

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

GFF x CIVIC VOICES ORGANIZING FOR INCLUSIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (VOICES)

Title	Details
Release date:	September 15, 2026
Due date for clarification question submissions:	September 21, 2026
Multilingual Call for Proposal (CFP) virtual information session:	September 21, 2026
Multilingual CFP virtual information session for youth-led organizations specifically (to empower their participation in the RFP):	September 24, 2026
Responses to clarification questions:	September 25, 2026
Proposal due date:	October 7, 2026; 23:59 EAT
Qualifying geography / eligible countries:	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Total funding to be subawarded:	US\$3,350,000
Subgrant size per award:	US\$150,000–US\$175,000
Expected number of awards:	22
Proposed award start date and duration:	November 30 th , 2026; up to 18 months
Official correspondence email:	voices@path.org
Issuing organization:	PATH
Name of the funder:	Global Financing Facility and The Civil Society and Social Innovation Alliance (GFF x CIVIC)
Language:	Applicants may submit their applications in their preferred language: English, French, or Portuguese.

Please note that the VOICES consortium reserves the right to modify this schedule, as needed. All parties will be notified of any changes simultaneously by email.

List of abbreviations:

Abbreviation	Long Form
AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy
CFP	Call for Proposal
CIVIC	The Civil Society and Social Innovation Alliance
CSO	civil society organization
GFF	Global Financing Facility
MEL	monitoring, evaluation, and learning
MOH	Ministry of Health
OAY	Organisation of African Youth
ODA	Official Development Assistance
RMNCAH+N	reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health plus nutrition
VOICES	Voices Organizing for Inclusive Civic Engagement and Sustainability
YLO	youth-led organization

Glossary of terms:

Term	Definition
Local CSO/YLO (LCYO) Country Partnership	A formal partnership of up to three local organizations with at least one being a youth-led organization that jointly design and implement coordinated advocacy and civic engagement activities with support from GFF x CIVIC VOICES.
Civic engagement	The active participation of citizens, civil society, and youth in public decision-making processes, including planning, budgeting, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms.
Country Partnership Framework (CPF)	A World Bank-led strategic framework that defines the Bank Group's engagement with a country, including priority sectors and financing over a multi-year period.
GFF x CIVIC (Global Financing Facility and The Civil Society and Social Innovation Alliance)	A platform supported by the Global Financing Facility and World Bank to strengthen coordinated civil society and youth engagement in health financing, policy, and accountability processes at country level.
Lead organization	The designated organization within the country Local CSO/YLO Partnership (LCYO) that holds legal, financial, and programmatic responsibility for grant management and implementation.
Call for proposals (CFP)	A formal solicitation issued by GFF x CIVIC VOICES inviting eligible organizations to submit technical and financial proposals for funding.
Multi-stakeholder platform	A country-led coordination mechanism that brings together government, civil society, donors, and other partners to align domestic and external funding behind the

	priorities identified in a country's RMNCAH+N Investment Case.
Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD)	A World Bank analytical tool that identifies key development challenges and opportunities in a country, informing national strategies and World Bank engagement.
VOICES (Voices Organizing for Inclusive Civic Engagement and Sustainability)	Voices Organizing for Inclusive Civic Engagement and Sustainability is the consortium made up of PATH, AFIDEP, and OAY that is implementing Pillar 1 of GFF x CIVIC to strengthen coordinated civil society and youth advocacy for increased domestic investment and accountability for RMNCAH+Nutrition.
YLO (youth-led organization)	An organization where young people (typically aged 15–35) hold primary leadership, decision-making authority, and responsibility for organizational governance and programming.

A. Background

Working together as the VOICE consortium, [PATH](#), [AFIDEP](#), and [OAY](#) are implementing Pillar 1 of the GFF x CIVIC Platform in up to 22 African countries. The project supports GFF x CIVIC's aim of empowering CSOs and YLOs to drive better health and nutrition outcomes for women, children, and adolescents by strengthening their role in influencing health financing, policy, and service delivery, with specific goals to boost domestic resource mobilization and scale innovative community-led solutions.

