

Info-session on BINA' Sub-Grants 2nd Call for Proposals:

The objective of the second call for proposals is to empower civil society organizations (CSOs) and grassroots initiatives in Lebanon.

(14 December 2023, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM via Zoom)

Info-session introducing BINA' second call for proposals to empower CSOs and grassroots initiatives in Lebanon to implement actions under LOT (1) "National level policy advocacy" in the priority areas of the 3RF's Revised Framework and LOT (2) "Local action for anti-corruption" in alignment with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The second call for proposals is under the BINA' project, in partnership with Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S), Transparency International-Lebanon (TI-LB), and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS), and funded by the European Union (EU). BINA' (Building Integrity and National Accountability in Lebanon) project's overall objective is to enhance the role of civil society actors as active pillars to foster governance, accountability, and transparency in Lebanon. The project specifically expands the abilities of civil society, both local and national, to actively monitor and advocate for transparency and accountability under the 3RF initiative, and to promote local anti-corruption action in Lebanon. The info-session was organized by Transparency International – Secretariat (TI-S) and Transparency International – Lebanon (TI-LB). TI-S and TI-LB made an introduction to the project and provided clarifications about the BINA' second call for proposals. 31 CSO representatives and five experts attend this info-session.

Speakers:

- Transparency International – Secretariat: Aram Khaghghordyan (TI-S introduction and BINA' Call for Application presentation)
- Transparency International – Lebanon: Julien Courson (TI-LB introduction and BINA' project introduction)
- EU Delegation: Beindy Dagher and Ayla Karakaya

Call For Applications Specifications by Mr. Aram, Khaghghordyan

1. **LOT 1 "National level policy advocacy"** will specifically focus on CSOs operating under the 3RF (including Working Groups, IOB, CG, LFF, etc.) and strengthen their role as advocates for issue-based policy-reforms by focusing on one of the priority areas of the 3RF's revised framework.
2. **LOT 2 "Local action for anti-corruption"** will empower CSOs and grassroots initiatives operating in various regions of Lebanon and enhance their role in advocating for anti-

corruption and good governance actions in alignment with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

The expected start of successful projects implementation for both LOTs is April 2024.

- LOT (1) Actions with a maximum duration of 12 months with a budget of up to USD 50,000.
- LOT (2) Actions with a maximum duration of 8 months with a budget of up to USD 20,000.

All communication will be going through bina@transparency.org is monitored and accessed only by TI-S team.

Contract will be signed directly with TI-S and not TI Lebanon to make sure we mitigate risks that can arise from banking sector crisis.

Types of activities and focus areas

For LOT 1 "National level policy advocacy" in the priority areas of the 3RF's Revised Framework activities are:

- Sector-specific advocacy actions in relevant priority areas of the 3RF's revised framework;
- Concrete advocacy actions that focus on policy change at parliament, government, or ministerial/administrative levels;
- Advocacy actions that adopt participatory and inclusive approaches, creating dialogue and target government counterparts, donors, international and local civil society organizations involved in the 3RF reforms process;
- Actions enhancing awareness and engagement among communities and local authorities on reform efforts;
- Engagement of citizens in advocating for reforms, with a particular focus on women, people with disabilities, and youth.

For LOT 2 "Local action for anti-corruption" in alignment with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, activities are:

- Mobilization of civil society organizations and activists to encourage responsiveness, access to information, and proactive disclosure by municipalities and public institutions at the local level;
- Advocacy on the application of the Access to Information ATI and proactive disclosure law, adhering to best practices in public procurement and addressing issues related to illicit enrichment;

- Advocacy actions for good governance in the public sector on specific issues related to citizens' needs and/or public services;
- Actions designed to raise awareness among communities and local authorities regarding reforms, transparency and accountability mechanisms;
- Engagement of citizens in advocating for reforms, with a particular focus on women, people with disabilities, and youth.

Attention: Additional research and/or capacity building activities are encouraged only to the extent that they directly contribute to the action, and each should not constitute more than 15% of the entire action.

