

WSC Annual Program Statement

Funding Opportunity Title:	Water Sanitation and Conservation
Announcement Type:	Annual Program Statement
Funding Opportunity Number:	8
Issuance Date:	November 21, 2022
Final Closing Date:	December 21, 2023
Submit Concept Papers to:	Formsite Link

To Interested Applicants:

The purpose of this Annual Program Statement (APS) is to solicit applications for funding. DAI through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking concept papers from prospective partners to work on enhancing the conservation and protection of Lebanon's water resources. This call wants to respond to the specific objectives of: 1) expanding the capacities of wastewater management; 2) increasing the efficiency of public water utilities to manage water resources; and 3) enhancing citizens' water stewardship.

Competition for this APS will be open until December 2023. The duration of the proposed concepts cannot exceed June 2024. DAI may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the selected application(s). Applicants whose concept papers are shortlisted will be notified approximately 80 days after the submission deadline mentioned in the cover page of this APS. 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 to engage citizens in water conservation and sanitation management as outlined in the "Funding Opportunity Description" section. Applicants may choose among a range of initiatives or scale up small projects that have demonstrated success. Awardees will be expected to share key lessons and disseminate periodic activities and outcomes with the broader community.

Applications where implementation is outside Lebanon will not be considered. Applicants must demonstrate success in managing cultural and political considerations in the proposed focus region(s) as well as success in addressing DAI's development objectives.

Thank you for your interest in DAI activities.

Sincerely,

Scott Short

Chief of Party

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SECTION I - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

(I) Description of the Proposed Program

Background

Despite ample natural water sources, Lebanon is a country in a state of “water impoverishment.”. To support the Lebanese water sector, the USAID funded (Started July 29, 2021) Water Sanitation and Conservation (WSC) Project is working towards an enhanced conservation and protection of Lebanon’s water resources through achieving three objectives: 1) Capacity of wastewater (WW) and sanitation management expanded; 2) Efficiency of public water utilities to manage water resources increased; 3) citizens’ water stewardship enhanced.

To achieve its goals WSC project is working in a diversified range of sectors. Through this call, the project wants to partner with eligible entities to fulfill the following objectives:

- **Objective A:** Expanding the capacity of wastewater and sanitation management with Regional Water Establishments and at the level of local communities/authorities
- **Objective B:** Increasing efficiency of Regional Water Establishments and Litani River Authority to manage and/or conserve water resources through innovative tools
- **Objective C:** Enhancing citizens’ water stewardship and community awareness and engagement in sustainable uses of water
- **Objective D:** Increasing efficiency in irrigation practices among farmers
- **Objective E:** Incentivizing Lebanese industries to improve Water and Wastewater Efficiency
- **Objective F:** Stimulating Circular Economy in Agriculture (SCEA)

Organizations with new, creative, and innovative applications with concepts responding to at least one of the above objectives are highly encouraged to apply. The next section provides a brief description of potential activities that can be funded under each objective:

Objective A: Expanding the capacity of wastewater and sanitation management with Regional Water Establishments and at the level of local communities/authorities and the private sector

WSC is looking for eligible partners to work on the below activities, applicants are welcome to suggest other creative, innovative ideas that can respond to this objective:

- Developing community-based sanitation management solutions for small localities not connected to wastewater treatment plants. Applicants can propose concepts to sensitize citizens towards the importance of proper wastewater management, the dangers of un-septic tanks, participation in the operation and maintenance fees of this process and propose developing or enhancing an existing desludging system.
- Engaging the private sector including industry and polluting activities in pretreatment activities to include wastewater treatment and reuse. Applicants can propose to work with industries or group of industries willing to introduce pollution reduction solutions. Preference will be for activities along the Litani Basin mainly central and West Bekaa with focus on small to medium size enterprises

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- Conducting engagement activities such as town hall meetings that facilitates dialogues between women, youth, and the general public with Regional Water Establishments and local authorities.

