

Questions for SGA 12-10 (Policy)

Question 1: Do the certifications and representations in AAPD 07-03 apply to this grant?

USDOL Response 1: The AAPD 07-03 applies to USAID grants authorized by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and does not apply to SGA12-10. However, like AAPD 07-03, SGA 12-10 includes restrictions related to prostitution, forced labor, and trafficking. These restrictions are described in detail in section IV.D.9. of the SGA.

Question 2: Will any of the funds from the grant be authorized under TVPA ?

USDOL Response 2: No, USDOL/ILAB is authorized to award and administer cooperative agreements for this purpose by the Department of Labor Appropriations Act, 2012, P.L. 112-74 (2011).

Question 3: Please clarify if applications must propose to work in both Panama and Ecuador or if applicants may select one or both countries for proposed projects.

USDOL Response 3: Applicants must submit a proposal for a project that includes both countries. As specified on page 3 of the SGA “Applicants must propose strategies to combat child labor in both countries by working with different levels of government (e.g., national, provincial, municipal, and indigenous autonomous areas) and with government associated child labor coordinating entities that include civil society participants.”

Question 4: If a prime applicant proposes a set of partners in its application, must all proposed partners work in both countries? Or can different partners work in each country?

USDOL Response 4: Project activities must be implemented in both countries, but all proposed partners do not need to work in both countries. Different partners can work in each country as long as the actions are coordinated, as relevant, to meet project objectives. See page 14 of the SGA, the Applicant “must also demonstrate presence in Ecuador and Panama—either independently or through a relationship with another organization with country presence (i.e., a subgrantee or subcontractor) — enabling them to initiate program activities upon award of the cooperative agreement.”

Question 5: Does USDOL have an expectation for the level of funding allocated to each country? For example, should funding be allocated proportionate to population? Is there a minimum funding level requirement for either country?

USDOL Response 5: No, USDOL does not have a funding expectation for each country although the budget should include activities in both countries. The proposed budget should be commensurate with the strategy proposed for each individual country, based on a realistic assessment of the cost of proposed activities.

Question 6: Under Section IV. Application and Submission Information, please clarify if ‘Project Design and Strategy’ mentioned on Page 16 should be considered a separate section in the Technical Proposal format.

USDOL Response 6: Yes, the “Project Design and Strategy” is a separate section of the technical proposal that must be included. Thank you for pointing out this formatting error and a correction will be posted in an amendment to this SGA 12-10.

Question 7: Page 32 of the SGA mentions that Grantees must develop a Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) in consultation with USDOL and Page 33, under Sub-Section 7. Performance Monitoring, notes that all required performance indicators will be specified in the project Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (CMEP).

- a. Please clarify if Grantees will be expected to develop/support the development of both a project PMP as well as a CMEP.

USDOL Response 7: The Grantee must develop a PMP for this project. However, the Grantee will not be expected to develop a CMEP for the project funded under SGA 12-10. USDOL will publish an amendment to SGA 12-10 to remove the reference to the CMEP.

Question 8: I am writing with regards to **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: SGA 12-11** and **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: SGA 12-10** (attached here), both focused on combating child labor in Ecuador and Panama. I am hoping you can clarify whether proposals should be submitted jointly for both countries or separated by country.

USDOL Response 8: SGA 12-10 and SGA 12-11 are two separate funding opportunities. Each SGA requires a separate application which should include a strategy and corresponding activities in both countries. However in the case that the same Applicant is selected for award of both projects, please note the following statement in the SGAs. Page 14 of SGA 12-10 states: “Whereas these projects are independent and the proposals will be evaluated by USDOL independently, in the case that the same organization is selected for each award, USDOL reserves the right to negotiate cost savings based upon the awardees’ duplication of effort in implementing the two grants. Page 32 of SGA 12-11 states “Whereas SGA-10 (Policy) and SGA 12-11 (Services) are independent and the Applications will be evaluated by USDOL independently, in the case that the same organization is selected for each award, USDOL reserves the right to negotiate cost savings based upon the awardee’s duplication of effort in implementing the two grants.”

Questions for SGA-12-11 (Services)

Question 1: Do the certifications and representations in AAPD 07-03 apply to this grant?

USDOL Response 1: The AAPD 07-03 applies to USAID grants authorized by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and does not apply to SGA12-11. However, like AAPD 07-03, SGA 12-11 includes restrictions related to prostitution, forced labor, and trafficking. These restrictions are described in detail in section IV.D.9. of the SGA.

Question 2: Will any of the funds from the grant be authorized under TVPA?

