



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AMENDMENT NO. 4**

**ADDENDUM NO. 7200AA20APS00016 – CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT
PAPERS FOR RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC FREEDOM AND INCLUSION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

**UNDER EXISTING NEW PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (NPI): CONFLICT
PREVENTION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT
(CPRP) No. 7200AA19APS00012**

Issue Date: September 8, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The purpose of this Amendment No. 4 is to: a) Provide the link to access the recording of the “Partnership Guide for Local and Faith-Based Organizations Interested in Promoting Pluralism and International Religion Freedom” Webinar held on September 2, 2020; b) Revise SECTION E in order to include additional resources; and c) Provide responses to questions received during the period of July 23, 2020 through September 2, 2020. Accordingly, this Addendum is modified as follows:

- a) The Recorded “Partnership Guide for Local and Faith-Based Organizations Interested in Promoting Pluralism and International Religion Freedom” Webinar may be viewed in the following link:

<https://youtu.be/LfWMvj6GZiw>

- b) In SECTION E – FEDERAL AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION, at the end of sub-section III. Additional Information on Award Administration, insert the following:

“ - As indicated in the September 2nd Webinar we are including the recording from Monday’s webinar on Section 889 webinar, along with the slide deck, on our Section 889 Partner webpage. You can reference materials here:

<https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/section-889-partner-information>.”

- c) Attachment A contains Questions and Answers Document received through September 3, 2020.

Except as clarified herein, all requirements of the subject APS Addendum “Call for Partnership Concept Papers for Religious and Ethnic Freedom and Inclusion in the Middle East and North Africa” and Amendments 1-3, remain unchanged.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely

MARGARET R
BENAVENTE
(affiliate)

Margaret Benavente
Agreement Officer

 Digitally signed by MARGARET
R BENAVENTE (affiliate)
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**ATTACHMENT A
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DOCUMENT**

1. Can our US based 501c3, apply for this grant and implement it through a regional Christian network that is not yet registered?

RESPONSE: Yes. Your US based 501c3 may apply. However, per SECTION III: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION, "To be eligible, all Implementing Partners must be legally registered entities under applicable law and eligible under the relevant laws to receive funding from a foreign source. Individuals, unregistered, or informal organizations are not eligible to be Implementing Partners."

2. Briefly, my question is around Eligible Organizations. I represent a private US firm but have extensive relations and knowledge of minorities in Iraq. Can I apply as a US firm and sub award with local partners, or should a local party apply?

RESPONSE: As a US firm, you may apply under Modality No. 3 which will allow you to subaward to your local partners. Local organizations may also apply under Modality 1.

3. Moreover, I am a bit new to the types below and I'm not aware of real differences. Would there be somewhere to explain these with examples perhaps?
- a. New and underutilized organizations that are local entities in a host country.
 - b. Direct awards to new and underutilized organizations that are Locally Established Partners in the host country.
 - c. Sub-awards to new or underutilized partners via prime awardees that are serving in a limited mentorship role:
 - d. Local Entity Sub-Awardees That Moves to a Direct Award.

RESPONSE: Please look at the September 2, 2020 Webinar recording for examples.

4. This Foundation is interested in responding to the call as we fall under the Locally Established Partner (LEP) category and I wanted to confirm whether the \$25million cumulative USAID funding in the last 5 years applies to the Foundation as a whole or just the locally registered Foundation?

RESPONSE: The \$25 million applies to the Foundation as a whole.

5. Does this grant only apply to applicants in the middle east or does it pertain to any religious group in relation to the middle east and north Africa?

RESPONSE: This grant applies to applicants to any religious group in relation to the middle east and north Africa. A complete list of countries are found on the online submission form. This is the link to the form: <https://arccg.is/Offiz0>

- 6.** I see the links for addenda and other attachments, but I don't see the "Complete Notice"? Is that something I can see only after I log in and start the process? Or is it somewhere else?

RESPONSE: Please see answer to question # 21.

- 7.** How many applicants are you expecting to receive for this Funding Opportunity? Or how many applicants applied previously and what percent were funded?

RESPONSE: Per the Notice, we anticipate funding six (6) awards. This is the first time we are funding this opportunity, thus there is no data on funding percentage.

- 8.** What is the parameter on words or pages we should limit to for our application response?

RESPONSE: The template will provide you with the necessary information. The link for the application template can be found in the Addendum and in Amendment 2. This is the link:
<https://arcg.is/Offiz0>

- 9.** What is the start timeframe and end point of the funding?

RESPONSE: Projects can start anytime o/a December 2020, and thereafter.

- 10.** Description of and frequency of reporting requirements back to USAID?

RESPONSE: This will be determined during the negotiation. However, reporting requirements (both technical as well as financial), are contingent to the type of award.

- 11.** Scoring/Evaluation criteria. Are there objectives in our intervention response that are more heavily weighted than others?

RESPONSE: The Elements in the Merit Review Criteria have equal weight.

