**SUMMARY of USAID 2018 Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation Programs and Activities**

**(Global Reconciliation Fund)**

Deadline for Questions: March 23, 2018 5:00 PM (local Washington, DC time)

**Closing Time: April 23,** 2018 5:00 PM (local USAID Mission time)

Request for Applications (RFA) Number: 7200AA18RFA00008

To carry out activities that mitigate conflict and promote reconciliation by bringing together individuals of different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds

Countries: **Europe/Eurasia** Georgia,Kosovo,Macedonia.

**Africa:** Burkina Faso,Ethiopia,Kenya,Mali,Niger.

**Latin America:**Senegal,Colombia,Honduras,Jamaica.

**Summary of funding ranges / competitive categories:**

Between $100,000 and $800,000: Local Entities Only ($600,000 to $800,000 for Georgia)

Between $800,000 and $1,500,000: Local Entities AND Non-Local Entities (except for Colombia and Kosovo).

**TOTAL AVAILABLE**: 16m USD *(i.e. approx.. average 1.2m USD per country, so probably some countries will get two grants and some one)*

Cost sharing is not required for applicants to be eligible to receive USAID funding under this RFA. However, applicants may voluntarily propose a cost share component to demonstrate their commitment to the proposed activities. Also Public International Organizations (PIOs) may apply for funding under this RFA

**DURATION**: minimum of one (1) year (three (3) years for Ethiopia and Georgia) and a maximum period of four (4) years. Applicants may assume a project start date in calendar year 2019.

**Purpose**:

(…) provides funding for reconciliation-related programming, specifically, **to support *“people-to-people”* conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs** and activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds from the countries listed in Table 1 (see Section A.6). Programs that provide opportunities for adversaries to address issues, reconcile differences, promote greater understanding and mutual trust, and work on common goals with regard to potential, ongoing, or recent conflict will receive consideration for funding.

(…)most entail bringing together representatives of conflict-affected groups to interact purposefully in a safe space. This type of work can address divisions within a community that may be rooted in group differences such as ethnicity, religion, status, class, or political affiliation. P2P programs generally address patterns of prejudice and demonizing that reinforce the perceived differences between groups and hinder the development of relationships among parties to a conflict. The aim is to create opportunities for a series of interactions between conflicting groups in the community or broader society to promote mutual understanding, trust, empathy, and resilient social ties.

**Indicators of Successful Projects**

* Successful programs demonstrate *people-to-people approaches to reconciliation* based on a context and conflict analysis that leads to a concrete hypothesis through a defined *theory of change*. Programs clearly articulate which people or conflicting groups are brought together and why those chosen groups are most relevant based on the conflict context.
* Successful programs have *focused and realistic approaches in which the implementation of activities flows from the context analysis and theory of change*. A single program is likely unable to realistically address the multidimensional aspects of one conflict, so a clear explicit focus and justification of that focus is part of a successful program design.
* Successful programs *explicitly and intentionally create linkages between the reconciliation intervention’s immediate objectives and peace writ large and/or community- or national-level peace efforts or structural reforms*. (…)*effective conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs address both the attitudinal and institutional dimensions of conflict*.
* Successful programs *reflect thoughtful consideration of any risks that may result by bringing together conflicting parties and provide sufficient explanation of risk mitigation measures, including appropriate safeguards to avoid intensifying the conflict or creating harmful situations for participants*.
* Successful programs *incorporate gender considerations throughout all aspects of their approach – including design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation – in a substantive and integrated manner.*
* Successful programs reflect *strong local engagement in all design and programming aspects of the intervention*.
* Successful programs *articulate how program approaches incorporate ongoing conflict analysis to inform how interventions adapt to changing contexts*.

**SUBMISSION**

The Technical Application must be in English. Applications should be single-spaced, written in no smaller than 12-point font, and in Times New Roman or a similar typeset. Each page should be consecutively numbered. **The page limit for the application is 15 pages**—no pages after page 15 will be reviewed. The Cover Page and

Table of Contents will not be included in the page count and should not be numbered.

Applications should have margins of not less than one inch on all sides and should be formatted

in the portrait style (not landscape) for all text portions. Monitoring and evaluation plans and

illustrative first-year activity plans may be submitted in landscape style but each page will be

included in the total page count. All graphics must be included in the page count.

**Technical Narrative:** The narrative should include an **Executive Summary** that summarizes the key elements of the applicant’s technical application and provides overall cost figures, **Applicants are encouraged to organize the narrative section in the same order as the merit review criteria** (see Section E.2):

1. Conflict Analysis and Theory of Change including Indicators (35 points):
2. People-to-People Implementation Approach (40 points)
3. Do No Harm (15 points)
4. Local Engagement– *For Non-Local Applicants Only* (10 points)

**Review and Selection Process**

The Global Reconciliation Fund Program utilizes a two-step review process:

**Step One – Mission-level Review:** After the application submission deadline, participating USAID Missions will have approximately thirty (30) days to review all applications received. Missions

will then review all eligible applications to determine to what extent the application is responsive

to the key technical requirements of this RFA, namely that (a) the application includes a peopleto-

people approach, and (b) the proposed program is linked to Mission priorities as delineated in

the Country-Specific Program Information in Annex 1. Requirement (a) is more important than

(b).

At the completion of the Step One review, USAID Missions will notify each applicant in writing

via e-mail of their application status (either unsuccessful or recommended for Step Two

consideration).