Proposed activities that constitute (1) stand-alone research or awareness raising efforts, (2) actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, and congresses, and (3) actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses, are ineligible. The BINA' team is ready to further explain and answer any specific question surrounding the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility requirements

For LOT 1:

- Be a registered non-profit organization in Lebanon that has been involved in the 3RF with a minimum of 2 years of experience in project implementation.
- Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.
- Complete the application form, provide a detailed budget and a detailed log frame (please use provided templates), and submit the required documents, including registration certificates, financial capacity evidence (audited financial statements, management letters, staffing of programs and finance team, accounting and procurement policy (if available), bank account details).

For LOT 2:

- Be a registered non-profit organization in Lebanon.
- Experience with project implementation will be considered as an asset.
- Take an active role in planning and managing the proposed project.
- Complete the application form with a budget and a logframe (please use provided templates).

- Provide essential documents, including registration certificates and basic financial information.

Application process and milestones

1. **Posting the Call for Proposals**
2. **Pre-Submission Webinars, Workshops, FAQ** (Webinars to provide potential applicants with an overview of the call, its objectives, and the application process, log frame, budget, frequently asked questions).

In this phase: online workshop will be held on January 9th.2024

It's going to be one full day (5 hrs.) online training with two main sessions – session 1 will delivered by TI-LB Executive Director that talks about advocacy and how to create advocacy strategy. Session 2 will be about advocacy proposal writing, delivered by BINA' project manager from TI-S (Transparency International Secretariat -Berlin).

Additional Note: you can register for the mentioned training on the following link:
<https://forms.gle/AuVuwhqoLu5w37GZA>

3. **Proposal Submission deadline:** initially it was **5 January 2024** than it got extended to be **January 20th.2024**
4. **Proposal Review**
5. **Selection Announcement for awarded Applicants** (Notify successful applicants by 15 February 2024 - indicative)
6. **Co-Design meetings** (Meetings with selected applicants to further refine project ideas and align them with the project's goals (including Log frame, budget, and Application proposal).
7. **Awarding and signing of contracts**
8. **Implementation phase start: 1 April 2024**

Post-award requirements

- Once awarded, grant recipients must adhere to TI-Lebanon's Transparent Hearts' methodology (<http://bit.ly/3lva33Z>), ensuring the highest standards of transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability. This includes publishing all information related to the implementation of awarded grants on the platform.
- Grantees will also be required to participate in a capacity development program aimed at contributing to their organizational growth and advocacy effectiveness.
- Applicants are expected to engage and participate in cross-cutting activities under the BINA' project where and when relevant, such as coalitions and joint advocacy campaigns, capacity-building programs, EU-structured dialogue events, and using TI-LB's digital tools and platforms, including the Multifunctional Portal, School of Governance, and Transparent Hearts.

- Implementing partners should ensure that the basic values and principles commonly shared by the EU are duly respected and promoted by their proposed actions, including respecting non-discrimination based on religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit their documents no later than **20 January 2024** by email to bina@transparency.org specifying: “BINA’-Call for proposals (lot1)” or “BINA’-Call for proposals (lot2)” in the subject line.

The selection committee will select up to 10 projects proposals based on the above-mentioned criteria to proceed to the next step. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to re-apply to the third call for applications that is planned to take place in Spring 2024.

Session recording:

The link of the information session recording <https://youtu.be/eFynlvnw8ic>

Q&A:

Question 1: Is it possible to have a list of the projects funded under BINA's first call for proposal? in order to verify synergy as requested by the second call.

Answer: In October 2023, Transparency International Secretariat and Transparency International Lebanon Chapter announced the signing of five contracts in the first round of subgrant agreements, with a combined portfolio value of USD 250,000. The projects are as follows:

