Request for Applications RFA-02

Community Initiatives to Support and Improve Specific Services in the Municipality

Taqarib Partner Municipalities Only

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Project	TAQARIB
Grant Code	RFA-02
Opening Date	April 22, 2021
Closing Date	July 15, 2021
Geographic Area	Tripoli Center, Tajoura, Abusliem, Swani Bin Adam, Baten Aljabal, Alkhums, Zliten, Bani Waleed, Benghazi, Albayda, Shahat, Albrayga, Azzawya, Zwara, , Sebha, Albawanees, Ghadames, Daraj, Wadi Etba , Suq Alkhamees , Ubari, Alabyar, Yefren, Assahel, and other Taqarib Partner Municipalities.
Point of Contact	Libyagrants@Taqarib.org

PART ONE: TAQARIB PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND GRANT OPPORTUNITY

1. REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Taqarib is pleased to announce a Request for Applications for non-governmental organizations and private sector companies to support projects that aim to enhance civil society participation in the following areas:

- The improvement of municipal services, and

- The creation of community initiatives for Taqarib partner Municipalities.

Applications will be subject to a two-phase competitive process. In the first phase, organizations will submit an application that will be evaluated by the Grants Evaluation Committee. In the second phase, accepted applications will be required to finalize their project details and complete the required grant documentation for final approval.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Taqarib project (previously known as the Local Governance and Civil Society Project) is a four-year initiative. It strengthens the foundation of a more unified Libyan state by empowering local governments, reinforcing community bonds, and improving people's standard of living. Taqarib helps citizens and engage in public dialogue, prioritize public resource allocations, and understand the roles and responsibilities of local government. The project links enhancements to service delivery at the municipal level with national efforts to improve the execution of decentralization policy, and with efforts to undertake evidence-based reform.

LOCATIONS: Taqarib has offices in Tripoli, Benghazi, Sebha, and Tunis.

MUNICIPALITIES: Taqarib is currently implementing projects in twenty-four municipalities. By the end of 2021, the project will be active in 30 municipalities nationwide.

<u>IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:</u> Taqarib is implemented by DAI, with the International Republican Institute and Altai Consulting as sub-awardees.

3. AN OVERVIEW ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN LIBYA

In November 2011, authorization was received to create the Ministry of Local Government. The Ministry's establishment was one of the most important steps to prevent the emergence of another regime with centralized power. Currently the Ministry pursues a policy of decentralization for Libyan municipal governments. In June 2012, Libya's National Transitional Council approved Law 59, which outlined a plan for fiscal and administrative governance at the municipal level. Though a lack of governing capacity and much political turmoil since 2011 has interrupted the comprehensive realization of Libya's vision for local governance, a deep commitment to that vision remains.

4. TAQARIB OBJECTIVE

Objective 1: Municipal Service Delivery

In partnership with local governments, Taqarib designs and executes strategies for service delivery at the municipal level. Project staff with robust city-management experience around the world act as consultants to a broad range of municipal directorates and authorities. In each target municipality, the project focuses on making visible and measurable impacts on service-delivery outcomes in one service area per year. To accurately measure our impact, the project employs a Municipal Performance Index to gauge the administrative capacity of local governments, quantify their delivery of essential services and infrastructure, as well as monitor the corresponding public perceptions of governments' effectiveness and legitimacy.

Objective 2: Public Participation

Taqarib engages local communities and community organizations to ensure that citizens have a voice in prioritizing and monitoring the expenditure of public resources. The project also acknowledges that, at times, methods to improve service-delivery can be unpopular in the short term. Taqarib, therefore, partners with community organizations to generate public support for solutions like local revenue generation, public-private partnerships, city-to-city collaboration, and other tools that are important for achieving long-term, sustainable development.

