All interested organizations should carefully review both this addendum AND the full APS, which can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=340272>.

V. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligibility for this NOFO is restricted to local Nigerian organizations. Applications will not be accepted from any other types of organizations or individuals.

Local entity means an individual, a corporation, a nonprofit organization, or another body of persons that:

- (1) Is legally organized under the laws of;
 - (2) Has as its principal place of business or operations in;
- AND
- (3) is

- (A) majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of;
and
- (B) managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country receiving assistance.

For purposes of this definition, 'majority owned' and '-managed by' include, without limitation, beneficiary interests and 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.

VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA

USAID/Nigeria will follow a two-tier selection process as follows:

- First stage is the merit review of the concept notes. The concept notes will be reviewed by a panel of USAID employees who will determine whether the concept has sufficient technical merit, and the applicant has sufficient experience and management capacity to warrant participation at co-creation and preparation of a full application.
- Successful concept notes will proceed to co-creation with USAID to develop the program description.
- The second stage is the merit review of a full application for potential applicants who fulfill the needed merit review factors and criteria at the concept paper stage and were invited for co-creation.

1. Concept Notes Merit Review

Concept notes received under this NOFO will be evaluated by a USAID Merit Review Committee (MRC) in accordance with the merit review criteria detailed below. The purpose of this review is to ensure that prospective applicant(s) bring appropriate capabilities, experiences, and potential contributions to the co-creation process and ultimately the implementation of activities. A concept note is determined to be successful using a PASS/FAIL methodology based on the merit review criteria. Any applicant that receives a FAIL rating on any criteria, will not advance beyond this phase, and will be notified via email and no detailed feedback will be provided in relation to their applications.

Proposed concept notes under this addendum will be evaluated based on the extent to which the concept note:

1. Advances relevant JRS programmatic Priorities and Objectives based on the country context;
2. Proposes creative, feasible, and technically sound activities to achieve the objectives and results described in the addendum;
3. Proposes partnerships with diverse stakeholders working on anti-corruption and safety/security issues;
4. Integrates the cross-cutting themes of gender equality and empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized populations throughout program activities; and

5. Demonstrates the applicant's prior experience implementing activities to strengthen anti-corruption capacity and collaboration and outlines the results of such experiences.

2. Co-Creation and Full Application Merit Review

Successful applicant (s) may be invited to continue the co-creation and collaboration process to identify and develop the activities that will help achieve the results desired under this APS and specific addendum; identify and incorporate additional partners; and determine respective roles and responsibilities related to the implementation of those activities. Full applications will be reviewed with the same merit review criteria stated above. Detailed submission instructions will be submitted at that time.

VII. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preparation of Concept Notes

Concept notes must be submitted in English via email as a Microsoft Word or PDF attachment. The main body of the concept note must not exceed 5 pages and must use standard margins and 12pt Calibri font. Concept notes in response to the RAIN APS addendum must include the following three components. Please organize the Concept Note according to the outline below.

a. Cover Page (1 page maximum)

1. USAID Addendum Reference
2. Name and address of organization
3. Contact person (lead contact name, telephone number, and e-mail address)
4. Title of proposed program, target state(s), and sector(s) being proposed, proposed period of performance, and total dollar amount of funds requested for the proposed period of performance
5. Identify the type of applying organization (e.g., local NGO etc.) and
6. Names of other donor organizations to whom you are submitting the application and/or which are funding the proposed or similar activities; and,
7. Signature, name and title of the authorized representative of the applicant.

b. Technical Instructions (5 page maximum)

The Concept Paper must include:

1. A brief background on the specific development challenge(s)/opportunity(ies) and needs to be addressed by the activity;
2. Statement of the objectives and proposed activities, demonstrating how they relate to specific challenges/opportunities in Nigeria;
3. Demonstration of how gender equality, women, youth, and marginalized populations' empowerment will be integrated throughout program activities;
4. Anticipated results and indicative measures to monitor activities;
5. Role of proposed partners (such as NGOs and/or alliances with private businesses);

6. A notional budget including type of budget support requested from USAID disaggregated by direct program costs and indirect costs (if any); and
7. How the proposed activities will be sustained after the grant ends.

c. Attachments (includes past performance, institutional capabilities, and supporting information) (no page limit; but please be as concise as possible)

1. Statement of USAID assistance received during the preceding five-year period; a brief description of activities, donor(s) and amount of support (Organizations that did not receive funds during the preceding five-year period must state this fact);
2. Concise description of the Applicant's development experience including project descriptions, results and evaluations;
3. A brief statement of the history of the organization; its primary development focus, capabilities and challenges;
4. An organizational chart of the Applicant organization; and
5. Proposed staff roles and responsibilities.

2. Preparation of Full Applications

NOTE: USAID IS NOT REQUESTING THIS INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. THE MOST HIGHLY RATED APPLICANT(S) WILL BE REQUESTED BY USAID TO SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION FOLLOWING THE EVALUATION OF THE CONCEPT PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION IN CO-CREATION.

VIII. QUESTIONS AND FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Questions regarding the substance and objectives of this addendum should be directed to abujasolicitations@usaid.gov with a copy to asadiq@usaid.gov and mshirley@usaid.gov no later than **January 19, 2024, 1700 West Africa Time.**