



Call for Grant Proposals - Mozambique

Advancing Civic Freedoms and Strengthening Participation

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to invite proposals for small grants to support civil society organizations (CSOs), including community-based organizations (CBOs), women's rights organizations, youth groups and digital rights defenders working to advance civic freedoms and address threats to civil society's work arising from existing and proposed legislation in **Mozambique**. Grants of up to **USD \$25,000** are available for projects meeting the criteria discussed below. The activities funded by the grant must be completed by **November 30, 2026**.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until **March 31, 2026**, or until available funds are depleted. For more details and application instructions, please see below.

Background

Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Mozambique have operated within an evolving legislative and regulatory landscape that increasingly constrains the exercise of fundamental freedoms. While the Constitution guarantees freedom of association, assembly and expression, a range of existing and proposed laws relating to nonprofit regulation, public order management, media and communications regulation, national security, counterterrorism and online freedoms threaten the ability of civil society actors to organize, operate, advocate, and communicate freely.

In this context, ICNL seeks to support informed, strategic initiatives that strengthen protections for freedoms of association, assembly and expression, including through policy advocacy to promote enabling laws, and capacity strengthening to navigate threats. Specifically, this call for proposals seeks to support initiatives aimed at:

- Conducting research and analyzing existing and proposed legislation affecting civil society's freedoms of association, assembly and expression in Mozambique (e.g., security, media, digital regulation, public order, and nonprofit governance laws).
- Sharing comparative experiences and developing strategic approaches to address restrictions or leverage opportunities through legal reform advocacy, multisectoral dialogue, and engagement with national, regional and international human rights mechanisms.

- Strengthening the capacity of Mozambican civil society to identify, assess, and respond proactively to legislative and regulatory developments that may restrict civic space.

In support of one or more of these objectives, applicants may propose a wide range of civic space–related activities. (Please do not submit proposals that are primarily service provision or humanitarian-related.) ICNL welcomes projects that emphasize new and innovative approaches to civic space strengthening and protection. Initiatives that are innovative, incorporate digital technology, and are sustainable beyond the end of the project will receive priority.

Illustrative activities include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting CSOs to understand and respond to legal obligations to sustain operations and continue participating in local or national processes in the face of specific legislative restrictions;
- Documenting and responding to restrictive or arbitrary implementation of laws affecting freedoms of association, assembly and expression, and advocating for rights-respecting implementation through dialogue or public advocacy;
- Monitoring, legal analysis, and advocacy related to proposed or existing laws, regulations, or policies affecting association, assembly, expression, digital rights, or access to resources, including engagement with legislators, regulators, or oversight bodies;
- Supporting CSOs to engage with regional and international mechanisms to address civic space threats or opportunities and amplify domestic advocacy;
- Developing toolkits, publicity materials, multimedia, or other campaign materials to counter negative civil society narratives or raise awareness around civic freedoms issues; and
- Peer learning activities—such as workshops, exchanges, or communities of practice—bringing together civil society groups or subsets (e.g. women civil society organizations) to share strategies for advancing enabling environment reform and counter repressive practices.

Application Instructions

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit the following items **in English or Portuguese**:

- Proposal (see below)

- Line-item budget (no more than \$25,000 USD) **using provided template** (if unable to access, please email africa@icnl.org for a copy). **N.B:** all budgets should **include** the cost of a **project-specific audit**, which is mandatory for this grant
- CVs of staff to be engaged in the project
- Background information about the applicant organization (e.g., website links or informational materials)

Content of Proposal

In *five pages or less*, please describe your proposal. The proposal should address the following topics:

- The civic space challenge or opportunity the project seeks to address;
- A description of proposed activities, objectives, and anticipated outcomes;
- How the initiative will advance civic freedoms, legislative reform or improved implementation, or strengthen civil society participation;
- How the proposed project will be sustained beyond the end of the grant;
- Applicant's relevant experience and partnerships;
- A clear activity plan and timeline (all activities must be completed by November 30, 2026)
- Indicators or methods for assessing progress and success.

Eligibility Requirements

Open to any non-profit organization based in Mozambique.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures
- Demonstrated commitment to improving civic space
- Quality of proposed project, including proposed methodology/design, and feasibility of the project (e.g., activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results are realistic and attainable)
- Likelihood that the proposed project will enhance civic space
- Innovative and forward-looking approaches to civic space promotion and protection, incorporation of digital technology and sustainability

- Proposed budget and value for money
- Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

How to Apply

Interested applicants can apply by submitting all required documents by email to africa@icnl.org. Please ensure that the subject of your email is “**Civic Space Grant – Mozambique**.” Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until **March 31, 2026** or until available funds are depleted. Please note that ICNL is under no obligation to issue a grant and that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Questions about the grant opportunity may also be sent to africa@icnl.org.