**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

IDA Initiatives to advance Economic Social and Cultural rights in Southern Africa

# PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In early 2021, the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affair launched a call for proposals for support to INGOs to complement Finland’s development cooperation efforts. One of the thematic focus areas was strengthening the implementation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs)[[1]](#footnote-1) to address discriminatory practices. Priority has been given to organizations focusing on the rights of persons in vulnerable situations and to interventions addressing gender equality, capacity building of rights holders and advocacy.

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) received approval for a project to promote universality of ESC rights for all persons with disabilities, with a focus on Southern Africa[[2]](#footnote-2). This project seeks to address entrenched discriminations, especially for most marginalized and underrepresented[[3]](#footnote-3) groups of persons with disabilities. These persons are in vulnerable situations which are aggravated by the realities, including but not limited to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the impacts of climate change and political instability.

To respond to these aggravated situations, the project aims to invest in developing the capacity of and influence the disability rights movement in Southern Africa, in particular, of women with disabilities and other underrepresented groups, including indigenous persons with disabilities and youth with disabilities. It articulates an intervention by, for and with persons with disabilities, building solidarities from national to regional and global levels to play a role as frontline defenders of the economic, social, and cultural rights of all persons with disabilities.

The project will be implemented by IDA and its members, in particular the African Disability Forum (ADF), the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and Inclusion International (II), as well as national and subregional federations of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Southern Africa, particularly Mozambique, Angola, and Zambia.

# GRANTS OBJECTIVES

The IDA grants aim at supporting initiatives to advance ESC rights for persons with disabilities in Southern Africa, particularly Mozambique, Angola and Zambia. The activities financed by those grants can cover the following areas or actions:

* Advocacy to ensure ESCRs for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others,
* Media campaigns, including social media, to raise awareness on ESC rights of persons with disabilities,
* Production of reports, case studies and other sources of evidence on the ESC rights of persons with disabilities, in particular covering their underrepresented groups. Such reports should include innovative tools and good practices for policy makers, development actors and others on the practical implementation and realization of economic, social, and cultural rights,
* Capacity building around the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, and its UN Committee CECSR, including but not limited to trainings to OPDs on elaborating alternative/parallel/shadow reports to the CESCR Committee, advocacy towards signing the Optional Protocol and its individual communications mechanism,
* Capacity building of organizations of youth with disabilities regarding the Global Disability Youth Summit and the resultant [Youth Call for Action](https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/rails/active_storage/blobs/redirect/eyJfcmFpbHMiOnsibWVzc2FnZSI6IkJBaHBBbEFDIiwiZXhwIjpudWxsLCJwdXIiOiJibG9iX2lkIn19--c6dd0a369851fafecfe32139683e85f25abe259b/Call%20for%20Action_GDS%20Youth%202022.pdf), including supporting the implementation of the Call for Action at the national level towards positive contributions to national policy-shaping and decision-making,
* Initiatives considering the impact of climate change on economic, social and cultural rights,
* Initiatives promoting access to employment for youth with disabilities.

This list is not exhaustive, and IDA will consider any proposal covering cross-disability initiatives and partnerships at national level and other advocacy strategies towards relevant ESC rights.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## General Information

**Eligible Organizations:** Organizations of persons with disabilities registered in Southern Africa, particularly Mozambique, Angola and Zambia.

**Duration and amount of the program:** 132,000 EUR between 03 October 2022 and 3 December 2023.

**Maximum Number of grants:** 15

**Grants budget and Duration:** Up to 10,000 EUR for a period of 12 months.

## Mandatory Organizational Requirements

Application organizations must meet the following requirements and qualifications:

* Being a legal entity or organization of persons with disabilities.
* Being registered in in Southern Africa, particularly in Mozambique, Angola, and Zambia (registration documents will be required).
* Currently operating in the country which they are applying.
* Having a bank account in the name of the organization and the financial capacity to pre-finance 20% of the activities.
* Showing project management skills, as evidenced by the successful delivery of projects and grants of similar size.
* Being able to provide evidence of experience in the field of the call for proposals and a vision that corresponds to the objectives of the call.
* Ability to work proficiently in English for project management and reporting purposes (with delivery to be conducted in local languages).

## Evaluation Criteria

All completed applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria. Proposals must:

* Have clear and concrete objectives, communicated simply
* Contribute to the objectives of the IDA Project
* Be feasible and achievable, considering the budget and timeframe
* Applications will be evaluated and scored by a granting committee and operational staff in line with the below selection criteria and weighting.

### Organizational and operational capacity (25%), applicants should:

* Have a strong mission statement
* Demonstrate adequate staff and presence in the target areas to deliver the interventions
* Hold relevant technical knowledge and expertise
* Demonstrate how they include women, underrepresented/marginalized groups and youth members in decision making
* Have established connections with the target beneficiaries
* In assessing applications, we will consider the ‘added value’ offer of the applicant, especially where it develops networks and capacities or valuable collaborations, in particular with other OPDs.

