

<p style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES TO SUBMIT THE GRANT APPLICATION STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION IN SRI LANKA THE ASIA FOUNDATION</p>

Note: Please read this carefully before you fill the grant application

1. Background Information

These grants will technically and financially support local civil society organizations (CSOs) within the eligibility criteria, to implement activities related to key issues including:

a) Ensuring improved safety and security for local communities, especially women and girls. *Illustrative activities* may include partnering with service providers to address GBV (including working with men to address violent behaviour); working with local communities to strengthen existing referral and redressal mechanisms; and piloting innovative community-led methods to address local safety and security concerns.

b) Ensuring conflict-prone communities have equitable access to local information and services and are meaningfully engaged in inclusive dialogue/decision making with local government service providers. *Illustrative activities* may include ensuring that information on specific legal, social, and economic issues and services for women is accessible in local languages; diverse local business communities have equitable access to resources offered by local authorities and economic development services; and local communities are equipped to collaboratively advocate for access to locally managed resources such as fishing, agriculture, and other local industries.

c) Enabling young men and women to better understand shared values (such as respect, trust, dignity, honesty, and cooperation) that underpin constructive dialogue between diverse communities and the role that these values play in strengthening civic education and civic responsibility. *Illustrative activities* may include providing values education programs for youth; promoting civic responsibilities and a fuller understanding of citizenship within academic/education spaces; and engaging policy/decision makers on the role of values and ethics education in promoting social cohesion and coexistence.

2. Who is eligible for the grants?

Grant funding is for local CSOs working towards addressing key issues mentioned above. However, in order to be eligible for the grants, an organization must fulfill the following eligibility criteria:

- I. Applicants must be registered organizations.
- II. Applicants must operate on a not-for-profit basis.
- III. Applicants must operate in one of the districts listed below. Organizations operating in multiple districts but within a single province will also be considered.
 - Southern Province - Galle
 - Uva Province - Badulla
 - Eastern Province - Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara

- Northern Province - Jaffna, Mannar
- Western Province - Kalutara
- Northwestern Province - Kurunegala
- Central Province - Kandy

- IV. Applicants must demonstrate experience of working on one or more of the following thematic issues currently or in the recent past: a) promoting social cohesion b) enabling the inclusion and participation of marginalized groups c) strengthening women's empowerment.
- V. The applicant's senior management tier must ensure women's representation of at least 30 per cent.
- VI. At least 30 per cent of the staff must be women.
- VII. Applicants must have at least 3 years of experience as an established CSO.
- VIII. Applicants must demonstrate a track record of collaborating with other CSOs to strengthen social cohesion from a perspective that benefits women, girls, and marginalized groups and communities.
- IX. Applicants must be able to provide recent audited statement of accounts on request.

3. How will grants support local CSOs through the project "Strengthening Social Cohesion in Sri Lanka"?

I. Strengthening financial capacity

These funds will provide support to selected local CSOs, to implement their own programs and priorities, including networking and alliance-building with other organizations.

II. Strengthening technical and management capacity

Selected CSOs will receive customized capacity building trainings on operational, financial, and monitoring, learning and evaluation (MLE) functions aiming to develop and strengthen the institutional and staff capacities of theirs.

4. What is the maximum annual budget allocation per organization?

The budget must be in line with the proposed project. However, the maximum project budget for an organization cannot exceed USD 35,000 (exchange rate: USD 1= LKR 198).

5. What is the expected project duration?

Between 6 to 12 months

6. What is the deadline for application submission?

17 September 2021, at 05.00pm

7. What are the Criteria for selecting proposals?

- Recipients represent Sri Lanka's regional, cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity.

- Recipients focus on key issues mentioned in section 1 of this ‘information & guidelines’ document.
- Recipients clearly describe the problem they seek to address, demonstrate how their work and mandate addresses the problem, and identify how they will monitor and measure success in achieving their goals.
- Recipients clearly describe how their work contributes to strengthening social cohesion through their mandate.
- Recipients clearly place the benefits for women and girls at the center of any proposed intervention.

8. What is the application process?

Step 1: Obtain the Grant Application Template, Budget Template, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Template, Information and Guidelines for the Grants, and the Project Flyer through links given in the Call for Proposals. Documents are available in all three languages. Grant Application can be filled and submitted in Sinhala, Tamil or in English.

Step 2: Read information and guidelines prior to filling in the application. Please make sure that your organization falls within the organizational eligibility criteria provided. Project proposals from organizations that have not fulfilled eligibility criteria will not be reviewed.

Step 3: Fill the application related templates. Please use the templates (including budget and M&E templates) provided to submit your application. Make sure that you share the relevant font as you submit the application form if in Sinhala or in Tamil. Use the standard font type as Times New Roman, font size as 12 and line spacing single. In addition, please make sure to limit your responses to the word count (if given) stated in the template.

Step 4: Make sure that you provide the supporting documents to support your responses, whenever necessary.

Step 5: Submit the grant application along with the supporting attachments and the font (if you are using Sinhala or Tamil) before the deadline.

You can submit your application only via email with a covering letter from the head of the organization.

9. What is the selection process?

- The Foundation’s project team will initially review applications based on the organizational eligibility criteria given above (this corresponds with the information you provide in the Section 1 of your application).
- Applications that meet initial review will then be assessed and shortlisted by an independent Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee, in collaboration with the Foundation’s project team, will select the final grant funding recipients.
- The Foundation will enter into agreement with the selected CSOs.

10. Will you be notified of the status of your grant application and when?

Yes, you will be notified in writing via email.

11. From where can you get more information/clarifications?

Email: sscproject@asiafoundation.org