**Background**

InterAction, in partnership with UNHCR and supported by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, is pleased to announce a call for candidates to participate in a regional urban learning exchange.

The premise of the initiative is to connect senior program representative of national/international NGOs working in non-camp/urban settings with programs identified as ‘good practices’ through a series of regional urban good practices workshops facilitated by UNHCR.

InterAction will cover a round-tripeconomy plane ticket (booked by InterAction), 4-5 nights hotel (host agency approved) and per diem at US government rates.

**Learning Exchange Program**

The selected NGO (international or national) spends a week with the good practice program focusing on the non-technical as well as technical components of what makes urban programming effective. Learning themes include urban beneficiary identification, accountable programming, working with hosting communities, host government relations and coordination. Learning will be documented and supported in a variety of ways including daily semi-structured observations during the visit, see below for more detail.

The first urban learning visit within this initiative took place in November 2015 focusing on urban child protection in Nairobi, Kenya and Johannesburg, South Africa.

This round of learning visits will focus on the Middle East and North Africa region.

**Criteria for Participation:**

* Actively **implementing** in urban areas.
* **Operational partner** of UNHCR.
* **Adaptability/Scale-ability** of current approach to urban programming
* **Sustainability** of programming, intent to continue support for affected population.
* **Complementarity** with the host/model program.
* Participants must be senior NGO program staff in positions of decision-making, able to influence program design and implementation available to travel the week of October 12-16, 2015.
  + Senior staff may include but are not limited to Deputy Directors, Senior Program Coordinators, Senior Field Coordinators.

**Expectations of Participant:**

* Semi-structured daily observations while on exchange. (guiding questions will be provided)
* Trip report within 2 weeks of return.
* Action plan for learning, presentation to organizational leadership
* In-country briefing with PRM, UNHCR staff and partners on learning.
* Debrief InterAction and members on learning and experience.
* Article for UNHCR [Urban Good Practices website](http://www.urbangoodpractices.org/pages/view/good-practice-examples) and [InterAction's website](http://www.interaction.org/).

**APPLICATION:**

In order to be considered to participate in this urban learning exchange NGOs must submit the following:

* Answers to all questions below in 400 words or less per question.
* Provide two institutional donor references (name, title, institution, phone, email)
* Include the CV of the NGO representative able to participate in the visit, as well as a back-up candidate.
* Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicants may submit up to three additional support documents such as annual reports, program overviews, program-related tools and evaluations.   
  
Please send applications to: [urbanlearning@interaction.org](mailto:urbanlearning@interaction.org).

**Deadline:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015

**Application questions:**

1. Please provide an overview of your NGO’s urban, non-camp programming.

2. What are your top five urban programming challenges? How have you tried to overcome them?

3. Describe three learning objectives your NGO would like to achieve through participation in this exchange.

4. How does your organization coordinate with and influence other actors?

5. How will the participating NGO representative share the experience with colleagues? What might your approach be to help institutionalize some of the good practices observed in your agency’s current or future urban programming?

**Potential Programs to Visit:**

Participants from the Middle East and North Africa region may go to:

* Egypt: An initiative that provides psycho-social support via a network of trained African, Iraqi and Syrian refugees. Counseling is for refugees, by refugees in accordance with cultural norms.
* Lebanon: A coordination body comprised of operational NGOs providing multipurpose cash assistance to Syrian refugees.