



USAID | BANGLADESH

Issuance Date: May 28, 2019
Closing Date for Submission of Concept Papers: June 18, 2019
Closing Time for Submission of Concept Papers: 16:30 Hours Local Bangladesh Time

**Subject: Expression of Interest - Request for Concept Papers
Living Independently and Being included in the Community (LIBC) with
Disabilities**

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The United States Government, represented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Bangladesh) is seeking **Concept Papers** from qualified organizations that will foster the equal rights of all persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community (LIBC).

In compliance with the Agency's Disability Policy, USAID continues to work toward fuller inclusion of people with disabilities in our foreign policy and development efforts. All awards (grants or cooperative agreements) under this request for concept papers applications will be administered through and managed by USAID/Bangladesh.

I. Background

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 15% of any population has some form of disability, with a higher incidence of disability in countries that are post conflict or affected by natural disasters. The prevalence of disability is expected to rise in coming years due to an ageing global population and an increase in chronic health conditions. Of the estimated 1 billion people throughout the world with a disability, 80% live in less resourced nations.

People with disabilities are more likely to experience poverty. Women and girls with disabilities often experience heightened discrimination on account of gender and disability. Due to stigma, discrimination and inaccessibility, persons with disabilities are less likely to be able to access basic services such as education, employment and healthcare. The lack of access to vital services and programs contributes to their marginalization and exclusion, perpetuating a cycle of poverty.

Societies that are inclusive of their diverse populations are more likely to be democratic, participatory and equitable. They are more likely to meet their development goals. In spite of this, and although disability is a crosscutting development issue, persons with disabilities often remain invisible in the global development agenda.

USAID is committed to disability-inclusive development. USAID's Disability Policy states that USAID will not discriminate against persons with disabilities and will work to ensure the inclusion and active participation of persons with disabilities in USAID funded programs and activities. To this end, USAID has mainstreamed disability in many of its key policies and

sector strategies. The Policy also calls on Missions to reach out to partners, host country counterparts and other donors to lead a collaborative effort to end discrimination against and promote equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. Increasingly, Missions are including disability in their Country Development Cooperation Strategies and other foundational documents.

Disability rights are human rights. As the Agency's Strategy on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance outlines, a deliberate human rights lens should be applied across USAID's portfolio to ensure that the Agency is not inadvertently contributing to marginalization or inequality. By using a human rights lens, potential beneficiaries who are most at risk of having their rights neglected or abused – such as persons with disabilities – will be better recognized and included in programming.

In July 2009, the U.S. signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), affirming its commitment to the human rights of persons with disabilities around the world. To date, most of the countries in which USAID operates including Bangladesh have also signed and ratified the CRPD, signaling a global movement towards the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and their role in the international development community.

Persons with disabilities in Bangladesh tend to be the most politically, economically and socially marginalized populations. They are still adversely influenced by social stigma and superstition and often face difficulties in meeting basic needs including healthcare, education, housing, employment and other opportunities. Political processes largely ignore this constituency and their rights are often ignored by society, with women being particularly vulnerable. The Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) estimates the number of persons with disabilities in Bangladesh at 16 million people or 10 percent of the population.

Bangladesh enacted the Disability Rights and Protection Act (DRPA) in 2013, and its Rule in 2015. Provisions of the Act established equal rights for disabled people and ensured their full participation in social and state activities. However, the enforcement of its provisions remains futile. Many persons with disability including men, women and children are unable to protect their rights and get benefit. Because of the ineffective implementation of the law by governing bodies both at the central and local level, persons with disabilities lose opportunities to enjoy their human rights of independent living, education, health, employment, etc.. They are also deprived of utilizing their full and effective participation to involve them meaningfully in their family, and thus ensure an open and democratic society in Bangladesh. The key stakeholders including government officials, Disabled Person Organizations (DPO) and even most people with disabilities are not aware of the rights incorporated under this law. The law has established committees at local levels to expedite the implementation of the law. However, most of the committees are not activated and in many cases the authority is not aware of their responsibilities created under the law. Moreover, the government's lack of resources, low priority and fundamental understanding of the issue makes it more difficult to address this issue.

USAID/Bangladesh seeks concept notes that foster the equal rights of all persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community (LIBC), in accordance with CRPD Article 19, ensuring that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- (b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community; and
- (c) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

Based on the LIBC framework, concept notes will address the challenges that persons with disability in Bangladesh face for living independently and being included in the community. In doing so, interested applicants shall examine the opportunity for a wide range of advocacy and public awareness activities for both relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries; establish mechanisms to ensure access to available services for persons with disability; and utilize existing set-ups to engage persons with disability in mainstream community activities and development programs. The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment will be thoughtfully considered into the main objectives, activities, and monitoring and evaluation plans of all applications. Within the LIBC framework, USAID/Bangladesh will prioritize submissions that demonstrate robust participation and involvement of disabled persons organizations (DPOs).