Objective B: Increasing efficiency of Regional Water Establishments and Litani River Authority to manage and/or conserve water resources through innovative tools

WSC is looking for eligible partners to work on, but not limited to, the below activities, applicants are welcome to suggest other creative, innovative ideas that can respond to this objective:

- Providing support to the RWEs and LRA through innovative digital and other tools and techniques related to data processing and analysis.
- Suggesting innovative technologies that can be adopted by RWEs and LRA for efficient management of their operations; these can include but not limited to:
 - Data analysis and data processing on technical and/or administrative matters
 - Data analysis on managing and analyzing non-revenue water and water consumption patterns
 - Data analysis on managing and analyzing billing and collection patterns
- Proposing creative solutions to measure and reduce Non-Revenue Water

Objective C: Enhancing citizens' water stewardship and community awareness and engagement in sustainable uses of water

WSC is looking for eligible partners to work on, but not limited to, the below activities, applicants are welcome to suggest other creative, innovative ideas that can respond to this objective:

- Conducting awareness raising programs in schools, specific economic sectors (agriculture, industry, tourism, etc.), on water and sanitation.
- Work with university students and fresh graduates to engage them in community works related to the water and sanitation sectors.
- Implementing capacity development programs on water and sanitation to local authorities, citizens, civil society organizations, and other relevant community actors.
- Engaging people with disability in the water and sanitation sector.
- Implementing innovative social media expertise in support to the strategic communication efforts of WSC

Objective D: Increasing efficiency in irrigation practices among farmers

WSC is looking for eligible partners to work on the below activities. Applicants are welcome to suggest other creative, innovative ideas that can respond to this objective:

Instilling a sustainable irrigation management system that would include all or a combination of the below:

- water conservation in irrigation practices to include theory and implementation that could take the form of supporting on farm irrigation efficiency investments
- Introduce a water tariff to support maintenance and water conservation
- Improving administrative linkage with water establishments and improving irrigation collection through:
 - Farmers engagement accompanied by incentive rebate programs built around improving on farm systems for famers willing to engage; and

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- Connecting farmers to a public scheme by providing the incentive in financing the connection, facilitating the relation with the existing public system owner and creating a sustainable system to include tariff, water uses, maintenance, etc...

Objective E: Water and Wastewater Efficiency in Lebanese Industries (WWELI)

WSC is looking for eligible partners to work on, but not limited to, the below activities. Applicants are welcome to suggest other creative, innovative ideas that can respond to this objective:

- **Water conservation solutions:** Innovative solutions for industries to conserve water (examples include water collection, water treatment, recycling chillers, on-site rainwater harvesting and storage, etc.)
- **Wastewater treatment and re-use solutions:** Effective and sustainable treatment of industrial wastewater (examples include wastewater treatment plants and sludge treatment and reuse, etc.)
- **Water and wastewater energy synergies:** Support onsite water and wastewater management installations with alternative and renewable energy sources (examples solar PV for water and wastewater treatment energy offsetting, etc.)
- Funding level: Individual entity up to 100,000 USD
Group of applicants (NGOs, Chamber, CSOs and union) up to 400,000 USD

Including partnerships with specialized local engineering, design and/or consulting firms in the proposal is highly recommended and encouraged.

Objective F: Stimulate Circular Economy in Agriculture (SCEA)

WSC is looking for eligible partners to work on, but not limited to, the below activities, applicants are welcome to suggest other creative, innovative ideas that can respond to this objective:

- **Innovative Integrated Solutions to manage Dairy Farms' Waste:** the proposed project can consist of a sustainable systematic and comprehensive mechanism to create innovative solution(s) for individual farmers and/or group of farmers to engage in farm waste management, preferably, in collaboration with municipalities and other key stakeholders, such as the private sector and/or other interested donors/contributors to include one or all of the following:
 - Raw manure treatment (examples composting and co-composting, etc.)
 - Wastewater treatment (examples barn wash wastewater treatment and re-use, etc.)
 - Awareness raising and capacity building of farmers
 - Engaging with other farmers to share success stories
- Funding Level: Group of applicants (Unions of farmers, NGOs, Chamber, CSOs and private sector) up to 250,000 USD

Including partnerships with specialized local engineering, design and/or consulting firms in the proposal is highly recommended and encouraged.

