MujerProspera / WomanProsper
(Regional Challenge to Advance Gender Equality)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. GENERAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

1. How can I find out more information about the MujerProspera Challenge?

During the application window, applicants are encouraged to submit questions to mujerprospera@resonanceglobal.com and view the recordings of our live webinars in Spanish and English, posted on the website.

2. What are the main funding sources for the MujerProspera Challenge's awards?

MujerProspera (WomanProsper) is a USAID-funded regional challenge to advance gender equality in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This challenge contributes to the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to address the root causes of irregular migration in the region.

3. Who is part of the selection committee?

The final selection committee consists of USAID representatives. However, review and evaluation of applications are done by a three-person panel of technical experts from USAID and affiliated partners with experience in the region and/or areas of focus.

4. What is the selection process? What happens after we submit the first proposal?

Applicants will be required to participate in three stages, as needed, to be selected as a winner.

- **Stage 1 - Eligibility Screening:** This will ensure the application meets the basic minimum criteria outlined in Section F of the RFA.
- **Stage 2 - Expert Judging Panel and Evaluation Criteria:** A 3-person expert judging panel from technical leaders across USAID and affiliated partners, all of whom are focused on women's economic empowerment and gender equality.
- **Stage 3 - Finalist Interviews:** Finalists may have the opportunity to participate in a 30-minute video interview by a panel of USAID staff and affiliated partners. Only applicants in the final stages of review may move to the interview round.
  - **Award Announcement:** Awards will be announced to successful applicants via email by April 2022. Applicants who will not receive funding will also receive notice at or around that time.

The following is the challenge's timeline:

Event	Date
Challenge Launch	January 3, 2022
Application Close Date	February 14, 2022 at 12:00pm EST (Washington, DC Local Time)
Stage 1 - Eligibility Screen	February 2022
Stage 2 - Expert Judging Panel and Evaluation Criteria	February 2022
Stage 3 - Finalist Interviews / Due Diligence	March 2022

Awards Announcement	By April 2022
Award Implementation	April 2022 - August 2023

5. What is the total value of the awards, and how many will you make?
Each application can be valued at $150,000 to up to $500,000 USD. For instance, a tri-national proposal can have a maximum value of $500,000.

USAID expects to make approximately 14 awards total spread between the three countries.

6. What should the maximum duration of the project be?
The period of performance for each award will depend on its scope of work. All proposed interventions must conclude by August 31, 2023, **after a maximum duration of sixteen months.**

7. Will there be constant monitoring on your part after organizations receive a grant?
The MujerProspera Challenge has an acceleration approach to monitoring, evaluation, and learning that it uses to 1) measure progress; 2) identify, predict, and respond to challenges; and 3) extract lessons learned. Milestone benchmarks will be monitored using mutually agreed indicators between awardees and the challenge, with an eye on learning and promoting effective solutions.

8. Can two organizations partner to represent one solution? If so, how is the application process different?
The challenge encourages applicants to develop solutions with partners. Applicants are encouraged to work with organizations based in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and/or with communities to build self-reliance and to partner with eligible organizations that have complementary skill sets and/or capabilities. Examples of partners might include but are not limited to government municipalities and local government agencies. Contributions from these partners could include time, in-kind resources such as equipment, rental space, strategic thought leadership, networks, and other support. They could also include NGOs, industry alliances, faith-based groups, the private sector, working groups, consortiums, or complementary donor support (financial or in-kind support).

Each member of the partnership should have a defined role/activity they work on under the agreement. However, the prime recipient is ultimately responsible for all administrative, management, and reporting requirements. Please name the designated partner, their qualifying background, and their expected added value in detail. If available, attach an MOU, letter of agreement, or other supporting documentation in the attachments section of your online application.

Note: MOUs and other documents are not required, but useful. See Section E of the RFA for more information on the judging criteria surrounding partnership.

9. What about sub-recipients? Or other mechanisms, such as microloans?
If an applicant includes sub-recipients for the implementation of an award, applicants should demonstrate how these sub-recipients complement the organizational capabilities of the applicant and how the

partnerships strengthen the overall project plan. Sub-recipients are subject to the same due diligence processes as the primary grantee.

Subcontracts, purchase orders, seed capital, and microcredit are also possible through this award-making mechanism. An example of where things like seed capital, microcredit, or other options might be useful is in supporting women-owned community organizations or other endeavors that support women's economic security, employment, and entrepreneurship.

Subgrants (or micro-grants to community organizations) will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In all instances, the primary grantee must demonstrate they have the administrative capacity to use and manage the mechanism being proposed.

