



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Issue Date: March 7, 2018
Deadline for Questions: March 23, 2018 5:00 PM (local Washington, DC time)
Closing Time: April 23, 2018 5:00 PM (local USAID Mission time)

Subject: Notice of Funding Opportunity:
Request for Applications (RFA) Number: 7200AA18RFA00008

Program Title: FY 2018 Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation Programs and Activities
(Global Reconciliation Fund)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 98.001

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The United States Government (USG), as represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM), invites applications for funding from qualified entities to carry out activities that mitigate conflict and promote reconciliation by bringing together individuals of different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds (“FY 2018 Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation Programs and Activities (Global Reconciliation Fund)”).

Applications for programming in the countries listed below are eligible for consideration under this RFA. In preparing applications, please refer to the Country-Specific Program Information presented in Annex 1.

Europe/Eurasia	Africa	Latin America
Georgia Kosovo Macedonia	Burkina Faso Ethiopia Kenya Mali Niger Senegal	Colombia Honduras Jamaica

While local and non-local entities are invited to submit applications, please note that one of the two funding categories described in Section B.2 of this RFA is limited to local entities. In addition, for programming in Colombia and Kosovo, funding is available only for applications from local entities. (See Section C of this RFA for general eligibility requirements.)

Subject to the availability of funds, an award will be made to the responsible, eligible applicant(s) whose application(s) best meets the objectives of this funding opportunity and the selection criteria contained herein. **While multiple awards are anticipated as a result of this RFA, USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.**

For the purposes of this RFA, the term "Grant" is synonymous with "Cooperative Agreement," "Grantee" is synonymous with "Recipient," and "Grant Officer" is synonymous with "Agreement Officer." Eligible entities interested in submitting an application are encouraged to read this funding opportunity thoroughly to understand the type of program sought, application submission requirements, and evaluation process.

To be eligible for an award, the applicant must provide all information required in this RFA and meet the eligibility criteria in Section C of this RFA. This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov, and may be amended. Potential applicants should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity. Applicants will need to have available or download Adobe program to their computers in order to view and save the Adobe forms properly. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the entire RFA has been received from the internet in its entirety and USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion process. If you have difficulty accessing the RFA, please send an email to Mrs. Rachel Baltes at FY18CMMP2P@usaid.gov for assistance. Please note, applications should **not** be submitted via the Grants.gov website. Refer to Section D of this RFA for application submission instructions. Grants.gov registration is not required to submit an application in response to this RFA.

The successful Applicant will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives. Please read each section of the RFA.

Please send any questions to Mrs. Rachel Baltes via e-mail at FY18CMMP2P@usaid.gov. The deadline for questions is shown above. Responses to questions received prior to the deadline will be furnished to all potential applicants through an amendment to this RFA posted to www.grants.gov if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID nor does it commit USAID to pay for any costs incurred in preparation or submission of comments/suggestions or an application. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

/s/

Renee Newton
Agreement Officer

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS USED IN THIS RFA

ADS	Automated Directives System
AO	Agreement Officer
AOR	Agreement Officer's Representative
CA	Cooperative Agreement
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMM	Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation
DCHA	Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance
FY	Fiscal Year
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
P2P	People-to-People
PIO	Public International Organization
RFA	Request for Applications
THINC	Theories and Indicators of Change
TOC	Theory of Change
U.S.	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

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SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose and Authority

USAID’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (DCHA/CMM) strives to create programming that effectively prevents, mitigates, and manages the causes and consequences of violent conflict, instability, and extremism. DCHA/CMM leads USAID’s efforts to identify and analyze sources of conflict, supports early responses to address the causes and consequences of instability and violent conflict, and seeks to integrate conflict mitigation and management into USAID’s analyses, strategies, and programs.

The authority for this RFA is the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), and prior appropriations (most recently, section 7060(g) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31, Division J) (FY17Act)). This RFA provides funding for reconciliation-related programming, specifically, to support “*people-to-people*” conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs and activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds from the countries listed in Table 1 (see Section A.6). Programs that provide opportunities for adversaries to address issues, reconcile differences, promote greater understanding and mutual trust, and work on common goals with regard to potential, ongoing, or recent conflict will receive consideration for funding under this RFA.

Resulting award(s) under this RFA will be subject to the policies and regulations as described in Section F – Federal Award and Administration Information.

2. The Global Reconciliation Fund Managed by DCHA/CMM

The first funding opportunity for DCHA/CMM’s Reconciliation Programs Fund was global in scope and launched in 2004. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, the program’s total estimated cost was nearly \$26,000,000, of which approximately \$10,000,000 was designated to support programs in the Middle East. In FY 2018, it is anticipated there will continue to be two separate funding opportunities: one for the Middle East Reconciliation Fund Program, issued by USAID’s West Bank/Gaza Mission, and one for this Global Reconciliation Fund Program. **This RFA is only for the Global Reconciliation Fund Program, and covers the countries listed in Table 1.**

3. People-to-People (P2P) Peacebuilding

The objective of this funding opportunity is to make significant strides in the overall goal of conflict mitigation, peace, and reconciliation through the implementation of P2P activities in selected eligible countries.

P2P programs are one approach among many to conflict prevention, mitigation, and management. While a range of programs and approaches may be considered P2P in nature, most entail bringing together representatives of conflict-affected groups to interact purposefully in a safe space. This type of work can address divisions within a community that may be rooted in

group differences such as ethnicity, religion, status, class, or political affiliation. P2P programs generally address patterns of prejudice and demonizing that reinforce the perceived differences between groups and hinder the development of relationships among parties to a conflict. The aim is to create opportunities for a series of interactions between conflicting groups in the community or broader society to promote mutual understanding, trust, empathy, and resilient social ties.

The diversity of P2P approaches to conflict mitigation is wide and can encompass peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive development approaches. The Country-Specific Program Information presented in Annex 1 to this RFA is an integral part of the Program Description as it refines the types of P2P approaches applicants must respond to based on the country in which the program will be implemented. Each USAID Mission is unique in how it seeks to utilize P2P programming to address underlying conflict dynamics and how P2P programming can best complement other existing peacebuilding or conflict-sensitive approaches already being implemented on the ground.

For more information about P2P programming, please refer to USAID’s “People-to-People Peacebuilding: A Program Guide” at:
<http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/CMMP2PGuidelines2010-01-19.pdf>

4. Indicators of Successful Projects

Successful applications under this funding opportunity will clearly respond to the Program Description, the relevant Country-Specific Program Information (Annex 1), the merit review criteria, and the submission instructions provided in this RFA. Below are some characteristics of successful project profiles:

- Successful programs demonstrate *people-to-people approaches to reconciliation* based on a context and conflict analysis that leads to a concrete hypothesis through a defined *theory of change*. Programs clearly articulate which people or conflicting groups are brought together and why those chosen groups are most relevant based on the conflict context. For additional guidance on theories of change in conflict mitigation and reconciliation, please refer to CMM’s “Theories and Indicators of Change (THINC) Briefing Paper.”¹
- Successful programs have *focused and realistic approaches in which the implementation of activities flows from the context analysis and theory of change*. Activities aim to address underlying grievances that manifest as adversarial relationships between groups and are innovative and based in best practices. Activities build upon one another in a logical, well-sequenced manner and are organized in a way that is consistent with resources and scope of activities. A single program is likely unable to realistically address the multidimensional aspects of one conflict, so a clear explicit focus and justification of that focus is part of a successful program design.

¹http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnaed181.pdf

- Successful programs *explicitly and intentionally create linkages between the reconciliation intervention's immediate objectives and peace writ large and/or community- or national-level peace efforts or structural reforms*. USAID considers these types of projects to be the most effective people-to-people projects. USAID supports the Aid Effectiveness agenda, including the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Central to this agenda is strengthening the relationship between state and society and fostering legitimate and effective formal and informal institutions. As described in USAID's "People-to-People Peacebuilding: A Program Guide," and in alignment with the Aid Effectiveness agenda, *effective conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs address both the attitudinal and institutional dimensions of conflict*. For more information regarding the Aid Effectiveness agenda and the New Deal, please see the footnoted websites.²
- Successful programs *reflect thoughtful consideration of any risks that may result by bringing together conflicting parties and provide sufficient explanation of risk mitigation measures, including appropriate safeguards to avoid intensifying the conflict or creating harmful situations for participants*. Recognizing that interventions become part of the conflict context, thoughtful programs reflect on the impact of planned activities and analyze their potential effect(s) on the conflict environment. For additional guidance on a *Do No Harm* approach to conflict mitigation and reconciliation, please consult "People-to-People Peacebuilding: A Program Guide."
- Successful programs *incorporate gender considerations throughout all aspects of their approach – including design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation – in a substantive and integrated manner*. DCHA/CMM recognizes societies often prescribe separate and distinct roles for men and women, which in turn shape their experiences and participation in violent conflict. Effective programs are based on a thorough understanding of male and female experiences and consider how to leverage both groups in mitigating conflict. Successful program activities reflect a gender analysis and present detailed rationale for how gender considerations impact the program. For more guidance on gender analysis and integration, please see the following references: ADS Chapter 205 "Integrating Gender Equality and Female Empowerment in USAID's Program Cycle" (<https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/205>), the USAID Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/gender-equality>), and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, which can be found at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000))
- Successful programs *reflect strong local engagement in all design and programming aspects of the intervention*. USAID recognizes peacebuilding activities are most effective when they are "locally owned," and thus engagement of local entities is essential for sustainability of programmatic goals and outcomes. Local engagement in the past has been supported by applications submitted by local entities, applications that include local partners in conducting substantive work, and/or applications that include components focused on strengthening the technical and organizational capacity of local entities.