**Step Two – DCHA/CMM Global Review:** Within approximately forty-five (45) days of DCHA/CMM’s receipt of the Missions’ findings and recommendations, DCHA/CMM will convene a selection committee to review the Missions’ recommendations and select applications.

**KENYA**

**USAID Mission website:** https://www.usaid.gov/kenya

*Applications must be submitted to:* nairobip2p@usaid.gov

USAID/Kenya welcomes applications that seek to foster and support inclusive dialogue and catalyze

vertical and horizontal peacebuilding, social cohesion and stability in Kenya.

The USAID/Kenya Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) goal is: *Kenya’s Governance*

*and Economy Sustainably Transformed*. It outlines three distinct and inter-dependent development

objectives (DOs): devolution effectively implemented; health and human capacity strengthened; and inclusive, market-driven, environmentally sustainable economic growth. Conflict and protracted

tensions in Kenya can undermine development work on all three DOs, and roll back development

progress in the country. While Kenya’s reform agenda supported through the USAID strategy is, in

itself, intended to address historic grievances that are a source of instability, there is need to complement these efforts with inclusive dialogue and other peacebuilding interventions.

Kenya witnessed electoral violence in a number of elections (1992 and 1997) since the onset of

multiparty politics, and significant post-election violence in 2007. In February 2008, national leaders from both sides of the political divide signed the National Accord and Reconciliation Agreement which included four agenda items focused on immediate actions to stop the violence, address the humanitarian crisis, and overcome the political crisis. Agenda Four called for long-term measures and solutions to address the underlying grievances such as marginalization of certain ethnic and religious groups, lack of inclusivity, the “winner takes all” nature of politics, weaknesses within political and electoral processes, and competition over natural resources. While some steps have been taken, most political analysts agree that implementation of this critical agenda was not complete and, despite the country’s progress since the adoption of the 2010 Constitution, continues to undermine Kenya’s achievement of Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Kenya’s 2017 elections were hotly contested, both at the national and county levels, resulting in high tensions, frequent protests, violence, and loss of life. Anticipation of violence, insufficient security, and the proliferation of armed youth gangs and ethnically-aligned militia led to the voluntary or forced displacement of ethnic minorities while others armed themselves and remained in place.

There were numerous reports of sexual and gender-based violence against women and, to a more limited degree, men. Victims experienced difficulty in accessing medical services due to instability,especially within informal settlements. Due to their high levels of unemployment and a related sense of marginalization, young people were particularly vulnerable to being conscripted into engaging in violent confrontations with police and political rivals.

The 2017 electoral cycle has left Kenya deeply divided along ethno-political lines with concerns

about the tension and violent confrontation continuing in the post-election phase. This has given rise to calls from various actors and institutions on the need for a Kenyan-led national conversation as an imperative to the security, stability, prosperity and viability of the Kenyan state. However, Kenya’s peace infrastructure is relatively weak and thus the ability of key stakeholders to implement such a framework needs to be bolstered.

USAID/Kenya and East Africa invites applications **that will mitigate the ethno-political fragmentation that manifested during the 2017 electoral cycle and address the underlying grievances which contribute to it.** Applications must incorporate a **people-to-people approach** and may focus on one or both of the following areas:

 **Support inclusive dialogue:**

This could entail, but would not be limited to: (i) supporting citizen engagement in a national conversation. This conversation could focus on inclusion, institutional strengthening and reforms, implementation of the Constitution, devolution, development and economic stability, and accountability and rule of law; and (ii) promoting citizen involvement in monitoring the national conversation process and the implementation of any outcomes. USAID/Kenya recognizes the challenges around conducting a national conversation at the political level, however, given the fragmentation in the country, there is still a need for conversations at the people-to-people level.

 **Bringing together groups in conflict to catalyze vertical and horizontal peacebuilding between communities and the state (vertical), and government and opposition supporters (horizontal):**

This could include, but is not limited to: (i) building social cohesion between and within diverse communities; (ii) helping conflicting groups to identify and disrupt the narratives that are furthering ethnic and political division and exclusion at national and sub-national levels, and radicalizing young people towards violence; (iii) promoting alternative narratives and messaging around just peace; (iv) trauma awareness and healing; (v) enhancing local capacities to prevent and mitigate violent conflict (vi) trust building between communities and police6; and (vii) enhancing the capacity of county governments and leadership to address long-term drivers of conflict at the county level in concert with the national government.

USAID/Kenya will only consider applications from local organizations or partnerships between local organizations and international organizations. The partnerships must include deliberate efforts to enhance the organizational capacity of specific local civil society organizations to effectively serve as agents of transformation in the field of conflict prevention and mitigation, mediation and peacebuilding. Programs should focus on ensuring sustainability and must be built on local ownership and resources. Further, programs should clearly identify and address drivers of conflict and clearly indicate theories of change for how interventions will mitigate these drivers. Applicants should identify how they will advance the role of women and youth in peacebuilding and conflict mitigation activities. The Mission will only consider applicants that fully integrate conflict sensitivity throughout the project design. Where relevant, proposed interventions should leverage existing USAID activities in Kenya. Note that IF an award is made, the likely earliest timing would be in mid 2019 and thus proposed activities should take this into consideration. Applicants should review USAID’s People-to-People Program Guide to better understand desired approaches to programming.