Request for Applications (RFA) – 004:
Conflict Mitigation and Peace Grants

Application Dates: *April 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016*
Award Size: *$10,000 – 149,999*
Grant Types: *In-Kind or Standard or simplified for activity periods no longer than six months*

*** Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis ***

I.   SUCCESS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The USAID-supported *Systems to Uphold the Credibility and Constitutionality of Elections in South Sudan* (SUCCESS) program supports effective, inclusive, and accountable governance to bring stability to the people of South Sudan for sustainable peace. Through the provision of technical assistance, trainings, and material support, activities are designed to promote stakeholder participation in political processes viewed as legitimate and representative of their aspirations. The civil society component of SUCCESS includes substantial support for the development and strengthening of South Sudanese civil society. The project seeks to engage civil society organizations, build their capacity to advocate on behalf of and engage with various communities, award grants, and provide technical assistance to support the implementation of effective, inclusive, and sustainable programs.

The SUCCESS program is being implemented in South Sudan by a consortium led by Democracy International (DI) with support from Creative Associates, the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG), and the State University of New York Center for International Development (SUNY-CID). The program is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

II.   GRANT OBJECTIVES

The SUCCESS program is seeking opportunities to support civil society to more actively engage with the ongoing peace process and implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan. Civil society organizations have the potential to promote inclusive participation and amplify citizen voices through active engagement and interaction with key actors of the peace process.

The signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) in August 2015 lays the groundwork for important reforms, both institutional and legislative, and presents civil society with an opportunity to participate in the rebuilding of the country. Through their distinct role in society and in the process, CSOs can advocate for the full implementation of ARCSS while also educating and empowering citizens to be involved. Whereas the peace process has received support especially from key stakeholders, regional actors and the international community, there has been minimal involvement of the ordinary citizens in the peace process both before and after the signing of the Agreement. Further, despite the Agreement taking effect in August 2015, little effort has been made to sensitize the citizens on the contents of ARCSS, the new governance structure and the political processes and reforms to be implemented during the Transitional Period. As a result, the citizens' role during the implementation has been relegated to the sidelines, thus resulting in limited understanding what the Agreement means, avenues to participate in the implementation process and mechanisms to hold the signatories accountable to the full and timely implementation of the Agreement.

Citizen participation is a key tenet of democratic governance. Participation can take many forms and through information, advocacy and active civic engagement, citizens have a platform through which they can influence and advocate for good governance and social accountability. The recent Agreement

provides an opportunity for new advocacy and engagement initiatives, particularly in areas of transitional governance, transitional justice, constitution-making and other critical political processes expected to take place during the transitional period and bring in a new era of peace, stability and development for the nascent state.

Key stakeholders, CSOs included, have a critical role to inform, educate and empower South Sudanese citizens so that they can collectively work on rebuilding the nation. A key aspect to enhance citizen participation in the implementation is an understanding of what the Agreement means, and what it portends for the future of the young nation, and what role they can play in securing the Agreement and ensuring its full implementation.

Through this RFA, SUCCESS proposes to partner with the South Sudan civil society in educating the citizens on ARCSS in a bid to empower them to own, participate and influence political processes in the transitional period and beyond.

With this RFA, the potential applicants will have the opportunity to;

1. Increase citizens' knowledge on the ARCSS and the important political processes, outlined therein.
2. Promote avenues for citizen participation in political processes through information sharing, dialogues and platforms for learning and engagement to strengthen the citizens' understanding and ability to hold their leaders accountable while also demanding for full implementation of the Agreement.
3. Develop comprehensive, reliable and impartial monitoring reports on the implementation process of ARCSS for the public
4. Promote genuine and complete implementation of the peace agreement through evidenced based advocacy and public awareness campaigns

Grant applicants should submit proposals that incorporate innovative and creative methods that do not only propose to disseminate the Agreement but also demonstrate how citizens can be actively engaged in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and participation in the political processes as a result of the knowledge gained through the dissemination. Further, each proposal should take into special consideration the education levels and other important demographic and infrastructural considerations unique to the South Sudan context and adopt methods that have worked well in this context. Last but not least, the proposal should clearly explain how it will ensure inclusivity of traditionally marginalized populations.