Illustrative activities may include but are not limited to:

- Increase public outreach and advocacy activities: In Bangladesh, most of the citizens are not aware of the rights of disabled people as stated in section 16 of Bangladesh Disability Rights and Protection Act (DRPA) 2013. The proposed intervention will develop and disseminate culturally sensitive public education campaigns for beneficiaries and other stakeholders' i.e. family, community, local authority, DRPA committee members, service providers, educational institutions to ensure wider dissemination of information on disability rights. The activity will also actively engage with the Bangladesh Ministry of Social Welfare, DPOs, service providers and other relevant stakeholders to implement the Bangladesh Disability Rights and Protection Act of 2013, at both the local and national level to ensure access to services and foster a climate of non-discrimination against people with disabilities.
- Establish mechanisms to ensure access to available services: The DRPA establishes both national and local level committees as the primary forum for resolving disability rights disputes. However, in reality, most of the local level committees' are inactive. The proposed intervention will work with DRPA local level committees, grassroots DPOs, local authorities, government and private entities, educational institutions, Disability Service Centers, employers and other stakeholders so they can proactively engage with person with disabilities (PWD), to understand their needs and link them to available community services including education, health, livelihood training, employment, etc.
- Mainstream person with disabilities in community activities and development programs: Successful efforts to mainstream PWDs require effective and efficient coordination across a broad range of stakeholders. To ensure coordinated and effective partnerships, the activity will work with the DRPA committees, local authorities, government and private

entities, Disability Service Centers, employers and other stakeholders so they can understand the issue more deeply and ensure reasonable accommodation for PWDs. The activity will make sure that both men and women with disabilities are empowered economically, helping them mainstream into the community more sustainably. The activity will also ensure that PWDs are active members of the union level committees and DRPA local level committees so that they can articulate their needs and ensure that they are part of the national policy dialogue and an integral part of the mainstream development agenda.

- Development and effective implementation of deinstitutionalization strategies and plans to transition away from institutional care settings for persons with disabilities;
- Provision of accessible, affordable, and sustainable community-based supports and services to facilitate persons with disabilities living independently and being included in the community;
- Development and/or effective implementation of laws, policies, and practices that support persons with disabilities exercising their legal capacity, freedom of choice, and control over decisions affecting their lives with the maximum level of self-determination and interdependence in society (e.g. through supported vs. substituted decision-making);
- Establishment and/or strengthening of consumer-controlled disability resource centers (often referred to as “independent living centers” in the U.S.) that promote the full independence and participation of persons with disabilities in society, including through advocacy related to the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Adoption and/or effective implementation of monitoring mechanisms related to living independently and being included in the community, including ensuring such mechanisms prioritize DPO participation.

Proposed projects should complement and be reflected in USAID/Bangladesh’s Country Development Cooperation Strategy located at: <https://www.usaid.gov>, and/or other strategy documents and be guided by the values and provisions set forth by the CRPD.

Projects that address targeted needs of persons with disabilities may be considered. Projects that highlight the needs of marginalized groups, such as women and girls, individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, those with developmental or psychosocial disabilities, and members of the LGBTI community are encouraged. All programs, regardless of implementing partner, must verify significant involvement of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

II. Review Criteria

Eligible projects submitted under this call will be reviewed based on the criteria listed below.

1. Within the LIBC framework, represents a pressing need in country and demonstrates a clear linkage with USAID/Bangladesh Mission priorities: The proposed project responds

to a pressing LIBC need in country that has yet to be adequately addressed and demonstrates a clear linkage with existing Mission priorities.

2. Sound technical approach and likely to contribute to sustainable and institutional change: The proposed project demonstrates a sound technical approach based on promising practices, lessons learned and/or international standards in LIBC; and demonstrates how and to what extent it will contribute to sustainable and institutional change either at the person-, community-, or country-level. The project goes beyond addressing the symptom of a problem and seeks to identify and mitigate the root causes of inequality and persistent exclusion.
3. Substantial involvement of and direct benefit to persons with disabilities: The proposed project demonstrates meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project. The overall direct benefit to individuals with disabilities and DPOs offers the best value for the amount of funding requested.
4. Thoughtful integration of gender equality and women's empowerment: The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment must be thoughtfully integrated into the main objectives, activities, and monitoring and evaluation plans of all applications, in accordance with USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy and USAID ADS 205. If the application is successful, gender considerations must likewise be integrated into the resulting program design.
5. Sound monitoring, evaluation and opportunities for learning: In addition to required F Framework indicators, the proposed project includes relevant and meaningful indicators to measure success in meeting the stated objectives, and realistic targets. At least 3 illustrative indicators should be provided. The proposed project should also demonstrate how project learning will be captured and shared with a broad audience, including USAID.

