



# Forsah TVET

Forsah Technical and Vocational Education Training Activity

فرصة للتعليم والتدريب التقني والمهني



## Partnership Application 2024

for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions

**DEADLINE**  
**22 May 2024**

Issuance Date: 22 April 2024  
Application Deadline: 22 May 2024  
Questions Deadline: 5 May 2024  
Submit to: [Application Link in English](#) / [Application Link in Arabic](#)

## **I- OVERVIEW OF THE FORSAH TVET**

Forsah TVET supports technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions to better prepare Palestinians graduates for the labor market, and to productively engage in local and regional economies. By enhancing TVET institution's capacity to respond to the needs of the private sector, creating partnerships between TVET institutions, private sector firms, and youth in specific sectors, and increasing enrollment in TVET program, Forsah TVET will help supply skilled TVET graduates and create an enabling environment for sustainable supply-demand associations and meaningful youth participation.

Forsah TVET seeks to partner with non-governmental TVET institutions in West Bank and East Jerusalem for its second cohort, to collaboratively develop new or upgraded training programs. These programs will support Palestinian career paths and link students to employment opportunities, or help them start their own business, in increasingly in-demand sectors. Through partnerships, Forsah supports TVET institutions' responsiveness to the needs of the private sector and the effects of climate change; creates new partnerships between the TVET institutions and the private sector; and increases the number of skilled graduates. In addition, Forsah TVET will support enhanced career development services and mentorships. Forsah TVET activities will improve youth awareness of TVET programs and increase student enrollment in partner institutions.

Through Forsah TVET, partner TVET institutions across the West Bank and East Jerusalem will work collaboratively to enhance the quality, relevance, and access of their training programs, building their capacity to respond to the needs of the private sector and build partnerships with private sector firms and youth in specific sectors. Through Forsah TVET, partner TVET institutions will have improved performance, accessible green facilities, and well-established relationships with private sector actors, enabling them to sustainably respond to and predict workforce demand and the effects of climate change.

Forsah TVET is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by IREX in partnership with Global LLC (DAI), Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VT), Development Gateway (DG), Business Women Forum Palestine (BWF), Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), An-Najah, An-Najah Company for Consultancy and Technical Studies (AnNajah). The contents of this application are the responsibility of IREX and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

## **2- Partnership Approach:**

IREX is pleased to announce **the 2024 Partnership Application** of the *Forsah TVET* program. Under this program, all Palestinian non-governmental technical and vocational education and training institutions offering levels 1,2, and/or 4 TVET programs are invited to apply.

The purpose of this partnership activity is to create a collaborative platform that fosters cooperation and knowledge-sharing between TVET institutions and the Forsah TVET program. This collaboration will lead to the development of innovative curricula ideas, teaching methods, and assessment tools that are tailored to the needs of the labor market and the local industry.

Through this partnership program, selected TVET institutions will have access to a range of resources and networks, including technical expertise, financial support, and training opportunities. This will enable them to enhance their capacity to provide high-quality and relevant TVET and to meet the evolving needs of the labor market.

Activities aim to create a more inclusive and equitable society by promoting the integration of marginalized groups, such as women and youth, into the workforce. By providing them with relevant skills and knowledge, TVET institutions and Forsah TVET can contribute to reducing poverty and promoting sustainable economic growth.

This program will support activities that build sustainable relationships between TVET Institutions, the private sector, and youth to focus on meeting the evolving needs of the private sector.

### **3- Opportunities available to TVET institutions through Forsah TVET**

The aim of the partnership is to enhance the quality, relevance, and accessibility of TVET institutions, programs, and services by leveraging their strengths and resources. We are interested in partnerships that will focus on the following priority areas:

#### **➤ Enhancing TVET capacity:**

- TVET technical needs assessment to support the development of performance improvement action plans.
- Co-design market driven training programs
- Participate in TVET Training of Trainers (ToT) and/or Administrator Leadership Academy through linkages with US TVET educational institutions and selected TVETs.
- Renovate TVET facilities to create vibrant, accessible, and safe physical learning environments.
- Institutionalize TVET institutions greening.
- Create financial models and sustainability roadmap.
- Strengthening the performance measurement and evaluation system
- Foster gender and social inclusion strategy implementation on institution and program levels.
- Apply for and manage grant funding to support target program activities.

#### **➤ Create partnerships between TVET institutions, private sector firms, and youth in specific sectors:**

- Participate in data exchanges to enable evidence-based workforce development decision-making.