III.   Project Areas:

This RFA targets counties within 10 states where SUCCESS currently has no partners disseminating the peace agreement. They are as stipulated in the table below.

S/N	States	Covered Counties	Uncovered Counties
1	Upper Nile State	None	Manyom, Fashoda, Melut, Maban, Maiwut, Longochuk, Ulang, Baliet and Panyikang, Renk, Luakpiny/Nasir and Malakal
2	Jonglei State	Akobo, Twic East and Pibor	Fangak; Khorflus; Ayod; Duk; Uror Nyirol; Pochala & Bor South
3	Unity State	Rubkona, Guit, Koch & Leer	Pariang, Mayom, Panyiijar, Abiemnhom; and Mayendit
4	Warrap State	Twic	Gogrial East; Tong East, Gogrial west, Tonj North and Tonj South
5	Northern Bahr El Ghazal State	Aweil Centre	Aweil North, Aweil East, Aweil West and Aweil South
6	Northern Bahr El Ghazal State	Wau and Jur River County	Raja
7	Lakes State	Awerial	Cueibet; Rumbek North; Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East, Yirol West; Yirol East and Wulu
8	Western Equatorial State	Nzara, Yambio, Ibba, Maridi and Mundri East	Tambura; Nagero; Ezo; Mvolo, Mundri West, Ibba & Maridi
9	Central Equatoria State	Juba	Yei, Terekeka, Morobo, Kajo-Keji & Lainya
10	Eastern Equatoria State	Torit & Ikotos	Lafon; Kapoeta North; Kapoeta East, Kapoeta South, Magwi & Budi

IV. GRANT CATEGORIES

SUCCESS seeks to provide a limited quantity of grants under the two following categories:

Tier 1: Small Awards: $1000 – $24,999
Quick funding mechanism to implement smaller-scale activities or a portion of a longer campaign in the core areas. This support can be in the form of a direct cash grant or in-kind support of an event.

- Examples: Conducting a community meeting to disseminate information on the content of ARCSS; holding a public town hall meeting on how the Agreement effects local governance, etc.

Tier 2: Activity Series Grant: $25,000 – $149,999
Grants to support a more comprehensive, longer-term approach to peace implementation, including holding multiple activities or implementing a program in the core areas.

- Examples: A series of radio debates and community consultations on the peace process in multiple states; development of a regional youth agenda on implementation of ARCSS, etc.

Organizations are encouraged to use civil society networks and alliances to promote strategic dissemination of the Agreement and citizens' participation in the process. Applicants are encouraged to utilize media and information resources to conduct advocacy that includes disseminating information through the internet, television, radio, and other media platforms to ensure policy proposals reach a wider audience.

Applications can be either for direct cash grants or for in-kind support to deliver products and services to support a planned activity an organization is undertaking.

V.   TIPS FOR APPLICANTS:

Objectives: All grants must fall under the three core SUCCESS objectives (see pg. 1-2). If your application does not fall within SUCCESS objectives or activities, the grant will not be considered for support. Additionally, be specific about your objectives: You are implementing this grant so that what happens? You are doing this activity so that what happens?

Prioritize Activities: Through the grants mechanism, SUCCESS places a priority on funding *activities,* not *organizations*. SUCCESS will support a budget including your organization's needs, but only when those needs are necessary to support your proposed activities.

Activities → Next Step → Meaningful Change: Proposed activities should go beyond dialogues and have actionable outcomes which can be monitored by CSOs and the community. What happens after the workshop ends? Will an action plan be created to guide you moving forward? Will you develop a citizen tracker after your town hall meeting? What will your participants do *after* they receive training? Think about specific ways to answer the question "What's Next?" after each activity so that activities transition into action and impact.

Be Different!: We receive many grant concept notes/applications proposing trainings, workshops and dialogues. If you want to stand out from the other applicants, think of something new, and be creative!

Widen the Audience: Amplify the impact of your project by collaborating with other organizations, and utilizing civil society networks, allies, and other groups. Additionally, remember to do outreach to your target audience and consider using media (radio, fliers, etc.) where appropriate.

Fully Complete the Application: SUCCESS will not accept incomplete submissions, so please do not forget to fill out all sections of the concept note/application template (Annex A).

