



USAID | PAKISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

October 3, 2016

Deadline for Submission of APS Questions (First Round):

October 12, 2016

Deadline for Submission of Concept Papers (First Round):

October 24, 2016

Subject: Notice of Funding Opportunity: APS-391-16-000001

Program Title: Let Girls Learn/Pakistan

Dear Applicants,

The United States Agency for International Development in Pakistan (USAID/Pakistan) is seeking concept notes from qualified organizations for the Let Girls Learn/Pakistan (LGL) Activity.

USAID/Pakistan seeks to support activities for Pakistan in priority areas defined by the Government of Pakistan (GOP) and the United States Government (USG). LGL/Pakistan will address key barriers that adolescent girls and young women face in accessing educational and employment opportunities due to poverty, cultural norms, geographic isolation, and security. Girls are less likely to enter primary school than boys, face greater obstacles to complete their schooling, and are underrepresented at later stages of the education cycle. Women's visibility in the workforce and in positions of leadership is also minimal.

USAID/Pakistan is using an "Annual Program Statement" (APS) to request Concept Papers as the first step in a multi-tiered process that may result in USAID sponsorship of your concept. Interested organizations should read the APS and follow the instructions for submitting a Concept Paper.

We sincerely hope that your organization will consider submitting a Concept Paper to partner with USAID/Pakistan. Thank you for your interest in the Let Girls Learn/Pakistan Activity.

Sincerely,

William Sedlak
Agreement Officer
Office of Acquisition & Assistance



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ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT

APS-391-16-000001

Let Girls Learn/Pakistan

APS Issuance Date: October 3, 2016

APS Closing Date: October 2, 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	2
SECTION II – AWARD INFORMATION	8
SECTION III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	10
SECTION IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION.....	13
SECTION V – APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION	17
SECTION VI – AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION.....	19
SECTION VII – FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS.....	21
SECTION VIII – OTHER INFORMATION.....	22

SECTION I – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. SUMMARY

Let Girls Learn/Pakistan will encourage community-led solutions to reduce barriers that prevent adolescent girls from completing their education and empower adolescent girls with the human and social capital to engage in and retain greater livelihood opportunities to benefit themselves, their families, their communities and Pakistan.

Through this Annual Program Statement (APS), USAID/Pakistan intends to support a variety of creative approaches towards reducing the barriers that prevent adolescent Pakistani girls from completing their schooling and participating in the workforce. USAID/Pakistan seeks innovative solutions from local and international partners that will achieve clear, measurable outcomes related to Let Girls Learn/Pakistan's objectives in a cost-effective manner.

B. BACKGROUND

With a population of more than 185 million, Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with over 60 percent of its population under the age of 29 and more than 30 percent under the age of 15. In terms of development, Pakistan ranks 147 of 188 on the Human Development Index, with glaring disparity in gender equity. Moreover, Pakistan ranks 144 of 145 on the 2015 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index, a relative measure of the gaps between women and men across four key areas of health, education, economy and politics.

Article 25-A of Pakistan's Constitution establishes compulsory basic education for all Pakistani children between ages 5-16. However, 6.7 million Pakistanis aged 5-9 are not enrolled in primary school - 62 percent of whom are girls,¹ the second highest number of out-of-school children in the world.² Of those who attend school, less than 70 percent reach grade five. At the secondary level, the number of out-of-school children jumps to 25 million, with only 39 percent of boys and 29 percent of girls enrolled.³ Poor educational quality significantly impacts students' future learning and employment opportunities. Over 49 million Pakistan adults are illiterate – more than 70 percent are women and Pakistan is one of the few countries worldwide where the illiteracy rate is rising.

Empowering girls and ensuring them access to quality education has long-term, transformational benefits for their future, for their families and communities, and for development overall. Efforts to support adolescent girls' education must focus not only on improving educational access, but also improving the quality of learning and skill development, and promoting a supportive learning and community environment.