Objective 3: Policy Execution and Reform

In its approach to policy reform, Taqarib seeks alignment with existing regulations and laws that support decentralization including, especially, Law 59 and Executive Order 130. Taqarib also ensures that the relevant parts of existing municipal development plans receive forceful backing from the project's strategies for service-delivery improvement. In seeking these alignments, Taqarib preserves space for the appreciation and scaling of innovative policy solutions at the local level.

Objective 4: Monitoring, Evaluation and learning

The Taqarib Monitoring and Evaluation unit works on establishing a framework for activities and implementation methods. The team creates mechanisms for monitoring performance and tracking the progress of project goals and objectives. Additionally, the team develops educational platforms to both inform city managers and facilitate rapid responses to emerging challenges and opportunities.

5. GRANT OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION FOR RFA-02:

This funding opportunity aims to support grant ideas that fall under Objective 2 of Taqarib Project. Taqarib intends to issue several grants for Libyan civil society organizations and the private sector. This is to enable them to support the Visible Improvement of Services activities (VIS) implemented directly under Taqarib Objective 1 in our partner Municipalities. This will be achieved through inviting both civil society and the private sector to submit innovative community initiatives in various fields such as:

- Raising awareness on solid waste management
- Community education on the danger of plastic bags
- Awareness on pedestrian safety, and
- Other community initiatives (listed below)

Taqarib expects that these initiatives will contribute to the overall tangible improvement of services. The Taqarib Team has provided several useful examples of initiatives that can be implemented under this grant opportunity, which can be found in the attached documents (Reference 1).

Applicants are encouraged to co-create/ co-develop their proposals in collaboration with municipal offices and officers.

6. COMMUNITY INITIAVES THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER RFA-02

This funding opportunity targets specific municipalities:

- Tripoli Center
- Tajoura
- Abusliem
- Swani Bin Adam
- Baten Aljaba
- Alkhum
- Zliten
- Bani Waleed
- Benghazi
- Albayda
- Shahhat
- Albrayga
- Azzawya
- Zwara
- Sebha
- Albawanees
- Ghadames
- Daraj
- Wadi Etba
- Suq Alkhamees
- Ubari
- Alabyar
- Yefren
- Assahel, and
- Other Taqarib Partner Municipalities

Taqarib is currently working on improving public services in all of the municipalities above. This grant opportunity is intended to maximize the impact of Taqarib's work. Specifically, Taqarib seeks partners who can support the following service-delivery initiatives:

1. Public education on solid-waste reduction and management. (Abusliem, Albayda, Alkhums, Assahel, Bani Waleed, Baten Aljabal, Ghadames, Sebha, Tajoura, Zwara, Zliten, Benghazi).
   Purpose: to raise public awareness on reducing solid waste. This can include innovative recycling solutions.

2. Public education on recycling (Albayda, Alkhums, Azzawya, Ghadames, Shahhat, Zwara, Zliten).

Purpose: To raise public awareness on the importance of recycling, including locations of recycling units.

3. Community education on the wastefulness of plastic bags, and the possibility of introducing alternatives (Benghazi, Shahhat, Zliten, Albayda, Tripoli Center).
Purpose: to raise public awareness on the disposition of plastic bags and to develop innovative solutions for the prevalence of plastic bags in waste, especially in the streets. This can include innovative recycling solutions.

4. Community education on sustaining city assets such as roads, sidewalks, shores, (Abusliem, Albawanees, Albayda , Alkhums, Azzawya, Bani Waleed, Baten Aljabal, Ghadames , Sebha, Shahhat, Swani bin Adam, Tajoura, Zwara, Zliten, Benghazi, Albayda, Tripoli Center).
Purpose: To develop innovative solutions to maintaining public assets, ensuring their sustainability and accessibility to all community members.

5. Community education on sustaining and managing storm drains (Abusliem, Albawanees, Albayda , Alkhums, Azzawya, Bani Waleed, Baten Aljabal, Ghadames , Sebha, Shahhat, Swani bin Adam, Tajoura, Zwara, Zliten, Benghazi, Albayda, Tripoli Center).
Purpose: To develop innovative solutions to maintaining storm drains, to counter the challenge of flooding and to preserve ground water.

