

RCA 2024 Annual Program Statement

Funding Opportunity Title:	Supporting Resilient Communities in Central Asia
Announcement Type:	Annual Program Statement
Funding Opportunity Number:	RCA-APS-Reg-001
Issuance Date:	February 27, 2024
Q&A Sessions Schedule:	June 13, 2024, 10:30-11:20 Almaty time, Google Meet link: https://meet.google.com/akq-pcyj-gua July 9, 2024, 10:30-11:20 Almaty time, Google Meet link: https://meet.google.com/akq-pcyj-gua
Closing Date:	August 31, 2024
Submit Concept Papers to:	Applications_RCA@dai.com
Link to the full package:	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PONMVMGshMG31-nZ0ye9Q1miFL8B-tW8?usp=sharing https://dai0.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-a-RCA_APS

To Interested Applicants:

The purpose of this Annual Program Statement (APS) is to solicit applications for funding.

DAI, within the Resilient Communities Activity (RCA) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking concept papers first that may result in full applications from prospective partners to implement activities that advance local capacity in peacebuilding and addressing vulnerabilities of marginalized groups at risk of violent extremism across Central Asia. These activities should empower and equip individuals, families, and communities to build and sustain peaceful dynamics, as well as promote social inclusion, youth engagement and women's roles in pursuing peace and security. The initial geographic focus under this call includes the following countries and communities:

Kyrgyz Republic	
Osh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gulistan (Nookat distict, Osh region)• Kashkar Kyshtak (Kara-Suu district, Osh region)• Amir-Temut municipality (Osh city)
Bishkek	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New settlements (Bishkek city) – 2 settlements• Tokmok city (Chuy region) – 2 districts within the city
Kazakhstan	
Aktobe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aqtobe city,• Alga town (Alga district),• town of Kandyagash (Mugalzhar district),• Shubardkudyk village (Temir district).
Jambyl	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taraz city,• Sarykemser village (Bayzak district),• Merki village (Merki district),• town of Karatau (Talas district).
Uzbekistan	
Tashkent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almazar district, Shayhantahur district, Uchtepa district, Sergeli district (Tashkent city)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keles district, Zangiata district, Yangiyul district, Chirchik city (Tashkent region)
Namangan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kasansay district, Namangan district, Uychi district (Namangan region)• Namangan city.
Tajikistan	
Dushanbe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vahdat (Republican Subordinate Districts)• Shahrinav (Republican Subordinate Districts)
Kulob	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hamadoni (Khatlon region)• Farkhor (Khatlon region)• Jaihun (Khatlon region)• Qubodiyon (Khatlon region)

DAI anticipates awarding approximately 6 (six) grants to fund successful applications submitted in response to this APS. Competition for this APS will be open till August 31, 2024, with latest awards by September 30, 2024. It is possible that all of the available funds for this APS may be allocated earlier than the closing deadline mentioned above.

The duration of the grant activities may be up to 12 (twelve) months. The total amount of funding currently available for this APS is approximately \$350,000. DAI may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the selected application(s). The number of awards and amount of available funding is subject to change, and DAI reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this APS.

This APS is seeking applicants to propose creative and effective approaches that will empower and equip individuals, families, and communities to build and sustain peaceful dynamics, promoting social inclusion, youth engagement and women's roles in pursuing peace and security to achieve the overall goal of reducing risk of and increasing resilience to violent extremism (VE), as outlined in the Overview section.

Applicants may propose a range of new initiatives or scale up small projects that have demonstrated success. Awardees will be expected to share baseline and final evaluation results and key lessons and disseminate periodic activities and outcomes with the broader community.

Applicants must demonstrate success in managing projects on the local level in the proposed focus country or region, as well as success in addressing DAI's development objectives.

Full electronic, downloadable APS package available at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PONMVMGshMG31-nZ0ye9Q1miFL8B-tW8?usp=drive_link and https://dai0.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-a-RCA_APS

PLEASE, NOTE THAT AT THIS STAGE WE NEED CONCEPT PAPERS ONLY.

DO NOT SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION UNLESS REQUESTED TO DO SO BY DAI.

