Governance Integration for Stabilization and Resilience in the Middle East and North Africa (GISR MENA)

GISR MENA is designed to be used by missions and offices for analytical work, field implementation and capacity development of staff, implementing partners and host country institutions.

Managed by ME/TS, GISR MENA is a $95 million multifaceted single-award support mechanism (under GSA's OASIS IDIQ) that allows for buy-ins without competition. The period of performance is August 15, 2018 – August 14, 2023.

GISR MENA received USAID approval to utilize GUCs under the mechanism.

Buy-ins can be initiated to:

- Conduct assessments to understand shocks, stressors and changing political and social dynamics to inform governance, countering violent extremism (CVE) and conflict mitigation programming;

- Meet rapid response needs to address significant political or socio-economic shocks and unexpected governance opportunities;

- Test pilot activities related to stabilization, governance, conflict/CVE and resilience and adapt them for scaling;

- Share promising practices and lessons learned and strengthen knowledge and skills to address governance and fragility challenges;

- Develop bridge activities that help span gaps in governance programming while developing a new strategy or program or the transition from humanitarian to development assistance;

- Ensure the inclusion of youth, women and marginalized populations in governance and conflict programming.

GISR MENA supports the following primary technical areas:

LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT focusing on research, studies, and assessments with the aim of enabling adaptive management, promoting skill and knowledge enhancement, and supporting learning across programs.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE RESPONSE TO SHOCKS AND STRESSORS by supporting policy and institutional reforms, strengthen transparency and accountability systems, enhancing coordination between government entities or government and non-government actors, and developing capacity among host country partners.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE by encouraging collective action among citizens and supporting social cohesion, community organizational capacity, and strong collaborative relationships between citizens and local government.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES by supporting capacity development, improved planning, and citizen engagement in decision-making. GISR MENA can be used to improve small-scale infrastructure.

MSI
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Tetra Tech | Management Systems International (MSI) is the prime contractor with a team of approved subcontractors who collectively have a presence in all MENA countries. Subcontractors include:

Deloitte

Global Communities

Search for Common Ground

Navanti

Viamo

CONTACT US

For general questions and how GISR MENA can work for your Mission contact MSI GISRinfo@msi-inc.com

Buy-in Process:

Submit a scope of work to the COR

Create a concept and request assistance to develop it into a buy-in scope of work

Support such as assessments or stakeholder consultations to flesh out that concept

A co-design process with ME/TS and the MSI consortium to convert the concept into a scope of work

Finalize & Approve SOW

COR will request a proposal and budget from MSI for review and discussion with ME/TS and the OU

GISR MENA conducts the activity according to the SOW, in close communication with the COR and client-OU

GISR MENA Current and Completed Tasks/Buy-ins Organized by Thematic Areas

DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE & CONFLICT

ANTI-CORRUPTION MAPPING AND ANALYSIS MSI is conducting a desk-study analyzing current and past programs relevant to USAID anti-corruption objectives in the MENA region, to inform future anti-corruption program design and implementation.

JORDAN MEDIA SECTOR ASSESSMENT (MISSION BUY-IN) This media sector assessment included a Media Landscape Analysis, Digital Media Assessment and Online Survey, and four White Papers on Freedom of Expression; Media Education and Media Literacy; Gender and in Media; and Government and Media Outreach in the Age of COVID-19. The report provided recommendations on potential areas for USAID engagement, and helped inform the Mission's CDCS.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT (PSE) Developed a Reference Guide on Governance and PSE to provide regional DRG officers relevant models, best practices and lessons learned on integrating PSE into DRG programming in the MENA region.

USAID CENTER FOR CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION (CVP) COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM PROGRAMMING GUIDE (OFFICE BUY-IN) MSI updated and revised USAID's CVE programming guide and conducted several socialization events to introduce the new CVE guide to USAID stakeholders.

YEMEN POLITICAL MARKETPLACE ANALYSIS II (MISSION BUY-IN) Building on GISR MENA's earlier Yemen Task, the Political Marketplace Analysis II provided deeper localized analysis to support USAID's strategic review and engagement in Yemen.

