

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE LOCAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Project Narrative Instructions

In order to help MEPI determine if your project idea meets the program goals for a MEPI Local Grant, we request that you use this Project Narrative worksheet to describe your project idea. Please follow all instructions below carefully.

We accept Project Narratives in English, French, or Arabic. We look forward to receiving creative proposal ideas that address the areas of interest and allowable activities outlined below. Your project will be reviewed by Embassy staff, and a MEPI representative will let you know if your project idea is suitable for further consideration as a MEPI Local Grant.

MEPI Mission and Objectives:

MEPI works in partnership with civil society organizations, the private sector, and government institutions throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to help achieve three overarching goals:

1. Building pluralistic societies in which diversity is reflected in social organizations, politics, business, media, and government, and where all citizens have equal standing, protected by guaranteed rights and by independent and effective judiciaries;
2. Building participatory societies in which citizens play an active role in making decisions that affect their lives and in holding their governments accountable; and
3. Building prosperous societies in which education, specialized skill training, and an environment conducive to business development inspire innovation and create a foundation for long-term economic growth and an internationally competitive private sector.

Local grants promote reform and civic activism at the local and national levels in countries of the Middle East and North Africa, build the institutional capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and strengthen civil society. Funding is available for projects that protect and advance civil liberties especially political and civic rights, empower women and youth, strengthen the rule of law, develop independent and pluralistic media, foster economic opportunity and economic reform, and promote an educated, active and informed citizenry. Local grants projects are intended to support quick impact activities. They generally are completed in one year and should be designed to carry out proposed activities and make an impact within that one-year

period. Proposed local grant projects should involve activities in one or more of the following areas:

- Advocacy by civil society, NGOs, and professional associations, including grassroots level and community organizations, to promote legal or political reforms and raise public awareness of democratic values and processes.
- Development of networks, partnerships, and coalitions that could include local NGOs, civil society organizations, government officials, and/or the business community to promote reform.
- Expansion of opportunities for youth (ages 15-24), particularly those that to provide practical, hands-on experience in civic engagement, public service, and volunteerism, and that help to improve local communities.
- Expansion of women's participation in public life at the local, regional, and national levels.
- Promotion of the rule of law, including rights education, education of legal professionals, and advocacy activities to expand civic rights and to ensure legal systems protect the rights of all individuals.
- Promotion of legal frameworks and processes that expand citizen participation in politics and public life.
- Promotion of good governance, including anti-corruption efforts and initiatives to promote government transparency and integrity.
- Promotion of public awareness of current political issues and processes, including voter education.
- Development of media institutions that defend the public interest and provide credible and diverse sources of information.
- Promotion of economic reform that expands economic opportunity especially for youth, including promoting entrepreneurship and commercial and legal reforms, as well as workforce development training.
- Expansion of educational opportunities, including civic education activities that promote tolerance of different views, respect for democratic values and institutions, protection of ethnic and religious diversity, leadership development, and community service.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

- 1. Brief Summary:** (Please provide a one-paragraph description of the project's objectives, beneficiaries, and general plan of action)

- 2. State the problem, and describe how this project will address the problem.**

- 3. Explain how this project meets one or more of the MEPI priorities outlined above, on page two of the "Project Narratives"**

- 4. What are the main objectives of the project, and how will you will measure achieving the objectives?** *(A good project should have 1-2 objectives. If possible, for each of the intended results/objectives, please describe how you intend to measure these objectives.)*

- 5. List the name(s) of the person(s) who will be responsible for implementing and managing the project. Please attach a copy of each person's CV or resume.**

- 6. Describe how you plan to publicize the work and to incorporate MEPI into this publicity (if appropriate).**

- 7. Please briefly describe your organization and partner organizations by answering the following questions:**
 - 7.1 What type of organization are you (e.g., non-profit, for-profit, institution of higher education)?**

 - 7.2 When was your organization established?**

 - 7.3 What is the approximate size of membership?**

 - 7.4 What is the mission and purpose of your organization?**

 - 7.5 What is the primary source of funding for your organization?**

7.6 Describe its status under applicable law.

7.7 What is the name(s) of your partner organization(s) (if applicable)?

7.8 What is the role of your partner organization(s) (if applicable)?

8. Has your organization received or expected to receive financial assistance from other donors? If so, please name any donors, their contact information, the amount of financial assistance received, and briefly describe funded projects.

End of Worksheet — Thank you.