Other Factors: Sometimes we receive excellent grant concept notes and applications, but are unable to support them due to factors outside our control (project previously funded in the past, other donors in the same area, etc.). *We hope you understand and you will consider applying again when circumstances change!*

VI.   GRANT RESTRICTIONS:

Applicants must **not** engage in the following:

- Organization of protest rallies, marches, or similar events designed to demonstrate opposition to policies;
- Promotion of policies that do not contribute to good governance and social accountability in South Sudan

VII. ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLICATIONS:

Organizations seeking advocacy grant awards must meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

1. Based in South Sudan, defined as an organization that is drawn primarily from residents of South Sudan **and** is currently registered in South Sudan;
2. Be a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that is independent of governmental control of the board or leadership;
3. Not be a political party or an organization that promotes or endorses electoral candidates;
4. Not be an organization that prohibits the participation of minority groups including ethnic, sexual, and religious minorities, nor an organization that engages in 'hate speech' to demean or threaten individuals or groups based on identity;
5. Promote and adhere to non-violent, peaceful approaches and does not engage in armed conflict or policing;
6. Not be included in the databases from U.S. Government's "Excluded Parties List System" (www.sam.gov), the Office of Foreign Assets Control (https://sdnsearch.ofac.treas.gov/), or the UN Sanctions List (http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list_new.shtml);
7. Have adequate financial systems, management structures, reporting mechanisms and systems, and personnel resources, or the ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of the award;
8. Respect the laws of South Sudan and adhere to labor laws for employed staff; and
9. Integrate gender and conflict-sensitive approaches.

Faith-based organizations are encouraged to apply, but may not use award funds or equipment for religious worship, education, or proselytizing.

VIII. APPLICATION PROCESS AND FORMAT

The application process includes two phases: (1) Submission of a short Concept Note; and (2) Submission of a full Application.

Applicants must **first** submit a Concept Note that presents an overview of the proposed project or set of activities. Concept Notes will be reviewed by the SUCCESS Grant Selection Committee, who will evaluate submissions based upon the criteria described in the section below. Only high scoring applicants will proceed to phase two of the process. The Grant Selection Committee will contact high-scoring applicants and request that they submit a full application.

Please note: Concept Notes must be submitted using the **template provided in Annex A**, below.

Applicants must also submit a short one or two page budget, as described above. The budget must be calculated in South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) and not exceed the converted equivalent of USD. SUCCESS will not pay overhead charges above 5% of the total grant value, and SUCCESS will not pay costs incurred prior to the approval of the grant to include costs related to the preparation of the application or any activities carried out that are not included in an approved grant award.

IX. SELECTION CRITERIA

All applications that meet the eligibility and program requirements, and conform to the application preparation and submission instructions detailed above, will be reviewed and scored by the SUCCESS Grant Selection Committee using the evaluation criteria presented in this section. The budget section of

all applications under consideration for award will be reviewed for what are necessary and reasonable costs to support the proposed program.

Applications will be evaluated on the set of criteria below. All technical information within your application will be evaluated by these standards. Please keep in mind that cost realism and reasonableness will be an important criterion.

NOTE: Applications proposing direct support to a political party or an actor directly involved in the conflict will not be considered.

Application Scoring

A. Relevance of Objective	**30**	**points**
B. Viability of Approach	**40**	**points**
C. Capacity to Implement	**30**	**points**
TOTAL	**100**	**points**

a. *Relevance of Objective (30 points)*

Applications will be evaluated on the relevance of their proposed objective, with specific consideration given to the following:

- The relevance of the objective to the goals of SUCCESS;
- The objective's potential for substantive impact; and
- The viability and/or practicality of the objective within South Sudan's existing political environment.

b. *Technical Approach (40 points)*

Applications will be evaluated on the viability of their proposed approach, with specific consideration given to the following:

- The relation of the approach to the proposed objectives;
- The feasibility of the proposed approach within the specified timeframe;
- Demonstrating an inclusive approach that reaches out to a diverse set of communities;
- Integrating gender and conflict-sensitive approaches;
- Sustainability—i.e., the likelihood that the projects and/or their potential results will continue beyond the project completion date without donor support;
- The potential to introduce significant risk to the applicant, SUCCESS staff, or any third party.

c. *Capacity to Implement (30 points)*

Applications will be evaluated on the extent to which the applicant demonstrates its capacity to implement proposed activities, with specific consideration given to the following:

- The applicant's administrative and financial management processes;
- The ability of the applicant to recruit and support staff necessary to its proposed approach;
- Recent and similar past performance.

