

## Call for Proposals

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# Non-Profit Cross-Border Funding Restrictions and the Impact on COVID-19 Response in the Indo-Pacific

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) seeks individuals or organizations to undertake research on cross-border funding restrictions affecting non-profit organizations (NGOs), and *how these restrictions have impacted COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian relief in the Indo-Pacific*.<sup>1</sup> The consultancy period is from December 15, 2021 through April 30, 2022. Applications are due December 10, 2021, but will be accepted on a rolling basis until available funds are depleted.

### Scope of Research

Restrictions limiting foreign or cross-border funding to non-profit organizations can severely limit the activities and operations of NGOs. Such restrictions often take the form of advance government approval, burdensome reporting requirements, bans on certain types of donations (e.g. from certain groups, or cryptocurrency bans, etc.), or bank requirements to gather additional reporting and auditing information.

Foreign funding restrictions may equally curtail the ability of organizations engaging in pro-democracy or human rights advocacy; education and awareness-raising; or direct services, including providing food, shelter, or medical care to those in need. For example, in India, the 2020 amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act severely hindered COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts during the country's devastating second wave, preventing critical resources from reaching hospitals, community-based organizations, and, ultimately, individuals in need.

ICNL is seeking an individual or organizational researcher to conduct a study employing both quantitative and qualitative techniques such as surveys, data analysis, case studies, interviews/fieldwork, and literature reviews to gather information and evaluate the impact of foreign funding restrictions on COVID-19 response and outcomes in the Indo-Pacific region. This study should be a 'deep-dive' look at example restrictions from multiple countries in the region (at least 6-9, including at least 3 countries in South Asia and 3 countries in Southeast

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this call, the Indo-Pacific includes most countries in Asia (East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia) and the Pacific Islands, but does not include Pakistan or Afghanistan. To verify eligibility, please email [asia@icnl.org](mailto:asia@icnl.org). Not-for-profit organizations are preferred applicants. For-profit organizations carrying out public benefit activities, civic space work, or with relevant expertise interested in applying should contact ICNL to verify eligibility.

Asia). Research should specifically examine (and attempt to quantify, where possible) how these restrictions have directly and/or indirectly impacted the ability of civic actors to engage in service delivery affecting public health and COVID-19 outcomes. Numerical data and efforts to quantify impact and outcomes would be especially helpful.

The study should include both in-depth case studies and regional/topical overviews providing takeaways and macro-level data. Interviews and remote/virtual fieldwork are encouraged, to provide further direct examples from CSOs on the ground and greater contextualization. Proposed research methodologies should be included in the proposal, and can be finalized in consultation with ICNL.

### **Scope of Work**

The individual or organizational consultant will be responsible for:

1. Conducting comprehensive research on cross-border funding restrictions that have been implemented in the Indo-Pacific, and examining the impact of these restrictions on the activities of NGOs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Research should include both qualitative and quantitative data, focused on civil society actors.
2. Developing a report highlighting the key findings of the research, providing in-depth case studies of at least 6 countries in South and Southeast Asia, and identifying regional trends related to cross-border funding restrictions and their impact on humanitarian and pandemic relief.
3. Developing secondary materials such as infographics, summaries, or briefers based on the comprehensive report and potentially participating in 1-2 webinars to discuss the report findings.

### **Content of Proposal**

Interested applicants should submit a proposal, of no more than 5 pages, addressing the following topics:

- Describe the scope of the research to be undertaken, including all research methodologies to be employed. Please include any revisions to the Scope of Research presented above, the methodology for conducting the research, and the timeline, including interim benchmarks and drafts of the report as well as follow-up activities, recognizing that activities must be completed no later than April 30, 2022.
- Describe applicant's experience dealing with the laws, policies, and regulations affecting foreign funding, philanthropy, and civil society, as well as undertaking legal and case study research and writing reports.
- If more than one person will be involved in this project, describe who will undertake different aspects of the project. ICNL reserves the right to approve or reject the use of any personnel.

- The cost proposal/line-item budget for this consultancy. The pricing for the cost proposal must be in USD and fully itemized. For personnel costs, please list each person to be involved in this project, the proposed day rate(s) and number of days. All other costs, if any, should be listed and explained. The proposed price should be inclusive of all taxes. ICNL expects to issue one Firm Fixed Price contract with a ceiling of USD \$18,000.

## Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures.
- Demonstrated experience of the applicant in conducting quantitative and qualitative research.
- Quality of proposed project, including the project's innovations, the proposed methodology/design, and feasibility of the project (e.g., activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results are realistic and attainable).
- Proposed budget and value for money.
- Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

## How to Apply

To apply for this consultancy, applicants must submit the following items by **December 10, 2021**:

- Proposal of not more than five pages, including line-item budget;
- Resume or curriculum vitae (cv) for individuals undertaking the research and writing the report; and/or
- Background information about the applicant organization if relevant (e.g., website links or informational materials).

Applications should be sent to [asia@icnl.org](mailto:asia@icnl.org), with reference made to "NPO Funding Restrictions Consultancy Application 2021" in the subject line. All application materials should be submitted in English. Questions related to this consultancy can be emailed to [asia@icnl.org](mailto:asia@icnl.org).

## Deadline

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until December 10, 2021. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.