



**CIVICUS**

Crisis Response Fund

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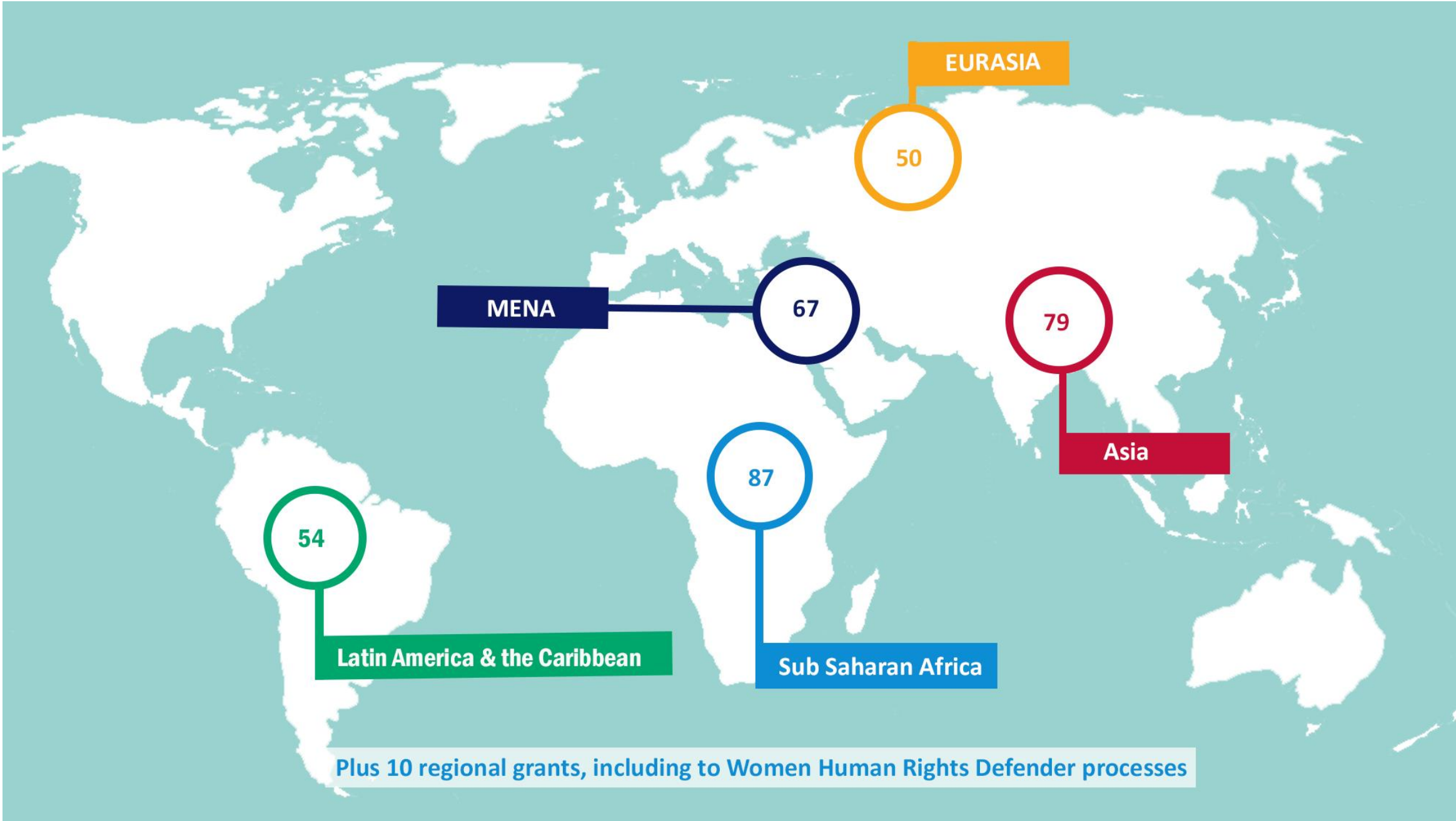
# Overview

