

LAUNCH OF THE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM
September 8, 2008

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome: Adele Liskov, Division Chief, Private and Voluntary Cooperation, Office of Development Partners

Welcome to the Launch of the New Development and Grants Program (DGP) session. We hope that this morning's session will help acquaint US PVOs and their partners about the mission and requirements for this new grants program, which was announced on August 29. The meeting will review the Annual Program Statement (APS), including the general goals, eligibility requirements, application process, and evaluation criteria for the DPG. USAID staff will also discuss the six development sectors in which proposals are invited. The morning will include two opportunities for Questions and Answers—the first focusing on eligibility, to follow the general discussion of the APS, and the second to follow the sector presentations, focusing on proposal content.

Opening Remarks: Karen Turner, Director, Office of Development Partners

Congress authorized the DGP to encourage funding of development programs designed by indigenous NGOs and US PVOs that have not previously been able to obtain USAID grants. These providers are especially important because they operate at the grassroots level; strengthening them will facilitate capacity-building partnerships, a critical component of sustainability efforts. The response to the announcement reflects the interest of the international aid community in this initiative.

The role of NGOs and PVOs in international development has mushroomed—20% of flows to developing world come from the US government, serving as a catalyst for private actors abroad. We hope that NGOs and PVOs will see ODP as a resource and home, offering vision, leadership, and knowledge and expertise in working with these communities.

The Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation moved to the Office of Development Partners 18 months ago. The move will strengthen the program's relationships with organizations critical to achievement of mission—i.e., the private sector, donors, and NGO and PVO communities.

APS Review: Adele Liskov

To ensure procurement integrity, the answers to the questions posed in this session will be distributed to all applicants. The answers to the questions previously raised in the public comment period in August are posted on the Web site, and today's responses will be posted in the next week or two. Participants can also continue to submit questions until Wednesday, September 10, or fill out an index card and leave it with meeting staff. Please read previous posted comments thoroughly to see if your question has already been answered prior to asking or submitting a new question. We will not to respond to specific proposal ideas in this session.

Eligibility:

1. To be eligible, US PVOs must be registered with USAID by the time a Concept Paper is submitted

2. To be eligible, applicants need to comply with the \$5 million threshold of USAID funding within last 5 years

If an organization has a successful concept paper but lacks capacity for standards and management, USAID will attempt to provide technical assistance to increase capacity to the required level.

Application Process:

1. Concept paper
2. Full proposal if mission decides that the program presented in the Concept Paper is viable

Concept Paper Pointers:

- Address criteria in APS succinctly
- Build on best practices in addressing needs of missions
- Deadline: November 5—45 days from August 29
- Length: 5 pages total
- Adhere to technical instructions
- Respond to Sector needs
- Look at the criteria used in the evaluation process
- Demonstrate knowledge of agency, mission, goals, strategies
- Show how the methods employed will support the objectives of the target Sector and country
- Keep at summary level--full application will be more detailed
- Emphasize sustainability from the start
- Include administrative as well as personnel support sources
- Leveraging funds/cost-share with global development alliances desirable
- Organizations may have some technical areas that need improvement

Evaluation:

Concept Paper

1. Clarity and logical coherence
2. Selection of problem
3. Appropriateness of strategy
4. Feasibility
5. Support of Mission activity in sectors and strengthen Mission activities—details in Appendix G— and in the supplement found on the PVC Web site

Full application

1. Higher level of detail
2. Full statement of problem
3. Monitoring for years 1 to 3, to include data collection methods
4. Gender guidelines
5. Approach—clear and measurable statement of actions and explanation as why these are best approach
6. Innovation a plus—for example, peer trainers
7. Implementation—timeline for start-up plus 3-year plan
8. Sustainability—insufficient to have a good project if it ends after three years with no continuity
9. Cost application—guidance available in links

Selection:

