



Issuance Date: November 09, 2021

Subject: Amendment No.: 1
People to People Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone Call for Concept Paper
under the New Partnership Initiative (NPI): Conflict Prevention and
Recovery Program (CPRP) under Annual Program Statement APS No.:
720OAA19APS00012

The purpose of this Amendment is to provide answers to the questions submitted to the People to People Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone Call for Concept Papers received by November 8, 2021 at 8:00 am GMT. Questions and answers are found in Attachment A of this amendment. All other terms and conditions of this addendum remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

To learn more on effective partnership, applicants are encouraged to register at www.workwithusaid.org.

Sincerely,

/s/
Albert P. Assante
Regional Agreement Officer

Attachment A - Questions and Answers

1. Our organization is a locally well-established entity (and a potential underutilised partner for USAID according to the NPI guidelines: <\$25M in direct/indirect USAID awards in last 5 years). Our main activity is to mentor and support local partners through capacity building work and accompaniment for program implementation and grant management in specific thematic areas with a lot of work in peacebuilding and governance particularly in Sierra Leone. We are trying to understand if we should submit a concept note as a LEP (Type of partnership 2) or if we should apply as a prime with sub-awardees (Option 3), however we are not a “established partner” (as described in APS; having a relationship with USAID over the NPI thresholds). Could you help us understand if to qualify as an LEP you need to implement directly or if under this model we could also work with our local partners as the mentorship/accompanier entity?

USAID Response:

Applicants are encouraged to review the eligibility information for an award under both the Addendum and the overarching APS. As stated on page 11 of the Addendum, it is essential to select the types of partnership that your organization is eligible for an award.

2. If working as a Prime awardee (Option 3), the Global NPI/CPRP/APS introduces two modalities (3a or 3b) when working with sub-awardees (Modality 3a: Local Entity Sub-Awardees That Move to Direct Awards; and Modality 3b: Local and Locally Established Partner Sub-Awardees). Could these 2 modalities be combined, therefore working with some sub-awardees that are local entities moving towards direct awards and some LEPs?

USAID Response:

No. Combining these two categories will make it difficult to track the progression across types. Applicants are encouraged to identify a “mentoring type” for each subgrant/subrecipient and have the option to utilize both approaches in their application to meet the different needs of subaward partners.

3. How much maximum can an organization apply for?

USAID Response:

As a prime, an organization must submit one concept paper. The funding ceiling is \$2,284,239 through one new award.

4. About the Type 1 Partnership (New and Underutilized Locally Entities) - Can an under-utilized organization (registered in the USA and receiving less than \$25 million of USAID awards in the last 5 years) become a sub-recipient of a Local Entity?

USAID Response:

As defined in the APS, “A new or underutilized partner is an organization that has received less than \$25M **cumulatively** in direct or indirect award from USAID over the past five (5) years.”

5. About the Type 2 Partnership (New and Underutilized Locally Established Partners - LEP) - We are an under-utilized organization registered in the USA and receiving less than \$25 million of USAID awards in the last 5 years.

We also fulfill ALL the requirements of a Locally Established Partner (LEP) in Sierra Leone except for “If the organization has a governing body or board of directors, then it must include a majority of local citizens (in the host country, this is not required)”. Our Board of Directors is located in the USA and includes no citizens of Sierra Leone. In Sierra Leone, our country office retains an Advisory Council comprising local opinion leaders which provides guidance to our operations but without governance roles. Given this situation, can our organization still be eligible to compete, as a prime, under the Type 2 Partnership?

USAID Response:

According to the addendum, under Section II - Eligible Organizations, all applicants must follow the eligibility requirements listed under the identified partnership type. Applicants are encouraged to review the eligibility requirements listed under the overarching APS, in addition to the published addendum. To be eligible for an **award**, applicants must provide written evidence/statements to support their eligibility.

6. About the Type 3 Partnership (Prime Partner Award with sub-awards to LEPs and Local Entities) - Can an under-utilized organization registered in the USA, i.e. less than \$25 million of USAID awards received in the last 5 years, apply as a prime under a Type 3 Partnership? If affirmative, does the concept note need to include the names of the confirmed sub-recipient organizations or can they be selected using a post-award selection process?

USAID Response:

Please see our response under Q4. As stated in the addendum, the prime recipient, an established partner, would be focusing its effort on mentoring a local or locally established partner that is the subrecipient who would provide direct assistance to the beneficiary. Consequently, the subrecipient's name and role in the partnership must be provided.

7. The first question relates to the process of co- creation: Does USAID plan to select multiple concept notes for the co-creation stage?

USAID Response:

As stated in the Addendum, USAID intends to invite all applicants to co-creation whose concept notes are conditionally accepted under Phase Two Co-creation process.

8. The call for concept notes refers to a proposed performance period of 3-years. However, the Merit review criteria on page 16 of the call refers to an initiative “no longer than 60-months”, and this is echoed on the Annual Program Statement. Is the duration therefore up to the applicant to propose based on the intervention design, within those parameters stated?

USAID Response:

The overarching APS must not exceed 60-months; however, the addendum is limited to 36-months. Applicants responding to this addendum must utilize a three-year project life (36-months).

9. Page 3, of the Addendum, reads, “Subject to the availability of funds, USAID Guinea and Sierra Leone may allocate up to \$2,264,239 over the course of the next year” and “The proposed period of performance can be up to 3 years”. Page 16, under VI-Merit Review Guidelines, point number 2, reads, “Have an implementation plan that will achieve the proposed programmatic objectives within the period of performance (no longer than 60- months). Would USAID please confirm its’ expected or preferred period of performance?”