- Develop capacity to incentivize and build private sector partnerships.
- Support sustainable mentorships for female TVET students
- Boost TVET students' employability by establishing or advancing TVET career development centers.

➤ **Increase enrollment in TVET programs:**

- Executing perception surveys
- Develop outreach and advocacy capacity.
- Guide youth-led public awareness campaign competition
- Create and implement a TVET access scholarship initiative.

#### **4- Sectors of Economic Activity**

In order to focus Forsah TVET activities on developing new or enhanced training programs in alignment with market needs, Forsah TVET has conducted a rapid sector prioritization exercise to determine areas of strong economic activity and growth in alignment with TVET opportunities. TVET institutions will indicate in their application the sectors of most interest to their institution. Selected TVET institutions will work within the Forsah TVET program to identify key occupational profiles in their selected sector and tailored training program to meet those needs. The identified sectors of economic activity for Forsah TVET are:

- ICT and Telecommunications
- Manufacture of food products and beverages
- Hospitality and tourism
- Circular economy processes
- Renewable energy
- Agriculture technologies
- Repair and installation of computers, machinery, and equipment
- Manufacture of furniture and wood products
- Manufacture of basic and fabricated metal products
- Manufacture of textiles and apparel
- Manufacture of paper and paper products
- Manufacture of machinery and equipment, including electrical
- Electric and hybrid vehicle repair
- Construction of buildings and specialized construction activities
- Publishing, advertising, and graphic design
- Creative, arts and entertainment activities

*See also Description of Forsah TVET Sectors section 12 below.*

#### **5- Call for Partnership Applications:**

We invite interested Palestinian non-governmental TVET institutions with level 1,2, and/or 4 trainings to submit this Partnership Application, outlining their motivation for partnering with Forsah TVET program, areas of expertise, and ways they can contribute to the goals of the Forsah TVET program partnership.

## **6- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Institutional partnerships are limited to institution-level applications, not individual staff members. Only applications that include a letter of commitment signed by the institution director/president will be considered.
- Staff representatives of selected TVET institutions will be expected to participate in different Forsah TVET components and activities.
- TVET Institutional applicants must represent registered, non-governmental institutions in West Bank, and East Jerusalem, TVET Institutional applicants must offer level 1, 2, and/or 4 training programs.
- Current IREX and USAID employees and consultants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, and siblings) are not eligible to compete in any IREX-administered grant programs, either as individuals or as the responsible party representing an institutional applicant.
- Public International Organizations (PIOs) are not eligible to participate in this program
- To comply with US governmental laws and policy that apply to Forsah TVET funding only applicants that confirm their intention to sign the Anti-Terrorism Certification (ATC) may be considered. After initial selection, institutions must submit a signed ATC and pass US governmental vetting processes to further participate in the Forsah TVET partnership.

## **7- SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following criteria will be evaluated:

- Demonstrate commitment to institutional capacity development
- Demonstrate institutional commitment to innovation and change
- Diversity of training programs and in areas of skills-demand with practical learning experiences
- Demonstrate commitment to improve teaching and learning through staff professional development
- Demonstrate commitment to growing in areas of Forsah TVET cross-cutting themes: digitization, greening, positive youth development (PYD), gender equity and social inclusion (GESI)
- Demonstrate understanding of relationship between infrastructure/equipment and programmatic outcomes
- Existing mechanisms for quality management
- Commitment to outreach and community engagement
- Demonstrate arrangements for financial management and sustainability
- Demonstrate commitment to engage extensively and sustainably with the private sector

Note: Priority will be given to diversity, including selected sectors, the level of programming, and the geographic distribution of institutions, among other factors, when selecting partners.

## 8- PROGRAM DATES

Full applications including all required documents are due **22 May 2024**. Program dates will fluctuate based upon the project's timeline in partnership with TVET institutions. IREX reserves the right to alter these timelines. Key dates:

<b>22 May 2024</b>	Deadline for submission of applications
<b>June - July 2024</b>	Short listed applicants respond to follow-up questions and requests for information, and selected applicants announced.
<b>July – Aug 2024</b>	Partner TVET institutions undergo mandatory vetting process and begin partner assessment and planning meetings, and sign partnering documents following vetting clearance.
<b>2024-2026</b>	Curriculum development process and capacity building programming
<b>2024-2027</b>	On-going partnership and Forsah TVET opportunities

Selected TVET institutions must submit required documentation to support institutional vetting. Selected TVET institutions will additionally be asked to share details of individual staff likely to participate in training/capacity development activities for individual vetting. Selected TVET institutions will be engaged in program planning and assessment work while vetting is ongoing.