X.   SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications for small grants on the dissemination of the Peace Agreement (less than $25,000) should be three pages or less and accompanied by a one-page budget.

All applications must be submitted in English via email to SUCCESSRFA@democracyinternational.com, or to the address below. Applicants should retain for their records one copy of the application and all documents that accompany their submission. Organizations do not need to provide additional documentation beyond what is requested during the application stage. Paper copies may also be dropped off at the SUCCESS Office at Afex Riverside Camp in the district of Hai Malakal, Juba (behind the Hai Malakal Cemetery, John Deere dealership and near the Ambassador Hotel). SUCCESS reserves the right to exclude any applications received after **September 30, 2016**, those that do not meet the eligibility criteria, and those are not relevant to the RFA requested.

To be considered for an award, an applicant's period of performance for activities must not exceed one year.

This announcement does not constitute any commitment on the part of the Democracy International (DI) or any member of the SUCCESS Consortium, nor does it commit DI or SUCCESS to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. SUCCESS reserves the right to reject any or all applications received. SUCCESS reserves the right to incrementally fund activities over the duration of the program, if necessary, depending on program length, performance against approved program indicators, and availability of funds.

Any questions concerning this announcement should be directed to SUCCESSRFA@democracyinternational.com.

The applicant shall submit the application electronically and/or in hard copy as follows:

Electronically	Hard Copies
E-mail the Concept Note and budget as separate attachments (using MS Word, Excel, Adobe Acrobat, or similar file formats, as needed) to: *SUCCESSRFA@democracyinternational.com* In the subject line please state: "*Conflict Mitigation and Peace Grant Application*" and the name of the organization	Re: Grant Application Democracy International Afex Riverside Camp Juba, South Sudan

Applications sent by any other means will not be considered.

ANNEX A: Concept Note Template

<u>Guidelines:</u> *Concept papers must not exceed 4 pages and must use 12pt Times New Roman font.*

Project Title:	
Organization Name:	
Organization Contact Person & Contact Details:	
In response to SUCCESS RFA #:	
Location(s) of proposed activities:	
Proposed Project Start Date/End Date:	
Total Amount:	

Background & Issue context:

- Describe the circumstances that led to the identified issue(s). What is the context?
- Why is your project needed?

Strategic Approach:

- What is the specific issue your project will address?
- What is your objective?
- What is your strategic approach to achieve the project objective?
- Whose interests are you trying to aggregate and represent?
- Who are the direct and indirect targets of your advocacy effort?

Describe the Activities:

- What is your methodology to meet the proposed objectives (methodology should reflect a systematic approach to project activities)?

Expected Advocacy Result:

- What immediate result do you hope to achieve through these set of activities?
- How will this result positively impact the issue that you identified?
- Do you plan to conduct follow-on activities to this project? If so, please describe your plan.
- How will you sustain the impact of your program after the grant ends?

Measuring Success:

- What methods will you use to monitor and evaluate your proposed program?
- Provide indicators that are most important for evaluating progress?
- How will you know if you have achieved your stated objective?

External coordination:

- How are you coordinating your work with other CSO partners and stakeholders in your location and/or in your issue area?
- Which other organizations are working on this issue and how will you avoid duplication of activities?

Risk Assessment:

- What are the risks of doing these activities and how will you address them?

Organization Capacity to Implement:

- Background of your organization, your presence in the locality you are proposing to work in, staffing capacity to include management, relevant past performance in relation to proposed activities, previous donors and funding base?

Inclusivity:

- How is gender inclusivity incorporated in your project?
- How is conflict sensitivity incorporated in your project?

ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET

Please use the following table to estimate the project expenses in South Sudanese Pounds. Please do not exceed the converted equivalent in dollars.

Category	Unit Type	Unit No.	Unit Cost	Total Cost
A. Labor/Personnel costs				
B. Travel & Per diem				
C. Activity Cost				
TOTAL				