

**USAID/WEST BANK AND GAZA**  
**CMM APS-294-14-000001**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

**1. What are the main characteristics of this year's APS?**

**Answer: -**

- a. Summary applications are requested in lieu of full applications.
- b. A small/fixed obligation grant program is included (\$50K-\$100K).
- c. USAID will give preference to proposals that highlight the role of women, youth and/or the disabled in conflict mitigation.
- d. USAID seeks programs that go beyond workshops and awareness-raising to producing more concrete and measurable results. In addition to the people-to-people approach, USAID would like applicants to focus on issues of common interest to participants.
- e. Projects can include citizens of other Middle Eastern and North African countries, but primary beneficiaries should be Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians residing in Israel, the West Bank-Gaza and Jordan.
- f. Cross-border projects that bring together Israelis and Palestinians and activities that bring together Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians are strongly encouraged.
- g. To a lesser extent the APS will allow "Israel-only" projects that include people-to-people interactions between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel. As such, Israel-only projects, where face-to-face meetings are not as great a challenge as those with cross-border projects, need to target key people (i.e. policy makers, community leaders, potential future leaders, specific field experts, etc.) and aim for institutional and social change.
- h. Templates for the cover page of Summary application for the Standard Grants (Up to \$1.2 M) and for Fixed Obligation Grants (FOGs) are included.
- i. USAID requires from successful applicants a clear Gender analysis (see reference in question 10 below)
- j. USAID encourages Public Private Partnerships.
- k. This year's APS focuses on linkages between proposed projects and other peace building activities.

**2. What are the ultimate CMM programs' expected results?**

**Answer:** USAID/CMM programs are means to mitigate conflict at the grassroots level through people-to-people programs that build ties and develop mutual understanding among participants. In addition, USAID will seek programs that go beyond workshops and awareness-raising to producing more concrete and measurable results through the resolution of conflict by having participating groups working together to resolve issues of common concern.

**3. What are the eligible categories of participants?**

In addition to the people-to-people approach, USAID would like applicants to focus on issues of common interest to three categories of participants:

1. Israelis and Palestinians;
2. Israeli Arab and Jewish citizens;
3. Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians.

*Projects 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.*

**4. What is meant by people-to-people activities?**

**Answer:** People-to-people activities bring together individuals and groups of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of conflict in order to address the root causes of tension and instability. *Please keep in mind that the required people-to-people component is to be considered as a means to an end, and not as an end goal of your proposed program.* Reviewers are always asking themselves “so what?” when they read an application.

**5. What is one of the common indicators that the CMM programs use to measure program’s effectiveness?**

**Answer:** One of the most common ways by which our current CMM programs measure effectiveness in mitigating conflict is by measuring the percentage changed in perceptions toward each other following the CMM program’s implementation. Partners will be required to develop performance and management plan that includes impact and result indicators.

**6. The program we are considering submitting for this APS includes participants who are Israelis, Palestinians, and other non-Middle Eastern and North African nationalities. Is it eligible?**

**Answer:** The application will not be rejected on that basis. However, costs associated with the Middle Eastern and North African nationalities outside of Israelis and Palestinians should be accounted for under the cost share

**7. Our program involves training in the USA as well as in Israel/WBG. Are both locations eligible?**

**Answer:** Yes. However, meetings outside WBG/Israel are only granted on an exceptional basis. The expense of sending participants to a third country has to have an impact that justifies its high cost.

**8. The APS refers to Gender Approach. What does this mean? What kind of information applicants need to provide and what is different from last year gender integration?**

In accordance with the new Agency guidance on Gender, USAID/WBG is dedicated to empowering and protecting women and girls as a key requirement for achieving our broader development and humanitarian objectives.

In situations of crisis and conflict, women's participation can be vital to the success of peace building processes, the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, issued in December 2011 (referred to as NAP in this document) highlights that when women are included as meaningful participants in peace building processes, they enlarge the scope of agreements to include the broader set of critical societal priorities and needs required for a lasting and just peace. Further, the NAP charts a roadmap for integrating women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building processes in countries affected by war, violence and insecurity.

Given this emphasis, applicants will present in the summary applications a coherent approach for increasing the meaningful participation of women in conflict mitigation. USAID/WBG seeks proposals that focus not only on increasing the number of women 'present' but the extent to which the skills and confidence of women and girls to participate have been measurably enhanced. The DCHA/CMM publication: "Women in Conflict, A Guide to Programming" and USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy (2012) will be provided in the APS.

In addition, prior to award, successful applicants shall answer in their revised applications the following questions.

- 1- Which obstacles - related to access and control over resources, cultural and gender norms, roles, control over assets, responsibilities and time use, policies, procedures or laws - have been identified that prevent women's participation in the proposed project?
- 2- How will the project address these obstacles?
- 3- What specific elements have been integrated in the project design to increase the participation of women - as relevant to the project's objective - to insure higher impact?
- 4- How will increased access to and meaningful participation in the project be measured?