## 9- QUESTIONS

Applicants may send their questions by e-mail, no later than 5 May 2024 to [contact.forsahtvet@irex.org](mailto:contact.forsahtvet@irex.org). IREX will not be obliged to provide clarification on questions received after this date. Responses to questions will be shared via email and posted online to [www.irex.org/project/Forsah-TVET](http://www.irex.org/project/Forsah-TVET) by 8 May 2024. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the responses via email, please fill in this form: [Information Registration - Formstack](#) no later than 7 May 2024.

## 10-APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

**A) Application Link:** [Application Link in English](#) / [Application Link in Arabic](#)  
Instructions for completing the application on Alchamar platform: [how-to-fill-out-application \(irex.org\)](#)

IREX reserves the right to verify of all the information indicated in the application. In the event that there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will

immediately be declared invalid and the applicant ineligible.

**In addition to the online Application Form the following documents must be uploaded electronically to the application system:**

### **B) Resumes/CV REQUIRED**

Resume for the primary faculty member who will be providing leadership to the program and the resume for the primary liaison/coordinator who will be working on the program on a daily basis and coordinating with others in the TVET institution regarding different interventions should be attached as part of the application. During the course of program activities, additional points of contact for specific types of activities may be identified to take leadership of specific types of work/activities, in coordination with the identified leader and primary liaison. Resumes must be submitted in English or accompanied by an English translation. All should be uploaded to the platform as one of the requirements.

### **C) Institution By-laws REQUIRED**

To better understand the operational and decision-making structure of TVET institutions, applicants must submit a copy of the organizational by-laws that define the organization's management structure.

### **D) Letter of Commitment from institution president/vice chancellor REQUIRED.**

A letter of commitment from the institution's president/vice chancellor will be required with the application. The letter of commitment indicates that the application has the institutional backing necessary for successful engagement. The letter of commitment should:

- Be on institutional letterhead or include the full institutional contact information
- Confirm that the institution is committed to participating fully in all Forsah TVET opportunities and activities
- Confirm that the institution is committed to innovating and adapting programs, policies, and procedures in response to new information and opportunities
- Confirm that the institution is agreeing to provide time and resources to the partnerships and committed to making time for institutional staff to participate to participate fully in Forsah TVET meetings, activities, and trainings
- Confirm that the institution's board/governing body supports innovative developments and making institutional changes through Forsah TVET engagement
- Confirm the institutions willingness to collaborate and share learning with other TVETs and to coordinate with TVET stakeholders
- Confirm that the institution is willing to create and foster long-term partnerships with the private sector
- Confirm that the institution is committed to implementing inclusive programming including supporting women and youth-led activities
- Confirm that the institution understands that it must comply with USAID rules and regulations, including submitting to institutional and individual vetting processes
- Confirm that the institution has read the Anti-Terrorism Certification (ATC) and will

- sign the ATC if selected as a partner.
- Be signed by the institution director/president and stamped

## **I I-Anti-Terrorism Certification**

Prospective recipients must comply with USAID's policy and procedures for the West Bank and Gaza programs, which outline three requirements for grant/subaward recipients: vetting recipients of assistance; signing the antiterrorism certifications (ATC) for recipients of grants or subawards; and signing mandatory provisions intended to prevent financial support to terrorism in all grants/subawards. The ATC is attached to these application instructions to review and confirm institutional intention to sign if selected as a partner.

## **I2-DESCRIPTION OF FORSAH TVET SECTORS**

**ICT and Telecommunications** including providing telecommunications and related service activities, i.e. Transmitting voice, data, text, sound and video; Design & installation of telecommunications distribution systems; Fiber-optic cable system design, installation, and maintenance; Writing, modifying, testing and supporting software; Planning and designing computer systems that integrate computer hardware, software and communication technologies; On-site management and operation of clients' telecommunications systems, computer systems and/or data processing facilities; Other professional and technical computer-related activities; Other information service activities.

**Manufacture of food products and beverages** including processing and preserving of meat, fish, fruit, and vegetables (and beverages); Manufacture of dairy (and beverages), grain, and other food products, including confectionary and noodles; Manufacture of prepared meals; Manufacture of prepared animal feed; Manufacture of nonalcoholic beverages and mineral water; Manufacture of alcoholic beverages mainly through fermentation, beer and wine; Manufacture of distilled alcoholic beverages.

**Hospitality and tourism** including the provision of short-stay accommodation for visitors; camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks; other accommodations; Activities of restaurants and mobile food service; Activities of event catering and other food service; Beverage serving activities; Travel agency and tour operator activities; Other activities related to reservation service.

