



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



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
DANIDA | INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Call for Concept Notes
On
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion – *Strategic Component*

Theme:

Strengthening citizen engagements for sustainable and inclusive access to quality public goods and services and economic resources.

Eligible organisations

Registered Ghanaian civil society organisations (CSOs) operating at regional or national levels and actively engaged in policy influencing processes. These include:

- Academic and research institutions;
- Professional associations;
- Research and advocacy NGOs;
- Think Tanks;
- Private sector associations;
- Civil society networks, coalitions, alliances and platforms.

Eligible organisations must demonstrate capacity to mobilize citizens and citizen groups and forge alliances of relevant stakeholders for long-term engagement and collective action around critical GESI issues.

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. The programme is in its second phase of implementation, the first phase having ended in April 2015. The second phase builds upon the results and learning from Phase 1 to achieve a step-change in how citizens are supported to address the underlying constraints to democratic governance, and inclusive and sustainable community and national development.

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 strategy is aligned with the objectives of *Goal 4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Human Rights for all* and relevant provisions of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

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, people living with HIV (PLHIV) and indigents. It also captures other factors of marginalisation as well, such as location (poor and remote areas of Ghana, rural areas, etc.) and type of civil society organisation (CSOs), Community Based 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

The GESI Call

To achieve the objectives of its GESI strategy, STAR-Ghana is inviting applications from interested and eligible civil society organisations under the **Strategic partnerships component** of the GESI Call for proposals.

Under this component, STAR-Ghana will work with a limited number of short-listed organisations to co-develop and implement initiatives/interventions aimed at helping to address systemic barriers to GE and/or SI in Ghana. Indicative areas around which these strategic partnerships could be developed include

- a. Voice and participation in governance at all levels (traditional, decentralised and national levels);
- b. Addressing systemic barriers to opportunities and resources for economic activities, including land for specific GESI groups;
- c. Sustainable and inclusive access to quality and responsive public goods and services particularly health and education;
- d. Removal of systemic barriers to GESI groups' ability to claim and enjoy rights conferred on them by the constitution and relevant international conventions and frameworks and national policies.

A two-stage process will be used for this call:

- 1- Stage 1 invites concept notes from eligible CSOs. The programme Steering Committee will assess the concept notes and shortlist applicants for stage 2;
- 2- Stage 2 will involve shortlisted organisations and the PMT working together to develop full project proposals based among other things on more detailed analyses of the context, mapping of relevant actors and initiatives etc. Additionally discussions will further: frame the role of strategic partners as intermediary organisations addressing practical grassroots issues at national level; revisit movement building and collective action strategies for GE and SI based on best practice in Ghana and elsewhere and finally; signal areas for learning. These proposals will then be presented to the SC for review and sign off.

Projects funded under this component will be for a maximum duration of three (3) years and budget not exceeding **GHS800, 000.00** per project.

Applicants are particularly encouraged to explore opportunities for formal/informal alliances/networks/coalitions in the implementation of their proposed actions. These alliances/networks or coalitions may seek to (i) build innovative partnerships between Civil Society, the media and/or private sector; (ii) link actors across levels of governance (community, district, regional and national); (iii) enable collaborations between actors working on complementary issues and/or promote movement building on critical GESI issues.

How to Apply

- Interested organisations should visit www.star-ghana.org and complete the online Concept Note form;
- Request for Concept Notes will be closed by **17:00 hours GMT on 5th January, 2017.**
- Shortlisted organisations will be informed by **24th January, 2017** and invited to meet with the PMT to discuss stage 2 of the process.

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	Gillbtt 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

Please visit our website, www.star-ghana.org, for more information on STAR-Ghana, its grant processes and for the full report of the Scoping Study which informed this call.

For enquiries, please contact info@star-ghana.org or call (0302) 774488/7012404 between 9am and 5pm on week days.