| # | Name of Subgrantee | Time Frame | Scope of Work and Goal |
|---|--|------------|---|
| 1 | ALDIC – <i>Lebanese Association for taxpayer’s rights</i> | 10 months | Promoting Modern Public Financial Management (PFM) Practices. Pushing towards reforms under the Public Financial Management practices and laws. |
| 2 | Arc En Ciel | 1 year | Reinforcement of the implementation of the right to work articles in law 220/2000 (Rights of people with disabilities). |
| 3 | KAFA | 1 year | Advocating for the passage of the proposed Unified Personal Status Law (UPSL) in the Lebanese Parliament. Engaging the General public across Lebanon in supporting the passing of an alternative civil Code UPSL. |
| 4 | Live Love Lebanon | 1 year | Localizing Urban Policy: A participatory & inclusive approach to advocacy. Inclusive and participatory advocacy in the urban policy sector. |
| 5 | LLWB – <i>Lebanese League for Women in Business</i> | 1 year | Advocacy for the Women on Board law drafted by LLWB. Raising awareness on the importance of WOB in all sectors, including the representativeness of WOB in politics |

Question 2: Does a 'revised 3rf framework' document exists? since the only available is the one dated 2020

Answer by Ayla Karakaya: Yes, you can find it here: <https://www.lebanon3rf.org/co-chair-statement-prime-minister-lebanon-un-resident-coordinator-and-representatives-donors-and>

Other resource: You can find it on the www.lebanon3rf.org website under framework section and the last improvement under each categories

Question 3: does the justice sector falls under the social cohesion priority area (the latter being indicated in the call for proposals)?

Answer by Ayla Karakaya: Indeed, justice and social cohesion are 3RF focus areas

Question 4: I established an advocacy center (NGO) last year in Beirut Lebanon dedicated to spread ethical leadership and ethical practices. Will this center be eligible for lot2?

Answer: From the description, yes, but we will need to check the documents to provide a conclusive answer.

Question 5: Do you consider a civil company (a nonprofit company) as a CSO?

A civil company can be eligible to apply if they are operating as a non-profit organization and will guarantee that no profits will be raised from this project. We have funded a civil company in the first call for proposals.

Question 6: Can we also target municipalities not only community with the activities especially in trainings on the law of access to information and the public law of purchases?

Yes, that is possible.

Question 7: Regarding the list of previous funded projects, the website of Transparency appears being under construction thus how can we have the list?

Answer: Check the answer to Question 1.

Question 8: Can you please specify eligible expenses such as overhead or office expenses... and % of salaries

Answer: Please check the budget template and the explanation tabs.

Question 9: At the level of the proposal, do we have to specify the CSOs?

Answer: If you mean the target audience, then yes, at least as an indicative list.

Question 10: we represent a network of different institutions; we weren't directly involved in 3rf but our members institutions were. how we can be eligible to be part of this call?

Answer: For the LOT1 lead applicant should have been involved in the 3RF. For the LOT2 involved in 3RF is not necessary.

Question 11: Are academic institutions eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes, they are.

Question 12: Can we apply for two Lots?

Answer: Yes, you can apply for two lots, but there is a ceiling of USD 60,000 for one organization.

Question 13: Will you be sending the recording of the session?

Answer: Yes, the recording is shared. Please contact us if you need the recording.

Question 14: What is the third party subgrating related to projects to enhance social accountability, collaboration and partnership with municipalities? (Mentioned in CFP page 9)

Answer: In principle you can already suggest projects in this area as part of LOT 2, but we are planning to cover this area as part of the third call for proposals (under discussion).

Question 15: Before preparing the entire proposal and requirements, may i share with any designated representative my center's scope of work to obtain additional details

Answer: No, we are not reviewing parts of the applications and need the full application.

Question 16: can we apply under lot 2 with more than one action?

Answer: Yes, but keep in mind that there is a ceiling of USD 60,000 for one organization

Question 17: Do we have to put criteria with the Transparency International about who are the CSOs and municipalities involved

Answer: Yes

Question 18: as for the activities, how should they be selected and who is going to assist us in the selection process? what are the criteria for selection and does Transparency International has specific criteria for that

Answer: Applications will be examined and evaluated based on the provided evaluation grid (See Daleel Madani). External assessors might be involved in the assessment to ensure objectivity. All applications must adhere to the eligibility and awarding requirements of this call, including providing all necessary documents.

Question 19: If we apply as a consortium on behalf of the 3RF CG, can we increase the sub-grant ceiling?

Answer: No, the ceiling for one project is set.