



Thematic Call for Project Proposals: Local Governance, Mining, and Access to Information

Tilitonse is a grant making facility jointly funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Royal Norwegian Embassy, and Irish Aid. In line with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, Tilitonse is supporting civil society to play a role in promoting democratic governance. The overall goal of the fund is to support governance in Malawi that is increasingly inclusive, accountable and responsive to citizens.

Tilitonse aims to deliver the following four outputs:

- ❖ Increased capacity of CSOs to enable citizens, particularly poor and excluded groups, to claim their rights.
- ❖ Increased and better access to information on rights, entitlements and responsibilities, particularly for poor and excluded citizens.
- ❖ Strengthened monitoring by Malawian organizations of policy and budget commitments, service delivery and public resource management.
- ❖ Improved engagement of Malawian organizations in influencing policies, strategies and resource allocations at local and national levels improved.

Tilitonse is therefore inviting interested and qualified civil society organizations including non-state actors, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, the media, trade unions, the academia, research and policy advocacy institutions, and professional bodies to submit proposals on projects that will address selected issues under any one of the three thematic areas, namely, Local Governance, Mining and Access to Information. These three areas were identified through a consultative process and research that was commissioned on each one of them to identify issues amenable to development projects and consistent with the goal and objectives of the Tilitonse Programme.

I. LOCAL GOVERNANCE:

Under this thematic area, Tilitonse seeks to fund innovative projects that are specifically designed to improve the legal and policy framework for local governance in Malawi, improve civic empowerment, promote effective working of the local authorities and their sub-district structures, and enhance citizen oversight over district level resource use and allocation. The ultimate goal of projects under this thematic area is to create an alliance of CSOs with other partners that can share knowledge and skills on local governance in Malawi, engage with the policy and legal issues effectively, train duty bearers and provide quality civic education to citizens, develop position papers, promote national dialogue among actors dealing with local governance in Malawi, disseminate information, identify opportunities for change and engage with relevant actors who can drive the reform. The issues indicated below are not exhaustive but are indicative of areas identified as key to achieving improved local governance outcomes;

- I. Strengthening of the legal and policy framework of Local Governance to address the following:
 - a) A variety of amendments were made in 2010 that are likely to impact on effective local governance, improve gender sensitivity of the legal and policy framework;

- b) Role clarity and how conflicts can be resolved among and between key actors such as Members of Parliament, Councilors and Traditional Authorities and the District Secretariat,
 - c) Candidature provisions for local government Councilors in view of the nature of oversight role that they have to play.
- II. Civic Empowerment including training of duty bearers such as MPs, Councillors, and Chiefs on their expected roles, complementarity of their roles, the role of local government councils, the significance of inclusive representation for elected members; and mass education of citizens on the rightful and lawful roles of elected representatives and related subjects. The training programmes should use standard materials that are consistent with relevant legislation and approved by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.
- III. Interrogating the functionality of the local government authorities with its sub-district structures- Area Development Committees (ADC) and Village Development Committees (VDC) in the rural areas and Community Development Committees (CDC) and Ward Development Committees (WDC) in urban areas and developing project initiatives that will ensure effective linkages among the structures, clear separation from political structures, and that downward accountability and feedback mechanisms are working.
- IV. Resource mobilisation for local government councils in order to ensure adequate resources for improved service delivery
 - a) Budget tracking of central government including donor/NGO resource flows to local authorities in key areas such as water, health, education, and agriculture.
 - b) District Expenditure tracking surveys.
 - c) Citizen monitoring of District Development resource allocation and utilization e.g. Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Local Development Fund (LDF).

Eligible organisations

Registered Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including non-state actors, research and policy advocacy organisations, faith-based organizations, the media, the academia, trade unions and professional bodies, registered coalitions/networks/platforms **that are already active and have the requisite expertise in the fields of local governance, budget and expenditure tracking, district resource monitoring and gender.** Tilitonse emphasises collaborative partnerships between implementing partners. Therefore, proposals that seek to build partnerships and alliances with and among various stakeholders will have added advantage. Applications may focus on new projects or build on existing projects.

