



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

ARAB PARTNERSHIP: PROGRAMME STRATEGY AND GUIDELINES
(www.fco.gov.uk/arabpartnership)

Introduction

Announced by the Foreign Secretary on 8 February in Tunisia, the Arab Partnership (AP) is the UK's initiative to shape policy and strengthen support to those in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa seeking more open and plural societies. Partnership – with UK, regional and international actors - is the key principle of our approach.

The AP includes a £5m Programme Fund to support the building blocks of more open, plural societies.

The AP Programme encourages innovative and high-impact projects supported by partners in civil society or governments within the MENA region. Projects funded jointly with other partners or donors are welcome.

Strategic objectives

Each MENA country has a unique political and economic context. There is no one size fits all approach. However, on the basis of our analyses, we have identified six priority issues for action under the AP:

- Corruption
- Rule of law
- Political participation
- Freedom of expression and public voice
- Youth employability
- Private sector development

The overall objectives of the AP Programme are as follows:

Objectives	Sub-objectives (<i>not exhaustive, but an indicative list of priorities</i>)
To reduce levels of corruption in the MENA region	Enhanced capacity of civil society (inc. media) to play effective oversight and watch-dog role
	Strengthened government systems reduce opportunities for corruption

To strengthen the rule of law including the independence and effectiveness of justice systems	Strengthened human capacity, including of judges, lawyers, prosecutors and court staff to ensure due process followed
	More effective and fair criminal justice system (inc. respect for international standards, juvenile justice and rehabilitation)
	Increased access to justice for citizens (inc. court infrastructure improvements, support to informal and mediation mechanisms)
To enhance respect for public voice , and strengthen its quality and plurality	Improved respect for freedom of expression, including on the internet
	Strengthened independence of media, and improved quality of output
To enhance the space for and quality of political participation	More policy-based, representative political parties with capacity to campaign in elections
	More effective legislatures (including strengthened capacity of M.Ps and parliamentary staff) providing oversight of executive
	More free and open political systems (through constitutional revision, respect for civil and political rights, credible and free elections etc)
To widen opportunities for youth employability	Increased access to education, including vocational skills and English language training
	Increased access for youth populations to employment opportunities, including vocational training schemes etc.
To support private sector development	Stronger external trade links, improved regulatory environments.
	Job creation through advisory support to small and medium sized enterprises

Countries

The AP covers 19 MENA countries: Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Yemen and Iran. We cover all countries in our policy and strategic partnership work. However, project funding is available only for countries that meet the OECD's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

requirements. AP cannot therefore provide direct funding for projects in Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia.

http://www.oecd.org/document/45/0,3746,en_2649_34447_2093101_1_1_1_1,00.html

Who can bid

The AP Programme accepts project bids from any entity supporting AP strategic objectives. Bids will only be accepted if they have the approval of the relevant British Embassy in the country you wish to work. Single country project bids should be submitted via the relevant country project officer.

Bids for regional or multi-country projects can be submitted directly to the FCO's AP Programme team, but will not be considered without approval from the relevant country project officers.

Funding

There is no maximum or minimum value for bids.

All funds for 11/12 will be committed during the current bidding window (see below).

The Arab Partnership Programme cannot fund:

- Projects that do not meet ODA criteria or in non ODA-eligible countries (Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE)
- Capital purchases or investment in infrastructure
- Core funding/budget support
- Flights above economy class

Funding for the following should be kept to a minimum and proposals that include such elements will be carefully scrutinised to ensure value for money and impact:

- Consultancies or work undertaken by private companies or contractors
- Publicity, marketing and advertising
- Staff costs
- Participation in academic courses or research

Time-frame

The AP Programme accepts bids for activities up to 31 March 2012.

Multi-year bids: AP funding for financial year 12/13 (to begin on 1 April 2012) has not yet been announced. In principle, we will consider bids up to two-year long (for potential funding in 12/13 as further AP funding is agreed) but at this point, will not be able to guarantee funding beyond 31 March 2012.

How to bid

Country specific bids must be submitted through the relevant Embassy (country project officer).

Regional or multi-country bids may be submitted directly to the Arab Partnership Programme Team via the following mailbox: ArabPartnership.Programme@fco.gov.uk A covering mail should indicate which Embassies have been consulted (bids will not be considered by the FCO's Programme Board without the approval of the relevant Embassy).

All bids must be submitted on the standard project form (attached).

Bids must be accepted by 1900 GMT on Wednesday, 27 April. Bids received after the deadline will not be considered.

Successful bidders will be notified by the end of May. Feedback on unsuccessful bids can be provided, on request.

Contact details

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Country project officer contact details are below.

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