U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CALL FOR DIASPORA PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT PAPERS

“LEVERAGING PRIVATE RESOURCES AND KNOW-HOW FOR THE RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED AREAS IN THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA OF HAITI”

UNDER EXISTING

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT
APS No.: APS-OAA-21-00001

PLEASE NOTE: This is an addendum to an existing announcement. All interested organizations should carefully review both this addendum AND the full announcement, which can be found here: https://www.usaid.gov/gda/global-development-alliance-annual-program. Important information contained in the full announcement applies to but is not repeated in this specific addendum.

This program is authorized in accordance with Part 1 of the Foreign Assistance act of 1961, as amended.

Through this Addendum to the 2020-2022 Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement (APS) No. APS-OAA-21-00001 (the GDA APS), USAID/Haiti is making a special call for the submission of concept notes. USAID/Haiti recognizes the importance of partnering with the diaspora\(^1\) community and welcomes proposals for GDAs that foster the mobilization of human and financial resources to address Haiti economic development needs. These concepts will support implementation of USAID/Haiti’s 2020-2022 Strategic Framework (SF) by partnering with private sector organizations to co-create, co-fund, and utilize innovative market-based solutions and interventions to solve Haiti’s development challenges and achieve greater development impact with specific attention paid to recovery, reconstruction, and long-term development of the geographic and systemic areas impacted by the August 14, 2021, earthquake.

\(^1\) Diaspora is a term of self-identification used by a community of people who live outside a shared country of origin or ancestry. As defined by Cambridge Dictionary (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/diaspora), it is “a group of people who spread from one original country to other countries, or the act of spreading in this way.” Generally, the term includes varied groups with a range of attachments to a homeland, including migrant workers; dual citizens; second, third, and higher generation citizens of a host country; and people with shared ethnic heritage.
Depending on the availability of funds, USAID may allocate up to $1,250,000, over the course of Fiscal Year 2022 (October 01, 2021-September 30, 2022) to fund a series of partnerships. USAID/Haiti anticipates funding up to five projects via this addendum; USAID’s contribution will not exceed $500,000 per award. The Mission is contemplating primarily using simplified grants, fixed amount awards and cooperative agreements. Please refer to Automated Directives Systems (ADS 303) for further details on these award types.

Eligible organizations interested in submitting a concept are encouraged to carefully read this APS addendum as well as the full GDA APS announcement, which can be found at: https://www.usaid.gov/gda/global-development-alliance-annual-program, in addition to the USAID/Haiti Strategic Framework. Reading those materials is essential to understanding GDAs and the type of private sector engagement and collaboration sought under this addendum. The GDA APS also sets forth the concept submission requirements and the review and evaluation process. Additional eligibility requirements are discussed in Section II of this addendum and Section VIII of the GDA APS.

This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov, and may be amended. Interested parties should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information. The Mission’s review may result in further alliance development discussions and may result in a decision by the Mission to request a full application or to go straight into award development; the Mission’s Agreement Officer will provide specific requirements and instructions.

Issuance of this funding opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for any costs incurred in preparation or submission of comments/suggestions or a concept paper/application.

Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the GDA APS FY 2020-2022 apply (https://www.usaid.gov/gda/global-development-alliance-annual-program).

I. Background

Diaspora groups are being recognized as important stakeholders and potentially powerful actors in international affairs and foreign assistance. These groups and individuals use their influence and financial resources to contribute to the development of their countries of origin or ancestry. For instance, in 2021, officially recorded remittance inflows to developing countries (person-to-person money transfers) exceeded US$539 billion worldwide. However, the influence that diaspora communities wield goes far beyond financial transfers and has the potential to extend along the whole spectrum of socio-economic development. Diaspora groups engage in a wide range of activities with their home countries, and many of these activities have significant implications for development and the way in which official development assistance is provided.

