

Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)

Presented by National Academies staff members:

- **Mr. Robert Gasior, Program Officer**
- **Mr. Daniel Placht, Associate Program Officer**

December 11, 2019



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The goals for this presentation:

1. Introduce you to the PEER program
2. Help you understand the program's focus areas, eligibility requirements for applicants and partners and the general application process
3. Provide guidance on how to find a partner
4. Walk you through the online pre-proposal submission website

Section 1: Introduction

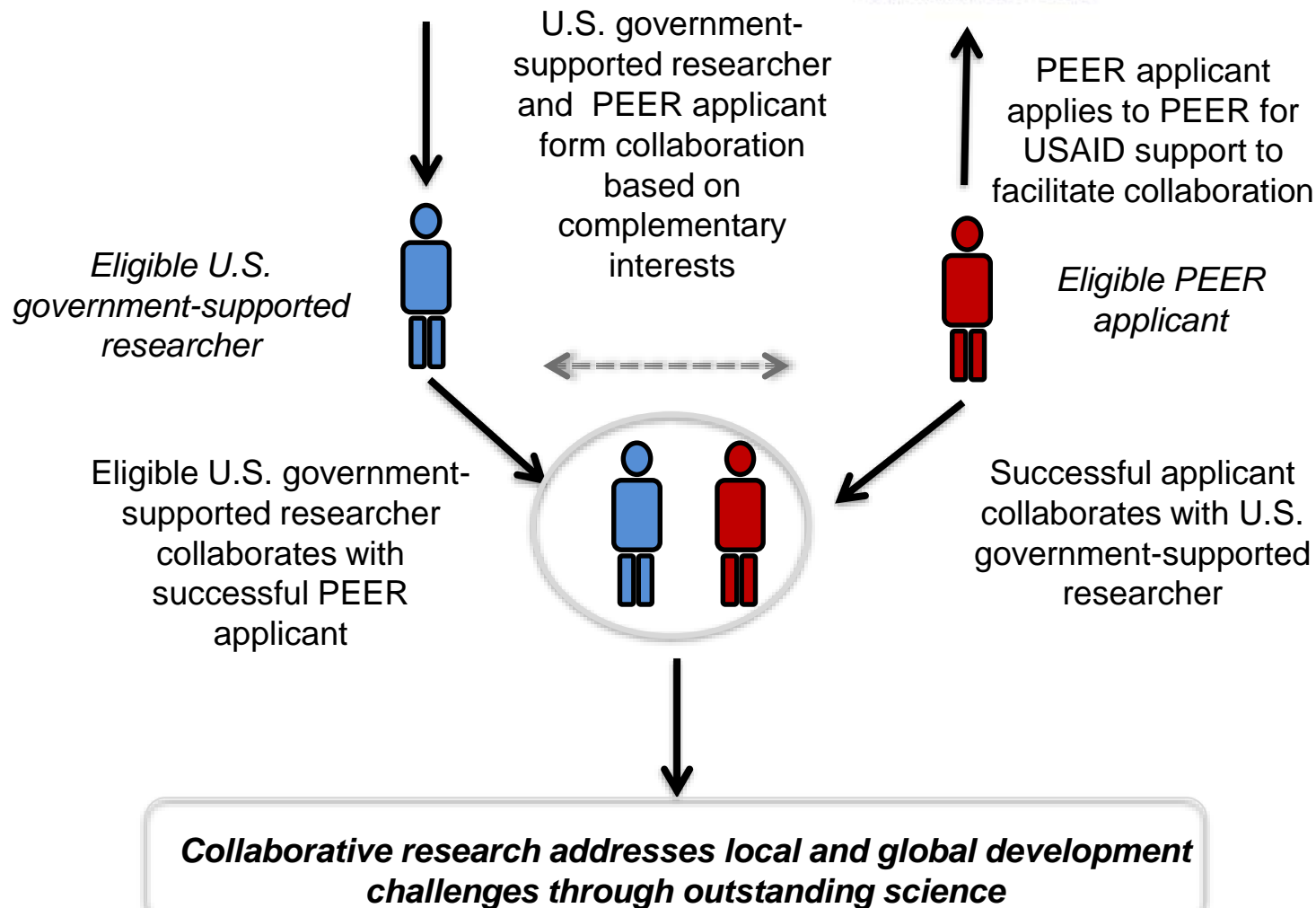
- **What is PEER?**
- **How does the program work?**

Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)

- Launched in 2011, PEER is a joint program between USAID and the nine U.S. Government-supported agencies shown below.
- PEER provides funding for developing-country scientists to conduct development-oriented research in partnership with U.S. government-supported researchers.



The PEER Model



PEER Award Amounts

Single institution projects: U.S. \$40,000 - \$80,000 per year

Multiple institution projects: U.S. \$80,000 - \$100,000 per year

PEER Award Duration

1-3 years

**PEER's current request for
pre-proposals is now open!**

Pre-proposal deadline: February 10, 2020

Section 2: Focus Areas, Eligibility, and Application Process Overview

- **Is the topic of my proposed project within the scope of this year's focus areas?**
- **Is my country eligible for PEER?**
- **Am I eligible?**
- **Is my partner eligible?**
- **How does the application process work?**

PEER Areas of Interest

- The focus areas and funding sources for PEER change from year to year, based on development priorities.
- Most funds for PEER come from USAID's country and regional missions and bureaus, with some provided by the Global Development Lab.

Focus Areas

- The list of PEER-eligible countries is different for each focus area, so you will need to review the focus area pages in our website carefully.

Focus Area Points of Note

- Some focus areas require PIs to be employed or affiliated with a higher education institution (ie. University). Other focus areas also allow PIs to be based at NGOs or research institutes.
- Applicants can partner with USG-supported partner that has USAID-funded project under the Family Planning & Reproductive Health Call
- Some focus areas allow for up to three years with others only allowing for two.

PEER Focus Areas for 2019/2020

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Application Process


Eligibility






Focus Areas


Find a USG-Supported Partner

Frequently Asked Questions





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The [United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#) has joined with [several U.S. Government \(USG\) supported agencies](#) to support Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER). Administered by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS), PEER is a competitive grants program that invites scientists in developing countries, partnered with USG-supported collaborators, to apply for funds to support research and capacity-building activities on topics with strong potential development impacts. This innovative program is designed to leverage the investments other USG-supported agencies have made in scientific research and training while supporting the initiatives of developing country scientists. [Learn more...](#)

Latest News

PEER Cycle 6 Call for Pre-Proposals Announced

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For Applicants | Focus Areas

The PEER program is accepting research proposals in the following focus areas. PEER-eligible countries are listed on the linked pages for each focus area, and applicants should review eligible country criteria carefully before applying. Applications are being accepted only for projects within the scope of one of the focus areas listed below.

