

Consortium to Promote Human Rights, Civic Freedoms and Media Development (CHARM) in Sub-Saharan Africa

Call for CHARM Partnership proposals

About the Call for Partnership

To ensure that African civil society and media organisations develop to become viable players in the changing political, technical, and economic landscape, the Consortium to Protect Human Rights, Civic Freedoms and Media Development (CHARM) in Sub-Saharan Africa supports the creation of new coalitions and strengthening of existing ones. These partnerships promote enabling environments and sustainable sources of journalism and civic participation, making it possible for the media and civil society to provide citizens with the information, analysis and support they need to realise their human rights and civic freedoms.

The CHARM Consortium in its second phase ending in June 2023 is looking for new partners to help build on the achievements from the pilot phase. Through an open call, relevant organisations are invited to submit an [online application](#) for fully funded project proposals for an 8 to 12-month period between April 2022 and March 2023, within a proposed budget of US\$50,000-US\$99,000.

WHO CAN APPLY

Eligible organisations must:

- Be registered and operating in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Be able to submit an application in English or French
- Work with media, journalists, human rights defenders, activists, and/or social movements
- Have demonstrated experience in promoting human rights, civic freedoms and/or media development in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Have thematic experience in one of the following areas: (a) supporting an enabling legal environment that protects (and expands) civic and democratic rights, including freedoms of association, expression and peaceful assembly; (b) enhancing access to resources, with a focus on resources that sustain social justice movements and traditionally marginalised groups; and (c) protecting and promoting digital rights and civil society's safe and secure engagement in digital civic spaces

Other criteria that proposals will be assessed on include:

- (20%) Alignment of values and principles, including demonstrable accountability to local constituencies
- (15%) Demonstrated commitment to CHARM's programme objectives
- (15%) Proven track record of quality delivery in the required field(s) of expertise
- (10%) Organisational capacity and competence (including operations)
- (10%) Professional networks and reach (especially regarding CHARM priority constituents)

- (10%) Interest and ability to help create a dynamic culture of knowledge-sharing and learning
- (10%) Feasibility of proposal and ability to make a meaningful contribution to CHARM programme within the period of implementation
- (10%) Value for money

Proposals will be further moderated based on Diversity and Inclusion considerations to ensure that the selected partner/s complement existing CHARM consortium members, including thematic expertise, geographic coverage, organisational size/type, etc.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants must follow these steps to apply for the **CHARM Call for Partnership Proposals**:

Interested applicants who meet the eligibility criteria can complete and submit the online application form. Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria will not have their applications scored.

***Important note: **The [application form](#) must be completed and submitted online without exceptions.** We do not receive applications via email or any other channels.

Deadline to submit the online [application form](#): 20 February 2022.

SELECTION PROCESS

CHARM Partnership Proposal applicants will be selected through a staged process including:

1. Complete applications submitted by 21 February 2022 will be scored by the CHARM Coordination Team.
2. Top scoring applications will be sent to the CHARM Selection Committee for moderation and shortlisting; all applicants will be notified of their application status by 11 March.
3. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a more detailed work plan and budget by 20 March, which will be assessed by the CHARM Coordination Team and Technical Leads.
4. Shortlisted applicants' work plans, budgets, and assessments will be sent to the CHARM Selection Committee who will determine the finalists.
5. Finalists will be invited to interviews with the CHARM Selection Committee from 28 to 31 March, and successful applicants will be notified by 1 April 2022.
6. Selected partners will complete the contracting process from 4 to 8 April 2022 and participate in CHARM induction meetings from 11 to 14 April 2022.

About CHARM

The **Consortium to Promote Human Rights, Civic Freedoms and Media Development (CHARM)** in Sub-Saharan Africa is working collectively to nurture civil society, human rights defenders, independent media,

and journalists in the region, by supporting actions to protect and expand freedoms to speak out, organise, and take action.

Through CHARM, the six consortium partners (CIVICUS, Fojo Media, Wits Journalism, Civil Rights Defenders, Hub Afrique and DefendDefenders) work across Sub-Saharan Africa to advance more democratic and free societies, with a focus on countries where civic freedoms are *obstructed*, but there are still pockets of resistance that can be supported to strengthen human rights and democratic freedoms.

In the pilot phase, which ran from October 2019 to June 2020, CHARM's work centred on improving the understanding and capacity of its primary audiences to demand/exercise their rights.

To achieve this, activities were organised around 4 key areas:

1. Advocacy actions fostering an enabling environment that promotes human rights and civic and media freedoms, with a specific focus on women, labour, LGBTI, environmental and indigenous rights journalists/activists;
2. Inclusive and diverse counter-narratives to improve public support for a free and vibrant civil society and media;
3. Coalition-building that encourages coordination and joint action, and provides solidarity in the face of attacks and threats, with a focus on women, labour, LGBTI, environmental and indigenous rights journalists/activists;
4. Enhanced access to resources, especially for marginalised groups, that strengthen the ability of civil society and the media to withstand civic space restrictions and achieve their objectives.

Key outcomes from the pilot phase include:

- Increased direct engagement with decision-makers and institutions at all levels, on issues related to protecting human rights and democratic and media freedoms – for example, linking Human Rights Defenders to UN Special Rapporteurs and processes, as well as local government authorities, to mention a few.
- Increased engagement amongst CHARM's primary audiences, evidenced through learning exchanges and collective/solidarity actions.
- Increased access among CHARM participants to support and resources to help improve the quality and sustainability of their work – for example, through conducting resource mobilisation trainings, developing tools, and providing direct financial support to over 200 HRDs across Sub-Saharan Africa and working to strengthen national HRDs.