

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to announce a call for proposals to deploy the recently adopted [OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance](#) to expand civic space and empower civil society in partner countries and territories.

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for projects meeting the criteria below.

Applications are due by April 15, 2022.

Background

Civil society plays a leading role in development and humanitarian assistance efforts, and in promoting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In all too many countries, though, civil society is subject to heavy constraints, and is not empowered to lead and contribute to development and humanitarian assistance initiatives.

A groundbreaking policy instrument recently adopted by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), a group of the world's major donor countries, can help to change this situation. The [OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance](#) identifies 28 key principles that donor governments and other stakeholders should follow to respect, protect, and promote civic space; support and engage with civil society; and incentivize civil society organization (CSO) effectiveness, transparency, and accountability.

The Recommendation provides a valuable source of best practices and principles to expand civic space and empower civil society, from supporting greater and more inclusive civil society participation in public policy (Pillar One, Paragraph 9), to investing in the leadership of local civil society actors (Pillar Two, Paragraph 4), to encouraging voluntary initiatives by CSOs to collaborate and co-ordinate amongst themselves and with partner country governments (Pillar Three, Paragraph 7), among others. Other key topics addressed by the Recommendation include countering mis- and dis-information, preventing misapplication of anti-money laundering and

counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) standards, addressing digital divides, and increasing the availability of core and program-based support to civil society partners.

The Recommendation sets out a practical blueprint, endorsed by the world's major donor countries, for how to enable civil society in development co-operation and humanitarian assistance – providing principles and guidance that donor governments, partner governments,¹ civil society, and other stakeholders can use to remove constraints on civil society and build an enabling environment for the exercise of civic freedoms. The Recommendation thus provides a powerful tool that civil society actors in partner countries can deploy, in tandem with their own advocacy and initiatives, to expand civic space and empower civil society.

Project Activities

ICNL invites proposals to deploy the [OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance](#) to expand civic space and empower civil society in partner countries and territories through engagement with donor governments, partner governments, civil society, and other stakeholders.

Activities that may be supported include (but are not limited to):

- Organize consultations convening civil society partners and donor government representatives to discuss local civic space challenges and how donor government programs and priorities can best address these challenges;
- Using the Recommendation as a guide, conduct a mapping and assessment of donor programs in-country, to identify gaps and opportunities to enable civil society in development co-operation and humanitarian assistance programs;
- Work with partner government development agencies to incorporate principles from the Recommendation into national development strategies, policies, and programs, including by increasing opportunities for participation by civil society in the creation and implementation of strategies and programs;
- Convene civil society partners and other stakeholders to perform a needs assessment of local civic space challenges and priority areas for improvement, and to develop and implement coordinated strategies for applying principles from the Recommendation to address these challenges and priority areas;
- Conduct trainings and develop informational materials to raise awareness among civil society partners of the Recommendation and opportunities to deploy the Recommendation in civil society programs and initiatives; and

¹ We use “partner governments” to refer to governments of countries and territories receiving development aid and humanitarian assistance, also known as “recipient governments” or “local governments”.

- Build and expand CSO coalitions to improve self-governance and capacity of the civil society sector, including through implementation and promotion of self-regulation, transparency, and accountability mechanisms.

This list is merely illustrative, and we strongly encourage applicants with innovative ideas and approaches not described above to apply.

Proposals may combine more than one of the elements listed above, i.e., engagement focusing on donor governments, partner governments, civil society, and other stakeholders. As appropriate, ICNL may be able to facilitate contacts with selected donor governments to advance proposed engagement on the Recommendation.

All project activities must be completed by November 15, 2022.

Application Instructions

To apply, applicants should submit the following items **in English**:

- Application coversheet (see below);
- Proposal (no more than five pages);
- Line-item budget (no more than USD \$25,000); and
- Resumes/CVs of person(s) responsible for the proposed project.

Content of Proposal

In five pages or less, please describe your proposal.

The proposal must address the following elements:

- The project concept, including
 - Description of key civic space challenges and/or challenges to empowering civil society in your context or location, and efforts by civil society to date to engage with donor country and partner country development agencies to address these challenges;
 - The project objectives and anticipated impact;
 - Detailed description of project activities and how these activities will contribute to the project objectives and anticipated impact;
 - Detailed explanation of how the *OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance* will be integrated into and support the project activities;
 - Other partners who will contribute to the proposed activities, including activists, CSOs, journalists, community members, academic institutions, and other stakeholders;

- Proposed targets of engagement, including donor governments, partner governments, civil society, and other stakeholders;
- Outputs (e.g., consultations, meetings, trainings, reports, toolkits, media campaigns, and/or policy proposals); and
- Timeline for completing the proposed activities.
- The applicant's specific experience and expertise related to the activities covered in the proposal, including experience with addressing civic space challenges and empowering civil society through engagement with development co-operation and humanitarian assistance programs; and
- The applicant's COVID-19 contingency plan, including policies with regards to travel and physical meetings, if applicable, and plans to address disruptions due to government measures (i.e., lockdowns) or staff illness.

Eligibility Requirements

This call for proposals is open to domestic civil society organizations located in countries currently listed on the [DAC List of ODA recipient countries](#).

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application instructions;
- Quality of proposal, including that proposed activities are feasible and designed to have an impact in deploying the Recommendation to expand civic space and empower civil society;
- Diversity of selected proposals with special weight given to geographic, gender, and intersectional diversity;
- Proposed budget and apparent value for cost;
- Demonstrated experience and expertise related to proposed activities, including experience with addressing civic space challenges and empowering civil society through engagement with development co-operation and humanitarian assistance programs; and
- Demonstrated capacity to exercise responsible stewardship of received funds.

Terms of Reference

All grant recipients will be required to submit a final report on activities conducted and project outcomes prior to receiving their final grant disbursements.

All project activities must be completed by November 15, 2022.

How to Apply

Interested applicants can apply by completing the application coversheet and submitting it, along with all required documents, by email (see instructions below).

Deadline

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until April 15, 2022. Due to the number of expected applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Application Coversheet

Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your proposal and other application documents, to ndutta@icnl.org. Please ensure that the subject of your email is "OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society -- Grant Application 2022."

Full Name:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address Line 1:

Mailing Address Line 2:

Mailing Address Line 3:

Country:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Click on the boxes below to indicate that you have properly completed the application.

- I have attached a proposal that is no more than five pages in length.
- I have attached the CVs of person responsible for the project.
- I have attached a line-item budget of no more than \$25,000.

ABOUT ICNL

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW (ICNL)

ICNL works with governments, civil society organizations, and the international community in more than 100 countries to improve the legal environment for civic space around the world. We believe that when people have the space to come together, positive, lasting change can be made. To achieve this vision, individuals must be able to join together, speak out, and take action to make the world a better place. Since 1992, ICNL has worked with our partners at all levels to promote and protect an enabling legal environment for civil society. Our international staff includes experts in all aspects of the laws governing free association, assembly, and expression, spanning from the local to global contexts. We also foster a worldwide network of organizations and individuals with in-depth expertise on a diverse range of issues relevant to civil society. Learn more about our work and browse our research at www.icnl.org.