In addition to the criteria above, applications will also be reviewed for geographic diversity and meeting the Congressional intent of the Disability funds.

III. Activities and Programs Excluded

The following activities and programs will not be considered for funding:

- Programs with significant infrastructure or construction activities. Minor refurbishment of existing facilities (i.e. making toilets accessible, installing ramps) may be considered and must comply with USAID Policy on Standards for Accessibility for the Disabled in USAID-Financed Construction (http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pdacg011.pdf).
- Programs focused on the provision of assistive devices or physical rehabilitation.
- Programs supporting institutionalization of or institutions for children or adults with disabilities.
- Employment programs promoting sheltered workshops or income generating activities that perpetuate negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities and that do not provide for meaningful employment.
- Programs with a primary focus on awareness raising.
- Due to the availability of significant funding through PEPFAR, disability funding may not be used to support HIV/AIDS-related activities.

- In recent years, there has been significant disability funding for inclusive education. These investments continue, however inclusive education activities will not be supported through this call.

IV. Available Funds

Subject to the availability of funds, the total estimated level of funding available for awards under this **worldwide** request is up to \$6,000,000 over a 12-36 month period. USAID/Bangladesh may fund one award in each of the following two categories:

- **Programs ranging from \$300,000 - \$500,000; and**
- **Programs ranging from \$500,001 - \$1,000,000.**

V. Applicant Eligibility

Applications should be from qualified U.S. or non-U.S. entities, such as private, non-profit organizations (or for-profit companies willing to forego profits), including private voluntary organizations, universities, research organizations, professional associations, and relevant special interest associations. **Local DPOs are strongly encouraged to apply.** Preference will be given to qualified local DPOs and/or any of the above organization types that directly collaborate with and/or award sub-grants to DPOs while meeting the requirements for funding.

Mainstream (non-DPO) organizations applying for funds must include in their application letter(s) of signed support from local DPOs they wish to partner with for the purpose of the project.

PIOs are not eligible to apply for funding under this program.

VI. The Process

General Guidance

Interested and qualified organizations must apply for this funding directly to USAID/Bangladesh.

Submitting applications - Organizations should follow appropriate USAID/Bangladesh instructions for application submission. Please note it may take several weeks to review applications before forwarding them to DCHA/DRG in Washington. Please submit your application by the deadline submission date of June 18, 2019 in order to meet the DCHA/DRG Washington deadline of July 12, 2019. Applications submitted after this deadline may not be considered.

Review Process – USAID/Bangladesh will conduct the first review based on established procedures. Selected applications will be forwarded to DCHA/DRG Washington for further review. Final determinations will be communicated to applicants by USAID/Bangladesh.

A. Submitting Concept Papers

Interested organizations should fill out Attachment A completely and submit it to the following Points of Contact in the USAID/Bangladesh Office of Acquisition and Assistance no later than **COB Tuesday, June 18, 2019, 4:30PM Bangladeshi local time.**

Mr. Abdullah Akbar
Agreement Officer
USAID/Bangladesh
c/o American Embassy
Madani Avenue, Baridhara
Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Email: abakbar@usaid.gov

Ms. Sadia Humayun
Procurement Agent
USAID/Bangladesh
c/o American Embassy
Madani Avenue, Baridhara
Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Email: sadiahumayun@usaid.gov

The preferred method of distribution of this USAID Expression of Interest (EOI) is electronically via Grants.gov. This EOI and any future amendments can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov>. It is the responsibility of the prospective applicant to ensure that it has received the EOI and any future amendments from <http://www.grants.gov> in its entirety. All interested parties are encouraged to register on <http://www.grants.gov> to receive automatic notification of amendments to this EOI.

USAID/Bangladesh requires that applications be submitted electronically (e-mailed).

B. Application Format

Applicants must utilize the required application format provided in **Attachment A - Required Application Format**. Be sure to complete all information requested on the application form. The 8-page limit must be respected. The cover page, annexes to the budget and letters of cooperation between the Applicant and other partners are not subject to the page limit.

VII. Reporting Requirements

Reporting on the project is required. The exact format for, preparation of, and timing for submission of all reports will be determined by USAID/Bangladesh. Recipients will be required to report on standard indicators required by Washington and additional indicators as determined by USAID/Bangladesh. Though not required, Recipients are encouraged to submit photographs, success stories and/or other media as part of their progress reports.

