

GFF x CIVIC Platform

Pillar 1: Strengthening Civil Society Engagement and Community Voice in Domestic Resource Mobilization

Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Overview

The World Bank's Civil Society and Social Innovation Alliance (CIVIC) and the Global Financing Facility (GFF) have partnered to mobilize and equip CSOs and YLOs to contribute meaningfully to global and national health priorities, focusing on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N).

The GFF x CIVIC Platform is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from civil society¹ and youth-led organizations for two different but complementary pillars of this partnership.

- **Pillar 1** on Strengthening Civil Society Engagement and Community Voice for Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM).
- **Pillar 2:** Scaling Community-Led Solutions for Adolescent Health and Nutrition (see EOI for Pillar 2)

The purpose of this call is to invite qualified consortiums to express their interest in submitting a proposal for the competitive selection to implement Pillar 1 of the GFF x CIVIC platform. The selected consortium will serve as the grant recipient and implementing agency for Pillar 1, using GFF funds administered by the World Bank.

Individual organizations are required to partner with another organization, (a maximum of 2 more) to apply. The application must clearly explain how the proposed consortium will contribute to achieving the expected outcomes of the Pillar under the GFF-CIVIC Platform. While the ideal is 3-member consortia, two members could be considered in exceptional circumstances (i.e. demonstrate that they have depth and breadth that would have been covered by a third partner).

¹ "CSO" means a legal entity that falls outside the public or for-profit sector, such as nongovernment organizations, not-for-profit media organizations, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional organizations, labor unions, associations of elected local representatives, foundations, and policy development and research institutes. Government-owned enterprises or institutions are not eligible, unless they can establish that the enterprise or institution (a) has a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor; (b) can function independently from government; and (c) has the authority to apply for and receive private funds (such as government-owned universities or research centers).

The global consortium will work together to achieve the common objective of supporting CSOs and YLOs across GFF partner countries to **Strengthen Civil Society Engagement and Community in Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM)**:

- **The length of implementation of the project is 2 years**
- **Total funding envelope for Pillar 1: USD \$5 million**

Purpose of Pillar 1

Pillar 1 will provide competitive subgrants and technical assistance to civil society organizations (CSOs), youth-led organizations (YLOs), and coalitions to support an increasingly urgent and important DRM agenda. In this context, the focus will be on empowering civil society and youth organizations to monitor and advocate for greater and better domestic investment in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition, ensuring resources are used transparently and equitably.

Pillar 1 will leverage GFF-supported country platforms and World Bank Operations as key entry points to support coordination and coalition building across RMNCAH-N-focused CSOs/YLOs; support upstream engagement in Country Partnership Framework² development and implementation tracking; foster efforts to deepen partnerships with prominent global health advocacy organizations; and provide targeted capacity building to CSOs/YLOs for more effective advocacy on child, adolescent, maternal health priorities, including on budget tracking.

Pillar 1 will be implemented by a competitively selected consortium to:

1. **Sub-grant to local and national CSOs/YLOs** to improve community voice in health systems and DRM. This can be achieved through:
 - **Supporting Alignment and Engagement with World Bank Country Partnership Frameworks:** Offer guidance and training to CSOs/YLOs on how to align their activities with the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Frameworks. This can include (i) workshops on understanding the frameworks and identifying areas of alignment; (ii) involve CSOs/YLOs in the planning and implementation phases of the Country Partnership Frameworks to ensure their perspectives and expertise are integrated; and (iii) establish feedback mechanisms that allow CSOs/YLOs to provide input and feedback on the frameworks and their implementation.
 - **Improving Coordination and Networking for CSOs/YLOs in women, children, and adolescent health:** The Pillar would support CSOs and YLOs to coordinate and network effectively. This can include (i) forums to share best practices, emerging

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/country-strategies>

analytical work and other input into advocating for DRM in country; and (ii) encourage partnerships between CSOs/YLOs and other stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, and private sector partners.

