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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT PAPERS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PEACEBUILDING PARTNERSHIP

UNDER EXISTING

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT

APS No.: APS-OAA-14-000001

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: <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program>. Important information contained in the full worldwide announcement 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 FY2014-15 Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement (APS) No. APS-OAA-14-000001 (the GDA APS), USAID/DCHA and USAID/AFR is making a special call for the submission of Concept Papers focused on supporting and strengthening locally-led peacebuilding and atrocity prevention in the Central African Republic (CAR).

The CAR Peacebuilding Partnership (CPP or “the Partnership”) is a public-private partnership (PPP) among donors, private foundations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and government that supports locally-led peacebuilding in the Central African Republic. The purpose of the Partnership is to ensure dedicated donor support for locally-led peacebuilding and atrocity prevention efforts through a critical period of transition in CAR. The CPP will intentionally document and learn from its activities and approaches in order to understand both the benefits of using a PPP for peacebuilding and what works in locally led peacebuilding in this type of context. This partnership is grounded in the desire to support the courageous efforts and resiliency of local communities seeking to mitigate violence, rebuild social cohesion, and forge a more peaceful future in the Central African Republic.



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As a Global Development Alliance, the Partnership will be co-created with other partners through a collaborative process that seeks to leverage and coordinate resources as effectively as possible. As a partnership committed to supporting local capacities for peace, it will be informed as much as possible by local knowledge and perspectives in CAR, and local partners will be at the center of its programs.

The goal of the Partnership is to support and strengthen locally-led peacebuilding and atrocity prevention in CAR over the coming five years (2015-2019). As an initial focus, the Partnership has identified four objectives that concept papers should be responsive to, which are detailed later in this addendum. These objectives have been informed by consultations with a range of development, peacebuilding, and humanitarian organizations currently working in CAR and their Central African partners. We expect specific objectives and areas of focus may change over the course of the Partnership in response to changing dynamics in CAR, local needs and capacities, and lessons learned along the way. As the Partnership continues, new CPP directions will be established through a collaborative process involving all stakeholders.

USAID **plans to contribute up to \$7,000,000** over the course of the next five fiscal years to fund a portfolio of alliances as part of the CPP. At this time, USAID is soliciting concept papers that respond to the goals and objectives in this addendum, as well as the criteria outlined in the overall [GDA APS](#). All concept papers must reflect and propose collaboration with local partners. Award amounts will vary, though USAID anticipates that no single award issued under this addendum will be less than \$200,000¹ or more than \$2 million.²

USAID recognizes that many organizations will have an interest in contributing to and participating in the CAR Peacebuilding Partnership, but may not be positioned to formally submit a concept paper that qualifies under the GDA APS. One aim of the CAR Peacebuilding Partnership is to coordinate funding for peacebuilding in CAR. Therefore, potential CAR peacebuilding funding partners or fund seekers not eligible for this GDA APS may **contact USAID regarding their interest at CARpeacebuilding@usaid.gov**.

Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the 2014-2015 GDA APS apply (<http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program>).³

¹ Note: If an entity seeks an award of \$200,000 from USAID, the entity would have to mobilize **at least** \$200,000 from the private sector. This reflects the private sector leverage requirement under the GDA APS. For further information on that requirement, please see Appendix I of the 2014-2015 GDA APS.

² If an organization is developing a program or alliance that would involve less than \$200,000 in funding from USAID, it should feel free to contact USAID at CARpeacebuilding@usaid.gov regarding that interest; USAID may be able to facilitate productive working relationships with other partners under CPP and/or other organizations interested in advancing peacebuilding in CAR.

³ As stated in the 2014-2015 GDA APS, the partnerships and alliances proposed in any Concept Paper should mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a minimum of 1:1. Proposed alliances that do not mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a value that equals or exceeds the level of funding being requested from USAID will not be considered under this announcement.



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I. Background

Following decades of chronic poverty, poor governance, and political strife, the people of the Central African Republic (CAR) now face a new crisis of unprecedented magnitude. Since late 2013, armed groups have deliberately attacked civilians and intentionally divided communities along religious lines. Muslim and Christian communities that formerly lived in peace together have been divided along religious lines and ripped apart by violence. Thousands have been killed, hundreds of thousands displaced, and millions left in dire need of humanitarian assistance to survive. Despite the signing of a ceasefire and deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, the road out of crisis and toward a peaceful, stable future remains long.

