

GFF x CIVIC Platform

Pillar 2: Scaling Community-Led Solutions for Adolescent Health and Nutrition

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 in Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) (see EOI for Pillar 1)
- **Pillar 2:** Scaling Community-Led Solutions for Adolescent Health and Nutrition

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 2 of the GFF x CIVIC platform. The selected consortium will serve as the grant recipient and implementing agency for Pillar 2, using GFF funds administered by the World Bank.

Individual organizations are required to partner with two or more other organizations 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 number is three-member consortia, two members could be considered in exceptional circumstances (i.e. demonstrate that they have the necessary 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 in eligible [GFF partner countries](#)² to support Civil Society Engagement in **Scaling Community-Led Solutions for Adolescent Health and Nutrition**.

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

Purpose of Pillar 2

Pillar 2 will focus on **enabling the design, integration, and expansion of proven civil society innovations to improve access, equity, and outcomes in adolescent health and nutrition services**. This pillar will allow youth and civil society groups in GFF countries to engage effectively in the development and scale-up of effective programs to provide innovative health and nutrition services for adolescents. This pillar seeks to facilitate the integration of proven, community-based solutions into national health systems and service delivery platforms, positioning them for scale and sustained impact on adolescent health outcomes.

Pillar 2 will support the competitively selected CSO/ global consortium to:

1. **Sub-grant to local and national CSOs/YLOs in a selected number of eligible GFF partner countries³ (up to 12 countries out of 23 eligible countries)** to support CSOs, YLOs/YSOs, and grassroots actors to engage meaningfully in national policy and programmatic processes for the development and scale-up of adolescent health and nutrition services. This can be achieved through:
 - **Scale community-based innovations that improve service delivery access and quality.** Support CSOs, YLOs/Youth-Serving Organizations (YSOs), and grassroots actors in adapting and expanding innovations that have demonstrated improvements in access, uptake, and continuity of primary health and nutrition services—especially for underserved women, children, and adolescents. As examples, this could include models that:
 - Deploy or strengthen community health worker networks with new incentives, tools, service integration and harmonization with formal health systems;
 - Utilize community based digital health platforms to reduce dropouts in care; and

² Refer to this link to consult the list of GFF Partner Countries: <https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/country-support>

³ List of eligible GFF partner countries include: Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

- Overcome behavioral and logistical barriers to care through human-centered design and community-based delivery innovation.
 - **Support policy and systems integration of proven community solutions.** Facilitate technical assistance and dialogue platforms to help governments recognize, adopt, and integrate community-led innovations into health financing, delivery systems, and national health plans. Build pathways from pilot to scale, including institutionalization of innovations through public financing or inclusion in WBG-supported operations.
 - **Generate and leverage evidence of impact and cost-effectiveness.** Fund robust monitoring, data systems, and operational research to capture the performance of community-led innovations—demonstrating not just accountability but actual improvements in health outcomes, access, equity, and efficiency. Strengthen CSOs' capacity to track and communicate outcome-level results, and support integration of this evidence into decision-making forums.
2. **Foster communities of practice to disseminate learning and accelerate adoption.** Establish cross-country peer learning and innovation exchange platforms focused on maternal, child, and adolescent health and nutrition. Prioritize horizontal and vertical scale pathways (replication, adaptation, and policy integration), and connect CSOs with technical experts, governments, and GFF/World Bank teams to facilitate adoption and integration at national and subnational levels.
 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.**

Note: *This Pillar is not designed to fund direct service delivery, but rather to drive systemic change and accountability through civil society-led initiatives.*

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 platform requires the consortia 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 encouraged 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 2 are encouraged to demonstrate a strong combination of technical and operational capacities that reflect the following preferred competencies:

1. **Community-Based Health Innovation and Service Design**
Demonstrated ability to identify, adapt, and scale community-driven innovations that improve adolescent health and nutrition outcomes, including experience with digital tools, human-centered design, and integration with primary health systems.
2. **Policy Engagement and Systems Integration**
Proven track record of engaging in health policy processes, facilitating uptake of community-led solutions into national health plans, budgets, or delivery systems—particularly in partnership with government and World Bank-supported operations.
3. **Evidence and Results Orientation**
Capacity to generate, synthesize, and apply evidence on the cost-effectiveness, impact, and equity outcomes of community innovations; ability to support local organizations to build robust M&E systems and translate data into policy and practice.
4. **Subgranting and Capacity Strengthening**
Experience managing subgrants to local CSOs and YLOs, with tailored support in areas such as civic engagement, advocacy, program design, and institutional strengthening, especially for grassroots and youth-serving actors.
5. **Knowledge Exchange and Learning Facilitation**
Ability to lead or contribute to communities of practice, foster peer learning across geographies, and document and disseminate scalable models, with a focus on what works, for whom, and under what conditions.

These competencies should be collectively demonstrated across the consortium and may be distributed among members depending on their comparative strengths. Applicants should clearly articulate how each consortium partner contributes to the overall capacity to deliver on the Pillar 2 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 each of 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 eventually selected for sub-granting and engagement.)*

[The final set of up to 12 implementation countries would be determined in collaboration between the selected consortium and the GFF CIVIC secretariats]

- Demonstrate a minimum of three years of experience in RMNCAH-N, civic engagement, or social innovation
- Demonstrate a minimum of three years of experience working specifically on adolescent health and nutrition related topics;
- Demonstrate familiarity and engagement with the GFF and the World Bank
- Submit in English and demonstrate capacity to operate in French-speaking countries as relevant where activities are planned in Francophone or Lusophone countries
- 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 subgranting:** Summary of experience as it relates to subgranting and health and nutrition services for adolescents.
- **Project Alignment Summary:** A summary describing potential activities and alignment with the objectives of **Pillar 2** and outlining the consortium's intended geographic focus in up to 12 focus countries. The consortium should highlight each organization's individual value-add, complementarity within the consortium to support the objective of Pillar 2 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