

USAID/WEST BANK AND GAZA
CMM APS-294-12-000004
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What are the main differences between this years' APS and those of previous years?

Answer: This year's APS differs from previous solicitations in the following ways-

- a. Summary applications are requested in lieu of full applications.
- b. A small/fixed obligation grant program is included (see section C of the APS).
- 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 Israelis and Palestinians.
- e. As a sub component in this year's APS, USAID will consider applications from applicants applying for Standard Assistance Award (see section B) from organizations with an established regional presence, which will allow for Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians to work jointly on regional issues of common interest to mitigate conflict.

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 Israelis and Palestinians.

3. 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. You may think in broad terms as to which individuals and groups these might be. *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.

4. 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.

5. The program we are considering submitting for this APS includes participants who are Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, and other nationalities. Is it eligible?

Answer: The application will not be rejected on the basis that not all of the participants are Israelis or Palestinians or Jordanians. However, costs associated with the non-Israelis or non-Palestinians or non-Jordanian should be accounted for under the cost share.

6. 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.

7. We are implementing a program that brings Palestinian and Israeli journalists together in Jordan, is this considered regional program?

Answer: NO. In order for a program to be considered regional it needs to bring together, Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians together to work jointly on regional issues of common interest to mitigate conflict. Only organizations with an established regional presence are encouraged to apply for regional programs.

8. How do we address gender considerations in our application?

Answer: The applicant should consider their own program through the lens of how it relates to gender mainstreaming. Applicants should provide a rationale if gender is not an issue for the proposed activity. In addition, all performance data should be disaggregated by gender. Links to additional guidance gender integration are provided in the APS. The Gender considerations should be part of the Technical application and not as an attachment.

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 website at <http://www.usaid.gov/wbg/PartnersResources.html>

12. Could you elaborate on what resources are available on-line?

Answer: Our website for the Peace and Reconciliation Program includes numerous resources for applicants and partners. We encourage you to explore the website, which can be found here: <http://www.usaid.gov/wbg/PartnersResources.html> and http://www.usaid.gov/wbg/dgo_cmm.html

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 in Section D of the APS.

16. Can we submit more than one application?

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

17. 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.

18. 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://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/conflict/publications/docs/CMM_Youth_and_Conflict_Toolkit_April_2005.pdf. The toolkit includes key issues, lessons learned, programming options and monitoring/evaluation tips. Information in the toolkit is valid.

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

Answer: Geographic focus is not part of the evaluation criteria. (e.g., Joint Israeli-Palestinian projects vs. projects that focus solely on one side are equally eligible for the full 100 points.)

20. 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.

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

Answer: Past programs have included training for lawyers, mental health professionals, and urban planners on how they can incorporate conflict-sensitive approaches to their work; joint activities that address issues common to neighboring Israeli-Jewish and Palestinian communities. Programs addressing issues in water, farming, tourism, health and the environment are just a few examples of successful past programming. USAID also funds programs that bring together Israeli Arabs and Jews. Fact sheets describing current CMM activities in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza are provided on this website: http://www.usaid.gov/wbg/dgo_cmm.html.

22. What are Key Personnel?

Answer: Key Personnel are individuals within the organization that have a substantial role in implementation and success of the program. If it is so specified in a cooperative agreement award, USAID may approve up to five individuals that we feel are key to the

success of the program.

23. What constitutes a sub-awardee?

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

24. What are the audit requirements under the APS?

Answer: The U.S Congress, through appropriation laws starting 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. In addition, U.S Applicants are reminded of the guidance in OMB Circular A-133 which mandates an audit for organizations receiving a U.S Federal award in the amount of \$500,000 and above.

25. 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.

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

Answer: No