### Relevant experience (25%)

* Applicants should have managed initiatives of similar size in the field of advocacy, awareness campaigns, production of reports, data collections or training delivery.

### Quality of intervention, partnerships, innovation, inclusion of underrepresented groups and feasibility (40%)

* The proposal should be clear and in line with one of the IDA Project objectives. Applicants must demonstrate understanding of the context and problem to be addressed.
* Proposals which contravene fundamental ethical principles, rights-based approaches, gender inclusion and respect for diversity shall not be selected.
* To receive grant funding, proposals do not necessarily need to achieve massive scale. In fact, over-promising could hurt your application. Some projects might seek to reach a wide audience. Others might seek to achieve a greater depth of impact with a smaller number of people. The scale and quality of impacts will influence project marking. Projects should seek to achieve the widest and/or most meaningful impact possible within the realistic boundaries of the project. They should also seek to measure that impact in a relevant and credible manner.
* The applicant should have a well-developed, realistic plan to execute on the proposal, including a simple but comprehensive action plan that includes activities, deliverables, and measurement indicators. Target groups and indicators should be realistic and measurable. Moreover, the team should have the right expertise and skills to execute on the proposal or have identified the right partners and domain experts needed for implementation.
* Involvement of key stakeholders during the implementation of the project, resulting in expanding networks; sharing knowledge, experiences and learning, and leveraging up the activities thanks to partnerships will be considered as an asset.
* Innovation and different approaches will be considered as an asset.
* Applicants must show how underrepresented groups will be included in the initiative’s activities.

### Budget, Financial management, reporting (10%)

* Applicants must demonstrate they implemented systems to document and monitor the work that will be delivered. The key areas include keeping track of the number of events and participants, number of beneficiaries, outcomes of events and any other relevant details. IDA expects to receive one narrative report covering the implementation period, outlining outcomes and deliverables achieved.
* Applicants must demonstrate they implemented accounting and financial control systems ensuring a sound financial management of the project and accurate reporting to IDA. A financial report is required to be submitted at the end of the project with the relevant supporting documents (invoices, contracts, procurement files etc.). Administration and finance requirements are detailed in Annex A.

## How to apply?

Completed applications must be submitted by email to [grant@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:grant@ida-secretariat.org) under the title “ESC Initiatives 2022” before **5pm CET on Friday 2 September 2022.** Applications must be completed in English. A completed application must include:

* One-page cover letter, signed and stamped
* Grant Application Form
* Copy of Registration Certificate
* Copy of Bank account details

# Annex A: Due Diligence and financial reporting requirements

## Registration and Statutes

* Registration certificate / permission of license to operate as an OPD/NGO. Income tax number/PAN card copy of the grant receiver, any unique identification number of the OPD provided by the government.
* Bank account details including details for wire transfers.
* Office address, contact details, email.
* List of Board Members, their contact details, and dates of their last 3 meetings.

## Internal Financial Control Mechanisms

* The most recent annual financial statements signed by the Treasurer/President.
* Name, designation, address, contact details of focus person for the project from the organization.

## Disbursement

* The disbursement of funds will be done in 3 tranches – one at the beginning of the project phase (40%), one after a third of the project phase (4 months for a 12-month project for example) (30%) and the last one after the second third of the project phase (8 months for a 12-month project for example) (30%).

## Financial Reports/documents required

* Financial statement should build on the budget approved with the contract and showing the expenses for the period reported.
* Variances above +/- 10% should be explained. Major variances should have been discussed on the job with the authorized person identified by IDA.
* Documentation trail of all expenses should be preserved carefully and submitted at the end of the project period (all original supporting bills, invoices, etc. for validating each expenditure).
* Financial statements should be signed by the Partner financial controller/accountant and by the Executive Director / Program Director.
* Copy of workshop/training/event attendance lists.

1. Economic, social and cultural rights embrace rights such as the rights to adequate food, adequate housing, cultural life, education, health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, the right to land, social security, water and sanitation, and work. Further information at [www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cescr](https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cescr), [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Countries considered as Southern African countries by the Southern African Development Community are: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The International Disability Alliance understands the term “under-represented groups” to be those among persons with disabilities who enjoy less visibility in decision making processes. The disability movement, like other social movements, is not homogenous. There are some groups that have traditionally been less included in participatory processes, or harder to reach, or face higher barriers to participation such as: persons who are deafblind, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with autism, hard of hearing people, Deaf people, people with albinism, people with cerebral palsy, among others. It can also include those who may be less engaged in decision making such as women, children, young, older people and indigenous persons, as well as people from diverse faith, ethnicity, caste, class, sexual orientation or gender identity minorities. This understanding may differ in different countries, culture and contexts, [↑](#footnote-ref-3)