



CALL FOR PROPOSAL

MANAGING THE SECOND EDITION OF THE RESEARCH INNOVATION FUND under the Arab Region Programme on Good Land Governance in Support to Inclusive Development, Peace and Stability

The purpose of this Call for Proposal is to solicit interest from existing or prospective Implementing Partners to manage the second edition of the Research Innovation Fund under the Global Land Tool Network/UN-Habitat "Arab region programme on good land governance in support to inclusive development, peace and stability" funded by BMZ and RVO. This will include contributing complementary resources (e.g. human resources, knowledge, in-cash and in-kind contributions, supplies and/or equipment, etc.) to achieve the common objectives outlined in this document and subsequently agreed in an Agreement of Cooperation to be stipulated between GLTN/UN-Habitat and the selected Implementing Partner.

Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest:	15 May 2025
Contacts for questions and submission:	heather.elaydi@un.org el.benmokhtar@un.org

I. Background of the Programme

The Arab Land Initiative was established in 2016 to address key land governance challenges in the Arab states by increasing coordination, collaboration, knowledge and information sharing among organizations and institutions active in the region. Knowledge creation and research on land-related topics is a cornerstone of the Arab Land Initiative and its partners' efforts to advance good land governance in the region.

In July 2020, the [Arab Land Initiative](#), led by [UN-Habitat](#) and the [Global Land Tool Network](#) with financial support from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), launched [the first edition of the Research Innovation Fund](#) as part of the "Arab region programme on good land governance in support to inclusive development, peace and stability". The Fund supports young professionals, practitioners and scholars from the region with the aim of gathering innovative ideas and approaches on land governance-related topics and increasing their engagement in the regional land sector network.

The first edition of the Fund assessed over eighty research proposals, selecting seventeen to develop into full papers with the support of a pool of senior reviewers from the Arab Land Initiative's network. These papers explore a broad range of land-related topics at the country and regional levels, including land and socio-economic development; women and land; youth and land; land and natural resources; land and climate change; land administration and its functions; land policies, laws and regulations; land-based investment; land markets; monitoring land governance and land tenure security; and innovative land management tools.

The present **Call for Proposal** invites interested organizations and institutions from the Arab region to submit applications to manage the second edition of the Research Innovation Fund, led by the Arab Land Initiative with financial support from BMZ and the Netherlands Enterprise and Development Agency (RVO).

II. Outline of the Activities

The Research Innovation Fund seeks to support young land professionals, practitioners and scholars from the Arab region interested in conducting research on land governance-related topics in one or several Arab countries. The main objectives of the research grant are to increase the information and empirical evidence on land-related issues in the region and to foster the interest and engagement of students, young professionals and practitioners in producing land-related research and becoming part of land sector networks in the Arab region.

This Agreement of Cooperation is for the management of the second edition of the Research Innovation Fund, which includes seven main responsibilities:

1. drafting the call for research papers (see Annex 1 for the call from the first edition of the Fund);
2. managing all correspondence with applicants;
3. selecting, with input from UN-Habitat and key Arab Land Initiative partners, a maximum of 15 research proposals to be developed into full research papers;
4. conducting at least two rounds of review of each research paper;
5. ensuring that the quality of research produced is of a high standard ready to be published;
6. managing and dispersing the funds to the researchers;
7. drafting a final project report for the Fund.

The total approximate budget available for the implementation of this agreement is USD 80,000 to be made available to the selected implementing organization in three instalments. The expected timeline for implementation is 18 months from the signature of the Agreement of Cooperation with the selected candidate.

III. Timeline and practical aspects for the submission of Expressions of Interest

A. Which organizations can submit Expressions of Interest

Institutions and organizations applying for the Agreements of Cooperation to manage the second edition of the Research Innovation Fund must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Be a **registered non-profit organization** (academic, civil society, intergovernmental and/or international organization) or any other organization that meets the eligibility requirements detailed in the tables below.
2. **Be based in one of the countries composing the Arab region.**¹

B. What information needs to be submitted as part of the Expression of Interest

Applicants should provide the documents listed below, including **(1) cover letter, (2) short portfolio - with annexes and (3) technical proposal**. Only complete submissions with all required documents will be considered by the selection board. Submissions from applicants failing to provide the requested information will be disregarded.

