



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



NEW PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE

April 2020—Thanks to the generosity of the American people, USAID is rallying its workforce and partners at home and abroad in response to the COVID-19 pandemic — we know that this global threat requires us to act with greater speed and flexibility.

The New Partnerships Initiative is at the heart of our commitment to our partner countries, most especially during this global crisis. It is transforming the way USAID does business by making it easier for partners to work with us and by enhancing our ability to connect with organizations on the ground.

The reason is simple: We are seeking creative and innovative solutions to tough problems.

Now more than ever, we strive to work in new ways and with new partners to make the world healthier, safer, and more prosperous for people everywhere.

Read on for the latest news and open funding opportunities from the New Partnerships Initiative.

[Learn more about NPI](#)



NPI Partnerships Video

Are you a part of an organization that works in international development and wants to partner with USAID? The NPI Partnerships video, produced by the Partnerships Incubator, explains how USAID is redefining how we work with new partners by streamlining the funding process and creating more opportunities for collaboration, thus empowering communities in to be more self-reliant.



[View the NPI Partnerships Video](#)

Frankfurt Small Business Conference Highlights



The 2020 Overseas Frankfurt U.S. Small Business Conference on March 3-4 brought together 250 U.S. small businesses and 60+ USAID staff from Washington headquarters, Europe and Eurasia, Africa, and the Middle East.



The conference served as a platform for U.S. small businesses to better understand the country context in which each USAID Mission is operating and how their respective business expertise can best be utilized. Mark Walther, Director of USAID's Bureau for Management, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, reiterated that Agency staff are "so appreciative of the wonderful collaboration we have with...U.S. small

businesses! It is such a pleasure to work with you, and witness the impacts we are having across small business goals!"

Mauricio Vera, Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, emphasized USAID's previous accomplishments, "awarding over 14.8% of our contract dollars worldwide to small businesses...And most importantly, this amounted to over \$807M to small businesses, by far the most money ever." The conference reinforced USAID's commitment to expanding partnership opportunities with U.S. small businesses.

[View the Event Video](#)

How to Work with USAID Webinar

DOING BUSINESS WITH USAID



On March 24, 2020, the Communications Team for USAID's Bureau for Management, Office of Acquisition and Assistance held the first of a series of webinars entitled *Doing Business with USAID*, which was attended by more than 400 remote participants.

The webinar covered a series of topics, including a general background and overview of USAID, the Agency's operating framework and

partnerships, and an introduction to the different types of funding opportunities and how NPI is incorporated into these opportunities.

Additionally, a representative from the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization provided an overview of the registration requirements for small businesses interested in partnering with USAID. A recording of the live webinar can be found [here](#), and the slide deck, [here](#).

New NPI Award

USAID Indonesia Announces Creative Youth for Tolerance Award

USAID Indonesia's Creative Youth for Tolerance (CREATE) is a three-year, \$3.33 million program implemented by Stichting Hivos (HIVOS) in partnership with three local organizations.

USAID CREATE pursues an innovative arts and culture-based approach as an entry point for promoting tolerance and pluralism among students to enhance the capacity and will of young Indonesians to constructively manage differences and to counter intolerant messages they receive from other sources. The program will foster constructive dialogue among diverse communities, facilitate networking among key stakeholders, and provide positive outlets for expression towards promoting greater interfaith and inter-ethnic understanding among students, teachers, parents, and government stakeholders.

USAID CREATE will work in 24 high schools, both state (secular) and madrasah aliyah (Islamic), in three Indonesian provinces – West Java, East Java, and South Sulawesi— where research has identified particularly high rates of violations against religious freedom, including discriminatory regulations against minority groups.

[Learn more about CREATE](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

New Partnerships Initiative Global Health COVID-19 Round

The focus of the award(s) will be to support interventions that will build upon and expand USAID's efforts to leverage the roles of communities to strengthen and adapt existing community health platforms. These efforts will:

- Support national policies and implementation plans for COVID-19 preparedness and response (non-pharmaceutical interventions)
- Continuity of existing primary healthcare services based on national guidelines and needs/priorities to create lasting structures for future response.

