



September 15, 2014  
Jerusalem



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Local Grants Request for Applications – Gaza Economic Development

The U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) strives to create *vibrant partnerships* between America and the citizens of the Middle East and North Africa. MEPI supports citizens' efforts aimed at economic, social, and political empowerment; expanding opportunities for women and youth; and helping communities create positive change. MEPI Local Grants promote greater freedom and opportunity for people in the region.

MEPI directly funds local organizations serving Palestinians across the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem. Through supporting local partners to implement innovative projects, MEPI provides an opportunity for Palestinian civil society to identify and solve challenges at the local level. Since 2007, MEPI Jerusalem has funded sixty-five local partners to implement grants totaling over 3.5 million USD.

MEPI will be accepting applications *from registered local organizations working in Gaza for economic development projects* September 15<sup>th</sup> – November 1st, 2014. Local civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, professional organizations, youth groups, and women's groups, are welcome to apply. Applications will be evaluated through a competitive process. Local grants typically have budgets ranging from \$75,000 USD - \$100,000 USD, and are up to one year in duration.

Projects should focus on the following three economic development program areas:

- Employment Generation
- Entrepreneurship
- Agriculture

**\*\*MEPI Local Grants cannot generate profits or taxable revenue\*\***

**\*\*MEPI cannot facilitate access into/out of Gaza as part of a Local Grant\*\***

**More information and application documents can be found at the MEPI Local Grants website: <http://mepi.seiservices.com/LocalGrants/English/eDefault.aspx>. Completed application documents should be mailed to [MEPIJerusalem@state.gov](mailto:MEPIJerusalem@state.gov)**

*For additional inquiries, please contact the MEPI West Bank/Gaza Office at [MEPIJerusalem@state.gov](mailto:MEPIJerusalem@state.gov) or 02-622-7101.*