



## Request for Applications \_ RFA\_03

National advocacy campaign on supporting Decentralization

<b>Program</b>	TAQARIB
<b>Grant Code</b>	RFA 03
<b>Opening Date</b>	7/04 /2021
<b>Closing Date</b>	8 /04/2021
<b>Geographic Area</b>	National “All Municipalities”
<b>Point of Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:LibyaGrants@Ta qarib.org">LibyaGrants@Ta qarib.org</a>

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## PART ONE: TAQARIB PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND GRANT OPPORTUNITY

### 1- Invitation for submitting Applications

Taqarib is pleased to announce a request for applications from non-governmental organizations and private sector to support projects aims to (support national Campaigns that support decentralization agenda) This RFA-03 is a two-phase competitive process. In the first phase, applicants will submit an application that will be evaluated by the Grants Evaluation Committee. In a subsequent phase, initially accepted Applications will be required to finalize their project details and fulfill the grant documentation for final approval.

Subject to the availability of funds and USAID approval, Taqarib intends to provide six grants up to a maximum amount of 150,000 LYD each. The expected duration of taqarib support or the period of performance is six months.

### 2- Project background:

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 residents 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 year 2021, the project will be active in 30 municipalities nationwide.

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

### 3- Taqarib Objective

#### **Objective 1: Municipal Service Delivery**

Side-by-side 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 of its target municipalities, the project focuses on making visible and measurable impacts on service-delivery outcomes in one service area per year. While doing so, 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 residents have a voice in prioritizing and monitoring the expenditure of public resources. The project also acknowledges that, at times, the ways and means of improved 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 and 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**

Taqarib Monitoring and Evaluation unit works on establishing framework for activities and implementation methods. It sets mechanism for monitoring performance, environment and developing an educational platform to facilitate rapid responses to emerging challenges and opportunities. A clear plan is followed for tracking progress in the project and activities to ensure goals and objectives are achieved through a follow-up and evaluation plan.

## **4- Grant Opportunity Description (RFA\_03):**

Taqarib project seeks to support a number of national campaigns and initiatives that work to define the role of municipalities according to Law 59 and its executive regulations No. 130, which seeks to educate the public about the competencies assigned to municipalities, and which of these competencies have been activated on the ground. In addition to that, defining the competencies that have been transferred from the central government to the local government in light of the efforts of the High Committee for the Transfer of Competencies, as well as defining the challenges facing the municipalities in implementing their competencies and activating the ones transferred by the national government. Further, conducting advocacy campaigns at the national level calling for activating the role of municipalities in accordance with the relevant law, so that municipalities can assume their roles and provide better services to their residents.

This opportunity seeks to strengthen the role of non-governmental organizations in advocacy for decentralization at the national level, and to have a greater role in decentralization issues, through pressuring at the central and decision-making level to activate the role of municipalities by developing policies, visions, And plans for decentralization to be worked on with decision-makers, which aim to transfer the competencies and the technical and administrative procedures necessary to activate those competencies, also to shed light on the challenges facing municipalities given the lack in the transfer and activation of those powers entrusted to them, and the impact of this on the path of decentralization in general and on the municipalities in particular

## 5- Grant Opportunity Objectives:

1. This opportunity seeks to increase Residents knowledge about the role of municipalities and the services that must be provided in accordance with the law and with what is applicable on the ground.
2. Enhancing the role of non-governmental organizations in supporting local governance.
3. To push for the transfer of competencies and the activation of those already transferred to the municipalities, so that the municipalities can perform their role in accordance with the law.

## 6- Details /and or examples of activities under this Opportunity

1. 1. National campaigns to introduce the role of municipalities according to Law 59 and the implementation of Executive Regulation No. 130. ( for more information please see the link <https://www.facebook.com/Taqarib/posts/355133672631157> ), in terms of the role of municipalities and the services they must provide. This is through carrying out educational and awareness campaigns for residents about the municipality's purviews and its role in accordance with the law, as well as the reasons for delaying the activation of the role of municipalities. Educational campaigns can be in the form of media campaigns, dialogue sessions between residents and municipalities, technical meetings with experts in Local Administration and local governance.
2. Media programs on the radio and social media platforms about the role of the Municipalities and the challenges facing the municipalities in implementing the competencies that have been transferred to them, in addition to the proposed solutions that support the activation of the transfer of specializations, where audio or visual discussion sessions can be held between municipalities and decision-makers about the challenges of the municipalities, in light of the failure to fully activate their functions.
3. Definition of the responsibilities /competencies that have been transferred to the municipalities and their status in terms of their implementation. Shedding light on the technical and administrative aspects necessary for the transfer of the said competency, and the reasons that led to the failure to activate these functions despite their transfer to the municipalities, for example but not limited ( transferring of jurisdiction for commercial licenses, Health , education and transportation )
4. Sessions to be held between municipalities and residents to introduce the current situation of the municipalities and what are the main challenges facing the municipalities in activating their functions, and what are the priority specializations that should be transferred to the municipalities in an expeditious manner.

