

**Notification of Funds Available to USAID Missions/Bureaus/Offices
For FY14 DISABILITY FUNDING
Public Announcement**

I. Purpose Statement

The Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG), within the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is inviting all interested USAID Missions, Bureaus and Offices to apply for FY13 Disability Funding to:

- Increase the participation of people with disabilities in USAID programs/activities; and
- Strengthen the capacity and services of civil society organizations run by and for people with disabilities; herein referred to as Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs).

Up to \$5 Million in funding is available to support programs and activities to increase the participation of people with disabilities within the strategies and portfolios of USAID and to strengthen the capacity and services of DPOs.

Program areas could include, but are not limited to: agriculture and food security; democracy, human rights & governance; economic growth and trade; education; environment and global climate change; sports; gender equality and women's empowerment; and science, technology and innovation, among others. Capacity building programs for DPOs may include organizational capacity, advocacy efforts, cross-disability coalition building, coordination, and leadership and training.

All awards (grants or cooperative agreements) under this request for concept papers will be administered through and managed by missions/bureaus/offices. Funding will be provided from DCHA/DRG to missions/bureaus/offices for this purpose and they are responsible for all obligation requirements, award management and project oversight.

Please note this announcement is NOT a USAID/Washington issued Annual Program Statement (APS) or Request for Proposals (RFA). Rather USAID Missions, bureaus, and offices have been informed that these funds are available should they wish to participate in applying for them.

Qualified organizations interested in this funding opportunity should contact their local USAID field mission for more information on this program. Mission contact information can be found at: <http://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work> or <http://www.usaid.gov/mission-directory>

II. Background

According to the World Health Organization (2011), approximately 15% of any population has some form of disability, with a higher incidence of disability in countries that are post conflict or affected by natural disasters. The prevalence of disability is expected to rise in coming years due to an ageing global population and an increase in chronic health conditions. Of the estimated 1 billion people throughout the world with a disability, 80% live in less resourced nations.

People with disabilities are more likely to experience poverty. Women and girls with disabilities often experience double-discrimination on account of gender and disability. Due to stigma, discrimination and inaccessibility, people with disabilities are less likely to access basic services such as education, employment and healthcare. The lack of access to vital services and programs contributes to their marginalization and exclusion, with little or no option to escape from poverty.

Societies that are inclusive of their diverse populations are more likely to be democratic, participatory and equitable. They are more likely to meet their development goals. In spite of this, and although disability is a crosscutting development issue, people with disabilities often remain invisible in the global development agenda.

USAID's [Disability Policy](#) states that USAID will not discriminate against people with disabilities and will work to ensure the inclusion and active participation of people with disabilities in USAID-funded programs and activities. To this end, USAID has mainstreamed disability in several of its key policies and sector strategies, such as the Education Strategy (2011), Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy (2012) and Strategy on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (2013).

The USAID Disability Policy also calls on missions to reach out to partners, host country counterparts and other donors to lead a collaborative effort to end discrimination against and promote equal opportunity for people with disabilities. In response, several USAID missions have addressed disability in their Country Development Cooperation Strategies.

Disability rights are human rights. As noted in the Agency's Strategy on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance: "... a deliberate human rights lens should be applied across USAID's portfolio to ensure that the Agency's programs are not inadvertently contributing to marginalization or inequality. By using a human rights lens, potential beneficiaries who are most at risk of having their rights neglected or abused – such as LGBT persons, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples – will be better recognized and included in USAID programming."

In July 2009, the US signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities affirming its commitment to the human rights of people with disabilities around the world. To date, most of the countries in which USAID operates have also signed and ratified the Convention signaling a global movement towards the full realization of the rights of people with disabilities and their role in the international development community.

For more information about USAID and Disability Inclusive Development, visit:

<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/democracy-human-rights-and-governance/protecting-human-rights/disability>

III. Areas of Interest

USAID seeks applications for projects that integrate people with disabilities in USAID programs/activities and strengthen the capacity and services of DPOs.

Project areas could include, but are not limited to: agriculture and food security; democracy, human rights & governance; economic growth and trade; education; environment and global climate change; sports; gender equality and women's empowerment; and science, technology and innovation. Capacity building programs for DPOs may include organizational capacity, advocacy efforts, cross-disability coalition building, coordination, and leadership and training.