(2) Administration of Award

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

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

2 CFR 200: <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-id.x?SID=0a5b7fee6378930cce72564449dd8bb7&mc=true&node=sp2.1.200.d&rgn=div6>

Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients:
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/303maa.pdf>

Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental Recipients:
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mab.pdf>

SECTION II- AWARD INFORMATION

(1) Estimated Funding Level

Applicants are invited to submit budget estimates with their concepts while taking into consideration that the available budget range is between 70,000 and 400,000 USD, specific ceilings for Objectives E and F are indicated in section I.

DAI may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the chosen Application(s). The number of awards and amount of available funding is subject to change.

(2) Anticipated Start Date of this Award and Performance Period

Anticipated Start Date of this Award is January 2023, and the period of performance cannot exceed June 2024

SECTION III – SELECTION CRITERIA

Concepts will be evaluated based on the below selection criteria:

Responds to WSC Objectives: concepts will be evaluated based on their ability to respond to at least one of the above-mentioned WSC objectives.

Past performance: WSC will be looking at the organization's past performance and the attached CV(s) to evaluate the past performance

Feasibility: the feasibility of the concepts proposed will be evaluated with a preference for innovative, simple, and impactful projects

Results: maximizing outreach and benefit from the proposed concepts is a priority. Concepts will be evaluated based on their ability to reach large numbers of beneficiaries

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Expected Impact: projects with high impacts on the communities' awareness and/or the availability of water and/or the proper treatment of wastewater

Sustainability: concepts will be evaluated based on their ability to sustain the results of the projects and their capacity to serve as replicable models in other areas

Inclusiveness: Projects that include women, youth, people with disability, and other under-represented groups will be prioritized

SECTION IV- ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

(1) Types of Entities that May Apply

The eligibility criteria for this program are (noting that the below are pass/fail selection criteria):

- Legally Registered U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations willing to forego profit may apply (such as Associations, NGOs, Chambers, or private industries, CSOs and farmers unions with proven relevance to the APS). Registration documents and statutes must be submitted with the Concept Paper
- Not affiliated with a political party nor engaged in any political activities
- Not focused solely on religious activities
- Joint Cooperation amongst stakeholders such as municipalities, CSOs and private sector are highly encouraged
- Has internal managerial and financial management capacity enabling them to manage USAID Grants
- Entities applying should provide evidence of:
 - An experienced subject matter expert (for the proposed intervention) with at least 5 years of experience, is on board as a full-time member of the team
 - A project manager/coordinator for the proposed activity with at least 3 years of experience
 - An M&E and reporting specialist on the team with at least 3 years of experience

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, faith-based organizations (FBOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), host country organizations, private organizations 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.

(2) Potential New Partners

DAI strongly encourages applications from potential new partners.

(3) Cost Share

Cost share is encouraged but not required; applicants are encouraged to contribute resources from their own private or local sources for the implementation of this program where feasible.

SECTION V- APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

(1) Concept Paper Instructions

Applicants are expected to follow this [Formsite link](#) to submit their concepts:

The information required through this link are the following

- a. **General Information:** name and address of the organization; type of organization; contact person, name of other organizations to whom you are submitting and/or have submitted the application and/or who are funding the proposed activity; brief description of the applicant's and partners' previous experience in the field; and signature of the authorized representative of the applicant.
- b. **Concept specific information:** Concise title of proposed activity, summary of the project, project objectives and goals, project results, budget estimates, type of support requested from USAID (e.g., funds, facilities, equipment, materials, personnel resources, etc.), proposed duration of the activity

(2) Application Process

DAI will review proposals on a rolling basis. Concept papers must meet the identified needs of this solicitation. If your proposed project meets the needs of this APS, follow this [Formsite link](#) and fill in the required information.

Following the selection of an acceptable concept, WSC will inform the successful applicant in writing about the co-creation process leading to a final application (technical and financial). The final application will be submitted to USAID for approval. Co-creation does not guarantee that a partner will be awarded a grant. The final application will be submitted to USAID for approval. The final award is contingent on Vetting results and USAID approval; Only the Organizations whose Concept Papers are shortlisted will be vetted. A grant agreement will be signed by WSC's Chief-of-Party or his/her designee, and it will become the official authorization document.