

Frequently Asked Questions

GFF x CIVIC Voices Organizing for Inclusive Civic Engagement and Sustainability (VOICES) Call for Proposals

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This frequently asked questions (FAQ) document provides additional guidance for organizations interested in applying to the GFF x CIVIC VOICES [Call for Proposals](#) (CFP). It addresses common questions about the opportunity, including eligibility, partnership requirements, areas of focus, funding, application and selection processes, and implementation support.

The FAQ is intended to complement the official CFP and support application materials by clarifying key requirements and helping prospective applicants determine whether the opportunity is relevant to their organization or partnership.

Applicants are encouraged to read the [full CFP](#) and all accompanying documents carefully before preparing their application and/or submitting additional questions.

ABOUT GFF X CIVIC VOICES

- **What is GFF x CIVIC?**

The GFF x CIVIC Platform is a partnership between the Global Financing Facility (GFF) and the World Bank Group's CIVIC: The Civil Society and Social Innovation Alliance to strengthen the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth-led organizations (YLOs), also collectively referred to as LCYOs, in advancing health and nutrition outcomes for women, children, and adolescents. The platform will provide grant funding and technical assistance to two consortiums that will manage and implement two program pillars:

- ***Pillar 1: Strengthening Civil Society Engagement and Community Voice for Domestic Resource Mobilization*** – supporting CSOs and YLOs to influence health financing, accountability, and systems reform at country level (launched Sept 15).
- ***Pillar 2: Scaling Community-Led Solutions for Adolescent Health and Nutrition***-- enabling youth and civil society groups to engage effectively in the development and scale-up of effective programs to improve access, equity, and outcomes in adolescent health services (launching October, date TBC).

For more information, visit the [GFF x CIVIC Platform webpage](#).

What is the GFF x CIVIC VOICES (also known as Pillar 1 of GFF x CIVIC)?

GFF x CIVIC VOICES is a multi-country initiative being implemented by PATH, a global health CSO, in partnership with the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and the Organisation of African Youth (OAY), working together as the VOICES consortium (Voices Organizing for Inclusive Civic Engagement and Sustainability).

VOICES seeks to strengthen civil society engagement and youth leadership to advance domestic resource mobilization for women, children, and adolescent health agenda in GFF partner countries. Through subgrants, capacity strengthening, structured policy dialogue, and accountability mechanisms, the VOICES consortium will support local civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth-led organization (YLOs) to influence financing decisions and shape health system priorities in their countries.

- **Why has GFF x CIVIC VOICES been established?**

GFF x CIVIC VOICES has been designed to respond to persistent challenges including fragmented civil society advocacy, limited CSO and YLO capacity to engage in health financing and accountability processes, and limited participation of CSOs and YLOs in government-led planning, budgeting, and decision-making.

VOICES aims to strengthen the capacity, coordination, and meaningful engagement of CSOs and YLOs to drive sustainable and equitable domestic financing for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH+N) programs in GFF partner countries through inclusive participation, evidence-based advocacy, and accountability mechanisms.

- **What are the priority areas for the VOICES Call for Proposals (CFP)?**

The CFP has two interconnected priority areas:

Priority area 1: Strengthen coordination and alignment among CSO and YLO advocacy actors working on RMNCAH+N.

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

Activities to achieve these priorities may include:

- *Establishing or strengthening CSO/YLO coordination mechanisms*
- *Developing joint advocacy agendas, messages, and action plans*
- *Strengthening youth and community participation, advocacy, and engagement in national or subnational planning, budgeting, and financing processes*
- *Engagement in RMNCAH+N Investment Cases, Country Partnership Framework (CPF) processes, etc.*
- *Participation in GFF and other multi-stakeholder platforms*

- *Evidence generation and dissemination for advocacy, budget analysis, and tracking*
- *Tracking government commitments and RMNCAH+N investments*
- *Strengthening civil society accountability*
- *Documenting advocacy lessons and outcomes.*

WHO CAN APPLY?

- **Who is eligible to apply?**

Applications must be submitted by a local CSO/YLO (LCYO) country partnership comprising no more than three local/indigenous organizations, with at least one organization being a youth-led organization (YLO).

- **Can an organization apply on its own?**

No. The CFP requires applicants to apply as an LCYO country partnership of up to three local organizations, including at least one YLO. The intention is to encourage coordinated and complementary approaches rather than isolated, organization-specific interventions.

- **How many organizations can make up an LCYO partnership?**

A partnership may comprise a **maximum** of three local organizations. At least one member must be a YLO. Partners are expected to bring complementary strengths, such as advocacy and policy engagement, health financing and budget analysis, civil society and youth engagement, community engagement, and/or coalition building.

- **What is a youth-led organization (YLO)?**

A YLO is an organization in which young people, typically those aged 15–35, hold primary leadership, decision-making authority, and responsibility for organizational governance and programming.