GFF x CIVIC VOICES responds to persistent gaps in health financing, accountability, and civic participation by improving coordination and alignment among CSOs and YLOs and strengthening their capacity to engage more effectively in government-led planning, budgeting, and accountability processes. The project also seeks to deepen and institutionalize civil society and youth engagement in World Bank–supported processes at the country level, ensuring that health policies and financing decisions are informed by robust evidence, lived experience, and citizen voice.

Across Africa, chronic underinvestment and weak health systems continue to undermine progress in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health plus nutrition (RMNCAH+N). Preventable mortality and morbidity among women, children, and adolescents remain unacceptably high, with the burden concentrated in a limited number of countries. These challenges are intensifying as external health financing declines. Recent estimates suggest Official Development Assistance (ODA) for health between fell by 23% in 2025,¹ widening domestic financing gaps at a time when health needs are growing. Data from 12 GFF partner countries reveals a crisis of unprecedented scale: 86 percent of surveyed organizations reported national-level ODA disruptions, while 93 percent experienced direct organizational impact, underscoring that funding instability is no longer episodic but systemic.²

¹ <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/data-explainers/2026/04/a-historic-decline-in-foreign-aid-preliminary-2025-oda-data.html>

² Global Financing Facility (GFF), CSCG 2025 Global Workshop. Data from 12 GFF partner countries.

Domestic public financing must therefore play a much stronger role in sustaining RMNCAH+N gains. Yet the majority of the GFF countries allocate less than 10 percent of their national budgets to health, far below global and regional commitments. While important progress has been made over the past decade, including the development of RMNCAH+N Investment Cases in more than 30 countries, these efforts have not consistently translated into sustained, equitable, and accountable budget commitments. A central constraint has been the fragmented and inconsistent engagement of CSOs and YLOs in national and subnational planning, budgeting, and accountability processes.

Evidence and experience—including past civil society efforts led by the GFF—demonstrate that when civil society and youth are meaningfully engaged, they can strengthen accountability, elevate community priorities, and influence domestic resource mobilization. However, fewer than half of GFF partner countries have meaningfully involved CSOs and youth in Investment Case and Country Partnership Framework (CPF) development and implementation, and many multi-stakeholder platforms need to create space for inclusive participation of relevant stakeholders at country level, including ministries of finance and community groups. Youth engagement remains a particularly missed opportunity in Africa, home to the world's fastest-growing youth population.

Against this backdrop, GFF x CIVIC VOICES seeks to enhance the quality, coherence, and influence of advocacy at national and subnational levels, with a strong emphasis on inclusive and meaningful civic engagement. Through strengthened coordination, evidence-informed advocacy, and sustained civic participation, VOICES aims to contribute to more accountable health systems and increased domestic investment in RMNCAH+N, ultimately improving health and well-being outcomes for women, children, adolescents, and communities across participating countries.

B. Purpose of the Call

The purpose of this Call for Proposals is to identify and support partnerships of local CSOs and YLOs/networks/coalitions in each target country to design and implement coordinated advocacy and civic engagement interventions toward increased domestic investment and accountability for RMNCAH+N.

Interested parties are required to submit together in a consortium (that we shall thereafter refer to as the “LCYO country partnerships”) of a maximum of three (3) organizations that includes at least one CSO and one YLO. Only one local partnership will be selected in each country.

The successful LCYO country partnerships will receive training and technical assistance to advance their advocacy plans with the aim of moving beyond fragmented, organization-led projects toward sustained, coalition-driven advocacy within formal decision-making spaces.

C. Scope of the Project

Proposals must address two objectives, as outlined below:

Priority Area 1: Strengthen coordination and alignment among civil society and youth-led advocacy actors working on RMNCAH+N.

Under this objective, the selected country partnership will, among other things:

- Establish or strengthen coordination mechanisms among RMNCAH+N CSOs, YLOs, coalitions, and networks in the country.

- Support creation of joint advocacy agendas, messaging, and action plans aligned to national priorities as defined in relevant policy documents, including the RMNCAH+N Investment Cases and Country Partnership Frameworks.
- Strengthen inclusive civic engagement, including engagement of youth and community-led groups, in domestic resource mobilization for RMNCAH+N.
- Support community voices, including youth, to influence policy and financing decisions.