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2 As stated in APS No. APS-OAA-21-00001, the partnerships proposed in any concept submission should mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a level and value that at least equals and preferably significantly exceeds the level of funding being requested from USAID. Proposed GDAs that do not meet this requirement will not be considered under this announcement.
With more than 3.5 million individuals living abroad, the Haitian diaspora community represents around 30 percent of the Haitian population. The Haitian diaspora is distributed among many countries, with the United States, Canada, and the Dominican Republic accounting for approximately 2,968,000 residents and Brazil, Chile, Bahamas, and France accounting for approximately 373,000.

Regardless of their destination country or socio-economic status, it is evident that these communities tend to maintain their commitment to support family and friends in Haiti. The Haitian diaspora sent remittances that totaled approximately $3.32 billion in 2020, about 25% of Haiti’s GDP, providing financial support to around 35 percent of Haitian families. Many Haitian diaspora groups in the United States partner with their hometown associations to implement joint community development projects in Haiti. Recent and previous engagement with the diaspora through various USAID-funded programs shows that the Haitian diaspora is eager to get involved in the development of Haiti.

Over the past decade, the Government of Haiti (GOH), with support of external partners, has shown considerable commitment to responding to natural disasters and improving socio-economic indicators. Some of the GOH’s immediate actions after the 2021 earthquake are a result of systemic improvements made since the 2010 earthquake. However, the August 14, 2021 earthquake and Tropical Depression Grace, affecting the southern region of Haiti—toe at the already fragile economic and political fabric of Haiti as the nation was already reeling from the assassination on July 7 of President Jovenel Moïse; an escalation of kidnapping and gang violence that displaced nearly 20,000 people and affected over 1.5 million others; and a seemingly intractable political crisis which serves as both cause and consequence of socio-economic and political inertia in the earthquake-affected areas and around the country.

According to the Minister of Planning and External Cooperation, neither the GOH nor communities in the earthquake-affected areas were as prepared as they could be for the disasters of August 2021. The Minister’s acknowledgment is supported by the GOH’s Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report which asserts that the central and local governments anticipated hurricanes and floods in the southern departments but not an earthquake. The PDNA estimates a high direct human toll of the earthquake with 2,246 people dead; 12,763 people injured, and 329 people missing. It also estimates total damages and loss amounting to $1.62 billion and total recovery needs estimated at $1.98 billion.

A few days after the earthquake, USAID activated a Crisis Action Team which included support from the Office of Humanitarian Assistance and to date has funneled over $60 million for the emergency response. In addition, the Agency channeled another $15.45 million for longer-term earthquake recovery and reconstruction efforts in the following sectors: Economic Growth and Agriculture; Governance; Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and Education.

In keeping with the overall intent of the longer-term post-emergency earthquake funding referred to above, USAID/Haiti will prioritize concepts that have the potential to accelerate socio-economic development and lead to stable, resilient communities that are less vulnerable to the effects of natural and man-made disasters.

The specific objectives are to:
1) Leverage diaspora know-how and resources in the targeted geographic areas through investor engagement and partnerships.

2) Support business models and market-based solutions that foster inclusive and sustainable growth, improved community-based Disaster Risk Reduction strategies, and to build and strengthen the resilience of poor and vulnerable people, households, communities, and systems.

3) Promote diaspora engagement in Haiti’s economic development and diversified and sustained livelihood options consistent with USAID/Haiti’s Strategic Framework.

These objectives will be achieved through market-based approaches that will mobilize diaspora resources and expertise, create employment, build the resilience of vulnerable communities, and decrease the need for repeated short-term humanitarian assistance interventions. Applicants will ensure that proposed activities are aligned with USAID/Haiti’s core Development Objectives, as established in the USAID/Haiti Strategic Framework, in a manner that builds the capacities of people and communities subjected to recurring shocks, and aims for these beneficiaries to be able to withstand and fully recover from these stresses. While most of USAID/Haiti’s current activities are sector specific, under this Addendum, the mission will take the opportunity to seek interventions that will bridge sectors and facilitate rapid implementation of its Strategic Framework.