Multi-Country Focus Area Calls

- [Multiple Countries/ Any Development-Related Research](#)
- [Multiple Countries/ PEER Advanced Digital Tools](#)
- [Multiple Countries/ Family Planning and Reproductive Health](#)
- [Multiple Countries/ Social, Economic, and Behavioral Sciences](#)

Regional or Country-Specific Calls

- [Afghanistan/ Urban WASH and Transboundary Water](#)
- [Bangladesh/ Clean Energy](#)
- [Tunisia/ Multiple Sectors](#)
- [Vietnam/ Bioremediation of Dioxin and Furans](#)

PEER funding will be awarded to projects related to the USAID and partner agency focus areas specified above. Regional collaborations are encouraged, provided that they fit within the scope of one of the focus areas for this cycle and the primary PI is based in an eligible country for the focus area under which the proposal is submitted. Co-PIs may be involved in such regional collaborative projects, provided that the co-PIs are based in a country eligible for PEER (please see the country list for the [Any Development-Related Research](#) Call for the most comprehensive list of eligible countries or check with program staff at peer@nas.edu to confirm eligibility).

Applications that explicitly connect their proposed research to the development goals of their country's USAID Mission will generally be more competitive. Country-specific development objectives are reflected in Country Development and Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) reports that are posted publicly on each USAID Mission's homepage. Each CDCS lays out high-level strategic priorities for each bilateral USAID Mission over a five-year time frame. We encourage PEER applicants to review CDCS reports and other documents specific to USAID Mission priorities and reflect how their proposed research may contribute to these high-level objectives. A link to USAID-approved CDCS reports can be found here: <http://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/planning/country-strategies-cdcs>.

A directory of USAID Missions and links to home-pages can be found here: <http://www.usaid.gov/mission-directory>.

Applicant Resources

[Apply](#)
[Application Process](#)
[Eligibility](#)
[Focus Areas](#)
[Find a USG-Supported Partner](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[PDF version of RFA \(Request for Applications\)](#)

Do I need a USG-supported partner in order to apply?

Yes. Applicants who apply to PEER must collaborate on their project with a researcher who is currently supported by an active research award funded by a U.S. government (USG) agency that is participating in the PEER program. This support can include active grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts. Please see eligibility information to see the USG agencies that are participating in this PEER solicitation.

[View more FAQs...](#)

PEER Focus Areas for 2019/2020

Multi Country Focus Area Calls

- Multiple Countries/ Any Development-Related Research
- Multiple Countries/ PEER Advanced Digital Tools
- Multiple Countries/ Family Planning and Reproductive Health
- Multiple Countries/ Social, Economic, and Behavioral Sciences

Regional and Priority Focus Area Calls

Open to researchers from specific USAID regions or priority countries:

- Afghanistan/ Urban WASH and Transboundary Water
- Bangladesh/ Clean Energy
- Tunisia/ Multiple Sectors
- Vietnam/ Bioremediation of Dioxin and Furans

Multiple Countries / Any Development-Related Research

Eligible Countries:

ASIA

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Indonesia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan
- Timor-Leste
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Peru

MIDDLE EAST

- Egypt
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Tunisia

EUROPE AND EURASIA

- Albania
- Armenia
- Georgia
- Kosovo
- Moldova

Multiple Countries / PEER Advanced Digital Tools

Eligible Countries:

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

Multiple Countries / Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Eligible Countries:

ASIA

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Benin
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- Haiti

Multiple Countries / Social, Economic, and Behavioral Sciences

Eligible Countries:

ASIA

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Indonesia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan
- Timor-Leste
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- Brazil
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- Mexico
- Peru

MIDDLE EAST

- Egypt
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Tunisia

EUROPE AND EURASIA

- Albania
- Armenia
- Georgia
- Kosovo
- Moldova

Country Specific Focus Areas

- Afghanistan/ Urban WASH and Transboundary Water
- Bangladesh/ Clean Energy
- Tunisia/ Multiple Sectors
- Vietnam/ Bioremediation of Dioxin and Furans

General Eligibility

PEER Applicant Must

- Be a national (citizen or permanent resident) of a PEER-eligible country and be working in the country from which he or she is applying;
- Be affiliated with and permanently based at an academic institution, non-profit organization, government-managed institute, or relevant government ministry in a PEER-eligible country (see specific focus area requirements); and
- Meet country-specific eligibility criteria for focus area to which they are applying

U.S. Government-Supported Partner Must

- Be the PI or co-PI of an active research award from or an eligible research staff member at one of the nine U.S. government-supported agencies participating in the PEER program
- **U.S. government-supported partner awards must be active at the time of the pre-proposal deadline, February 10, 2020**
- Meet agency-specific eligibility criteria (confirm with agency)
- Have expertise that aligns with and contributes to the PEER proposal
- *U.S. government-funded partners are not eligible to receive PEER funding outside of travel funds.*

Section 3: Finding a Partner

- **How can I find an eligible partner?**
- **What should I say when contacting a potential partner?**

How Can I Find a Partner?

- Visit the Find a USG-Supported Partner page on the PEER web site and look through the instructions and links

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Latest News

PEER Cycle 9 Call for Proposals Now Open

On behalf of PEER's sponsor at USAID, the National Academies are happy to announce that this year's cycle of PEER is now open and accepting proposals! PEER Cycle 9 has

How Can I Find a Partner?

Some of the nine eligible agencies have links to online search sites, while others have given us lists to post on our PEER site, so please review our Find a USG-Supported Partner page carefully. Check the agency with interests closest to your field:

- **USDA (ARS, NIFA, and Forest Service):** research on agricultural production, food safety, agricultural economics, environment and natural resources
- **USGS:** geology, water, or soil science
- **NASA:** Earth observations for research in water resources, disasters, health and air quality, ecology, land use/cover change or SERVIR-related research
- **NIH:** health
- **NOAA:** climate, oceanography, fisheries
- **Smithsonian:** biodiversity and environmental studies
- **NSF:** a broad range of science and engineering disciplines.

Tips for Contacting a New Partner

- Introduce yourself and your position
- Explain how you found the potential partner (through the websites or databases provided by the agencies, a research paper, conference proceedings, colleagues you have in common, etc.)
- State your interest in the potential partner's research
- Explain the pre-proposal you are preparing for PEER
- Explain the PEER program and the requirement to collaborate with a USG-supported partner (include a link to the current solicitation and FAQs)
- Explain how you think the USG-supported partner's work would contribute to your PEER project AND how your current and/or future work could potentially benefit the U.S. partner
- State that you'd like to discuss collaborations further
- Include your contact information and your expectation to hear back from the USG-supported partner
- Invite your potential research partner to contact PEER staff at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences at peer@nas.edu if he or she has any questions about the program

Section 4: How to Apply

- **What does the PEER application process involve?**
- **What does the PEER pre-proposal require?**
- **How do I submit the pre-proposal?**
- **How do I use the PEER application site?**

Two Phases of Applying to PEER

The PEER application process has two phases:

Phase 1: An initial pre-proposal is required for all applicants, using the online application system on the PEER website. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is **February 10, 2020**.

Phase 2. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants will be notified by NAS on **March 20, 2020**.

The deadline for submission of full proposals is **May 4, 2020**.

Awards will be made in **October 2020**.