¹ [Pakistan Education for All Review Report 2015. Ministry of Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education Academy of Educational Planning and Management. Islamabad, Pakistan June 2014.](#)

² [“A growing number of children and adolescents are out of school as aid fails to meet the mark.” Policy Paper 22 / Fact Sheet. UNESCO Institute for Statistics. July 31, 2015.](#)

³ [10 alarming statistics about Pakistan's out-of-school children. Dawn.com. April 10, 2015.](#)

Launched globally by First Lady Michelle Obama in March 2015, Let Girls Learn is a whole-of-government initiative focused on educating and empowering adolescent girls aged 10-19. Let Girls Learn focuses on three pillars: increased access to quality education; reduced barriers to success; and, empowered adolescent females. At the October 2015 Summit between President Obama and Prime Minister Sharif, First Lady Michelle Obama and Pakistan's First Daughter Maryam Sharif announced 'Let Girls Learn/Pakistan.'

Following this joint commitment, the Let Girls Learn/Pakistan activity will empower girls age 10-19 through a wide range of activities, including: increasing access to formal and non-formal education, promoting workforce development skills, increasing gender equity in education and training, creating pathways to transition from school to work, promoting community awareness about the benefits of educating and empowering adolescent girls and young women, and advocating for government policies to promote and sustain gender equity in education.

1. Development Objectives

The overall goal of Let Girls Learn/Pakistan is to empower adolescent girls and young women with the human and social capital to engage in and retain greater livelihood opportunities, stronger social, political, and economic opportunities.

The Let Girls Learn/Pakistan activity will:

- increase equitable access for adolescent females to formal and non-formal educational opportunities;
- bolster institutional and management capacity to deliver and monitor gender equity/girls' education measures;
- promote and strengthen linkages among communities, industry, and skill building institutions/programs, and
- generate confidence in the role that educated, skilled young women can play in Pakistan's economic growth.

The development hypothesis is: *if adolescent girls have increased access to quality education, relevant training, and livelihood opportunities, they will have greater prospects throughout their lives and engage in Pakistan's social, political, and economic advancement.*

2. Key Issues to Address

This new Let Girls Learn/Pakistan activity will address key barriers that adolescent girls and young women face in accessing educational and employment opportunities in Pakistan due to poverty, cultural norms, geographic isolation, and security and promote empowerment of adolescent girls (aged 10-19) through increased opportunities. Evidence of effective solutions for adolescent females in Pakistan is promising, particularly among civil society organizations, but largely anecdotal. Gender-oriented and girls' education policies exist, but their implementation is weak, particularly at decentralized levels.

Specifically, the Let Girls Learn/Pakistan Activity will address the following conditions:

- Difficulty for adolescent females to access opportunities to learn;
- Limited or no options that prepare or expose adolescent females to work experiences or female role models in the workplace;
- Lack of an enabling environment for adolescent girls and young women, including at the household and community levels, as well as in the workplace;
- Poor retention of adolescent girls in school; and
- Weak implementation of gender equity policies.

C. OVERVIEW

Through this Annual Program Statement (APS), USAID/Pakistan intends to assist local and international organizations to reduce barriers that inhibit adolescent girls' (age 10-19) from accessing quality basic education and skills training, and empower adolescent girls through marketable skill development, exposure to role models, and entrepreneurship activities.

Organizations interested in receiving funding for Let Girls Learn/Pakistan are invited to carefully read this APS in its entirety and to follow the application guidance.

Global best practices in education show it is possible to significantly improve educational opportunities for adolescent girls, particularly if what girls learn is relevant and if they learn in a supportive environment. In Pakistan, several small-scale interventions have demonstrated some success at increasing adolescent girls' access to education and workforce training.⁴ In each of these cases, engaging communities to identify and overcome specific local barriers has been essential. Local communities in Pakistan have identified solutions such as communities' schools, double-shifts with sessions for boys in the morning and girls in the afternoon, community-managed escorts or motorized school transportation networks, stipends to families in remote areas to defray costs and to incentivize sending daughters to school. To establish safe, adolescent girl-friendly schools involves recruiting and training female teachers for girls' schools, providing gender sensitivity training to male and female teachers, addressing issues that inhibit retention, and adopting teaching methods and materials that promote gender equality and challenge gender stereotypes.