- 12.** If we respond with a Partner or multiple partners who have local staff in the area would this be considered a favorable model than having our staff overseeing directly from here in the USA to the local area?

RESPONSE: The Concept Paper will be evaluated based on the Merit Review Criteria contained in Section D of the Addendum.

- 13.** I am trying to apply for the 7200AA20APS00016 call and after I register the system write to me "To apply for a grant opportunity, your Organization must authorize you to Create Workspace or add you to an existing Workspace.". what should I do next? Does this mean someone else here already have authorization?

RESPONSE: This is the link to apply <https://arcg.is/Offiz0> . The link is also listed in the Addendum Section D and in Amendment No. 2.

14. I am trying to fill out the solicitation form for the current call for concept papers but am being told "You cannot submit records to the survey since you are not Submitter or the Owner." I've tried emailing the contact given on the portal REMNPPI@usaid.gov, but receive an email saying that delivery to that email address has failed. Can you please clarify how I may fill the form out.

RESPONSE: Please see response to question 13.

15. Is there a special form to apply for this scholarship (WORD)?

RESPONSE: Please see response to question 13.

16. What are the most important documents required?

RESPONSE: Please refer to the Application and response to question 13.

17. How long is the project term?

RESPONSE: Per USAID policy, projects are limited to a 5-year period. However, the period of performance of an award will be contingent to the award instrument type as there are time limits placed on certain instruments.

18. Would a proposal for Pakistan qualify for this grant?

RESPONSE: Pakistan is not one of the countries covered by this Addendum.

19. I filled in the application, I can't send it. It shows me the following message "You cannot send this application because you are not the Sending Author or Owner of this questionnaire." Could you please advise on how to proceed to have the concept note registered?

RESPONSE: Please see response in question # 13.

20. I have accessed the Solicitation Application for Potential Partners. However, the top of the form indicates "You cannot submit records to the survey since you are not Submitter or the Owner." Can you kindly advise on how I can gain access to submit records to this survey, and whether it is equally permissible to submit a word-for-word copy of the PDF version of the concept note via email.

RESPONSE: Please see response in question # 13.

21. I had some difficulty in accessing the full announcement electronically of CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT PAPERS FOR RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC FREEDOM AND

INCLUSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, would u help me with that please?

RESPONSE: You will find all the information in Grants.gov. Please follow this instructions: Enter grants.gov in your browser, once you have enter the site, please select tab “SEARCH GRANTS” then under “BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA” by the subtitle “Opportunity number” insert the number for the APS (7200AA19APS00012), if you would like to see the APS or insert the number for the Addendum (7200AA20APS00016), if you would like to see the Addendum. Once you enter the solicitation, please select the TAB “RELATED DOCUMENTS” and you will find the documents to download. For the addendum select “Complete Notice”.

22. I am very interested in the painting the application to be qualified to apply for this grant can you please forward me if possible the application and list of qualifications that I may apply and submit back into you concerning this grant

RESPONSE: Please see response of question #21.

23. We are interested in submitting a concept note for the Religious and Ethnic Freedom and Inclusion in the Middle East and North Africa grant (under NPI). Could you please clarify if individual organizations can submit multiple concept notes for this opportunity? Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to your response.

RESPONSE: There is no limit on the number of concept papers an organization can submit.

24. We seem to have a problem with acquiring a DUNS number. Whenever I click the request DUNS number icon on the bottom of the webpage, it doesn't open and gives me a connection timed out sign. If you could help or refer me to someone who could, I would much appreciate it.

RESPONSE: Please follow this link for instruction on how to request a DUNS number <https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1863/attachment-1-how-request-duns-number> you can also find the link in the Addendum Section III. Additional Information on Targeted/Development Objective;

25. I am very much interested in developing a white paper and a full proposal that would support and advance religious freedom in the Middle East. I would appreciate your help in pointing me in the right direction.

RESPONSE: Please read APS 7200AA19APS00012 and Addendum 7200AA20APS00016 and its amendments. See answer to question #21

26. As I understand applications are treated on a rolling basis to I was wondering whether it is possible to confirm that some funds remain available for the APS?
Then I would hope you could provide some clarification with regards to eligibility as my organization, is used to working with DoS awards but is new to USAID. The APS

Addendum mentions under Eligible Organizations that local entities/Local Established Partners are eligible (category 1-4) as well as partners (local and international one assumes) that leverages non-USG funding. However, under Award Types, category 2 a mention is also made of the following: "U.S.-based or international partners are eligible if they have (1) received less than \$25 million cumulatively in USAID funding over the previous five (5) years; and (2) currently have additional, non-U.S. Government funding streams that exceed total funding received worldwide from USAID." I believe my organizations qualifies under this category of award types but I don't really see this category reflected under the eligibility description, so I want to make sure we qualify.

My organization is a large organization working with local partners in Syria and we are considering applying to this APS. Would we be able to qualify under the second Award type? Or are we restricted to the 5th category? Where we can only work from a more mentoring approach and will have to leverage our non-USG funding for this project? Any clarification you could give us in this regard would be much appreciated!

