

## **MEPI Alumni Grants FAQs**

1. When is the deadline?

There is no deadline. All applications will be reviewed on rolling basis. However, MEPI Alumni are encouraged to apply as soon as possible for the available number of awards.

2. What language can I submit my application in?

You can submit your application in English or Arabic.

3. What if I need more than \$1000 to implement my project?

The \$1000 amount is the maximum that can be allocated to projects. You are encouraged to think about small-scale projects for fast-track implementation and reporting.

4. What if my project can't be implemented in two months and I need more time?

Please note that awards will be for 2 months only and they will be for projects that will also demonstrate in their application the ability to complete the proposed work during this time frame. The end of the award does not necessarily mean the end of your project, and we recognize that some projects require longer commitment. We encourage alumni to think of the most sustainable solutions in their projects. Also, in addition to MEPI Alumni Grant resources, the Department of State, and the larger international donor community offer additional funding opportunities. MEPI Alumni Connection hopes to support MEPI Alumni through both targeted resources and training to apply for additional opportunities.

5. What is required for the application process?

The requirements for the application include a completed and signed application (in English or Arabic), a proposed budget, and a proposed project activities timeline.

6. What if I don't have a concrete idea?

We encourage you to check our pre-recorded webinar and presentation for further guidance and assistance. We also encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to chat with other MEPI Alumni, especially, in Facebook group discussions or via the MEPI LinkedIn Group to develop your idea. This exchange will also give you a chance to find further support from your fellow alumni.

7. Who do I contact if I have questions?

Please contact the MEPI Alumni Connection Team at [mepialumni@irex.org](mailto:mepialumni@irex.org).

8. Who can I have as team members? How many team members can I have?

You can apply as an individual. Additional team members from MEPI or other DOS programs are welcome to join you but are not required.

9. What am I responsible for as the MEPI Leaders Grants Awardee?

The MEPI Leaders Grants Awardee is responsible to IREX for all financial responsibilities and project deliverables including a completed Application as well as a signed Terms & Conditions of the Award (T&Cs), a Bank Wire Transfer Form with Information from your individual bank account, and a Final Narrative Report.

10. What am I allowed to spend my award funds on?

- Supplemental material (e.g. toothpaste for a dental hygiene webinar presentation); Internet membership, Webinars hosting websites or any other live streaming platforms memberships, etc.
- Any Social Media tools or memberships that would help in getting more views or visibility in your community
- Please refrain from social gatherings, traveling between regions, and monitor any governmental decisions and safety updates.
- Other costs may be considered as appropriate within the scope of the project proposal and local government regulations.

11. What am I not allowed to spend my award funds on?

- Purchase scientific equipment (e.g. microscopes, etc.);

- Purchase construction and/or building materials (i.e. lumber, hardware, flooring, siding, lighting, plumbing fixtures, etc.);
- Purchase furniture (tables, desks, chairs);
- Purchase alcohol.
- Give gifts or donations (small prizes for project activities are permissible);
- Tuition or educational expenses of the Team members.
- To supplement the Team's' income, including through honoraria, salary expenses, or consulting fees of any kind.
- To provide honorarium or salaries to alumni of programs funded by the U.S. Department of State.

#### 12. Can I use my award funds for travel?

Consistent with the scope of the project proposal and local guidelines and procedures related to COVID-19 health and containment precautions. Also note that due to the current situation, we encourage our MEPI Alumni to refrain from any gatherings or traveling and to adhere to safety precautions in their respective countries while implementing their activities.

#### 13. What are examples of projects I can create?

- Series of online webinars on mental health, job creation, job hunting techniques, peacebuilding, etc.
- Series of coordination sessions with local public administration to create an online platform to monitor donations distributions.
- Series of workshops for governmental officials, private sectors collaborators, or community members on best practices for local governance during crisis; or
- Peer training for other fellow community members on understanding IREX tools like L2D, Digital Storytelling, etc.

#### 14. What resources do I have access to and how do I access those resources?

You have access to resources including documents and learning platforms that will help you when applying for the grant. These resources will be posted to our website for you to

access at any time. You can also check our pre-recorded webinar along with an attached PPT presentation.

The MEPI Maktabat library also has several resources that might be of interest to applicants: [www.maktabatmepi.org](http://www.maktabatmepi.org).

15. If my project proposal is denied this time around, will there be other opportunities to reapply?

Yes, MEPI Leaders Grants are not the only framework for funding. There will be other opportunities for that as well.

16. Are all MEPI alumni eligible to apply?

MEPI Alumni from Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen are eligible to apply. We are not able to offer MEPI Alumni Connection activities to all alumni at this time. We encourage you to look for other DOS programs that are open to your country. Materials for other opportunities may be found [here](#), and via your local U.S. embassy's website or social media platform.

17. I am an alumnus of a MEPI program, but my country is not included. Why am I not included?

We are not able to offer MEPI Alumni Connection activities to all alumni at this time.

18. I am a MEPI alum from MENA, but I am currently studying in the U.S., can I still apply for the grant?

Only MEPI alumni residing in Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen are eligible to apply.

19. What if my MEPI alum team member is not a resident of the 12 countries, can I still partner with him/her?

All MEPI alumni team members must also be a resident of the 12 countries.

20. When will I know if my application was approved?

Approved and rejected applications are expected to be notified on a rolling basis between May to August 2020.

21. Does my country allow individuals to receive foreign funds?

Applicants are expected to check on the regulations and procedures related to receiving foreign funding and follow local laws and regulations of countries where their planned project activities will be implemented.

*For more questions and information, please contact the MEPI Alumni Connection Team at: [mepialumni@irex.org](mailto:mepialumni@irex.org)*