Elements of the Pre-Proposal Form

- **PEER applicant information**
- **U.S. government-supported partner information, including award number and expiration date**
- **Project description (about 2 pages of text total, entered into the required sections of our online template)**
- **Estimated total budget**
- **A brief CV for the PEER applicant**
- **A brief letter of support from the U.S. government-supported partner**

**Entire pre-proposal form can be downloaded in PDF
from our online application site**


PEER Website: www.nationalacademies.org/peer


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Latest News


PEER Cycle 9 Call for Proposals Now Open


On behalf of PEER's sponsors at USAID, the National Academies are happy to announce that this year's cycle of PEER is now open and accepting proposals! PEER Cycle 9 has [several new focus areas](#) this year. In addition to the broad call for projects on [any development-related research topic](#), the program welcomes calls in focus areas on [advanced digital tools](#), [family planning and reproductive health](#), [the social, economic, and behavioral sciences](#). There are also several country-specific focus areas: [urban WASH and transboundary water in Afghanistan](#), [clean energy in Bangladesh](#), [multiple research sectors in Tunisia](#), and [bioremediation of dioxins and furans in Vietnam](#). Last year's cycle only supported projects of one year in length, but this year PEER Cycle 9 is once again inviting proposals for projects lasting two or three years, depending on the focus area. Pre-proposal submissions are due by 11:59 PM (U.S. Eastern Standard Time) on February 10, 2020. For more information on Cycle 9, please see the [Cycle 9 RFP](#).


To help applicants understand the eligibility guidelines and the application process, PEER program staff will be holding an optional one-hour webinar on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, beginning at 10:30 AM (U.S. East Coast time). If you are interested in participating in the free webinar, you must register in advance on the [Zoom Platform](#), and you will receive another link by e-mail so you can log into the webinar on December 11.

PEER Women in Science Mentoring Program - Tuberculosis Focus Call for Applications

The 2019 PEER Women in Science Mentoring Program has chosen tuberculosis (TB) as its area of focus and will support networks of female scientists conducting research on the development and uptake of effective tools and approaches for preventing, detecting, and treating TB in specific countries in Asia. To learn more about the program, including eligibility guidelines and application requirements, please visit the program's [website](#). Applications for this call are due by January 10, 2020 by 5:00 PM (U.S. Eastern Standard Time).

 PROGRAM DETAILS

 ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

 READY TO APPLY?

PEER is now accepting pre-proposals for Cycle 9 with a deadline of February 10, 2020. The Cycle 9 RFP is [available online](#).


The reviews for Cycle 8 have concluded and 34 projects have been selected for funding. The full list is available on the [Cycle 8 Funded Projects webpage](#).


To review the eligibility requirements for PEER, use the links below:

- [Review general eligibility requirements](#)
- [Review focus areas and country eligibility](#)
- [Find a USG-supported partner](#)
- [Review the FAQs](#)

PEER is accepting applications for Cycle 9, as well as for the special call for the **Women's' Mentorship Program TB Focus**. To apply for either program, please click below to access our online proposal system.

Current PEER award recipients may also use this to access our online system to prepare and submit reports.





Pre-Proposal Application Website



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Logon Page

Email Address*

The Email Address* field is required.

Password*

The Password* field is required.

Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)



Pre-Proposal Application Website

Create New Account

If you already have an Account, click the 'Cancel Account Creation' button to go to the Logon page

⚠ Using the browser's back button will delete your registration information.

ℹ This registration process has multiple steps you must complete before you can apply.

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Organization Information

Organization Name*

Web Site

Organization Email

Address 1*

Address 2

City*

State/Province*

Postal Code*

Country*

Next >

Principal Investigator/Applicant Information

Password

Pre-Proposal Application Website

Organization Information

Principal Investigator/Applicant Information

Copy Address from Organization

Please provide contact information for the person submitting this request. This should be the Principal Investigator's contact information.

Salutation

First Name*

Middle Name

Last Name*

Suffix

Business Title

Email / Username*

Email / Username Confirmation*

Address 1*

Address 2

City*

State/Province*

Postal Code*

Country*


< Previous


Next >

Password

Pre-Proposal Application Website

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Organization Information

Principal Investigator/Applicant Information

Password

Password*


Confirm Password*

 Previous

Create Account

Pre-Proposal Application Website

Email Confirmation

 You will be receiving emails from this system about your request.

To ensure you receive emails from this system we have sent you an email to confirm your account was created successfully. If you do not see an email from, 'Administrator (administrator@grantinterface.com)', look in your junk or spam folder. To remove 'Administrator (administrator@grantinterface.com)' from your spam filter, use the link below.

[Click Here](#) for a tutorial about removing email addresses from spam filters.

- ☐ I have received the email
- ☐ Continue without checking
- ☐ I have not received the email

Continue

Send Email Again

Pre-Proposal Application Website

[Apply](#)[Fax to File](#)[Apply](#)

Below is a list of programs currently managed and/or implemented by the National Academies. Please click below on the link to the program of interest to you to begin the application process.

PEER Cycle 9

Accepting Submissions from 11/11/2019 to 02/10/2020

[Apply](#)

You may save your pre-proposal application as a draft at any time and resume it later. To do so, please scroll down and click on the "Save as Draft" button at the bottom of the application page. Please do not use the back button or you will lose any unsaved information. To avoid any inconvenience, remember to save regularly while working on your application. The application deadline for this cycle of PEER is February 10, 2020, 11:59 PM (U.S. Eastern Standard Time). You will not be able to submit any new application or make changes to your existing draft once the deadline has passed. For further instructions on each question, please consult the [program solicitation](#) or visit the [PEER website](#).

[Preview](#)

[Send to GrantHub](#)



Women in Science Mentoring Program TB Focus

Accepting Submissions from 10/21/2019 to 01/10/2020

[Apply](#)

The 2019 PEER Women in Science Mentoring Program has chosen tuberculosis (TB) as its area of focus and will support networks of female scientists conducting research on the development and uptake of effective tools and approaches for preventing, detecting, and treating TB in specific countries in Asia. We encourage applicants from diverse academic backgrounds including but not limited to the behavioral and social sciences, public health and medical sciences, life and earth sciences, and computer, engineering or physical sciences. Following recommendations made in these studies, which suggest that mentorship can play a key role in encouraging women in their career paths, PEER seeks to help retain women researchers by establishing mentorship cohorts in which women in senior academic positions can support and advise junior female researchers who will benefit from their knowledge and experience.

You may save your application as a draft at any time and resume it later. To do so, please scroll down and click on the "Save as Draft" button at the bottom of the application page. Please do not use the back button or you will lose any unsaved information. To avoid any inconvenience, remember to save regularly while working on your application. The application deadline is January 10, 2020 by 5:00 PM (U.S. Eastern Time). You will not be able to submit any new application or make changes to your existing draft once the deadline has passed. For further instructions on each question, please consult the [program website](#).

[Preview](#)

[Send to GrantHub](#)



Pre-Proposal Application Website

[Apply](#)[Fax to File](#)

LOI

[Question List](#)

[Apply](#) / [PEER Cycle 9](#) / [LOI](#) / [Preview](#)

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

> Instructions

∨ PI and USG-supported partner information

Project Name*

Focus Areas*

Please select the category that applies to your project. Your project must fall into one of these areas to be eligible for review. For more information, please refer to the [Focus Areas](#) section on our website.

