



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The **ICCO Small Grants Facility** [ISGF] is an initiative to provide flexible, accessible and manageable technical and financial support for innovative, citizen driven and self-empowering initiatives by Zimbabwean Civil Society entities working to advance Active Citizenship, Human Rights, Democratisation and Conflict Transformation.

In engaging entities working on the theme of Active Citizenship and Conflict Transformation, ICCO seeks to make meaningful contributions to efforts to redress the root and structural causes of the Zimbabwean crisis; whose causes can be traced in the existing power asymmetries at various levels which invariably result in the lack of democracy, human rights abuses and violent conflicts. Thus ICCO's work in Zimbabwe is mostly in advancement of initiatives that work to address the widespread exclusion of poor and marginalised societal groups from political participation, the denial of access to justice and basic services as well as the increasing vulnerability of hitherto self sustainable citizens' groups.

In particular the ICCO bears affinity with initiatives that are concerned with the following issues;

- the marginalisation of citizens from decision making processes and their demobilisation from progressive forms of organising for collective social action and the promotion and protection of human rights,
- the weakening of Civil Society particularly through the closure of democratic space and the systematic denial of the fundamental freedoms of speech, assembly and association,
- systematic violations of human rights including the targeted violence and repression of Human Rights Defenders,
- disregard for and non-compliance by Public officials to International standards and norms of human rights, good governance, free elections and sustainable development
- the continued existence of and enforcement of repressive pieces of legislation as well as the denial of access to justice
- Unresolved conflicts and politically volatile contexts which remain vulnerable to the escalation of conflict

ISGF is therefore an integral component of the ICCO's work to help enhance the structural organisation and informed participation of poor and marginalised groups in Zimbabwe's development processes.

ISGF aims to responsively support the work of hitherto under-supported initiatives including those of a formative, emerging, alternative, once-off and grass roots nature. It therefore gives preference to non-traditional, grass

roots and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who tend to get marginalised by existing funding cycles. Relatively weaker and marginalised constituencies such as women and youth groups, social movements and rural organisations can thus access the Facility to help them to occupy greater space, increase their voice and strengthen institutional capacities.

By reaching out to a more diverse range of entities working formally and informally at various levels; the facility seeks to enhance the possibilities for Civil Society to build power from below, expand its reach, engage suppressed constituent groups, promote the innovation of alternative development models, utilise Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and strengthen mobilisation for social action. Beyond that, the Facility seeks to render available a resource stream that explicitly aims to be responsive to the changing needs of Civil Society working in a volatile and uncondusive operating environment.

As a funding modality the Facility is an independent, competitive grant making facility open to a diverse range of fundable initiatives and actors. It will be administered through a grant management protocol that makes it easier even for non-traditional and grass roots organisations to access support for their initiatives. An advisory Reference Group comprised of knowledgeable stakeholders will be set up to ensure the local ownership of the ISGF's strategic directions, learning and outputs.

The ISGF is distinct but complimentary to ICCO's ongoing support to its core-Partner Organisations who receive long term, often institutional development and core funding grants. Core-Partner Organisations compliment the ISGF by providing; technical and capacity development support in the areas of ICTs, access to legal justice, research and development as well as movement building.

Resultantly the ISGF is expected to catalyse, new, innovative and more relevant initiatives that will enhance Civil Society's responsiveness and effectiveness in the promotion of democratisation and conflict transformation in Zimbabwe. Most importantly it is hoped that the facility will stimulate citizen driven change processes that are grounded in local realities, owned by and accountable to the people most affected by prevailing circumstances and able to embrace new information and communication technologies without damaging organic connections between different actors.

ISGF Goal:

'To to provide flexible, accessible and manageable technical and financial support for innovative, citizen driven and responsive initiatives by Zimbabwean Civil Society entities working to advance Active Citizenship, Human Rights, Democratisation and Conflict Transformation'

ISGF Objectives:

- To promote the innovation, implementation and documentation of self-empowering and innovative initiatives to address the legacy of conflict and repression at multiple levels in Zimbabwe,
- To identify alternative innovative development models and practices on democratisation and conflict transformation for possible replication,
- To support the increased participation of marginalised, non-traditional and emerging Civil Society entities in democratisation and conflict transformation initiatives,
- To mobilise technical and financial resources for Civil Society actors including social movements, grass roots organisations, religious groups and informal associations to implement initiatives on democratisation and conflict transformation,
- To continuously develop and evolve management, accountability, monitoring and evaluation modalities that are responsive to the needs and capacities of CSOs working in severely constrained circumstances,

