



Civil Society Research Facility - Tanzania

Call for proposals

The Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen (CIDIN, the Netherlands) and Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA, Tanzania) are pleased to announce the Civil Society Research Facility (CSRF – Tanzania) **call for proposals** on local civil society dynamics in Tanzania. CSRF-Tanzania is part of the partnership between CIDIN and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is targeted at supporting short-term studies by newer researchers in Tanzania. These studies aim to expand knowledge on local civil society dynamics, offer junior researchers a platform to jump start their academic career, and provide information that is relevant for policy and practice of development cooperation and civil society in Tanzania.

Focus fields

Research proposals have to fit one of the following themes within CSRF – Tanzania:

- 1. CSO networks;** Local civil society is progressively engaged in bridge building activities, resulting in partnership agreements, joint lobby attempts, and umbrella organisations. Some argue that these newly formed networks are counter-productive as small CSOs are more closely involved in communities and remain sensitive to the needs of their constituencies, whereas others emphasise that a relatively fragile and diffuse sector has less impact than large-scale hybrid organisations. Why does local civil society engage in joint partnerships? How do local CSOs engage in networks? How comprehensive are these networks and who are the stakeholders included? Which factors or characteristics determine the structure of a network and how can they be typified (homogeneous or heterogeneous)? What are the benefits and drawbacks of participation in local CSO networks?
- 2. Institutional Settings;** Government responses to CSO activities range from partnership and incorporation via indifference to antipathy and mistrust, based upon their perceived role of CSOs. How does the government value the role of CSOs in development? What are the characteristics of national civil society legislation? What is the relationship between particular types of NGOs and their governments? The links between CSOs and the for-profit sector also offer some additional insights into CSOs' external relations with stakeholders; what are the incentives for establishing partnerships between local CSOs and the for-profit sector? What kind of partnerships exist between local CSOs and the for-profit sector? What are the steps in the collaboration process between local CSOs and the for-profit sector?
- 3. International Networks;** The relationship between CSOs and international organisations is often considered a result of the international aid chain, but is not necessarily limited to this. Operating between state and market, civil society organisations can link up with diverse entities to seek increased influence, extend their knowledge, and develop new skills. This establishment of partnerships and international networks has led to an international discourse between actors on their roles and responsibilities. All these different stakeholders hold diverse perspectives. It is therefore worthwhile to highlight the discourses between local CSOs and international actors and to map the dynamics and differences. The implications of changing donor agendas would also be a fruitful area of inquiry.
- 4. Impact and Accountability;** Core concepts within the contemporary discourse on NGO effectiveness are impact and accountability. As the accountability agenda trickles down, the question of the monitoring systems in place within civil society emerges. CSOs often advocate good governance, dialogue, and transparency, but are they able to implement these pillars in their own procedures? If so, what kinds of difficulties do they encounter? Little is also known about local communities and their demand for CSO accountability. How is this interaction structured and valued by both stakeholders? The discourse in this field could also lay bare the following questions: How do local CSOs account for their activities to their constituencies? What is the influence of stringent reporting demands on actual project implementation of CSOs?
- 5. Open Category;** Although preference is given to proposals within one of the four themes above, the possibility exists to highlight other areas of focus within the domain of civil society.

Further details on the research themes can be found on www.repoa.or.tz or www.ru.nl/cidin.

Eligibility

Researchers who are nationals or residents of Tanzania are eligible to apply for CSRF - Tanzania. Individual research proposals from more junior researchers or recent graduates are strongly encouraged. All possible candidates should have obtained a Research Degree (Masters based on research, M.Phil and Ph.D) in the social sciences and are expected to hold demonstrable writing skills and expertise relevant for the research themes. It should be noted that joint proposals are not accepted.

Budget & Process

After the deadline for submission of the research proposals (14th of March 2011) the review committee will decide on which submissions to support. Their decisions will be communicated by REPOA two (2) weeks after the submission deadline and are not disputable. A kick-off workshop will be held at the end of March to enable discussion on the research proposals between awarded applicants, REPOA- and CIDIN staff. To keep track on the research process researchers are requested to hand in two (2) monitoring reports during their study. Although researchers are expected to execute their studies independently, constructive feedback and supervision will be provided by REPOA and CIDIN during the trajectory. Draft research reports are to be submitted at the end of June 2011 and final reports should be handed in four (4) weeks after this due date. During a final workshop in August 2011 researchers are given the opportunity to present and discuss the findings of their studies to a broader audience (government, donors, civil society, and academia). Awarded applicants will receive a grant (€ 5,000 max, to be paid in instalments) to cover their research expenses for the entire research. They may receive an additional payment for submitting an article to an international journal.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals are expected to be five (5) pages max, including a short problem statement, research question, extensive indication of methodology, preliminary outline of the paper, budget and timeline as indicated in the research proposal format (which can be found at www.repoa.or.tz). Proposals that contain clear methodological designs are highly preferred. The proposals should relate to a four (4) month process on one of the themes relevant for the CSRF - Tanzania. Together with the proposal format and a copy of identification, a short curriculum vitae of two (2) pages max. is required, indicating professional affiliations, relevant expertise, and possible publications. Completed research proposals should be submitted as e-mail attachments to REPOA at repoa@repoa.or.tz and rtukai@repoa.or.tz by 14th of March 2011 latest. Proposals are to be submitted without additional cover pages or appendices, except those that are requested in the application form.

Inquiries

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