² www.newdeal4peace.org and www.g7plus.org

- Successful programs *articulate how program approaches incorporate ongoing conflict analysis to inform how interventions adapt to changing contexts*. Conflict environments are dynamic, and thus, successful approaches incorporate periodic reassessment to inform if and how the approach needs to be adapted during the implementation period.
- Successful follow-on people-to-people programs *demonstrate achievements/results from previous or on-going activities, describe why a follow-on activity merits additional funding* (continuing/new/adapted activities based on prior results, lessons learned, changes in the conflict context, etc. and additional results anticipated if additional funding is received), and *explain how continued programming will contribute to a sustainable approach/results*. Simply applying for another grant because a previous grant has ended, or a current grant is coming to an end, is not a strong justification for additional funding.

5. Indicators of Projects that are NOT Well-Suited for this Funding Opportunity

DCHA/CMM understands applicants' time is valuable, and thus wishes to clearly state not only the characteristics of applications that may be competitive to receive funding, but also the characteristics of applications which are *not* well-suited for consideration. Examples of activities that are *not* suitable include:

- Programs that do not clearly include a people-to-people component and do not clearly articulate this theme throughout the application.
- Programs that are individual research endeavors with limited interaction with in-country stakeholders and/or minimal in-country activities.
- So-called "study tour" projects or program components that do not clearly articulate why the theory of change is dependent on removing participants/beneficiaries from the conflict context.
- Programs that remove participants from the country of operation for any activity without discussing why relocation of an activity or activities is uniquely essential to the theory of change as well as how planned interactions will be sustained in a safe way upon return.
- Programs that focus entirely on standard development practice with no reference to the conflict context.

6. Country-Specific Program Information

People-to-people peacebuilding programming in the following countries is eligible for funding under this RFA:

Table 1. Countries Eligible for Programming under RFA No. 7200AA18RFA00008

Europe/Eurasia	Africa	Latin America
Georgia Kosovo Macedonia	Burkina Faso Ethiopia Kenya Mali Niger Senegal	Colombia Honduras Jamaica

To ensure synergy with existing USAID programming and to respond to the country-specific context, brief Country-Specific Program Information is included for each eligible country.

Please refer to Annex 1 of this RFA for Country-Specific Program Information. Applicants should carefully consider how their proposed programming will complement and support USAID priorities.

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SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated

Subject to funding availability, USAID intends to provide approximately US \$16,000,000 in total USAID funding. Actual funding amounts are subject to availability of funds, as well as content, quality, and number of applications received, needs, and competing priorities.

USAID intends to award multiple awards pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity.

2. Funding Ranges

Applications requesting less than a minimum amount of US \$100,000 in USAID funding (\$600,000 for Georgia) or more than a maximum amount of US \$1,500,000 in USAID funding will not be considered. Within this funding range there will be two separate competitive categories. One competitive category, in the range of US\$100,000 to US \$800,000 (\$600,000 to \$800,000 for Georgia), will be exclusively for applications from local entities. The other competitive category, in the range of US \$800,000 to US \$1,500,000, will be open to both local and non-local entities. This funding structure applies to all countries covered by the RFA, with the exception of Colombia and Kosovo, where both funding categories will be restricted to local entities.

To qualify as a local entity for the purpose of this RFA, the entity must:

- a) be legally organized under the laws of the country receiving assistance;
- b) have its principal place of business or operations in the country receiving assistance;
- c) be majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country receiving assistance; and
- d) be managed by a governing body, the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country receiving assistance.

The terms “majority owned” and “managed by” include, without limitation, beneficiary interests and 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.

Local entities do not include subsidiaries, affiliates, or member entities of organizations organized or headquartered outside of the country where the proposed activity will take place. Local entities also do not include public international organizations as described in USAID’s Automated Directives System (ADS) Chapter 308 or their subsidiaries, affiliates, or member entities.

Limitation on Subawards to Non-Local Entities:

Prospective local entity applicants are hereby advised of the Standard Provision entitled “Limitation on Subawards to Non-Local Entities (July 2014),” which applies to any local entity

submitting an application for consideration in the funding category of US \$100,000 to US \$800,000 (\$600,000 to \$800,000 for Georgia) and to all local entities submitting an application for programming in Colombia and Kosovo. In accordance with this provision, by submission of an application and execution of the award, the applicant/recipient agrees that at least fifty (50) percent of the cost of the award performance incurred for personnel must be expended for employees of the prime/local entity. The full text of this provision is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mab>.

Summary of funding ranges / competitive categories:

Funding Range between \$100,000 and \$800,000

- Local Entities Only (\$600,000 to \$800,000 for Georgia)

Funding Range between \$800,000 and \$1,500,000

- Local Entities
- Non-Local Entities (except for Colombia and Kosovo)

There is no limit to the number of applications any one entity, local or non-local, may submit. Please see the text box below for illustrative examples to commonly asked questions.

Question: My organization is a local entity but would like to apply for funding over \$800,000. May we submit an application for a program that costs \$900,000?

Answer: Yes, a local entity may submit an application for funding in either competitive category and funding range. However, an application for \$900,000 will be reviewed in the \$800,000 to \$1,500,000 competitive category along with all non-local entities.

Question: My international organization would like to submit an application for \$790,000. Are we eligible to submit it?

Answer: No. Only local entities may submit applications for the \$100,000 to \$800,000 competitive category.

USAID reserves the right to fund any one or none of the applications submitted, or to fund parts of applications. Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID, nor does it commit USAID to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any application.

3. Start Date and Period of Performance for Federal Awards

The period of performance anticipated herein will be for a minimum period of one (1) year (three (3) years for Ethiopia and Georgia) and a maximum period of four (4) years from the date of award. Applications for less than one year or greater than four years will not be considered. USAID reserves the right to incrementally fund activities over the duration of the program, if

necessary, depending on program length, performance against approved program indicators, and availability of funds.

The estimated start date will be on or about the date of signature of the award. Specific start and ends dates will be negotiated with successful applicants. For design and planning purposes, applicants may assume a project start date in calendar year 2019.

4. Type of Award and Substantial Involvement

USAID anticipates that either grants or cooperative agreements will be awarded as a result of this RFA. USAID Missions will determine the type of award on a case-by-case basis. USAID Missions may also decide to award a fixed amount award instead of a traditional grant.³ Awards to PIOs will be subject to compliance with ADS 308.

Depending on the application(s) that is/are received and selected, USAID Missions may decide to be “substantially involved” in the implementation of the program, and therefore award a cooperative agreement(s) instead of a grant(s).

The applicant will operate in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant or cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements are identical to grants except that USAID may be substantially involved in one or more of the following areas:

- USAID approval of the recipient’s implementation plans (limited to not more frequently than annually).
- USAID approval of specified key personnel (limited to five (5) positions or five percent (5%) of the recipient employees working under the award, whichever is greater).
- USAID and recipient collaboration or joint participation, which includes one or more of the following:
 - o Collaborative involvement in selection of advisory committee members (USAID may also choose to become a member), if applicable;
 - o USAID concurrence on the substantive provisions of sub-awards;
 - o USAID approval of the recipient’s monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans (to the extent that such information is not included in the application); and
 - o USAID monitoring to authorize specified kinds of direction or redirection because of interrelationships with other projects.
- USAID authority to immediately halt a construction activity.

5. Title to Property

Property title under the resultant agreement will vest with the Recipient in accordance with the requirements under the relevant regulations (see Section F.2).