6. Adopt a park program, through organizing activities and maintaining public spaces (Albawanees, Albayda, Alkhums, Assahel, Bani Waleed, Baten Aljabal, Ghadames, Sebha, Shahhat, Swani Bin Adam, Zwara, Benghazi).
Purpose: to promote partnerships between community members, groups, and businesses to assist municipalities with routine maintenance, clean up, and beautification of parks– creating a beautiful and clean environment for all to enjoy.

7. Adopt & manage a football field or basketball court owned by the municipality through a project that works on organizing activities, and preserving it by the community (Abusliem, Albawanees, Albayda, Ghadames, Swani BinAdam, Zwara, Benghazi).
Purpose: This aims to enhance the quality of public recreational facilities (especially football fields and basketball courts) to provide the community with safe, accessible, and proper spaces for them to enjoy. This looks to increase the level of ownership among CSOs and private sector organizations to public spaces and to contribute to their cities' development plans.

8. Public space beautification and art projects (all partner Municipalities).
Purpose: This initiative aims to preserve and promote the culture of cities through public space beautification and art in addition to making public spaces more visually appealing.

9. Initiatives and activities on pedestrian safety (Abusliem, Albayda, Albrayga, Assahel, Bani Waleed, Sebha , Shahhat, Tajoura, Tripoli Center).

Purpose: To develop innovative initiatives that target pedestrian safety such as maintaining side-walks, cross-walks, and pedestrian bridges.

10. Initiatives that support maintenance & rehabilitation of public markets (Zliten).
Purpose: This aims to preserve and promote public markets in Zliten and to support the businesses working there by sustaining their market.

11. Community water conservation (Zliten).
Purpose: To develop innovative solutions for water conservation, whether by community education or by adopting new solutions at the municipal level.

12. Community engagement projects for improving services, neighborhoods and the lives of residents (all partners Municipalities).
Purpose: To develop projects that focus on the alignment of public services to residents and neighborhoods' needs through an approach that engages the community.

13. Initiatives related to municipal Emergency Response Centers, and emergency management (Albrayga, Albawanees, Alkhums, Assahel, Azzawya, Baten Aljabal, Ghadames, Sebha, Shahhat, Swani Bin Adam, Zwara).
Purpose: To develop innovative solutions that upscales municipalities' emergency response centers and their emergency management capabilities.

14. Any community initiatives related to the above-mentioned activities (all partners Municipalities).

Interested applicants can submit their project proposals by choosing one or more of the above-mentioned community initiatives. Applicants are encouraged to think of other innovative project ideas that fall within the context of RFA-02. Applicants are also encouraged to take a collaborative approach in designing their proposals with municipal offices and officers.
For more project ideas and examples of successful initiatives, please see the attachments:

Reference 1 (Attached)
Reference 2 (Attached)

7. OBJECTIVES OF THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

1. Reinforce and maximize the impact of the hard services implemented by Taqarib in the targeted municipalities through funding CSOs and private sector to implement selected community initiatives (such as community education on plastic bags, solid waste management education etc.), resulting in enhanced municipal performance.

2. Enhance municipal services and management of city assets, through community participation in planning and designing parks and playgrounds, conducting activities

in it, and maintaining all municipal assets.

3. Build an effective model of community engagement between the municipality and citizens through citizen collaboration in planning, decision making and improving services, eventually contributing to greater trust and more future collaboration.

4. Build a holistic, sustainable and replicable model for innovative service-delivery solutions from a broad range of non-governmental organizations in close collaboration with local municipalities.

Notice:
- Any maintenance, construction, alteration, or rehabilitation of space activities will not be accepted under this funding opportunity.
- This funding opportunity is only for Taqarib partner municipalities, therefore please Make sure that your municipality is Taqarib partner by contacting us via the Libyagrants@taqarib.org
- Proposals can be submitted in Arabic or English. Each organization can submit only one concept.
- Operational expenses for project such as staff, rent and equipment should not exceed 25%. The majority of the budget must focus on activities.

