

CIVICUS SOLIDARITY FUND CONVERSATIONS

TARIRO FOUNDATION OF ZIMBABWE TRUST



Tell us a little bit about your organisation/activism and what kind of support was requested from the CIVICUS Solidarity Fund (CSF)?

Tariro Foundation of Zimbabwe Trust is an organisation for people with disabilities from Zimbabwe that works towards promoting disability inclusion and empowerment. The organisation's priority is to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are considered and their participation in civic space issues are realised. The support requested and received from CIVICUS Solidarity Fund was for the purpose of amplifying inclusive participation within the disability programmes. Inclusive participation would hereby entail that people with disabilities will be accorded the opportunity to participate as active citizens and this will remove the barriers hindering their full participation.

If you could summarize in one sentence what was most significant, in terms of learnings, from receiving funding (CSF and in general), what would that sentence be?

The most significant thing from receiving CSF was to bring awareness around the stigma and existing inequalities for people with disability. We also have greatly increased the participation of people with disabilities in the public sphere.

Other than the financial support, has being part of the CSF been helpful in any way?

Indeed, being part of the CSF has enabled our relatively new organisation to learn from other organisations working in various parts of the world. This has also enabled us to interact with and receive opportunities for funding. Interacting with the mentor has also exposed us to different ways of mobilising resources.

What did you enjoy the most and the least from being part of the CSF? How can the CSF improve their engagement with future applicants/grantee-members?

We enjoy being part of the CSF as it gave us the opportunity to network with various organisations from different parts of the world. Learning from their shared experiences was also beneficial. The CSF can however improve their engagement through having face-to-face capacity building trainings with their grantee-members so that they can maximise utilisation of the grants received.

How is your organisation's experience in mobilising resources?

The organisation has less experience in mobilising resources. Since its inception in 2018 it has managed to get two successful grants between 2021 from the United States Embassy, Harare and CIVICUS Solidarity Fund.

What are the main barriers you face in seeking resources?

The main barriers we face as an organization is the lack of expertise in writing competitive proposals and having systems that are not strong enough to meet the standards required by other funders. This has made our mobilisation of resources very difficult, but we are working towards capacitating staff to meet the demand.



What types of resources (financial and non-financial) are most important to your activism/organisation?

The most important non-financial resources our organization need that would enhance our work include a vehicle, computers, smartphones, and IEC (Information, Educational and Communications) materials. Skilled workforce is also essential for minimising the burden of the organisation to meet the donor standards.

What would be your advice to donors to facilitate access to resources for small and/or informal organisations?

My advice to donors would be that they need to capacitate the new organisations they are funding as well as to having an open-door and flexibility policy that would allow grantee-members to adjust their projects along the way to meet the desired project targets.

Exchange programmes amongst grantees or visits would also be beneficial to establish organisations and enhance their systems. This is something that the donors need to think about when providing funding.

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