³ A Fixed Amount Award is appropriate for supporting projects with very specific and defined elements, when the USAID Agreement Officer is confident that a reasonable estimate of the actual cost of the overall effort can be established, and USAID can define accomplishment of the purpose of the grant through defined milestones. USAID’s policy concerning Fixed Amount Awards can be found in ADS 303.3.25 at <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303>

6. Authorized Geographic Code

The geographic code for the procurement of commodities and services under this program is 937 (the United States, the recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries, but excluding any country that is a prohibited source). Geographic code 935 (any area or country including the recipient country, but excluding any country that is a prohibited source) may be authorized on an individual award basis in accordance with the requirements in ADS 310 and ADS 308.3.11(e) (for PIOs).

7. Purpose of the Award

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient and under the subject program is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation of the Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation Programs and Activities (Global Reconciliation Fund) as authorized by Federal statute.

The successful Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives and the efficient and effective administration of the award through the application of sound management practices. The Recipient will assume responsibility for administering Federal funds in a manner consistent with underlying agreements, program objectives, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. The Recipient using its own unique combination of staff, facilities, and experience, has the primary responsibility for employing whatever form of sound organization and management techniques may be necessary in order to assure proper and efficient administration of the resulting award.

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SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

USAID encourages applications from potential new partners. USAID will not accept applications from individuals.

USAID welcomes applications from entities that have not previously received financial assistance from USAID. However, awards to these entities may be delayed because USAID generally must conduct pre-award surveys of these entities in order to make a risk assessment decision, in accordance with ADS 303.3.9 (for NGOs; ADS 308 for PIOs). Please refer to Section C.2 for additional information on pre-award surveys.

The following types of entities (both local⁴ and non-local) are **eligible** to apply for funding under this RFA, subject to the restrictions described below (e.g., only local entities may submit applications in Colombia and Kosovo, and in the lower funding category globally):

(a) U.S. and Non-U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

(i) U.S. and Non-U.S. Non-Profit NGOs

Qualified U.S. and non-U.S. private non-profit NGOs may apply for funding under this RFA.

(ii) U.S. and Non-U.S. For-Profit NGOs

Qualified U.S. and non-U.S. private for-profit NGOs may apply for funding under this RFA. Potential for-profit applicants should note that, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.400(g), profit—which is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs—is not an allowable cost for recipients of USAID assistance awards, and cannot be part of the project budget. However, the prohibition against profit does not apply to procurement contracts made under the assistance instrument when the recipient procures goods and services in accordance with the Procurement Standards found in 2 CFR 200.317 to 326.

(b) U.S. and Non-U.S. Colleges and Universities

Qualified U.S. and non-U.S. colleges and universities may apply for funding under this RFA. USAID generally treats colleges and universities as NGOs, rather than governmental organizations; hence, both public and private colleges and universities are eligible, except public colleges and universities in countries that are ineligible for assistance under the FAA or related appropriations acts. Please note, however, that this RFA is focused on people-to-people programming that addresses divisions within a community and is not intended to fund academic research.

⁴ See Section B.2 of this RFA.

(c) Public International Organizations (PIOs)

PIOs may apply for funding under this RFA. Please see ADS 308 for USAID policy on defining PIOs: <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/308>

(d) Partial Restriction of Eligibility to Local Entities

(i) Funding Categories

Only local entities may apply for funding in the lower funding category as described in Section B.2 of this RFA. Both local and non-local entities may apply for funding in the higher funding category.

(ii) Country-Specific Restrictions: Colombia and Kosovo

For programming in Colombia and Kosovo, only local entities as defined in Section B.2 of this RFA may apply as the principal Applicant.

2. Additional Eligibility Information

Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new Federal awards under this RFA.

The Recipient must be a responsible entity. The successful applicant(s) will be subject to a responsibility or risk assessment determination by the Agreement Officer (AO). The AO may determine that a pre-award survey is required to conduct an examination that will determine whether the prospective recipient has the necessary organization, experience, accounting and operational controls, and technical skills – or ability to obtain them – in order to achieve the objectives of the program and comply with the terms and conditions of the award. Accounting systems, audit issues, and management capability questions may be reviewed as part of this process. If notified by USAID that a pre-award survey is necessary, applicants must prepare in advance the required information and documents. Prospective NGO applicants should refer to ADS Chapter 303.3.9.1 for additional information about pre-award surveys. Prospective PIO applicants should refer to ADS Chapter 308 for information about pre-award surveys and pre-award audits. A pre-award survey or audit does not commit USAID to make an award to any entity.

3. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching means the portion of project costs not paid by Federal (USG) funds. Cost share may include project costs incurred by the Recipient from its own funds, or project costs financed with cash, services, or property contributed or donated to the Recipient from other non-USG sources, including sub-recipients. Cost share becomes a condition of an award when it is part of the approved award budget. Cost sharing is not required for applicants to be eligible to receive USAID funding under this RFA. However, applicants may voluntarily propose a cost share component to demonstrate their commitment to the proposed activities and to promote

sustainability. For NGO recipient contributions to qualify as cost share, the cost share must be verifiable from the recipient's records. Cost share can be audited. For U.S. entities, cost share is subject to the requirements of 2 CFR 200.306, 2 CFR 700.10, and the Standard Provision, "Cost Sharing (Matching)"; for non-U.S. entities it is subject to the Standard Provision, "Cost Share." Refer to Section F.2 of this RFA for links to these regulations and policies. The USAID Mission Agreement Officer will determine whether any proposed cost share will become a condition of the award. While there is no specific policy guidance regarding PIO cost share contributions and PIOs are not subject to the cost share regulations that apply to NGOs, PIOs submitting applications for funding under this RFA are encouraged to propose cost share.

4. Other

Any applicant may submit more than one application for funding in response to this RFA.

There is no limit to the number of applications any one entity, local or non-local, may submit.

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SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Agency Point of Contact

Name: Mrs. Rachel Baltes
Title: Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
Address: U.S. Agency for International Development
Office of Acquisition and Assistance
301 4th Street, S.W. (SA -44), Room 524-B
Washington, D.C. 20523
E-mail: FY18CMMP2P@usaid.gov

Questions and Answers:

Questions regarding this RFA must be submitted in writing via e-mail to Ms. Rachel Baltes at FY18CMMP2P@usaid.gov no later than **March 23, 2018 at 5:00 pm Washington D.C. local time** to provide sufficient time to address the questions and incorporate the questions and answers as an amendment to this solicitation. Any information given to a prospective Applicant concerning this RFA will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Applicants as an amendment to this RFA, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

For information regarding potential Mission outreach conferences related to this RFA:

USAID Missions participating in this RFA may offer outreach conferences in their respective countries in connection with this RFA. USAID prioritizes reaching out to potential and local partners through various venues to inform applicants of available opportunities, help them connect with USAID guidance, and answer any questions about applying for funding from, or partnering with, USAID. **Please check individual Mission websites (see Country-Specific Program Information in Annex 1) for information regarding any planned or potential outreach events in-country.**

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Applicants are expected to review, understand, and comply with all aspects of the RFA.

Preparation of Applications:

Each Applicant must furnish the information required by this RFA. A complete application consists of two parts: (1) Technical Application and (2) Cost/Business Application. The Technical Application and the Cost/Business Application should be separate from each other (i.e., separate documents/files). Additional information beyond what is requested in this RFA will not be reviewed.

Please note that no application package will be uploaded to the Grants.gov website for this funding opportunity. Applicants must follow the instructions contained in this RFA for preparing the Application.

Any erasures or other changes to the application must be initiated by the person signing the application. Applications signed by an agent on behalf of the Applicant must be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the U.S. Government except for evaluation purpose, should mark the title page with the following legend:

“This application includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the U.S. Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, a grant is awarded to this Applicant as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. 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 U.S. 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 is contained in sheets {insert sheet numbers}, each marked with the following legend:

‘Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application.’”

Applicants should retain for their records one (1) copy of the application and all enclosures which accompany it.

Please note that, while USAID will endeavor to handle any marked application information consistent with the legend above, it may not be able to do so where disclosure is compelled by law.

3. Application Submission Procedures

It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that all necessary documentation is complete and received on time.

Applications must be submitted electronically directly to the relevant USAID Mission Point of Contact (POC) and received by 5:00PM local USAID Mission time on April 23, 2018. Refer to the Country-Specific Program Information in Annex1 for identification of the Mission POCs. Applications should be submitted in compatible MS Word (or PDF with Optical Character Recognition) format and budgets as text accessible, Excel spreadsheets. Documents containing handwritten signatures may be scanned and submitted as PDF or other compatible format. **Do not submit electronic copies in .zip format.** Applications should be submitted in **ONE e-mail message** inclusive of attachments. The maximum size for one email inclusive of all attachments is 25MB. If an applicant's full application exceeds this size limit, the applicant may submit the application in multiple emails; however, such emails should be clearly labeled to ensure that the relevant USAID Mission Point of Contact receives the full application. The ONE e-mail inclusive of attachments should be labeled as follows: “Country Name – Entity Name – Program Name.”

