



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE ALLIANCE PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE Primary Causes of Mortality and Morbidity for Women of Reproductive Age UNDER EXISTING ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT APS No: M/OAA/GRO/EGAS – 08 - 108

This program is authorized in accordance with Part 1 of the Foreign Assistance act of 1961 as amended.

USAID/Washington's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia (E&E) Health Team would like to make a special call for the submission of concept papers related to the USG development pillar *Investing in People* and the E&E Health Sector Goal of *Improved Health Status of E&E Populations*. The specific objective is to improve the health and lives of women of reproductive age (and safeguard the welfare of their children) in Europe and Eurasia by targeting the greatest causes of morbidity and mortality with strong public-private sector alliances. Alliances will improve the health of women during critical reproductive and child-rearing years as well as during their most productive years in the workforce.

USAID's maternal and child health programs in E&E have achieved notable success in promoting baby-friendly/mother-friendly hospitals, reducing abortion rates, and promoting and supporting integration of maternal health services into primary health care. Historically, USAID's focus has been on pregnancy-related mortality including post-partum hemorrhage and safe birthing, which has been effective and should continue to be maintained, monitored and rolled out. Additionally, as new significant threats facing women of reproductive age in E&E are better realized, these too should be incorporated into maternal health program designs.

According to the WHO almost 60% of deaths of women ages 15-40 in E&E are due to noncommunicable diseases, with around 20% of deaths being attributed to cancer and 20% to cardiovascular diseases. Injuries make up 30% of deaths with suicide and violence together comprising almost 11%. Intimate partner violence affects a conservative 20-30% of all women in the region and some country estimates are as high as 60%. The epidemiology in E&E identifies non-pregnancy related diseases and injuries as the top causes of "maternal mortality."

USAID/EE Health Team seeks to develop innovative alliances that promote the health and well-being of women during their main reproductive and working years through integrated primary health care. Effective proponents will propose alliances that promote cost-effective interventions, increase consumer empowerment for women in the targeted age group, and emphasize prevention over treatment. Successful alliances will compliment ongoing efforts within health (and/or education) systems. Proponents may

submit proposals for alliances that cover more than one E&E country or geographic location and health topic if the goal across locations is complimentary.

Alliances will be evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the APS. Preference will be given to alliances that include private sector partners with long term commitment to the region and a recognized business interest in the proposed concept. Involvement of private sector partners who invest for reasons including improving their business in the region will increase the potential for activity sustainability. Preference will also be given to consortia that include private sector partners and have the goal of improving the health of women during their reproductive years. In the concept paper, reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposal addresses primary causes of mortality and morbidity while targeting women of reproductive age. If USAID requests a full proposal, applicants will be given specific evaluation criteria that speak to the subject matter of the concept at that time.

USAID will make one award for up to \$300,000 for an alliance lasting up to a 12-month period, subject to availability of funding. As stated in APS No: M/OAA/GRO/EGAS – 08 – 108, USAID expects to receive alliance proposals that leverage resources at a minimum of 1:1 but ideally 2:1 or greater.

Alliances may include the following or other activities that meet the stated objective:

- Promoting early screening for young women for cardiovascular disease/diabetes or cancer and ensuring consistent, effective follow-up
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles, nutrition, and exercise for young women
- Integrating domestic violence recognition, treatment and referral systems into health services
- Integrating mental health services into primary health care with particular focus on young women
- Strengthening health systems and improving health care in order to directly improve services related to the primary causes of morbidity and mortality for women in the targeted age group
- Launching awareness campaigns for young women regarding: risks/symptoms for CVDs, breast cancer, cervical cancer, domestic violence, mental health disorders, etc.
- Launching awareness campaigns for providers regarding: risks/symptoms for CVDs, breast cancer, cervical cancer, domestic violence, mental health disorders, etc.

Proposed alliances should be consistent with USAID legal and policy restrictions including those set forth in USAID’s Automated Directives System (ADS) and in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Projects that address the above core areas and the objectives may be submitted under USAID’s Annual Program Statement (APS) No. M/OAA/GRO/EGAS – 08 - 108.

USAID/EE/DGST will be responsible for the proposal review process and management of the awards. Applicants are required to submit short concept papers to USAID/EE/DGST through Jessica Forrest (jforrest@usaid.gov). Applicants will receive instructions on whether or not to proceed with a full proposal. Proposals for consideration should be submitted by Friday, May 30, 2008 in order to be considered.

For information regarding guidelines and procedures to submit a concept paper, please refer to the 2008 Annual Program Statement posted by the USAID Global Development Alliance Secretariat. The APS can be found at the following website:
www.usaid.gov/gda.

Before submitting a concept paper we encourage applicants to speak with key staff involved in the USAID/EE health program. These staff can inform you on whether or not your idea is appropriate and aligned with USAID's goals. The contact person is Jessica Forrest, USAID/EE Public Health Analyst (jforrest@usaid.gov), and she will connect you to others, as appropriate, for your questions.