Opportunity Summary
This funding opportunity aims to support activities to improve inclusive, locally-oriented economic and livelihood opportunities in the Western Sahara focused on women and youth. To do so, the activities will employ targeted economic development and job creation initiatives that are informed by the availability of improved socioeconomic data and policy analyses. Activities will focus on identifying existing opportunities within the local economy, including small and medium enterprises providing goods and services for local communities. Working in partnership with economic and local stakeholders, the activities will undertake the following:

1. conduct research, surveys and data collection on constraints to local economic development in the Western Sahara,
2. complete an analysis of the data and needs assessment to identify gaps, opportunities, and recommendations for inclusive local private sector growth, including identifying sectors with existing or strong potential employment opportunities, and
3. implement a data-driven, action-oriented pilot project informed by the research that will address identified constraints to development and employment in one or more promising sectors.

Eligibility & Requirements:
- The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) seeks to support projects in the Western Sahara, specifically Dakhla, Laayoune and the surrounding areas. Applications that focus on activities in cities and territories other than those listed will not be considered.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit projects that include partnerships with local organizations that would work together on specific programmatic objectives or priorities and that utilize local expertise.
- In particular, it is strongly encouraged applicants not based in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to partner with local organizations.

Internal Nomination Process:
Interested applicants should submit the following documents:

1. JHU Limited Submission Cover Sheet
2. Proposal (maximum of two pages of text only, single spaced: 12-pt font and one-inch margins)
   (Note: figures, tables, and other reference material may be included in addition to the 2 pg. text limit)
3. Curriculum Vitae of investigator, including current external research support and publications
4. Budget (two pages maximum)

Questions? Comments? Email the Research Development Team at resapp@jhu.edu.