2. **Foster strategic collaboration with key stakeholders, including to foster alignment with other global health institutions (GHIs):** Collaboration will be supported through (i) co-creating collaborative projects that involve multiple stakeholders, including GHIs, to address common health challenges and strengthen accountability; (ii) conducting stakeholder mapping to identify key players in the health sector and facilitate introductions and partnerships between CSOs/YLOs and these stakeholders; and (iii) supporting joint advocacy efforts that bring together CSOs/YLOs and GHIs to promote shared health goals and policies.
3. **Design and coordinate learning initiatives, monitor and document key results and system level change to generate knowledge products and support evidence-based application or replication of lessons learned.** Build CSO/YLO capacity in health financing, policy analysis, budget tracking, data literacy, and coalition-based advocacy. Build regional peer learning platforms and cross-sector collaboration to support stakeholder coalition building, country alignment, domestic resources mobilization for maternal, child and adolescent health and policy integration of impactful health solutions.

Capacity building efforts will aim to equip CSOs/YLOs with practical skills in health financing- such as public finance analysis; budget tracking, and expenditures reviews – and to generate and apply data through budget literacy campaigns and participatory monitoring of data investment case implementation, domestic resources mobilization and policy analysis. These interventions are expected to strengthen civil society’s ability to advocate for increased and more equitable domestic health financing, influence policy reforms, and enhance accountability.

Considerations for applicants

CSO Eligibility Criteria:

CSOs eligible to receive GFF x CIVIC grants must be legal entities that fall outside the public or for-profit sectors and are eligible to receive foreign funding under the country’s applicable legal framework. The CIVIC x GFF partnership encourages consortiums of CSOs to apply, **but a lead CSO which will hold the fiduciary and legal responsibility should be designated.**

Sub-granting:

The Pillar’s lead consortium partner will carry out sub-granting activities following protocols or mechanisms agreed to with the World Bank. It will design the program with an appropriate number of partners in the consortium to deliver on their proposed strategy and in line with the results they aspire to achieve under the overall objective of the Pillar. The interested lead consortium partner will need to demonstrate its capacity to sub-grant a significant part of the

USD 5 million grant to national and subnational CSOs in GFF partner countries. The lead consortium partner will also demonstrate clear objectives and methods for strengthening civil society organizations' capacity to mobilize communities, build awareness, and foster adaptive, collaborative ways of working, while integrating learning from implementation. The GFF x CIVIC Platform will award the consortium with the total grant amount and provide additional support to ensure compliance to World Bank protocols and standards. The Platform will provide additional technical assistance as it relates to RMNCAH-N.

Consortium Model:

In this platform, a consortium refers to a partnership among 2-3 legally registered CSOs or YLOs that form a partnership to deliver on the goals of one of the two GFF-CIVIC platform pillars. One organization will serve as the lead consortium partner responsible for fiduciary management, grant administration, and reporting. Partner organizations may be global, regional, national, or thematic actors contributing to implementation, technical expertise, or coordination. In the EOI application, the consortium needs to articulate its strategic value of its configuration. This approach is designed to encourage organizations to leverage each other's strengths and complementarities, including breadth and depth, to achieve the GFF-CIVIC outcomes. The implementation of the Pillar's activities can be done by both members of the applicant consortium as well as subgrantees, based on their respective strengths and capabilities

A strong consortium should reflect:

- Trans-local reach and embeddedness, including grassroots and community-based organizations with deep presence in GFF partner countries;
- Thematic and technical expertise on issues such as health financing, adolescent health, gender equity, or accountability;
- Capacity-building leadership, particularly strengthening smaller CSOs and YLOs through coaching, training, and institutional development;
- Knowledge management and learning systems, enabling documentation, synthesis, and cross-country exchange of what works and why, including a focus on results;
- Policy engagement and convening power, particularly the ability to connect civic voice to government, World Bank, and global health processes;
- Fiduciary and operational strength, with the ability to manage grants effectively and meet World Bank standards.

This approach draws on the successful [GPSA Green Accountability consortium](#), which brought together:

- World Resources Institute (WRI) – a global organization with extensive local presence in key countries providing policy expertise and fiduciary leadership;
- Huairou Commission – a trans-local network of over 5,000 grassroots women's organizations across 38 countries embedded in communities;

- SouthSouthNorth (SSN) – a Global South actor leading on capacity strengthening and knowledge management.

Applicants are required to form consortiums that reflect this kind of intentional, principle-driven design—blending regional/global health policy leadership, highly local grassroots networks, technical excellence, learning systems, and institutional resilience to amplify CSO and youth leadership in health systems and domestic resource mobilization.

Eligible consortiums of CSOs include youth-led and youth-serving organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These may include national, regional, and global organizations.

