

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Call for Capacity Statements for USAID/El Salvador and USAID/OCE
Educational Innovation Project Impact Evaluation in El Salvador**

1. Would it be possible for you to provide a loose timeline for the project? We want to ensure the foreseen timeline works for our team.

As indicated in the [call for CS detailed statement](#) (pages 2-4), this project has two phases:

- Phase 1 - Evaluation Design Period: In this phase the selected research team is expected to prepare and present an Evaluation Design Memo that describes an experimental research design. The evaluation design period will be from early October to late November 2024 (approximately October 7 - November 18, 2024)
- Phase 2 - Evaluation Implementation Period: If an evaluation is feasible and USAID and the research team agree to proceed, USAID expects the evaluation implementation period to last from late November 2024 to approximately June 2027.

2. Additionally, would it be possible to allocate funds directly to a Latin American partner for data collection and housing the remaining funds in a U.S. based university?

It is preferred to include this information within the lead recipients budget and scope. This would be included in the overall subrecipient agreement. If Purdue Applied Research Institute (PARI) as a PRIME is required to contract with the data collection firm separately, this would reduce the available budget to the research team in order to account for it within the PRIME's budget and scope. However, since the research team would likely want to guide or direct the work of the data collection firm, it would be ideal to be included within its scope and budget. But it is allowable for another local partner to do this data collection for the lead research team's organization, if desired. This local partner would be considered a second-tier subrecipient or contract depending on the classification of the organization issuing the agreement. If the firm will be identified at a later date, prior approval may be required upon selection of the organization.

3. Is there room to go above the 750K or is that a hard cap? Does that include overheads or doesn't include overheads?

At the present time, the anticipated budget for the evaluation implementation period (November 2024-June 2027) is approximately \$750,000. An evaluation design option proposed to the mission could potentially exceed this, but that would be a matter of discussion with the mission through the course of drafting the evaluation design memo, presentation, and based on the agreed-upon SOW after the evaluation design was agreed to with the mission. The \$750K would include overheads/indirect costs. We should emphasize that at this stage the call for capacity statements is for the evaluation design period (October/November) and is estimated to require approximately \$40K.

4. Is there any preference for a type of institution? e.g. NGO or university or other research org (e.g. SSRC); if university US-based or UK-Based (e.g. Oxford)?

No, there is no preference for the type of institution, provided that the Principles and Qualifications are met. Please refer to Section E. **OVERVIEW OF CAPACITY STATEMENT (CS) AND SELECTION PROCESS** in the [call for CS detailed statement \(pages 4-5\)](#).

5. Is having a Masters/PhD or Spanish speaking skills necessary to be part of this project?

Yes, as outlined in the "II. Qualifications" subsection of Section E, "Overview of Capacity Statement (CS) and Selection Process," in the [call for CS details \(page 5\)](#), a PhD and Spanish-speaking skills are each required of at least one member of the Research Leadership Team.

6. Is it possible for one PI to be listed as the lead researcher in 2 different capacity statements with different research teams?

Yes, it is possible. However, if there is a rationale behind the PI being the lead on two capacity statements, it would be beneficial to include an explanation to support being the lead on two separate submissions. While it's not prohibited, it is highly recommended to consider being a lead on one submission and a co-pi on any subsequent applications for the same Call for Capacity Statement submissions.

7. Regarding the qualifications listed for the Research Leadership Team (including Ph.D., experience with RCTs, publications, and language skills), are these requirements expected to be met by each individual team member, or can they be collectively fulfilled by the entire team? Additionally, can you clarify if these qualifications need to be met solely by the prime contractor, or can subcontractors be included to fulfill these requirements?

Yes, the qualifications can be collectively fulfilled by the research leadership team. While the required qualifications must be represented within the team, not all team members need to possess every qualification. The research leadership team can include both lead recipients ("prime contractor") and sub-recipients ("subcontractors"). However, we expect the principal investigator (PI) to be from the lead recipients, while co-PIs and/or other members of the research leadership team can be from either the lead recipients, sub-recipients, or consultants.

8. The call mentions the need for experience in conducting research with primary data collection in El Salvador and/or Latin America. Is it acceptable for only some team members to have this specific regional experience, or is it a requirement for all proposed Research Leadership Team members?

Yes, it is acceptable for only some team members to have this specific regional experience. While the required qualifications must be represented within the team, not all team members need to possess every qualification.

9. Treatment composition and dosage: Confirm if the treatment consists of teacher training and in-services professional development, or if the in-service professional development can also be accessed by all the pilot school teachers.

During this cohort, all teachers in grades 1 to 6 in the treatment schools will be assigned to undergo a teacher training process in different modalities and have access to professional development, including in-person training days, virtual training, teacher learning communities, and pedagogical support through educational coaching.

Teachers in non-treatment pilot schools do not have access to in-service professional development from the USAID activity, but they do have access to in-service professional development from the Ministry of Education.

10. Q2 Treatment length: Confirm if the treatment is from January 2025 to December 2027? How long will the training take? How many days of training is the total training?

The integrated teacher training model consists of a process with face-to-face sessions, virtual spaces, educational coaching from schools with competent staff and teacher learning communities (in-service professional development) during the academic years 2025 and 2026, which will end approximately in the first quarter of 2027. The total number of training sessions and the duration of the training are still being determined.

Depending on the evaluation that is proposed by the research team and agreed upon with the El Salvador mission, the period of endline data collection, data analysis, and the write-up of results could extend into mid-2027.

11. Is there any scope for modifying the intervention? For example, could one version be implemented in 75 schools and another in 75 other schools? Or could part of the intervention be awarded for the first half of the school year and the rest be added in the second half?

These are theoretically within the scope, but would have to be discussed and agreed to with both the El Salvador Mission and implementing partner during the evaluation design period.

12. Is your plan to award just one team a design award, or are you planning on awarding multiple teams design awards, and later you will choose from among those "winners"?

We plan to select one team to design and implement the evaluation.

