

Partnership for Youth Program- Q & A

1. P.7 -- could USAID provide a copy of the full Ruwwad Evaluation Report, the current RFA attachment appears to just be a summary of key findings and recommendations?

USAID will provide the public version of the Ruwwad Evaluation Report only to the selected applicant.

2. P. 9 - could gender inclusiveness be an additional criteria for YDRC selection?

Yes, gender inclusiveness will be considered as additional criteria for YDRC selection.

3. P.10 --does the reference to women's centers as members of a YDRC's network mean that USAID is open to the inclusion of non-MoYS/HCYS licensed YDRC network members where existing licensed clubs are not adequately serving girls/young women?

The selected clubs should be registered with the HCYS/MoYS;

4. P.14 --do the 11 media staff referenced need to be full time staff members, or could they be part time?

Based on the increasing media activities in the exiting three YDRC, a full time coordinator will be required to manage media programs in each YDRC and help mentor less experienced media interns.

5. P. 15 -- what does the Museum of Science in Boston's commitment to establishing a third Intel Computer Clubhouse involve (equipment? remote/in country technical assistance ? initial/ongoing training?)

The implementing partner in coordination with USAID and the selected YDRC will submit a proposal to the Museum of Science in Boston to establish a new Intel Club House in the West Bank. Previously, USAID covered the cost for ICT and music equipment for the Clubhouse and the Museum of Science provided the needed technical assistance and licensing.

6. Does the 20 page limit for the technical application include the cover page table of contents and executive summary?

The 20 page limit includes the technical proposal but does not include the executive summary, the cover page or the table of content.

7. Pg. 33: Would USAID consider extending the date for receipt of hardcopies, provided electronic copies are submitted by the current deadline?

No, both copies should be submitted by the current deadline.

8. Although the new 22 CFR 228 greatly simplifies the procurement rules and geographic codes, what will be the geographic code for this award?

The authorized geographic code for procurement of goods and services under the anticipated award is 937.

9. May a local University apply for this grant, because it has many centers in Jerusalem that work in different fields, one of these centers is Community Deployment Center (CDC) which focuses on Youth and Women Empowerment, it provides many activities for youth e.g. Life Skills courses, Communication and Leadership workshops, etc.

Please refer to Section III – Eligibility Information of the RFA.

10. The financial data as requested in the quarterly reports on page 63 is in excess of financial reporting as required by 22 CFR 226. The RFA text reads as follows: “The quarterly reports... will include financial information on the expenses incurred, available funding for the remainder of the activity and any variances from planned expenditures.” Does USAID expect that implementers report against each single activity or is reporting by objective or category sufficient?

The reporting language is a mission specific requirement.

11. Page 11, Section B. 1) c) 7 illustrative activity is to renovate the YDRCs and youth clubs with examples such as painting, replacing windows and improving the sanitary facilities in collaboration with WRI. Should this activity be included, would the applicant be expected to account for costs in the cost proposal, or will this be the responsibility of WRI? Or of USAID separately?

Renovation of the YDRCs and youth clubs will be the responsibility of the WRI office in coordination with the Education Development Office and the implementing partner.

12. Page 14, Expected Results for 2) a) bullet point number two identifies 100 internships for school and university graduates per year to gain practical experience in media and ICT programs (to help implement activities at the YD RCs). Is this a summative target number that is then broken down by the 50 internships in the following bullet, the 80 media interns in the Expected Results of b) on the same page, and the 25 ICT interns in the Expected Results under c) on page 15? Or are these 50, 80 and 25 interns in addition to the annual expectation of 100 interns?

USAID estimates the minimum number of internships per year is 100. The estimated number of internships is broken down per program component. The applicant could propose different number of internships that it deems more efficient and realistic.

13. Page 13, Section B. 1) d) references a requirement of each USAID technical office (WRI, HHA, DG and PEO) “to provide 50% cost-share” for programming at the YDRCs and clubs (\$50,000 each). Please confirm that in accordance with 22 CFR 226.23(a)(5) these funds have been authorized by Federal statute to be used for cost sharing and will be accepted as a contribution toward the suggested cost share of 5% for the project.