D. AREAS OF INTEREST

The purpose of the Let Girls Learn initiative in Pakistan is to create or expand opportunities for adolescent girls to acquire the education and other related skills necessary to become active, positive contributors within their families, schools and communities. It is envisaged that efforts will advance gender equity and women's empowerment by widening the opportunities to learn for Pakistani adolescent girls and young women, preparing and exposing them to work experiences and people who can support their efforts, and creating an enabling environment for

⁴ *Does Cash for School Influence Young Women's Behavior in the Longer Term? Evidence from Pakistan*. Policy Research Working Paper 5669. Washington: World Bank.

them to succeed at school, at home, in the workplace and within their communities.

The APS envisions following results out of the activities proposed by the applicants:

1. Strengthened, evidence-based ability of local government to develop, implement and coordinate gender equity measures, especially in education;
2. Improved workforce readiness of adolescent girls and young women;
3. Increased exposure to work and career opportunities;
4. Improved attitudes/greater openness to the role of young women in Pakistan's development;
5. Increased access to services to prevent premature school drop outs.

Illustrative Components:

- **Policy Implementation Support** - Research and technical assistance for stronger, decentralized gender equity policy planning, implementation, coordination, management, and accountability in the education and workforce sectors to address barriers to education;
- **Social Awareness and Marketing** - Efforts to influence parental, community and public views on the importance of gender equity and positive role that men and women can play in promoting adolescent female development;
- **Skills Development** - Formal and non-formal opportunities for life and selected field/work skills development;
- **Linkages to Industry** - Identify willing partners in relevant fields that can link to participating educational institutions to provide learning/work opportunities; Develop partnerships to leverage USAID investment with private sector/industry inputs, contributions or efforts.

Illustrative Outcomes:

- Increased awareness of girls' and young women's potential to be productive in the workforce;
- Improved ability of local government to coordinate and monitor efforts that support adolescent girls in the education sector;
- Increased evidence of effective efforts or solutions in support of Pakistani adolescent females to be productive members of the workforce;
- Increased availability of formal, alternative, or non-formal educational opportunities for adolescent girls, including married adolescents;
- Increased retention in school;
- Increased capacity of participating organizations and institutions to deliver educational and workforce readiness programs for adolescent girls and young women;
- Increased engagement of parents, communities and local leaders in developing and supporting relevant education options;
- Improved civil society and community engagement in school management to support current and new students' retention in formal, alternative and non-formal education structures.

Illustrative Activities:

The following are illustrations of activities that a project might include; however this list is not exhaustive and applicants are encouraged to be as innovative as possible to address adolescent girls' issues in the proposed areas:

- Develop creative, culturally acceptable ways to expose adolescent females to the work environment and/or job opportunities;
- Consult with education authorities, civil society, community representatives and private/commercial sector (industry) to coordinate and organize implementation and results;
- Research that will inform policy implementation for existing policies on gender equity or girls' education in the education sector;
- Technical assistance to Provincial/Area Ministries of Education to include a girls' education/gender equity component in the revised Education Sector Plans;
- Work with participating institutions or organizations to develop or adapt content/curriculum for life and technical skills, including via technological options (e.g. radio, mobile phone);
- Identify organizations and companies that can partner under LGL to elevate, highlight or otherwise contribute to efforts in support of adolescent girls in Pakistan;
- Identify and scale-up local solutions that address access and retention challenges for adolescent girls (e.g. stipends, community transportation networks);
- Engage parents and community in supporting education and employment readiness activities;
- Develop and implement girls' enrollment campaigns;
- Develop and implement a social marketing strategy that increases women professionals' visibility and creates role models - both male and female - that promote adolescent girls' empowerment and potential for the future of Pakistan;
- Following research-based evidence, develop/promote technical areas where women can build their capacity and participate in the economic activities and country's development;
- Train parents, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA), School Management Committees (SBMC), community-based organizations (CBOs), and other relevant stakeholders in education advocacy, with an emphasis on girls' education or gender equity at local, state, and federal levels and liaise with other relevant donor interventions;
- Provide grants to local organizations to support key activities that contribute to the stated results;
- Attention to girls with disabilities.

E. AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION/APPLICABILITY OF 2 CFR 200 & 700

This award is authorized in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. 2 Code of Federal Regulation (2 CFR) 200 and 700 are applicable to an award to a U.S. organization made under this APS and to any sub-award to a U.S. entity resulting from this APS. For US NGOs, the *Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients* referenced

in ADS 303 will apply to any award or subaward. For non-U.S. organizations, the *Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental Recipients* will apply. While 2 CFR 200 and 700 do not directly apply to non-U.S. applicants, the Agreement Officer will use the standards of 2 CFR 200 and 700 in the administration of the award.

[END OF SECTION I]

SECTION II – AWARD INFORMATION

A. ESTIMATED FUNDS AVAILABLE AND TIMING

1. Timing and Limitations

This APS will be open for the period beginning **October 3, 2016 to October 2, 2017**. Note that USAID reserves the right to extend the APS closing date and/or close it earlier than the original closing date.

Interested organizations will first submit a Concept Paper. Concept paper evaluations will be conducted in “Rounds” as determined by USAID/Pakistan.

2. Estimated Funds

USAID/Pakistan reserves the right to make multiple awards through this APS. The actual number and size of awards made under this APS will be subject to the availability of funds, the interest and requirements of USAID/Pakistan, and the viability of applications received.

Programs may have a maximum duration of 24 months. The implementation start date for any initial award is anticipated to be no earlier than January 2017.

USAID will announce the available funding and anticipated range in value for individual awards for each Round of concept paper reviews through Amendments to this APS. Funding will be made in US dollars to US recipients. For Pakistani recipients, the award will be made in the Pakistani Rupee equivalent of a US dollar amount, to be settled at the exchange rate during each instance of USAID payment to the recipient.

The total amount of funding available and awards made under this APS will depend upon resources made available to USAID/Pakistan. At this time the maximum potential amount of total assistance funding is anticipated to be \$24.9 million. USAID/Pakistan anticipates that at least one award worth approximately \$4M will be made at a minimum.

For Round 1, USAID anticipates that a total of \$19,000,000 will be available funding. During this round USAID would prefer that proposed interventions range in value from \$8,000,000 to \$19,000,000.

3. Submission of Questions

Interested applicants may submit questions related to the APS in writing by e-mail to Sohail Humayun (shumayun@usaid.gov) with a copy to Juan Proaño (jproano@usaid.gov) no later than the deadline for the Round indicated on the Cover Letter to this APS or any subsequent amendments. If it is determined that the answer to any question(s) is of sufficient importance to warrant notification to all prospective recipients, a Questions and Answers document, and/or if needed, an amendment to the APS, may be issued. No requests for meetings or phone calls with any USG officials will be accepted during the application process.

4. Type of Award

USAID anticipates that grant(s) or cooperative agreement(s) will be awarded as a result of this APS. For more information on these instruments, please refer to ADS 303.

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303.pdf>

USAID may also decide to award a Fixed Amount Award (FAA). For more details, refer to ADS 303.3.25 at <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303.pdf>.

5. Authorized Geographic Code

The authorized geographic code for procurement of goods and services under the resultant award is 937 (the United States, Pakistan, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries).

[END OF SECTION II]

SECTION III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. U.S. and non-U.S. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private voluntary organizations (PVOs), for-profit companies willing to forego profit, colleges and universities are eligible to submit applications. Faith-based and community organizations that fit the criteria above are also eligible to apply.
2. In support of the Agency's interest in fostering a larger assistance base and expanding the number and sustainability of development partners, USAID encourages applications from potential new partners.
3. There is no restriction on organizations currently implementing projects for USAID/Pakistan submitting concept papers in response to this APS as long as all eligibility criteria detailed in this APS are met.
4. Applicants must have established financial management, monitoring and evaluation, internal control systems, and policies and procedures that comply with established US Government standards, laws, and regulations. All potential awardees will be subject to a responsibility determination (which may include a pre-award survey) issued by a USAID Agreement Officer.
5. Any recipient must be a responsible entity. Details on USAID's pre-award responsibility determination policy and procedures can be found on our agency website, in its automated directive system (ADS) chapter 303, section 303.3.9: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf>

Eligibility Information for International entities: To be eligible for this program, International entities are expected to comply with applicable Government of Pakistan registration requirements as promulgated by Government of Pakistan (GOP) actors such as the Ministry of Interior, Economic Affairs Division, or the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan as applicable. USAID/Pakistan cannot advise implementers on interpreting Pakistani law. Any questions related to registration status should be directed toward the GOP.