USDOL Response 2: No, USDOL/ILAB is authorized to award and administer cooperative agreements for this purpose by the Department of Labor Appropriations Act, 2012, P.L. 112-74 (2011).

Question 3: Would USDOL/ILAB consider a project proposal that addresses project goals and intervention in one of the two countries alone (as opposed to both Panama and Ecuador) to responsive and eligible for funding?

USDOL Response 3: Applicants must submit a proposal for a project that includes both countries. Page 3 of the SGA states, “The project will work and coordinate with relevant national and local stakeholders in both Ecuador and Panama to: (1) replicate and expand education services that have already been developed and successfully implemented to reduce child labor among vulnerable populations, and improve educational outcomes for children and adolescents involved in child labor, and (2) develop new livelihood programs or link families to existing programs that improve family income so that households do not need to rely on the work of children for survival.” Additionally, page 7 indicates, “Applicants must respond fully to the Scope of Work (SOW) outlined below in order to be considered responsive. This section provides information on the target populations to be served by the project and key areas of interventions.

Question 4: Please clarify if applications must propose to work in both Panama and Ecuador or if applicants may select one or both countries for proposed projects.

USDOL Response 4: Applicants must submit a proposal for a project that includes both countries. Page 3 of the SGA states, “The project will work and coordinate with relevant national and local stakeholders in both Ecuador and Panama to: (1) replicate and expand education services that have already been developed and successfully implemented to reduce child labor among vulnerable populations, and improve educational outcomes for children and adolescents involved in child labor, and (2) develop new livelihood programs or link families to existing programs that improve family income so that households do not need to rely on the work of children for survival.” Additionally, page 7 indicates, “Applicants must respond fully to the Scope of Work (SOW) outlined below in order to be considered responsive. This section provides information on the target populations to be served by the project and key areas of interventions.

Question 5: If a prime applicant proposes a set of partners in its application, must all proposed partners work in both countries? Or can different partners work in each country?

USDOL Response 5: As stated on pages 18-19 of the SGA, all Applicants and any proposed subgrantees or subcontractors “must also demonstrate presence in Ecuador and Panama — either independently or through a relationship with another organization with country presence (i.e., a subgrantee or subcontractor) — enabling them to initiate program activities upon award of the cooperative agreement.”

Question 6: Does USDOL have an expectation for the level of funding allocated to each country? For example, should funding be allocated proportionate to population? Is there a minimum funding level requirement for either country?

USDOL Response 6: No, USDOL does not have a funding expectation for each country. The proposed budget should be commensurate with the strategy proposed for each individual country, based on a realistic assessment of the cost of proposed activities.

Questions 7: Unlike Panama, there is no mention about the specific geographic regions for Ecuador. The RFA only says there is “an emphasis on child labor in the agricultural sector.” Will DOL allow PVOs to propose geographic targets?

USDOL Response 7: Please see page 7 of the SGA, “Applicants must target children, particularly from Afro-descendant, indigenous and migrant populations who are susceptible to high rates of hazardous child labor and their households in the targeted sectors and geographical areas identified as priorities by the Governments of Ecuador and Panama. In Ecuador, Applicants should consult with and work with the Government of Ecuador to identify priority sectors and

geographical areas of intervention. In line with USDOL consultations with the Government of Ecuador, Applicants should give special emphasis to child labor in the agricultural sector, prioritizing its worst forms. In addition, the proposed pilot intervention in Ecuador focusing on child labor and disabilities must target families who are more vulnerable to child labor as a result of (1) a disability in the household, (2) children with disabilities and are being used in child labor, and (3) children who have acquired disabilities as a result of child labor.”

Question 8: Page 5 of the RFA states “On June 9, 2011 the government signed an agreement with the agriculture, flower, livestock and construction sectors” to coordinate actions and promote joint programs for elimination of child labor in those sectors. Is it possible to include children working in these sectors such as construction too?

USDOL Response 8: Please see page 7 of the SGA, “In Ecuador, Applicants should consult with and work with the Government of Ecuador to identify priority sectors and geographical areas of intervention. In line with USDOL consultations with the Government of Ecuador, Applicants should give special emphasis to child labor in the agricultural sector, prioritizing its worst forms. In addition, the proposed pilot intervention in Ecuador focusing on child labor and disabilities must target families who are more vulnerable to child labor as a result of (1) a disability in the household, (2) children with disabilities and are being used in child labor, and (3) children who have acquired disabilities as a result of child labor.”

