

Call for Applications

Project Title	BINA' – Building Integrity and National Accountability in Lebanon ¹
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- **Type of Call:** Call for Applications
- **Intervention Sector(s):** Priority areas of the 3RF's revised framework
- **Deadline:** 1 May 2023
- **Timeframe:** The expected start of successful projects implementation is May 2023. Maximum duration 12 months.
- **Maximum budget:** USD 50,000/grant

1. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this call for proposals is to empower 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

For this specific call the portfolio consists of USD 300,000 covering up to 6 proposed actions with a budget of up to USD 50,000 each. It targets CSOs operating under the 3RF (including Working Groups, IOB, CG, LFF, etc.). Call targeting CSOs working outside of the 3RF framework will be launched later during the year.

2. TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

The following types of activities are eligible:

- 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.

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.

The following types of action are ineligible:

- 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.

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.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS

CSOs can submit stand-alone applications or applications that are part of a consortia. 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-making organization that has been involved in the 3RF;
- have 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.

For successfully submitting the application, the applicants must:

- (1) fill in the application form and duly sign it.
- (2) provide detailed budget using the budget template.
- (3) provide the following set of documents:

Registration documents

- Certificate of registration at the Ministry of the Finance
- Certificate from the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities

Financial capacity of the organization

- Audited financial statement
- Management letters
- Staffing of programs and finance team
- Accounting and procurement policy (if available)
- Bank account details

4. EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

Applications will be examined and evaluated based on the evaluation grid. External assessors might be involved in the assessment. All applications must adhere to the eligibility and awarding requirements of this call for applications and accompanying documents.

If the examination of the application reveals that the applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria stated in Section 3 and the applicant didn't provide corresponding documents, the application will be rejected on this sole basis.

5. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Awarded actions must subsequently adhere to TI-Lebanon's Transparent Hearts' methodology (<http://bit.ly/3lva33Z>) ensuring highest standards of transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability. It is a requirement that all information related to the implementation of awarded grants should be published on the platform.

Grantees will be also required to participate in the capacity development program which will contribute to their growth at organizational and advocacy levels.

Applicants will also be required to engage and participate in cross-cutting activities under BINA' project where and when relevant, such as:

- Coalitions and joint advocacy campaigns
- Capacity building programs, EU-structured dialogue events and related activities

- Use of TI-LB's digital tools and platforms:
 - (a) Multifunctional Portal: an online platform dedicated for CSOs to exchange knowledge, to exchange updates on their activities and their operations, to engage with the general public on the reforms they are pushing for, on the achievements they are accomplishing and the challenges they are facing in the context of the 3RF
 - (b) School of Governance: an online school with rich and diverse digital library including self-paced courses that aim to develop knowledge on several topics and laws
 - (c) Transparent Hearts: an online platform that CSOs are required to use in order to auto-assess/auto-evaluate the transparency of their work based on TI-LB's methodology and guidelines, disclose information related to this action for greater transparency.

Implementing partners should ensure that the basic values and principles commonly shared by the EU (notably concerning racism, incitement to violence, discrimination based on religion, gender or sexual orientation) are duly respected and promoted by their proposed actions.

6. HOW TO APPLY

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit their documents **no later than 1 May 2023** by email to bina@transparency.org, specifying "BINA-Call for Applications" 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 specifying "BINA-Information session" and details of the information session will follow subsequently.

The selection committee will select up to 6 projects proposals based on the above-mentioned criteria to proceed to the next step. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to re-apply to the second call for applications that is planned to take place in the second half of 2023.

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

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.³For 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

³ “LEBANON REFORM, RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION FRAMEWORK (3RF)”, EU, UN and WBG (report, December 2020)

1. BINA' project brief

Funded by the European Union (EU), and in partnership with Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S) 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.
- (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 governance⁴.

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

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 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 Organizations⁵(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, grassroots 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.

The Third-Party Financial Support will be carried out in different phases. The first phase consists of a pilot for the implementation of the 3RF-focused accountability actions and targets CSOs involved in the 3RF. The pilot will be rolled out throughout the course of the project to include additional CSOs across the country. This current call for application targets the pilot for actions in the context of the 3RF, and aims to support relevant CSOs in their work in the context of this framework, as well as monitoring and advocacy for the targeted reforms.

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."