- ☐ Multiple Countries/ Any Development-Related Research
- ☐ Multiple Countries/ PEER Advanced Digital Tools
- ☐ Multiple Countries/ Family Planning and Reproductive Health
- ☐ Multiple Countries/ Social, Economic, and Behavioral Sciences
- ☐ Afghanistan/ Urban WASH and Transboundary Water
- ☐ Bangladesh/ Clean Energy
- ☐ Tunisia/ Economic Growth, ICT, and Small and Medium Enterprises
- ☐ Vietnam/ Bioremediation of Dioxin and Furans

Country*

Select the country where your institution is based. Please refer to the [Focus Areas](#) section of our website to confirm that your country is eligible to apply for the PEER program. Please note that eligible countries differ between the different Focus Areas.

Proposed start date for your PEER project*

Please be advised that decisions will not be made before October 2020.

Duration of your PEER project*

Pre-Proposal Application Website

✓ PI and USG-supported partner information

Project Name*

Focus Areas*

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- ☐ Bangladesh/ Clean Energy
- ☐ Tunisia/ Economic Growth, ICT, and Small and Medium Enterprises
- ☐ Vietnam/ Bioremediation of Dioxin and Furans

Country*

Select the country where your institution is based. Please refer to the [Focus Areas](#) section of our website to confirm that your country is eligible to apply for the PEER program. Please note that eligible countries differ between the different Focus Areas.

Afghanistan

Albania

Angola

Armenia

Bangladesh

Benin

Botswana

Brazil

Burkina Faso

Colombia

Dominican Republic

Egypt

Ethiopia

Georgia

Ghana

Haiti

India

Indonesia

Iran



Pre-Proposal Application Website

[Apply](#)[Fax to File](#)

LOI

[Question List](#)

[Apply](#) / [PEER Cycle 9](#) / [LOI](#) / [Preview](#)

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

> Instructions

✓ PI and USG-supported partner information

Project Name*

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Proposed start date for your PEER project*

Please be advised that decisions will not be made before October 2020.

Duration of your PEER project*



Pre-Proposal Application Website

Primary field of research*

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Biodiversity
- ☐ Climate
- ☐ Disaster mitigation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Food security
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Social sciences
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Other

Other field of research (if any)

Subfield of research

Pre-Proposal Application Website

Last name of PI*

First name of PI*

Gender of PI*

- ☐ Female
☐ Male

Email of PI*

E-mail of applicant (person submitting application form) if different from PI

Telephone number of PI*

Please include country dialing code

PI's citizenship(s)*

Please list all the countries of which you are a citizen or have permanent residency. If you are a dual U.S. citizen, please make sure to list it.

Do you plan to be away from your country of residence for a significant time during the PEER project*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please explain:

Please clarify how long you would be away from your country of residence during the duration of the PEER program and the reasons that would lead you to do so. There is no need to list vacations/holidays or brief visits away from your country to attend conferences.

Pre-Proposal Application Website

Highest degree achieved by applicant*

Please select the highest academic degree received by the applicant.

- ☐ Bachelors (BS, BA)
- ☐ Masters (MSc, MA, MPH, MPP, MPA, LLM)
- ☐ Professional (MD, PharmD, DDS, DO, JD)
- ☐ Doctorate (PhD, ScD)

Have you received a PEER (Science or Health) grant in the past?*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

PI's institution type*

Please specify the type of institution with which you are affiliated.

- ☐ Academic institution
- ☐ Government managed research center
- ☐ Non-governmental organization (NGO)
- ☐ Government ministry
- ☐ Other

Name of PEER PI's institution*

Address of PEER PI's institution*

✓ 1,000 characters left of 1,000

Pre-Proposal Application Website

Last name of USG-supported partner*

First name of USG-supported partner*

Gender of the USG-supported partner*

- ☐ Female
☐ Male

USG-supported partner's e-mail*

USG-supported partner's institution*

Project title of USG-supported partner's award/grant*

U.S. Government (USG) funding agency*

Please select the USG funding agency that awarded your USG-supported partner's grant. All applicants must have a USG-supported partner

- ☐ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
☐ National Institutes of Health (NIH)
☐ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
☐ National Science Foundation (NSF)
☐ Smithsonian Institution
☐ United States Department of Agriculture/ Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS)
☐ United States Department of Agriculture/ Forest Service
☐ United States Department of Agriculture/ National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA)
☐ United States Geological Survey (USGS)

USG-supported partner's award/grant number*

Please provide the award/grant number including all digits and letters of your USG-supported partner. Please note: if your USG-supported partner is a U.S. government employee please type "Intramural" in the box below instead of listing an award/grant number.

End date of your USG-supported partner's award/grant*

The USG-supported partner's funding award or agency employment status must be active at the time of the pre-proposal submission deadline, February 10, 2020. Format of the date will be MM/DD/YYYY. *If your USG-supported partner is an intramural researcher please list the date of February 10, 2020, or 02/10/2020).*

Name of funding agency's program officer for the USG-supported partner's award/grant*

Please provide the name of the program officer/manager at the USG funding agency that has awarded your USG-supported partner the grant. *If your USG-supported partner is an intramural researcher, please duplicate his/her name in this section.*

Pre-Proposal Application Website

Name of funding agency's program officer for the USG-supported partner's award/grant*

Please provide the name of the program officer/manager at the USG funding agency that has awarded your USG-supported partner the grant. *If your USG-supported partner is an intramural researcher, please duplicate his/her name in this section.*

Phone number of funding agency's program officer for the USG-supported partner's award/grant*

If your USG-supported partner is an intramural researcher, please provide his/her phone number in this section.

Email address of funding agency's program officer for the USG-supported partner's award/grant*

If your USG-supported partner is an intramural researcher, please provide his/her email address in this section.

Name of secondary USG-supported partner (if any)

If your proposed PEER project involves a secondary USG-supported partner list his/her name (Last/Family Name, Given/First Name format) in the text box provided. Please note that it is completely voluntary to have a secondary USG-supported partner.

USG funding agency of secondary USG-supported partner (if applicable)

- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- ☐ National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- ☐ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- ☐ National Science Foundation (NSF)
- ☐ Smithsonian Institution
- ☐ United States Department of Agriculture/ Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS)
- ☐ United States Department of Agriculture/ Forest Service
- ☐ United States Department of Agriculture/ National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA)
- ☐ United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Pre-Proposal Application Website

▼ Project Description

Please fill out all sections for your proposed PEER project. Note that there are character limit restrictions for each section. The project description should be written so that readers without technical expertise can understand.

a. Project aims and objectives*

[2500 characters left of 2500]

b. Significance of the research as it relates to a particular focus area*

Please refer to the [Focus Area](#) section on our website to help you in writing this portion of the application. Please be sure to address the development impacts of your proposed PEER research project in this section.