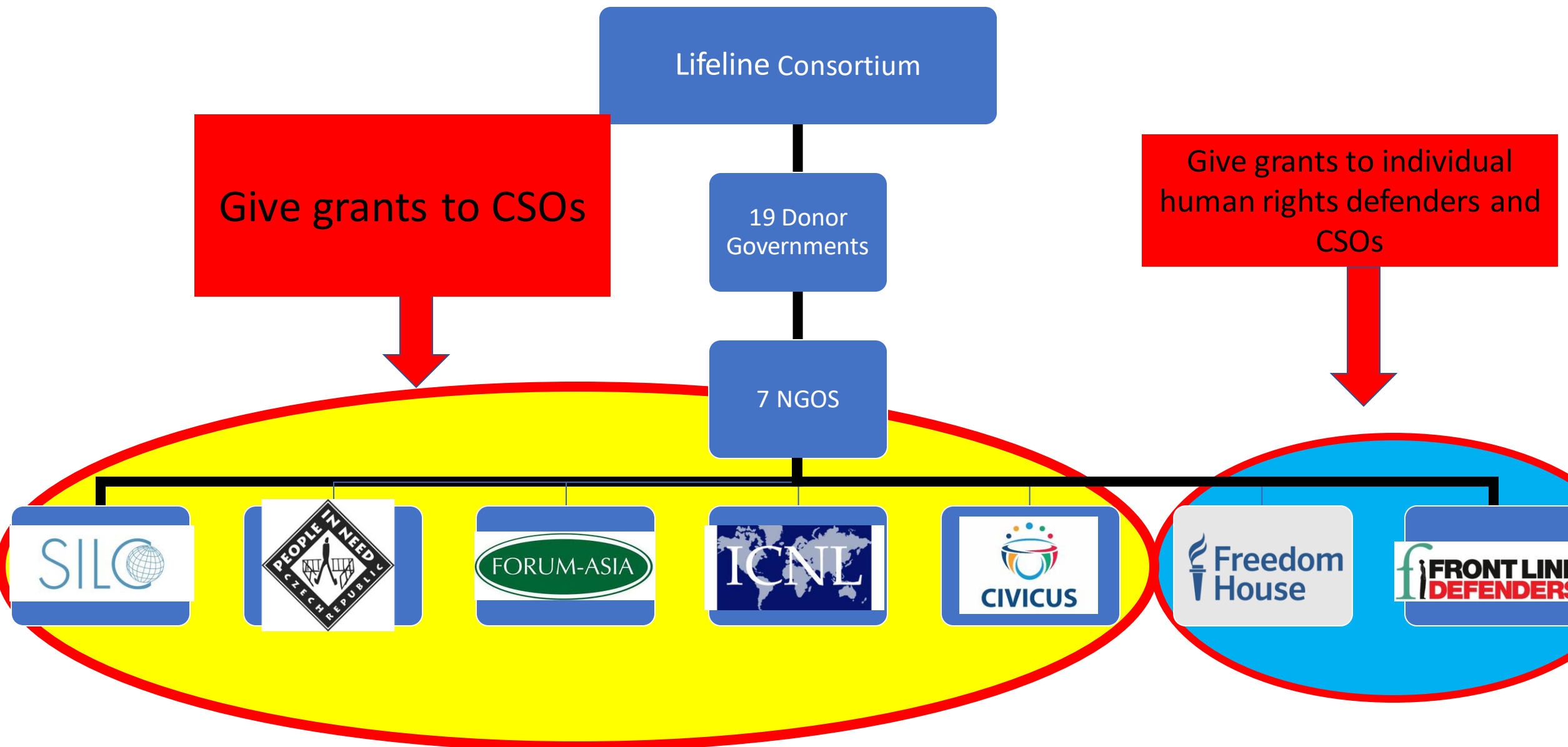
- About the Crisis Response Fund
- Focus areas of the Fund
- How to apply
- Timelines for processing the grant
- Outcomes & Impact
- Conclusion

