

The World Bank

COUNTRY OFFICE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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The Social Development Civil Society Fund FY 2008 Request for Proposals

Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina

March 2008

About the Program

The Social Development Civil Society Fund, formerly known as the Small Grants Program, supports activities related to civic engagement by providing small grants administered through World Bank Country Offices.

The Social Development Civil Society Fund seeds and supports activities that empower and enable citizens to take initiatives to enhance and influence development outcomes. Activities strengthen mechanisms for inclusion, accountability, and participation. Activities also strengthen partnerships with public sector, other civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Box 1: Outcomes of Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement can...

- **Promote public consensus and local ownership** for reforms and for national poverty reduction and development strategies by creating knowledge-sharing networks, building common ground for understanding, encouraging public-private cooperation, and sometimes even diffusing tensions;
- **Give voice to the concerns of primary and secondary stakeholders**, particularly poor and marginalized populations, and help ensure that their views are factored into policy and program decisions;
- **Strengthen and leverage impact of development programs** by providing local knowledge, identifying potential risks, targeting assistance, and expanding reach, particularly at the community level;
- **Bring innovative ideas and solutions to development challenges** at both the local and global levels;
- **Improve public transparency and accountability** of development activities, contributing to the enabling environment for good governance.

Before You Apply

The World Bank's Social Development Civil Society Fund is able to fund only a very small percentage of the requests it receives. Many requests are declined, not because they lack merit, but because they do not match either the current objectives, or the criteria of the Program. Your activity may fall within the objectives and criteria, but the demand far surpasses the availability of funds. Before applying, take time to read the Guidelines to determine if there is a match.

Who Can Apply?

- Civil society organizations based in Bosnia and Herzegovina working on issues of development can apply for a grant;
- Civil society organizations must be in good standing and have a record of achievement in the community and record of financial probity;
- Priority will be given to organizations not supported by the Program in previous years (organizations are not eligible for more than three grants from the Civil Society Fund within a five-year period).

What Kind of Activities are Supported?

The Social Development Civil Society Fund supports activities whose **primary objective is civic engagement**. In addition:

- Activities may include, but are not limited to workshops and seminars to enhance civic engagement skills and/or knowledge; appropriate communication campaigns to *influence* policymaking or public service delivery; or innovative networking efforts to build the capacity of the particular sector.
- The activity should be completed within one year of the date the grant is awarded.
- Priority shall be given to organizations that have not been supported by the Program in previous years.

The purpose of this year's Social Development Civil Society Fund will be to further strengthen civic engagement in policy dialogue on development priorities and implications for the most vulnerable categories of population. This will be achieved by supporting CSOs' activities such as public forums, workshops, information dissemination, and innovative projects targeting Roma, disabled, and youth. By supporting such initiatives, the Social Development Civil Society Fund will promote partnership between the Government and the third sector in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable categories. The priority will be given to applications that:

- introduce innovative and practical mechanisms for civic engagement of marginalized and vulnerable groups;
- promote partnership with the public sector in addressing needs of the most vulnerable categories; and
- promote policy dialogue, build greater awareness about the reform processes, and expected benefits for the vulnerable groups.

What Kind of Activities are not Supported?

The Social Development Civil Society Fund **can not fund:** Research programs, formal academic training programs, operational projects, ongoing institutional core support (such as equipment), scholarships, fellowships, study programs, individuals applying on their own behalf, or non-legal entities. Proposed activities should not compete with or substitute for regular World Bank instruments; the activity should be clearly distinguishable from the Bank's regular programs.

What Size of Grants are Awarded?

For fiscal year 2008, the total budget for the Social Development Civil Society Fund is US\$35,000. Most grants are in the range of US\$3,000 to US\$7,000. The Social Development Civil Society 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 to raise matching funds from other donors.

How to Apply for a Grant?

Guidelines and application forms are available at the World Bank Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Fra Anđela Zvizdovića 1/XVII, 71000 Sarajevo) and at the World Bank website: www.worldbank.ba

The Social Development Civil Society Fund makes decisions only once a year. Applicants are advised to read the criteria and the application form carefully before submitting an application to the World Bank Country Office. Grants are usually awarded by a Civil Society Fund Committee, convened at the World Bank Office in Sarajevo. Applications are screened and reviewed to ensure that the criteria are met. The Civil Society Fund gives prompt consideration to all proposals.

If your Organization fulfills the requirements set above and is interested in participating, please fill out the application form attached and submit it to the World Bank by **Friday, April 11, 2008**. You may submit your application by mail, fax or e-mail. Please see below.

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Committee will make its final decision by Tuesday, April 29, 2008 and will inform all applicants accordingly. Given the very large number of requests, personal visits and phone calls to the World Bank Office by the grantees are not encouraged.

If you require further information or clarification on this program please contact Ms. Sanja Tanić via phone: 033-251-896 or by e-mail: bosniapic@worldbank.org.

Examples of Activities Supported by the Civil Society Fund

Workshop on Good Governance, Democracy and Participatory Development: This activity includes organization of 16 local level workshops with grassroots women, men, local government, civil administrators, members of civil society and NGOs for fostering democracy and enhancing good governance. Key themes of dialogues included, reducing gender gaps, participatory development, ensuring accountability, informing the rules, guidelines and responsibilities of the local government, people's participation in empowerment of women and poor, defining the role and responsibilities of different groups of people for ensuring a combined initiative in establishing democracy, transparency, accountability, information disclosure and good governance.

Regional Workshop for the Settlement of the Urban Poor: This international workshop was organized to facilitate appropriate policy regimes in favor of the urban poor, especially, resettlement of the urban poor, pro-poor urban housing and land use policy, planned urban development, rural-urban migration, urban social/cultural/environmental consequences and the GO/NGO responses, legal arrangement for tenure security and squatter rights - role of the municipal authorities, government and NGOs, and slum resettlement. Follow-up activities includes opinion-sharing and coordination meeting with the members of city corporations, NGO leaders, staff, seminar, workshop, press conference and rally for raising awareness, and enrolling slum dwellers in Voter List.

Improving Community Relations: This project aimed to improve social and legal protections at the community level and to develop community solidarity through improved interpersonal and intergenerational connections and new ways of interacting with municipal authorities. The organization conducted five seminars for local governments, municipalities, and communities, and published a brochure on community relations.

Mobilizing Communities: This activity hoped to mobilize people to take action to help themselves. This marginalized community faced several disadvantages, including living in small settlements in rural areas, low levels of education, high employment rate, social exclusion and discrimination, and lack of information. Through a video film that introduced several successful income-generating projects by this population to encourage others from the community. This project was co-financed by a local foundation and the film was distributed through the local minority governments.