The suggested cost share by the implementing partner of 5% of non-federal funds does not account for the 50% cost share expected from other USAID offices.

14. Please clarify the establishment of the relationships with international ICT companies referenced in the proposal, such as Intel, Microsoft, Cisco and the Intel Clubhouse. Will this relationship and inclusion in implementation be USAID-led or applicant-led?

The partnership with international ICT companies will be led by the implementer in close coordination with USAID. USAID has already established these relationships with Intel, Microsoft and Cisco. However, the implementer will be responsible for maintaining existing support provided by these companies as well as identifying new support or initiatives with the existing and new private sector partners.

15. Is the West Bank considered an accompanied post or an unaccompanied post by USAID?

The West Bank is considered an accompanied post.

16. The RFA states a suggested cost share of 5% of the Award's projected value. Would USAID accept leveraging instead of cost sharing?

Yes, USAID will accept leveraging of funds as well as in kind contributions.

17. On Page 9, the second paragraph, "implementing partners will also identify potential clubs to become YDRCs", is this expected at the proposal stage or after award?

This is expected after the award; the selection of the YDRCs will be based on clear criteria to be developed in coordination with USAID and other stakeholders including the Higher Council of Youth and Sports/Ministry of Youth and Sports.

18. On Page 9, third paragraph, it is stated that "the network of approximately 30 youth clubs will be identified" but in other sections of the proposal including page six under Summary section, it is stated that 33 clubs will be strengthened. What is the correct number?

The exact number is 33 youth clubs.

19. On page 9 in the first bullet under the heading Sustainability the text mentions "current plans within the three existing YDRCs." Could USAID please share these existing sustainability plans with applicants?

The operational plans are being developed by each YDRC but are not yet finalized. Applicants could contact each YDRC to get more information about their plans over the coming few years.

20. On page 9 in the second bullet under the heading Sustainability the text states: "USAID will also strengthen the existing partnerships with Intel Microsoft and Cisco to support ICT in the YDRCs and clubs." What role should applicants play in this process? Should applicants approach these organizations for letters of support?

Letters of support are not needed. As mentioned in the answer to question No. 14, the implementer is also responsible for maintaining ongoing ICT programs at the existing YDRCs and expanding these programs to new YDRCs. As well as identifying new support or initiatives with the existing and new private sector partners.

21. On page 11 the fourth bullet under heading c) capacity strengthening and technical assistance support for the YDRCs, Clubs and NGOs mentions a Virtual Private Network for training. Can USAID please supply the website and any necessary log in credentials to applicants so that they may understand the contents?

Below is a link to additional information on the VPN support provided to the existing three YDRCs and youth clubs across the West Bank through the Ruwwad program.

<http://www.ruwwad.org/?rt=SiteNews/view&i=30>

22. On page 13, the third paragraph mentions set asides for technical offices. Can USAID please confirm that the applicants should budget for \$200,000 for these set asides?

Yes, the \$200,000 set aside for technical offices should be reflected in the applicants' budget.

23. There are a number of references to the existing Youth Portal and Shebabgate (page 14) Could USAID please confirm that this domain name and its contents will be transferred to the successful applicant?

Yes, the domain name and its contents will be transferred to the successful applicant.

24. On page 14 under heading "b) supporting youth involvement in media production," the first bullet under expected results states "hire 11 media staff – one media coordinator per YDRC." Should applicants plan to support these 11 staff as direct employees?

The applicant should identify the best management approach for hiring YDRC staff.

25. On page 15 in the paragraph headed "supporting youth ambassadors" the text mentions "local and regional development exchanges to allow for cross-regional interactions." Could USAID please specify what it means by local, regional, and cross-regional? For example, does local refer to exchanges within the West Bank? Does regional/cross-regional mean throughout the Middle East?

Local exchanges means leadership opportunities/exchanges within the West Bank, regional means within the Middle East and cross regional means between the Middle East and other regions in the world.

26. Can USAID please explain the rationale behind the numbers in the expected results at the top of page 16?

The numbers illustrate USAID's desired outputs for the various interventions in the YDRCs and emphasize the importance of these interventions.