5. Joint activities between non-governmental organizations, municipalities, and the Higher Committee for the Transfer of Competencies and the Ministry of Local Government, on the specializations that considered of most priority to the Municipalities and must be activated and transferred to the municipalities to support service delivery, and developing plans that support Transfer of competencies, in partnership with the parties working to activate decentralization
6. Determine the administrative, technical actions that must be provided in parallel to the process of transferring specializations in terms of staffing, terms of reference and technical tasks/duties, so that the municipalities can activate those competencies. One or more competencies can be chosen to define the technical procedures accompanying the transfer process, in partnership with stakeholders.
7. National campaigns for adopting several policies support decentralization and service provision. Taqarib project developed several policies on supporting access for people with disabilities and the ban of using plastic bags in bakeries, which can be utilized in the campaigns, in addition to other policies that can be developed to support and advocate for decentralization which can also be adopted by stakeholders.
8. Sessions to be held with the relevant parties about the government's plan to support the decentralization process, and what steps will be taken by the government to further support decentralization and to participate in the development of plans or activities aimed at supporting the decentralized track.
9. Sharing similar experiences and expertise of other countries with stakeholders and municipalities regarding the transition from centralization to decentralization, and sharing lessons learned in this field, with stakeholders and other actors working to activate the municipalities' role.
10. Advocacy campaigns at the national level to accelerate the transfer of competencies to municipalities and accompanying measures to support the decentralization process, all this to urge the central government to put more effort in expediting the competence transfer.

## **SECTION TWO: ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REVIEW**

- **Who can apply for this grant opportunity?**
  - Civil society organizations or associations registered with the civil society commission or whose registration process is underway, provided that the registration is completed upon signing the grant agreement.
  - Private sector entities registered at the chamber of commerce or any eligible government entity.
  - Universities and student unions.
  - Scouts
  - Think thank institutions.

- **Grant Duration:** This grant duration should not exceed six months.
- **Grant Value:** The maximum value of each grant is 150,000 LYD
- **Anticipated Number of Grants:** Six Grants
- **Applicants Eligibility Criteria:**

The applicants should meet the following criteria:

- 1- Registration document issued by the Civil Society Commission, or from chamber of commerce in case private entities (or in process of registration)
- 2- Clear organizational structure and financial management systems (for example accounting systems and financial reports)
- 3- Basic capacity to execute programs
- 4- Good reputation with key stakeholders and at the community level
- 5- Past performance of similar activities with mention to corresponding funding sources
- 6- Applicants must provide three to five contact details of previous or current donors, partners, and beneficiaries, for reference purposes

Organizations that have not yet worked with USAID and may possess less technical capacity, but that also represent community voices that are new or different from those that have prevailed until now, are encouraged to apply.

- **Application Review and Selection Process**

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

	<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Number of points</b>
1	Experience, Past performance, and Capacity	10 points
2	Design of activities and steps for implementation, and their relevance to the proposed activities. In addition to clarity of project outcomes.	20 points
3	Number and contribution of involved parties in the implementation of activities (local government experts, municipalities, stakeholders such as the MOLG and others)	10 Points
4	Project's potential impact on improving communication and awareness with the relevant stakeholders (Municipalities, local government experts, other stakeholders and the public)	20 points
5	Potential for sustainability (Is the project or its benefits likely to continue after grant funding ends?)	10 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
8	Ability to work on national level with different municipalities	10 Points
	Total points	100

## **PART THREE: APPLICATION SUBMISSION & NOTIFICATIONS**

### **1-Application Submission and Deadline:**

Interested applicants are invited to submit an application by Email to: [Libyagrants@taqarib.org](mailto:Libyagrants@taqarib.org) , before the submission deadline of **August 4, 2021**.

Make sure to use this Email subject: **RFA\_03“Names 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

Applications can be submitted in Arabic or English. Each organization can submit Only one application under this Opportunity.

*Note: A complete application should contain all of the information requested in this announcement (Annex 1, Annex 2 and Annex 3) and should be sent in one Email to [Libyagrants@taqarib.org](mailto:Libyagrants@taqarib.org). Applicants are not required to send any additional documents at this stage.*

In case of any questions or need for clarification regarding any aspect of this RFA, please contact [Libyagrants@taqarib.org](mailto:Libyagrants@taqarib.org).

### **2- Selection and notification guidance**

- 4-6 Review Committee formed of Taqarib staff will conduct the initial selection of Applications based on the Evaluation criteria described above.
- Late Applications will be subjected to rejection.
- Within 2 working days after the application 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 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 during or after project implementation and how they plan to address them.
- Standard Provisions for Non-U. S Nongovernmental 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 cost-share must be verifiable.

### 3. Funds 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.
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- 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 Libya 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 exporter.

#### **4. Administration 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: 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:

#### **5. Contact:**

For any inquiries about this grant program, please send an email to [Libyagrants@taqarib.org](mailto:Libyagrants@taqarib.org).