ISGF Expected Outputs

- Poor and marginalised groups have strengthened capacities to exercise their rights, implement citizen driven change processes and effectively participate in issues that affect their lives,
- Diversity and resilience of Civil Society actors including non traditional entities active in promoting democratisation and conflict transformation is increased,
- State actors and duty bearers are held accountable for the achievement of targeted policy and other commitments related to democratisation and conflict transformation in Zimbabwe,
- Sustainable conditions for peace and non-violent change processes are achieved in targeted areas,
- Access to legal justice is increased for repressed groups,
- Civil Society capacities to effectively mobilise their constituencies for coordinated multi-stakeholder social actions and lobby and advocacy initiatives is increased,
- ICTs are more effectively deployed to strengthen awareness raising, mobilisation and coordination of citizen driven initiatives,

Kinds of Initiatives that can be supported

The Facility is open to support a multiplicity of initiatives that promote democratisation, human rights, conflict transformation and good governance at various levels in Zimbabwe. It also includes the possibilities of support towards innovative, self empowering initiatives of a start-up, events-based, once-off and short term nature. Duration of Projects can vary from a day's event or stretch over multiple months within the period 1 May – 15 December 2011. A total of 20 initiatives each with a maximum budget of US\$30 000 will be piloted in 2011.

Decisions on grant allocations are most likely to be affected by the competition for limited resources. Priority will however be given to initiatives that:

- Espouse self empowering and innovative approaches,
- Effectively target vulnerable and marginalised groups,
- Deploy new media, arts and culture and multi-stakeholder processes in their interventions,
- Demonstrate clear results at the end of the Project cycle,

Kinds of Initiatives that cannot be supported

Whereas the Facility aims at providing flexible and accessible support certain activity lines are discouraged for inclusion in initiatives to be supported including;

- Ongoing Institutional core support e.g. equipment,
- International trips,
- Profit making initiatives,
- Initiatives with an end date beyond 15 December 2011,

Without being too prescriptive; decisions on individual activity lines will be made on a case by case basis in light of the objective of the Project.

Who can apply [eligibility and selection criteria]

Since the Facility has limited funds and will only pilot with 20 initiatives – priority is given to entities that:

- Have a legal standing,
- Are directly responsible for the preparation and management of the initiative and not acting as an intermediary,
- Have democratic decision making structures and strong leadership,
- Have well defined strategic goals and objectives,
- Have a demonstrable local presence and established ties with relevant local stakeholders,
- Are locally active in demonstrating clear commitment to addressing human rights, democratisation, conflict transformation issues,
- Are planning to take up activities that would be significantly enhanced by a small grant,
- Coordinate or participate in local and regional networks of like-minded organisations,
- Actively seek to include the perspectives of those served by or benefiting from its activities,
- Have a well-stated follow up/ sustainability plan,

Application process

The Facility will run from 1 May 2011 – 15 December 2011. The closing date for receipt of proposals is 14 March 2011 after which a Reference Group will meet to assess the proposals and make recommendations for projects to be awarded grants according to agreed criteria. Completed proposals are to be sent electronically to fambai.ngirande@icco.nl. Using the Reference Group's recommendations the ICCO Team will perform background checks on selected organisations before the contraction process can begin. In May 2011 legal contracts will be signed between ICCO and selected Entities for the award of Small Grants.

Additional Requirements for applications

The following additional may be requested from applying organisations:

- Latest audited accounts,
- Latest annual report,
- Registration particulars/Founding documents (constitution, deed of trust etc)

Reporting

Selected entities are responsible for submitting to ICCO, Annual Operational and Financial Reports at the end of the Project period. Adaptable templates for narrative and operational reporting will be availed to facilitate easier grant management. Technical support and capacity building particularly on Institutional development issues will be made available to participating entities. Monitoring of the Projects will be done by the Implementing Organisations according to the proposed indicators in the Project proposal. ICCO will engage external technical support to evaluate the entire Facility and audit the grants at the end of the Project period.