Eligible consortiums must include CSOs with legal registration that fall outside the public or for-profit sectors and are eligible to receive foreign funding under the country’s applicable legal framework.

Preferred Technical Competencies

Consortia applying under Pillar 1 are encouraged to demonstrate a strong mix of technical expertise, policy engagement experience, and operational capacity to support civil society leadership in domestic resource mobilization for RMNCAH-N. Preferred competencies include:

1. **Health Financing and Budget Advocacy**
Proven experience in public finance analysis, budget tracking, and advocacy to increase and improve domestic resource allocation for health—especially for maternal, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N). Familiarity with financing instruments used by the World Bank and GFF is strongly encouraged.
2. **Policy Engagement and Upstream Influence**
Demonstrated ability to influence upstream policy processes and institutional frameworks, including engagement in the development or implementation of Country Partnership Frameworks, national health financing strategies, or investment cases.
3. **Coalition Building and Strategic Convening**
Capacity to foster and sustain multi-actor coalitions that bring together CSOs, youth-led organizations, government stakeholders, and global health actors. Strong convening power and trusted relationships with key advocacy networks and policy platforms.
4. **Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance**
Experience supporting CSOs and YLOs through tailored capacity building on public finance management, data literacy, policy analysis, and participatory monitoring, with an emphasis on coaching, mentorship, and strengthening institutional sustainability.
5. **Knowledge Generation, Learning, and Exchange**
Ability to monitor and document civil society engagement in DRM, distill actionable learning, and connect cross-country evidence and practice. Track record in producing policy-relevant knowledge products and facilitating peer learning platforms.

These competencies should be collectively reflected across the consortium. Applicants should clearly articulate how each consortium partner contributes to the overall capacity to deliver on the Pillar 1 objectives.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for shortlisting at the EOI stage, the consortium must meet the following criteria:

- The lead consortium organization and all consortium members must demonstrate **the ability to legally operate in the proposed implementation countries**. This capacity can be demonstrated through one or more of the following modalities:
 - **Direct legal registration** in the target country;
 - **Formalized legal arrangements** (e.g., memoranda of understanding, sub-agreements, or hosting agreements) with in-country registered entities;
 - **Established partnerships** with legally registered CSOs or community-based organizations operating in the country.
 - Pre-existing or planned **sub-granting pathways** to national or subnational CSOs legally registered in GFF countries;

*(While full registration in all GFF countries is not required, applicants must **clearly describe the mechanisms by which they will ensure legal, fiduciary, and programmatic compliance** in the countries selected for sub-granting and engagement)*

- Demonstrate a minimum of three years of experience in RMNCAH-N and civic engagement, or social innovation;
- Demonstrate a minimum of three years of experience working on health financing related topics, and specifically on domestic resources mobilization agenda;
- Demonstrated familiarity and engagement with the GFF and the World Bank;
- Submit the EOI in English and demonstrate capacity to operate in French-speaking countries if relevant;
- All consortium members must be a registered civil society organization, designated as non-profit in a jurisdiction that participates as a member country of the World Bank; for-profit organizations are not eligible for this call.
- Have a verifiable average annual operating budget of at least **USD \$2.5 million** over the last three years;
- Demonstrate no political affiliation that may compromise project implementation
- Include at least three references that could be contacted should the proposal move to the next stage.

Submission Instructions

The organization that will serve as the lead consortium partner should complete 1 application on behalf of the Consortium.

EOIs should be submitted via [template](#) by **August 22, 2025**.

Submission must include:

- **Organizational Overview:** A brief profile of each organization in the consortium, highlighting their mandate, vision, mission, target beneficiaries, summary of organizational structure, and proof of legal registration. This is required for all member organizations applying as part of the consortium.
- **Experience areas related to the Pillar objective and sub-granting:** Summary of experience of each organization as it relates to RMNCAH-N, upstream civic engagement, and DRM.
- **Project Alignment Summary:** A summary describing potential activities and alignment with the objectives of **Pillar 1** and outlining the consortium's intended geographic focus. The consortium should highlight each organization's individual value-add, complementarity within the consortium to support the objective of Pillar 1 and demonstrated experience engaging with the Global Financing Facility (GFF) or the World Bank.

For more information, please [consult the FAQ](#) or contact: gffcivicplatform@worldbank.org