



## Women on the Frontline

**Hivos, in collaboration with Oxfam Novib and PwC, has recently started a new programme aimed at strengthening women's organisations to contribute to the full and equal participation of women in transforming societies in the MENA region.**

Hivos strongly believes that participation of women in political and economic processes is particularly urgent in the MENA region during these times of transition and re-establishment of governments and political processes. The "Women on the Frontline" initiative is a powerful response to the rightful demands of women in the MENA region for gender equality and inclusion in all ongoing political processes. The programme is implemented in close cooperation with the partners in each of the designated countries. The programme is supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This three-year initiative supports the activities of women organisations in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Yemen and Libya, to enhance women's active participation in the political process. Next to supporting organisations' activities, the initiative will support the capacity development of the partner organisations.

The programme focuses on supporting new and emerging women's initiatives and organisations that started their activities just before or during the ongoing transitions. Four core areas for capacity enhancement of organisations have been identified within the programme:

1. Organisational capacity development
2. Development of legal skills and knowledge to demand gender sensitive constitutional, legal and policy reform
3. Development of skills and knowledge to demand full and equal participation in political and civic processes
4. Capacity to undertake civic education and awareness raising initiatives to promote gender equality

The content capacity development support will focus on three core areas: 1. gender sensitive constitutional, legal and policy reform; 2. full and equal participation of women in political and civic processes and 3. civic education and awareness raising initiatives to promote gender equality. The organisational capacity development will focus on strengthening the organisational structures and strategic planning skills of the partners in the programme.

The main implementers of the programme are Hivos, PwC and Oxfam Novib. Each of these partners brings to the table different, yet complementary skills and expertise aimed at contributing to the main goal of this unique joint collaboration: strengthening the capacity of women's organisations to bring about the full and equal participation of women and their organisations in the MENA region. The partners share the same vision for a just society, and each one will make its unique contribution to enabling local actors to work toward this goal.

For more information, please contact:

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