For example, “Burundi – NGO X – Conflict Mitigation Program.” If the application is sent in multiple emails, the emails should be labeled as “Country Name – Entity Name – Program Name – Email [insert #] of [insert #].” Printed hardcopies will not be accepted. The body of the e-mail submission should contain specific reference to country name, entity name, title of the application, contact information for the applicant, and a designation of whether the entity is applying for the local or non-local funding category.

Do **not** submit your application via the www.grants.gov website. Instead, electronically submit your application directly to the relevant USAID Mission POC (as identified in the Country-Specific Program Information in Annex 1).

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that files are complete and transmitted to the correct person/e-mail by the deadline. USAID Missions will confirm receipt of applications. **Please inquire immediately with the relevant Mission POC if your application has not been acknowledged within two business days of submission. If you have not received an official confirmation from USAID, then your application may not have been received and may not be considered for review.**

After you have sent your application electronically, immediately check your own email to confirm that the attachments you intended to send were indeed sent. If you discover an error in your transmission, please send the material again and note in the subject line of the email that it is a "corrected" submission. Do not send the same email more than once unless there has been a change, and if so, please note that it is a "corrected" email.

USAID bears no responsibility for data errors or omissions resulting from transmission or conversion processes. USAID may accept applications past the deadline due to transmission difficulties that are not the fault of, or within the control of, the Applicant (such as a server outage), with the approval of the USAID Mission Agreement Officer.

Applicants may contact the Mission POC if technical difficulties arise in the submission of applications.

So that applications can be stored electronically and include only searchable text, facsimile and scanned applications (other than scanned documents containing handwritten signatures) will not be accepted without approval of the Agreement Officer.

Summary of Due Dates and Point of Contact Information:

	Submission Due Date and Time	Submission Point of Contact
Questions	March 23, 2018 at 5:00PM local time in Washington, D.C.	Mrs. Rachel Baltes at FY18CMMP2P@usaid.gov
Applications	April 23, 2018 at 5:00PM local USAID Mission time	E-mail address of relevant USAID Mission POC (refer to Annex 1)

4. **Technical Application Format**

The Technical Application will be the most important factor for consideration in selection for award. The Technical Application should be specific, complete, and presented concisely. The application should demonstrate the Applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. The application should take into account the requirements of the program and merit review criteria found in this RFA.

The Technical Application must be in English.

Applications should be single-spaced, written in no smaller than 12-point font, and in Times New Roman or a similar typeset. Each page should be consecutively numbered. The page limit for the application is 15 pages—no pages after page 15 will be reviewed. The Cover Page and Table of Contents will not be included in the page count and should not be numbered.

Applications should have margins of not less than one inch on all sides and should be formatted in the portrait style (not landscape) for all text portions. Monitoring and evaluation plans and illustrative first-year activity plans may be submitted in landscape style but each page will be included in the total page count. All graphics must be included in the page count.

Applicants must submit the following documentation marked as “MANDATORY” as part of the technical application. Documents marked as “OPTIONAL” are not required to be submitted.

- **(OPTIONAL) Cover Page:** The applicant may submit a cover page, which should provide the below bulleted information. The Cover Page should not be numbered:
 - The funding opportunity number (RFA No. 7200AA18RFA00008).
 - Name of the applicant entity(ies) (with the name of the lead or primary applicant entity clearly identified and a list of any proposed sub-recipients).
 - Title of the application.
 - The name of the USAID Mission to which the application is being submitted.
 - The applicant's DUNS number.
 - The applicant's status as a Local or Non Local Organization
 - The total cost of the program, denoting the USAID funding request and any proposed cost share amount. If local subpartners are proposed, the applicant should denote how much money will be managed by the subpartners.
 - The contact person for the primary applicant, including the individual's name, title or position, the entity's mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number. It should be clearly denoted if the contact person has the authority to negotiate on behalf of the applicant, and, if not, the contact information for the appropriate person with authority to negotiate should also be listed.
- **(OPTIONAL) Table of Contents:** List all page numbers and attachments. The Table of Contents page should not be numbered and will not count against the page limit.

(MANDATORY) Technical Narrative: The narrative should include an **Executive Summary** that summarizes the key elements of the applicant's technical application and provides overall cost figures, e.g., the total amount of USAID funds requested, the amount managed by the subpartners and any cost sharing contribution. The technical narrative should describe the applicant's proposed technical approach and address the elements outlined in Sections E.1 and E.2 of this RFA. **Applicants are encouraged to organize the narrative section in the same order as the merit review criteria (see Section E.2).**

- **(MANDATORY) Discussion of monitoring and evaluation:** This should provide illustrative proposed indicators, including (as appropriate) unit of measure, whether/how data will be disaggregated (by sex, age, and other categories relevant to the conflict), and how indicators will be used to measure the program theory of change. It may also include data source, method of data collection, reporting frequency, baseline, and targets. ADS Chapter 201 "Program Cycle Operational Policy" (<https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/201>) provides additional information about USAID's approach to monitoring and evaluation. This documentation may be submitted as an attachment but should be consecutively numbered and will count against the total page count.
- **(MANDATORY ONLY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY NON-LOCAL ENTITIES, IF PARTNERSHIP(S) WITH LOCAL ENTITY(IES) IS/ARE PROPOSED) Capacity Building Plan or equivalent discussion of support for building local capacity):** If a non-local application includes partnerships with local entities, the application should include a capacity building plan and denote the relevant budgets to be allotted to and managed by the partners. Applicants that are local entities do not need to submit a Capacity Building Plan. This plan will count against the total page count.
- **(OPTIONAL) Organogram:** An organogram may be submitted to illustrate how the organization and program will be managed and staffed including relationships between the prime applicant and any sub-partners. This will not count against the page limit.
- **(OPTIONAL) Map:** A map of the conflict-affected areas may be included. Maps are helpful in illustrating how the program will function as well as visually depicting elements of the context analysis. This will not count against the page limit.

5. Cost/Business Application Format

The Cost/Business Application must be in English with monetary amounts in U.S. dollars. There is no page limit for the Cost/Business Application. However, unnecessarily elaborate brochures, art work, or other presentations beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective application in response to this RFA are not desired.

Applicants must submit the following MANDATORY documents as part of the Cost/Business application:

- **(MANDATORY) SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance):** Applicants may download Standard Forms from the Grants.gov website (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html#sortby=1>).⁵ Applicants need only complete the fields in the form that are marked with an asterisk (*), as applicable. The form must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the applicant entity. Instructions on how to complete the form are available on the Grants.gov website at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424-instructions.html>.
- **(MANDATORY) SF-424A (Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs):** Applicants may download Standard Forms from the Grants.gov website (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html#sortby=1>). Instructions for completing this form are available on the Grants.gov website at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424a-instructions.html>.
- **(MANDATORY) SF-424B (Assurances – Non-Construction Programs):** Applicants may download Standard Forms from the Grants.gov website (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html#sortby=1>). Instructions for completing this form are available on the Grants.gov website at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions/sf-424b-instructions.html>.
- **(MANDATORY) Detailed Budget (no page limit):** The applicant must provide an electronic copy of a detailed budget in U.S. dollars. The preferred format is Microsoft Excel with formulas and calculations unlocked and visible. The budget should detail the total costs for implementation of the proposed program for the full program period. It should clearly show how funds will be used to support the activities proposed in the applicant's technical narrative. The budget should display unit costs and costs by year (if applicable). Applicants should use the same budget categories as contained in the SF-424A, but include line item detail within each category. For example: Personnel (includes direct salaries and wages and the level of effort for each position), Fringe Benefits, Travel (indicate number of trips, unit cost per trip, airfare, per diem, etc.), Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Construction, Other Direct Costs (such as office rent/utilities, communications costs, USAID branding and marking costs, etc.), and Indirect Costs. Provide a cost breakdown for any contracts and sub-awards. Extensive contracts or sub-awards should follow the same budget format as submitted by the primary Applicant. Applicants proposing cost share must include cost share in the budget and must provide sufficient supporting information for USAID to determine whether the proposed cost

⁵ Although the Grants.gov website states that the copies of forms available on the site are for information only and cannot be submitted with your application package, this instruction refers to applications for submission through the Grants.gov system as opposed to applications submitted outside of the Grants.gov system. Since applications for this funding opportunity must be electronically submitted directly to the relevant Mission POC as identified in the Country Specific Program Information in Annex 1, applications submitted through the Grants.gov system will not comply with this submission requirement. Therefore Applicants may download the SF-424 forms from the Grants.gov website and must submit the completed forms with their application in accordance with the application submission instructions contained in this RFA.

share complies with the applicable regulations and policies (refer to Section C.3 of this RFA).