II. Solicitation objectives

Through this announcement, USAID/Haiti seeks to develop new and innovative Global Development Alliances that can leverage private sector and diaspora know-how, investments, and other resources through different forms of diaspora engagement:

- **Diaspora Philanthropy**: diaspora philanthropy through grants and donations supporting sectors that promote Resilience Building, Local Governance, Economic Growth, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation in Haiti

- **Diaspora Entrepreneurship**: Diaspora entrepreneurs that can invest in or build sustainable enterprises in Haiti as well as contribute to develop the related ecosystem to support development.

- **Diaspora Volunteerism**: diaspora’s short- to medium-term volunteer opportunities that support the Agency’s development priorities at the field level. Platforms that facilitate diaspora volunteerism and mentoring programs through innovations.

- **Diaspora Capital Markets**: Catalyze diaspora investments that can be leveraged to support socio-economic development through different various capital market instruments including but not limited to debt and equity funds, bond issuance, digitization of remittances.

This engagement will support specific interventions in Haiti that may include, but are not limited to:
1) strengthening local government and civil society’s capacity to manage resources proactively, collaboratively, and transparently.

2) expanding innovative finance mobilization models and access to products and services.

3) improving local people’s knowledge about resilience and food security.

4) addressing the needs of vulnerable populations by providing paths to broader economic participation.

5) linking humanitarian responders to institutional partners and effective channels for emergency relief in times of crisis.

6) strengthening and diversifying assets and livelihoods, improving food production, water, and finance access, and migrant education, and integrating the private sector.

7) partnering with groups in the diaspora that operate in the transportation/freight-forwarding, logistics management, warehousing, storage (cold or none-cold), brokerage, and other related humanitarian and disaster response activities.

8) implementing sustainable alternative energy solutions that will withstand disasters and improve off-grid energy usage.

9) mapping diaspora organizations that are carrying out projects in Haiti.

The interventions above are illustrative only and are not meant to limit applicant creativity, alliances may put forward other innovative ideas; however, the specific result(s) that the alliance will support must be explicitly stated in the submitted concept paper. USAID will prioritize innovative, cost-effective, private sector-driven concepts and proposals that target vulnerable people, households and communities that are prone to recurring natural disasters. Any proposed intervention or activity must have an explicit and direct link to the achievement of USAID/Haiti’s development objectives as defined in the Mission’s 2020-2022 Strategic Framework.

The Mission is open to all kinds of implementing models and as described in the GDA APS, “the GDA model and the GDA APS prioritize and focus on particular types of private sector entities as core partners”. Partnerships composed of several diaspora organizations or private sector entities are welcome. Partnerships can be composed of diaspora-based, local civil society, Faith-Based Organizations, local or international businesses. At a minimum, concept papers must include a diaspora organization in the partnership that is interested in, working in or is supportive of Haiti’s redevelopment.

In order for a collaboration to be a GDA and to be eligible for consideration, it must involve a core working relationship with one or more of the private sector entities listed below. As stated in the GDA APS, USAID expects to receive GDA concepts that mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a level and value that at least equals and preferably significantly exceeds the level of funding being requested from USAID. This commitment of leveraged resources may be captured through a Memorandum of Understanding between
USAID and the private sector partner providing the resources. Further details are in the GDA APS.

It is also important to note that USAID may enter into award agreements with the private sector partners directly or with other partners to the GDA, such as a nongovernmental organization. The entity entering into an award agreement will receive USAID funding to implement activities that advance the goals and objectives of the GDA.

Further information on what qualifies as a private sector resource contribution and definition of a private sector partner can be found in APPENDIX I – LEVERAGING IMPACT: THE PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCE REQUIREMENT of the GDA APS: (https://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab/documents/global-development-alliance-annual-program-statement). Eligible private sector entities are limited to:

- Private for-profit, commercial entities such as a business, corporation, small or medium enterprise or private firm;
- Private foundations affiliated with private for-profit, commercial entities;
- Private equity or private financial institutions, including banks, private investment firms, mutual funds, private equity funds and insurance companies;
- Private business or industry associations, including but not limited to chambers of commerce and related types of entities; or Cooperatives.