Proposed projects should complement the strategic and development objectives of USAID and be guided by the values and provisions set forth by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Interested organizations are encouraged to engage in dialogue with their local missions to learn of mission priorities. In addition, organizations may also access copies of Mission Country Development Cooperation Strategies, which outline strategic development objectives, via the www.usaid.gov and mission websites.

Projects that address targeted needs of people with disabilities may be considered. Projects that highlight the needs of marginalized groups, such as women and girls, individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind and those with developmental or psychosocial disabilities, and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities are encouraged. All programs, regardless of implementing partner, must verify significant involvement of people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The lists provided under each heading are illustrative - other innovative ideas are welcome.

1. Increase participation of people with disabilities in new or existing USAID programs

Examples:

- Promote the participation of people with disabilities in democratic processes and elections through national awareness campaigns, use of accessible polling stations, provision of accessible voter materials and open exchange between disability communities and politicians.
- Foster the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in inclusive education programs through teacher-training, adaptive technology and community outreach. Promote literacy of deaf and blind learners through the use of native sign languages and teaching of Braille.
- Integrate youth and adults with disabilities in the competitive workforce by facilitating job training, internship opportunities and educating employers on best practices for hiring people with disabilities.
- Support the economic independence of women with disabilities through microcredit programs that provide seed grants to women to invest in their families and start new businesses.
- Improve national laws and policies to better reflect the protection and inclusion of people with disabilities within countries. Support human rights institutions, such as human rights

commissions and national ombudsmen, to be responsive to disability rights and monitor implementation of legal frameworks.

- Develop, support and strengthen sports programs for people with disabilities

2. Strengthen the capacity and services of DPOs

Examples:

- Improve the organizational capacity, financial management, human/material resources, strategic planning, fundraising, leadership and coordination of DPOs.
- Support the development and strengthening of national and regional cross-disability networks and coalitions.
- Support the establishment and strengthening of consumer-controlled disability resource centers (often referred to as “Independent Living Centers” in the U.S.) that promote the full independence and participation of people with disabilities in society.
- Build advocacy skills of DPOs to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in programs funded by USAID, host governments and other donors.
- Provide training on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

IV. Activities and Programs Excluded

The following activities and programs will **not** be considered for funding:

- Programs with a significant budget for infrastructure or construction activities
- Programs focused on the provision of assistive devices or physical rehabilitation
- Programs supporting institutionalization of or institutions for children or adults with disabilities
- Employment programs promoting sheltered workshops or income generating activities that perpetuate negative stereotypes of people with disabilities and that do not provide for meaningful employment
- Programs with a primary focus on awareness raising

In addition, due to the availability of significant funding through PEPFAR, the DCHA/DRG disability funding may not be used to support HIV/AIDS-related activities.

V. Available Funds

Subject to the availability of funds, the total estimated level of funding available for awards under this **worldwide** request is up to \$5,000,000 over a 12-36 month period. DCHA/DRG may fund individual programs in two categories:

1. Small fund programs ranging from \$20,000 to \$300,000 (not to exceed \$3.8 million); and
2. Large fund programs ranging from \$300,000 - \$600,000 (not to exceed \$1.2 million)

Note: At least \$1,000,000 of the available funding will be used to support programs that develop, support, and strengthen sports programs for people with disabilities; and at least \$1,000,000 to support capacity building of DPOs in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

VI. Proposal Limit

USAID missions and bureaus are limited to the submission of up to two (2) small fund proposals (\$20,000 - \$300,000) and one (1) large fund proposal (\$300,000 - \$600,000).

VII. Applicant Eligibility

Applications should be from qualified U.S. or non-U.S. entities, such as private, non-profit organizations (or for-profit companies willing to forego profits), including private voluntary organizations, universities, research organizations, professional associations, and relevant special interest associations. **Local DPOs are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Mainstream (non-DPO) organizations applying for funds must include in their application letter(s) of signed support from local DPOs they wish to partner with for the purpose of the project.

Partners new to USAID may submit applications. However, resultant award to these organizations may be significantly delayed if USAID must undertake necessary pre-award reviews of these organizations. Organizations should take this into account and plan their implementation dates and activities accordingly.

