

INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES TO SUBMIT THE GRANT APPLICATION

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION IN SRI LANKA

THE ASIA FOUNDATION

Note: Please read this carefully before filling in the grant application

1. Background Information

These grants will provide technical and financial assistance to local civil society organizations (CSOs) that meet eligibility criteria, to support projects that promote social cohesion through *one* of the key approaches listed below:

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 behavior); 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?

- I. Grant funding is available for local CSOs working towards promoting social cohesion through any one of the key approaches mentioned above. However, to be eligible for a grant, an organization must fulfill the following eligibility criteria:
- II. Applicants must be registered organizations that have been in operation for a minimum period of 3 years.
- III. Applicants must operate on a not-for-profit basis.
- IV. Eligible organizations should be currently operating in at least one of the ten districts mentioned below. The main location of your proposed project must be within one or more of the ten districts mentioned in the list below. Since this call is focused on district based CSOs, organizations currently working in more than five districts will not be considered for funding.
 1. Galle
 2. Badulla
 3. Trincomalee
 4. Batticaloa
 5. Ampara
 6. Jaffna
 7. Mannar
 8. Kalutara
 9. Kurunegala
 10. Kandy
- V. Applicants must demonstrate prior experience of working on one, or more, of the following thematic areas: a) promoting social cohesion b) enabling the inclusion and participation of marginalized groups c) strengthening women's empowerment.
- VI. The applicant's senior management tier must ensure women's representation and at least 30 per cent of the overall staff must be women.
- VII. 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.
- VIII. 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 organizational technical and management capacity

Selected CSOs will receive customized capacity building trainings on operational, financial, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) functions aiming to develop and strengthen the institutional and staff capacities of theirs. Customized capacity building trainings will also be provided on gender equality, social cohesion, and conflict sensitivity.

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 as of December 15, 2021: USD 1= LKR 198).

5. What is the expected project duration?

Between 6 to 12 months

6. What is the deadline for application submission?

January 25, 2022, at 05.00pm

7. What are the criteria for selecting successful applications?

- Recipients represent Sri Lanka’s regional, cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity.
- Recipients focus on only one of the key project approaches 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 proposed project 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 Strategic Grants through the links given in the Call for Proposals (documents are available in all three languages).

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 using all required templates provided to submit your application (including budget and M&E templates). Grant Application can be submitted in Sinhala, Tamil or in English. Applications that do not complete and submit all the given templates will not be considered for evaluation.

Formatting of documents should be as below:

	Font Type	Font Size	Line Spacing
English	Times New Roman	12	Single
Sinhala/ Tamil	Unicode	12	Single

In addition, please make sure to limit your responses to the word count (if given) stated in in the template.

Please submit application in both ‘MS Word’ and ‘PDF’ formats.

Step 4: Submit the grant application along with supporting documents and other required documents and templates 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 requirements 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?

Yes, you will be notified in writing, via email.

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

Email: sscproject@asiafoundation.org