1. Technical Approach: 55 points
2. Management: 20 points—clear statement of management experience and/or capacity; key staff experience
3. Indicators: 10 points—clear and objective measurement tools—how tracked, measured, recorded
4. Past Performance: 10 points
5. Gender: 5 points- analysis of gender differentiation and issues
6. Cost application—no points—
7. Cost Share or Public-Private Alliance: 5 extra points

APS Q&A

(See first Q&A document on www.grants.gov)

Sector Panel:

Microenterprise

Tom Kennedy, Senior Microfinance Advisor, Microenterprise Development Office
Microenterprise is a key component of the APS; it has been an important feature of USAID support for 30 years, and is critical to US security interests

As the leading bi-lateral donor, the US has led in enabling poor households to improve standard of living, spurring economic growth and reducing poverty. Enterprises include footwear, furniture, food, goods and services, trading etc. These businesses expand and integrate into formal economies of their countries and strengthen their societies.

Small businesses provide households with a cushion from shock. Low income households and entrepreneurs need help for everyday needs—financial services, nonenterprise purposes, homes, education, weddings, funerals, emergencies, war. They link low-income people into growth opportunities, an essential requirement for raising living standards—linking large numbers into better markets and increasing productivity and competitiveness through building infrastructure, strengthening value chains, and the overall competitiveness of industries encompassing micros.

Microenterprises sometimes need support through law and regulation reform, assistance with start-up and resource access assistance. The beginning of the application instructions provides good descriptions of viable programs. Applicants should focus on country priorities.

Women's Empowerment

Mary Knox, Program Analyst, Office of Women in Development

Women's empowerment is about expanding opportunities for women to make choices. In many parts of the developed and developing world, a woman is considered a child, cannot enter into contracts, face barriers to employment, are required to retire earlier than men, lack a voice in community decisions. These barriers are especially important when disaster strikes. Empowerment of women increases efficiency and productiveness of the entire society.

Target Programs:

1. Increased labor force participation
2. Increases in women's literacy and job skills

3. Access to credit and land
4. Laws to support gender equality
5. Advocacy
6. Issues of time and mobility
7. Role of men—they must support change or risk negative repercussions

Focus Areas Specified in the APS Areas:

1. Technical and vocational training
2. Entrepreneurship
3. Advocacy
4. Resources
5. Room for creativity

Dairy Development

Jim Yazman, Livestock Science Specialist

This Sector has clearer guidelines than some Sectors, and is supported by five bi-lateral missions. The sector has some fairly mature programs; applicants can build on success stories.

Focus includes but is not limited to:

1. Innovation
2. Sustainability
3. Impact

Water-Africa

Carl Mitchell, Africa Regional Water Supply & Situation Advisor

The agency is focusing on building holistic programs encompassing water, sanitation, and hygiene

One-third of population lack access to clean water, 2/3 lack sanitation

Program Focus:

1. Senegal—rural
2. Uganda—urban and rural
3. Mozambique--revolving fund

Concept is to use indigenous resources of country. Issues are determined by geography—urban vs. rural. Some existing central urban systems are in disrepair and lack trained technicians. Best practices and buy-in from villagers are needed in rural areas. Many can't afford technical talent; things break down and can't be replaced.

Programs:

1. Capital investment
2. Networking
3. Community-share water and sanitation facilities
4. Urban/rural partnerships
5. Utility reform
6. Best practices.

Environment

William Breed, Director, Global Climate Change Team

USAID has had a global climate change program since the early 1990s. The Sector focuses on adaptation to climate change and clean energy. Goals include reducing emissions. The application instruction package has definitions and criteria for clean energy work. Missions requesting environment proposals are Haiti, Peru, Madagascar, West Africa, India, Georgia and the Dominican Republic.

Democracy in Government

The goal of the Sector is to strengthen the capacity of civil society. By definition a cross-cutting area, only \$2 million is allocated for the Sector. Missions seeking submissions in this area are Senegal, Zimbabwe, Macedonia, Kazakhstan and Haiti.

Programs:

1. Capacity building
2. Legal reform
3. Strategic planning
4. Financial management
5. Issues
6. Outreach
7. Advocacy.

Closing Remarks, Adele Liskov