**Circular economy processes** including the collection, treatment, and disposal of waste materials; Local hauling of waste materials; Operation of materials recovery facilities (i.e. those that sort recoverable materials from a waste stream).

**Renewable energy** including providing electric power, natural gas, steam, hot water, and the like, as well as renewables, through a permanent infrastructure (network) of lines, mains and pipes; the distribution of electricity, gas, steam, hot water and the like in industrial parks or residential buildings; Operation of electric and gas utilities, which generate, control and distribute electric power or gas; Provision of steam and air-conditioning supply.

**Agriculture technologies** including the exploitation of vegetal and animal natural resources, comprising the activities of growing of crops, raising, and breeding of animals, harvesting of timber and other plants, animals or animal products from a farm or their natural habitats.



**Repair and installation of computers, machinery, and equipment** including specialized repair of goods produced in the manufacturing sector with the aim to restore machinery, equipment, and other products to working order; Provision of general or routine maintenance (i.e. servicing) on such products to ensure they work efficiently and to prevent breakdown and unnecessary repairs is included; Specialized installation of machinery.

**Manufacture of furniture and wood products** including sawmilling and planing wood; Manufacture of products of wood, cork, straw and plaiting materials; Manufacture of veneer sheets and wood-based panels; Manufacture of builders' carpentry and joinery; Manufacture of wooden containers; Manufacture of furniture of any kind, any material (except stone, concrete or ceramic) for any place and purpose.

**Manufacture of basic and fabricated metal products** including the manufacture of basic iron and steel; Manufacture of basic precious and other non-ferrous metals; Casting of metals, including the manufacture of semi-finished products and various castings by a casting process; Manufacture of structural metal products; Manufacture of tanks, reservoirs and containers of metal; Manufacture of steam generators, except central heating hot water boilers; Manufacture of other fabricated metal products; Metalworking service activities; Forging, pressing, stamping and roll-forming of metals; Powder metallurgy; Treatment and coating of metals; Machining; manufacture of cutlery, hand tools and general hardware; Manufacture of other fabricated metal products.

**Manufacture of textiles and apparel** including preparation and spinning of textile fibers; textile weaving, finishing of textiles and wearing apparel; manufacture of made-up textile articles, except apparel (e.g. household linen, blankets, rugs, cordage etc.); all tailoring (ready-to-wear or made-to-measure), in all materials (e.g. leather, fabric, knitted and crocheted fabrics etc.), of all items of clothing (e.g. outerwear, underwear for men, women or children; work, city or casual clothing etc.) and accessories.

**Manufacture of paper and paper products** including the manufacture of pulp, paper and converted paper products. The manufacture of these products is grouped together because they constitute a series of vertically connected processes. Converted paper products are made from paper and other materials by various cutting and shaping techniques, including coating and laminating activities. The paper articles may be printed (e.g. wallpaper, gift wrap etc.), as long as the printing of information is not the main purpose.

**Manufacture of machinery and equipment, including electrical** including the manufacture of products that generate, distribute and use electrical power; manufacture of electrical lighting, signaling equipment and electric household appliances; Manufacture of machinery and equipment that act independently on materials either mechanically or thermally or perform operations on materials (such as handling, spraying, weighing or packing), including their mechanical components that produce and apply force, and any specially manufactured primary parts; Manufacture of fixed and mobile or hand-held devices, regardless of whether they are designed for industrial, building and civil engineering, agricultural or home use; Manufacture of special equipment for passenger or freight transport within demarcated premises. This division distinguishes between the manufacture of special-purpose machinery, i.e. machinery for exclusive use in an ISIC industry or a small cluster of ISIC industries, and general-purpose machinery, i.e. machinery that is being used in a wide range of ISIC industries.

**Electric and hybrid vehicle repair** including all activities (except manufacture and renting) related to motor vehicles, motorcycles, lorries and trucks, such as the wholesale and retail sale of new and second-hand vehicles; repair and maintenance of vehicles; Wholesale and retail sale of parts and accessories for motor vehicles and motorcycles; Activities of commission agents involved in wholesale or retail sale of vehicles; Activities such as washing, polishing of vehicles etc.