USAID Response:

Please see our response under Q8.

10. Page 16, of the Addendum, references a period of performance of 60 months, however, pages 1 and 3 reference a performance period of three years (36 months). Could the performance period extend to 60 months? Would USAID allocate funding beyond the \$2,284,239 referenced on pages 1 and 3 of the Addendum, if the program were to extend beyond 36 months?

USAID Response:

Please see our response under Q8.

11. Page 11 of the Addendum provides definitions for “eligible organizations.” Certain applicants have been working in Sierra Leone for decades and have an internationally established entity registered as a local entity. On page 11 of the Addendum, USAID has provided that both the international or its local entity could be eligible to submit an application in response to the Addendum. Given both legal entities in Sierra Leone appear to be eligible for this award, does USAID prefer a specific awardee type?

USAID Response:

Please see our response under Q5. Applicants are encouraged to submit their concept note under a category that is most advantageous.

12. Page 12, of the Addendum, under III. Award Types, references three potential award types: Fixed Amount Award (FAA), Cooperative Agreement, and Grant. USAID has posted this opportunity on grants.gov as a Cooperative agreement. Would USAID please confirm its plans to issue this solicitation as a cooperative agreement?

USAID Response:

The specific type of assistance instrument will be determined by the Agreement Office at the time of award.

13. Page 15, of the Addendum, includes three possible results from the Concept Paper merit review process. Can USAID confirm that as the cover letter (page 1 of the Addendum) references, only

one award is envisioned, that only one applicant be granted conditional acceptance? If not, might an applicant be granted conditional acceptance, invest time in supporting USAID with co-creation, and then have their application subsequently either rejected or evergreened?

USAID Response:

The Agency's desired outcome from the co-creation phase is a product that will produce a strong draft program description for the full application phase. USAID anticipates awarding one award under this addendum.

14. Page 15, of the Addendum, under Application Process, references a multi-phase evaluation and award process: Phase 1: Concept Paper Submission and Review, Phase 2: Co-Creation, and Phase 3: Co-Creation and Co-Creation of Full Application. Can USAID provide an estimate of the elapsed time it anticipates between phases?

USAID Response:

From one phase to another phase of the procurement process, USAID/Guinea & Sierra Leone anticipates on/about 6 weeks.

15. Page 15, of the Addendum, under Phase 1: Concept Paper Submission and Review, #2 Evergreening, reads, "USAID may identify opportunities to strengthen or fund an application by connecting with other USAID operating units, mechanisms, or as sub-awards to USAID activities. In such case the Agency may make that Concept Paper available internally for appropriate consideration". Will USAID provide detailed information about the relevant project and personnel to candidates receiving an "Evergreening" designation?

USAID Response:

During the review, if a concept paper develops an innovative program that meets one of Sierra Leone's Integrated Country Strategy or if the concept paper supports an ongoing activity, the Agency may transfer the submitted concept paper to another operating unit for consideration.

16. Page 15, of the Addendum, under Phase 2: Co-Creation, #2 reads, "Applicants whose Concept Papers are invited for the initial Co-Creation stage will engage with USAID/Guinea & Sierra Leone to work through areas of weakness and to respond to USAID questions and clarify aspects of the concept that are not clear". Can USAID provide confirmation or an estimate of the number of phase 2 co-creation invitations it plans to send (to proceed to phase 3)?

USAID Response:

Please see our response to Q7.

17. Our Institution operates more in the Western Area Rural of Sierra Leone. However, could we need to design the Project to have a national scope involving the 16 Districts?

USAID Response:

The merit Review element # 5 states: The extent to which the proposed concept effectively targets geographic areas and beneficiaries who are most at risk and/or currently affected by

politically motivated violence. The concept provides clear rationale for both the geographical target and beneficiaries, and justify their selection of the geographical focus, including whether or not they propose flexibility for quick pivots to respond to potential flare-ups in violence elsewhere across the country and other changes in the operating environment.

18. The call makes a mention of an activity that USAID anticipates on governance and accountability (CELGA). Is there a preference for this program to include elements of governance and accountability as relevant to the delivery of the objective, or to omit this element given the overlap with the other activity?

USAID Response:

Please refer to Section B of the People to People Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone addendum.

19. Page 7, of the Addendum, under Women in the Political Sphere: Underrepresentation and the Threat of Violence, reads, “An evaluation report on the USAID Women Empowered for Leadership and Development (WELD) activity found that...”. Page 10, under Cross Sectoral Approaches, reads, “There are currently a range of actors operating in peacebuilding, governance and civil society strengthening and related topical areas. These include the US National Endowment for Democracy, the European Union, Ireland, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations, among others. Additionally, USAID anticipates support for an activity to strengthen local governance and accountability in Sierra Leone”. Would USAID please provide more detail as to the specific projects of relevance implemented by the wide breadth of actors outlined in the Addendum?

USAID Response:

WELD is an already completed USAID-funded activity. The funding of the WELD report USAID deemed important to mention in the Addendum is that "in the 2018 elections, male candidates reported spending significantly more than female candidates, and it was widely recognized that lack of campaign funding is a hindrance that deters women from running for office". USAID is aware that there are a range of actors operating in peacebuilding, governance and civil society strengthening and related topical areas and outlined some of them. However, USAID does not have the details regarding their individual projects.

[End of Amendment No.: 1]