

Facilitation of *Resource Diversification for Organisational Resilience* Workshop for the Decentralisation and Climate Programme Consortium – Mwanza, Tanzania

Terms of Reference

1.0 Background

The Decentralisation and Climate Change in the Lake Victoria Basin (DaccA) programme focuses on strengthening climate resilience for smallholder farmers as a strategy to alleviate poverty in rural communities of the Lake Victoria Basin. The programme works with community-based organisations and civil society organisations who are active within the natural resource management sector, paying particular attention to agriculture and food security, on their right to participate in local planning processes within subnational decentralisation processes.

The programme is implemented by a consortium of three Non-Governmental Organisations: Mwanza Youth and Children Network (MYCN), Tanzania Home Economic Association (TAHEA-Mwanza) and Governance Links Tanzania. The programme is currently funded by Danish Civil Society Fund (CISU) through a Danish CSO-Sustainable Energy. The current phase is lined up for the period January 2024-December 2027)

2.0 Evolution of Civil society funding support ecosystem in the global south

Alongside the overall reduction in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) funding for Civil Society Organisations has been rapidly shrinking. CSOs are increasingly being forced to adapt to the reduction of funding flows and to radical transformations of the traditional financing modalities. Most of the time, CSOs are forced to compete for resources with other actors, particularly private and intergovernmental entities, which are often better prepared and staffed to cope with the multiplicity of demands, requirements and documents frequently requested by donors. This level of competition may be easier for large and international CSOs to navigate but penalises local, small, grassroots, or newly formed CSOs. There is also strong competition between international and local CSOs for resources offered exclusively to Civil society.

3.0 Introduction to the Resource Diversification Workshop

The lack of funding for operating expenses and strengthening costs restricts the ability of CSOs to consolidate, grow and become more sustainable, as well as to innovate and work with autonomy, self-determination and flexibility. This scarcity may also limit the development of specialised capacities, which are often required by the calls for proposals in order to obtain the resources offered. As a result, CSOs are faced with the enormous challenge of carrying out their daily work while trying to secure their futures. In this context, it is urgent to strengthen civil society and ensure that it is more independent, plural and resilient than ever before. One of the key elements to achieve this is to provide civil society with sufficient resources,

commensurate with its nature and mission, and free from excessive or unjustified political and bureaucratic obstacles. It is worrying that CSOs do not have enough funds to support themselves to work more autonomously and in line with their missions, needs and priorities, to invest in their strengthening and sustainability, and to experiment and innovate.

The consortium members in the Dacca programme are striving to diversify their funding sources and portfolios. Experience from partners indicate that approaches to resourcing are often limited to the purely operational and budgetary aspect of the topic, ignoring its impact on the configuration of civil society and its scope of action, autonomy and sustainability. To help bridge some of these strategic knowledge gaps in the current resource mobilisation landscape, the consortium is organising a two -day learning workshop on “Resource Diversification for Organisational Resilience” in Mwanza.

3.0 Objectives of the workshop

The overall objective of the workshop is to orient the Dacca consortium partners on strategic resource diversification under the prevailing civil society funding landscape.

Specific objectives are:

1. To analyse the contemporary civil society funding support ecosystem in Tanzania and beyond, based on emerging challenges, barriers and opportunities
2. To guide consortium partners on diversification of resources for programming and organisational sustainability
3. Guide the consortium partners on promoting innovative and diverse financial mechanisms that encourage the access to additional resources for civil society.

4.0 Expected results of the Workshop

- Increased understanding of funding sources and resource mobilisation strategies for civil society organisations within national regional and global spaces
- Improve the understanding of the complex civil society funding ecosystem in the global south generally and specifically in Tanzania
- To enable consortium partner teams to understand better existing and potential funding modalities that support the resilience and sustainability of CSOs, as well as emerging mechanisms such as individual donations, crowdfunding and exchange platforms.
- Creative approaches to strengthen internal capacities to develop proposals that will drive innovation and resources from other sectors towards civil society.
- Improve the understanding of the complex civil society funding ecosystem in the global south generally and specifically in Tanzania context in order to design calls for proposals that are better adapted to local needs, to the conditions under which CSOs work

5.0 Time frame

The workshop will be conducted for two days from 9th – 10th of October 2025

6.0 Deliverables:

- A workshop plan presented by the facilitator to MYCN
- A 2-day workshop conducted in Mwanza
- A workshop report submitted to MYCN

7.0 Reporting relations

The facilitator will work directly with senior management of Mwanza Youth and Children Network, a DaccA partner responsible for Civil Society growth trajectory in the programme.

8.0 The facilitator

The consortium wishes to engage a facilitator or small facilitation team with the following competencies:

- Conversant with the legitimacy and work of CSOs as potential recipients of donor resources and relevant actors because of their intrinsic and irreplaceable roles, rather than as one of the available channels for the distribution of basic social services.
- Excellent understanding of the evolving, diverse donor policies to support social development and international cooperation through civil society
- Strong strategic advisory capacity in the financing of civil society through fund seeking and fund raising in a transparent, democratic, fair and flexible manner

Interested candidates should direct their Expression of Interest to:

The Executive Director
Mwanza Youth and Children Network (MYCN)
E-mail: info@mycn.or.tz

Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest: Close of Business 27th September 2025