Please note: For applications submitted by non-local applicants that include partnership with local entities, applicants are encouraged to include in their budget the provision of financial resources to the local entity for the purposes of building management and technical capacity as well as to support implementation by local entities.

- **(MANDATORY) Budget Narrative or equivalent documentation (no page limit):** The budget narrative or equivalent documentation should explain all costs—and the basis of those costs—contained in the budget, including reference to sources used to substantiate the cost estimate (e.g., entity’s policy, payroll document, vendor quotes, etc.). The budget narrative should demonstrate how the budget supports and allocates sufficient and appropriate funding for all elements of the program activities, including monitoring and evaluation and capacity building. The budget narrative should detail what cost sharing, if any, will be contributed to the program, and provide sufficient information for USAID to determine whether the proposed cost share complies with the applicable regulations and policies (refer to Section C.3 of this RFA). Applicants with a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) with the USG should submit a copy of the NICRA to substantiate proposed indirect cost charges.
- **(MANDATORY ONLY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY LOCAL ENTITIES, REGARDLESS OF FUNDING CATEGORY) Proof of Qualifying Status as a Local Entity (no page limit):** Refer to Section B.2 for requirements to qualify as a local entity.

6. Potential Request for Additional Documentation

Upon consideration of award or during the negotiations leading to an award, Applicants may be required to submit additional documentation prior to issuance of an award. Applicants should not submit the information below with their applications. The information in this section is provided so that Applicants may become familiar with additional documentation that may be requested by the Agreement Officer.

Applicants should only submit the following documentation when specifically requested and required by USAID:

- **Certifications, Assurances, and Other Statements of Recipient:** Applicants may view the current Certifications, Assurances and Other Statements of the Recipient in ADS 303: <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303may> (Parts I-IV)
- **Branding Strategy and Marking Plan:** The Solicitation Standard Provisions for the Branding Strategy and Marking Plan are provided in Section H. Applicants may also view the provisions in ADS 303: <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303may> (Part V).

Applicants should include any estimated USAID branding and marking costs in their budget.

- **Reviewed Financial Statements Report⁶ or an Audited Financial Statements Report⁷:** Applicants who do not have a NICRA and cannot or choose not to use the 10% de minimis rate pursuant to 2 CFR 200.414(f) may be required to submit one of these reports during negotiations.
- Bylaws, constitution, and articles of incorporation, if applicable.
- Certificate of Compliance if your entity's systems have been certified by USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA); or copies of your entity's travel, procurement, financial management, accounting manual and personnel policies and procedures, etc.
- Any other information deemed necessary by the Agreement Officer to make an affirmative determination of responsibility (positive risk assessment determination).

7. **Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management**

USAID may not award to an Applicant until the Applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) requirements. Unless the applicant has an exemption under 2 CFR 25.110, all applicants will be required to comply with the following:

- (i) Be registered in SAM (www.sam.gov). SAM is streamlining processes, eliminating the need to enter the same data multiple times, and consolidating hosting to make the process of doing business with the government more efficient;
- (ii) Provide a valid unique entity identifier (Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number) in its application; and

⁶ A report issued by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) documenting that the review of the financial statements was performed in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services, and that management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation. The accountant must also state that he or she is not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements.

⁷ A report issued by an auditor documenting that the audit was conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and that the financial statements are the responsibility of management, and providing an opinion that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the company and that the results of operations are in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework (or issuing a qualified opinion if the financial statements are not in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework).

(iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements above by the time USAID is ready to make an award, USAID may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Prospective applicants who are not currently registered in SAM are advised to begin the registration process IMMEDIATELY. A webinar entitled “Doing Business with USAID: DUNS and SAM Systems 101” is available on the USAID Learning Lab website: <http://usaidlearninglab.org/library/doing-business-usaid-duns-and-sam-systems-101>. This website includes screencasts of the PowerPoint presentations, and translations of the presentations are available in Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole. For assistance with registering in SAM, please contact the supporting Federal Service Desk (FSD) at <https://www.fsd.gov/>. To obtain a DUNS number, please visit <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Quick reference guides for new grantee registration in SAM and foreign entity registration in SAM are also provided in Annexes 2 and 3, respectively.

8. Funding Restrictions

Pre-Award Costs – No costs chargeable to any award resulting from this RFA may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Agreement or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

Construction – NGO applicants who wish to propose any type of construction activity for funding under this RFA are advised to refer to USAID’s policy on construction activities under assistance, found at ADS 303.3.30 (<http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303>) and ADS 303maw, USAID Implementation of Construction Activities (<http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303maw>). Please also refer to the Standard Provision referenced therein, “Limiting Construction Activities (August 2013).” The construction policy is not applicable to funds provided through grants to PIOs.

Profit – USAID policy is not to award profit under assistance instruments. However, the prohibition against profit does not apply to procurement contracts made under the assistance instrument when the recipient procures goods and services in accordance with the Procurement Standards found in 2 CFR 200.317 to 326. All reasonable, allocable and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the agreement program and are in accordance with the applicable cost principles may be paid under the anticipated award.

9. Prohibition on Providing Federal Assistance to Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements – Representation (May 2017)

(a) Definitions.

“Contract” has the meaning given in 2 CFR Part 200.

“Contractor” means an entity that receives a contract as defined in 2 CFR Part 200.

“Internal confidentiality agreement or statement” means a confidentiality agreement or any other written statement that the recipient requires any of its employees or subrecipients to sign regarding nondisclosure of recipient information, except that it does not include confidentiality agreements arising out of civil litigation or confidentiality agreements that recipient employees or subrecipients sign at the behest of a Federal agency.

“Subaward” has the meaning given in 2 CFR Part 200.

“Subrecipient” has the meaning given in 2 CFR Part 200.

(b) In accordance with section 743 of Division E, Title VII, of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235) and its successor provisions in subsequent appropriations acts (and as extended in continuing resolutions), Government agencies are not permitted to use funds appropriated (or otherwise made available) for federal assistance to a nonFederal entity that requires its employees, subrecipients, or contractors seeking to report waste, fraud, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements that prohibit or otherwise restrict its employees, subrecipients, or contractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

(c) The prohibition in paragraph (b) of this provision does not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, (Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement), Form 4414 (Sensitive Compartmented Information Nondisclosure Agreement), or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

(d) Representation. By submission of its application, the prospective recipient represents that it will not require its employees, subrecipients, or contractors to sign or comply with internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting its employees, subrecipients, or contractors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse related to the performance of a Federal award to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information (for example, the Agency Office of the Inspector General).

(END OF PROVISION)

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SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Technical Discussion of Merit Review Criteria

The information below is a detailed technical discussion of the relevant points and concepts for inclusion in the technical application, which will be scored according to the merit review criteria in Section E.2.

NOTE: Applicants must not assume the merit review panels at all stages of competition will be familiar with the country in which the applicant proposes to work. In order to situate the proposed intervention for reviewers, the applicant’s conflict analysis must be focused, clear and explicit in describing the country context.

(a) Conflict Analysis and Theory of Change including Indicators

The application should be responsive to the Mission priorities as delineated in the Country-Specific Program Information in Annex 1. The applicant should identify the sources of conflict and impediments to reconciliation in a brief conflict analysis. A conflict analysis is the systematic study of the context, profile, causes, actors, and dynamics of conflict. As relevant to the proposed program’s theory of change, the analysis should identify and discuss the sources of grievance and resilience, the key actors, and the mobilizing factors that could facilitate the transformation of grievances into violence or opportunities to mitigate violence. Further, the conflict analysis should highlight any upcoming events which might trigger violence or represent moments of opportunity to bring adversaries together. The analysis should explicitly examine the key actors to conflict and peace. The analysis should include an understanding of the different roles, cultural norms, and identities of men, women⁸, and other gender minorities, and how these different experiences may contribute to the causes and consequences of conflict. The conflict analysis should also include a brief description of any other donor, government, private sector, or NGO activities that address the identified problem, including gaps in current programming and response, and how the applicant’s proposed program will complement the efforts of those other actors.⁹

The applicant should also include the theory or theories of change that underlie the proposed programmatic approach and the relevant monitoring indicators the applicant will use to measure their theory of change. A program theory of change outlines the cause and effect relationship underlying the proposed intervention and is often expressed as an *if-then* statement. A theory of change states what expected (changed) result will follow from a particular set of actions. A simple example is, “If I add more fuel to the fire, then it will burn hotter.” The application needs

⁸ In Sections E.1. (Technical Discussion of Merit Review Criteria) and, E.2. (Merit Review Criteria) there are several references to the different roles and cultural norms and identities of men and women. For such references applicants should also consider the different roles and cultural norms and identities of boys and girls when proposed activities are targeting or affecting youth. For these programs “men and women” can be interpreted as boys and girls.