RESPONSE: Please see the recorded webinar.

27. Has the deadline for questions been extended for the above-referenced APS? If so, what is the deadline?

RESPONSE: Amendment # 3 extends the due date for question to October 9, 2020.

28. We are looking for a list of eligible countries. Is there a list contained within the call that I just didn't see? Or are all ME countries eligible as proscribed here: "USAID operates bilateral missions in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and West Bank/Gaza, and an office in Tunisia. USAID also operates regional programs and manages development programs through partners in countries without missions, including Syria, Libya and Yemen."

RESPONSE: Addendum No. 7200AA20APS00016 covers all eligible countries which are those that are located in the ME. A full list is found in the submission form link: <https://arcg.is/Offiz0>.

29. We are considering submitting to this grant opportunity with USAID. Before submitting our concept paper, we would like to speak with someone overseeing this grant opportunity to ascertain if our project is correctly aligned with the requirements. If possible, can you point us in the direction of someone we can speak to about this?

RESPONSE: Any questions received are being addressed through the questions and answers document that you can find in Amendment No. 2 and this Amendment.

30. Just wanted to check and see if a project in Pakistan would qualify for "CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT PAPERS FOR RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC FREEDOM AND INCLUSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA".

RESPONSE: Please see answer to question # 18.

31. Are SF-424 forms and other attachments listed on grants.gov portal required with the online application submission? I look forward to hearing from you soon.

RESPONSE: The forms and the attachments are not necessary at this time, please follow the instructions in SECTION D - APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION of the Addendum to submit your concept paper.

32. I am writing to ask for your assistance in locating the list of attachments needed for the Call for Concept Notes on Religious and Ethnic Freedom and Inclusion in the MENA. I have reviewed the application and cannot locate the Agency Guidelines listing any specific attachments. I found a short list of suggested issues to address in the Concept Note, however there are no other guidelines on the Concept Note.

RESPONSE: Please see response to question # 21 and question # 31.

33. I wanted to know if our minority owned nonprofit organization would qualify for the grant: 7200AA20APS00016. Our organization focuses on the silent needs of low-income people and communities. Many people may not be aware of just how much a bottle of laundry soap or even a toothbrush may come in handy to someone who barely has a dollar to their name. We want to bring help and hope to the smaller needs of people. Needs that are often overlooked.

RESPONSE: Please see webinar recording for discussion on eligibility. USAID reserves the right to review the recipient's stated partnership approach/eligibility and will make a final determination, which will be communicated. However, incorrect self-categorization does not make a concept ineligible. There is the "Other" option to select that you can explain your specific situation. USAID can work with a partner during co-creation to determine the appropriate eligibility category, if needed. Every effort should be made by the partner to submit supporting information on how a category was initially determined.

34. I was not able to attend the meeting due to work. We had an early drop off and needed more items for a homeless shelter.

RESPONSE: Please follow the link at the beginning of this Amendment. The link will take you to the Webinar recording.

35. We are a combined school registered as a non profit organisation and having grade R learners to 12. The school does not have a subsidy or any financial assistance, therefore we depend mainly on school fees which is often not paid by parents as they are from poor backgrounds. I just want to know if we qualify to apply for this opportunity granted by NPI Webinar.

RESPONSE: Please follow the link at the beginning of this Amendment. The link will take you to the Webinar recording, which discusses eligibility. USAID reserves the right to review the

recipient's stated partnership approach/eligibility and will make a final determination, which will be communicated. However, incorrect self-categorization does not make a concept ineligible. There is the "Other" option to select that you can explain your specific situation. USAID can work with a partner during co-creation to determine the appropriate eligibility category, if needed. Every effort should be made by the partner to submit supporting information on how a category was initially determined.

36. I am contacting you in reference to the call for concept papers for the religious and ethnic freedom and inclusion in the Middle East and North Africa. The call references the Bureau for the Middle East strategy and priorities, so I am wondering where I can find that? It does not seem to be on the website unless I am looking in the wrong place. I am also particularly interested in the priorities for Egypt, as that is the country to which we are planning on proposing work.

RESPONSE: Please see response to question # 21.

37. What is the recommended duration of the projects proposed?

RESPONSE: Duration of the award will depend on the types of activities proposed. Please review SECTION D - APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION for Merit Review Criteria.

38. I contacted USAID and was sent this: Middle East and North Africa Religious and Ethnic Communities Assistance activities - Applicant Reference Sheet. I have studied the sheet and tried to apply. Some of the documents are not opening.... Please help. And also, forward all relevant further information.

RESPONSE: Please see response to question # 21.

39. With relation to the above call, I had registered for the webinar today. I am referring to the webinar will inform potential partners about USAID's New Partnerships Initiative and support them in preparing eligible and competitive responses to funding opportunities, announced in amendment number 3 published on August 27th. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I will be unable to attend. Is it possible to receive the recordings of the webinar?

RESPONSE: Please see response to question # 34

[END OF ATTACHMENT A]