

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION (CMM)
APS# APS-294-17-000001 / Amendment No. One Annex A
Questions and Answers

1. Is Cost Sharing a requirement?

Cost sharing is not required but it is encouraged. While USAID does not require cost sharing under this APS, it recognizes that cost sharing may be an important element of the USAID-Recipient relationship, and in some circumstances, may make an application more competitive for selection.

2. When should we expect start of award?

Start of activities funded under this APS is anticipated to be between August 2018 – October 2018. If an applicant's proposed activity is linked to an academic year, we ask that applicants please be sure to note that in the application for USAID to take that into account.

3. How should we structure the budget under a Fixed Amount Award (FAA)?

Attached G and attachment H include a budget template and a budget narrative template. Once drafted, it should be then broken down for it to be associated with the activity's proposed specific milestones (see Attachment F) and should describe in sufficient detail established activity milestones and the associated amount of each milestone.

4. DUNS and SAM – are applicants required to obtain them?

All Applicants are strongly encouraged to comply with the following before submitting a summary application under this APS:

- (i) Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM).
- (ii) Provide a valid DUNS number in the application.
- (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 USG Federal Agency.

SAM registration will be required for all Applicants selected to submit a full application for a Standard Assistance Award, or have been selected as a successful Applicant for a FAA. Failure to comply with this requirement will jeopardize further review and evaluation of the application and as such USAID may determine that the Applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use the determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Instructions on how to register in DUNS and SAM are described in Attachment K.

5. Do Subpartners need DUNS and SAM as well?

The APS requirements on obtaining a DUNS number and having a valid SAM registration are applicable to the prime awardee only.

6. Can 'Culture' which is an issue that is important for diverse communities be an issue of common interest?

It is up to Applicants to be able to address, articulate and make a convincing argument on how their approach best meets the APS objectives.

7. Can our proposed program bring together people from Morocco and Iran (the larger Middle East)?

USAID requests applicants to focus on issues of common interest between three categories of participants: 1) Israelis and Palestinians; 2) Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians; 3) Israeli Arab and Jewish citizens. Activities may include citizens of other Middle Eastern and North African countries, but primary beneficiaries should be Israelis and Palestinians residing in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank.

8. What ages are defined as 'Youth'?

Please refer to the USAID youth toolkit which is referenced under section A.1 of the APS (http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnadb336.pdf). In this document youth are defined as having reached the stage in life where they are physically capable of assuming adult roles (i.e., have passed puberty), usually between ages 15 and 24, although different societies frame this differently. Definitions may vary for men and women.

9. How many applications can an organization submit?

There is no restriction as to the number of applications an organization can submit. However, applicants need to be aware that it is conceivable that USAID may award two awards to the same organization and as such when applying with more than one application Applicants should ensure that their organization has the necessary technical and financial resources and capacity to implement all proposed activities.

10. Are Bedouins included in the targeted groups?

Yes.

11. I am a current partner. Am I still eligible to apply? Are there any restrictions?

Yes. As stated in answer #9, technical and financial capacity must be demonstrated. Budget allocations (such as rent or salaries) cannot be doubled and must be allocated properly. It's also worthwhile to note that the US federal funds under an ongoing award cannot be accounted on as Cost share.

12. Does USAID prefer Cross Border projects?

As with prior years, USAID strongly encourages applicants to consider cross-border programming that brings together Israelis, Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza and

activities that bring together Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians. Activities that are “Israel-only” oriented that include people-to-people interactions between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel will be less preferred.

13. Organizations that will be finishing a USAID grant within the time period that this APS awards will be starting - can we extend the activity to delay awards to carry the new programs through?

No. Each USAID award is a standalone instrument funded by a distinct APS opportunity.

14. How should we capture past experience? What if our organization is currently undergoing a shift in programming?

Organizations should list all prior relevant experience. Relevant experience should be similar in nature, scope, and size and dollar value. It is up to the applicants to determine what is viewed as relevant experience. In terms of shifts in programming, applicants should explain and highlight this while elaborating on its rationale and reasoning.

15. Can a for-profit organization be eligible for a grant?

Yes. For profit organizations, as long as they forgo profit, are eligible to apply under this APS.

16. What are the expectations for full time staff under a FAA? How are costs allocated?

There are no expectations. It depends on the specific activity and associated milestones. The applicant should explain and justify their rationale on the allocations.

17. Our US organization that has been operating for 4-5 years. All track records and funding has been through the US. Very recently an Israeli “Amuta” was set up. We think the Israel organization is the better point of contact, but all other aspects are via the US HQ office. Does USAID have a preference?

While USAID has no preference vis-à-vis which nationality of organization is the prime applicant in this scenario, USAID advises the organization review ADS rules (see ADS 303.3.9.1) regarding pre-award risk assessment. Prior to award USAID will need to assess whether the organization has ability and capacity from a technical and financial standpoint to implement its proposed activity. It is up to the applicant to choose and select which prime applicant is the more suitable option.

18. Is there a page limit for the budget/cost application?

No.

19. Can awards start later in March?

No. US Government regulations and appropriations law restrict the timing of the awards.

20. Can we submit the same project that is under consideration for a State Department grant?

Yes, but please keep in mind that if an applicant is awarded a grant for the same proposed activity from the US State Department then the duplicative CMM application will need to be withdrawn. Organizations cannot receive US federal funds for the same activity.

21. Can the same organization submit an application for different projects under both the FAA and SAA option?

Yes. There are no restrictions to how many applications an organization can submit.