Finally, loans and microloans using grant funding are not allowed.

10. Once our project team is approved and you review it, can other people be included in the project? Can the project leaders be modified after the proposal is granted an award?
Project awards are made based on the overall technical approach and capacity for an institution to implement a project, including the organizational team makeup. However, the challenge recognizes that, at times, modifications need to be made to the implementation structure. These would be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

11. What is the scoring system used to evaluate applications? Can you share the score my application received?
All applications will undergo an initial eligibility screening to check compliance with the eligibility criteria. Eligible applications will then be assessed against the judging criteria. Please refer to Section E of the RFA for a breakdown of the judging criteria and scores. The challenge may provide written feedback on the application to applicants, but we do not disclose the numerical score.

12. When will the MujerProspera Challenge start reviewing applications?
The challenge will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis until the closing date: February 14, 2022. Potential awardees will be notified of the status of their application in February or March 2022. All applicants who submitted applications by the deadline will receive information on their application by April 2022. Notifications will go out over email.

All decisions are final. Please refer to the timeline summary included in Section D of the RFA.

II. HOW TO APPLY / APPLICATION PROCESS

13. How do I apply to the MujerProspera Challenge?
You can apply online by visiting the challenge [site](#) or going to the [application online platform](#) directly. We strongly recommend reading the [MujerProspera Challenge RFA](#) before applying. The deadline for application submission is February 14, 2022 at 12:00pm Eastern Standard Time (Washington, DC Local Time).

14. Is there any document that explains in detail how to send applications?

The [MujerProspera Challenge RFA](#) provides details on the challenge and the requirements to submit an application. Applications must be submitted via the [online platform](#) by February 14, 2022 at 12:00pm EST (Washington, DC Local Time). Applications must be submitted in English or Spanish. There is no preference for one language over another.

Complete instructions on how to submit applications are provided on the application platform. The full application requirements can be found in Section H and Annex A of the RFA.

15. Is there space in the application form to include additional attachments, documents, diagrams, sketches, schemes, and/or photography?

Organizations are required to submit applications via the [MujerProspera Challenge online platform](#). Please upload the required documentation that is requested in the MujerProspera Challenge RFA. These include the required [budget + activities & milestones](#) and [professional references](#). You may also upload an MOU, letter of commitment, registration document, or other documentation that documents proposed partners. While CVs for key personnel are helpful, they are not required at this time.

16. Can I attach my application in both languages, English and Spanish, to the application platform? If not, can I send it via email?

You are only required to submit your concept note in one language, either English or Spanish. All applications must be submitted via the application form linked on the MujerProspera Challenge webpage. Applications submitted through email will not be accepted.

17. I have a good idea but will need support filling out the forms. Do you provide support to fill out the application?

The challenge does not provide support in filling out the application, but you can refer to USAID's recently launched page, https://www.workwithusaid.org/, which includes guidance for partners new to working with USAID.

18. Can I see an example of an application? Do you have any format or guide to present the project?

At this time, we do not have a model application. However, you can refer to the Problem Statement and Objectives (particularly the examples) of the challenge in Sections A and B of the RFA for information on the kinds of projects USAID is seeking. Strong proposals will address the nexus between both challenge objectives.

Funded activities must align with the prevention of irregular migration as outlined in the relevant country development cooperation strategy (CDCS) for El Salvador, Guatemala, and/or Honduras, as per the selected countries of implementation.[1] They should also be supportive of the Administration's broader [Root Causes of Migration Strategy](#).

---

[1] See [El Salvador](#), [Guatemala](#), and [Honduras](#) CDCS.

19. The sixteen (16) month implementation period is a limited amount of time. Will impact be measured through quantitative reach (e.g. number of beneficiaries) or overall scope of change (e.g. organizational, behavioral, or otherwise)?
Per USAID guidelines, grantees are required to conduct performance monitoring of their USAID-funded activities. Performance monitoring is defined as the ongoing and systematic collection of performance indicator data and other quantitative or qualitative information to reveal whether implementation is on track and whether expected results are being achieved. Performance monitoring includes monitoring the quantity, quality, and timeliness of activity outputs within the control of USAID or its implementers, as well as the monitoring of project and strategic outcomes that are expected to result from the combination of these outputs and other factors. We strongly recommend using indicators that lay the foundation for ensuring long-term sustainable impact, as part of its approach to measurement.

USAID does not expect grantees to prove causality when measuring impact under the MujerProspera Challenge.

