



Call for Proposals— Civil Society Fund 2008

The World Bank, in partnership with NERCHA, is organizing a competition for project proposals from Swaziland as part of the World Bank Group's Civil Society Fund (Small Grants) Program. The purpose of the initiative is to support projects in the field of HIV/AIDS proposed by various organizations in Swaziland.

About the Program

The Civil Society Fund supports activities related to civic engagement by providing one-time small grants administered through World Bank Country Offices.

The CS Fund supports activities that enable citizens to take initiatives to influence development. Activities strengthen inclusion, accountability, and participation. Activities also strengthen partnerships with public sector, other civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Theme: HIV/AIDS: "Turning Ideas into Action"

The theme is a continuation of the wider Development Marketplace held in 2004 and aimed at combating HIV/AIDS. The grants are aimed at assisting the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in society. The objective is to increase local knowledge and find additional new and homegrown ideas and solutions to the HIV/AIDS challenge aside from treatment. The focus is on reaching communities, with a view to complementing the work they are doing. An objective is to ensure community voices of the marginalized and vulnerable are heard and that these groups are engaged with the government to try to find innovative solutions in line with the prioritized national strategic plan. I

Suggested topics to be addressed by applicant proposals may include one of the following issues, however they are not restricted to the following:

- Income generation for care givers of PLWHA, especially in rural areas
- Caring for vulnerable persons, including children, orphans and the disabled

Awards

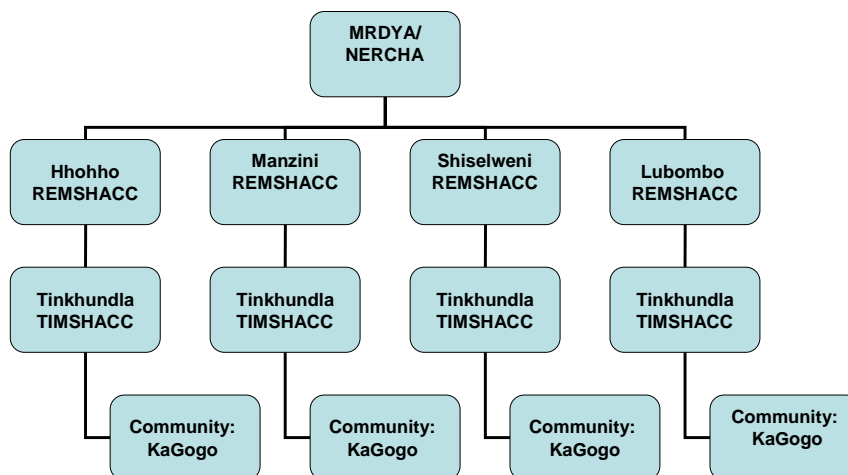
Grants totaling at least \$20,000 will be awarded. Most grants will be in the range of \$4000 to \$5000. The Small Grants Fund rarely funds more than half of the proposed budget for an activity, and therefore prefers that its grants help leverage additional contributions from other sources. Applicant organizations are asked to describe how a grant from the World Bank might help them raise matching funds from other donors.

The Approach

The principle behind this initiative is to ensure that the beneficiaries to the grant are grassroots level vulnerable populations that otherwise have very limited access to services. As such the call is being made to Community Based Organizations that are operating directly within local communities and making a noticeable change in people's lives by working toward alleviating the impact of HIV and AIDs.

The approach to be used for the Swaziland call for proposals is aligned to the "decentralized" approach to the coordination of the national response to HIV and AIDS. In essence, the mechanism proposed for the issuing of the call and consequent receipt of the proposals will follow the decentralized regional coordination structures. The following diagram illustrates this mechanism.

Decentralised Regional Coordination Mechanisms



As far as the operationalisation of this system is concerned, Regional Multisectoral HIV and AIDS Coordinating Committees (REMSHACCS) have been established in all four regions of the country. These committees comprise representatives from all sectors responding to the HIV and AIDs pandemic in each region.

It is important to note that these REMSHACCS are in fact sub committees of the Regional Development Teams which are established by the Swaziland Government through the Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs. The key purpose for forming the REMSHACCS is to ensure mainstreaming of HIV and AIDs into the regional development agenda.

At this regional level are also Regional Coordinators who are custodians for the NERCHA mandate at the regional level.

For purposes of this exercise, the Regional Coordinators will send out the call for proposals through the already established community structures which exist in every chiefdom, that is the KaGogo Centres.

These structures have been established in every community and approximately 300 KaGogo Managers have been engaged to work as the Secretariat for the decentralized mechanism at the grassroots level.

These KaGogo managers will proceed to send out information regarding the call for proposals to all implementing organizations based within the respective communities. Over a period of approximately 10 days for proposal writing, the CBOs are also expected to acquire an **Umphakatsi Stamp (stamp from the chief's council) to confirm that they are recognized, operating organizations within the target community.** The completed proposals will be sent back to the KaGogo managers no later than the 22nd February 2008, who will in turn forward the documents to the Regional Coordinators for screening and short-listing.

The overall objective for the screening is to produce a total of 12 (twelve) finalist proposals, with three coming from each of the four regions.

The top 12 (twelve) proposals will be forwarded to the NERCHA office for screening at the national level by an independent panel of assessors. This panel of assessors comprises representatives from partner organizations including the Bilateral and Multilateral community, Civil Society, People living with HIV, and the public sector.

At the national level, the independent panel will objectively select the most credible proposal from each region, leading to a total of 4 (four) successful proposals for the country.

It is envisaged that this approach will ensure proper participation of community based organizations that do not always have access to substantial financial assistance and yet make the most impact at the community level. This World Bank Civil Society Fund Program is providing this kind of opportunity.

Timelines

To compete in the CS Fund Competition organizations must meet eligibility criteria indicated below and submit a Proposal Outline (attached below) to their respective KaGogo Centre Managers no later than **February 22nd, 2008**. All proposals must be clearly written or typed in English, and only **one** proposal will be accepted from each CBO.

Once proposal outlines are reviewed by the independent assessment panel, selected organizations will be notified by the **27th March 2008**

An awards ceremony will be held during the first week of April, during which all recipients will sign contracts in order to receive their funding.

Proposals will be reviewed to ensure they conform to the criteria below:

1. Recognized Community Based Organisations (CBOs), are welcome to submit proposals
2. Twelve month maximum implementation time frame must be indicated for this grant
3. We encourage project proposals that can be implemented in partnership with another organization, such as a broader NGO, however this is not mandatory
4. Demonstrated project-administration ability of an applicant /organization
5. Proposals must be **typed or clearly handwritten and submitted in English**

The CS Fund is not geared to support certain activities, including:

1. Research programs or formal academic training
2. Individuals or organizations not categorized as civil society organizations
3. Salaries and overhead costs, such as computer equipment, rents etc
4. Construction of facilities
5. Medical equipment
6. Training workshops—unless there is a primary civic engagement objective

Additional resources for applicant organizations are available from the World Bank website, www.worldbank.org. and the Regional Multisectoral Coordination Offices.