- **Can international organizations apply?**

No. The CFP is designed for local organizations who are legally registered and operational in the country of implementation. All members of the LCYO country partnership must meet this requirement.

- **Which GFF partner countries are eligible for funding and why are some GFF partner countries not on the list?**

These GFF partner countries are eligible for funding: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana,

Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

GFF x CIVIC VOICES has prioritized 22 GFF partner countries on Sub-Saharan Africa for this CFP, given the high burden of RMNCAH+N health issues and need for increased domestic resource mobilization. The country selection was also based on the consortia reach and the available resource envelope. At this stage, no other countries are being considered for subgrants. However, CSOs and YLOs from other GFF partner countries are invited to participate in learning sessions, which will begin in 2027.

- **Can organizations from different countries form one partnership?**

No. The CFP is structured around country-level partnerships, with the idea that they are best placed to hold their own governments accountable. The members of each LCYO partnership must be local organizations registered and operating in the same country where the proposed activities will be implemented.

LEAD ORGANIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

- **What is the role of the lead organization for each proposal?**

Each LCYO country partnership must designate one lead organization for its grant proposal. The lead organization will hold legal, financial, and programmatic responsibility for implementation and grant management. The lead organization will receive the grant and will be responsible for managing funds and sub-granting to its LCYO partner organizations.

- **What complementary skills should LCYO partners bring?**

Each LCYO country partnership proposal should demonstrate complementary strengths among the partner organizations across areas such as:

- *Advocacy and policy engagement*
- *Health financing and budget analysis/tracking*
- *Youth engagement*
- *Community engagement*
- *Coalition and network building*
- *RMNCAH+N programming*
- *Accountability and evidence use*

Experience working in CSO and YLO coalitions or networks is strongly preferred.

- **Can an organization be part of more than one LCYO Advocacy Partnership application?**

No. An organization can only apply under one LCYO country partnership.

FOCUS OF PROPOSALS

- **Does a proposal need to address both VOICES CFP priority areas?**

Yes. The CFP specifically invites proposals that address both strengthening coordination and alignment, and advocating to increase domestic resource investment and accountability for RMNCAH+N.

- **Does the proposed work need to focus only on national-level advocacy?**

No. The CFP allows for advocacy at the national and/or subnational levels, depending on the country's governance structure, decision-making processes, and relevant advocacy opportunities. For countries with devolved settings (Nigeria and Kenya), applicants are encouraged to focus on advocacy at both national and subnational levels, and funding ceilings are higher for those two countries for that reason.

- **Can proposals engage with World Bank Group–supported processes?**

Yes. The CFP specifically identifies and encourages applicants to consider opportunities to engage in WBG and GFF-supported RMNCAH+N Investment Cases, Country Partnership Frameworks, and Multi-Stakeholder Platforms, as potential advocacy and engagement spaces.

- **Does GFF x CIVIC VOICES fund service delivery?**

GFF x CIVIC VOICES is primarily designed as an advocacy, civic engagement, health financing, and accountability program. The CFP is focused on coordinated advocacy and civic engagement interventions rather than on direct service delivery. Applicants should demonstrate how proposed activities contribute to influencing policy, financing, planning, or accountability with the aim to improve RMNCAH+N outcomes.

- **Can our proposal include advocacy for specific health areas (e.g., family planning, elimination of vertical transmission, noncommunicable diseases, neglected tropical disease, etc.)?**

Part of the application includes making the case for the biggest issues your country is facing and how your advocacy can overcome those issues. If you can build an evidence-based case for focusing in on a specific health area(s) within the RMNCAH+N continuum, that will be acceptable. However, proposals that address broader

RMNCAH+N funding challenges and opportunities are preferred, given the shifts away from siloed funding in the current fiscal environments in most partner countries.

FUNDING

- **Why do the funding ceilings differ among countries?**

The CFP proposes a higher ceiling for Kenya and Nigeria than for other countries to allow for subnational advocacy in those countries, due to the devolved nature of their health systems and budgets. While subnational advocacy may also be valuable in other countries, in a devolved system it is essential to achieving meaningful change.

Applicants in Kenya and Nigeria may propose a maximum budget of USD\$175,000. For all other countries the maximum budget is USD\$150,000.

- **Can an organization receive funding under both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the GFF × CIVIC funding opportunity?**

No. To ensure broad and equitable access to the available funding, CSOs and YLOs that are selected to receive a grant under Pillar 1 will NOT be eligible to receive funding under Pillar 2 of the GFF × CIVIC funding opportunity.

There are 8 countries that eligible for both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 (Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe). Pillar 2 will focus on promoting and scaling innovative practices for adolescent health, whereas Pillar 1 focuses on advocacy for domestic resource mobilization. We recognize that some organizations may work in both areas, but no one organization can receive funding from both pillars, either as a lead organization or in consortium. Organizations are encouraged to apply for only one pillar; however, if any organizations do apply for both, they will not be eligible to receive funding from both.

IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT

- **Will successful organizations receive technical support?**

Yes. Successful LCYO country partnerships will receive training and technical assistance to strengthen their advocacy plans and implementation. The anticipated support includes capacity strengthening, mentorship, guidance on evidence analysis and use, and learning and knowledge exchange. Partnerships will need to include in their budgets the estimated cost of travel for two representatives (covering visa, transport, lodging, and out-of-pocket costs) to participate in training session in Nairobi, Kenya, for Anglophone and Lusophone countries, and Dakar, Senegal, for Francophone countries.

- **Is GFF x CIVIC VOICES only providing funding?**

No. GFF x CIVIC VOICES combines financial support with capacity strengthening, technical assistance, mentorship, coordination, and learning. The intention is to strengthen sustainable advocacy capacity rather than fund isolated activities.

- **Will GFF x CIVIC VOICES connect funded organizations with other relevant CSOs, YLOs, and stakeholders working on the GFF?**

Yes. Strengthening coordination among CSOs, YLOs, coalitions, and networks is a core objective of the CFP. Country partnerships are expected to contribute to a broader ecosystem of collaboration, learning, and advocacy that will be supported at the regional level through virtual means, except the aforementioned in-person capacity strengthening sessions.

- **What role will youth play in GFF x CIVIC VOICES?**

Youth engagement is central to the project. Each funded country partnership must include at least one YLO, and proposed partnerships should demonstrate meaningful youth engagement and inclusion. Alongside dedicated capacity strengthening for youth organizations, the initiative will also strengthen the Global Youth Platform (GYP), which selected subgrantees will be invited to join. (All YLO applicants are also encouraged to join the GYP.)

- **How will the funded projects interact with World Bank Group and GFF processes at country level? Will GFF country coordinators be engaged?**

GFF country coordinators will not be involved in the selection process, but once selections are made, they will provide important guidance on country context as subgrantees are co-creating their advocacy strategies (after selection). GFF country coordinators will liaise with other World Bank Group staff to facilitate engagement of CSO/YLO grantees in relevant WBG-GFF supported policy dialogue and operations.

SEEKING CLARIFICATIONS

- **Where can applicants submit questions as they are preparing their proposals?**

Official clarification questions should be submitted via email to **voices@path.org** with subject line: QUESTIONS ON CFP. Questions should be submitted on or before September 21, 2026, and will be added to the FAQ as they are received with all responses published no later than September 25, 2026.

- **Will responses to questions be shared with all applicants?**

Yes. Clarifications and responses relevant to all applicants will be added to this FAQ by September 25, 2026, to ensure information is communicated consistently to all prospective applicants.

APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

- **How does my organization submit an application?**

Please refer to the [Call for Proposals](#) and template provided. All submissions must be sent by the deadline to voices@path.org. Please be mindful of the size of attachments and ensure the email is no larger than 150MB total. If necessary, you may send attachments in separate emails.

- **What is the deadline for submissions?**

The deadline is Wednesday, **7 October 2026 at 23:59 East Africa Time**. To ensure fairness, no submissions will be accepted after the deadline.

REVIEW, SCORING AND SELECTION

- **Who will review and select applications? What will the process be?**

Applications will go through a two-phased review and selection process. **First, applications will undergo an initial assessment** to determine eligibility and assess the extent to which they meet the requirements and selection criteria outlined in the Call for Proposals.

Applicants who pass the first phase will go to a **second, technical evaluation phase**, handled by a Technical Evaluation Committee. This committee comprises representatives from the VOICES consortium, including PATH, AFIDEP, and OAY. The review process will consistently apply the published eligibility and assessment criteria across all applications, while taking country context into account.

- **Will the World Bank Group, GFF, or CIVIC teams have a say in which proposals are selected?**

The review and selection process is led and managed by the VOICES consortium members comprised of PATH, AFIDEP, and OAY. The GFF x CIVIC team supporting this work will have a non-objection to officialize the final selection before the successful proposals are announced.

- **Will governments or ministries of health have a say in which organizations are selected?**

No. To ensure impartiality, given the selected LCYO country partnerships will be advocating with the government, ministries of health and other government officials will not be involved in the selection process. They will be notified of the successful proposals and will be engaged as funded projects kick off in each country and scopes are refined, to facilitate alignment with government priorities.

- **When will we hear if we were selected, or are a finalist?**

The VOICES consortium aims to notify applicants if their application was successful no later than October 27, 2026. The anticipated external announcement of selected subgrantees will be November 30, 2026. The period between notification and the external announcement will allow the VOICES consortium to complete the necessary due diligence and finalize preparations for signing subgrant agreements with selected organizations. Selection notifications will be considered conditional until these processes are completed. Any changes to this timeline will be shared with all applicants as soon as possible.