Priority Area 2: Advocate for increased domestic resource investment and accountability for RMNCAH+N at national and/or subnational levels.

Under this objective, the selected country partnership will, among other things:

- Conduct advocacy targeting national and/or subnational planning, budgeting, and financing processes, including those supported by GFF (e.g., RMNCH+N Investment Cases, Country Partnership Frameworks, Multi-stakeholder Platforms).
- Package and disseminate evidence, with technical assistance from the VOICES consortium, to inform advocacy to increase public investment for RMNCAH+N.
- Participate in government-led policy, planning, and accountability platforms, such as technical working groups.
- Track commitments and support civil society oversight of RMNCAH+N investments.
- Document lessons learned, good practices, and advocacy outcomes.
- Contribute to cross-country learning agendas.

These illustrative activities will contribute to the GFF x CIVIC VOICES' expected outcomes of strengthening capacities of LCYOs on health financing and accountability to support advocacy on domestic resource mobilization for women, children, and adolescent health and improving meaningful LCYO engagement in government-led processes, including GFF and World Bank Group-supported activities, on women's, children's, and adolescent health. Selected country partnerships will contribute to monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) focused on evaluating these outcomes and share learnings with country partnerships from the other 21 countries.

D. Intended Impact

Through this project, LCYOs are empowered, resourced, and institutionalized within decision-making structures to influence domestic resource mobilization and accountability, with the aim toward increased and more equitably allocated, sustainable, and youth-responsive domestic RMNCAH+N investments.

E. Funding Envelope

The maximum amount to be awarded to LCYOs for this Call is **US\$3,350,000** in up to 22 countries. We anticipate awarding one grant in each country, but this will be dependent on quality of proposals received. Maximum grant size for each award (of up to 18 months) will be:

- **Up to US\$150,000** for Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

- **Up to US\$175,000** for Kenya and Nigeria: where, in order to make meaningful change due to the decentralized health budget, the proposals should include subnational advocacy engagement

Please note: *The VOICES consortium reserves the right to modify this as needed and based on proposals received. All parties will be notified of any changes simultaneously.*

F. Eligibility Requirements

Composition of LCYO Partnerships

- Applications must be submitted on behalf of an LCYO representing a partnership composed of **at least two (2)** and no more than **three (3) local organizations**, one of which **must be a youth-led organization (YLO)**.
- Each LCYO country partnership must designate a **lead organization**, which will hold legal, financial, and programmatic responsibility for grant implementation and management. The lead organization will receive funds and should have the capacity to subgrant to the other members of the partnership, where necessary.
- The lead organization must have a minimum of **five (5) years of experience** in health financing advocacy and accountability for RMNCAH+N, while partner organizations must each have at least **three (3) years** of relevant experience in health advocacy.
- All LCYO country partnership members must be local organizations/networks/coalitions that are **legally registered** and operational in the country of implementation.
- LCYO country partnership members should demonstrate complementary strengths across advocacy and policy engagement, budget analysis and tracking, youth engagement, community engagement, and coalition building.
- An **organization can only apply under one** LCYO country partnership application.
- To ensure broad and equitable access to the available funding, **CSOs and YLOs selected to receive a grant under Pillar 1 will not be eligible to receive funding under Pillar 2** of the GFF x CIVIC funding opportunity.

Organizational Requirements (For lead organization):

- Legally registered and operating in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Compliant with statutory obligations, including submission of annual returns and regulatory filings.
- Sound legal capacity to enter into contractual agreements and receive and manage grant funds.
- Demonstrated compliance with labor laws and fair employment practices that promote safe, inclusive, and non-discriminatory work environments.
- Functional governance and organizational structure with defined roles, responsibilities and reporting lines.
- Well-documented operational policies and procedures adequate for effective project execution.
- Demonstrated institutional continuity and capacity not dependent on a single individual.
- Implemented programs aligned with organization's mandate, strategy, and national priorities.

- Well-maintained systems for planning and MEL.
- Demonstrated capacity to track results, document outcomes, and report on performance.
- Readiness to undergo a due diligence process, including a rapid pre-award assessment.
- Having MOUs or current projects with local authorities and other relevant bodies would be an added advantage.

