

AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS ABROAD

USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Initiative provides assistance to overseas schools, libraries, and hospitals that serve as study and demonstration centers for American ideas and practices.

ASHA's mission is distinct from that of other USAID programs because of its focus on public diplomacy. ASHA works to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries by strengthening local capacity and leadership. ASHA is part of the Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation's Local, Faith and Transformative Partnerships (IPI/LFT) Hub.

ADVANCING PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Established in 1947, the ASHA program contributes to U.S. foreign policy interests by funding institutions that foster a positive image of the United States around the world. All ASHA funding must go directly to a U.S.-based non-profit organization, in order to be passed to an overseas school (6th grade or higher), hospital, or library that promotes positive U.S. public diplomacy.

ASHA awards provide the infrastructure, equipment, and exposure to American values, ideas, and practices necessary to sustain development results and increase local civil society capacity and leadership through enduring partnerships. In collaboration with approximately 371 institutions, ASHA has invested more than \$1.4 billion to improve health and education services in over 80 countries.

PARTNERING WITH ASHA

ASHA issues an annual Request for Applications (RFA), which is posted on www.grants.gov. This competitive solicitation process results in approximately 30 to 40 awards of up to \$2 million made to U.S. Organizations (USOs) who have partnered with Overseas Institutions (OSIs). This approach has been developed and refined over more than 60 years of practice and has led to strong partnerships between the USOs and OSIs and the development of a cadre of influential leaders around the world. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, ASHA funded 24 new awards in 19 countries, totaling over \$29 million.

Additionally, ASHA periodically hosts a Partners Meeting where past and present recipients are

invited to pose questions about the upcoming funding cycle, learn more about the awards process, and interact with USAID staff, including senior leaders. The Partners Meeting acts as a forum for networking, engagement, and learning.

ASHA also manages the Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP) within DDI/LFT.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY

ASHA’s program inherently focuses on local capacity development. Applicants are only eligible for ASHA funding if they have identified a local institution—typically a school, library, or medical center—with which to partner and can demonstrate a sustained collaboration of at least two years between the USO and the OSI. This unique eligibility criteria encourages our funded partners to share values of inclusivity, a commitment to civic engagement, democratic ideals, and American best practices in pedagogies, healthcare services, and resilient construction and technologies.

For more information about the ASHA program, please email partnerwithasha@usaid.gov.

Map of historical ASHA assistance as of FY 2022.

