Fourth Call for Proposals

Project Title	BINA' – Building Integrity and National Accountability in Lebanon[1]

Type of Call: Call for proposals

Intervention Sector(s):

- "National level policy advocacy" in the priority areas of the 3RF's Revised Framework.
- "Local action for anti-corruption" in alignment with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

Deadline: 14th October 2024, Midnight.

Timeframe and budget:

> The expected start of successful Action implementation is January 2025.

- Actions with a maximum duration of 6 months with a budget of up to USD 100,000. You can access all documentation by clicking here:
  https://rb.gy/an44x2

PROJECT BRIEF

Funded by the European Union (EU), and in partnership with Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S), Transparency International-Lebanon (TI-LB) and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS), BINA' (Building Integrity and National Accountability in Lebanon) project overall objective's is to enhance the role of civil society actors as active pillars in enhancing governance, accountability and transparency in Lebanon, as it specifically expands the abilities of civil society, both local and national, to actively monitor and advocate for transparency and accountability on the 3RF in Lebanon.

1. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this call for proposals is to empower civil society organizations (CSOs) in Lebanon. "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]. "Local action for anti-corruption" will empower CSOs and 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.

For this specific call the portfolio consists of USD 400,000.

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[1] For information about BINA' and TI-Lebanon see Annex 1.

[2] These are: public financial management and anti-corruption, private sector, social cohesion, inclusion and gender, urban recovery strategy (culture/housing/municipal services), port, environment, education, and water.

2. TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

The following types of activities are <u>eligible</u>:

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

- 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;
- Mainstreaming transparency and leveraging anti-corruption laws across working groups to advocate for reforms within 3RF working groups. This may involve requesting information from public stakeholders based on the right to access to information law #28/2017, proactive disclosure of information of the progress, advocating for good public procurement practices within the sector, etc.

<u>Attention:</u> 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.

For "Local action for anti-corruption" in alignment with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy:

- 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;
- Internal governance and organizational development activities. This encompasses capacity building, consultant services, the formulation of internal policies, or any other pertinent actions

aimed at enhancing transparency, operational efficiency and sustainability. These activities should not surpass 30% of the total budget.

The following types of action are <u>ineligible</u>:

- stand-alone research or awareness raising efforts;
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS

CSOs can submit stand-alone applications or applications that are part of a consortium. Specific eligibility criteria for co-applicants and affiliated entities are detailed in the application form. In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant or the lead applicant must: Be a registered non-profit organization in Lebanon that has been involved in the 3RF or in the local action for anticorruption with a minimum of 2 years of experience in project implementation.

1. 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.
2. Complete the application form, provide a detailed budget and a detailed logframe (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).

   Note: For sub-grantees who were awarded funding in the previous calls for proposals

The maximum subgrant amount per organization under all BINA' calls have been changed to $100,000. Therefore, organizations that received funding under BINA' can also benefit from this call and apply as an individual organization or as part of a consortium.

If you previously received funding under BINA, the new proposal budget structure should take into consideration that you cannot receive more than $100,000 and this should be reflected in your budget through the following strategy: your portion of the budget added up with your total previous budget should not exceed the limit of $100,000.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS AND MILESTONES

1. **Posting the Call for Proposals (Mid of September 2024)**
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). (End of Sep.2024) for registration click here
3. **Proposal Submission deadline: 14th October 2024**
4. **Proposal Review**

5. **Selection Announcement for awarded Applicants** (Notify successful applicants by second week of November 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 (Beginning of December 2024)**
8. **Implementation phase start: January 2025**

5. EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

- Applications will be examined and evaluated based on the provided evaluation grid. 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. If an application is found to not meet the eligibility criteria or lacks required documents, it will be rejected on this sole basis.

6. 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.

7. HOW TO APPLY

- Interested organizations are encouraged to submit their documents **no later than 14th October 2024** by email to bina@transparency.org specifying:

  "BINA'- 4th Call for proposals" in the subject line.

- TI-Lebanon will organize an online information session to provide clarifications before the closing date of the call. Interested applicants are encouraged to send an expression of interest email to bina@transparency.org specify "BINA-Information session" and details of the information session will follow subsequently.

ANNEX 1. TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL – LEBANON AND BINA' PROJECT BACKGROUND

This call marks the second phase of a comprehensive strategy within the BINA' project, which comprises a series of four planned calls. These calls are more than just separate initiatives; they are integral building blocks of the BINA' project. We envision these subgrants and subprojects as essential contributors to the larger mission, and as such, they are meticulously designed to harmonize with the BINA' project's objectives, log frame, and action plan.