Finance and Administrative Requirements (For the lead organization):

- Demonstrated experience managing donor-funded projects transparently and in accordance with fiduciary requirements.
- Existence of a functional financial management and reporting system.
- Effective internal controls system, including segregation of duties and authorization procedures.
- Demonstrated capacity to prepare and manage budgets and monitor expenditures against plans.
- Evidence of having undergone independent external audits and addressed audit findings in a reasonably timely manner (required for lead organization).
- Demonstrated capacity to pre-finance start-up activities depending on the subgranting mechanism that will be agreed upon.
- Adequate, qualified, and experienced personnel and administrative capacity to implement the proposed activities.
- Where applicable, applicants may be asked during due diligence process to provide official documentation from the relevant government ministry or regulatory authority confirming their eligibility to receive external or foreign funding.

Technical/Programmatic Requirements (across the partnership):

- Demonstrated experience in advocacy, civic engagement, or accountability related to RMNCAH+N.
- Experience engaging government institutions and development partners, including GFF and/or World Bank country teams on policy, planning, or budget processes.
- Experience working in coalitions or networks is strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated commitment to gender equality, youth engagement, and inclusion.
- Strong local presence and experience implementing projects and programs, particularly involving women, youth, and children.
- Experience engaging with governments and local stakeholders on RMNCAH +N in general.
- Active membership in local platforms and/or coalitions such as the RMNCAH+N CSO platform, Multi-Stakeholder Platform, MOH RMNCAH+N technical working groups is an added advantage.
- Ability to demonstrate programming and impact (e.g., via possession of programmatic reports, annual workplans, and budgets from within the past two years).

G. Proposal Submission Requirements and Instructions

Applicants should submit the following:

1. **Submission template** that has been provided (must be submitted as Word document)
2. **High-level budget** using template provided (must be submitted as Excel document)
3. **Proof of legal registration** for each partnership member (PDF or JPEG)

4. **Budget verification** for lead organization (PDF or JPEG)
5. **Organizational organogram**, for all partnership members if possible (PDF or JPEG)

Submission Instructions

1. **Language:** This Call for Proposal has also been provided in English, French and Portuguese to facilitate broad participation across eligible countries. Applicants may submit their proposals in any of these three languages.
2. All application documents should be submitted via email to voices@PATH.org.
3. Submission due date and time: **October 7, 2026, 23:59 EAT.**
4. Documents must be submitted in the prescribed formats outlined in the submission and budget templates.
5. To ensure delivery, please ensure your attachments **do not total more than 150 MB**. If necessary, you may send the PDF and JPEG attachments as a separate email.
6. You will receive an automated response when your email has been received.

H. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals received by the deadline will undergo a layered and weighted review process, comprising an initial eligibility screening, technical assessment, and final selection. Eligible proposals will be scored against pre-defined evaluation criteria, with each criterion assigned a specific weight to reflect its relative importance to the GFF x CIVIC VOICES objectives. The weighted assessment will inform the shortlisting and final selection of applicants. Evaluation criteria will include, but are not limited to, the following:

Criteria Item	Percentage Measure
Relevance and strategic focus of the proposed approach	25%
Advocacy experience and capacity of the LCYO country partnership members	25%
Cost-effectiveness and realism of the proposed budget	10%
Financial and grant management capacity	10%
Integration of social equity and gender considerations	10%
Sustainability	10%
Innovation	10%

I. Important Notes

PATH, in consortium with AFIDEP and OAY:

- Will serve as the consortium fiduciary and will disburse and manage all subgrants.
- Will not be responsible for any costs incurred by applicants in the preparation or submission of proposals.

- Reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals at its sole discretion.
- Reserves the right to negotiate final terms, costs, and scope of work with selected applicants, including the substance of proposals, the inclusion or exclusion of specific components, and the involvement of third parties. Acceptance of a proposal does not constitute acceptance of its terms and conditions.
- Reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in response to this call and is in no way bound to accept any proposal.

J. Key Dates

Event	Timeline
Call for Proposals release date and launch event	September 15
Deadline for clarifying questions	September 21
Responses to clarifying questions	September 25
Proposals due	October 7, 23:59 East Africa Time
Targeted date for evaluation of all submitted proposals	October 27
Public announcement of selected country partnerships	November 30