III. Evaluation Considerations and Criteria


Additionally, the following Mission level considerations will also be used:

- Mission Strategy Alignment: Concept Papers must demonstrate alignment with one or more of the Development Objectives and intermediate results set forth in the USAID/Haiti FY 2020-2022 Strategic Framework and identify related expected results.
- Strengthen country self-reliance and localization: Following this principle in Haiti means strengthening the capacities and commitments of national or local governments, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities to own, finance, and implement solutions to development challenges. Preference will be given to GDA concepts with partners who demonstrate long-term commitment to the targeted region and are characterized by market-based approaches that foster enterprise led development and have the potential of generating the most development impact.
• **Target Geography**: Concept papers must propose alliances that will be conducted and foster development impact in the geographic areas most impacted by the earthquake. These include: the Grande-Anse, South, and Nippes departments.

• **Target Population**: Any award(s) that result from this addendum must support activities that target and include one or more of the following populations: poor and vulnerable families, women, and youth.

• **Target Areas**: Concept papers must propose alliances that will be implemented in the following sectors: resilience building, local governance, economic growth, and disaster risk reduction and mitigation.

• **Sustainability Strategy**: USAID/Haiti values its role as a convener, facilitator, and development catalyst, and aims to use APS interventions to amplify benefits of partnering with the private sector to foster sustainability and self-reliance. Concepts must present a clear sustainability strategy. Interventions that create or expand public-private partnerships will be highly sought after. They should promote knowledge sharing and synergy by working closely with a broad spectrum of like-minded actors, including U.S. Government agencies, other donors, civil society organizations, universities, the private business sector, and inter-governmental bodies among others. As a resource, please see [USAID’s Private Sector Engagement Policy](#).

• **Leverage**: Per the requirements of the GDA APS, concepts should include private sector leverage that **at least equals and preferably significantly exceeds the level of funding requested from USAID**. Generally, a minimum of 25% of the private sector resources and contributions should be in the form of cash. For purposes of this addendum, **preference will be given to concept notes with higher levels of cash contributions**. The proposed leverage is expected to be reasonable, realistic, and achievable. Applicants are required to submit letters of commitment from any entity, including those that are diaspora-based, that will be a source of private sector leverage. **Appendix I of the GDA APS sets forth the private sector leverage requirements and the criteria used to determine whether or not a contribution is potentially eligible to count as private sector leverage. All prospective partners are advised to review that Appendix.**

• **Monitor and evaluate progress**: Learning from monitoring progress is critical for sustainable development and therefore must be part of implementation. This requires applying objective analysis of chosen metrics and benchmarks to monitor performance systematically efficiently and effectively and evaluate results. Concepts that include clear metrics and plans to publicize activities and successes are required.

• **Promote Innovation and Scalability**: Focus on testing ideas, learning, and adapting to improve program understanding and effectiveness and expanding or replicating proven and successful models.

• **Empower Women**: Investing in women’s capacity to rebuild their communities.
IV. Concept Submission Instructions

Applicants are required to follow the concept submission instructions set forth below, in accordance with Section V of the GDA APS, and submit concepts using the appropriate template provided in the GDA APS.

NOTE: The GDA APS states that a concept cannot be submitted until the core private sector partner(s) to a proposed GDA discusses that GDA with the relevant USAID Technical team and receives an email from that operating unit confirming that discussion and indicating that operating unit’s willingness to receive and review a concept submission.

Applicants should follow the step-by-step process in order to respond to this addendum:

Step 1: Applicants seeking funding through this addendum must first connect their private sector partners to USAID/Haiti through usaidhaitipartnerships@usaid.gov. USAID/Haiti will not entertain or review any concepts from entities that fail to make this connection. Alternatively, private sector partners may connect directly to USAID/Haiti to initiate discussions on how they might leverage their expertise, resources, and capabilities to effectively address issues and opportunities for collaboration. These include diaspora-based entities who fall within the GDA APS definition of private sector.

