Local Initiatives under TAKAMUL III

BRIDGE | Strengthening the Capacity of the Syrian Civil Society
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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Local Initiatives in TAKAMUL III: Concept & Purpose

Local Initiatives (LIs) under TAKAMUL III
Small-scale, community-driven interventions inside Syria, implemented by local NGOs.

Main Aim:
- Strengthen **social cohesion**
- Promote **inclusive participation**
- Empower **marginalized groups,** especially **women, youth and people with disabilities**

How They Contribute:
- Foster **engagement** and non-violent communication
- Build **cooperation** across different community groups
- Rebuild **trust** and strengthen social ties
- Enhance **social and economic** resilience

Overarching Goal:
Reinforce **social cohesion at the community level**

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Primary Target Groups

One main group per initiative:
Women *or* Youth (18–27)

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs):
Must be included **whenever relevant and feasible** across all initiatives

Objectives of Local Initiatives

Local Initiatives aim to deliver participatory and conflict-sensitive actions that:

1. **Strengthen social cohesion & inclusion** across diverse community groups
2. **Empower marginalized groups** (women, youth & PwDs) to engage in community life
3. **Enhance youth leadership** and youth-led community participation
4. **Promote community ownership** in local development processes
5. **Build NGO capacity** for innovative, scalable & sustainable programming
6. **Facilitate dialogue & cooperation** between communities and local authorities
7. **Link social cohesion with economic participation** to reinforce resilience

Proposed Local Initiatives - Youth Focus

Youth Empowerment & Youth-Led Initiatives:
(not limited to the following examples)

- Youth-led **dialogue and engagement** with diverse groups (including PwDs)

- **Local economic empowerment** initiatives driven by youth priorities

- **Capacity-building workshops:** leadership, mobilization, conflict sensitivity & advocacy

- Training youth as **community multipliers & local leaders**

- Creating **safe, accessible spaces** for dialogue, skill-sharing & action

- Supporting **innovative youth-driven ideas** that advance social cohesion

Proposed Local Initiatives - Women Focus

Women Empowerment & Women-Led Initiatives
(not limited to the following examples)

- Increase women's participation in **social & economic life**, including women with disabilities

- **Skills-based workshops:** digital literacy, leadership, life skills

- **Safe, inclusive spaces** for dialogue, peer learning & shared action

- **Dialogue & advocacy with local authorities** to address community needs

- **Awareness & inclusive practices** on gender equality, disability rights & non-discrimination

- Support for **women-led innovative solutions** that strengthen social cohesion

Implementation Strategies

To ensure effective and conflict-sensitive implementation, the following **strategies** will guide local initiatives:

- **Community Needs Assessment:** Identify priority needs, gaps, and target groups.
- **Planning & Feasibility:** Set realistic targets and avoid operational burden.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide training and tools for NGO design, delivery, and monitoring of local initiatives.
- **Partnerships**: Collaborate with councils, community leaders, unions, and local actors.
- **Inclusion & Participation:** Ensure meaningful engagement of women, youth, and PwDs.
- **Do-No-Harm & Conflict Sensitivity:** Avoid exacerbating tensions or creating negative impacts.
- **Monitoring & Learning:** Use simple tools to track progress and capture lessons learned.

Implementation Mechanism & Roles under TAKAMUL III

Primary Implementer: The **co-applicant in Syria** leads implementation, field coordination, documentation, and reporting of Local Initiatives (LIs).

Main Applicant Role: Provides **oversight, compliance, and quality assurance**; does **not** implement activities directly.

Community-Based Approach: LIs are implemented in cooperation with **voluntary and community groups**, supporting outreach, facilitation, and community engagement.

Legal Coordination: Implementation is conducted in coordination with **relevant local authorities**, with all required legal approvals obtained prior to activities

Duration, Financial & Compliance Framework

Duration of Local Initiatives
Implementation period: **2 to 8 weeks,**
Includes all preparatory and execution activities

Financial & Procedural Framework
- Budget per initiative: **up to 3,000 EUR**
- Supports **small-scale**, community-driven activities
- **Main applicant,** in coordination with the co-applicant, leads financial management, documentation, and final reporting to GIZ.
- All implementation and financial documentation must comply with the **main applicant's policies** and be reviewed prior to submission to **GIZ.**

Expected Outcomes & Sustainability

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened social cohesion and increased **community trust**
- Improved **capacities** of women, youth, and vulnerable groups
- Increased **community participation and ownership** in identifying and addressing local needs
- Enhanced **institutional capacity** of local NGOs
- **Improved access to social services** through sustained engagement and advocacy with local authorities

Sustainability Measures

- Build **NGOs capacity** to manage and replicate activities independently
- Ensure **community ownership** from planning to implementation
- Use **local resources** (centers, schools, volunteers) to reduce costs and support continuity

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