27. On page 16, the third bullet refers to “at least 500 youth trained in basic leadership and community engagement and involved in youth-led initiatives per year” and the fourth bullet refers to “at least 5,000 youth participants in civic education activities per year.” Could USAID please explain the difference between community engagement and civic education.

The 500 youth are expected to be trained and later engaged in designing and implementing youth led community initiatives. Approximately 5000 youth will be taking part and/or benefiting from these youth-led initiatives.

28. Is USAID expecting implementers to allocate a certain amount or percentage of the total budget for grants? If so, what is the amount or percentage?

USAID recommends that sub-grants do not exceed approximately \$500,000 per year.

29. On page 35, the second paragraph under heading 2. Submission of Electronic Applications states a preference only for Microsoft Word and/or Excel files. Is PDF also acceptable for submission?

PDF with signature pages as well as Resumes are acceptable.

30. The first paragraph on page 40 under heading F. Cost Application Format states the need for a CD copy in MS Excel 2000 or 2003. Since applicants are required to send electronic copies of the cost application, is this necessary?

Yes, this is required.

31. On page 43 under heading I Special Award Consideration, bullet 2 states that “no construction activities are anticipated under this program.” Does USAID expect that construction of new YDRC buildings, if necessary, will be paid out of another USAID program? If so, which one?

Yes, USAID will allocate additional funds into other USAID program for renovation and construction of the YDRCs.

32. Could the children (aged 8-14 years old) targeted by some IT training courses such as Intel Learn Technology and Community and Technology and Work be considered program beneficiaries and counted towards the total number of 40,000 youth?

For the purpose of this RFA, youth are defined as ages 14-29. Individuals outside of this age range could be considered community beneficiaries.

33. Is the program expected to create new Media Centers to bring the total number of Media Centers to 11?

Yes

34. In 1,c.5 (p. 11), the RFA states that the project will assess the institutional capacity of the YDRCs and clubs through the help of the Civic Participation Program. Could more specifics be provided about the expected role of the Civic Participation Program in this exercise?

USAID and the implementing partner will discuss ways in which the YDRCs will coordinate with the Civic Participation Program during the implementation phase.

35. In 2d (pp. 15-16). Regarding "opportunities for young leaders to participate in local and regional exchanges," is the project expected to create these opportunities (i.e. set up a study tour or sponsor a regional event) or connect youth with external opportunities such as Department of State-sponsored exchanges and conferences?

The implementing partner is expected to connect youth with external opportunities.

36. In 2e, (pp. 16-17) what level of coordination is expected with the Youth Entrepreneurship Development project or other USAID projects that are already providing grants and capacity building support to local youth-serving NGOs? Is there a framework for managing Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YED)/Partnerships Youth Program (PYP) roles, or will this be entirely left to the two programs?

Both implementing partners and USAID will develop a framework for coordination.

37. Also in 2e, expected results include "Support for networking with the other 33 youth clubs in marginalized areas of the West Bank through engaging marginalized youth selected by youth clubs in rural areas in sub-grants activities and engaging with their youth peers in the YDRCs." Could further clarification be provided as to what is intended?

The PYP program will assist the YDRCs to network with other youth clubs by engaging the clubs in YDRC programs and as relevant to each club needs.

38. What is the expected timeline and funding source for construction of the 8 new YDRCs? What will be the project's expected role and level of engagement in design, location and implementation?

USAID does not expect to build new YDRCs facilities, rather USAID expects to renovate existing facilities. The renovation of the facilities can be done in parallel to the implementation of the PY program.

39. Within the age range of 14-29, are there preferences regarding where projects should focus efforts among participating youth (according to age range, socioeconomic status, urban/rural, education, etc.)?

The RFA mentions targeting youth ages 14-29, including targeting university students in specific interventions such as the internship component, and also refers to marginalized youth in rural areas among other target group.

40. Will the project be limited to working with existing youth clubs or may new ones be developed?

The PYP should consider working with the most active existing clubs and identify new ones based on clear criteria as mentioned in the RFA.

41. On p. 10 and p. 13 there are references to an Attachment H on existing and potential partnerships with various stakeholders. We did not find this attachment within the body of the RFA or Annexes.

Please find Attachment H.