GENDER & INCLUSION

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY PROFILES MSI researched and produced human rights profiles for nine GISR MENA coun-tries to serve as quick reference guides for use by ME/TS and USAID MENA Missions to inform briefings and internal discussions, shape broader analytical efforts, and contribute to program design efforts.

IRAQ GENOCIDE RECOVERY AND PERSECUTION RESPONSE – LEARNING AND PILOTS (GRPR L&P) (MISSION BUY-IN) This 2.5 year activity designed and tested five innovative gender-based violence (GBV) service models that addressed the needs of genocide survivors in Northern Iraq. MSI, with local partners, launched five pilot programs, including livelihoods, applied gender-sensitive negotiation, legal advocacy, adolescent girl empowerment, and psychosocial support. MSI also developed leadership and negotiation skills with the participants of these pilots to enhance their participation in community decision making, including in the development of safe public spaces for women and girls.

JORDAN GENDER ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT (MISSION BUY-IN) Conducted a Gender Analysis and Gender Assessment for the USAID/Jordan Mission to support and inform its new CDCS for 2020-2025, as well as future programming.

RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES (REM) PROGRAMMING SUPPORT ACTIVITY MSI created a series of visualizations and short reports to aid the understanding of and communicating USAID's role and responsibilities in responding to Executive Order 13926 on Advancing International Religious Freedom. These included an Infographic, Impact Brief, and five Regional Bureau one-pagers.

GENDER & INCLUSION (CONTINUED)

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUITY (REE) This activity supports local partners in Lebanon, Libya, and Yemen to map and analyze existing resources and efforts that promote racial equity in each country. Additionally, REE will build capacity of select local partners to develop an action plan to address gaps and/or build on opportunities identified during the mapping phase.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LEARNING

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM/PROCESS (KMS/P) MSI is supporting ME/TS to roll-out a KMS/P to improve access to learning, tools/methodologies/frameworks, and research and materials perti-nent to governance, stabilization and resilience programming, and to facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges across MENA Mission staff through an ongoing webinar series.

INFORMING STRATEGIC PLANNING

CORE RESEARCH MSI's core research activities have included the development of local governance (decentralization) legal frame-work profiles; Religious and Ethnic Minorities (REM) country pro-files; Comparative Analysis of MENA Subnational Governance; Local Governance in Conflict-Affected Settings; and Positive Youth Development (PYD) Programming in Conflict-Affected Contexts in MENA. Funds are available to MENA Missions to conduct conflict sensitivity trainings and conflict assessments.

COVID-19 IMPACT: SYNTHESIS ACROSS THE REGION (CISAR) MSI monitored news reports, and synthesized analytical products to generate regular briefing products to inform ME/TS, MENA Mission staff, and broader USAID staff on the evolving impact of COVID-19 on GISR MENA countries and the region.

JORDAN COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY (CDCS) WORKSHOP FACILITATION Provided tech-nical assistance support and co-facilitated the USAID/Jordan Mission's CDCS Results Framework (RF) workshop and final report.

RAPID ANALYSIS FOR YEMEN PROGRAMMING APPROACH This Actor Mapping and literature review on "Yemen's Political Marketplace: Understanding the Actors and their Geography" supported the mid-term review of USAID's Yemen Programming Approach (YPA). The report informed briefings held for senior level officials at USAID, Department of State (DOS) and the Yemen Affairs Unit (YAU), and brief papers, "Adapting to Change in Yemen" and the "Future of U.S. Policy in a Broken Yemen".

YOUTH

LIBYA YOUTH SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS (LYSA) Conducted a youth assessment incorporating a Positive Youth Development (PYD) lens to generate recommendations on the integration of youth devel-opment in current and future mission programming.

MENA YOUTH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE GISR MENA's core funding is being utilized to build on initiatives carried out by USAID's YP2LE mechanism and related platforms, tailoring them to the MENA context. The purpose is twofold: 1) to manage content in Arabic and lead a MENA group of youth on YouthLead.org and 2) to create a Youth Community of Practice (COP) on YouthPower.org to advance cross learn-ing and collaboration on Positive Youth Development (PYD) in the region.