

# Tunisia: Encouraging Positive Post-Election Progress

## Program Announcement

### Clarifications and Responses to Questions

1. In reading through the RFP eligibility requirements, we wanted to confirm with you that we are an eligible applicant, as page 8 (III.A. Eligible Applicants) of the RFP states “Eligible applicants include registered U.S. or foreign non-profit organizations” in the first sentence, with the last sentence stating that “All applicants must be legally registered organizations in Tunisia prior to applying for this announcement.” Are we correct in reading that only organizations with an office registered in both the U.S and in Tunisia are eligible to apply? We are a US-based registered organization (not registered in Tunisia) that would be operating through a registered Tunisian organization via a sub-award or consultant basis. Would we be eligible to apply?

Yes, you would be eligible since your activities would be conducted via a partner organization that is currently registered in Tunisia.

2. Are only organizations with an office registered in Tunisia eligible to apply?

All eligible proposals will demonstrate their capability to immediately commence activities in country, i.e. if not an existing field office of the lead applicant then via a confirmed local partner organization that is currently registered.

3. Section 3 states that "All applicants must be legally registered organizations in Tunisia prior to applying to this announcement". Our organization is based in London, UK, and we do not have a Tunisian registration. However, we plan to put forward a proposal in partnership with a local Tunisian organization. Would this be acceptable, or would we be excluded because only one of the partners has a local registration?

Applicants themselves must have a registered field office in Tunisia and/or have confirmation of a local partner that currently is registered in Tunisia.

4. For “Priority Area C: Preparing for Local Elections and Decentralization,” the description states: "Activities shall focus on providing technical assistance to institutions in organizing and carrying out democratic elections." Our question is if this is limited then to partnering with institutions that directly conduct the elections or if it includes partnering with CSOs that are involved in efforts to monitor elections, educate the electorate, assist them in registering to vote, etc?

This priority area is focused on direct assistance to Tunisian institutions conducting the next elections.

5. If an organization has not expressed its intent to apply by January 6, can that organization still submit an application under this opportunity?

Yes. We are requesting that applicant inform us of their intent to submit for our planning purposes only, this request does not affect your eligibility or the application due date and is voluntary.

6. I would like to seek clarification on whether an organization would be able to propose indirect costs in a submission for the above opportunity. On page 12 of the RFP, it states that “applicants proposing indirect costs in the Budget Narrative must provide a copy of their NICRA”. This is echoed in the budget definitions in Appendix 5. However, it also makes reference to the NICRA “if applicable”. For clarity, given that our organization does not have a NICRA, am I correct in asserting that we would not be able to propose indirect costs even if we can quantify and justify them?

An organization can propose up to 10% without a NICRA. Please see 2cfr200.414 located here: [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b02738d16e4b0c1b82dc67a83ede6370&node=se2.1.200\\_1414&rgn=div8](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b02738d16e4b0c1b82dc67a83ede6370&node=se2.1.200_1414&rgn=div8)

7. Also, in appendix 5, Section F, Line #22 there is reference to a type of “indirect rate (provisional, predetermined, final or fixed)”. What does “fixed” mean? Is this something we could include or, again, does it refer to the NICRA?

“Fixed” refers to the NICRA. Please see answer above.

8. Pages 9-10. The solicitation requires detailed information to be submitted on local partners. Will NEA/MEPI please confirm that this information may be included in the Optional Documents?

Yes, you may include that information in the Optional Documents.

9. Page 12. When selecting the project's objective and sub-objective, may applicants propose different sub-objectives than the examples provided?

No. Applicants must determine which of the required objectives they must include in their RMP. Those objectives are based on the desired objectives of new projects and will be used to evaluate the quality and feasibility of their projects.

10. Page 13. Does the four page limit apply to each bio for lead project personnel or is there a four page limit for all personnel bios?

The four page limit is for all project personnel combined; i.e. summaries of qualifications are preferable to multiple-page CVs.

11. Our organization is currently developing a proposal for Opportunity Number NEAAC-ACMEPI-15-005. We intend to respond to Priority Area A: Fostering Effective and Accountable Government Institutions. The objectives listed on Page 12 (required in the RMP) do not have an objective that we feel is fully appropriate for its program given its focus on government institutions. Could MEPI please clarify the objectives it feels are appropriate for Priority Area A?

Choose the best objectives as listed in the RMP as it relates to proposed activities.