[Access USAID's Business Forecast](#)



NEW Funding Opportunities

Higher Education for Leadership, Innovation, and Exchange (HELIX) Annual Program Statement

Today's youth understand and care more about development than ever before, inspired by the chance to drive meaningful change, peace and prosperity, and eager to use their skills to better their communities and help those in greatest need. Recognizing the need to harness the untapped potential of the more than 1.5 billion youth around the world today, the [Higher Education for Leadership, Innovation, and Exchange \(HELIX\) Annual Program Statement \(APS\)](#) has been released. The HELIX APS helps USAID to engage directly and indirectly with the higher education community broadly and creatively.

This investment in higher education provides an opportunity to foster American values such as academic freedom, an emphasis on general education and community service, and strong linkages between academia and industry. Higher education investments stretch across multiple USAID sectors, from improving rule of law degree programs, to supporting agricultural research, to investing in health infrastructure to prevent, and respond to pandemic disease.

Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education Addendum (SHARE) Addendum

The [Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education \(SHARE\) Addendum](#) is a Request for Concept Note(s) in response to this Addendum published under the HELIX APS.

Meaningful progress on partner countries' Journey to Self-Reliance in education requires timely, relevant, context-specific, and robust data and evidence. Commitment to evidence-based programming, continuous learning, and accountability, a deep understanding of context, and focus on results are the central principles that will drive evidence and data priorities. To be realized, development actors need timely, relevant, and robust data and evidence. Such data and evidence are frequently unavailable, inaccessible, of poor quality, or in need of translation for policy and practice. Additional research is therefore needed to fill these gaps.

When such data and evidence are available, their use is frequently undermined by the inability of decision-makers to access them and to use them appropriately.

USAID's Office of Education has identified critical gaps in the evidence base across the spectrum of education-related technical areas and produced four associated [Learning Agendas](#) to help inform research and learning in the education sector. The Learning Agendas were developed through deliberative, collaborative perspective with internal and external stakeholders in the global education sector, including other donors. These Learning Agendas also incorporate cross-cutting themes such as gender, equity, disability inclusion, education finance, cost, and information and communications technology.

[Access the SHARE Opportunity](#)

Youth Excel Addendum

As described in [YouthPower 2 Annual Program Statement \(YP2 APS\)](#), USAID has a long-standing history of prioritizing youth needs and investing in youth development through support to initiatives in multiple sectors such as reproductive health and voluntary family planning, education, agriculture, environment, economic growth, and democracy, human rights, and governance. While USAID has demonstrated a commitment to better integrating youth voices into USAID programs and activities, there is still a need for increased effort to incorporate youth as valuable partners in development activities.

Previous USAID youth programming has supported small-scale youth-led learning and implementation grants in low- and middle-income countries that have provided on-the-ground insights into PYD programming. However, the local youth-led and youth-serving organizations involved in the research had limited capacity, specifically, knowledge and skill gaps in how to conduct research, analyze data, and disseminate findings to feed them back into future programming demand investment in capacity development.

The [Youth Excel Addendum](#) is a request for Concept Note(s) in response to this Addendum published under the [YouthPower 2 Annual Program Statement \(YP2 APS\)](#).

[Access the Youth Excel Opportunity](#)

Women's Global Development and Prosperity

The [Women's Global Development and Prosperity \(W-GDP\) Fund Addendum](#) is published under the [NPI Conflict Prevention and Recovery Program \(CPRP\) Annual Program Statement](#) and aims to increase women's economic empowerment in conflict prevention and recovery activities. Recovery activities might include re-building livelihoods, workforce and vocational training, innovative financial tools, job placement, workplace safety, and access to capital. Specifically, the W-GDP Fund Addendum is designed to promote and sustain effective collaboration, local engagement, and partnerships with new and underutilized actors as well as experienced "mentoring" partners that build capacity to address the following challenges:

- Advance the goals of the three W-GDP pillars: Women Prospering in the Workforce, Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs, and Women Enabled in the Economy.
- Increase the economic power of the most at-risk and marginalized women, including workforce and entrepreneurship training for women (18 years and older) vulnerable to trafficking, and supporting survivors of violence and trafficking through skills training, job placement, and access to government institutions.
- Utilize proven evidence-based women's economic empowerment approaches to increase economic opportunities for women in conflict affected or post-conflict recovery settings including women vulnerable to, and survivors of, trafficking.