[2500 characters left of 2500]

Pre-Proposal Application Website

c. Expertise of the USG-supported partner*

Please provide a description of how the expertise of the USG-supported partner will complement the proposed PEER research project.

[1000 characters left of 1000]

d. Other potential partners

Please list other partners with whom the applicant will collaborate on the project (for example: government agencies, USAID Missions, co-PIs, research networks, laboratories, and other implementing partners). Explain the roles and responsibilities as they relate to the proposed PEER project for each institution involved.

[1500 characters left of 1500]

Pre-Proposal Application Website

▼ Budget

Please provide the estimated total budget figure for your proposed PEER project. PEER project budgets vary depending on the proposed research scope and the project duration. Proposed PEER projects may be up to **two years** (unless noted under specific focus area). Please refer to the [budget template](#) on our website to assist in estimating costs. Outside of the Bangladesh/ Clean Energy focus area which has a maximum budget of \$70,000 per year, typical project budgets fall within the following ranges:

- Single institution: US\$40,000 - \$80,000 per year
- Multiple institutions: US\$40,000 - \$100,000 per year

To qualify for multiple institutional award status:

To qualify for multi-institutional award status, PEER applicants must plan to provide part of the PEER funds to another PEER-eligible institution as part of their proposed project. Applicants who are invited to submit full proposals will be required to specify funds for activities to be implemented by partnering institutions in a separate budget table using the template to be provided.

Single or multiple institution project*

Based on the information above, please indicate whether your proposed PEER project is single or multiple institution.

- ☐ Single institution
☐ Multiple institution

If multiple institution project, list other developing country institutions

If multi-institution project, list other developing country institutions involved that would receive funding from your PEER budget.

1,000 characters left of 1,000

Estimated total budget*

Please list the total amount of your project budget over its entire duration, not the amount you would need for each year. If invited to submit a full proposal, you will have the opportunity to adjust this total at the time of full proposal submission.

\$

Pre-Proposal Application Website

1	NAME OF INSTITUTION:		
2			
3	Note: List all amounts in U.S. dollars only		Project Total
4			
5	Travel	car)	
6		2. Per Diem, Domestic	
7		3. International Travel (air)	
8		4. Per Diem, International	
9	Travel Costs Total (A)		
10			
11	Equipment	1. Durable equipment	
12	Equipment Costs Total (B)		
13			
14	Other Direct Costs	1. Materials and Supplies	
15		2. Publication Costs	
16		3. Workshops and Conferences	
17		4. Computer services	
18		5. Other (describe, add additional lines if needed)	
19	Other Direct Costs Total (C)		
20			
21	Salaries (list each position on separate line and indicate % of time to be spent - add more lines if needed)		
22			
23			
24			
25			
26	Labor Costs Total (D)		
27			
28	Scholarships or Fellowships (list each type on a separate line - add more lines if necessary)		
29			
30			
31			
32	Scholarship or Fellowship Costs Total (E)		
33	Institutional Indirect Costs (if requested, full justification must be provided - see instructions sheet for limits) (F)		
34	Grand Total Project Costs (G)		
35	(A+B+C+D+E)		

Pre-Proposal Application Website

▼ Outreach

How did you first hear about the 2020 PEER pre-proposal solicitation?

- ☐ Email from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
- ☐ Email from USAID
- ☐ Email from other U.S. Government agency (NASA, NIH, NOAA, NSF, Smithsonian, USDS-ARS/NIFA/FS, USGS)
- ☐ Email from U.S. colleague
- ☐ Email or announcement from professional society
- ☐ Announcement at technical meeting or conference
- ☐ USAID in-country mission
- ☐ Your home institution
- ☐ NAS website
- ☐ USAID website
- ☐ IAP website
- ☐ PNAS journal ad
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify.

Pre-Proposal Application Website

▼ Appendices

Curriculum vitae (Applicant)*

Please attach the PEER applicant's brief CV, which should be no more than two pages in length. Please use the attached standard format for CVs ([standard PEER CV](#)). The CV should provide citations for no more than five to ten recent and relevant publications. If the project includes more than one developing country institution, please also include a CV for the key project participant at each institution. Please do not submit electronic copies of publications or other background materials, as they will not be forwarded to reviewers. All the CVs must be uploaded together in one single file.

[3 MiB allowed]

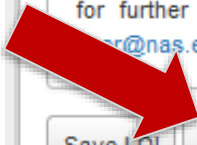
Letter of support from the USG-supported partner*

A letter of support written by the USG-supported partner explaining his or her intention to collaborate on the proposed PEER project. The letter should also include the partner's USG-funded grant title, number, funding agency, name of program officer and contact information for his or her active USG award. The letter must be written on official institutional letterhead and must be signed by the USG-supported partner.

[2 MiB allowed]

▼ Submit

Once you have filled out all the sections of the application and uploaded all the required documents, you can then submit your application by clicking the "Submit Form" button at the bottom of the page. Please consult the [PEER website](#) for further information. If you have any additional questions regarding the PEER program, please contact us at peer@nas.edu.



Pre-Proposal Application Website

Confirmation Page

✓ The LOI has been saved.

Continue

Pre-Proposal Application Website

The screenshot displays the 'Organization Summary' page for 'National Academies' on the 'grantinterface.com' website. The page includes a header with the USAID logo and navigation links. A user menu for 'Daniel Placht' is visible in the top right corner, with options to 'Edit My Profile', 'Sign Out', and 'Print Organization Packet'. The main content area shows the organization's address, contact information, and a list of contacts. The 'Contacts' section is expanded, showing a table with columns for 'PRIMARY', 'NAME', 'TITLE', 'EMAIL (LOGIN AS USER)', and 'PHONE'. The table lists 'Executive Officer' and 'Daniel Placht' with their respective email addresses and phone numbers. The 'Application and Grant History' section is also visible, showing a table with columns for 'DATE', 'PROCESS', 'PROJECT', 'TYPE', 'STATUS', 'GRANTED', and 'PAID'. The 'Totals' row shows '\$0.00' for 'GRANTED' and '\$0.00' for 'PAID'. The footer indicates 'Grant Management Software provided by Foundant Technologies © 2017'.

Organization Summary
National Academies

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Search Tools Communications Reporting

Organization Summary
National Academies

Organizations : National Academies

Summary

500 Fifth St NW
Washington, DC 20001
US

Primary Contact: Executive Officer
Website:
Organization Email:
Last Updated: 02/11/2013

Organization Change Log
Organization Email History

Public Profile Edit

Contacts 2

PRIMARY	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL (LOGIN AS USER)	PHONE
*	Executive Officer			
	Daniel Placht		dplacht@nas.edu	

Add Contact

Inactive Contacts 2

Application and Grant History

DATE	PROCESS	PROJECT	TYPE	STATUS	GRANTED	PAID
Totals:					\$0.00	\$0.00

Enter Grant

GuideStar Charity Check

Grant Management Software provided by Foundant Technologies © 2017

Pre-Proposal Application Website



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Apply

Fax to File

Applicant Dashboard

Public Profile

Applicant:

Test Example
dd@ss.com

amman
amman , jordan



Organization:

Corporation Sanad Youth Work

amman
amman , jordan

[Contact Email History](#)

If your organization information does not appear correct, please contact the funder. Thank you.