⁹ Applicants can review the USAID Conflict Assessment Framework (CAF) for further understanding of conflict analysis. This is DCHA/CMM’s guiding publication for conducting in-country assessments of sources of grievances and resilience and may assist in clarifying what is expected in this section:
<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/technical-publications>

to clearly and logically explain the assumed connections between the challenges identified in the conflict analysis, the project's various actions and activities, and the goal of reducing conflict or building peace in a particular context. In order to make these connections clear and explicit the applicant should provide illustrative monitoring and evaluation indicators denoting how they will measure progress towards the expected change described in their theory of change.

If appropriate within the proposed people-to-people approach, the theory of change should also explain how the activities will link the reconciliation intervention's immediate goals to "peace writ large" (societal- or national-level peace efforts and/or structural reforms). Applicants are encouraged to look at broader literature on theories of change to inform their own program hypothesis and proposed measurements.¹⁰

(b) People-to-People Implementation Approach¹¹

People-to-people programs generally address patterns of prejudice and demonizing behaviors that reinforce the perceived differences between groups and hinder the development of relationships among parties to a conflict. The goal is to create opportunities for a series of interactions between conflicting groups in the community or region of focus to promote mutual understanding, trust, empathy, and resilient social ties. Programs should demonstrate opportunities for adversaries to address issues of violent behavior, reconcile differences, promote greater understanding and mutual trust, and work on common goals with regard to potential, ongoing, or recent conflict.

All applications should incorporate a people-to-people approach grounded in the conflict analysis and theory of change. The approach should be clear as to what specific people and/or groups in conflict will be brought together and why those groups are most relevant to mitigating conflict or building peace. For example, a program that focuses on all youth might be too broad (youth are not a monolithic population) whereas a program focused on politically disenfranchised youth is more specific and could be relevant for some contexts. The application should explain why these specified groups are of particular relevance to the conflict – e.g., are they key actors in the conflict or agents of peace? Do they have the potential to be motivated or mobilized toward engaging in violence or building peace within their communities?

¹⁰ Additional information on Theories of Change as they apply to conflict mitigation and peacebuilding may be found in *Theories of Change and Indicator Development in Conflict Management and Mitigation*, available at <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/technical-publications> and *Reflective Peacebuilding: A Planning, Monitoring, and Learning Toolkit* available at: http://kroc.nd.edu/sites/default/files/reflective_peacebuilding.pdf or on the *Beyond Intractability* website: http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/theories_of_change/?nid=1256

¹¹ Please see "People-to-People Peacebuilding: A Program Guide" on CMM's publication page at <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/CMMP2PGuidelines2010-01-19.pdf>

Please see the Baseline Report of a CMM thematic evaluation of four People-to-People programs that engage conflicting groups whose differences include religious identity at http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00mh6z.pdf

The applicant should demonstrate how the proposed activities are logically sequenced and build upon one another in order to achieve the desired outcome based on the proposed approach and methodology. The applicant should clearly denote the number of times conflicting groups, and/or those most relevant to the conflict, will be brought together and how their interactions will be facilitated. The application should address the gaps in current responses, potential triggers and other moments of opportunity, as identified in the conflict analysis, and demonstrate how planned activities will be strategically implemented to capitalize on these moments. The applicant should demonstrate an understanding of men's and women's cultural norms including how their roles may have changed as a result of the conflict to capitalize on their potential to mitigate conflict, and take steps to assure appropriate participation. The applicant should demonstrate how their approach has built-in measures to robustly support the long-term sustainability of the overarching program goals and desired outcomes and have an impact on conflict mitigation that lasts beyond the life of the program.

The applicant should set out a realistic outline of tasks and deliverables, denoting who will be responsible for the management and implementation. The applicant should include anticipated timeframes, potential challenges toward implementation, opportunities, and persons responsible for achieving each task.

If the application is for a continuation of a current program or a follow-on program, it should describe achievements/results from previous or on-going activities and explain in detail, preferably with outcome and impact indicator data and results, why a follow-on activity would lead to further impact and merits additional funding.

(c) Do No Harm (DNH)

Throughout the application, the applicant should reflect thoughtful consideration of any risks that may result by bringing together conflicting parties and should provide sufficient explanation of how appropriate safeguards will be established and monitored to avoid intensifying the conflict or creating harmful situations for participants. DNH should not be an isolated discussion in the application but should be addressed holistically throughout the technical application.

Any activity being implemented will become part of the conflict context. Thus, the impact of planned activities should be analyzed with regard to how they will affect the conflict environment and how the conflict environment will affect activities. It is not satisfactory to simply indicate the program will "Do No Harm." Thoughtful analysis and specific examples of how DNH measures are integrated into all activities is necessary. The applicant should explain how the proposed program will not exacerbate tensions in a way that will spark further violence or, at the very least, explain how the applicant will mitigate against any risks and ensure individuals or communities will not be placed at greater risk as a consequence of the program.

The applicant should also describe how they plan to monitor (perhaps through indicators) and adapt their DNH strategies and approaches to ensure DNH throughout all stages of design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

(d) Local Engagement (For Non-Local Applicants Only)

Non-local entities will need to include robust discussions about local engagement as an effort to increase sustainability, demonstrate technical and monetary commitment to local partners, and ensure context appropriate programming. Only non-local entities will be reviewed according to this sub-criterion.

Applicants should demonstrate a clear understanding of the role that local entities and institutions are playing or can play in conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. When feasible, it is preferable that local partners are at the forefront of USAID-supported peacebuilding efforts, per USAID Forward.¹²

In cases where the primary applicant is not a local entity, it is strongly encouraged that the applicants work closely with local partners on all phases of program design, implementation, and evaluation. Non-local applicants should outline in detail how local perspectives have contributed to the conflict analysis, program design, implementation, and evaluation.

Local partners should be included in and responsible for management of program activities and budgets. Non-local applicants should outline in detail how local partners are included in program management, as well as how much of the budget will be implemented directly by the local partners. The applicant should specifically note how the budget (include dollar values or percentages) will be distributed to and managed by local partners as a demonstration of commitment to local entities and local sustainability.

The applicant should also include how it will work with its local partners to build both the organizational and technical capacities. The application should include a Capacity Building Plan on strengthening the technical skills of its local partner in conflict mitigation and peacebuilding, as well as organizational management capacity.¹³

In cases where a non-local applicant was not able to partner with a local entity or institution, does not consider it feasible to do so, or does not consider it in the program's best interest, the applicant should clearly explain in the application why that is the case.

2. Scoring of Merit Review Criteria

USAID will conduct a merit review in accordance with the criteria outlined below for all applications recommended for consideration at the Step Two review stage (refer to Section E.4

¹² <http://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/progress-data/usaaid-forward>

¹³ *Capacity building* means organizational and technical strengthening to assist recipients to improve their implementation planning and management, monitoring and evaluation, and other organizational systems critical to effective service delivery and organizational sustainability. Technical capacity development should include strengthening the local entity's ability to effectively engage in conflict mitigation and/or peacebuilding, for example, so they can eventually assume the central responsibilities associated with the program.

of this RFA for a description of the review and selection process). A detailed discussion of each criterion is included above in Section E.1 and should be referred to, addressed, and incorporated in the development of the application.

Non-local entities will be reviewed on a 100-point scale for all criteria below, including local engagement.

Local entities will be reviewed on a 90-point scale for all criteria below, excluding local engagement.

In cases where local entities will compete with non-local entities in the higher funding category (i.e., applications for \$800,000 to \$1,500,000), the local entity scores will be weighted in a way to review all applicants according to the same number of maximum points (100). Local entity scores will be divided by 0.90 to achieve a weighted score. For example, the weighted score of a local entity whose score on the 90-point scale is 81 points will be 90 points on the 100-point scale (81/0.90).