¹ Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Submissions must be in **English ONLY**. Supporting documents can be submitted in English, Arabic or French.

Table 2: Required information for submissions

<p>1. <u>Cover letter (max. 800 words)</u></p> <p>The cover letter must demonstrate the applicant’s capacities and experience relevant to the management of the Research Innovation Fund.</p>
<p>2. <u>Short portfolio (max 6 pages, excluding Annexed documents) of the organization</u> containing information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Organization’s vision, mission and objectives; b. Description of completed and current work relevant to the application; c. Organizational and management structure, including members of the Governing Board and their designations; d. Proof of membership to professional associations if any; e. Qualifications and technical skills of the personnel to be involved in the project and their CVs, explaining the status of such personnel (permanent staff, consultant to be hired for the project, etc.). If additional personnel will be hired to implement the Agreement of Cooperation, indicate so; f. Information on office space; g. Reference letters from past donors or partners; h. Legal Status / Certificate of registration/incorporation / Proof of registration in Country of Origin or Operation; i. Audited company financial statements (balance sheet and income statement) and auditors report for the last two years; j. Describe anti-fraud controls and provide formal procedures. k. State if the organization has a bank account in its own name to receive the funds provided by UN-Habitat. The organization must have its own bank account, which is under the name of the organization and not under the name of an individual or another organization.
<p>3. <u>Technical proposal for Agreement of Cooperation to manage the second edition of the Research Innovation Fund (max 6 pages)</u>. The technical proposal should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outline description of the activities the organization intends to undertake; b. Work plan and implementation strategy; c. Outline of the budget proposal divided in categories including the in-kind contribution provided (time from personnel, use of office premises and office assets, communication costs, etc.). All prices must be in USD and must describe the nature and value of contribution (in-kind or cash and value).

C. How to submit the Expressions of Interests or ask for more information

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in electronic format no later than **15 May 2025 (6PM EAT)** to **El Habib Benmokhtar** (el.benmokhtar@un.org) with copy to **Heather Elaydi** (heather.elaydi@un.org). Please include "**Submission – Second Edition of the Research Innovation Fund**" in the email subject line. All related questions or clarifications must also be sent to these email addresses. Applicants who send submissions to a different email address other than the ones specified will not be considered. The Expression of Interest and accompanying documents must be received in accordance with the instructions outlined here. Submissions from applicants failing to

provide the complete information (see section III b) to fulfill the basic eligibility criteria will not be considered.

d. Criteria to assess the submissions

Organizations will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the UN-Habitat IP Management Policy and Standard Operating Procedures. The selection board will evaluate all eligible and complete applications based on the criteria below.

Table 3: Criteria of evaluation (for your information only)

1. Technical capacity
<i>1.1 Experience with project implementation of this type, size and thematic area.</i>
<i>1.2 Qualification and technical skills of the staff involved in the project.</i>
<i>1.3 Proximity to and knowledge about the target population and presence in the project area.</i>
<i>1.4 Availability of adequate office equipment for implementation.</i>
<i>1.5 Formal procedures of the office to monitor project execution.</i>
2. Financial and administrative capacity
<i>2.1 Financial sustainability and relevance</i>
<i>2.2 Qualification of the applicant in terms of financial management.</i>
<i>2.3 Formal procedures and controls to mitigate fraud</i>
3. Quality of the financial Proposal
<i>3.1 The budget for the implementation of activities proposed by the implementing partner is: (i) cost-effective (i.e. the cost should be economical and prudently estimated to avoid any under/over estimation); (ii) justifiable/well supported; and (iii) accurate and complete.</i>
4. Quality of the technical Proposal
<i>4.1 The technical proposal is sound and responds adequately to the specifications and requirements.</i>

IV. Annexes

Annex 1 – First Edition of the Research Innovation Fund Call for Proposals for Research Projects on Land Governance in the Arab Region

1. Background

The Arab region is undergoing a decade of profound change and challenges. Noticeable progress in some countries and some sectors is clouded by the spiraling into social unrest, economic instability and violent conflict in others. With a growing frequency, yet unmet expectations of governance outputs across all sectors, results destabilization. Increasing knowledge about land and the way it is accessed, used and governed is key to understand the socio-economic transformations, societal changes and the various types of conflicts occurring in the Arab region.