## 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**







Lifeline Consortium

Give grants to CSOs

19 Donor Governments

Give grants to individual human rights defenders and CSOs

7 NGOS

SILO



FORUM-ASIA

ICNLI



Freedom House

f FRONT LINE 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



## 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

- **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

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

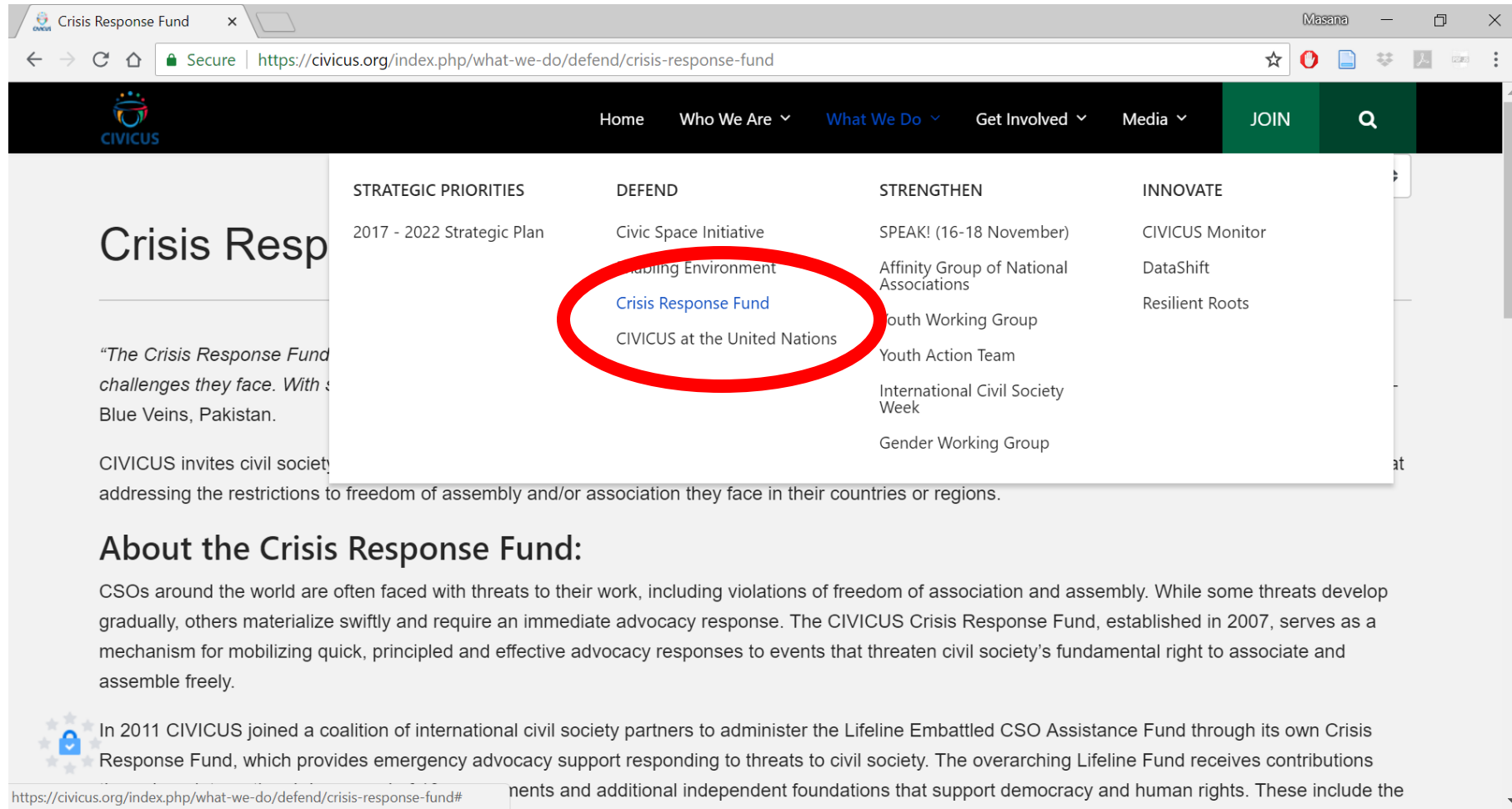
*“One of the organizations that [we] supported with a security audit was visited by Kenya Revenue Authority officers immediately after the general elections on 26<sup>th</sup> August...The staff at [this CSO] was able to block the officers from accessing their offices without the required documentations 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:
  - <https://civicus.org/index.php/what-we-do/defend/crisis-response-fund>



