

**Questions and Answers for the Bidders Conference on November 30, 2020:
New Partnerships Initiative (NPI) Conflict Prevention and Recovery Program**

Q1: What is the target geography for this Request for Information (RFI)?

A1: There is no predetermined geography for the RFI. However USAID's focus on conflict suggests that the center and north of Mali could be focus areas.

Q2: What is the process for application after the RFI closes on December 11, 2020?

A2: The process is outlined in the powerpoint from the bidders conference (see slides) as well as the description of the process in the Annual Program Statement (APS) (found here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=315424>).

Q3: Can you send us the information about Concept Notes for the next stage of the process?

A3: Information about Concept Notes can be found in the powerpoint from the bidders conference (see slides) as well as the description of the process in the APS (found here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=315424>).

Q4: Can we have the presentation from the bidders' conference?

A4: The presentation has been uploaded as a portable document format (PDF) document (see slides) to be publically available.

Q5: What is the relationship between the request for information and the concept note?

A5: The request for information offers partners the opportunity to provide USAID with information so that the addendum to the APS will be shaped with relevant information. When USAID releases an addendum to the APS, partners will then be requested to submit a concept note to be considered for advancing in the co-creation process.

Q6: What are the specific domains of intervention that USAID envisions for this program?

A6: USAID has not yet determined specific domains of intervention for this program. Rather, a committee will review innovative ideas from partners in their concept notes and determine whether any of these ideas should be further refined in a co-creation process.

Q7: Do organizations have to have a registration number to submit a concept note?

A7: No, your organization does not have to be registered to submit a concept note, however, being registered expedites the award process and avails your organization to any future direct grants from the US Government. Because the registration process could take several weeks, it is beneficial that organizations have your System for Award Management (SAM) and Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) registration completed earlier than later. If your organization is chosen for an award, registration with [SAM](#) and [DUNS](#) as described in the APS is mandatory prior to award.

Q8: What is the duration of the project?

A8: USAID estimates that projects will have a duration of up to two years after award.

Q9: How much (in Franc de la Communauté financière africaine [FCFA]) is envisioned for each local partner, and is there a ceiling?

A9: There is no predetermined amount for any partner. In fact, USAID may award to multiple partners or USAID may choose not award to any partners. The ceiling is only defined by the overall amount of funding devoted to this APS for Mali which is currently US \$1 million.

Q10: How many local partners will be chosen as implementing partners?

A10: There is no predetermined number of partners.

Q11: Can we have a template for the concept note?

A11: The APS contains the required sections and definitions for the concept note, however be sure to include the additional information that will be described in the addendum to the APS.

Q12: When is the official launch and closure of the addendum to the APS?

A12: There is no official launch date or closure date of the addendum to the APS, although USAID/Mali estimates the addendum to be released at the end of the calendar year.

Q13: Are prevention and management of conflicts linked to natural resources eligible for this program?

A13: Any programming ideas that fit under the descriptions in the upcoming addendum to the APS and the APS itself would be eligible.

Q14: Are new victims of terrorism eligible for this work?

A14: Any programming ideas that fit under the descriptions in the upcoming addendum to the APS and the APS itself would be eligible.

Q15: Is it possible to form a consortium among different organizations and different regions in Mali?

A15: Yes, it is possible, however, it is up to the lead organization to uphold all of USAID's requirements as they will be the organization that will sign the award.

Q16: Could refugees along the border of Burkina Faso and Niger benefit from assistance?

A16: The funds are allocated to Mali, and therefore, the proposed assistance is designated for Mali and Malians. However, if actions have secondary effects that benefit non-Malians in Mali and not within our control, that is something else. The activity was not designed for providing assistance to refugees, and there are other sources of funding that are targeting them.

Q17: What are the eligibility criteria?

A17: The eligibility criteria are defined in detail in the APS (found here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=315424>)

Q18: Could we have the presentation from the finance team?

A18: USAID is attaching the slides from the finance team to this addendum to be publically available.

Q19: Is a Non-U.S. Organization Pre-Award Survey (NUPAS) required for an organization that has a sub-agreement with a prime awardee of USAID programming?

A19: The NUPAS is not required for submitting a concept, that is the first step of the APS. Then, if pre-selected and considered for a direct award, a NUPAS is required.

Q20: What is the next step?

A20: The next step is to respond to the addendum of the APS.