Participation in this program is at the sole discretion of a mission/bureau. To that end, please contact the relevant USAID mission/bureau to understand specific eligibility requirements.

USAID will not accept applications from individuals. All applicants must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law. PIOs are not eligible to apply for funding under this program.

VIII. Mission/Bureau/Office Eligibility

All USAID missions/bureaus are eligible under this funding program. However, participation is optional and therefore, interested organizations should contact their local mission or relevant bureau/office prior to submitting applications to verify their participation. Please note DCHA/DRG in Washington does not keep a list of participating missions/bureaus/offices. It is incumbent upon organizations to reach out to missions/bureaus/offices directly.

IX. The Process

A. General Guidance

USAID missions/bureaus have been informed that funding is available to implement programs inclusive of people with disabilities. Interested and qualified organizations must apply for this funding directly through their local missions. In rare cases where proposed programs are to take

place in more than one country, organizations may choose to submit their application to regional or technical bureaus or offices in Washington.

- 1. Contact local mission (or relevant bureau/office)** – interested organizations should contact their local mission or the mission responsible for managing activities in the proposed country to assess interest and ability to participate in this funding opportunity. The same process is recommended in rare cases where proposed projects are to take place in more than one country; in this case, applicants should contact the relevant Washington-based technical or regional bureau/office.
- 2. Submitting applications - Organizations should submit applications to incoming_requests@usaid.gov.** Please note it may take missions/bureaus one month or more to review applications before forwarding them to DCHA/DRG in Washington. Please allow adequate time and submit your application early, well in advance of the DCHA/DRG Washington deadline listed below. Applications submitted after this deadline may not be considered.
- 3. Review Process** –Missions/bureaus will conduct the first review based on their established procedures. Selected applications will be forwarded to DCHA/DRG Washington for further review. Final determinations will be communicated to applicants by the local mission/bureau.

C. Submission Deadlines

The deadline for submission to USAID/Egypt is February 11, 2015

Concept papers must be submitted by USAID missions/bureaus only. DCHA/DRG will NOT accept applications submitted directly by organizations.

D. Application Format

Applicants must utilize the required application format provided in **Attachment A - Required Application Format** below. Be sure to complete all information requested on the application form. The 8-page limit must be respected. The cover page, annexes to the budget and letters of cooperation (optional) between the Applicant and other partners are not subject to the page limit.

X. Recommended Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by participating USAID missions/bureaus and (if applicable) by DCHA/DRG. Missions/bureaus may structure the solicitation and review as they see fit but should use the evaluation criteria listed below. Additional evaluation criteria may be added.

1. Applicant Information (20 points)

To receive a full score the organization will have:

- Extensive involvement in disability inclusion or be a DPO.
- Previous experience in project management or managing activities related to those proposed in the concept paper.
- A clear understanding of the disability landscape and situation of people with disabilities in the country/region of programming.
- A clear mission, set of objectives and orientation that is in line with proposed activities.

2. Project description (60 points)

To receive a full score the project must:

- Show a clear link between the described need and the proposed activities.
- Describe the impact of the proposed project on existing USAID programs, activities or strategies.
- Define who will benefit from the project (children, youth, adults; people with disabilities or not; government institutions, families, local community, schools, etc.; disaggregated by sex and type of disability if possible).
- Provide an activity schedule that is well defined and realistic.
- Describe measurable indicators (beyond the three required indicators) that will be used to show the project impact and success.

3. Integration of People with Disabilities (20 points)

To receive a full score the organization will:

- Show evidence of linkages with existing disability programs or organizations in the country where activities are being proposed.
- Illustrate how people with disabilities have been/will be involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of the program.
- Ensure that women and girls with disabilities will participate in and benefit from activities.

XI. Reporting Requirements

Reporting on the program is required. The exact format for, preparation of, and timing for submission of all reports will be determined by the mission/bureau.

While missions/bureaus/offices may wish to integrate their own indicators, at the very least Recipients will be required to report on the following indicators in each progress report:

- Number of People Served; disaggregated by sex/disability (as appropriate)
- Number of People Trained; disaggregated by sex/disability (as appropriate)
- Number of Organizations Strengthened; disaggregated by DPO/non-DPO

Though not required, Recipients are encouraged to submit photographs, success stories and/or other media as part of their progress reports.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Required Application Format