



Community Action Fund

MEPI Alumni Connection's **Community Action Fund (CAF)** aims to empower and mobilize alumni from Tomorrow's Leaders (TL), Leadership Development Fellowship (LDF), and Student Leaders Program (SLP) in the MENA region. Up to three \$10,000 grants are awarded to address community challenges and support sustainable solutions for development, sustainability, and resilience.

Know the Process



Call for Application

Team up with your fellow alumni and develop a comprehensive application.



Reviewing Applications

A selection committee will review and evaluate each application based on set of criteria and final MEPI approval.



Announcement

Successful teams will be notified of their selection, and grant funds will be disbursed accordingly.



Implementation

Teams will begin implementing projects, emphasizing community development.

Milestones

Call for Application

Next cycle for CAF will be launched in December 2025.

Info Sessions

Info sessions are announced with the launch of the next CAF cycle.

Implementation Phase

Program staff remain in contact with awardees throughout the implementation phase.

Reporting

Each awardee will provide a mid-term update and then a final report.



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Eligibility and Team Formation:

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the Community Action Fund?

A: All MEPI alumni, specifically from Tomorrow's Leaders Program (TL), Leadership Development Fellowship (LDF), and Student Leaders Program (SLP), are eligible to serve as team leads. Teams should consist of a minimum of two and a maximum of four members, including a team lead from the previously mentioned MEPI programs. Remaining team members can be either MEPI programs alumni or alumni of other USG programs.

Q: Can alumni from other US Department of State programs join the teams?

A: Yes, the remaining team members can be from other USG programs. The team lead must be a MEPI alum from TL, SLP, and LDF programs based in the list of eligible countries in the MENA region. Remaining team members should be from one or more of the list of the eligible countries in MENA but can be based abroad.

Q: Are alumni in Diaspora eligible for funding?

A: Alumni in Diaspora cannot receive funding but are encouraged to provide technical support to their teams as regular team members. Syrian alumni residing outside of Syria are eligible to apply.

2. Application Process:

Q: How can we apply for the Community Action Fund?

A: Teams need to submit a comprehensive application via the designated platform. The application period may be up to one month.

Q: Can alumni apply for both AVF and Community Action Fund at the same time?

A: No, alumni cannot apply for both funds at the same time, alumni should select and apply to one opportunity.

Q: What are the encouraged locations for project implementation?

A: Projects must be implemented in one or more of the following eligible areas: Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, West Bank/Gaza, and Libya.

3. Project Conceptualization and Ideas:

Q: Can you provide examples of project ideas?

A: Examples include initiatives for environmental sustainability, public health, youth empowerment, economic development, community safety, education access, housing, technology access, disaster preparedness, arts and culture, social justice, and expanding shrinking spaces.

Q: Are other project ideas encouraged?

A: Yes, alumni are encouraged to explore ideas aligned with funding objectives and eligibility criteria.



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4. Evaluation Process:

Q: How will applications be evaluated?

A: Applications will be reviewed based on criteria such as need and solution, community participatory approach, sustainability, impact, and MEPI legacy.

Q: Can you explain the scoring method?

A: The metric scoring method awards points in various categories, totaling **100 points**. Criteria include primary eligibility check, need and solution, community participatory approach, sustainability, MEPI legacy, and other preferences.

5. Timeline and Important Dates:

Q: When is the application period?

A: The next application period will be announced in late 2025.

Q: When will selected teams be announced?

A: To be determined for 2026 applicants

Q: When does the project implementation start?

A: To be determined for 2026 awardees

6. Support and Feedback: and Ideas:

Q: Can you provide examples of project ideas?

A: Examples include initiatives for environmental sustainability, public health, youth empowerment, economic development, community safety, education access, housing, technology access, disaster preparedness, arts and culture, and expanding shrinking spaces.

Q: Are other project ideas encouraged?

A: Yes, alumni are encouraged to explore ideas aligned with funding objectives and eligibility criteria.

7. Reporting:

Q: What is the required reporting?

A: Each award requires a mid-term update report on the status of activities and accomplishments to day as well as a final report.

Q: When is the final project report due?

A: The submission deadline for the final project report is at the end of the implementation phase.



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8. Additional Information:

Q: How can I request Peer-to-Peer Support for my CAF project implementation?

A: To request Peer-to-Peer Support for your Community Action Fund project implementation (CAF), please indicate your interest in Peer-to-Peer Support in the CAF application form. Once your project is approved, the MAC team will match you with a Supporting Peer Alumni or external expert to assist you throughout the duration of your project's implementation phase. Peer-to-Peer Support will begin when a Supporting Peer is assigned, and the MEPI Alumni Connection Regional Coordinator has the monitoring and action plan templates ready. The MAC team will ensure efficient and impactful Peer-to-Peer Support through extensive outreach and communications.

Q: How can alumni provide feedback to improve the process?

A: Alumni are encouraged to share their feedback, participate in surveys, and provide funding evaluations to optimize the Community Action Fund process.

Q: How can I seek support and assistance as an alum?

A: Alumni interested in applying for the Community Action Fund are encouraged to contact us by email at mepialumni@worldlearning.org. Alumni requiring assistance as part of our GESI and accessibility policies, can also contact us to receive assistance using the same email.

***The MEPI Alumni Connection is an initiative supported by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), administered by World Learning. The program aims to empower MEPI alumni, fostering their ability to make meaningful contributions to their communities in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region.*



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