[Access the WGD P Opportunity](#)

Juntos Aprendemos: Delivering Quality Education in Migrant Receptor Communities in Colombia

In line with the 2018 USAID Education Policy, USAID seeks to partner with the Government of Colombia to support an education system that enables all children and youth to acquire the education and skills needed to be productive members of society and promote stability, even in the face of external shocks like increased enrollment due to migration or a pandemic like COVID-19.

USAID will focus these efforts in receptor communities so that the influx of migrants and returnees in these communities do not devolve into further instability, xenophobia, and violence. These same communities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and secondary effects on livelihoods, shelter, and protection.

USAID will prioritize applications that enable partnering with new and underutilized development actors, based on the belief that a larger and more diverse partner base will expand the available ideas, capabilities, and networks to address shared development challenges.

[Access the Juntos Aprendemos Opportunity](#)



Partnerships Incubator Corner

Laying the Groundwork for NPI Action Plans

Staff from the Partnerships Incubator and members of USAID's core NPI team traveled to Bangladesh, Ghana, and Ukraine in February to assist these pilot Missions in developing their NPI Action Plans. The multi-day workshops presented the opportunity for Mission staff to learn more about how NPI fits into their country strategies and to work side-by-side with the NPI team.

During the strategy sessions, participants completed a rigorous diagnostic of their current and past partnership activities, documented lessons learned, identified current and future Mission programs applicable to NPI, and matched Mission goals and resources with partnership opportunities. The result? A greater understanding and buy-in of the NPI approach as an opportunity to forge new and innovative kinds of partnerships that allow the Agency to be more creative in its work.

Pilot Missions Submit NPI Action Plans

Fourteen USAID Missions from around the world submitted their NPI Action Plans as part of the Agency's pilot to help institutionalize and expand USAID's engagement with new or underutilized partners. With co-creation and capacity building key NPI objectives, Missions noted the importance of working with local stakeholders to define organizational strengthening needs. Many Missions found that NPI is an expansion of their current partnership strategy and noted that the creation of the NPI Action Plan "gave us the opportunity to pause and reflect."

Congratulations and thank you to these Missions for paving the way: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia,

Colombia, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Ukraine, and West Africa.

We have two winners!

Agricentric Ventures and MorseCode Medical have been selected to receive the Partnerships Incubator's pre-engagement assessment incentive for completing our user survey of the "How to Work With USAID" website. Based in Kumasi, Ghana, [Agricentric Ventures](#) promotes "climate smart" agriculture in nine countries by purchasing agriculture waste and processing it into products such as biofertilizer and dietary supplement for livestock and fish. Among its in-country equipment solutions for health care providers, [MorseCode Medical](#), a Seattle company, has designed a protective face shield that can be manufactured at scale with a five-day lead time.

The Partnerships Incubator was established to provide technical assistance to USAID headquarters and missions and create resources to benefit new or underutilized partners. Over time, the Incubator will provide capacity-building services to local or locally established partners that have been vetted through an Agency competitive process.

Resources



The NPI Process

Through NPI, we've simplified the process of working with USAID. Applicants can submit a five-page concept note. From there, the Agency works hand-in-hand with the applicant.



Key NPI Definitions

What's a new partner or underutilized partner? Read about USAID's New Partnerships Initiative's definition of terms that guide funding decisions.



Working with USAID

USAID has a host of resources available online for businesses and organizations that are new to working with the Agency. Click on the link above to access those resources.

Visit [usaid.gov/NPI](https://www.usaid.gov/NPI) for the latest funding opportunities.

Subscribe to the New Partnerships Initiative Newsletter