

Programme Partnership Arrangements (PPAs) 2011-2014

Call for Concept Notes from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

Following a detailed review of DFID's overall support to civil society, DFID is inviting applications for a new round of PPA funding for the period from April 2011 to March 2014. The new round of applications will be managed through a fully open process. At the end of the competition, DFID expects to finalise strategic level agreements with a limited number of leading CSOs that are best able to demonstrate real and practical impact on poverty reduction, significant capability across their systems and policy engagement, and a clear fit with DFID's values and priorities.

To be successful, organisations will need to demonstrate robust monitoring and evaluation systems and a commitment to transparency as set out in DFID's UK Aid Transparency Guarantee. New PPAs will be required to have clear, agreed, measurable performance frameworks in the form of logical frameworks. These will help DFID to better assess performance of PPA organisations and link funding to performance over the PPA period. The process is designed to lead to a higher performing PPA mechanism with an emphasis on value for money and results.

Subject to decisions in the government spending review, DFID expects to allocate £120m per annum to PPAs. £20m of funding is ear marked for Conflict, Security and Justice, and Humanitarian (CSH) priorities.

Given the interest in PPAs, DFID expects a large number of applications. To make the process manageable, a two stage application process has been devised. As a first step, organisations are invited to submit concept notes. Secondly, short listed concept notes will be invited to submit a fuller application. In the resource allocation process, no one organisation will receive more than 40% of its annual income from the PPA mechanism.

Before applying, applicants are advised to carefully read and adhere to the guidance page at the front of the concept note form. Applicants are also encouraged to review the external [consultation for the new Poverty Impact Fund](#) and assess which funding scheme is best suited to their needs. Organisations will not be eligible to receive funding from both the PIF and PPA.

DFID appreciates that organisations may have questions about the process or the PPA funding mechanism. More information is provided below and in the **PPA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**. This will be updated on a regular basis. Please consult these pages before contacting DFID with any questions.

Background

Since 2000 DFID has been providing strategic support to a range of civil society organisations (CSOs) through a funding mechanism called Programme Partnership Arrangements (PPAs). This funding has been provided in support of mutually agreed outcomes against which PPA organisations have reported annually. There have been three previous calls for PPA applications and these have led to DFID expanding the number of PPA organisations from an initial 10 to more than 30. Almost all existing PPAs are due to end in March 2011.

This new round of PPA selection will have a stronger emphasis on organisational results, outcomes and impact. DFID is aware of the high level of interest in civil society for this type of partnership arrangement and expects a large number of applications.

PPA resource allocation

Subject to DFID's settlement in the government's spending review, DFID expects to allocate £120m per year to PPA agreements. £100m of this fund will be allocated for General PPAs and £20m ear marked for Conflict, Security and Justice, and Humanitarian (CSH) PPAs. General PPAs are designed for organisations working on any of DFID's sectors and priorities, including cross cutting issues. The CSH PPA is designed for work on conflict, security and justice, and humanitarian issues. Applicants can apply for the General PPA, the CSH PPA, or both, by ticking the appropriate box on the first page of the concept note. Concept notes for General and CSH PPAs will be assessed separately and independently. An organisation can therefore be successful in its concept note application for both types of PPA, only General PPA, only CSH PPA or none.

While the £20m is earmarked for CSH issues, this does not mean that this kind of work cannot also be included in a general PPA. However, where this is a large programme of work or an organisation is seen as a leader in a particular CSH policy area, an organisation is advised to apply for a CSH PPA.

Eligibility

PPAs are designed for larger CSOs with a global or regional outlook. To be successful, an organisation should have a strong focus on poverty reduction and/or conflict, security and justice, or humanitarian priorities, be a leader in their area(s) of specialism, have excellent results management, be able to demonstrate real and practical impact on poverty reduction, have significant capability across their systems and policy engagement, and a clear fit with DFID's values and priorities. All successful applicants would be required to conform to DFID's UK Aid Transparency Guarantee.

Application process – in detail

DFID recognises the need to make the process as manageable as possible and to ensure that applicants do not spend excessive time producing proposals which do not meet the most basic requirements. We are therefore operating a two stage application process.

The first stage of the process is the submission of a **concept note**. It is important that all applicants complete this format openly and honestly, keeping to the page limit set (DFID will not consider any annexes submitted). Completed forms will need to be

returned by midnight GMT on Friday 3 September to: ppa-applications@dfid.gov.uk.

Applicants will receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt of the completed concept note. Where a concept note is successful, DFID will invite the applying organisation to proceed to the second stage and submit a fuller application, in a format which DFID will provide. If rejected, DFID will provide brief feedback.

Estimated Timeline

Depending on the number of concept notes and proposals received, dates may change

Action	Date
Deadline for submission of PPA Concept Notes	3 September
Invitations for Proposals / Unsuccessful letters issued	28 September
Feedback on unsuccessful Concept Notes	By 22 October
Deadline for receipt of Proposals	29 October
PPA decisions formally announced	14 December
Feedback on unsuccessful Proposals	By 15 January

PPA process – Flow Chart