Process: PEER Cycle 7

LOI

Draft

11/09/2017

[Edit LOI](#)

Tips for a Successful Proposal

- Is your research question well articulated?
- Are the objectives clear?
- Is your project feasible?
- Have you conducted a literature review of previous work?
- Is your expertise appropriate to carry out the work? What about your U.S. government-supported partner's expertise?
- Is the timeline appropriate?
- Are there clear development impacts?
- Do they fit USAID priorities in your country?
- Does the project have broader impacts?
- Is there a training component? How many students? How many female participants?
- Are local communities engaged?
- Is there an outreach/dissemination component?

The PEER Review Process

1. Pre-proposals are reviewed by USAID Missions and Operating Units to assess the relevance and desirability of the proposed research topic. Successful pre-proposal applicants are invited to submit a full proposal.
2. Eligible PEER full proposals are reviewed by panels of technical experts with development experience or knowledge, USAID Missions, and Operating Units.
3. For those PEER proposals being considered for funding, U.S. government agencies will verify the good standing of the proposed U.S. government-supported research partners.
4. With above information and taking the full PEER portfolio and funding availability into account, final PEER award decisions will be made by USAID, with grants disbursed by NAS.

To Learn More:

VISIT: <http://www.nationalacademies.org/peer>

EMAIL: peer@nas.edu or usaidpeer@usaid.gov

Following are slides on each of the focus areas for PEER 2019/2020. Please consult the PEER website at <http://www.nationalacademies.org/peer> for additional details on each of these areas.

Multiple Countries / Any Development-Related Research

Additional Criteria for Applicants:

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for [General Eligibility requirements](#). For this focus area, applicants must be based at or have an affiliation with an institution of higher education (university) in one of the PEER-eligible countries listed above. .

Objectives:

USAID is the U.S. government's lead development agency working to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient democratic societies. Under the PEER Multiple Countries/Any Development-Related Sector call, the PEER program will award a limited number of highly competitive, novel research projects from PIs in PEER-eligible countries that are of direct relevance to [USAID's development objectives](#). These development objectives are articulated in USAID Regional and Country Development Cooperation Strategies (RDCS and CDCS). Applicants should closely read the appropriate RDCS and/or CDCS and USAID Mission website for the country or countries where the PEER project will take place before submitting a proposal. Additional information on Development Cooperation Strategies can be found at: <https://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/planning/country-strategies-cdcs>. If there is no CDCS/RDCS for a specific country, please look for country priority areas on the USAID webpage for that country.

Research proposals submitted under this call can address a variety of topics, including: biodiversity, agriculture, environment, climate change, clean energy, disaster mitigation, food security, water/sanitation, urbanization, democracy and governance, and education. Proposals on selected health-related topics may be appropriate for submission under the focus area Multiple Countries/Family Planning and Reproductive Health.

Consistent with the goals of PEER, applicants should outline how their research findings will lead to development-related policy or programmatic change. All projects must also contribute to USAID higher education objectives by strengthening engagement with junior researchers and undergraduate/graduate students. Proposals that include multi-disciplinary research teams, multi-country collaboration, and/or engagement with policy actors and other development stakeholders are desired but not required. In addition, because USAID seeks to scale innovative development solutions to end extreme poverty through the [Global Development Lab](#), projects that develop or test new solutions, study barriers to scaling innovation, or research how a proven intervention can be adapted to a new setting are of particular interest.

For further information on the Global Development Lab, please visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab>.

Duration of Project:

Projects should be designed to be implemented in one to two years with budgets of \$40,000 to \$80,000 (USD) per year for one institution (single institution award) and \$100,000 (USD) per year for awards involving support for more than one institution (multiple institution awards). Proposals received for projects greater than two years in length will not be considered for funding. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Multiple Countries / Any Development-Related Research

Eligible Countries:

ASIA

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Indonesia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan
- Timor-Leste
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Peru

MIDDLE EAST

- Egypt
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Tunisia

EUROPE AND EURASIA

- Albania
- Armenia
- Georgia
- Kosovo
- Moldova

Multiple Countries / PEER Advanced Digital Tools

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for [General Eligibility requirements](#). For this focus area, applicants must be based at or have an affiliation with an institution of higher education (university) in one of the PEER-eligible countries listed above.

Objectives:

The U.S. Global Development Lab (The Lab) at USAID brings together a diverse set of partners to discover, test, and scale breakthrough solutions to address critical challenges in international development (<http://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab>). A key element of this strategy is the support of scientific and technological research through the Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program.

USAID's approach to development is one committed to building local capacity on the Journey to Self Reliance using 21st Century approaches and technologies. This includes improving digital tools and systems, as well as the enabling environment that allows research and innovation to function robustly, inclusively, and to reach all of their intended recipients. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already playing a critical role in how cities, regions, and countries collect large sets of data, analyze context-specific needs, and distribute targeted information or resources across a variety of areas and actors. The power of these approaches has the potential to transform how we monitor land use and ecosystems, provide critical societal services, distribute natural resources, work, communicate, and raise people out of poverty.

USAID has seen an emerging need to improve and tailor AI models and training data sets for developing world partners, contexts, and actors; and expand efforts to be inclusive of marginalized or minority populations. For example, in the field of Machine Vision (MV) training images are largely taken from developed world populations and geographies, resulting in MV models that may underperform or fail in developing country contexts. Similarly, the field of Natural Language Processing (NLP) currently relies heavily on the English written language, hindering advances in nearly all of the non-written, spoken languages throughout the developing world, and further excluding individuals that speak these languages. These examples of bias and lack of fair representation are increasingly apparent as AI applications become widespread, and underscore the importance of inclusivity and ethical concerns that will be at the core of developing AI systems and approaches as they move forward.

In order to improve solutions and fill gaps in AI approaches in the developing world, PEER will support in-country researchers to design and create research projects under the Advanced Digital Tools call. Research proposals can address needs across a variety of sectors, including: biodiversity, health, agriculture, environment, climate variability, clean energy, disaster mitigation and response, food security, water/sanitation, urbanization, democracy and governance, and education, and must focus on developing, improving, or utilizing AI approaches specifically in MV or NLP to solve development challenges. Proposals on selected health-related topics may also be appropriate for submission under the focus area [Multiple Countries/Family Planning and Reproductive Health](#) and all proposals are also appropriate for submission under the [PEER Multiple Countries/Any Development-Related Research call](#).

Through this RFA, USAID is looking to support locally driven research projects using advanced digital tools. This is a space that is opening and expanding quickly behind the significant investments and efforts of private sector technology companies, big and small. These investments have established a base of infrastructure and expertise on which we hope to build. Therefore, applicants will be required to partner with appropriate local, private sector companies in order to guarantee that the resources and expertise already developed in the advanced digital tools space is leveraged to bring lasting impact. Applicants that are proposing research that builds on advancements already made by themselves or partners must clearly show how the new research will address a development-relevant need not currently being met or funded through ongoing research.

