

*Info-session on BINA' Sub-Grants 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals:*

**Empower and strengthen civil society organizations (CSOs) and grassroots initiatives in Lebanon.**

(14 May 2024, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM via Zoom)

Info-session introducing BINA' third 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 third 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' third call for proposals. 43 CSO representatives attended this info-session. The info-session was moderated by Mohammad Al-Shami, TI LB Sub-Grants Manager.

Speakers:

- I-LB: Rony Zgheib, BINA' Project Lead (TI-LB introduction and BINA' project introduction)
- I-S: Aram Khaghghordyan, BINA' Project Manager (TI-S introduction and BINA' Call for Application presentation)
- 3RF Secretariat: Mr. Jaap van Diggele, Coordinator at the 3RF Secretariat (3RF Brief)

**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 September 2024.

- LOT (1) Actions with a maximum duration of 10 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 30,000.

All communication will be going through [bina@transparency.org](mailto:bina@transparency.org) which 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;
- 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.

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.

**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;
- 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.

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**

*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:*

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.

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

The maximum subgrant amount per organization under all BINA' calls is \$60,000; However, organizations that received funding under BINA' can still benefit from this call by applying as consortium of two or more organizations, if needed.

Budget strategy in case of consortium: your portion of the budget added up with your total previous budget should not exceed the limit of \$60,000, and the other portion of the new budget goes to the co-applicant(s).

If the previous budget is summed up with this call's budget does not exceed the total of \$60,000, then you can apply as an individual organization without the need for a consortium.

### **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 May 23.2024*

*It's going to be one full day (5 hrs.) online training with two main sessions – session 1 will be 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).*

3. **Proposal Submission deadline:** Friday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Midnight.
4. **Proposal Review**
5. **Selection Announcement for awarded Applicants** (Notify successful applicants by end July 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: September 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 **Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> 2024 Midnight** by email to [bina@transparency.org](mailto:bina@transparency.org) specifying: "BINA' - Third call for proposals (lot1)" or "BINA' - Third call for proposals (lot2)" in the subject line.
- The selection committee will select up to 9 projects proposals based on the above-mentioned criteria to proceed to the next step. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to re-apply to the fourth call for applications that is planned to take place in Fall 2024.

### **3RF Brief by Mr. Jaap van Diggele:**

Online-Plattform link: <http://lebanon3rf.org>

The Reform, Reconstruction, and Recovery Framework (3RF) that was formed by the EU, World Bank, and UN played a critical role in coordinating recovery process from a people-centered recovery lens in the area affected by the blast which constituted Track 1. But the 3RF people-centered recovery (track 1) had run its course by June 2022. Civil society has an important role to add expertise and monitor the whole process. By June 2022 it was clear that the 3RF framework had the opportunity to be updated to focus on longer-term national challenges (Track 2), primarily on the reform and reconstruction fronts while addressing the emerging challenges, to utilize the existing set-up that was established under the framework and to unlock investments in reconstruction. To implement these commitments, technical-level Working Groups are set up.

The 3RF also highlighted the need for reforms as proper reforms and their implementation can unlock international funds and investments. Examples are Social Protection, Health, Education and the electricity sector where there is great need for investments that are present but are conditional to reforms related to procurement, integration of renewable energy, etc. to retain the confidence of international actors which is necessary to unlock investments.

To push for reforms, Working Groups under the 3RF engaged with the former government, international organizations, donors, and civil society actors, on technical issues that can facilitate the development of sectors targeted under the 3RF. The civil society is also a critical player that is capable of providing much needed expertise on a local level that might be lacking in other actors given that the civil society is capable of implementing development programs with high knowledge in specific contexts and fields while also monitoring the reform efforts and the programs sponsored by donors. The civil society is also responsible for flagging programs and other activities conducted by donors to pinpoint what is in Lebanon's best interest.

The Lebanon Financing Facility (LFF) is a 5-year multi-donor trust fund that was established under the 3RF. It is a subsequent trust fund that was formed alongside the 3RF that was ideally intended to channel funds with the implementation of requested reforms. However, given how slow the reforms were being implemented, the LFF has not reached its intended scope. It will evolve from track 1 to track 2.

Regarding the governance structure, the 3RF is divided into the Consultative Group (CG) which provides consultative inputs to the government, the CG was the sole actor under the 3RF in the initial year. However, the focus shifted more towards the Working Groups that act on the strategic guidance of the CG. The 3RF is also composed of the LFF partnership council, which is the governing body of LFF, the 3RF also includes management team, the 3RF Secretariat which handles day-to-day functioning of the 3RF, and the 3RF Technical team, which follows through



on CG guidance Independent Oversight Board. In addition to the independent oversight Board, which consists of different groups of CSOs that hold all of the 3RF to account.