- a) **Conflict Analysis and Theory of Change including Indicators (35 points):** The extent to which the application identifies the sources of conflict, impediments to reconciliation, windows of opportunity and potential triggers as it relates to the applicant's proposed activities, as well as incorporates gender and key stakeholder considerations and is responsive to Country-Specific Program Information included in Annex 1. Additionally, the extent to which the application clearly explains the theory or theories of change and the assumed connections and logic between the conflict analysis, the project's various actions, and the goal of reducing conflict or building peace, inclusive of monitoring and evaluation indicators denoting how change and progress will be measured as delineated in Section E(1)(a).
- b) **People-to-People Implementation Approach (40 points):** The extent to which the applicant incorporates a relevant people-to-people approach clearly denoting what specific people and/or groups in conflict will be brought together and why those groups are most relevant to mitigating conflict or building peace. The extent to which the proposed activities are logically sequenced and build upon one another in order to achieve the desired outcome and be responsive to gaps, windows and triggers, as well as demonstrates a gender relational approach. The extent to which the approach has built-in measures to robustly support the long-term sustainability of the overarching program goals. The extent to which the applicant sets out a realistic outline of tasks and deliverables, anticipated timeframes, potential challenges toward implementation, opportunities, and persons responsible for achieving each task. In addition, if the application is for a continuation of a current program or is a follow-on program, the extent to which the applicant describes achievements/results from previous or on-going activities and demonstrates in detail, preferably with outcome and impact indicator data and results, how a continuation or follow-on activity would lead to further impact. All of these points are further delineated in Section E.1(b).
- c) **Do No Harm (15 points):** The extent to which the applicant demonstrates, including specific examples, how the applicant will ensure and monitor the safety of all participants

and prepare to mitigate any risk of exacerbating tensions in such a way that will not worsen the drivers of conflict or spark violence. The extent to which the application reflects thoughtful analysis and provides specific examples of how DNH measures are integrated into all design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation activities as delineated in Section E.1(b)(ii)

d) Local Engagement

Local Engagement – *For Non-Local Applicants Only (10 points)*: The extent to which the applicant includes local perspectives into the conflict analysis, design, implementation and evaluation, including budget and management responsibilities. The extent to which an applicant promotes, strengthens, and has robust local partnerships as demonstrated by explicit technical and monetary commitments (dollar value or percentage of budget) to local partners and the corresponding Capacity Building Plans as delineated in Section E.1(c)(i).

3. Cost Review

While cost is less important than technical merit, the cost applications of the apparently successful technical applications will be evaluated for cost effectiveness, reasonableness, allocability, and allowability in accordance with the applicable cost principles. Proposed cost share will be reviewed for compliance with applicable regulations and policies (see Section C.3 of this RFA).

4. Review and Selection Process

The Global Reconciliation Fund Program utilizes a two-step review process:

Step One – Mission-level Review: After the application submission deadline, participating USAID Missions will have approximately thirty (30) days to review all applications received and to submit their findings along with the applications recommended for further review to DCHA/CMM. Specifically, Missions will first determine whether an application is eligible pursuant to the eligibility and submission requirements and instructions in this RFA. Missions will then review all eligible applications to determine to what extent the application is responsive to the key technical requirements of this RFA, namely that (a) the application includes a people-to-people approach, and (b) the proposed program is linked to Mission priorities as delineated in the Country-Specific Program Information in Annex 1. Requirement (a) is more important than (b).

At the completion of the Step One review, USAID Missions will notify each applicant in writing via e-mail of their application status (either unsuccessful or recommended for Step Two consideration). Recommendation of applications to DCHA/CMM for Step Two consideration at this stage is in no way an indication that applicants will receive funding under this RFA.

Step Two – DCHA/CMM Global Review: Within approximately forty-five (45) days of DCHA/CMM's receipt of the Missions' findings and recommendations, DCHA/CMM will convene a selection committee to review the Missions' recommendations and select applications

to be recommended for funding at the global level. The Step Two review will be conducted in accordance with the merit review criteria set forth in Section E.2. DCHA/CMM will review all Mission-recommended applications and make final recommendations for negotiation and award. USAID reserves the right to take into consideration factors such as USAID priorities, geographic considerations, and USAID management capacities when determining final recommendations for award. The final recommendations will then be provided to implementing USAID Missions for negotiation, risk assessment determinations, and award. At the completion of the Step Two review and all necessary procedural elements, USAID/Washington will notify each Step Two applicant in writing via e-mail of their application status. It can take several months for applicants to be notified of the status of their applications.

USAID reserves the right to adjust these timelines as the number of applicants and other scheduling factors may require.

5. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Applicants notified of apparently successful application status following the completion of the Step Two review will subsequently be contacted by the Agreement Officer from the relevant USAID Mission to begin negotiations regarding certain specifics of the award. Notification of successful application status is **not** an authorization to begin performing proposed activities or performance in general. For planning and design purposes, Applicants can assume a project start date in 2019. Specific start and end dates will be negotiated with successful applicants.

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SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

Award of the agreement contemplated by this RFA cannot be made until funds have been appropriated, allocated, and committed through internal USAID procedures. While USAID anticipates these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for the award. The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed Agreement may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Agreement or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

2. Administrative & Policy Requirements

While the design and posting of this RFA is administered in Washington, D.C. by DCHA/CMM in conjunction with USAID's Bureau for Management, Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA), relevant USAID Missions will be responsible for the negotiation and obligation, and subsequent management and administration, of awards that result from successful applications.

The Mission Agreement Officer will be responsible for conducting negotiations, making the awards, and obligating funds to recommended partner(s). He/she will only do so after making a positive risk assessment or responsibility determination that the applicant possesses, or has the ability to obtain, the necessary management competence in planning and carrying out assistance programs and that it will practice mutually agreed upon methods of accountability for funds and other assets provided by USAID. The Agreement Officer will also designate an Agreement Officer Representative (AOR) to assist in the technical management and oversight of the award.

Resulting awards to **U.S. NGOs** will generally be administered in accordance with 2 CFR 700, 2 CFR 200, and ADS 303maa, Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations.¹⁴

These policies and federal regulations are available at the following websites:

- 2 CFR 700:
- <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title2-vol1/xml/CFR-2016-title2-vol1-subtitleB-chapVII.xml>
- 2 CFR 200:
- <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title2-vol1/xml/CFR-2016-title2-vol1-part200.xml>
- ADS 303maa, Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations:
<https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303maa>

Resulting awards to **non-U.S. NGOs** will generally be administered in accordance with ADS 303mab, Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations, available at <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mab>.

¹⁴ See also ADS 303, available at <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303>.

Resulting **fixed amount awards to NGOs** will be administered in accordance with ADS 303mat, Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards to Nongovernmental Organizations, available at <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mat>.

Resulting awards to **Public International Organizations** will be administered in accordance with Chapter 308 of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS), including the Standard Provisions set forth in ADS 308.3.14. ADS Chapter 308 is available at <http://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/308>.

3. Reporting Requirements

a) Program Performance Reports

To facilitate learning across the range of Global Reconciliation Fund Programs, any awards resulting from this RFA will include a provision that the implementing partner provide a copy of its Program Performance Reports and any success stories to DCHA/CMM according to the relevant Mission reporting schedule. The performance reports should be emailed to CMMP2PSuccess@usaid.gov.

USAID publishes a wide variety of material for government and public audiences. Experiences show that readers best understand our programs when they are explained through the stories of project beneficiaries. Therefore, consider the following guidance when including or sending success story submissions.

Include a separate annex for use in the production of online and print content.

Stories may be between 350-500 words and contain direct quotes from project beneficiaries and project staff or local officials. To allow for any necessary follow up by USAID, success stories should be accompanied by a point of contact name, email address, and phone number.

- Capture people and activities as much as possible.
- Include a 1-2 sentence caption that describes the activity taking place in the photo (Bad example: A fish pond in Central African Republic. Good example: Fish ponds such as this one in Lobaya, Central African Republic help communities reuse exhausted mine pits to produce food and obtain greater economic stability.).
- Contain the photographer's name and organization, for credit purposes.
- Sent as separate files, in .jpeg file format. Upon submission, USAID becomes owner of the photograph and has the right to use any photograph for any purpose. Appropriate credit will be given to photographer.

Required programmatic and performance reporting will be discussed and agreed upon at the time of award and specified in the award. Programmatic reporting requirements for NGOs must be in accordance with 2 CFR 200.328.

b) Financial Reports

Financial reporting will, at a minimum, require annual submission of the SF-425. Additional requirements, if any, will depend on the payment provisions of the award, which cannot be determined until after the successful applicant(s) is/are selected. Financial reporting requirements and instructions will be specified in awards. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.327, financial reporting will be required no less frequently than annually nor more frequently than quarterly except in unusual circumstances, for example where more frequent reporting is necessary for the effective monitoring of the award or could significantly affect program outcomes.

c) Development Experience Clearinghouse Requirements

For information concerning submission requirements of copies of reports and other information to USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC), refer to the Standard Provisions entitled "Submissions to the Development Experience Clearinghouse and Publications (June 2012)" for U.S. NGOs and "Submission to the Development Experience Clearinghouse and Data Rights (June 2012)" for Non-U.S. NGOs.

4. Program Income

The Mission Agreement Officer will determine how program income, if anticipated to be generated under the award(s), will be treated (see 2 CFR 200.307 or, for non-U.S. organizations, see the Standard Provision "Program Income").