**9. What are the criteria when refugees or people living in a refugee camp are part of the program?**

**Answer:** The US government gives funds to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to conduct work with refugee populations. Activities that provide assistance to UNRWA or are duplicative of activities carried out by UNRWA will not be supported

under this APS. Since the U.S. Government's support for refugee programs is primarily provided through UNRWA, this APS will not be providing support for elements of activities which specifically target refugees or refugee camps (as opposed to being open to the entire population). USAID encourages proposals that benefit the Palestinian population in general, without regard to refugee or non-refugee status. If there are elements of your proposed program that are specifically designed solely or predominantly to benefit refugees or refugee camps, we ask that you highlight such elements of your proposed program in order to address this early on in the process. Similarly, if any elements of your proposed program involve assistance to UNRWA or involve coordination with existing UNRWA activities, we ask that you also highlight these elements of your program in the application. Additional guidance will be provided to successful applicants on a case-by case basis prior to making an award. Modification to an application may be requested if needed.

**10. If I provide you with a brief summary of my idea, could you let me know whether or not you would consider it for funding?**

**Answer:** No. USAID cannot give any applicant early input on the theory or approach they wish to put forward. Please understand that any indication on USAID's part as to how your approach might be perceived by those asked to review your application would be speculative at best, and at worst create the appearance that USAID is counseling your organization on how to gain an unfair competitive advantage over other applicants.

**11. Are there issues specific to Gaza that I should be aware of?**

**Answer:** USAID programs under this APS can support activities in Gaza, but applicants are cautioned about the difficult and restricted operating environment in Gaza. In addition, USAID implementing partners working in Gaza must minimize security risks and adhere to the U.S. Government "contact policy" that prohibits contact with Hamas, Hamas-controlled institutions and other designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). For more information on this policy, you may review the "Contractors/Grantees Notices" section of the USAID/West Bank-Gaza Mission.

**12. May we apply for an award if we are a small, new organization that has never worked with USAID before?**

**Answer:** Yes. Small and new organizations can apply for the Standard Assistance Awards and the Fixed Obligation Grants (FOGs). FOGS are small grants for up to \$100,000. These grants have reduced administrative burden and require that applicants provide clear measurable and verifiable milestones.

**13. If my organization currently receives funds from another US government entity, such as the State Department, may I still apply to this solicitation?**

**Answer:** Yes. However, please note that funds received from another US government entity for the same application being submitted under this solicitation cannot be considered as cost share. Applicants must highlight the fact that they are receiving funds from another US government entity for the same application.

**14. Can we re-submit an application that was unsuccessful under a previous APS solicitation?**

**Answer:** Yes. However, please note that applicants will need to revalidate their applications. In addition, applicants should take note of the changes in objectives made under section A of the APS as well as the evaluation criteria selection factors.

**15. Can we submit more than one application?**

**Answer:** Yes. However, each one will be evaluated as a separate, standalone activity.

**16. Are research and academic projects appropriate for this APS?**

**Answer:** The intent of the APS focuses very prominently on bringing people together from opposing sides and on activities that facilitate this type of exchange and peace building. Research and academic projects can be included but cannot be the focus of the application.

**17. Are the USAID CMM strategic objectives or intermediate results indicated in USAID's youth in conflict toolkit 2005 still valid?**

**Answer:** USAID's "Youth in Conflict" CMM toolkit is available here:

[http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/pnadb336.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnadb336.pdf). The toolkit includes key issues, lessons learned, programming options and monitoring/evaluation tips. Information in the toolkit is valid. Other relevant useful publications can also be found here:

<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/technical-publications>.

**18. Is it preferred to develop cross border programs for this APS?**

**Answer:** this year's APS will strongly encourage cross-border programming that brings together Israelis and Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza and activities that bring together Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians. To a lesser extent the APS will allow "Israel-only" projects that include people-to-people interactions between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel.

**19. When will applicants be notified whether they have been invited to submit a full proposal, and what is the earliest start date for projects through this APS?**

**Answer:** We expect to notify applicants whether they have been invited to submit a full application within six months. Applicants will then have about three weeks to submit full applications.

**20. What sorts of cooperation and shared activities are the most common for partnerships that you have funded before?**

**Answer:** Programs addressing issues in water, farming, tourism, health, technology, energy, and the environment are just a few examples of successful past programming. More examples of currently funded activities are found in the CMM fact sheet.

**21. What are Key Personnel?**

**Answer:** Key Personnel are individuals within the organization that have a substantial role in implementation and success of the program.

**22. What constitutes a sub-awardee?**

**Answer:** A sub-awardee is a partner who has a written contractual agreement with the prime applicant.

**23. What are the audit requirements under the APS?**

**Answer:** The U.S Congress, through appropriation laws starting in fiscal year 2003, mandated that all contractors and grantees, and significant sub-contractors and sub-grantees receiving USAID assistance in West Bank & Gaza be audited at least annually.

**24. Does USAID have a preference for entirely new projects, or, in the case of a successful program, will USAID look favorably upon its continuation (assuming demonstrated results and a responsive concept paper)?**

**Answer:** USAID has no preference. Each proposal will be reviewed as a standalone project according to the criteria specified in the APS.

**25. Is there an argument -- for or against -- applying for a grant in BOTH large and small categories?**

**Answer:** No

**26. What does “Public Private Partnership” mean?**

USAID is committed to increasing the sustainable impact of our conflict mitigation programs through strategic partnerships with the private sector. Such partnerships enable the projects to leverage private sector markets, expertise, interests, and assets in a manner that solves critical development problems and promotes effective solutions to issues of common interest such as water, agriculture, health, and economic growth. The APS encourages applicants to engage private businesses, financial institutions, chambers of commerce, industry associations, foundations, entrepreneurs, investors, philanthropists, and other private-sector organizations to identify, suggest, and implement activities to mitigate the conflict in the region.