In response, USAID supported a range of conflict mitigation, atrocity prevention, and peacebuilding programs in fiscal year 2014. These included strengthening the voices of interreligious peacemakers, establishing peace and social cohesion committees in key communities, supporting community radio and a network of human rights journalists, and promoting peace messaging. These programs have made important contributions and demonstrated the need for expanded and sustained support to locally-led peacebuilding through the ongoing transition process in CAR.

Amid the strain of multiple concurrent global crises, the international community has struggled to commit significant donor resources to the situation in CAR. Given that weak governance has been a key driver of the poverty and violence that have plagued CAR in recent decades, current donor pledges—including international financial institutions and European bilateral and multilateral organizations—are largely focused on large-scale national and CAR government needs. As USAID looks at the crisis in CAR and assesses near- and medium-term funding gaps beyond humanitarian assistance, we believe that a focus on civil society and bottom-up peacebuilding and violence prevention approaches is critical at this juncture. Some of the more dynamic sources of resilience in the country can be found in the nascent civil society in CAR (e.g. religious leaders, youth, and women working together) that represents important, but under-supported, resources for building peace and social cohesion in CAR.

Building on US policy commitments to prevent mass atrocities, promote resilient societies, and support development solutions that strengthen local systems for change, USAID is now working with other donors to develop the CPP. Given the scarce resources available to CAR—both in terms of institutional and private donors—the need to pool and leverage funding is paramount. Additionally, beyond resources alone, USAID feels that the complexity of the crisis in CAR underscores the need for sharing ideas, capabilities and experiences, and coordinating across a number of emerging peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts. We believe CPP can meet an urgent need and seize a critical opportunity: *to ensure international donor support is sustained beyond the immediate crisis and is provided in ways that help break chronic cycles of violence and lay a stronger foundation for sustainable peace in the CAR.*



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II. Program Description

The CPP Partnership seeks to support the efforts of civil society groups in CAR who are already working to prevent violence and build social cohesion, or who may have the potential to do so. It seeks to strengthen the resiliencies of civil society to sustain such work through a still volatile transition while expanding civil society reach to have broader national impact. Projects supported by the CPP Partnership may include a range of efforts in community peacebuilding, human rights, transitional justice, and social cohesion, and should result in strengthening the ability of local actors to carry on such activities through the transition. The Partnership is also dedicated to learning from its efforts in ways that can improve donor support to local peacebuilding in the future.

Under this addendum, USAID is soliciting alliance proposals that will contribute to the Partnership's **goal of supporting and strengthening locally-led peacebuilding and atrocity prevention efforts in the Central African Republic over the next five years (2015-2019)**. Proposed alliances should address one or more of the following objectives:

Objective 1: Foster livelihoods in communities impacted by violence as a foundation for peace. Theory of Change: If people have opportunities to work together for shared benefits, enabling them to meet their basic needs and rebuild their livelihoods, a stronger foundation for social cohesion and peacebuilding will develop.

Objective 2: Strategically engage youth and women as leaders and agents of positive, peaceful change in the communities and country. Theory of change: If youth and women are empowered to act as peace agents in their communities and to contribute to transitional processes for peace and reconciliation, there will be greater opportunity for an inclusive, democratic, and peaceful future in CAR.

Objective 3: Support and strengthen inter-religious and community peacemaking and conflict mitigation efforts. Theory of change: If religious and other community leaders are supported in their efforts to prevent violence, promote peace and address trauma, they will be more able to help rebuild social cohesion within and among communities and can play a more effective role in peaceful transition processes.

Objective 4: Promote civil society engagement in and help link community-level needs and voices with national transitional process related to national dialogue, transitional justice, and reconciliation. Theory of change: If communities are actively and effectively part of processes such as national dialogue and transitional justice, more legitimate state-society relations will be fostered, helping to lay a stronger foundation for peace and national unity.



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Regardless of which objectives will be addressed under any proposed alliance, the activities under the proposed alliance should demonstrate a clear focus on locally-led peace-building approaches and help improve the effectiveness of local partners, including their responsiveness to their constituencies.

Geographic and Sectoral Scope

Proposals are not restricted to a specific geographic scope within CAR but should demonstrate the ability to actively engage communities in a sustained way in the areas where work is proposed, taking into account security and logistics realities. Proposals that reach beyond Bangui are encouraged. USAID is open to proposals that are either specifically focused on peacebuilding, or those that integrate peacebuilding into other sectors, as long as proposed activities advance peacebuilding in a clearly attributable way. Given the rapidly changing situation in CAR, proposals should demonstrate flexibility to adjust to shifting needs so proposed programs may contribute to the de-escalation of emerging conflict.