Question 9: While the SGA mentions the ability to either subgrant or subcontract under this funding opportunity, no mention is made whether USDOL still allows solicitants to work under the Association model. Does DOL still allow solicitants to work under the Association model for this funding opportunity?

USDOL Response 9: Two or more organizations that plan to share responsibility for carrying out the main work of the grant, may partner as co-grantees (with one organization being designated as the “lead”; although, each organization will be equally responsible for performance and financial obligations) or, if one organization will be responsible for the overall work of the grant, with other organizations performing discrete functions to serve or aid that principal effort, then such other organizations must be engaged by the grantee as subcontractors or subgrantees. Eligible international and local NGOs may apply. As stated in the SGA on pages 18-19, “Any commercial, international, educational, or non-profit organization(s), including any faith-based, community-based, or public international organization(s), historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and disability organizations, capable of successfully reducing children’s participation in child labor and developing and implementing educational and livelihoods programs to serve them, is eligible to apply. Lack of past experience with USDOL cooperative agreements, grants, or contracts does not bar eligibility or selection under this solicitation.

All Applicants and any proposed subgrantees or subcontractors must comply with all audit requirements, including those established in OMB Circular A-133. They must also demonstrate presence in Ecuador and Panama — either independently or through a relationship with another organization with country presence (i.e., a subgrantee or subcontractor) — enabling them to initiate program activities upon award of the cooperative agreement.”

Questions for SGA-12-12

Question 1: Please clarify the mentioning of “domestic work” specifically whether it is referring to servant work done in homes or in country-work in shops, factories, fields, etc.

USDOL Response 1: Please note that for the purpose of this SGA, “**Domestic work** is defined in ILO Convention 189 as work performed in or for a household or households.” In addition, “**Domestic worker** is defined for the purposes of this SGA in accordance with ILO Convention 189. It refers to any person engaged in domestic work as part of an employment relationship. The term does not include work that is performed in a household only occasionally or sporadically and not as part of a person’s regular employment.” Please see SGA *Appendix A. Definitions*.

Question 2: Based on previous experience and/or expectations, how many grants do you plan to agree in this round?

USDOL Response 2: USDOL may award \$5 million for **one or more** cooperative agreement(s) in response to this SGA. Please see SGA *Section I. Funding Opportunity Description*.

Question 3: Are consortiums eligible to apply?

USDOL Response 3: Two or more organizations that plan to share responsibility for carrying out the main work of the grant, may partner as co-grantees (with one organization being designated as the “lead”; although, each organization will be equally responsible for performance and financial obligations) or, if one organization will be responsible for the overall work of the grant, with other organizations performing discrete functions to serve or aid that principal effort, then such other organizations must be engaged by the grantee as subcontractors or subgrantees. Eligible international and local NGOs may apply. As stated in the SGA, “Any commercial, international, educational, or non-profit organization(s), including any faith-based, community based, or public international organization(s) capable of successfully reducing children’s participation in child labor and developing and implementing educational and livelihoods programs to serve them is eligible to apply.

Please see SGA *Section III. Eligibility Information* for more information on eligibility criteria.

Question 4: Our proposed partners work with a range of beneficiaries on multiple labor topics (including domestic workers issues); would they be considered suitable as a partner under this opportunity?

USDOL Response 4: Domestic Worker Organizations are defined in the SGA as “...organizations that represent or otherwise promote the rights of domestic workers in one of the countries where CDW will be addressed as a result of this USDOL-funded initiative. The organization should work closely with domestic workers in the target country and may be an informal group, network or workers cooperative, non-profit organization, informal union or a legally registered trade union.” Please see SGA *Appendix A. Definitions*.

Question 5: Are we encouraged to deliver project outcomes regionally, or is the same amount of value given to single country entry?

USDOL Response 5: The project design and budget will be evaluated and rated on (1) the overall quality, effectiveness, relevance, and clarity of their proposed project design and strategy and outputs-based budget; (2) the extent to which it responds to all of the requirements outlined in the SGA; (3) how cost effective and realistic the proposed costs are for achieving the proposed strategy; and (4) the extent to which the proposed strategy will promote long-term sustainability of efforts to contribute to the reduction of the incidence of CDW in the targeted country(ies). Please see SGA *Section V. Application Review Information*.

Question 6: Is there a minimum and maximum amount of years the project can last?

USDOL Response 6: There is no minimum duration defined in this solicitation. The maximum project duration is up to four years. Please see *SGA Section I. Funding Opportunity Description*.

Question 7: Are there any funding restrictions for projects based in Myanmar?

USDOL Response 7: No.