



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PAKISTAN

Request for Information On Water, Climate, and Gender in Pakistan

To: Pakistani Institutions

Subject: Water, Climate, and Gender Request for Information

Reference Number: 72039124RFI00002

Released Date: January 23, 2024

Responses Due Date: March 5, 2024

A. Purpose

USAID seeks information on how higher education institutions can address water, climate, and gender development challenges in Pakistan. The information could inform the scope of future USAID awards to U.S. universities. Responses to this Request for Information will inform the design of a potential \$1.5 million Water, Climate, and Gender Activity (WCGA), subject to the availability of funds. This is not a request for proposal or application.

B. Background

American and Pakistani higher education institutions have the potential to be central actors in advancing Pakistan's climate resilience and gender equity. Challenges around water, environment and climate change demand active involvement of diverse actors—especially universities—to solve these challenges. The U.S. - Pakistan "Green Alliance" is a framework for bilateral cooperation that enables both countries to jointly face the climate, environmental, and economic needs of the present and future. This framework delivers partnerships on agriculture, water, and clean energy.

Women and girls, in all their diversity, play a critical leadership role in addressing the climate crisis. Globally, the relationship among women, girls, the environment, and their communities makes women and girls uniquely poised to develop and contribute to locally relevant and effective climate interventions reflective of the entire population. Further, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and related disasters are exacerbated by the climate crisis, which disproportionately affects women and girls.

C. Priority Areas

USAID seeks information on the following priority areas and guiding questions:

Priority 1: Improved Water Security:

Guiding Questions:

- How does gendered access to water and associated burdens affect women and girls?
- How can Pakistan increase women's participation in community-based water management and related decision-making processes?

Priority 2: Gender and Climate Change:

Guiding Questions

- How does climate change affect the livelihoods of women, particularly in rural areas?
- How can women be empowered to support climate change adaptation, including recognizing and integrating traditional knowledge?

Priority 3: Disaster Management:

Guiding Questions

- What are the gendered impacts of natural disasters? What are women's vulnerabilities to climate change, and what opportunities are there to build their resilience?
- What is the role of women in disaster response and recovery efforts?

Priority 4: Gender and Climate Policy:

Guiding Questions

- How could water management and climate change adaptation policies become gender-sensitive?
- What are strategies to promote women's active engagement in advocacy to influence climate policy decisions at national and local levels?
- How could universities build the capacity of women in fields related to water management and climate change?

D. FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

While there is no prescribed format for responses, the purpose is not to just receive a problem statement or identify needs only but convey an evidence-based opportunity for universities and other organizations to assume a leadership role. The responder should provide evidence including but not limited to research, community engagement, stakeholder consultations, skills

assessment, or any other method used to identify the need and the problem. USAID seeks information and evidence-based answers to the water, climate, and gender challenges elaborated above. Effective submissions should include a clear problem statement and evidence-based solutions that take into consideration gender equity.

E. WHAT TO SUBMIT

Interested parties should submit a response not to exceed three pages that identifies opportunities within the previously mentioned parameters.

F. HOW TO SUBMIT A RESPONSE

Interested parties wishing to participate should submit their responses electronically to Mr. Adnan Khurshid, akhurshid@usaid.gov. You will receive only an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt of your response, but will not receive individualized feedback or suggestions.

Responses may contribute to upcoming activity design(s). However, this RFI will not be construed as a commitment by the U.S. Government to issue any solicitation, award any grant, or pay for any information submitted as a result of this request. Responders are responsible for adequately marking proprietary or restricted information contained in their Response.

No basis for claims against the U.S. Government shall arise as a result of a response to this Request for Information or from the U.S. Government's use of such information. Specific questions about this RFI should be directed only to the email addresses identified above. This office will not respond to any telephonic or other inquiries regarding this Notice.

The submitted information must not exceed three pages of the word file. The submitted response should include:

1. Reference: RFI - WCGA
2. Name & Contact details including email and phone number of focal person to be contacted, if further information is required.
3. Name and address of organization.

Pakistan Information Collection and Needs Identification Call (PICNIC)

To: Invited Respondents. Subject: Water and Climate Activity (WCA), Reference Number: 72039124RFI00002

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Please note USAID is not seeking technical or cost proposals at this time. Do not submit any proposal/application or any proprietary information, unless clearly marked, in response to this RFI. The information submitted may or may not be used by USAID as USAID sees fit. Issuance of this notice does not constitute an award commitment to international or local Pakistani nongovernmental organizations on part of the U.S. Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation of information submission. Questions regarding this notice can be directed to Mr. Faisal Jawad, at fjawad@usaid.gov with a copy to Adnan Khurshid, at akhurshid@usaid.gov.