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the CIVICUS website. The URL in the address bar is <https://civicus.org/index.php/what-we-do/defend/crisis-response-fund>. The website has a dark navigation bar with the CIVICUS logo on the left and menu items: Home, Who We Are, What We Do, Get Involved, Media, JOIN, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, there are four columns of content under the heading 'STRATEGIC PRIORITIES':

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	DEFEND	STRENGTHEN	INNOVATE
2017 - 2022 Strategic Plan	Civic Space Initiative	SPEAK! (16-18 November)	CIVICUS Monitor
	Working Environment	Affinity Group of National Associations	DataShift
	<b>Crisis Response Fund</b>	Youth Working Group	Resilient Roots
	CIVICUS at the United Nations	Youth Action Team	
		International Civil Society Week	
		Gender Working Group	

The 'Crisis Response Fund' link in the 'DEFEND' column is circled in red. Below the navigation bar, the page content includes a section titled 'Crisis Resp' with a quote: "The Crisis Response Fund challenges they face. With s Blue Veins, Pakistan." and a paragraph: "CIVICUS invites civil society addressing the restrictions to freedom of assembly and/or association they face in their countries or regions." Below this is a section titled 'About the Crisis Response Fund:' with a paragraph: "CSOs around the world are often faced with threats to their work, including violations of freedom of association and assembly. While some threats develop gradually, others materialize swiftly and require an immediate advocacy response. 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." At the bottom, there is a paragraph: "In 2011 CIVICUS joined a coalition of international civil society partners to administer the Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund through its own Crisis Response Fund, which provides emergency advocacy support responding to threats to civil society. The overarching Lifeline Fund receives contributions nents and additional independent foundations that support democracy and human rights. These include the".

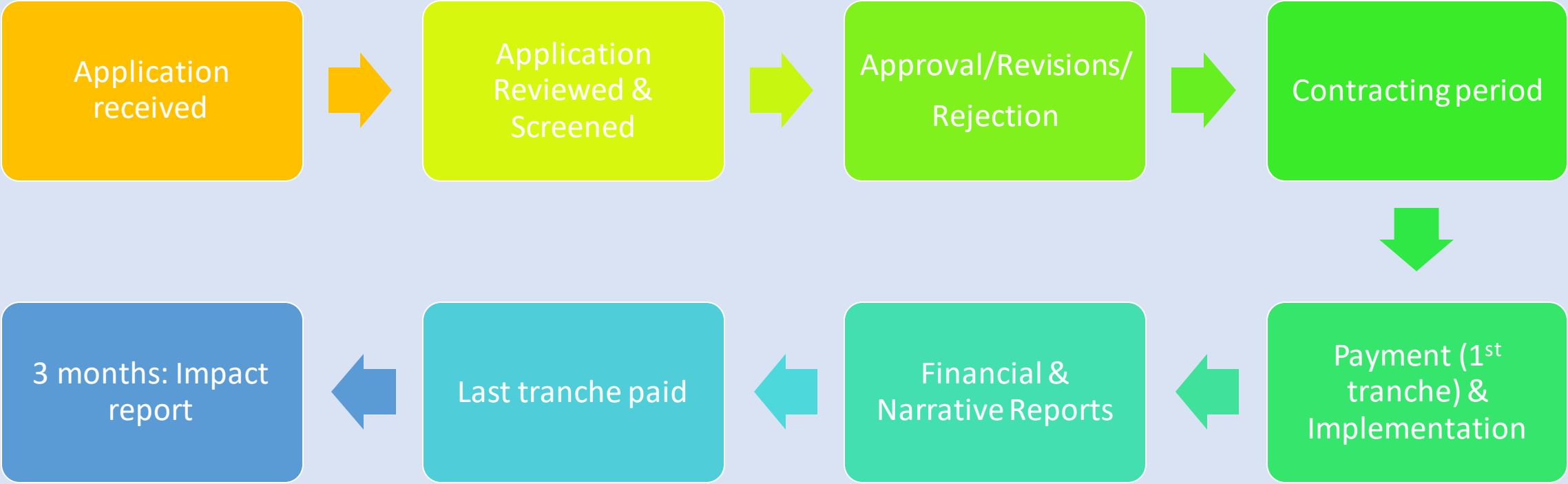
# HOW TO APPLY (See application form)

- 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



# 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



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QUESTIONS?