Eligibility Information for local Pakistani Organizations: To be eligible for this program as a local organization, the Applicant must meet the following criteria.

- I. USAID's definition of local organization requires that the organization:
 - a) be organized under the laws of the recipient country,
 - b) have its principal place of business in the recipient country,
 - c) be majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the recipient country or be managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the recipient country, and
 - d) not be controlled by a foreign entity comprised of individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of the recipient country.

The term “controlled by” in (d) means a majority ownership or beneficiary interest as defined in (c), above, or the power, either directly or indirectly, whether exercised or exercisable, to control the election, appointment, or tenure of the organization’s managers or a majority of the organization’s governing body by any means, e.g. ownership, contract or operation of law. “Foreign entity” means any organization that fails to meet any part of the “local organization” definition.

- II. The organization must be a non-profit, non-governmental local organization, or a local for-profit organization that is willing to forgo profit. It is USAID policy not to award profit under grants and cooperative agreements. Consequently, no fee or profit will be paid to a grant or cooperative agreement recipient. In the case of consortia and coalitions, one organization must be identified as the “prime partner”.
- III. The organization must have internal controls, financial management, and program implementation structures in place.
- IV. The organization must not currently have any pending disciplinary or legal action against them from USAID or another U.S. agency.

USAID will not accept applications from individuals.

USAID will not accept applications from Federal, Provincial, or Municipal Pakistani Governmental Organizations. USAID/Pakistan primarily engages with Pakistani governmental organizations through Government-to-Government assistance instruments that are different than the interventions contemplated by this APS.

Applicants may only submit one concept paper per Round. The limitation refers to the submitting organization or “prime partner”. An applicant organization may submit an individual concept paper, and also be included in a concept paper as part of a consortium or as a proposed subawardee. Should an applicant submit more than one concept paper during a Round as submitting organization or prime partner, only the first concept paper received will be reviewed.

B. COST SHARING AND LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Cost sharing is not required under this APS.

This APS encourages applicants to leverage additional resources from other sources including the private sector and other donors in the Pakistan education space. Leveraging represents all of the non-USAID resources expected to be applied to an activity. The recipient is not responsible for meeting the leveraging amounts/resources proposed and leveraging is not subject to audit.

C. REGISTRATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

Organizations will be expected to possess or be able to obtain any necessary registrations and permissions from Pakistani federal, provincial, or local authorities prior to beginning implementation of any award made under this APS. In the event that an apparently successful applicant does not possess such registrations/permissions, the Agreement Officer may choose to negotiate a time window and pre-award expense ceiling to allow the offeror to pursue registration prior to the signing of an award. Additional directions regarding registration will be included in a full application request.

[END OF SECTION III]

SECTION IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. LET GIRLS LEARN/PAKISTAN CONTACTS

- Sohail Humayun, A&A Specialist, USAID/Pakistan, shumayun@usaid.gov
+92 51 201 4000 ext. 5225
- Juan Proaño A&A Specialist, USAID/Pakistan, jproano@usaid.gov
+92 51 201 4000 ext. 5379

Applicants shall not contact any other USAID or US Government personnel regarding this APS unless otherwise directed by the Agreement Officer.

B. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

For the first round of reviews, the closing date for the submission of Concept Papers is **16:00 hours Local Pakistan time (GMT+5) on October 24, 2016**. At that time, all concept papers received will be considered to be a reasonable number, even if only one is received. The time stamp on the email received by USAID/Pakistan shall serve as the official time of receipt.

C. CONTENT AND FORMAT OF APPLICANT SUBMISSION

Each Applicant shall furnish the information required by this APS. This is a multi-tiered review process. Applicants will respond in two phases: (1) Concept Paper and—if requested by USAID—(2) Full Application.