5. Environmental Compliance

The relevant USAID Mission, as part of the pre-obligation process, will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation in accordance with 22 CFR 216 and ADS 204.

6. Climate Risk Management

All applicants are required to complete an initial climate risk management (CRM) screening in accordance with the Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 201: CRM for USAID Projects and Activities (ADS Guidance) consisting of a climate risk screening table and associated brief narrative. USAID has developed Climate Risk Screening and Management Tools to support this process.

As noted in the ADS Guidance, initial screening and risk rating must be conducted and documented for all proposed activities. The only exceptions are those outlined in Section 1 (page 5) of the ADS Guidance. Example exceptions include emergency assistance, as well as activities focused on staffing, assessment, research, monitoring, and project design. Aside from the exempted activities, all others must be screened for climate risks (including activities for which a Categorical Exclusion has been requested). Only activities that receive a rating of "Moderate" or "High" require completion of all columns in the CRM Table (as outlined in the ADS Guidance).

Table and Narrative: In addition to the CRM Table, the ADS Guidance requires a “summary of the approach to activity-level CRM and major results.” This should briefly clarify how risks were identified and assessed, and also include critical resources referenced.

RESOURCES: The full range of potential climate impacts which might affect the activities must be considered during the climate risk screening. This should be based on reliable available resources and information. Examples include [USAID Climate Change Risk Profiles](#) and the [World Bank Climate Knowledge Portal](#).

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SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

The USAID Point of Contact for questions concerning this RFA is:

Mrs. Rachel Baltes
Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
U.S. Agency for International Development
Office of Acquisition and Assistance
301 4th Street, S.W. (SA -44), Room 524-B
Washington, D.C. 20523
E-mail: FY18CMMP2P@usaid.gov

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SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

1. Branding & Marking Solicitation Standard Provisions

The following are the Solicitation Standard Provisions for branding and marking requirements:

Branding Strategy - Assistance (June 2012)

- a. Applicants recommended for an assistance award must submit and negotiate a "Branding Strategy," describing how the program, project, or activity is named and positioned, and how it is promoted and communicated to beneficiaries and host country citizens.
- b. The request for a Branding Strategy, by the Agreement Officer from the applicant, confers no rights to the applicant and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.
- c. Failure to submit and negotiate a Branding Strategy within the time frame specified by the Agreement Officer will make the applicant ineligible for an award.
- d. The applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth, in the budget portion of the application. These costs are subject to the revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance instrument.
- e. The Branding Strategy must include, at a minimum, all of the following:
 - (1) All estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth.
 - (2) The intended name of the program, project, or activity.
 - (i) USAID requires the applicant to use the "USAID Identity," comprised of the USAID logo and brandmark, with the tagline "from the American people" as found on the USAID Web site at <http://www.usaid.gov/branding>, unless Section VI of the RFA or APS states that the USAID Administrator has approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.
 - (ii) USAID prefers local language translations of the phrase "made possible by (or with) the generous support of the American People" next to the USAID Identity when acknowledging contributions.
 - (iii) It is acceptable to cobrand the title with the USAID Identity and the applicant's identity.
 - (iv) If branding in the above manner is inappropriate or not possible, the

applicant must explain how USAID's involvement will be showcased during publicity for the program or project.

- (v) USAID prefers to fund projects that do not have a separate logo or identity that competes with the USAID Identity. If there is a plan to develop a separate logo to consistently identify this program, the applicant must attach a copy of the proposed logos. Section VI of the RFA or APS will state if an Administrator approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.
- (3) The intended primary and secondary audiences for this project or program, including direct beneficiaries and any special target segments.
- (4) Planned communication or program materials used to explain or market the program to beneficiaries.
 - (i) Describe the main program message.
 - (ii) Provide plans for training materials, posters, pamphlets, public service announcement, billboards, Web sites, and so forth, as appropriate.
 - (iii) Provide any plans to announce and promote publicly this program or project to host country citizens, such as media releases, press conferences, public events, and so forth. Applicant must incorporate the USAID Identity and the message, "USAID is from the American People."
 - (iv) Provide any additional ideas to increase awareness that the American people support this project or program.
- (5) Information on any direct involvement from host-country government or ministry, including any planned acknowledgement of the host-country government.
- (6) Any other groups whose logo or identity the applicant will use on program materials and related materials. Indicate if they are a donor or why they will be visibly acknowledged, and if they will receive the same prominence as USAID.
- e. The Agreement Officer will review the Branding Strategy to ensure the above information is adequately included and consistent with the stated objectives of the award, the applicant's cost data submissions, and the performance plan.
- f. If the applicant receives an assistance award, the Branding Strategy will be included in and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement

(END OF PROVISION)

Marking Plan – Assistance (June 2012)

- a. Applicants recommended for an assistance award must submit and negotiate a “Marking Plan,” detailing the public communications, commodities, and program materials, and other items that will visibly bear the “USAID Identity,” which comprises of the USAID logo and brandmark, with the tagline “from the American people.” The USAID Identity is the official marking for the Agency, and is found on the USAID Web site at <http://www.usaid.gov/branding>. Section VI of the RFA or APS will state if an Administrator approved the use of an additional or substitute logo, seal, or tagline.
- b. The request for a Marking Plan, by the Agreement Officer from the applicant, confers no rights to the applicant and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.
- c. Failure to submit and negotiate a Marking Plan within the time frame specified by the Agreement Officer will make the applicant ineligible for an award.
- d. The applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events, materials, and so forth, in the budget portion of the application. These costs are subject to the revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance instrument.
- e. The Marking Plan must include all of the following:
 - (1) A description of the public communications, commodities, and program materials that the applicant plans to produce and which will bear the USAID Identity as part of the award, including:
 - (i) Program, project, or activity sites funded by USAID, including visible infrastructure projects or other sites physical in nature;
 - (ii) Technical assistance, studies, reports, papers, publications, audio-visual productions, public service announcements, Web sites/Internet activities, promotional, informational, media, or communications products funded by USAID;
 - (iii) Commodities, equipment, supplies, and other materials funded by USAID, including commodities or equipment provided under humanitarian assistance or disaster relief programs; and
 - (iv) It is acceptable to cobrand the title with the USAID Identity and the applicant's identity.
 - (v) Events financed by USAID, such as training courses, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, fairs, workshops, press conferences and other public activities. If the USAID Identity cannot be displayed, the recipient is

encouraged to otherwise acknowledge USAID and the support of the American people.

- (2) A table on the program deliverables with the following details:
 - (i) The program deliverables that the applicant plans to mark with the USAID Identity;
 - (ii) The type of marking and what materials the applicant will use to mark the program deliverables;
 - (iii) When in the performance period the applicant will mark the program deliverables, and where the applicant will place the marking;
 - (iv) What program deliverables the applicant does not plan to mark with the USAID Identity , and
 - (v) The rationale for not marking program deliverables.
- (3) Any requests for an exemption from USAID marking requirements, and an explanation of why the exemption would apply. The applicant may request an exemption if USAID marking requirements would:
 - (i) Compromise the intrinsic independence or neutrality of a program or materials where independence or neutrality is an inherent aspect of the program and materials. The applicant must identify the USAID Development Objective, Interim Result, or program goal furthered by an appearance of neutrality, or state why an aspect of the award is presumptively neutral. Identify by category or deliverable item, examples of material for which an exemption is sought.
 - (ii) Diminish the credibility of audits, reports, analyses, studies, or policy recommendations whose data or findings must be seen as independent. The applicant must explain why each particular deliverable must be seen as credible.
 - (iii) Undercut host-country government “ownership” of constitutions, laws, regulations, policies, studies, assessments, reports, publications, surveys or audits, public service announcements, or other communications. The applicant must explain why each particular item or product is better positioned as host-country government item or product.
 - (iv) Impair the functionality of an item. The applicant must explain how marking the item or commodity would impair its functionality.
 - (v) Incur substantial costs or be impractical. The applicant must explain why

marking would not be cost beneficial or practical.

- (vi) Offend local cultural or social norms, or be considered inappropriate. The applicant must identify the relevant norm, and explain why marking would violate that norm or otherwise be inappropriate.
 - (vii) Conflict with international law. The applicant must identify the applicable international law violated by the marking.
- f. The Agreement Officer will consider the Marking Plan's adequacy and reasonableness in the award criteria, and will approve and disapprove any exemption requests. The Marking Plan will be reviewed to ensure the above information is adequately included and consistent with the stated objectives of the award, the applicant's cost data submissions, and the performance plan.
- g. If the applicant receives an assistance award, the Marking Plan, including any approved exemptions, will be included in and made part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement, and will apply for the term of the award unless provided otherwise.

(END OF PROVISION)

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

(END OF RFA)

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