The synergy between these subprojects and the BINA' project is paramount. Each subproject must be carefully crafted to support and reinforce the core goals and framework of the BINA' project.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of how your application or project should fit within this cohesive structure, we encourage you to explore the annex of the BINA' project brief. This document provides valuable insights into how your proposal can seamlessly align with the primary project's mission and strategic framework.

Our aim is to ensure that these subprojects are not isolated endeavors but rather vital components of the broader BINA' initiative. We look forward to your contributions, which will play a pivotal role in advancing our shared vision and objectives.

Using the provided templates and hints & tips is crucial for the success of subprojects within the awarding process. These tools help align proposals with our goals and ensure clarity and effectiveness.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - LEBANON

About Transparency International - Lebanon (TI-LB), formerly known as the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA)

Transparency International – Lebanon (TI-LB) was established in 1999 with the aim of reducing rampant corruption in Lebanon, promoting the principles of transparency and accountability, establishing the rule of law and respecting the fundamental rights inaugurated in international laws and the Lebanese Constitution, by focusing on systematic improvement, building alliances, and encouraging civil society organizations to take measures towards transparency and accountability.

Our mission is to promote transparency and integrity as well as prevent and fight corruption through collaboration, advocacy and active engagement, in public, private and non-governmental organizations, contributing thus to the fulfillment of our vision of a Lebanon with well governed, transparent and accountable institutions, free of corruption and built on the rule of law.

TI-LB has worked to enhance transparency in the public and private sectors in Lebanon for more than a decade, by implementing a number of projects that ranged from contributing to the development to lobbying the anti-corruption laws (such as the draft law on the Right to Access to Information, the Whistleblowers Protection Law, the Asset and Interest Declaration and the Punishment of Illicit Enrichment Law etc.), and the monitoring of parliamentary elections since 2009, in addition to other projects aimed at empowering youth and municipalities on issues related to good governance.

TI-LB was selected as a member of the first Independent Oversight Board (IOB) for the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF), which is a framework launched by the World Bank Group (WBG), United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Civil society, Lebanon's government, and the international community in response to the aftermath of the Beirut Port explosion.

The framework for Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction (the 3RF) is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020. The 3RF is structured around four strategic pillars: (1) improving governance and accountability; (2) jobs and opportunities; (3) social protection, inclusion, and culture; and (4) improving services and infrastructure. Each pillar identifies a set of strategic objectives and priority areas across both the recovery track and the reform and reconstruction track.[3] For the first time, and through the 3RF governance structure, CSOs have the opportunity to actively engage and contribute to implementation or monitoring of reconstruction and reforms efforts.

BINA' PROJECT BACKGROUND

1. BINA' project brief

Funded by the European Union (EU), and in partnership with Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S), Transparency International-Lebanon (TI-LB) and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS), BINA' (Building Integrity and National Accountability in Lebanon) project overall objective's is to enhance the role of civil society actors as active pillars in enhancing governance, accountability and transparency in Lebanon, as it specifically expands the abilities of civil society, both local and national, to actively monitor and advocate for transparency and accountability on the 3RF in Lebanon.

BINA's key objectives are:

(1) To improve the capacities of CSOs, expand organizational abilities and coordinated efforts among civil society networks to ensure transparent and sustainable implementation of the 3RF in Lebanon.

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[3] "LEBANON REFORM, RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION FRAMEWORK (3RF)", EU, UN and WBG (report, December 2020)

(2) To improve capacities of local CSOs, grassroots and community-based organizations outside Beirut to participate in policy dialogues and monitoring processes related to recovery and reform at local and central level.

(3) To sustain an inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue with local, national and international actors that advance reform efforts, with an emphasis on the role of CSOs.

BINA's target audience is diverse: (1) Civil Society Organizations (formal and informal) in Beirut and across Lebanon, (2) Youth groups and initiatives, (3) Women's organizations/initiatives promoting gender equality, (4) Municipalities/Local Authorities and (5) citizens as Final Beneficiaries.

2. BINA' and the 3RF

The World Bank Group (WBG), United Nations (UN), and European Union (EU), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Lebanon's government, and the international community launched the framework for Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction (the 3RF) which is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020.

The 3RF recognizes that regaining the trust of the Lebanese people in governmental institutions is imperative for successful recovery. The government needs to assume responsibility and take urgent action to promote recovery and reconstruction. Lebanon also needs to adopt a new governance model that breaks the capture of political elites over state institutions and ensures that these institutions serve people's needs and can respond to the crises the country faces.