Step 2: If USAID/Haiti determines that the initial ideas warrant further consideration, USAID/Haiti will invite the prospective applicants to develop and submit a concept outlining the proposed partnership.

Step 3: Concept submissions will be reviewed by USAID/Haiti. If USAID/Haiti determines the proposed concept meets the requirements of this addendum and warrants further consideration, discussion, and development, USAID/Haiti will continue the co-creation process and work with the proposed partners to further develop, build and refine the prospective GDA with the core private sector partner.

Step 4: Depending on the results of the co-creation process, USAID/Haiti may issue Request(s) for Application to the entity submitting the accepted concept, or decide to enter directly into negotiations, Memorandum of Understanding, and award development.

Step 5: Finalize award agreements with the appropriate entity and begin to implement activities.

For purposes of this addendum, the Resilience and New Partner Engagement (RNPE) Unit is the technical unit responsible for engaging in preliminary discussions, exploring potential GDAs, addressing technical questions related to this addendum and determine the extent to which a proposed concept is appropriate and aligns with USAID’s goals. Before submitting a concept, prospective applicants must contact the USAID/RNPE Unit at usaidhaitipartnerships@usaid.gov.

Prospective applicants must connect their private sector partners with the USAID/RNPE Unit via the email above. Under the GDA APS, USAID/Haiti can have robust and extensive discussions with prospective private sector partners with regard to potential alliance ideas and activities.
A concept cannot be submitted until the USAID/RNPE Unit provides an email indicating the Mission’s willingness to receive and review a concept submission. Once directed to do so, the concept and required supporting information should be sent to USAID/RNPE Unit at the above email with a copy to gda@usaid.gov.

Concept submissions will be received and reviewed on a rolling basis until funds have been exhausted. While USAID/Haiti will keep this addendum open until September 30, 2022, the Mission is interested in identifying high potential GDAs as quickly as possible. The Mission strongly encourages private sector entities and diaspora organizations interested in this opportunity to contact the Mission as soon as possible. In addition, the Mission requests that potential applicants promptly submit questions regarding this addendum; this will help applicants more quickly determine whether and how to build GDAs that achieve the objectives of this addendum. USAID/Haiti would welcome the opportunity to identify partners with whom valuable GDAs could be co-created in the next three to five months. However, given USAID/Haiti’s interest in addressing the above objectives as soon as possible, concept notes for the first round are due by close of business on Friday, February 18, 2022. Depending on the availability of funds, USAID may publish additional rounds at a later date and amend this addendum accordingly. Amendments are published in grants.gov.

While applicants will receive notification that a concept has been received, applicants should get a status update on the review within 30 days of receipt. Due to the high number of concept notes anticipated, USAID/Haiti will NOT provide feedback/comments or debriefing for unsuccessful concept notes.

After review by USAID/Haiti, applicants will receive instructions from the Office of Acquisition and Assistance on whether the Mission will continue with individualized co-creation. Depending on the results of the co-creation, USAID/Haiti may request a full application or proceed directly to award negotiations.

V. Questions and Further Assistance

Questions regarding the substance and objectives of this addendum should be directed to usaidhaitipartnerships@usaid.gov; with copy to gda@usaid.gov. USAID/Haiti is interested in getting questions as soon as possible. USAID/Haiti would prefer potential applicants to submit their questions for the first round by Friday, January 28, 2022. While the Mission will certainly entertain and respond to questions throughout the process, whether during discussions or via emails, past experience indicates that developing and submitting questions as early as possible in the process is of tremendous value to prospective partners and applicants.

Please note that frequently asked questions (FAQs) and/or select questions that clarify matters in the addendum will be posted on www.grants.gov on an ongoing basis, and as needed. USAID/Haiti will not post all questions that are submitted; USAID/Haiti will only post recurring or specific questions that USAID/Haiti determines warrant posting to clarify matters under the addendum.