Stage One

- Applicants will submit a short concept paper (written in English) including a summary budget as per the instructions below.
- USAID/Pakistan will only review concept papers that contain the information required.
- USAID will only accept electronic submissions of application materials submitted to the email addresses above. No hard copy application materials will be accepted.
- The preferred file type for electronic submissions is Microsoft Word for narrative text and Excel for budget tables. PDF files are also acceptable for narrative text. If a submission cannot be sent in a single email due to its size, it is acceptable to send several emails. In this case, applicants must label each email (Submission # of #) in order to ensure that all portions are received.
- The subject line for emails must include “APS-391-16-000001” and the Applicant organization’s name
- Applicants will submit their concept paper via email to the USAID/Pakistan recipient contact email addresses listed above. Concept paper emails that are received by USAID/Pakistan before the Pakistani local time deadline for the Round will be considered received on time. USAID/Pakistan will not consider any submissions during

the Round that are not received on time, though USAID may elect to evaluate a late submission during a future Round.

Stage Two

- USAID/Pakistan will notify successful applicants via email to request them to expand their concept paper into a full application

Any erasures or changes to the concept paper or application must be initiated by the person signing the cover page. Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the US Government except for evaluation purposes, shall mark the title page with the following legend:

“This application includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the US Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed—in whole or in part—for any purpose other than to evaluate the application. If, however, a grant is awarded to this Applicant as a result of—or in connection with—the submission of this data, the US Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting grant. This restriction does not limit the US Government’s right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in pages [insert page numbers here].

CONCEPT PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Concept Paper Format

The concept paper must be written in Times New Roman 12 point font, and must include page numbers. A page in the concept paper which contains a table, chart, graph, etc., not otherwise excluded below, is subject to the 7 total pages limit set by USAID/Pakistan. Information submitted as part of the concept paper over the page limit will not be evaluated. Applicants must prepare the Concept Paper in accordance with the format set forth below:

-Cover Page (1 page):

- APS Number: APS-391-16-000001
- Applicant’s Suggested Project Title
- Total Amount of Program (in USD or PKR)
- Name and address of organization
- Type of organization (e.g. for-profit, non-profit, local organization, university, etc.)
- Point of Contact (lead contact name, relevant telephone and email information)
- Signature of authorized representative of the applicant

-Concept Paper Body (Maximum 5 pages):

- Definition of the overall objective and a brief description of the proposed concept and anticipated outcomes.

- Time duration for the project implementation and geographical focus.
- Technical Approach, including:
 - An analysis of the context of the problem that demonstrates an understanding of the needs, the complexity of the situation, and the challenges of programming or service provision in the identified geographic area or the targeted audience and any underlying opportunities that can be leveraged.
 - Discussion of the process or innovation demonstrating a clear alignment with applicable USAID Let Girls Learn/Pakistan objectives.
 - Description of how or why the proposed approach will be more successful or effective than other approaches and be appropriate for effective scale up.
 - Discussion of the proposed activities' impact on adolescent girls' of the targeted areas, addressing feasibility, sustainability and scalability.
 - Discussion of related gender issues and how the proposed approach will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment as a productive member of the society.
- Past experience of the organization with development work of similar nature and an explanation of why the applicant organization feels itself suitable for implementing a project with the objectives described in this APS.

-Concept Budget (1 page):

Applicants are requested to present the summary budget in the following cost categories:

Category	Definition
Personnel Compensation	All payment for services of employees rendered during the period of performance
Fringe Benefits	Allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages
Travel	Expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items incurred by employees who are in travel status on official business, either locally or internationally
Program Direct Costs	Costs that can be identified specifically in relation to program activities
Other Direct Costs	Any other costs a cost that can be identified specifically that the offeror does not treat as a direct material cost or a direct labor cost
Indirect Costs**	**If the applicant has a NICRA with a USG agency, indirect costs are authorized in accordance with the NICRA. If an applicant has never received a NICRA, the recipient may choose to charge an indirect rate of 10% of modified total direct costs in accordance with ADS 303.3.12
TOTAL	Overall total concept budget.

Concept papers will be reviewed in accordance with the evaluation criteria described in Section V. If an applicant is successful at the Concept Paper stage, USAID will request a Full Application in accordance with instructions that will be communicated to selected applicants.

