

Global Labor Program: Responses to Questions Received

August 26, 2015

What is this grant looking for?

A thorough description of the activities solicited for this award is available in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=global%20labor>

Please provide the estimated start date in Section B.2, p. 25.

USAID estimates issuing an award on or about February 1, 2016, contingent upon the responsiveness of proposals received and any subsequent negotiations necessary.

What kind of organizations can submit proposals? Is a non-profit university eligible to apply?

Non-profit universities are eligible to apply. Section C: Eligibility Information on p. 27 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity provides further clarification regarding eligibility criteria.

Is a trade union eligible to apply?

Yes, trade unions are eligible to apply for this award, subject to their meeting the eligibility criteria detailed in Section C on p. 27 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Will be only one award granted for this call?

USAID intends to make a single award under this NFO.

Is it possible to submit applications for less than the ceiling for this program?

Yes, USAID will consider applications for less than the estimated ceiling. However, implementers must propose work covering all countries, regions and activities described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity for a full five-year period.

What is the ceiling on the cumulative total amount of funding for Associate Awards?

USAID estimates that this award will provide a total ceiling of approximately \$70 million. This will include the stated estimated ceiling of \$37.5 million for a Leader award, and additional ceiling of \$32.5 million to cover any future buy-ins or associate awards.

Will “buy-ins” to the Leader or centrally-managed Associate Awards be permitted? What is the ceiling on the size of individual “buy-ins”?

Buy-ins will be permitted. USAID has not determined a ceiling for individual buy-ins.

Is it acceptable to submit additional annexes that have not been specified in the above referenced Notice of Funding Opportunity?

Applicants are instructed to adhere to the guidance in the NFO regarding annexes and page limits. Applicants may indicate their ability to provide supplemental information, and the nature of such information, in the relevant section of the application. In the event USAID requires additional information from an applicant, USAID will request such information.

What are the allowable items within the project budget?

Appropriate budget categories are provided on form SF-424 and SF 424A. Additional guidance on the cost application is provided in section D.5 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Additional instructions regarding form SF-424A are available at this link:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424a-instructions.html>

Please clarify the NFO request for “A breakdown of all costs associated with the program according to the costs of, if applicable, headquarters, regional and/or country offices.”

The intent of this statement is to guide proposals to align budget narrative detail with proposed activities. Given the complex nature of this program, we request estimated budgets for country offices where country programs exist. Where regional programs are envisioned, regional program budgets should be provided. Global thematic programs, such as the requested program on labor migration, should also be complemented with a clear budget narrative. Any learning activities proposed should be clearly linked to specific activity budgets. Proposed costs for monitoring and evaluation should also be specified. An illustrative table with illustrative categories for narrative detail is below

Cost Category	Country 1	Country 2	Region/Sector 1	Global Technical (i.e. Labor Migration)	Operations/ Management
Salaries Fringe Benefits Travel Equipment Supplies Consultants/ Contractual Other Direct Costs					
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS					

May the “Contractor” form be used to provide a list of all cost-reimbursement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs during the past three years?

Yes, this is permissible.

Are applicants required to provide the “Contractors Performance Report- Short Form”?

Yes, applicants are required to provide this form.

Since an annual Work Plan is only required for the first year, does this mean budget detail is required for only the first year of the program to match the first year’s Annual Work Plan, with costs following categories in SF 424A?

Yes, in the cost application, budget detail to match a proposed Work Plan is only necessary for the first year of activities.

*Are all applicants required to propose country activities in the six countries specified in the solicitation (**Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mexico/El Salvador, Colombia, South Africa, Ukraine**)?*

Yes, applicants must propose country programs in **all** of the following countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, South Africa, and Ukraine. Applicants must propose a country program either in Mexico or El Salvador. Applicants must propose regional programming for southern Africa **and** for Central America.

May an applicant propose to work only in a single region, as long as we work in 6 – 9 countries in that region?

No, this is a global program, and applicants must propose country programs for **all** specified countries, and must have a demonstrated ability to work in all geographic regions.

Are applicants allowed to propose a regional program apart from programs targeting the six anchor countries?

Yes, applicants may propose additional regional programs, as long as core programs are also covered. Each additional regional program must be connected with a country program in that region. There is no obligation to house additional regional programs within a 'core' country.

If we have a regional approach for Central America, can the regional approach be based in both Mexico and El Salvador, or should it only be in one country?

Yes, applicants are welcome to locate country programs in both Mexico and El Salvador, and may conduct regional activities from either or both country offices.

Do the countries involved in a regional approach count towards the 6-9 countries maximum globally that can be included as part of the project?

No, there is no limit on the number of countries that may be engaged in regional programming.

How does USAID envision the required country program for Bangladesh relating to USAID's concurrent Workers' Empowerment Program (WEP) in that country?

It is highly desirable for any Bangladesh country activities proposed as part of the Global Labor Program to complement, but not duplicate, activities under the Worker Empowerment

Program. Applicants are therefore encouraged to consider proposing activities that do not directly overlap with those currently covered by the Worker Empowerment Program. Current activities under the Bangladesh Worker Empowerment Program are targeted toward workers in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector. It is likely that any future additional activities under this program will continue to be focused on strengthening worker rights and worker organizing and empowering women workers in the RMG sector, and may expand also to cover the shrimp sector.

Illustrative examples of complementary activities would be those focusing on similar target populations in additional economic sectors (for example, agriculture, ship breaking, leather, domestic work, pharmaceuticals, etc.). In addition, applicants are encouraged to focus activities in Bangladesh on the broad thematic issues identified in the NFO, most particularly labor migration, and social protection for vulnerable populations. Activities to promote opportunities for decent work for vulnerable groups, such as LGBTI individuals, indigenous groups or people with disabilities, would be particularly welcome.

Please confirm that exemption (2) to the FFATA reporting Standard Provision's Applicability Statement will be available, permitting an Agreement Officer to grant exemptions for specific subrecipients subject to justification due to the existence of personal safety concerns.

In principle this exemption will be available. Specific application of the provision will be dependent upon determination by the Agreement Officer in specific cases.