Knowledge creation and research on different land-related key topics is a cornerstone of the BMZ-funded “Arab region programme on good land governance in support to inclusive development, peace and stability”, as part of the Arab Land Initiative². Implemented by different regional and country-level partner organizations, in collaboration with the Global Land Tool Network / UN-Habitat, the programme aims at improving the capacity of regional and national stakeholders in the Arab region to manage and administer land, peri-urban and rural land, to achieve inclusive social and economic development. As key part of the programme, the Urban Training and Studies Institute (UTI)³ based in Cairo, Egypt, in collaboration with the Global Land Tool Network implements different activities aiming to create, foster and diffuse capacities, training and knowledge related to land governance. Encouraging and supporting quality research based on solid methodologies for improved data collection and increased empirical evidence is one of the objectives of this collaboration.

2. Objectives and scope of the research grant

This call for proposals for research grants addresses students and young land professionals interested in conducting research on land governance-related topics in one or several countries of the Arab region. The objectives of this call are to foster the interest in land-related research and to gather innovative ideas and approaches. By supporting and motivating future academic and professional leaders in the field of land governance. The research grant will increase the information and empirical evidence on land-related issues in the region and foster the interest and engagement of students, young professionals and scholars in producing land-related research and become part of a land sector network in the Arab region.

3. Who is eligible to apply for the research grant?

1. Master and PhD students (social science, economics, law, multi-disciplinary land-related programmes, etc.) with interest in land management and land-related topics in one or several countries in the Arab region;
2. Land professionals and land practitioners with expertise and/or field experience on land related projects in the Arab region.
3. Young scholars working in universities or other relevant research institutions conducting research dealing with land-related topics in the Arab region;

Additional eligibility criteria:

4. Female applicants are particularly encouraged to apply.

² For more information visit www.glt.n.net and <https://arabstates.glt.n.net/>

³ Established 1956, the UTI is the ‘HBRC’ National Research entity of the Egyptian Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities

5. Applicants must be nationals or resident of a country of the Arab region⁴;
6. Applicants must be maximum 45 years old;
7. Applicants can apply individually or in group (max. of 3).

4. Thematic areas

Land governance is a cross sectoral topic that relates to different aspects of the social and economic life of societies, touches upon different sectors including planning, economy, human rights, governance, law, etc. - and has technical, social, economic and political dimensions. This call for research proposals invites applicants from different backgrounds to submit their proposals focusing on one – or more than one – of the following topics:

1. The nexus between land and conflict;
2. Land and socio-economic development;
3. Women and land;
4. Youth and land;
5. Land, natural resources (including water, minerals, extractives, etc.)
6. Land and climate change (incl. land degradation, etc.);
7. Land administration;
8. Land policies, laws and regulations;
9. Land-based investment, land markets, land value, land transactions;
10. Monitoring land governance and land tenure security;
11. Urbanization, planning, taxation and development control;
12. Innovative land management tool;

5. Research proposals

The submissions should contain:

- The name(s) and titles of the applicants;
- Copies of the ID(s) of the applicant(s);
- Proof of residency in Arab Country (in case if non-Arab Candidate)
- The themes of the proposed research (selected from the list above);
- The proposed title of the research paper;
- The geographical focus (one or more than one country in the Arab region);
- The outline (or table of content) of the research paper;
- An abstract describing the proposed research (max 2000 words).

For clarifications, please contact Heather Elaydi (heather.elaydi@un.org) or El Habib Benmokhtar (el.benmokhtar@un.org), indicating in the email subject line: "Clarification Request – Second Edition of the Research Innovation Fund".

⁴ Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.