

Youth Empowerment Services, Inc. (YES, INC.)
Dominican Republic Soft Partner (DRSP) Non-Financial Agreement
For the
Guaranteed Quality (GQ) Education for All
Basic Education Recovery Activity Application - USAID

This partnership agreement outlines the terms and conditions under which Youth Empowerment Services Inc., (YES, INC.), will work together with three entities located within the country of the Dominican Republic as DRSP (Dominican Republic Soft Partners). They are listed here: Federacion Nacional Real de Ayuda a los Cuerpos de Bonberos de la República Dominicana, Mision Maranatha, and ProfoundED.

This partnership is being created to ensure that we are meeting the expectations of the funding source, USAID, and the requirement of partnering with entities located within the Dominican Republic to enhance the likelihood that the Guaranteed Quality Education for All activity will be implemented with fidelity to achieving the objectives.

This partnership will lead to increased capacity building for each entity and will assist YES, INC., the applicant, with fostering mutual understanding, communication, agreement, and the cooperation needed to achieve the objectives of the Basic Education Recovery Activity application. Through this agreement, all parties seek to harness their respective expertise and resources to effectively contribute to the growth and development of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) objectives for the Basic Education Recovery Activity.

A. Defining partners and partnerships: The need for the Basic Education Recovery Activity to successfully improve the educational systems for the Dominican Republic's schools, leaders, teachers, students, and parents is so great, that having partners and partnerships is better than just companies, individuals and entities working in isolation. The term "partner" will generate a greater sense of commitment to the project and will ensure a greater sense of accountability and responsibilities for the outcomes working together with the other partners.

B. Defining the Guaranteed Quality (GQ) Education for all three (3) partnership groups:

- A) Concrete Partnership Group – This partnership is mandated by the USAID NOFO on page 23. The steering committee is required to include the USAID, MINERD, and the applicant (YES, INC.). These three entities will be required to meet and make implementation decisions together to ensure that the objectives are made. This partnership is required and thus titled "Concrete Partnership Group".
- B) Dominican Republic Soft Partnership (DRSP) – This partnership's roles and responsibilities are detailed in this written document. The term "soft partnership" is used to indicate that these partners are volunteering to be of assistance and support without any financial benefit except as required should any of these partners be procured to provide services and or products to support the implementation and achievement of the objectives. To become a member of this partnership group, each entity, working with YES, INC. as the applicant is confirmed to be located and currently doing business in the

Dominican Republic. There are three Dominican Republic Soft Partners (DRSP) identified for the project as of September 6, 2023.

- C) Vendor Partners (VP) – Each entity that the applicant (YES, INC.) selects through the procurement process to provide products and/or services will be identified as a vendor partner (VP). There are approximately 20 entities that have submitted responses through the procurement process to be included in the application for services needed to achieve the proposed outcomes. Once YES, INC. is approved for funding, it expects to need additional services and products after receiving further guidance from the “Concrete Partnership Group”, steering committee (USAID and MINERD) and will expeditiously procure the additional services and products needed from other potential vendors interested in becoming vendor partners.

1. Purpose of the Agreement:

This agreement outlines the terms, expectations, and conditions under which YES, INC. and the DRSP partners will provide insights, advice, and thought partnership to enhance this project's technical and business applications.

2. Role and Responsibilities:

Each partner agrees to the following roles and responsibilities:

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- Participate in scheduled training events including buy-in training, communication training, technical application training, and other training opportunities designed to ensure a level of commitment exists that is needed to support the overall implementation.
 - Participate in regularly scheduled communication sessions to provide insights and advice.
 - Collaborate on all aspects of the technical application and business class application.
 - When allowed by the USAID and MINERD, participate in the steering committee meetings to provide input and perspectives.
 - Share in implementation and decision-making activities.
 - Share in representing the activity when appropriate to other Dominican Republic entities.
 - Work together with the Public Relations and all social media activities as approved by the steering committee (applicant, USAID, and MINERD).
 - Provide recommendations regarding other potential Dominican Republic partners that may be suitable to join as partners.

3. Meeting Commitments:

The partners commit to attending and actively participating in all scheduled meetings. This includes regular meetings, steering committee meetings, and any other meetings deemed necessary to fulfill the objectives of this Agreement.

4. Shared Decision-Making:

Partners will be included in the implementation processes, the MEL approval processes, the technical and business processes. While partners are entitled to share in the decision-making discussions, they do not possess veto power over decisions. The thoughts, opinions, comments, suggestions, and recommendations will be valuable to the processes involved with implementing this activity. Each DRSP will have multiple opportunities to participate and share in decision discussions but will not have authority over final decisions.

5. Confidentiality:

The DRSPs agree to maintain the confidentiality of all sensitive information shared. This includes, but is not limited to, proprietary business information, financial data, strategic plans, and any other information designated as confidential.

6. Term and Termination:

This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue for a term of ten (10) years unless terminated earlier by either party upon written notice. YES, Inc. reserves the right to terminate this Agreement immediately in case of breach of any terms outlined herein. The ten years represent five years of USAID funding for the application and five years of sustainability funding from YES, INC.

7. Compensation/Non-Financial Agreement:

The DRSP agrees that their participation as a partner is voluntary and does not involve financial compensation. Each DRSP can submit responses to RFQs, RFPs, and other request for products and services to become a service provider/vendor as a part of the application to provide services under YES, INC. Compensation for a service or product will not conflict with a DRSP partner and DRSP partners will not be involved in funding decisions made by YES, INC.

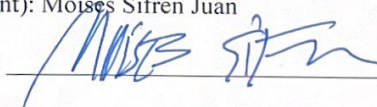
8. Entire Agreement:

This Agreement contains the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, and representations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Advisory Council Agreement as of the Effective Date.

Organization Name: Mision Maranatha

Authorized Representative Name (print): Moises Sifren Juan

Authorized Representative Signature:  Date: 24 August 2023