



NABNI

B4P FACILITY

**Nabni Building for Peace
(B4P) Facility**

NABNI STRATEGY

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1

Executive Summary

'Nabni' (نابني) meaning 'We build' in Arabic, is an initiative that seeks to further the Building for Peace (B4P)¹ approach, and which aims to support locally led reconstruction processes in conflict-impacted communities in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In doing so it seeks to address – in local areas of focus; the underlying drivers of conflict, renew social relations, create new economic opportunities and strengthen social cohesion in local communities.

Funded by the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** through the **KfW Development Bank**, Nabni as a Facility supports local civil society organisations in leading processes and projects that aim to build or rehabilitate physical or social infrastructure, strengthen governance, improve access to essential services, support or create livelihoods opportunities, or reinforce social ties at the local level. Promoting and strengthening peace in communities serves as the primary objective of the work supported by the Facility, and this orientation guides decisions around specific activities and interventions.

Nabni's work as a Facility is centred around three pillars. These are, providing:

- **Financing** – multi-year funding and equitable partnerships with local civil society actors in conflict and displacement affected communities in the MENA region.
- **Technical assistance and capacity strengthening** – for identified local civil society actors to support delivery as well as organisational priorities.
- **A platform for knowledge exchange and learning** – both between partner organisations and with a range of actors working on similar issues in the MENA region and beyond.

The **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** has been selected as the Facility Manager and hosts the Facility Management Unit in its Middle East Regional Office in Amman, Jordan.

¹ The Building for Peace (B4P) approach seeks out and supports the realisation of a common vision for the future, articulated by conflict-impacted communities. It seeks to use the opportunity and incentives that the restoration of infrastructure and services in conflict and displacement affected communities provide, to support economic and social empowerment and to contribute to strengthening social cohesion.

In the first phase of its operations starting in 2024, Nabni will partner with organisations in Iraq and Yemen, with subsequent phases envisioned including additional countries in the region.

Through all aspects of its work, Nabni seeks to foster a commitment to **inclusiveness** – with a particular emphasis on ensuring that the specific needs of women, men, boys and girls are considered and included in analysis as well as the design of activities, and to maintain **transparency** in its engagement and decision-making processes.

Nabni strives to adhere at all times to principles of equitable **partnership**, to ensuring that its role remains largely facilitative and that processes are **locally-led** and driven by all sections of local communities, their representatives and local civil society organisations rooted in these contexts. Recognising the varied and evolving contexts in the region, Nabni is committed to adopting an **adaptive and learning-oriented approach** to managing all aspects of its work.

This entails remaining open to dialogue – with partners and other stakeholders, to periodic reflection, as well as remaining agile overall to enable adaptation to changes and new information. Nabni is committed to having a **positive impact on the social and natural environments** in which it supports projects, as well as to the principles of conflict sensitivity and do no harm. We also strive to support interventions which have a sustainable long-term impact.



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Our Vision

Nabni seeks to further the B4P approach in target communities in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region by supporting interventions and processes that are **led by local actors** with strong linkages to communities. As a Facility, we seek to emphasise both the **what** – namely the outputs, and the **how** – the process through which these are achieved.

We seek to support and build:

- **A common vision for a peaceful future that is articulated and shared by all groups within local communities** – one that is inclusive, that strengthens the social contract with local governance structures, and addresses the underlying drivers of conflict
- **Physical infrastructure, the restoration of basic services and livelihoods opportunities in local communities** - in ways that help address grievances and promote equitable access for all groups that make up the community
- **Strong partnerships with identified local actors** - guided by principles of equity and a commitment to investing in and accompanying partners
- **Open, consultative opportunities and processes for learning and knowledge exchange** – among partners of the Facility, between partners and the Facility itself, and with other actors and forums engaged with similar issues in the region and beyond

Recognising the rapidly evolving and volatile contexts in the MENA region and the ambitions it has set for itself, Nabni seeks to adopt an approach that is **adaptive** to local needs and the context. Through periodic learning reviews over the course of implementation, as well as an ongoing process of consultation with partners and other stakeholders, Nabni aims to continually refine and adapt its approach and processes.



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How We Do It

In seeking to further the B4P approach in the MENA region, Nabni's work with local civil society organisations focuses on three broad pillars. These are:

Pillar 1

Multi-year financing based on Equitable and Respectful Partnerships

Nabni partners with local civil society organisations and finances activities of these organisations that seek to address structures and drivers of violence and exclusion. Activities developed in collaboration between Nabni and its partners are grounded in a thorough analysis of local conflict dynamics, while engaging all sections of local communities and a range of local stakeholders. Strengthening social cohesion and addressing underlying grievances and drivers of conflict and violence remain a primary objective – and the overarching aim of all activities supported.

Activities include those that support infrastructure rehabilitation or construction, enable the delivery of essential services, and interventions that aim to improve individual and communal agency, income, and self-reliance in local economies. Some activities also aim to improve the relationship between governance structures and communities at the local level - with a focus on reliable service delivery, increased transparency, and improved trust in these institutions.

Pillar 2

Technical Assistance and Capacity Development Support

Nabni seeks to continually invest in, and provide relevant technical assistance to, partner organisations. The nature and purpose of this support is mutually agreed between the Facility and partners and spans specific areas linked to the delivery of quality programming and processes, as well as wider organisational priorities identified by partner organisations.

In keeping with the Facility's commitment to promoting equitable partnerships, technical assistance and capacity development support is carried out in a spirit of mutual exchange – recognising the relative strengths of partners, is aligned as far as possible with other related or similar processes in partner organisations and is delivered in a range of forms – including capacity exchanges, secondments and visits, among others.