PART TWO: CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPLYING FOR GRANTS

1.   WHO CAN APPLY FOR THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY?

1- Civil society organizations or associations registered with the Civil Society Commission or are currently in the process of registering, provided that the registration is available at the start of the project implementation

2- Private sector entities registered at the chamber of commerce or any eligible government entity.

3- Universities and student unions.

4- Scouts

2.   GRANT DURATION:

The grant duration should not exceed six months.

3.   GRANT VALUE:

The maximum value of this grant is 130,000 LYD or its equivalent in USD based on the official exchange rate.

4.   ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF GRANTS: 15 GRANTS

5.   APPLICANTS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

The applicants should have the following criteria:

1. Registration document issued by the Civil Society Commission, or from a Chamber of Commerce in the case private entities (or evidence of a registration in process)
2. Clear organizational structure and fiscal management systems. Applicants should provide an organizational chart, finance reports, and a detailed description of their finance and accounting systems.
3. Provide three examples of similar grant activities completed in the past 5 years (with mention to corresponding funding sources) to demonstrate the organization's capacity to competently execute programs.
4. Applicants must be in good standing with key stakeholders at the community level
5. Applicants must provide for reference purposes three to five contact details of previous or current donors, partners, and beneficiaries.

Organizations that have not yet worked with USAID but represent community voices that are new or different from those that have prevailed until now, are encouraged to apply.

6. EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES AND COSTS NOT COVERED INCLUDE:

1. Project ideas and community initiatives other than those mentioned in the table above, and that are to be implemented in locations beyond the six targeted municipalities mentioned in this announcement
2. Educational and awareness-raising activities on the role of civil society in participatory governance and the legal framework. Such activities, if necessary, could be considered for cost-sharing. Applicants are also encouraged to leverage past programming from local and international players that may have addressed such foundational needs.
3. Extensive media coverage and advertising costs for events and activities (advertising space in print media for instance). Media coverage and publicity if required, would need to be cost-efficient to be considered for funding.

7. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a technical committee composed of Taqarib project staff. The following evaluation criteria will be utilized to assess concept papers:

	Evaluation Criteria	Number of points
1	Past performance and capability	15 points
2	Design & methodology of implementing the initiative in addition to having clear outcomes for activities	15 points
3	The number and effectiveness of involved parties in the implementation of community initiative activities (residents, private sector, municipality, youth, etc).	10 Points
4	Project impact on improving citizen collaboration with the municipality, and proposed approaches to increase community engagement with these initiatives (the extent of the project's reach to the community and responses)	20 points
5	Potential for sustainability (Is the project or its benefits likely to continue after grant funding ends?)	20 points

6	Value for money (does the proposal represent 'good value' in the balance between the total budget and the total number of beneficiaries)	10 Points
7	The level of co-creation of the project/initiative with municipal offices and/or municipal officers.	10 points
	Total points	100

PART THREE: HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

1. APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE:

Interested applicants are invited to submit an application by Email to: Libyagrants@taqarib.org before the submission deadline of **July 15, 2021**. Make sure to use this Email subject: **RFA-02 "Name of the Applying Organization/Entity"** while attaching the following annexes to the Email:

Annex 1: Proposal and Organization profile, using the attached template
Annex 2: Budget, using the template attached, please make sure to send it in excel format.
Annex 3: CVs of key personnel
Annex 4: Financial/ Annual reports, if available

Note: A full application should contain (annex 1, annex 2, annex 3) by filling all requested information of these annexes and sending it in one package through Email. Applicants are not required to send any additional documentation at this stage.