Multiple Countries / PEER Advanced Digital Tools

Eligible Countries:

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

Multiple Countries / Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Additional Criteria for Applicants:

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for [General Eligibility requirements](#). For this focus area, applicants must be based at or have an affiliation with an institution of higher education (university), non-profit organization (NGO), or government-managed research laboratory, center, or institute in one of the PEER-eligible countries listed above.

PEER does not support clinical trials research. All projects that involve interaction with patients, human subjects' data, or other personally identifiable information will require a protocol review coordinated by the National Academies. They will also be required to have and maintain a Federal Wide Assurance (FWA), which is a number issued to institutions by the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), whereby an institution commits to DHHS that it will comply with certain standards for research involving human subjects. Further details are available through the [following link](#). In addition, such projects must also have Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval of their proposed activities to confirm that they comply with the legal and ethical standards for human subjects' research in the country where the project is being carried out. Because the process of obtaining the FWA and IRB approval can be lengthy, applicants must already have these approvals at the time they submit their pre-proposals.

U.S. Partner Eligibility

In addition to the standard eligibility requirements for U.S. Government-Supported Partners described in Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements, applicants under this focus area are also encouraged to partner with U.S. university recipients (including prime awardees and sub-awardees) of USAID family planning and reproductive health funding. More information about current USAID funded programs and partners can be found in the latest [User's Guide to USAID/Washington Health Programs](#).

Objectives:

As the world's largest family planning bilateral donor, USAID is committed to supporting countries to enhance their capacity and commitment to ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being of their populations at all ages (Sustainable Development Goal 3). More specifically, USAID supports countries to make progress towards the goal of ensuring universal access to reproductive health services, including voluntary family planning services, and the integration of reproductive health in national strategies and programs. This is achieved through supporting programs that enable women of reproductive age (15-49 years) to have their need for family planning satisfied with modern family planning methods and allow adolescents to delay onset of sexual activity and child bearing through the use of age and culturally appropriate information and services. USAID has been a core partner of Family Planning 2020 and has worked with the global community on the goal of reaching an additional 120 million women and girls with family planning information, commodities and services by 2020.

Under the PEER Family Planning and Reproductive Health focus area, the PEER program will award funds to a limited number of highly competitive, novel research projects from PIs in PEER-eligible countries (see above) that help increase the demand for, inform decision-making related to, and improve access to high-quality voluntary family planning information, services, and reproductive health care services. More specifically, PEER is seeking to support research that strengthens the evidence base in voluntary family planning and reproductive health that can be used to inform policy-makers, program administrators, and communities. Where applicable, research should include and address the roles of parents and other family members, men and boys, communities, and faith-based institutions in access to and use of family planning services.

PIs from a variety of academic disciplines are encouraged to apply. Applicants should propose the use of appropriate and rigorous methods to respond to a research question of interest to stakeholders in their country or region. PEER will support primary and secondary data analysis and research questions may be explored utilizing quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research design. Applications proposing secondary data analyses may use data from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Service Provision Assessments (SPA), or other readily available datasets resulting in publication-quality research papers that can inform and influence policies and programs.

Multiple Countries / Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Eligible Countries:

ASIA

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Benin
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- Haiti

Multiple Countries / Any Development-Related Research

Additional Criteria for Applicants:

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for [General Eligibility requirements](#). For this focus area, applicants must be based at or have an affiliation with an institution of higher education (university) in one of the PEER-eligible countries listed above.

Objectives:

USAID leads the U.S. Government's international development and disaster assistance through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises and progress beyond assistance. USAID's objective is to support country partners to become self-reliant and capable of leading their own development journeys.

To address global development challenges in the most disadvantaged regions and amongst the most marginalized populations in the world, thorough attention needs to be paid to understanding the social, cultural, economic, political, technological, and/or ecological factors that may influence development outcomes. Similarly, it is important to consider the interplay between these different factors, at the local, national, regional, and global levels, as well as the various stakeholders involved.

SEBS researchers gather and analyze data that shed light on the challenges, experiences, opportunities, and choices that humans face, and enhance our understanding of people's everyday practice. By fostering long-term dialogue with aid-recipient communities, researchers, aid recipients, and other stakeholders can collaboratively develop nuanced and localized solutions to global challenges. Such solutions are more likely to be adopted by community members themselves because they resonate with their beliefs, values, and aspirations. Bringing SEBS research evidence to address complex development objectives increases the likelihood that community members will feel engaged and committed to taking part in addressing the challenges. When done well, SEBS research can contribute to a community's self-reliance.

For the current cycle of PEER, the program welcomes applicants to submit pre-proposals that deepen our understanding of a broad range of social, cultural, economic, and behavioral factors, and the interactions between and among them, which strongly impact development outcomes. This understanding can enhance our ability to achieve country and/or regional development goals. PEER encourages the use of quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods research. In all applications, PEER will evaluate the quality of the proposed research and its potential to shed light on topics of importance to USAID. Research findings must contribute to policy or programmatic changes that impact local, regional, and national level populations' and governments' abilities to address these challenges.

Multiple Countries / Social, Economic, and Behavioral Sciences

Eligible Countries:

ASIA

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Indonesia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan
- Timor-Leste
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
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- Zambia

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MIDDLE EAST

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- Morocco
- Tunisia

EUROPE AND EURASIA

- Albania
- Armenia
- Georgia
- Kosovo
- Moldova

Country-Specific Call (Afghanistan):

Urban WASH and Transboundary Water

Eligible Country:
Afghanistan

Water is critical to peace, reconciliation, and stability in Afghanistan, one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. In a 2018 national survey of the Afghan people the Asia Foundation found that access to drinking water is the most commonly cited local problem. Access to water and sanitation will continue to be a high priority across the region for years to come. Improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene can be a stabilizing force in Afghanistan by creating a foundation for health and prosperity. Research and innovation will help the Afghan government achieve its pledges made in the national Citizen's Charter that includes universal access to water and sanitation. USAID works to improve access to urban and rural water and sanitation through several mechanisms and agreements with international and local partners in the Afghan government, NGOs, the private sector, and with academia.

In alignment with the strategic goals of USAID/Afghanistan and the USAID Water and Development Implementation Plan (WDIP), the PEER program in Afghanistan shall align with the following guiding objectives:

Support research projects that reduce Afghanistan's vulnerability to water-related risks and stresses (WDIP IR 4.3), and;

Help achieve sustainable availability, quality, and environmental resilience of drinking water supply sources (WDIP Program Objective 5).

Proposed research projects should aim to achieve the above guiding objectives through one of the following topic areas:

Topic Area 1: Potable Water Supply (Increased Access to Safe Drinking Water)

- Enhancing understanding of, and developing solutions to ground-water management options and regulations, or strengthening methods to monitor and optimize extraction rates in urban areas such as Kabul. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Asian Development Bank Kabul Managed Aquifer Recharge (KMAR) program in increasing availability of water to Kabul's population.
- Develop a robust evidence-based analysis of the factors that determine access, affordability, sustainability, and quality of urban water, and proposing or improving solutions related to mitigating these factors, including through national and local utilities and service providers.
- What incentive structures exist to motivate the performance of utilities and to expand access to unserved or underserved areas? What are the costs and associated benefits of different approaches to increase revenue collection by utilities? What factors and models improve routine water quality monitoring and water safety in resource-poor environments?

