Crisis Response Fund
Overview

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About the CRF

The CIVICUS Crisis Response Fund, established in 2007, serves as a mechanism for mobilizing quick, principled and effective advocacy responses to events that threaten civil society’s fundamental right to associate and assemble freely.
Plus 10 regional grants, including to Women Human Rights Defender processes
Lifeline Consortium

19 Donor Governments

7 NGOs

Give grants to CSOs

Give grants to individual human rights defenders and CSOs

[Logos for various organizations: SILC, People Need, ICNL, CIVICUS, Forum Asia, Freedom House, Frontline Defenders]
• 7 international non-governmental organizations
  • CIVICUS, ICNL, SILC, Forum-Asia, Freedom House, Frontline Defenders, People in Need (PIN).

• Lifeline is now supported by a Donor Steering Committee of 19 governments including: Australia, Benin, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay.

• For individual human rights defenders: Emergency funds offered by Freedom House and Frontline Defenders.

• Focus on CSOs facing restrictions on Freedom of Assembly and Association – CIVICUS, ICNL, SILC, Forum-Asia, People in Need

• Grants are for up to 6 months.
Advocacy grants

In response to restrictions on civic space around freedom of assembly and association.
- Public statements
- Draft laws and newly implemented laws
- Registration challenges
- Restrictions on assembly – protest space
- Arrests, intimidation & use of force
- Restrictions on accessing funding

ACTIVITIES
- Activities designed to address the highlighted restrictions
  - Workshops with government officials
  - Strategy development
  - National engagement*
  - Meetings with embassies locally
  - Op-eds, news interviews, radio & podcasts

Up to USD 10-20 000

No issue specific applications (LGBTIQ+ or disability, ECD, etc.)

No Freedom of Expression
Resiliency grants

• To support the most at-risk CSOs in taking preventive action to avoid or mitigate threats before emergencies erupt.
  • Digital security
  • Physical security
  • Protocol and procedural security
  • Emphasis on preventative support to CSOs

ACTIVITIES
• Training on digital security
• Assessment of online and physical security
• Use of digital and physical security experts to support the development & implementation of security protocols
• Pro-active crisis management support

“One of the organizations that [we] supported with a security audit was visited by Kenya Revenue Authority officers immediately after the general elections on 26th August…The staff at [this CSO] was able to block the officers from accessing their offices without the required documentations and permissions. They had also made arrangements to keep crucial documents away from the office premises.”

Up to USD 10-20 000
HOW TO APPLY

• Visit the webpage and read about the requirements to the grant:
HOW TO APPLY (See application form)

• Read through supporting documentation: Guidelines and protocols

• Complete application form & budget
  • Note that no personnel costs will be covered (this section must be left blank)
  • However, will cover an administrative costs
  • Any lines over USD3500,00 require three quotes from independent service providers

• Applicants are processed through checks on OFAC & SAM

• Funds can be disbursed through secure channels in the event of funding restrictions
HOW TO APPLY

• Depending on the risk criteria, grants will be issued in 2 or 3 tranches
  • Low risk: usually 80-90% of grant issued, remainder (reimbursement) issued once 100% spent.
  • High risk: Either two tranches with the first one being low (50-60%) or in three tranches.
  • The percentage is dependent on risk factors.

• Last tranche will only be paid on receipt of narrative and financial report.

• Impact report required 3 months after the conclusions of the grant.
Timeline: Processing time of 6-8 Weeks

- Application received
- Application Reviewed & Screened
- Approval/Revisions/Rejection
- Contracting period
- 3 months: Impact report
- Last tranche paid
- Financial & Narrative Reports
- Payment (1st tranche) & Implementation
OUTCOMES & IMPACT

• **Realistic** outcomes from interventions, must be clearly linked to the restriction and the proposed activities:
  • E.G. Statement from X government official to review the restriction
  • E.G. Media engagement with X number of media outlets
  • E.G. Backup system for website created and stored
  • E.G. 1 strategy developed and shared across X number of CSOs

• **Impact**: Broader change, ideally attributable to the grant received
  • E.G. Improved public discourse on CSO activities through increase in journalists writing on the restriction in favour of FoAA
  • E.G. Draft law stopped, repealed, amended in line with the calls of CSO activists
  • E.G. Bilateral diplomacy between two governments around the restriction
QUESTIONS?