2. AWARDING NOTICES:

- Within one to three working days after the proposal is received, applicants will be notified via email that their application is received.
- Successful Applicants are required to update/renew their registration in the Commission of Civil Society before signing the grants agreement
- Successful applicants with a budget of $25,000 or more will be required to obtain a DUNS number before signing the grant agreement. (Instructions and guidance will be provided)
- Successful applicants are required to state any environmental challenges that they may encounter either during or after project implementation and how they plan to address said challenges.
- Standard Provisions for non-U.S. non-governmental recipients and guidance in ADS 303 will apply for successful grant applications.
- Cost-share applications are highly encouraged where the applicant organization contributes to the fulfillment of the proposed activity, whether in-kind or cash contributions, from the applicant's own resources or a third party (another donor). Any proposed cost-share must be verifiable.

- Permitted Uses of Program Income: The Grantee will inform DAI of any program income generated under the grant and agrees to follow USAID's disposition requirements for such program income, which is in accordance with 2 CFR 200.307. Program income earned under this agreement shall be applied and used in the following descending order:
  - o Added to funds committed by USAID and the recipient to the project or program, and used to further eligible project or program objectives;
  - o Used to finance the non-Federal share of the project or program; and
  - o Deducted from the total project or program allowable cost in determining the net allowable costs on which the federal share of costs is based.

If the terms and conditions of the award do not specify how program income is to be used, then number 2) shall apply automatically. Grantees who are commercial organizations may not apply Option 1) to their program income.

3. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS:

The Grant Funds provided under the terms of this Agreement shall **not** be used to finance any of the following:

1. Goods or services which are to be used primarily to meet military requirements or to support police or other law enforcement activities,
2. Surveillance equipment,
3. Equipment, research and/or services related to involuntary sterilization or the performance of abortion as a method of family planning,
4. Gambling equipment, supplies for gambling facilities or any hotels, casinos or accommodations in which gambling facilities are or are planned to be located,
5. Activities which significantly degrade national parks or similar protected areas or introduce exotic plants or animals into such areas, or
6. Establishment or development of any export processing zone or designated area where the labor, environmental, tax, tariff, and/or safety laws of the country in which such activity takes place would not apply.
7. Pharmaceuticals,
8. Pesticides,
9. Logging equipment,
10. Luxury goods (including alcoholic beverages and jewelry),
11. Establishing or expanding any enterprise that will export raw materials that are likely to be in surplus in world markets at the time such production becomes effective and that are likely to cause substantial injury to U.S. producers,
12. Activities which would result in the loss of forest lands due to livestock rearing, road construction or maintenance, colonization of forest lands or construction of dams or other water control structures,
13. Activities which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment, including any of the following (to the extent such activities are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment):
    - i.) Activities which may lead to degrading the quality or renewability of natural resources;

ii.) Activities which may lead to degrading the presence or health of threatened ecosystems or biodiversity;

iii.) Activities which may lead to degrading long-term viability of agricultural or forestry production (including through use of pesticides);

iv.) Activities which may lead to degrading community and social systems, including potable water supply, land administration, community health and well-being or social harmony.

14. Activities which are likely to involve the loss of jobs in the United States due to the relocation or expansion outside of the United States of an enterprise located in the United States, or

15. Activities which the Grantee is aware are reasonably likely to contribute to the violation of internationally or locally recognized rights of workers,

16. Activities to support the production of agricultural commodities for export from Malawi when such commodities would directly compete with exports of similar United States agricultural commodities to third countries and have a significant impact on United States exporters.

4. ADMINSTRATION OF THE AWARD

Awards to U.S. organizations will be administered in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E, ADS 303 and USAID Standard Provisions for U.S. nongovernmental organizations. For non-U.S. organizations, USAID Standard Provisions for non-U.S. non-governmental organizations would apply.

Applicants may obtain copies of the referenced material at the following websites:

2 CFR 200: http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=0a5b7fee6378930cce72564449dd8bb7&mc=true&node=sp2.1.200.d&rgn=div6

Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/303maa.pdf

Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental Recipients: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mab.pdf

5. CONTACT:

For any inquiries about this grant program, please send an email to: Libyagrants@taqarib.org .