

Regional Assistance Program



Overview

From 2014 to 2017, the Regional Assistance Program (RAP) strengthened the capacities of 10 large civil society organizations that, in turn, worked with more than 200 smaller organizations toward social and political reform in the Middle East and North Africa. RAP engaged and supported 714 activists and community leaders in applying advocacy, critical thinking, election monitoring, and other key skills toward this reform and meaningfully engaged 28,650 citizens across six countries. With RAP support, partners contributed to four legislative and regulatory changes and continue to engage in two ongoing campaigns for policy reform.



Project-Level Impact



Yemen

Provided a lifeline to four media and civil society organizations that went on to engage other local organizations in peace-building, reconciliation, and confidence-building activities reaching **12,100 citizens**



Kuwait

Bolstered critical thinking, positive youth development, and civic engagement by supporting **11 youth advocacy initiatives** including the successful *“Legalize Kuwait”* campaign to allow home-based businesses



Algeria

Enhanced the capacity of a national children’s rights network by training **75 CSO leaders and activists** who in turn conducted 45 local trainings in 9 wilayas on project management, M&E, and children’s rights



Egypt

Supported domestic election monitoring coalitions of 3,000 field observers to monitor the 2014 presidential and the 2015 parliamentary elections in **27 districts**, documenting widespread violations such as vote buying



Morocco

Improved dialogue between citizens and MPs after the 2016 parliamentary elections by strengthening the Nouabook platform and training 10 new Nouabook ambassadors who then conducted **workshops in 11 regions**



Tunisia

Strengthened the capacity of 49 women candidates to run in the 2018 municipal elections with training on communications, good governance, and public engagement - **22 of the candidates have already registered to run for office**

About IREX

IREX is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to building a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world by empowering youth, cultivating leaders, strengthening institutions, and extending access to quality education and information. With an annual portfolio of \$80 million and 400 professional staff worldwide, IREX employs field-tested methods and innovative technologies to develop locally driven solutions in more than 100 countries.



Lessons Learned for Future Programming



Results and Impact

- Leverage manuals and curricula developed under RAP in future programs
- Focus advocacy capacity building on helping partners develop links with the citizens they seek to serve and build constituencies
- Measure ripple effects to better understand program impact
- Use success stories not only to communicate program results, but also to enhance partners' outreach

Mechanism Performance

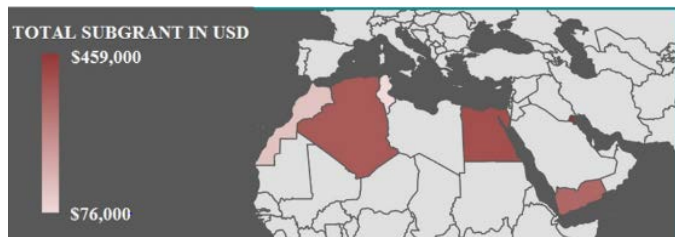
- Enhance program efficiency through the introduction of a fixed timeline for successive rounds of proposal solicitation and subaward issuance
- Utilize field presence to increase performance
- Flexibility and adaptability are key to results and impact in environments with political uncertainty and security risks

Capacity Building & Technical Assistance

- Increased use of the field office provides efficiency, higher quality results, helps mitigate security risks
- Training workshops and capacity-building activities should target more than one organization, at the regional or country levels
- Rely on in-house, regional, and local expertise for greater impact and efficiency, security risk mitigation, and beneficiaries' satisfaction

Regional Reach

Under RAP, IREX implemented 10 projects through 13 subgrants to 10 local organizations and one international organization in Egypt, Yemen, Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.



Partners

This project is funded through the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and implemented in collaboration with local partners.



Contact Us

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