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SECTION I - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Description of the Annual Program

Background

The USAID/DAI Resilient Communities Activity (RCA) is implementing activities based on studies on violent extremism (VE) conducted in the Central Asia region. Using a Violent Extremism Risk Framework that identified key risk factors that make individuals and communities vulnerable to the influence of extremism, RCA activities that specifically mitigate risk factors and enhance protective factors to advance local capacity in peacebuilding and addressing vulnerabilities of marginalized groups across Central Asia will be considered. Activities will work closely with both government and civil society partners in delivering services to the most at-risk communities and increase protection against violent trends. RCA will empower and equip individuals, families, and communities to build and sustain peaceful dynamics. The project will promote social inclusion, youth engagement and women's roles in pursuing peace and security. RCA will adapt strategies through learning to achieve the overall project goal of reducing risk of and increasing resilience to violent extremism (VE) in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Overall Program Objectives

The overarching goal of the RCA is to reduce the risk of recruitment into, and support for VE. RCA aims to strengthen resilience to VE across the countries of Central Asia.

Using the public health approach to P/CVE, RCA is expanding the approach to counteract radicalization-transmitting environments and build community-led systems that can sustainably resist transmission in the future. In Year 2 RCA will continue to work at the community, individual and family level to build a Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) ecosystem within hotspot communities, focusing on reducing risk factors and building protective factors to disrupt processes of radicalization.

- Under Objective 1, RCA will build community, CSO and community leader capacities to design, and implement and monitor interventions responsive to P/CVE trends and community vulnerabilities.
- Through Objective 2, RCA will build networks and services that support individuals who are experiencing CASSS-identified risk factors for vulnerability, (e.g., undergoing a personal crisis or lacking family/social support) by expanding inclusive, accessible, and sustainable mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) for marginalized individuals.
- Under Objective 3, RCA will improve social inclusion by targeting sentiments of marginalization that result in exclusion of at-risk individuals from targeted support. RCA will provide specific opportunities for these individuals to build positive relationships and skills, including building coalitions of women changemakers and supporting reintegration of former VE offenders.

Each objective includes specific considerations for the roles that youth disempowerment, gender inequality and social exclusion play in VE dynamics, as well as a dedicated learning agenda targeted at building the evidence base of the intersection between gender and VE.

RCA is operating in four of the five Central Asia countries: Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The context monitoring component of RCA continues to incorporate Turkmenistan, with the aim of identifying potential entry points through which the Activity may expand in later years, if politically feasible.

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Overview

In 2024 the RCA will support creative and innovative ideas that to reduce the risk of recruitment into, and support for violent extremism, specifically focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalized sectors within target communities. Illustrative activity ideas may include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting dialogue, awareness raising and conflict prevention.
- Engaging communities in cultural activities, promoting inclusion. Building trust and relationships to create a sense of belonging.
- Empowering youth as leaders. Providing opportunities to create a sense of purpose.
- Media – strategic communications promoting positive messaging.
- Empowering women in resilience and promoting gender equality.
- Community advocacy on priority issues affecting reintegration and stability.

Creativity of ideas and approach of concepts will be positively considered.

The selections of the grants will be organized in two stages: (I) Concept Paper and (II) Proposal Co-Creation. Below is the detailed information on the APS and application procedures.

SECTION II- AWARD INFORMATION

A. Estimated Funding Level

The total amount of funding available for APS 2024 is about \$350,000, however the estimated average awards would be around \$60-70,000. DAI may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the chosen application(s). DAI expects to award about 6 agreements. The number of awards and amount of available funding are subject to change.

B. Anticipated Start Date of the Awards and Performance Period

DAI anticipates the start date upon award with a performance period of up to twelve (12) months.

C. Award Type

DAI anticipates awarding approximately 6 (six) Fixed Amount Award, In-Kind or Blended grants (hereafter called Agreement) to fund successful applications submitted in response to this APS. The type of agreement will be set and discussed during the Proposal Co-Creation phase.

SECTION III- ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Types of Entities that May Apply

Registered non-U.S. non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations willing to forego profit may apply. In addition, applicants should:

- Be legally recognized and registered. Registration documents and statutes must be submitted, if concept approved.
- Not be affiliated with a political party nor engaged in any political activities.
- Not be focused solely on religious activities.

This APS is issued as a public notice to ensure that all interested and qualified organizations have a fair opportunity to submit applications for funding. Eligible organizations could include, for example, foundations, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs), private

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organizations affiliated with public academic institutions and international non-governmental organizations, private companies, professional associations and consortiums of the above. DAI encourages an approach that establishes partnerships with several partner organizations and builds them into legacy institutions capable of sustaining development projects in the future.

B. Potential New Partners

DAI strongly encourages applications from potential new partners.

C. Cost Share

Cost share is not required under this call, however a contribution will be considered as an advantage during the final pre-selection. Applicants are encouraged to contribute resources from their own private or local sources for the implementation of this Program where feasible and will be accountable for those.

SECTION IV- APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Application Process

DAI will review proposals using a two-stage process: (I) Concept Paper and (II) Proposal Co-Creation.