2. Mining:

The ultimate goal of projects under this thematic area is to build the capacity of relevant communities to understand mining issues and to build an effective and functional CSO Natural Resources Network, with a single, multi- dimensional, and credible body that can add value to policy processes and analysis and provide mining related responses in a strategic manner. The proposals should demonstrate that they are drawing insights from other successful community engagement/negotiation experiences with mining companies.

Under this thematic area, proposals are invited for innovative projects that will achieve the following two key results:

- a. Capacity Development of CSOs in order to achieve the following key results.
 - I. A national coalition of CSOs with clear vision and purpose for the mining sector

- II. A national strategy of engagement with mining investors
- b. Capacity Development of Communities in order to improve community understanding of and participation in issues related to mining ventures that affect their livelihoods and impact on their communities. The projects should deliver at least the following key results:
 - I. A framework of engagement at community level through which mining investors, community representatives and CSO/CBOs come together to deal with all issues that require collective action , transparency and accountability
 - II. Knowledge and understanding of the community about mining agreements between investors (in their areas) and government and the community stakes in them including the question of user and ownership rights of the land on which mines are established
 - III. Knowledge and community participation in monitoring the undertakings of the mining companies in terms of environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility for the benefit of the host communities.

Eligible organisations

Registered civil society organisations (CSOs), including non-state actors, research and policy advocacy organisations, faith-based organizations, the media, the academia, trade unions and professional bodies, registered coalitions/networks/platforms **that have been active in the mining and extractive industries in Malawi and have got a track record that can easily be determined and proven.**

3. Access to Information

This theme seeks innovative projects that are specifically designed to contribute to enhancing transparency and accountability of public duty bearers and deepen and broaden the participation of non-state actors in public policy processes. Innovative proposals are therefore invited for projects that will contribute towards achieving the following three key results:

- a. Advocacy for the enactment of the Access to Information bill and popularisation of the contents of the bill. Project proposals on this issue should also highlight those aspects that will be implemented in the post-enactment period or elements whose implementation is not dependent on the enactment of the bill. Once the bill is enacted, projects will be supported to enhance access to information on critical areas of governance and development such as investigative journalism (including training) focussing on selected issues that can contribute to the achievement of more inclusion, accountability and responsiveness of duty bearers.
- b. **Creating coalitions for growth and development:** It is well established in recent empirical discourses on the political economy of development that alliances/coalitions involving private sector, government policy makers and CSOs drive economic development through sharing of credible policy-relevant information through institutionalised mechanisms. However, such coalitions can be growth and development enhancing or they can also be retarding. Project proposals should seek to create or institutionalise and sustain forums for collective action through inclusive coalitions that share policy-relevant and investment-relevant information. Business associations at macro-level such as the MCCI or

- at sectoral level such as TAMA will have an advantage and are encouraged to submit proposals.
- c. Advocacy and reform project(s) aimed at contributing to higher standards of integrity in information dissemination by print and electronic media houses in a manner that secures the right of citizens to credible information. Proposals on transforming MBC from a state broadcaster to a public broadcaster and a champion of access to information are particularly encouraged. Proposals on this aspect will have to be clearer on addressing the formal and informal rules that over the years have made MBC to be what it is in so far as dissemination of information is concerned and strategies of engagement with stakeholders.

Eligible organisations

Registered civil society organisations (CSOs), including non-state actors, research and policy advocacy organisations, faith-based organizations, the media, the academia, trade unions and professional bodies, registered coalitions/networks/platforms **that have been active on issues of access to information in Malawi**. Media institutions such as NAMISA, Media Council of Malawi and MACRA are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals that seek to build partnerships and alliances among various stakeholders at the national level, CBOs & FBOs at local level, the media, the academia, relevant government ministries and agencies are particularly encouraged.

Tilitonse will hold information sessions to provide further information to prospective applicants in all the three regions of Malawi. A maximum of two representatives from each organization will be accepted. The sessions are scheduled as follows:

Southern Region: 6th May, 2013
Central Region: 8th May 2013
Northern Region: 10th May 2014

All prospective applicants must attend the guidance sessions. Project proposals from organizations that will not participate in the guidance sessions will not be considered. To register for participation, please email ndian.kumchenga@tilitonsemw.org or call 01770898 and indicate which session your organization would like to attend.

Deadline for the receipt of project proposals is 6th June 2013 by 12 noon.