Topic Area 2: Water Resources Management (Improved management of water resources)

- Investigate potential transboundary water sharing arrangements between Afghanistan and neighboring countries to find optimal solutions for Afghan policy makers, with consideration for future precipitation scenarios and climatic conditions that may reduce or alter the availability of water resources.
- Enhancing the collection of biophysical data, including climate information, to better understand, measure, and monitor changes in water resources from different land use practices and management approaches, including establishing systems for long-term monitoring of transboundary rivers.
- Proposed projects must have an explicit focus on water resources, with proposed recommendations and anticipated outcomes that positively impact natural resources management and availability of safe WASH. USAID/Afghanistan is particularly interested in supporting research projects that involve collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders including private sector partners and civil society organizations, as well as projects that have the potential to inform government policy at the national and/or local level. Research projects from all districts, provinces, and regions in Afghanistan will be considered, but applicants must demonstrate the capacity to safely conduct research, to include data collection, in remote areas or areas under increased security threat if fieldwork is required.

Country-Specific Call (Bangladesh):

Clean Energy

Eligible Country:
Bangladesh

Bangladesh's rapid economic, industrial, and urban growth has led to increased energy demand and consumption in the past decade. While the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has set a target of 100 percent access to electricity for all by 2021, Bangladesh's energy challenges have become more complex as the development of modern energy systems has not kept up with strong GDP growth. In the years ahead, the gap between energy supply and increasing energy demand during the peak seasons will be difficult to close. Access to energy will continue to constrain economic development and undermine achieving the country's development goals. Moreover, the quality and reliability of the electricity grid, and availability and affordability of electricity will need to be tackled.

The GoB recognizes the importance of diversifying its energy sources with low-cost options, noting the critical role renewable energy and energy efficiency must play in meeting the country's energy demands while meeting the country's United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) targets. The country will need an estimated 34,000 MW of power by 2030 to sustain its current economic growth rate of over seven percent. The GoB plans to invest an estimated \$70.5 billion to reach this goal.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) focuses on expanding access to modern energy services to power economic and social development, worldwide. Today, many developing countries like Bangladesh are in the process of creating and updating policy, legal and regulatory frameworks necessary to attract private investment in clean energy, increase energy efficiency, and expand access. USAID works across all aspects of the energy sector to build strong systems that can power global economic and social development. USAID is also working to foster economic growth and improved management and resilience of natural resources within the Indo-Pacific region under the Asia EDGE initiative (Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy)¹. USAID/Bangladesh believes that technological innovation and research and development in energy and power are important for social and economic growth, environmental conservation and energy security in Bangladesh and in the region.

PEER seeks to support research projects in the power and energy sector in order to fill knowledge gaps in the understanding of energy security in Bangladesh. The proposed applied research projects would be expected to build a foundation from which Bangladesh can scale up technologies, tools, and strategies for efficient, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable solutions in the energy and power sector. Proposed research projects must explicitly respond to, address, and inform opportunities for Bangladesh to increase the country's energy security. Proposals that show a direct link to Asia EDGE will receive preference.

Country-Specific Call (Tunisia):

Multiple Sectors

Eligible Country:
Tunisia

PEER and USAID/Tunisia are seeking applicants with projects that will help grow the economy of Tunisia and lay a foundation to empower current and new generations. We are looking for research products and tools that will help establish Tunisia as a regional leader.

The following are USAID Tunisia's various priority areas with examples of the types of research projects and products that would help bring Tunisian society into the position of a regional hub.

1.Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- Mapping out the current talents and capabilities in the ICT sector using geospatial tools
- Research on how Tunisia could become a regional ICT Hub and action plan to get there

2.Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- Describe the Tunisian SME ecosystem using novel tools
- Partnerships and methods to improve delivery of 'last mile' services to the consumer or end user
- Impact of ICT and entrepreneurship on the transformation of SMEs

3.Economic Growth

- Applied and product research
- Bringing technology to scale that will catapult Tunisia into a tech leader
- Last mile research for products that will help drive the economic growth of different sectors
- Data science and research to discover the gaps in skills versus available jobs in country

4.Energy

- Projects related to renewable energy development
- Research that explores energy diversification in Tunisia

5.Tourism

- Research projects with a tourism focus, including eco-tourism

Strong applications will have a cross-disciplinary team (e.g., social scientist, communications specialist, economist, etc.) and a clearly articulated beneficiary or stakeholder (e.g., policymakers, NGOs, government ministries, etc.), influencers, and plan of engagement, including a communications strategy. Research results must also be action oriented with less of an emphasis on trainings and convening and more of an emphasis on research to measurable action, or interventions.

Country-Specific Call (Vietnam): Bioremediation of Dioxin and Furans

Eligible Country:
Vietnam

Dioxin, a chemical constituent of Agent Orange® used as a defoliant by the United States during the U.S.-Vietnam war (1962-1971), remains present in soil and sediment in Vietnam at concentrations posing potential human health and ecological risks. The U.S. operated bulk storage facilities for Agent Orange® and related defoliants at Phu Cat, Da Nang, and Bien Hoa Airfields. Soil at these airfields was contaminated from releases of concentrated defoliant during storage and handling and by repeated ground application of the diluted product. Although much of the contaminated soil with dioxin concentrations greater than 1,000ppt has been or will be treated to destroy residual dioxin, significant quantities of soil containing dioxin below 1,000ppt has been landfilled or otherwise isolated to prevent direct human and ecologic contact.

PEER is seeking to support research projects focused on remediation of soil containing dioxin at concentrations between 20ppt and 1,000ppt, using bioremediation, phytoremediation, and photo-degradation methodologies. Additionally, the research should:

- Consider treatment efficacy at various concentration ranges of dioxin
- Account for the byproducts of remediation and degradation in a mass balance or similar evaluation
- Assess the effect of remediation on soil horticultural and physical properties
- Consider the effect of likely co-located contaminants such as arsenic.

PEER encourages proposals that connect their research to development of technologies suitable for treatment of soils contained in landfills constructed at Phu Cat and Da Nang Airfields and areas where dioxin remains in shallow surface soils due to past application.

Projects of interest include those focused on reducing the toxicity and/or volume of residual dioxin and co-located contaminants such as arsenic in soils. Research that investigates methods of remediation that could be applied in localized areas to reduce human and ecologic exposure risks are especially encouraged. Interdisciplinary research teams that are able to contribute to multiple levels and aspects of the research question(s) and that can ultimately increase local, community, and/or national environmental remediation capabilities are highly encouraged to apply.

PEER will accept proposals that incorporate novel research methods and study design, such as crowdsourcing or other citizen-science approaches. Projects that field test novel techniques or technologies for contaminant detection and treatment are encouraged if they are designed to help understand or remedy the effects of residual dioxin contamination on people, environments, or economies.