Please consider reviewing USAID's [quick resource for new partners](#) as you start to design your monitoring, evaluation, and learning approach for your project.

20. Can I modify the registered company after submitting the application?
The registered applying organization or partner organization can be modified after submitting the application, provided the MujerProspera Challenge requirements are met.

21. Is there a limit to the number of countries our organization can apply to work in?
The proposed countries must be in at least one of the challenge's three countries of implementation, El Salvador, Guatemala, and/or Honduras. The application form includes a specific section where applicants can select primary/secondary country/countries of implementation, as well as specific questions that include the proposed geographic area.

Applicants can apply to work in one, two, or all three of the countries under the same project. However, organizations must demonstrate EITHER a local presence OR that they have a local partner in each of the countries where they propose to work. No one country (El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras) is prioritized over another in the application review process.

Local presence is defined as an in-country registration, existing projects, and/or networks to support the rapid rollout and implementation of project activities during the 16-month period of performance.

22. Do projects need to be completed within the 16 months, or can we request funds for programs that take longer?
Project activities need to be completed within the 16-month period of performance (POP). However, they may be supported with complementary or other donor funds during or after the POP ends.

23. How many times can an organization apply?
There is no limit to the number of applications your organization submits. Moreover, an organization can apply as a primary implementer in one project and/or a sub-recipient or partner in others. However,

please ensure each application is high-quality and representative of your best work. Each proposal will be reviewed separately regardless of the applicant organizations.

III. COMMUNICATIONS/CHALLENGE EVENTS:

24. Can you refer me to the correct contact for the challenge?
For information or questions about the MujerProspera Challenge, please contact:
mujerprospera@resonanceglobal.com

25. Is there a phone number where I can call for questions?
Please direct all questions or concerns related to the MujerProspera Challenge to the following email:
mujerprospera@resonanceglobal.com

26. Do you have information on the status of applications?
Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they come in. We will notify you about the status of your application via email after receipt and review.

27. Will you inform me if my application is not accepted?
Awards will be announced to successful applicants via email by April 2022. Unsuccessful applicants will also receive notice at that time.

28. If we are not granted an award, will we receive feedback to present another application?
No, but you will be notified if your application did not advance to the next round. All decisions are final.

29. How do I find out about the Challenge's upcoming events?
Visit the MujerProspera Challenge website: https://www.usaid.gov/mujer-prospera-challenge

30. Can I have a one-on-one informational interview with someone from the challenge's team to explain the initial idea and receive guidance?
The challenge does not provide guidance about proposals during the application process to ensure fair competition.

31. Where can I find the recorded webinars?
The webinars will be posted on the MujerProspera Challenge webpage:
https://www.usaid.gov/mujer-prospera-challenge

IV. ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS/REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

32. What are the criteria for participation?
Please review the eligibility criteria in Section F of the RFA for a complete list of participation requirements.

33. I am in the process of registering a company. Can I submit an application as an individual and add my organization later?

No, you must be a legally registered organization (meaning you must possess government certification of registration) to submit an application. Please refer to Section F (Eligibility Information) of the RFA for a full list of the eligibility criteria.

34. Can you provide further guidance on the "gender analysis?" What about the environmental assessment? What should I do if my organization does not currently have a DUNS/SAM number?

The gender analysis is not a mandatory part of the application process. Should you be awarded a grant, you will be required to complete one as part of the first activity milestone deliverables under the project. See page 14 of the RFA for greater detail.

The environmental assessment form will be provided to organizations selected for potential awards. It should be completed as part of the due diligence process, but is not required for the application itself.

The DUNS / SAM is not required at the time of application. This will also be something you can complete during due diligence, if not currently on file.

35. Is an external audit required?

Audit requirements applicable to each organization depend on their organization's internal requirements and total funds received. While the external audit is not a requirement under the challenge funding, each activity is potentially subject to audit by USAID and is subject to USAID's rules and regulations in full.

36. Who are the eligible participating beneficiaries? Are you aiming for a certain demographic or geographic area?

The target beneficiaries are women, in all their diversity. Women in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are facing barriers to accessing and controlling power and resources that influence the way they make decisions to support themselves and their families. Efforts should be focused on economic security, employment, and/or entrepreneurship. There are no age or socioeconomic limitations to the target population.

Within this, the challenge accepts applications focusing on rural and urban population centers, without prioritization across and/or within the three countries of implementation.

We encourage applications that take an intersectional approach and understand that women's economic security needs and priorities vary across different communities and identities.