22. Can we use technology for meetings?

Yes, as long as this is not the only method to conduct the meetings.

23. How many organizations can we partner with?

There are no restrictions to how many organizations an applicant can propose to partner with.

24. Can USAID offer more guidance on how the geographic locations are defined?

It is up to the applicant categorize its activities in terms of geographic location. No penalties will be made on any reasonable interpretation of geographic location.

25. Can participants' payments be included as cost share?

Participant payments and other such fee-for-service arrangements are allowable but they are considered 'Program Income' and not 'Cost Share'.

26. Can you give us a list of the proposed programs that were denied in the past?

No, a list cannot be provided due to US Government selection rules which protect the confidentiality of applicants. However; please refer to section A.1 of the APS 'Unsuccessful Applicant Profile' for examples of approaches the Selection Committee will not consider competitive for this APS.

27. Size of past donations/funding activity: should this be reflected on an annual basis or per donation?

Applicants should include past donation information as a lump sum/one donation.

28. The project director is a CMM specialist how should that be reflected?

Applicants need to highlight the specific qualifications attributed to the individual that are needed for the proposed position.

29. If a collaboration between two organizations (Arab and Israeli), can both be prime applicants?

Only one organization can be a prime applicant. If the two organizations have a joint legal identity, then yes. If it is a regular partnering agreement then only one of the two can be the prime applicant.

30. Can volunteers be considered part of Cost Share?

Yes, they can.

31. Does our proposed program need to target an even number of individuals from the various groups?

To meet APS objectives the individuals targeted need to be Arabs and Jews. The rest of the details are up to the applicant to tell us what it is they want to do and how it best meets their proposed objectives.

32. Is there an advantage for collaboration or a consortium of partners?

USAID encourages applications from partnerships or consortia, including arrangements whereby local organizations lead as “primes” and international organizations provide capacity building, expertise and specialization as needed. In this context, partnerships are defined as a negotiated arrangement among organizations that provides for a substantive, collaborative role for each of the partners in the planning and implementation of the program. Applicants intending to represent a coalition of providers should be prepared to provide, if requested, a signed partnership agreement stating:

- An intent to commit or receive resources from the prospective partner(s) contingent upon receipt of funds;
- How the partnership arrangement advances the objectives of the program;
- Supporting documentation identifying the resources, experience, and expertise of the partner(s);
- Evidence that the partner(s) has been involved in the planning of the program; and
- Clarification of the role of the partner(s) in the implementation of the program, evaluation, and sustainability and financial relationships.

33. Can a prime delegate management to its subpartner?

The prime awardee is responsible and liable for implementing the program in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award. A risk assessment is completed on the prime for overall management prior to award.

34. Is there a limit to the budget that goes to the subpartner?

There is no limit to the amount/percentage of the budget that is allocated to the subpartner. However please note USAID's response to question 33 above.

35. Can the financial management function be outsourced to an external party?

Yes some financial management functions may be outsourced, but please review the requirements for risk assessment and organizational capacity as stated above.

36. We currently have a USAID award that ends 3/2019. Can we apply under this APS? Can it be a follow on to the existing award?

Applicants with an existing award can apply for a follow on activity. However; the activity cannot be exactly the same. It may be an evolution of that first activity, for example; different phases, targeting different locations, different targeted audience etc. If it's a similar activity, applicants should discuss lessons learned and improvements for the future activity. In addition, a discussion on allocation of resources should be included to demonstrate the efficiency of already funded resources.

37. Can we subaward to other Palestinian organizations?

Yes.

38. We have a lot of programming that happens in the US. Can we have American beneficiaries and staff under our program?

Yes. However, given the objectives of this APS, the preference is to allocate these under cost share. As stated in the APS, in addition to the people-to-people approach, USAID requests applicants focus on issues of common interest between three categories of participants: 1) Israelis and Palestinians; 2) Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians; 3) Israeli Arab and Jewish citizens. Cross-border activities that bring together Israelis and Palestinians and activities that bring together Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians are strongly encouraged. Activities can include citizens of other Middle Eastern and North African countries, but primary beneficiaries should be Israelis and Palestinians residing in Israel and the West Bank.

39. What type of visa / permits are required?

It is up to the Applicant to determine the necessary permits and approvals that are required, and plan and budget for those permits.

40. Can conferences and workshops be included under SAAs?

Yes.

41. What are the requirements and documentations required for the Pre-Award Survey PAS?

Please refer to Section A.11 'Pre-Award Responsibility Determination and Risk Assessment' of the APS for a detailed account of the requirements and procedures. Also, in USAID's rules, the ADS, see <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303.pdf>, and see Section 303.3.9.1

42. Does it matter which type of award I'm going after?

For a positive risk determination to be made the applicant must demonstrate prior experience in implementing programs of similar scope and size and other factors described in ADS 303.3.9.1.

43. Due to the extended procurement timeline, we may encounter changes in personnel or program related. How does USAID take these into consideration?

Due to the extended procurement timeline, that is understandable. Applications will be revalidated during the discussions phase. However, the general scope of the application's program description cannot change.

44. Are there any other requirements other than those in the APS that applicants need to be aware of?

No.

45. Is a government agency eligible to apply under this APS? Can a government agency be a partner (not an applicant)?

USAID does not provide funds to a foreign government organization/agency under this funding opportunity. However, there is the possibility that a foreign government organization/agency may participate in an activity if no USAID funds are transferred to that foreign government organization/agency. It would depend on the nature of the agency's involvement.