FULL APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

Following merit review of concept papers in accordance with Section V, USAID/Pakistan may either decline to proceed further with the concept, engage the prospective partner to clarify aspects of the proposed concept, or ask the prospective partner to submit a full application. Consultations or discussions, if any, which may occur between USAID/Pakistan and prospective partners, do not constitute an Agency commitment to develop or support a concept or any commitment to funding the proposed partnership.

Applicants will not submit a full application unless formally invited to do so by USAID/Pakistan.

A draft Request for Full Application will be uploaded as an attachment to this APS prior to the close of Round 1 in order to provide applicants with a sense of the Full Application requirements. Any individual application request provided to successful applicants in the Concept Paper stage may differ from the attached draft depending upon the type of assistance instrument USAID wishes to utilize.

As part of the Full Application, applicants will submit the required forms of the SF-424 family, Application for Federal Assistance

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html>

The Full Application request must also contain the required certifications, assurances, and solicitation provisions found in ADS 303.3.8.

Each applicant will be required to be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) and provide a valid Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number before receiving an award, and maintain current registration at all times which it has an active Federal award. Further information on the SAM and DUNS registration process will be included in the Full Application request.

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed unless specifically directed by the Agreement Officer.

[END SECTION IV]

SECTION V – APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Concept Papers

All concept papers will be evaluated using a go/no-go rating system to select concepts that move forward. The evaluation criteria for the concept papers are as follows:

Merit Review Criteria	Definition
Technical Approach	Applicant interventions must: (1) be directly aligned with USAID/Pakistan's Let Girls Learn initiative and relevant programmatic priorities as set forth in the APS; (2) Demonstrate adequate understanding of the Pakistani context and the relevant policy dynamics; and (3) contain an innovative approach to address the development challenges adolescent girls (age 10-19) face that will lead to sizable improvements in a short period of time.
Development Impact	Interventions must be feasible for the local context, sustainable beyond the implementation period, and scalable in a manner that could offer a broader set of impacts at regional or national levels.

The above merit review criteria are all of equal importance. Following merit review of concept papers, a decision will be made by USAID/Pakistan to decline to proceed further with the concept, engage the prospective partner to clarify aspects of the proposed project, or ask the prospective partner to submit a full application.

If an applicant proceeds to the submission of a Full Application, there will not be an additional formal technical evaluation of the Full Application. However, refinement of technical approach and consideration of Cost, Branding and Marking, and Past Performance will take place during the Full Application review of an apparently successful offeror.

B. COST REVIEW

Cost has not been assigned a score but will be reviewed during the Full Application stage for cost reasonableness, allocability, allowability, cost effectiveness and realism, adequacy of budget detail and financial feasibility. In its analysis, USAID will be considering the following:

- Are the identified costs fair and reasonable for the proposed effort?
- Do the proposed costs demonstrate the applicant understands of the APS requirements?
- Are the identified costs consistent with the applicant's technical application?

It is USAID policy not to award profit under grants and cooperative agreements. Consequently, no fee or profit will be paid to the grant or cooperative agreement recipient. Foregone profits do not count toward partner contributions. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards, may be covered by the grant.

C. BRANDING AND MARKING

The Applicant's Branding and Marking Plan will be reviewed as part of the Full Application process, but the plan will not be scored. USAID will review the Branding and Marking Plan of any apparently successful applicant(s) (including any requests for exceptions) for approval after the successful application has been determined.

D. PAST PERFORMANCE AND THE PRE-AWARD RISK ASSESSMENT

The Agreement Officer will consider the risks posed by apparently successful applicant(s) as part of the Full Application process before making an award. The Agreement Officer may choose to conduct a Pre-Award Risk Assessment. Depending on the results of this Pre-Award Risk Assessment, the AO may either (a) make the award, (b) choose not to execute the award, or (c) make the award with Specific Conditions (2 CFR 200.207).

As part of the Full Application, applicants will be requested to submit past performance information supporting their organization's ability to implement their concept. Specific instructions on the past performance information required will be sent by the Agreement Officer as part of the Request for a Full Application.

