

Request for Proposals on Public Finance and Civic Participation

“Strengthening Civil Society Effectiveness in Promoting Good Governance and Increasing Citizen’s Awareness and Demand for Human Rights in Zambia”

Introduction

ActionAid Zambia (AAZ) is part of the ActionAid Global (AAG) Federation, sharing common values and aims to drive social change towards a just, equitable and sustainable world. ActionAid Zambia works with poor and excluded women and young people, their organizations and movements, to address the structural causes of social injustice, gender inequality and poverty. This fight is in line with the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have identified the importance of addressing poverty alongside inequality.

Our Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable Zambia in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity.

Our Mission

To achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, organisations, activists, social movements and supporters.

With support from SIDA, ActionAid Zambia has been implementing the “Strengthening Civil Society Effectiveness in Promoting Good Governance and Increasing Citizen’s Awareness and Demand for Human Rights in Zambia” Project. The overall goal of the project is to *increase citizens awareness and demand for human rights in Zambia*.

As part of the project ActionAid Zambia is looking to support CSOs with initiatives towards the following:

Public Finance/ Civic Participation

1. Strengthen CSOs and citizen’s role in promoting transparency and accountability in public finance management and institutional governance systems
2. Strengthen CSOs capacity to enhance citizens’ civic participation and state accountability for improved governance and public service delivery in Zambia

ActionAid Zambia is therefore requesting for proposals from interested and eligible organizations with track record in undertaking similar actions.

Key areas of focus

Proposals should focus on any of the two actions indicated above. Below are some key activities the initiatives should focus on:

Action focus 1:

CSOs applying under this action should focus on Strengthening Accountability in Public Debt Management

Key activities should include the following;

1. Sensitization and advocacy activities to promote transparency and accountability in public debt management.
2. Mobilising citizens/CSOs to demand for accountability and transparency in the acquisition and utilisation of public debt
3. Advocacy initiatives aiming at strengthening public debt management policy and legal framework
4. Public Awareness campaigns on the impact of public debt distress/Promotion of responsible public borrowing
5. Strengthening of the public Debt Alliances to unify the voices of stakeholders in public debt management
6. Innovative initiatives to capacitate and share public debt information e.g Creation of an online Public Debt Information Resource Centre and/or Creation of public debt literacy clubs in Secondary Schools, Universities and communities.

Action focus 2

CSOs applying under this action should focus on advocacy and campaign actions that strengthen civic and political participation

Key activities should include the following;

1. Challenging visible, invisible and hidden powers hindering equitable civic and political participation
2. Advocacy actions with key stakeholders such as Members of Parliament (MPs), government officials on gaps in identified legal and policy frameworks such as the Penal Code Act
3. Innovative and creative awareness raising initiatives on shrinking civic and political participation
4. Publication & dissemination of simplified IEC materials on civic and political participation
5. Support learning and sharing among HRDs defenders on countering shrinking civic and political space

Proposals seeking to address any interventions outside of these four will be rejected.

Additional requirements:

- All proposals must in addition to the above, demonstrate how they intend to mainstream issues of youth, women and disability

- This request for proposals is targeted at local CSOs that have carried out similar works in the past but also meet the set criteria below:
- Organizations must demonstrate how they will collaborate with other players/actors to achieve the objectives of their submitted proposals.
- Activities should demonstrate Covid Prevention measures
- ActionAid Zambia notes that collaboration and engagements with other actors is very important in achieving these objectives. Therefore, all applying organizations should clearly indicate which actors they will be collaborating/engaging with and how that will be done.

Grant Amount: K1,000,000.00

Geographical Scope:

The project should be implemented in any of the following provinces: Eastern, Southern, Muchinga, Luapula, North-Western, Western, Lusaka and Copperbelt

Eligibility Criteria

Full proposals are invited from registered local CSOs operating in Zambia. Profit making entities, Political parties, groupings or entities and CSOs that are involved or linked to political parties are ineligible to apply. The following criteria should be met;

- Registered CSOs and must be in existence for minimum 3 years
- Have external audited accounts for the last 2 years (2018/2019 audited accounts).
- Proof of compliance to statutory obligations i.e. ZRA, NAPSA
- Have a track record and proof of carrying out similar works.
- Have a bank account operated by more than one signatory
- Have articles of association, constitution of trust deed
- Have a functioning Board of Directors or Trustees

Applying organizations must also demonstrate working at the National, community and district levels.

Our Approach and Ways of Working

Using the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), AAZ supports, builds knowledge and skills of collective agencies of people that spearhead evidence-based lobbying and advocacy to shift power in people's favour. Believing in local initiatives and capabilities to ensure sustainability, AAZ is committed to strengthen its work through partnerships and be less of an implementer but more of a visible capacity builder and facilitator of change. AAZ ensures inter-linkages across priorities, programmes and projects. We ensure that initiatives are consistent from local to national level and adequately feed to federation and global initiatives. Recognizing the developmental challenges posed by patriarchy, AAZ applies a feminist lens and put women and young people at the centre of driving transformative change.

Evaluation process

Evaluation of the proposals will have the following applied.

A. Feasibility of design & Approach. The quality and feasibility of the application in terms of the appropriateness of the proposed methodology, innovativeness, and the work plan for achieving project objectives to offer significant impacts on proposed objectives and outcomes. Proposed mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation with objectively measurable indicators will also be appraised.

B. Impact on target group. The extent to which the proposed activity corresponds to the needs of target group(s) and will directly benefit them. Also, the degree to which it will directly or indirectly stimulate other organizations and resources to replicate, develop, or implement activities supporting the objectives and priorities of AAZ.

C. Management and Programmatic Capacity. Evidence of the capability to undertake and accomplish the proposed activities. Appraisal will be based principally on reference checks by AAZ; the background, qualifications, reputation, appropriateness and skills of its key personnel; and the “track record,” reputation, and achievements (including development of self-sufficient, sustainable activities) of the organization involved.

D. Sustainability/Financial Self-Reliance. The extent to which the funded activity will result in building and strengthening the capacity of the community and local CSOs, and whether the activity itself is sustainable or will stimulate sustainability of the organization.

E. Cost efficiency. The degree to which budgeting is clear and reasonable and reflects best use of organizational and grant resources.

F. Past Performance. Previous or ongoing experience implementing similar activities. This examines an Applicant’s track-record, which is a critical factor in assessing the capacity of the Grantee to implement the activity.

G. Cost Share. The local contribution reflects commitment to the project by the targeted beneficiaries and local institutions.

H. Youth and Women Inclusion. The extent to which the funded activity includes a gender component or represents a strong commitment to women and youth as beneficiaries.

Application Process

Download the following documents and fill them in according to the given instructions provided for within the documents.

1. Full proposal template
2. M&E results framework
3. Detailed budget
4. Check list detailing supporting documents to submit alongside the full proposal, results framework and detailed budget.



Applications should be emailed to Grants.Zambia@actionaid.org

Deadline for submission is Wednesday 27th January, 2021