Issuance of this Request for Concept Paper Applications does not constitute an Award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a Concept Paper.

LIBC Request for Concept Paper Applications

Thank you for your interest in USAID/Bangladesh programs.

Sincerely,



Abdullah Akbar
Agreement Officer
USAID/Dhaka, Bangladesh

Attachments:

Attachment A - Required Concept Paper Application Format

Attachment A - Required Concept Paper Application Format

FY2018 USAID Disability Funding Program Application

Please provide information in the space given. All answers must be typed in English using a minimum 11 point font. If partnering with a local DPO, a letter of cooperation must be attached to this application. A 8-page limit must be followed, not including the cover page below, budget annex and letter of cooperation.

Name of Organization _____

Type of Organization: **Local** ☐ **or** **International** ☐
 DPO* ☐ **or** **non-DPO** ☐

*Organizations are DPOs if more than half of their staff and board of directors are individuals with disabilities.

Country: _____

Contact Person: _____

Position/Title: _____

Project Title: _____

Amount of funding requested (in US Dollars): _____

Project duration (total months): _____

Proposed start date: _____ **End date:** _____

The proposed project activities must foster the equal rights of all persons with disabilities to Live Independently and Be Included in Community in accordance with Article 19 of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

1. Please provide a brief description of your organization, including background and experience in the disability sector in the proposed country. (Please limit your response to ½ page.)

2. Please provide a summary of the proposed project. This must include the overall project goal, objectives, activities to achieve each objective, expected outputs and outcomes of each objective, location and expected number of beneficiaries. (Please limit your response to 2 pages)

3. Please list the main activities with target dates for completion for the duration of the proposed project. Please provide information using the table below, adding an additional year as needed. Beneath the table please provide details of the implementation of each activity. (Please limit your response to 1 ½ pages)

Year 1

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1.												
2.												
3.												
4.												

Details:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Year 2

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1.												
2.												
3.												
4.												

Details:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

4. Please discuss the impact that gender has on access to assets, resources, opportunities and/or services within the scope of the project and how the project will promote gender equality and women/girl's empowerment in all phases of implementation. *(Please limit your response to 1 page)*

5. Please justify the need for this project within the framework of LIBC. Justification should include how this project responds to a pressing need in the proposed country that has yet to be adequately addressed and demonstrates a clear linkage with an existing USAID Mission priority. *(Please limit your response to 1 page)*

6. How many staff will be directly involved in and/or funded by this project? Please list their role, qualifications and whether they are local or international staff. Please note the roles of individuals with disabilities in the project. *(Please limit your response to ½ page)*

7. Does your organization plan to collaborate with other organizations, government agencies, etc. in achieving this project's objectives? If so, please explain how. If partnering with a local DPO, a letter of cooperation from that local DPO must be attached to this application. *(Please limit your response to ½ page)*

8. Please provide a detailed budget using the table below. Below this table, and as notes to the budget, provide a detailed description of each line item. (Please limit your response to 2 pages; annex acceptable)

Description	Budget (USD)
1. Direct labor (e.g. salaries, wages etc)	
1a.	
1b.	
2. Travel and Per diem	
2a.	
2b.	
3. Equipment and supplies	
3a.	
3b.	
4. Program Activities	
4a.	
4b.	
5. Other Direct Costs (e.g. rent, utilities, communication etc)	
5a.	
5b.	
Total	

Notes to the budget:

1a. *description*
 1b. *description*
 2a. *description*
 2b. *description*
 etc.

9. Please describe the monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan for the project. This should include expected outputs/outcomes, indicators and targets for each of the project objectives, as well as a brief description of approaches to learning. Funds are notified and reported on under the following F Framework Education and Social Services (ES) indicators:

ES.4-1 Number of vulnerable persons benefiting from U.S. Government supported social services

ES.4-2 Number of service providers trained who serve vulnerable persons

ES.4-3 Number of U.S. Government-assisted organizations and/or service delivery systems that serve vulnerable persons strengthened

A suggested format is provided below. *(Please limit your response to 1 page)*

Output/Outcome	Indicators	Targets	Frequency
Objective 1: <i>Restate project objective 1</i>			
<i>1st expected output or outcome for objective 1</i>	<i>List the indicator(s) that will be used to measure success against the stated output/outcome.</i>	<i>List the target(s) for each indicator.</i>	<i>State how often each indicator will be measured.</i>
<i>2nd expected output or outcome for objective 1</i>			
Objective 2:			
Objective 3:			

** Performance indicators measure a particular characteristic or dimension of project results (outputs or outcomes) based on a project's results framework and underlying theory of change. In general, outputs are directly attributable to the program activities, while project outcomes represent results to which a given program contributes but for which it is not solely responsible.*

End of Application