

## ATTACHMENT 01

### MISSION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

#### Request for Concept Papers from USAID/Macedonia - 2013 Disability Funding

#### Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities

##### I. Purpose Statement

USAID/Macedonia is seeking concept papers from eligible prospective Macedonian organizations and from its implementing partners of ongoing projects for program (s) that will:

- 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).

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.

Subject to the availability of funds, we expect to fund individual programs in the category of **small fund programs ranging from \$20,000 to \$300,000** (per individual grant/cooperative agreement). The award(s) [modifications of ongoing grant(s) or cooperative agreement(s)] under this request for concept papers will be administered through and managed by USAID/Macedonia in accordance with USAID Standard Provisions for U.S. Non-governmental Recipients or Non-U.S. Non-governmental Recipients.

##### 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 is committed to disability inclusive development. Its Disability Policy advances a clear vision and framework for the Agency's efforts towards disability inclusion. The 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).

In July 2009, the U.S. 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, several 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**

The two main objectives are to increase participation of PWDs in USAID programming and strengthen the capacity of DPOs. Ideally, activities should complement USAID/Macedonia's strategic objectives that can be found at: <http://macedonia.usaid.gov> (under Documents and Reports),

Following is a list of illustrative activities - 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**

Concept papers of the following amounts will be considered:

- Small fund programs ranging from \$20,000 - \$300,000 (per program/activity)

Concept Papers will be considered for “one time grants” with no expectations for follow-on funding.

## **VI. Duration of the proposed program(s)/activity(ies)**

The duration of the proposed program(s)/activity(ies) is maximum two years.

## **VII. The Application Process**

In order to promote consistency and for ease of review, all applicants must use the standard application form which is included as Attachment 2. Submissions made using other formats may not be considered. Applications should be no longer than eight pages (plus cover letter and attachments.)

The deadline for submission of the concept papers is 17:00 Skopje Time on December 16, 2013. The concept papers should be submitted electronically to Mr. Risto Ricliev at [rricliev@usaid.gov](mailto:rricliev@usaid.gov) and to Ms. Vesna Stevkovska at [vstevkovska@usaid.gov](mailto:vstevkovska@usaid.gov)

Any questions concerning the Request for Concept Papers should be submitted in writing to Mr. Risto Ricliev at [rricliev@usaid.gov](mailto:rricliev@usaid.gov) and to Ms. Vesna Stevkovska at [vstevkovska@usaid.gov](mailto:vstevkovska@usaid.gov). The deadline for submission of questions is December 2, 2013.

The selection process will be conducted in two phases.

1. USAID/Macedonia **solicits and reviews concept papers based on the evaluation criteria outlined below.**

USAID/Macedonia **sends the concept paper(s)** they are interested in supporting to USAID/Washington. A review panel in USAID/Washington **will select** concept papers submitted by USAID Missions worldwide.

2. Final negotiations, awards and management will be completed by USAID/Macedonia. USAID Macedonia is responsible for meeting USAID requirements for competition.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**Non-conforming concept papers will not be reviewed.** Due to the volume of anticipated concept papers, the standard application form must be used. Please respect the 8-page limit.

**Reporting on the funded program is required.** Even if the funds are added to an existing program there will be a one-page quarterly reporting requirement with an indicator table that is mandatory (*form for each are attached*).

**IMPORTANT: Direct submissions of concept papers or applications from applicants to USAID/Washington will not be considered.**

Please note that the issuance of this Request for Applications 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 costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. The applications are submitted at the risk of the submitter. All preparation and submission costs are at the submitter's expense. In addition, final award of any resultant grant or cooperative agreement cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated, and committed through internal USAID procedures. While it is anticipated that these procedures will be successfully

completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for award.

## **VIII. Recommended Evaluation Criteria**

USAID/Macedonia will use the following criteria in reviewing applications:

### **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.