Learning Agenda

USAID is committed to learning and improving donor abilities to support and strengthen local capacities for peace through the CPP. Any alliances proposed and developed under this addendum will include monitoring and evaluation aimed at advancing a broader learning agenda, framework and approach. Concept papers should include a description of the applicant's proposed approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning and the willingness and capacity of the applicant and its partners to collaborate with CPP in a broader learning effort.

Institutional Partnering

If an international partner is interested in applying, they must collaborate with and include a local non-governmental organization registered with the Central African Republic Government or a local community civil society organization/association as a partner in the proposed alliance.

III. Evaluation Criteria

Concept papers will be evaluated based on the general criteria set forth in the GDA APS in Section VI: Concept Paper Evaluation Criteria and Considerations. As stated in the 2014-2015 GDA APS, USAID expects to receive proposals that mobilize and leverage private sector resources at a minimum of 1:1.

Preference will be given to partnerships or alliances that include private sector partners who demonstrate long term commitment to the targeted region and a recognized interest in the proposed concept.⁴

⁴ USAID recognizes that some potential applicants may not be able to secure the private sector leverage needed to submit a qualifying concept paper. As noted in Section I of this addendum, such prospective applicants are encouraged to contact CARpeacebuilding@usaid.gov to note their interest in participating in alliances developed under this addendum.



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In addition, the following criteria will also be used:

- Demonstrated ability to work with and build on capacities already present or emerging in CAR;
- Engagement with local communities throughout all phases of the program, including design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Ability to adjust programs to a rapidly changing environment;
- Clear incorporation of Do No Harm principles within program work;
- An approach that strengthens the ability of local partners and key stakeholders to engage and lead on these issues beyond the life of USAID funding;
- Potential for building longer-term resilience for preventing violence and sustaining peace in the CAR; and,
- Contribution to learning on locally-led peacebuilding.
- Commitment to engaging and empowering leadership among youth, women, and across diverse religious and ethnic groups.

(Note: If USAID requests a full proposal, applicants will be given additional, specific evaluation criteria that speak to the subject matter of the concept.)

IV. Application Instructions and Review Process

USAID will be responsible for the review process and management of any awards issued under this addendum. Applicants are required to follow the Concept Paper instructions set forth in the GDA APS and submit Concept Papers using the [Concept Paper Template](#). Information provided in Section I.E of that Template should address the objectives and criteria presented above.

Before submitting a Concept Paper, prospective applicants may contact USAID's CPP GDA point of contact at CARpeacebuilding@usaid.gov. The USAID point of contact can discuss the extent to which a proposed idea is appropriate and aligns with USAID's goals and objectives under this addendum.

In addition, prospective applicants must connect the prospective applicant's private sector partners to CARpeacebuilding@usaid.gov as well. Under the GDA APS, the USAID point of contact can have robust and extensive discussions with prospective private sector partners with regard to potential alliance ideas and activities, so long as that partner is not seeking to receive and manage award funding from USAID.⁵ Such discussions help foster the co-creation that is core to the Global Development Alliance approach.

⁵ Note: If the private sector partner is seeking to receive and manage USAID funding, the discussions will need to be more limited. Questions regarding the nature and scope of partner discussions prior to the submission of a concept paper, as well as any questions regarding the terms of the Global Development Alliance Annual Program Statement, can be directed to gda@usaid.gov or Ken Lee at kenlee@usaid.gov.



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The completed Concept Paper Template (including the Concept Paper and required Supporting Information) should be sent to USAID at CARpeacebuilding@usaid.gov **with a copy to** gda@usaid.gov.

In order to be considered under this addendum, concept papers must be submitted by April 20, 2015. However, concept papers will be reviewed on a rolling basis. In addition, given the urgent and pressing needs in CAR, as well as USAID's recognition that various organizations are already building alliances and partnerships with the private sector, USAID welcomes and encourages the submission of concept papers as soon as possible. USAID and other partners to CPP hope to review an initial set of concept papers during the first week of December.

After review by USAID, applicants will receive instructions from USAID regarding possible alliance development discussions and, if such discussions are conducted, whether to proceed with a full application.

V. Questions and Further Assistance

Questions regarding the substance and objectives of this addendum should be directed to CARpeacebuilding@usaid.gov, with copy to gda@usaid.gov.

Questions regarding the substance and terms of the 2014 – 2015 GDA APS should be directed to Ken Lee at kenlee@usaid.gov, with copy to gda@usaid.gov.

For additional information regarding guidelines and procedures to submit a concept paper, please refer to the GDA APS which can be found at the following website: <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program>. Additional information on alliances can be found at <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program-0>.