[END OF SECTION V]

SECTION VI – AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES

USAID/Pakistan cannot make awards under this APS until it has appropriated, allocated, and committed funds through internal USAID procedures. A notice of award signed by the Agreement Officer (AO) is the authorizing document for award. USAID/Pakistan will provide this document electronically to the Applicant Point of Contact listed in the Application. The AO is the only individual who may legally commit the USG to the expenditure of public funds. Applicants are prohibited from charging or incurring costs to the proposed award prior to receipt of either a fully executed Award or a specific, written authorization from the AO.

USAID/Pakistan will notify unsuccessful offerors in accordance with ADS 303.3.7.1(b). Requests for additional information by unsuccessful offerors may be provided at the discretion of the AO in accordance with ADS 303.3.7.2.

B. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

The awards will be negotiated and administered by the Agreement Officer responsible for the Let Girls Learn/Pakistan activity in accordance with the USAID Standard Provisions and other applicable U.S. Government regulations, which are available on the USAID website.

For U.S. organizations 2 CFR 200 & 700 and the Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients will apply in the administration of the award.

For non-U.S. organizations, the Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients will apply. While 2 CFR 200 & 700 do not directly apply to non-U.S. applicants, the Agreement Officer will use the standards of 2 CFR 200 & 700 in the administration of the award.

As a result of this APS, USAID anticipates the award of grants and/or cooperative agreements. Grants are similar to cooperative agreements except that USAID may be substantially involved in the certain elements of implementation. Please consult ADS 303.3.11 for more information on USAID substantial involvement. Examples of substantial involvement under the Let Girls Learn/Pakistan APS could include:

- USAID approval of the recipient's Annual Work/Implementation Plans
- USAID approval of key personnel funded under the agreement
- USAID approval of the program's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plans, including indicators

USAID may also decide to award a Fixed Amount Award Grant, which is a grant structured around the accomplishment of set milestones. USAID reserves the right to determine the actual assistance award type.

C. LIMITING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

- a) Construction will only be eligible for reimbursement under Cooperative Agreements made through this APS where the estimated cost of construction activities at a single site is less than the Pakistani Rupee equivalent of \$500,000 and the construction activity is explicitly stated in the Cooperative Agreement budget.
- b) Construction means—construction, alteration, or repair (including dredging and excavation) of buildings, structures, or other real property and includes, without limitation, improvements, renovation, alteration and refurbishment. The term includes, without limitation, roads, power plants, buildings, bridges, water treatment facilities, and vertical structures.

D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The recipient will be required to submit financial and performance reports. More information on the financial and performance reporting requirements will be shared at the Full Application stage.

E. PROGRAM INCOME

It is not anticipated that Program Income will be generated by any awards made through this APS. In the event that a project generates Program Income, with prior approval of USAID/Pakistan, program income may be added to the award budget by USAID/Pakistan and the non-Federal entity. The program income must be used for the purposes and under the conditions of the Federal award.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

USAID/Pakistan will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation in accordance with 22 CFR 216. Additional guidance related to Environmental Compliance will be provided as part of the Full Application request.

[END SECTION VI]

SECTION VII – FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

The points of contact (POC) for questions about the Let Girls Learn/Pakistan opportunity while this APS is open are Sohail Humayun (shumayun@usaid.gov) and Juan Proaño (jproano@usaid.gov), and the Agreement Officer listed on the cover page. Please do not contact any other USAID or US Government personnel regarding this APS.

[END OF SECTION VII]

SECTION VIII – OTHER INFORMATION

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

For more information about USAID’s global Let Girls Learn initiative please visit:
<https://www.usaid.gov/letgirlslearn>

A. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

A&A – Acquisition and Assistance
ADS – Automated Directives System
APS – Annual Program Statement
AO – Agreement Officer
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
DUNS – Data Universal Numbering Systems
FAA – Fixed Amount Award
GB – Gilgit–Baltistan
GOP – Government of Pakistan
LGL – Let Girls Learn
KP – Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
NGO – Non-governmental Organization
NICRA – Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
PVO – Private Voluntary Organization
RFA – Request for Application
SAM – System for Award Management
USAID – US Agency for International Development
USG – United States Government

B. ATTACHMENTS

1. Any Attachments to this APS will be uploaded as a separate file to Grants.gov and the file will be named in this format: [Attachment (#) AID-391-16-000001]

[END SECTION VIII]

[END OF APS]