**Construction of buildings and specialized construction activities** includes the general construction of buildings of all kinds; New work, repair, additions and alterations; Erection of pre-fabricated buildings or structures on the site and construction of temporary nature; Construction of entire dwellings, office buildings, stores and other public and utility buildings, farm buildings, etc.; Specialized construction activities (special trades), i.e. the construction of parts of buildings and civil engineering works without responsibility for the entire project; building finishing and building completion activities; Plumbing; Installation of heating and air-conditioning systems, antennas, alarm systems and other electrical work, sprinkler systems, elevators and escalators, etc; Insulation work (water, heat, sound); Sheet metal work; Commercial refrigerating work; Installation and repair of illumination and signaling systems for roads, railways, airports, harbors, etc.

**Publishing, advertising, and graphic design** includes publishing activities such as Publishing of books, brochures, leaflets, dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, maps and charts; Publishing of newspapers, journals and periodicals; Directory and mailing list and other publishing; Software publishing; Acquisition of copyrights to content (information products); Reproduction and distribution of content in various forms (print, electronic, audio, on the internet, CD-ROM, etc.); Advertising; Market research and public opinion polling; Specialized design activities; Photographic activities; Other professional, scientific and technical activities

**Creative, arts and entertainment activities** includes production of live theatrical presentations, concerts and opera or dance productions and other stage productions; Activities of groups, circuses or companies, orchestras or bands; Activities of individual artists such as authors, actors, directors, musicians, lecturers or speakers, stage-set designers and builders etc.; Operation of concert and theatre halls and other arts facilities; Activities of sculptors, painters, cartoonists, engravers, etchers etc.; Activities of individual writers, for all subjects including fictional writing, technical writing etc.; Activities of independent journalists; Restoring of works of art such as paintings etc.; Activities of producers or entrepreneurs of arts live events, with or without facilities.

### **13-CERTIFICATION REGARDING TERRORIST FINANCING For Review**

Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing Implementing E.O. 13224

By signing and submitting this application, the prospective recipient provides the certification set out below:

1. The Recipient, to the best of its current knowledge, did not provide, within the previous ten years, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it does not and will not knowingly provide, material support or resources to any individual or entity that commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts, as that term is defined in paragraph 3.

2. The following steps may enable the Recipient to comply with its obligations under paragraph 1:

a. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient will verify that the individual or entity does not (i) appear on the master list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons, which list is maintained by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and is available online at OFAC's website:

<http://www.treas.gov/offices/eotffc/ofac/sdn/tl1sdn.pdf>, or (ii) is not included in any supplementary

- information concerning prohibited individuals or entities that may be provided by USAID to the Recipient.
- b. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient also will verify that the individual or entity has not been designated by the United Nations Security (UNSC) sanctions committee established under UNSC Resolution 1267 (1999) (the “1267 Committee”) [individuals and entities linked to the Taliban, Usama bin Laden, or the Al Qaida Organization]. To determine whether there has been a published designation of an individual or entity by the 1267 Committee, the Recipient should refer to the consolidated list available online at the Committee’s website: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>.
  - c. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient will consider all information about that individual or entity of which it is aware and all public information that is reasonably available to it or of which it should be aware.
  - d. The Recipient also will implement reasonable monitoring and oversight procedures to safeguard against assistance being diverted to support terrorist activity.

2. For purposes of this Certification-

- a. “Material support and resources” means currency or monetary instruments or financial securities, financial services, lodging, training, expert advice, or assistance, safehouses, false documentation or identification, communications equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel, transportation, and other physical assets, except medicine or religious materials.”
- b. “Terrorist act” means-
  - (i) an act prohibited pursuant to one of the 12 United Nations Conventions and Protocols related to terrorism (see UN terrorism conventions Internet site: <http://untreaty.un.org/English/Terrorism.asp>); or
  - (ii) an act of premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents; or (iii) any other act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.
- c. “Entity” means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group, or subgroup.
- d. References in this Certification to the provision of material support and resources shall not be deemed to include the furnishing of USAID funds or USAID-financed commodities to the ultimate beneficiaries of USAID assistance, such as recipients of food, medical care, micro-enterprise loans, shelter, etc., unless the Recipient has reason to believe that one or more of these beneficiaries commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts.
- e. The Recipient’s obligations under paragraph 1 are not applicable to the procurement of goods and/or services by the Recipient that are acquired in the ordinary course of business through contract or purchase, e.g., utilities, rents, office supplies, gasoline, etc., unless the Recipient has reason to believe that a vendor or supplier of such goods and services commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.

This Certification is an express term and condition of any agreement issued as a result of this application, and any violation of it shall be grounds for unilateral termination of the agreement by USAID prior to the end of its term.

(Name and Title), -----

(Name of organization) -----

(Signature and date) -----