Knowledge Exchange and Learning

Nabni prioritises dialogue and learning on key thematic areas related to programming and engagement with local actors in crisis contexts. The Facility's Knowledge Exchange Platform will inform and facilitate sustained cooperation between partners, and between stakeholders from within and outside Nabni. This includes supporting Communities of Practice around key themes and areas of work of the Facility. The objective is to support knowledge-based policy development, donor harmonisation, and the capture of good practices to be able to learn, adapt and improve practice and programme delivery.



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Guiding Principles

The following principles lie at the core of Nabni's work, informing and guiding both the outcomes it seeks to pursue as well as the processes adopted to do so. Nabni will be guided by these principles in decisions concerning the operations of the Facility, as well as all aspects of its engagement with partners and local communities.

Inclusiveness

A commitment to inclusiveness is fundamental to the outcomes that Nabni seeks to promote and achieve. This includes a commitment to:

- Recognising and acknowledging the diversity of stakeholders and groups – both among civil society organisations as well as within local communities, and the differences in their experiences and perspectives
- Ensuring to the best of its abilities, engagement with and participation of diverse groups in processes supported by the Facility
- Making systems, processes and tools as accessible as possible to all stakeholders
- Proactively supporting the inclusion and participation of individuals and groups (and those representing them), that have faced discrimination, exclusion or marginalisation in the past.

Committed to an approach that takes into account the specific needs of all groups in a community: Within its commitment to inclusiveness, Nabni is committed, to prioritising the needs and interests of women and girls in the activities it supports. It strives to ensure that all analysis, consultation, planning, activity design, implementation and monitoring is strongly informed by an analysis of the specific needs of men, women, boys and girls. It commits to ensuring that the varied experiences, concerns, life situations and abilities of women, men, girls and boys are considered, and that processes and activities include adequate representation and enable meaningful participation of all groups and categories in a community.

Transparency

Nabni commits to upholding the principle of transparency in all aspects of its operations. This includes a commitment to ensuring that all relevant information is communicated to key stakeholders in a timely manner and that grant allocation and management decisions and the rationale guiding these are effectively documented and communicated – including on the Facility’s website.

Eligibility and selection criteria and processes will be clear, open, and accessible to all stakeholders. Nabni will also strive to involve a wide range of stakeholders, including local NGOs and communities, in consultations around key funding and programmatic processes and decisions.

Partnerships

Nabni seeks to play the role of an enabler. While partner’s projects themselves remain a key outcome that the Facility pursues, Nabni ensures that equal emphasis is placed on ensuring equal, mutually accountable and respectful relationships with partner civil society organisations. Nabni recognises the significant value that local civil society organisations have in bringing about positive change in their communities, based on their understanding of the contexts in which they operate, the trust local communities place in them, and the acceptance and access to local communities that they enjoy.

Through the provision of ongoing technical support (tailored to the specific needs of partners), open, continuous dialogue, and gathering periodic feedback, Nabni seeks to invest in and accompany partners. Beyond partner civil society organisations, recognising the significant body of experience already available in the region and with a view to sharing its own learning, Nabni also seeks to build strong relationships where possible, with local and national authorities, peer organisations or institutions working on similar themes, and with donors, among others.

Locally-led

Nabni ensures that local communities and all groups within them, local actors and groups with strong connections to communities, lead the process of analysing the causes and drivers of violence, grievances and conflict, and in defining and prioritising responses to these. Nabni is not prescriptive in defining projects and activities but rather encourages consultation by partner civil society organisations with a diverse range of stakeholders and groups, to arrive at a shared understanding of challenges and potential solutions. Through all work that it supports, Nabni emphasises its commitment to ensuring that strengthened social cohesion and peace promotion remain the primary objective and outcome of all proposed activities, with a view to achieving lasting outcomes.

Adaptive and learning-oriented

Nabni recognises the need for a dynamic and agile approach to its work and processes and commits to adopting an approach that is sensitive to changes in the operational context, that actively seeks feedback, that is open to learning and that adapts accordingly. Nabni adopts a multi-tiered approach with a view to systematically capturing and disseminating learning and ensuring that this informs adaptations to ongoing activities or processes, and future design.

This includes providing opportunities for participating civil society organisations to learn from each other and from other relevant stakeholders through peer-to-peer engagement. It will also be reflected in the feedback loops and open dialogue that the Facility will seek to develop along with periodic learning reviews – in support of an adaptive management approach. Nabni also seeks to serve as a platform for exchange among stakeholders with an interest in themes linked to its activities while also documenting and sharing learning and best practices among its own work.

Commitment to the Environment, Conflict Sensitivity and Sustainability

Nabni is committed to having a positive impact on the social and natural environments in which it supports projects and to the principles of conflict sensitivity and do no harm. We also strive to support interventions which have a sustainable impact long-term.

We support environmental and social considerations to be integrated into all Nabni funded interventions and promote environmental sustainability by ensuring projects do not have adverse environmental impacts on biodiversity and natural resources.

Nabni also aims to incorporate climate and environmental measures into projects to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. We also ensure that conflict sensitivity and contextual considerations are taken into account to avoid any adverse social impacts on communities.

Climate Considerations

Climate change and extreme weather events pose significant risks to communities across the MENA region – including those already impacted by conflict and displacement. Their role as a potential driver of local conflict is also potentially significant. Nabni recognises that efforts to rebuild need to consider potential threats posed by climate and weather. This includes an approach that considers local concerns, vulnerabilities, and needs for adaptation.



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