Some examples of reform priorities in 2023 were: 1- Public financial management, Civil service & public administration reform, anti-corruption WG. Which included supporting the establishment of the procurement review board (complaints body), supporting the training of key civil servants on the move to a “universal system” for procurement. 2- Social protection coordination forum which included launching the National Social Protection Strategy and develop costed implementation plan with financing plan to identify fiscal space and support establishment of coordination structures, as well as accelerating the implementation of NPTP/ESSN and alignment/merger of NPTP/ESSN, and its institutionalization.

Among the lessons learnt since July 2023, focus on reform is advised as a condition for investment in reconstruction, reform takes time however clear next steps should be identified. 3RF principals and strong donor presence has helped secure higher-level government engagement. In addition, synchronizing and anchoring with existing programs/strategies increases the efficiency of 3RF discussions. Working groups are more effective when meetings between international partners, and with government and civil society are held. The 3RF communications team worked with 3RF WG (co-)leads to identify communication messages to be used for talking points for all 3RF constituents.

#### **A brief overview of the first five subgrantees by Mr. Aram Khaghaghordyan**

#	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
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### Session recording:

The link of the information session recording <https://youtu.be/bF36mUMBRMg>

### Q&A:

Question 1: Is it acceptable for the CSO operating under 3RF to be the co-applicant, while the lead applicant is not?

Answer: While applying for Lot1, the project needs to be fully prepared and managed by a CSO operating under 3RF.

Question 2: Does the rule of law qualify as a topic under Lot2?

Answer: In principle yes, but it is advisable to have a narrower focus and work on a specific area.

Question 3: Is having a bank account for the organization a necessity?

Answer: Yes, having a bank account is a must as per EU regulations for the subgrantees to be able to receive the grant.

Question 4: Can organizations submit their proposals even if a bank account is still not opened?

Answer: The bank account should be ready before the selection process starts, hence maximum by the beginning of July. So, if you apply by June 14 (Deadline for proposal submission), you have until the beginning of July to finalize the bank account and provide bank account details. However, if the bank account can't be opened by then, organizations are encouraged to consider applying for the next call in September/October 2024, which will be the last call.

Question 5: We are a non-profit organization that is incubated by a private for-profit company (think of it as a non-profit arm), would it be acceptable to apply as both organizations? and get the contractual and financial management handled by the company, especially bank account and payments?

Answer: No, both applicants must be registered as non-profit organizations as per the EU rules.

Question 6: Will you be sharing with the participants the PowerPoint presentations?

Answer: Not the PowerPoint presentations, but a link for the session recording will be shared with the participants.



Question 7: We are the Lebanon Chapter of the Certified Fraud examiners and are planning to implement a rehabilitation project for public oversight and law enforcement bodies. Our project is split into 2 parts, one tackling the military forces (Lebanese army, security forces, customs ...) to provide them the ability to manage the fraud in terms of prevention and detection, and preparing them to be certified fraud examiners, and the second project is to tackle the municipalities and government related institutions to benefit from the same rehabilitation project. What type of program should we apply for?

Answer: First, participant needs to make sure that they are registered as an NGO in Lebanon. Under lot1 they need to provide evidence of their involvement in 3RF.

Question 8: Is having an NGO registration number sufficient?

Answer: No, full registration documents are needed, not just the number as we do various checks, because there are rules with the European Commission, hence this is why we need all the registration documents and bank account details as it is part of the requirements.

Question 9: Do we need a unique identifier at the Commission (uid) to apply?

Answer: No, you don't need it.

Question 10: We are a research center within a private university, we are members of the 3RF but we are not registered as NGOs. Are we eligible to apply as lead applicants and/ or co-lead?

Answer: Yes, in principle you are eligible to apply.

Question 11: If we are applying in this third call with an idea that complements the project idea from the previous call, such as a mobile application on top of the website, are there any elements that do not need to be delivered (framework, etc), or is this considered a new project requiring all documents, even if some overlap with the previous call?

Answer: You need to apply and submit all documents. However, we need to understand the specifics and the type of planned activities whether stand-alone or a continuation, hence please send an email so that your questions are followed up.

Question 12: The maximum amount awarded per CSO is USD 60,000 or per project? If we already have received USD 50,000 from Phase II, we can only get the difference?

Answer: You get the difference, if you apply as part of consortium; co-applicants take the rest, and your amount will be only 10,000 USD.

Question 13: How can we get in touch for further details?

Answer: Through our email: [bina@transparency.org](mailto:bina@transparency.org)

Question 14: Under Lot 1, most of the suggested outcome and output indicators focus on municipalities, could they apply to any state institution or official administration, or a public policy or practice?

Answer: Yes, this can be other governmental actors, administration, not just about municipalities.

Question 15: Is there any location in Lebanon we can visit you there?

Answer: Yes, [Sodeco Square Center, Bloc B - 4th Floor, Beirut, Lebanon](#)