Applicants must first submit a concept paper of no more than **three (3) pages** in accordance with the instructions below. Concept papers must meet the identified needs of this solicitation. If your proposed project meets the requirement of this APS and approved for the next stage, you will be provided with necessary templates and invited for the co-creation of the full proposal.

- Do not submit a full proposal unless requested by DAI. Only upon receipt of positive DAI feedback on the concept paper the applicant will be requested to put together a full proposal for DAI consideration, using the templates and criteria provided.

The concept paper must be submitted in accordance with the instructions in SECTIONS (B) and (C) below.

B. Concept Paper

In the first stage, all applicants are required to submit a short technical concept paper no longer than three (3) pages that is specific, complete and concise. The concept paper should demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. The instructions for developing the concept paper should be taken into account.

Concept papers will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the APS, appropriateness of subject matter, and creativity. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed work will **contribute to the objectives and technical focus areas of the RCA**, especially within the listed target communities.

Concept Paper Template

The concept paper must be submitted in Calibri Body font, size 11, and must include page numbering. Each page must be marked with the APS number and applicant title.

Prepare the concept paper according to the format in Annex 1.

DAI will contact selected applicants **ONLY** to request a full proposal based on the information provided in the concept paper.

C. Submission Instructions

Materials could be submitted in either English or Russian.

The concept paper must be submitted in MS Word by email to: Applications_RCA@dai.com. Concepts for APS 2024 cycle may be submitted on a rolling basis upon readiness, but no later than August 31, 2024, 18:00 Almaty time.

SECTION V- CONCEPT REVIEW INFORMATION

Concept papers will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the APS, appropriateness of subject matter, creativeness, and applicant experience and capacity. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed work will contribute to the APS expected results especially within the selected country context.

SECTION VI- PROPOSAL CO-CREATION

PLEASE, NOTE THAT AT THIS STAGE WE ACCEPT CONCEPT PAPERS ONLY AND BELOW IS JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

The organizations whose concepts meeting the requirement of this APS and approved for the next stage, will be contacted via e-mail and provided with detailed instructions on Co-creation stage, as well as full proposal templates. The templates also available at the Google Drive for your information.

**PLEASE, DO NOT SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION
UNLESS REQUESTED TO DO SO BY DAI.**

SECTION VII- AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Post-Selection Information

Following selection of an awardee, DAI will inform the successful applicant and provide timeline and templates for co-creation process. Notification and proposal package will be provided electronically to the successful applicant's main point of contact mentioned on the cover page of the concept note.

Due to limited capacities the RCA won't be able to notify all unsuccessful applicants but may respond to some of the written requests.

B. General Information on Reporting Requirements

Reporting will be determined based on the full proposal, award agreement and the delineation of roles and responsibilities. The detailed performance monitoring and evaluation plan, using established baseline data and specific, measurable targets and indicators will also be agreed upon. Financial reporting will be in accordance with the requirements of the obligating document.

C. Administration of Award

Awards to the organizations will be administered in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E, ADS 303 and USAID Standard Provisions for non-U.S. non-governmental organizations.

Applicants may obtain copies of the referenced material at the following websites:

- 2 CFR 200: [eCFR :: 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E -- Cost Principles](#)
- Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental Recipients: [Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations - A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 303 \(usaid.gov\)](#)

SECTION VIII- RCA CONTACT POINT

The point of contact for this APS and any questions during the APS process is Aizhan Abdirova, RCA Regional Grants Manager

- [Grants RCA@dai.com](mailto:Grants_RCA@dai.com)

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this APS is welcome to take part in the Q&A Sessions. The schedule and link to the sessions are below:

March 12, 2024	10:30-11:20 Almaty time	https://meet.google.com/akq-pcyj-gua
April 23, 2024		https://meet.google.com/akq-pcyj-gua
June 13, 2024		https://meet.google.com/akq-pcyj-gua

All sessions will be recorded. By joining the calls you provide your consent to the recording and its use by the RCA and/or DAI. Provided clarifications and responses will be published in written at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PONMVMGshMG31-nZ0ye9Q1miFL8B-tW8?usp=sharing> and https://dai0.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-a-RCA_APS to allow replies to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Oral explanations or instructions given will not be binding.

Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this APS will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this APS, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

SECTION IX- OTHER INFORMATION

Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of DAI, nor does it commit DAI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

DAI reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Further, DAI reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this APS.

Full electronic, downloadable package of this announcement is available at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PONMVMGshMG31-nZ0ye9Q1miFL8B-tW8?usp=drive_link and https://dai0.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-a-RCA_APS