

USAID/WEST BANK AND GAZA
CMM APS-294-14-000001
Questions and Answers

- Q1. Is there a project duration limit for Standard Assistance Award projects?
- A1. Answer: The maximum period of performance for Standard Assistance Awards is three years. The maximum period of performance for Fixed Obligation Grants (FOGs) is eighteen months.
- Q2. If there are activities that would need to be conducted in between that are funded by other sources, could the USAID project and funding be interrupted and continued at a later date (i.e., is it possible to "stretch" the funding up to 3 years, in a non-consecutive manner)?
- A2. These details will sorted out during the negotiations phase. While the award itself cannot be interrupted and will remain in effect, the budget can be aligned to correlate to the activities implemented throughout the three years period.
- Q3. What are the earliest and latest dates on which the project must start?
- A3. The start date of the program may be discussed and agreed upon during negotiations. However, for planning purposes the anticipated timeframe for awards and start of project implementation is April-July, 2015. All awards must be in place before September 30, 2015.
- Q4. Is it possible to submit a project proposal that builds on a proposal submitted to a different donor agency?
- A4. Yes, provided that the application meets the objectives of this APS and is in line with its requirements.
- Q5. If we receive funding from both USAID and another donor agency, can we cost share the funds?
- A5. Yes. Please refer to section A.4 NGO FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP/COST SHARING of the APS.
- Q6. Can we apply for funding for the first 18 months of a 24 months program, after which we believe it will be self-sustaining?
- A6. It is up to the applicant to convincingly demonstrate how that will be possible and achievable.
- Q7. Is it possible to solely hand in applications by email? Or is it mandatory to also hand in the application through <http://www.grants.gov>?

- A7. Yes applicants can solely submit their application by email. It is not required that applicants submit their application through grants.gov. Should applicants choose to upload applications to <http://www.grants.gov>; USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions. USAID/West Bank and Gaza requires that all applications be submitted electronically (e-mailed) to WBG-APS-CMM2014@usaid.gov by May 11, 2014. Applicants are required to request a receipt confirmation to ensure that the application was received.
- Q8. If we plan on developing a part of our programming for Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian, and Jordanian participants, would USAID pay for Egyptians and Jordanians to travel to the conference or program? Can we include the cost of travel/lodging and programming? What are the constraints on international and third country trainings?
- A8. Yes USAID will be able to fund Egyptians and Jordanians travel costs to the conference or program.

In recognition of the increased challenges of movement and access between Israel, WB, North African Countries and Jordan, meetings in third country venues are permissible if the neutrality of the meeting location or the security of participants is an issue and measures are taken to ensure the cost effectiveness of the endeavor. Sufficient technical justification should be provided for use of a third country venue. International and third country training may be approved on a case by case basis. If the applicant demonstrates that this training is essential to the implementation of the program and contributes to achieving the objectives of this APS, International and third country training will be considered.

- Q9. If USAID would not pay for the Egyptians and/or Jordanian to travel to the activity, would it be allowable for them to attend the activity if we covered the cost of their travel by other private funds?
- A9. Egyptians and/or Jordanian participants are eligible for funding under the proposed projects.
- Q10. The APS does not make it clear how it is best for partner organizations to submit an application. Can/should both organizations submit an application?
- A10. USAID encourages applications from partnerships or consortia directed by or including local organizations. 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 project. 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 project; and
- Clarification of the role of the partner(s) in the implementation of the program, evaluation, and sustainability.

However, please note that USAID will enter into a contractual relationship with only one organization, i.e. the organization who submitted the application, who will then be considered the prime recipient. The prime recipient will be liable for all technical and financial aspect of the proposed program implementation.

Q11. The time frame of the process is not clear? When should the project begin? When will final decisions be made on funding? When would the full application be due?

A11. We cannot provide an exact timeframe. We anticipate that notifications to applicants will be issued around March/April 2015. During that time frame unsuccessful applicants will be notified, and requests for full applications will be issued.

Q12. As I understand it, the summary application should be five pages plus the following documents: Standard Assistance Technical Application Cover page, CV's of up to three key personnel, Standard Budget forms, Detailed Budget and Budget Narrative, Proof of Qualifying Status as a Local Organization. Correct?

A12. Yes. However, please note that the Budget submission should be in a separate file and should include the standard budget forms, detailed budget and budget narrative as well as the proof of qualifying status as a local organization (if applicable).

Q13. I want to confirm that the content of the five page summary application should include all/only the elements listed in Section B.2-B.3.c.?

A13. Yes. In addition to the technical application, applicants are also requested to submit a Budget Application (see response to Q12 above).

Q14. Can we submit 2 different applications for Fixed Obligation Grants? Each application will be with a different Palestinian partner.

A14. Yes. Please note that each application will be evaluated separately as a stand-alone activity in accordance with the evaluation criteria set in Section D of the APS.

Q15. Can we apply both for a FOG and for Standard Assistance Award – for different programs- under the same APS?

A15. Yes.

Q16. Is the grant application package intended to be used for attachment G and H? Is this form replacing the ADS Chapter 303 links for these forms?

A16. Please note that applicants are required to submit a Budget and Budget Narrative (Attachments H and G) in addition to the SF424 forms.

Q17. Is an American with an Israeli project manager in Israel qualified for funding through USAID APS # 294-14-000001?

A17. Please refer to the eligibility requirements stated in section A.1.d of the APS.

Q18. Please provide a link to the SF 424A and 424B forms?

A18. <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html#sortBy=1>

Q19. Is this call suitable for technology-supported solutions to conflict resolution and peace-building (i.e., using social media, computer games and simulations)?

A19. Your application needs to meet the objectives of the APS including the people to people requirement. As such, your proposed program should include a people to people component and not merely a technology-supported solution to conflict resolution program.

Q20. Is it essential to propose a project that integrates each of the 4 quadrants of the RPP matrix equally, or would you consider projects that focus mainly on the 'individual/personal level' and 'many people' aspect?

A20. No it is not essential to propose a project that integrates each/all of the 4 quadrants of the RPP matrix equally. Yes USAID will consider projects that focus mainly on the 'individual/personal level' and 'many people' aspect. However as stated in the APS, USAID will clearly prioritize applications that, in addition to the people-to-people work, are linking their "more people" activities to "key people" and Institutional and social change.

Q21. Is there an emphasis (priority) on the number of direct participants affected versus working in-depth with smaller populations and key people?

A21. No there is no priority. All applications will be reviewed in accordance with the evaluation criteria set in Section D of the APS.

Q22. Are there any restrictions in using this grant funds for the extraction of land mines or similar materials, provided that the support generated for the demining is a joint effort between the governments and people of Israel and Palestine?

- A22. There are no restrictions on a grant to the NGO to implement this type of work, which would be coordinated as needed with authorities (but not implement through them).
- Q23. If we want to propose a project with people in Gaza, will video-conferencing meetings be considered as “face-to-face” activities?
- A23. Due to the restrictions and difficulties of implementing people-to-people activities with participants from Gaza, video-conferencing can be considered. However, USAID will not be supporting programs that are solely based on video-conferencing meetings.
- Q24. In cross-border projects that include Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians – if we plan for activities to take place in Jordan, is it considered a "third-country venue"?
- A24. Yes. Activities that include Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians can take place in Jordan provided sufficient technical and cost justification is submitted.