37. How is USAID defining intersectional approaches?

Intersectionality is on page 7 of the RFA and can be found twice in our Evaluation Criteria (the table) on page 11. It is defined by USAID from a gender equity and equality lens as efforts that root out systemic barriers and discrimination, and ambitiously pursuing equity and equality for all people. This includes those who face multiple forms of discrimination.

Programs should intentionally include and address the needs of women and girls from marginalized populations with the understanding that if we do not intentionally and proactively include, we may unintentionally exclude.

38. My company is based in another country and I would like to develop an idea for El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras. Is this feasible? Does my organization need to be registered in one of those countries?

Applicants may be located and/or registered anywhere in the world, including from inside El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras. Applicants must implement proposed solutions in one or more of the target geographies listed in the RFA. Applicants must either already have a presence in the proposed country of implementation or must have a local partner and provide supporting documentation of that partnership.

39. What kind of an award mechanism is the grant we would receive?

Grants are made through fixed amount awards (FAAs). Each FAA will be funded based on milestones, and payments made upon successful completion of each project milestone as agreed upon within the grantee award contract. Please note:

- Funding requested in applications must be appropriate to the size, scale, and scope of proposed solutions;
- All proposed interventions must conclude by August 31, 2023 after a maximum duration of 16 months;
- All awards are subject to the availability of funding.

40. What about the UN, or other UN bodies - can they apply? Can local government entities apply for funding, such as a mayor's office in-country?

No, multilateral organizations or public international organizations (PIOs), such as the UN, do not qualify under this grantmaking mechanism as primes or sub-recipients. Local government entities also do not qualify. However, both can serve as qualifying partners to applying organizations. USAID encourages this kind of participation from local government agencies and multilaterals.

Please refer to Section F (Eligibility Information) of the RFA for a full list of the eligibility criteria.

V. FUNDING:

41. Are awards based on submitted budgets?

The budget is one of a variety of factors reviewed by judges and challenge partners when making award decisions. Please refer to Section E (Judging Process and Finalist Interviews) of the RFA for a full description of the evaluation process.

The challenge will assess whether the overall costs are realistic for the work to be performed, whether the costs reflect that the applicant understands the requirements of project implementation, and whether the costs are consistent with the technical application.

Please note that budgets are subject to review and negotiations.

42. I do not have an estimated cost for my project, as it is only an idea at the moment. Can I receive advice from the challenge to estimate my budget?

The challenge cannot assist applicants in developing their budgets. We encourage applicants to estimate costs as accurately as possible and to read the RFA for full guidance about the challenge.

43. Preparing a proposal would incur some costs (e.g. registering a company). Can you help with this?

The challenge does not provide financial support during the submission phase. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

44. Can you provide guidance on how to fill out the budget? Can the proposed budget be adjusted? Can I include salaries in my budget?

Applicants are required to submit a budget with their application. Budgets should not include lump sums. Each line should be disaggregated and justified, with comments to clearly explain the cost. The budget must conform with the budget template provided. It should include all activities listed in the narrative. Once submitted, the budget proposal cannot be adjusted. However, there will be a negotiation phase before an award is made. Applicants will provide a detailed budget that ensures sufficient resources to implement all proposed grant-funded activities. All costs should be in USD. If a currency exchange rate is being used from local currency to USD, please indicate it in the budget. The budget should entail the following items:

- Labor/Personnel;
- Travel;
- Activity;
- Other Direct Costs; and
- Indirect Costs: The budget should not include any indirect costs, unless the applying organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) or if the applicant does not have a federally approved rate. Indirect costs may be justified by current indirect cost rates as determined by a Resonance-approved independent auditor or a certified statement of indirect cost rates by the applicant's independent auditors. Alternatively, applicants can apply the de minimis indirect rate of 10 percent per 2 CFR 200.414(f).

At this time, we are not providing percentage breakdowns for each of the items listed above. Instead, consider that the budget should include eligible, allocable, and reasonable costs. For this, it is important that when preparing the budget, for each line, the following questions are asked:

- Is this necessary for the activity?
- Is it in accordance with the rules included in the RFA?
- Is the unit cost realistic to the current market prices?
- Are the proposed quantities necessary and justifiable?

Note: The challenge is not authorized to cover infrastructure or construction expenses.

45. What are the criteria for cost sharing?

While cost sharing is not required, nor part of the evaluation criteria, it is encouraged as a means to demonstrate potential sustainability through complementary funding sources.

VI. TECHNICAL ISSUES:

46. Where should I go for technical issues with the online application platform?
Please contact mujerprospera@resonanceglobal.com for technical support on your application.