



**STAR
Ghana**
Strengthening Transparency,
Accountability and Responsiveness



Call for Proposals

Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI) - Small Grants Component

(Open to Community Based Organisations (CBOs), District level Civil Society Organisations (CSOS) and Citizen Groups)

Theme:

Strengthening citizen engagements with local governance institutions (including district assemblies and traditional authorities) for sustainable and inclusive access to quality public goods and services and economic resources.

Eligible organisations:

Registered Ghanaian civil society organisations (CSOs) located or operating at community or district levels. These include community based organisations, faith-based organisations, town and village associations, farmer-based organisations, fishermen and women associations, youth associations, people living with disability associations, etc.

NB: These organisations must be registered with the Registrar-General's Department and must have a Tax Identification Number.

About STAR Ghana

STAR-Ghana is a five-year (2015 – 2020) voice and empowerment programme supported by UK Aid, the European Union and DANIDA. Its goal is to have a well informed and active civil society, able to contribute to transformational change around key challenges of poverty, inequality and inclusion for all Ghanaian citizens. STAR-Ghana's gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) strategy seeks to define an approach which ensures equal opportunities for women, girls, men and boys, and a 'level playing field' for all social groups and to facilitate collective action and movement building in respect to gender equality and social inclusion.

The overarching concern of STAR-Ghana is to ensure that all Ghanaians can make their voices heard and participate actively in policy decisions and accountability processes that affect their lives. The term inclusion and exclusion is used by STAR-Ghana to address a wide diversity of social groups, for example Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), youth, children, the aged, slum dwellers, migrants and people living with HIV (PLHIV) and indigents. It also captures other factors of marginalisation as well. These include location (poor and remote areas of Ghana, rural areas, etc.) and type of civil society organisations (CBOs, community

associations, small CSOs, etc).

For more information on the STAR-Ghana GESI strategy, please visit the website at www.star-ghana.org

To achieve the objectives of its GESI strategy, STAR-Ghana is inviting applications, under the **small grants** component of the GESI call, from interested and eligible civil society organisations.

Under this component, small grants will be awarded to enable organisations pilot innovative approaches to addressing GESI issues at the community and district levels.

Eligible Organisations:

Organisations eligible to apply under this component include the following categories of CSOs:

- Small CSOs located in and/or operating primarily at community and district levels;
- Community-based organisations working in rural or deprived communities;
- Faith-based organisations located and working in rural or deprived communities and working with particular excluded social groups;
- Town, village and community associations;
- farmer-based organisations, fishermen and women associations representing peasant or small-scale food farmers or small-scale fishermen or fish processors;
- youth associations,
- Associations of persons with disabilities.

Focus and Duration of projects

This component of the GESI call focuses on supporting the piloting of innovative strategies and approaches to facilitate citizens' active engagement with local/traditional governance institutions and processes for increased voice in governance, improved access to quality public goods and services and or economic opportunities and improvements in social accountability. Ultimately, it is expected that these projects will contribute to empowerment through increased capacities of women, girls and other excluded social groups and their organisations to engage with district assemblies and traditional authorities, for inclusive and sustainable development.

The issues indicated below are not meant to be exhaustive but provide examples of key focus areas or thrusts, identified as critical to achieving the objectives of STAR-Ghana's GESI strategies at the sub-national level:

- a. increased accountability and responsiveness of district assemblies to the voice, leadership and political participation of GESI groups;
- b. improved access to economic opportunities and productive resources , such as financial capital , livelihood opportunities and land rights;
- c. improved access to quality public services for example. health, education, sanitation, housing; and

- d. increased adherence to the human rights and protection of women, girls and marginalised groups with a focus on laws, legislation as well as socio-cultural norms and practices of discrimination and stigma.

The proposed project should:

- a. pilot or test an original strategy or approach or build from an existing approach that has proven effective in order to achieve greater impact and results;
- b. have a maximum duration of 12 months and;
- c. Have a maximum budget of approximately **GHS 150,000.00** per project.

Organisations are encouraged to build partnerships with various stakeholders/actors, including media organisations, government agencies and other CSOs operating at district or regional levels to enable more innovative and joined-up actions. Particular priority will be given to proposals that build partnerships between various stakeholders to strengthen accountability through citizens' actions.

Please visit the STAR-Ghana website (www.star-ghana.org) for more detailed information on:

- Guidance Notes for Applicants
- The STAR-Ghana's GESI strategy;
- The report on the Scoping study which informed this call;
- STAR-Ghana's Grants strategy
- Other useful material.

Eligibility Criteria for the CSO or the Coalition/Network/Alliance

1. Should be able to state clearly the results and outcomes that will be achieved from the project;
2. Must demonstrate a track record in working with and delivering results for the target social groups;
3. Should have linkages with other Civil Society Organisations at district and local levels to leverage additional capacities;
4. Should provide bank statements for the past six (6) months);
5. Must be registered with the Registrar-General's Department with Tax Identification Number;
6. Be known by community leaders in the communities where they seek to operate their project;
7. Should be able to submit references from the District Assembly, Traditional Council or a funding organisation/agency.
8. Must not have been blacklisted by any donor agency, governmental agency or national CSO;
9. STAR Ghana may request additional information at the due diligence stage of the process when shortlisted;
10. Should provide 2015 audited accounts – for organisations which have been in existence for 3 years and above; and the latest financial statement – for organisations which have been in existence for below 3 years.

How to Apply

- Interested organisations should visit www.star-ghana.org and download an application form;
- These forms should be completed and submitted by email to the STAR-Ghana address on the application form;
- Deadline for submission of completed application forms will be **5th January, 2017.**
- Shortlisted applications will be notified within 4weeks after close of application.

Interested organisations are invited to Information sessions to be held as follows:

No.	Location	Venue	Date	Time
1.	Accra	Du Bois Centre	12 th Dec 2016	10:00am
2.	Kumasi	Noda Hotel - Fumesua	13 th Dec 2016	10:00am
3.	Cape Coast	Cape Coast Hotel	13 th Dec 2016	10:00am
4.	Sunyani	Tyco City Hotel	14 th Dec 2016	10:00am
5.	Takoradi	Akroma Plaza Hotel	14 th Dec 2016	10:00am
6.	Koforidua	Capital View Hotel	15 th Dec 2016	10:00am
7.	Ho	St. Steven's Hotel	20 th Dec 2016	10:00am
8.	Tamale	Gillbt Training Centre	14 th Dec 2016	9:00am
9.	Bolgatanga	Extee Crystal Hotel	16 th Dec 2016	10:00am
10.	Wa	Nuoyong Empire Hotel	21 st Dec 2016	10:00am

For enquiries, please email us at the following address: info@star-ghana.org or call (0302) 774488/7012404 **between 9am and 5pm on week days.**