The 3RF aims to help Lebanon achieve three central goals in response to the Beirut port explosion. First, a people centered recovery that returns sustainable livelihoods to the affected population; improves social justice for all, including women, the poor, and other vulnerable groups; and ensures participatory decision making. Second, the reconstruction of critical assets, services, and infrastructure provides equal access for all to quality basic services and enables sustainable economic recovery. Third, the implementation of reform to support reconstruction and to help restore people's trust in governmental institutions by improving governance[4].

The 3RF framework provides a critical foundation for the reform, recovery and the reconstruction of Beirut that has been deeply affected by the Port Explosion. Although BINA's project falls under the 3RF, it aims at pushing forward its goals beyond the Beirut Explosion affected areas. The 3RF is structured around four strategic pillars, each of which identifies a limited set of priorities across both the recovery track and the reform and reconstruction track. These priorities are based on detailed sectoral assessments in 17 sectors that were affected by the Beirut port explosion. Each sector is anchored in one of the pillars; cross-sector

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[4] "Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF)", EU, UN and WBG report, December 2020.

aspects are considered and prioritized in relevant sectors and pillars, with a view to ensuring coherence in the overall response.

3RF promotes the sustainability of service provision by reinforcing the role of the Ministry of Social Affairs and its Social Development Centers (SDCs) in providing social welfare and protection services; invest in capacity building for local government and civil society organizations and systematize linkages between SDCs and CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) for more efficient delivery of services. This is where BINA' recognizes CSOs as the main pillar and target group of the project. One of its main objectives is to enhance the role of civil society actors as active pillars in enhancing governance, accountability and transparency in Lebanon, as it specifically expands the abilities of civil society, both local and national, to actively monitor and advocate for transparency and accountability on the 3RF in Lebanon. Transparency and accountability are relevant to the first Thematic framework of 3RF (out of 4) which is "Improving Governance and Accountability To promote the transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance of Lebanon's economic and social resources". Under this thematic framework, four main aspects are covered (PFM & Procurement; Anti-Corruption, Integrity & Transparency and Justice & Human Rights) and this is where BINA's would be operating in synergy with 3RF.

BINA's framework can effectively support this: (1) through the strengthening of internal governance of CSOs that the action is focusing on, (2) the creation of a coalition/network focused on monitoring and conducting advocacy, (3) the creation of tools and platforms to share knowledge and sustain monitoring processes. A comprehensive program of capacity building, peer-to-peer exchanges offer CSOs and activists support to increase their organizational resilience. Most importantly the action empowers local small organizations through (4) third party sub granting related projects to enhance social accountability, collaboration and partnership with municipalities to achieve greater transparency and accountability. Similar to the 3RF Framework, the Action promotes the inclusiveness of communities as a cross-cutting priority through (5) its inclusive approaches adopted whether in research, capacity building, focus groups, advocacy efforts and awareness that will enable a wide range of citizens, particularly individuals and groups at risk of marginalization and discrimination, to have voice and representation that will reach national decision makers and the international community. The action will also (6) encourage the fostering of dialogue and strategic collaboration among CSOs and with the EU and the Government especially in relation to advocacy and monitoring reform efforts.

3. CSOs

Civil Society Organizations[5](Formal and Informal) in Beirut and across Lebanon are one of the main target groups under the scope of the BINA' project. TI-LB is looking to secure technical and financial support in order to empower them to play a more active role in advocating for reforms at the local and national levels. This Action will directly support TI-LB to implement BINA' main output towards working to empower Lebanese civil society with the knowledge, tools, networks and skills to strengthen their organizational capacities, making them capable of sustaining long term projects; to limit and reduce their own risks of corruption and mismanagement of funds, and to help them become credible and formidable actors of governance able to dialogue and debate with decision makers on how to collectively advance reform efforts.

In addition to their participation in the capacity building program, CSOs could benefit from a Third-Party Financial Support to conduct local accountability actions. An inclusive and participatory approach will be prioritized in developing advocacy plans to ensure local ownership and a strong representation of diverse voices is adopted. Moreover, the project encourages the fostering of dialogue and strategic collaboration among CSOs under 3RF and beyond, as well as with the EU and the Government especially in relation to advocacy and reforms monitoring efforts.

This financial support consists of grants to support Civil Society Organizations, grassroot organizations, community-based organizations, individual human rights activists, local media, bloggers, and digital platforms focused on democracy and good governance, rule of law and fundamental rights, public administration reform, civil society development and local democracy, social inclusion, anti-discrimination, gender equality, media and freedom of expression, education, culture, and youth.

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[5] *"The EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organize the pursue of shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organizations. The EU values CSOs' diversity and specificities it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights and human dignity."*