



**REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2  
ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT  
SUPPORT FOR  
A) RESPONSE TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
ROUND 3**

**I. OVERVIEW**

The Regional Assistance Program 2 (RAP 2) is seeking proposals from prospective partners to support **civil society responses to urgent political developments.**

The purpose of this annual program statement (APS) is to identify the needs of civil society actors engaged in political developments at the local, national or regional levels, inform and help design RAP 2 interventions to respond to those needs, and shape, support and enable projects to achieve their desired objectives.

**II. ABOUT THE REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

RAP 2 is a grants and technical assistance mechanism to strengthen civil society organizations and support civil society actors working towards social and political engagement in the Middle East and North Africa. RAP 2 is funded by the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative ([MEPI](#)) and is being implemented by the International Research & Exchanges Board ([IREX](#)). RAP 2 provides beneficiaries with financial and/or in-kind support combined with technical assistance, in areas such as capacity building, project management, advocacy, and gender auditing.

**III. OBJECTIVE**

This APS includes the following priority area:

***Priority Area A: Prepare local organizations to respond to snap local and national elections and other emergent political developments.***

**IV. SCOPE OF WORK:**

RAP 2 assistance for Priority Area A may include, but is not limited to:

- *Financial support* (e.g. subgrants) and, or
- *Technical assistance* (e.g. training, mentorship, in-kind assistance) from RAP 2, its regional partners, or other IREX experts

IREX plans to award up to a total of eight grants in 2017-2018 for amounts ranging between US\$50,000-250,000 to qualified applicants. **Proposed projects must respond to the priority area described in this APS (Priority A).** Proposed projects are intended to be of a limited duration, not exceeding six months. The grants will be awarded on staggered basis, in three rounds, according to availability of funds. The first round of solicitations closed on November 11, 2017. The second round of solicitations closed on January 2, 2018. The current, third round, has a deadline of February 28, 2018. *Please note:* This mechanism is not intended to be a standard grant

funding mechanism for long-term projects.

In addition to collecting applicants' self-assessment of their own needs, IREX will also facilitate an organizational assessment using our own tools. This assessment may include (but is not limited to) remote and in-country evaluation sessions with the organization team, written surveys by staff and stakeholders, and phone interviews. Technical assistance interventions will be designed based on an analysis of results from both the self-assessment and the IREX assessment.

#### Priority Area A:

RAP 2 will provide assistance to civil society and non-governmental organizations working to respond to and participate in **emergent and/or rapidly developing** political processes and developments, including snap elections:

1. Activities aimed at working with government stakeholders to improve laws related to political participation such as engaging constituencies, support for political party capacity building, and voter mobilization.
2. Improving accountability functions
3. Increasing access for hard to reach and marginalized groups and in post-crisis contexts for approved political activities.
4. Election monitoring.
5. Political reconciliation activities.
6. Urgent time-sensitive or local needs not listed above, that are consistent with the priority area.

#### **V. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Applicants must be civil society organizations or NGOs. Assistance will be to organizations, rather than to individuals, that are working in: Algeria, Bahrain, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, West Bank, Gaza, and Yemen.

IREX recognizes that licensing and registration procedures and regulations for NGOs vary from country to country across the region, and is therefore open to receiving applications from organizations that are not registered as NGOs per se, but that are not-for-profit and fulfill the mission of and operate as CSOs.

Please inquire to IREX regarding any questions related to applicant eligibility or registration status.

#### **VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW**

Proposals will be reviewed according the following criteria:

Priority Area A (Responding to an Emergent Political Development):

- The proposed project responds to the Priority Area A description and objectives listed above in this APS;
- The applicant demonstrates experience in related issues and interventions, understanding of the context, and understanding of the obstacles and barriers to the proposed project, including legal, regulatory, social, political, and any other barriers;
- Clear understanding of the needs, challenges, and motivations of all stakeholders involved;

- Objectives are "SMART" (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-oriented, and achievable within the time frame of the project)
- Budget is within range (US\$50,000-250,000), accurately reflects proposed activities, is reasonable

## VII. RESPONSE DEADLINE AND TIMELINE

**For the current round, all proposals must be submitted using this online application form by the following deadline: 02/28/2018 (February 28, 2018).** The RAP 2 Team will review received proposals within one calendar month of deadline and reach out to selected respondents. Applicants are welcome to submit more than one proposal. Support for proposals submitted during the second or third round of proposal review will be contingent upon availability of funds. **Applicants are therefore encouraged to submit their proposals as early as possible.**

## VIII. PROPOSAL FORMS

The English version of the online proposal form can be found at this link: [RAP 2 Proposal Application Form \(English\)](#). The Arabic version can be found here: [RAP 2 Proposal Application Form \(Arabic\)](#).

Please fill in the sections of the online proposal form that are relevant to your project and submit your completed application no later than **February 28, 2018**. **For any inquiries, please email [mena-rap@irex.org](mailto:mena-rap@irex.org) no later than February 3, 2018.** All questions will be answered in writing in one email copied to all applicants by February 10, 2018. Proposals may be submitted in English or Arabic.

**Proposal Sections 1 and 3 are mandatory for all applicants.** Fill in Form Section 2 if you intend to apply for a subgrant through RAP 2.