

THE CIVIL SOCIETY FUND
SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT 2020

**GUIDELINES, PROCESS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE, 2020-2022**



THE CIVIL SOCIETY FUND (CSF) PROGRAM SUPPORT

Photo credit: Pernille Bærendtsen

The CISU/CSF supplementary grant on climate resilience for existing program organisations is a competitive funding scheme that allows organisations to build on their experience, learning and potential new opportunities within sustainable development goal 13 – climate action. The overall purpose of the grant is to support concrete activities that reduce vulnerability and increase the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities to respond to the impacts of climate change, including climate variability at local and national levels.

The purpose of the grant is not for organisations to change their main focus of work, but to look at areas where climate action can be integrated into their current program and to make use of this learning to further develop and innovate their program approach. Through their program they should identify concrete initiatives focused on climate adaptation and resilience activities with clear community benefits; foster partnerships between communities, local or national governments, and/or regional stakeholders on climate adaptation; and generate and share learning on good practice approaches to community adaptation within SDG 13 and other relevant climate-related targets in the various SDGs. Activities on integrating climate actions are foreseen to cover a diverse range of sectors.

With reference to the general guidelines of the Civil Society Fund, including the guidelines for program support, the following specific guidelines outline the focus and conditions for this round of supplementary funding as well as the assessment criteria.

GUIDELINES

Support for supplementary grants should contribute to fulfilling the Civil Society Fund’s overall purpose as well as having a clear focus on building climate resilience in poor and vulnerable communities through capacity building and advocacy. The supplementary grant serves to boost programs that are particularly good at promoting the Civil Society Fund’s objectives by e.g. extending their catalytic effects (as stated in the Guidelines for the Civil Society Fund) and the use of experimental, creative and innovative measures in development cooperation. This is reflected in the choice of assessment criteria and in the weighting of the scoring. This also means that the grant cannot be used to solely upscale current activities but must be based on a revised ToC including clear additional components related to building climate resilience. Initiatives that are scalable or replicable to other areas or regions and that contribute to addressing relevant policy priorities within climate adaptation are recommended.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

The strategic focus of this supplementary grant is on initiatives that address themes and challenges under SDG 13 on climate actions including the following 3 key priorities:

- Strengthen capacity of civil society in developing countries to advocate effectively and strategically on behalf of poor and climate vulnerable target groups to increase these target groups’ resilience to climate change.
- Strengthening national and community-level climate change policies, planning frameworks and information systems – especially in relation to adaptation to climate change.
- Build capacity of local communities to adapt to climate change – reducing vulnerabilities and improve climate resilience.

Proposals with a primary focus on climate change mitigation (emissions reduction) or renewable energy will not be granted. However, the inclusion of climate change mitigation and/or renewable energy components that support the delivery of climate change adaptation actions/benefits as the primary outcome of the proposal will be eligible for funding.

Applications for supplementary grants must fall under one of the below modalities:

1. Small grants (up to DKK 1.000.000)

These initiatives focus on promoting local level climate resilience in various sectors. The emphasis is on building the capacity of civil society and local or national duty bearers to better plan for, coordinate and deliver actions that support vulnerable communities to adapt to current or future climate change impacts. This could include (but is not limited to):

- Provision of support to build community level resilience capacity.
- Promoting and sharing knowledge on climate change adaptation issues such as improved resilience techniques etc. that will strengthen the capacity and leadership within communities, industries and government in terms of climate adaptation and resilience actions.
- Awareness raising of climate risks and potential impacts on local communities as a means to build capacity of communities, civil society and other stakeholders to perform advocacy within SDG 13 and in relation to relevant climate-related targets in other SDGs.

2. Large grants (up to DKK 2.500.000)

While also including the priorities for small grants, this category of applications must furthermore involve a strong focus on evidence base generation, i.e. the initiative must ensure that evidence of effective and efficient adaptation practices, products and technologies is being generated and communicated as a basis for creating concrete and sustainable change 'on the ground'. This could include (but is not limited to):

- Developing innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies to increase resilience to changing climate conditions (e.g. more resilient agriculture techniques or improved community management of extreme weather events).
- Piloting/engaging in new activities or changing practices to take advantage of changing climatic conditions.

Proposals for large grants must furthermore include a description of how activities will contribute to multiple stakeholder involvement (e.g. private sector, other CS actors, government authorities, state institutions etc.) to promote national and/or regional advocacy and capacity efforts in support of climate adaptation and resilience of vulnerable communities.

AMOUNTS AND PERIOD

Total amount available is DKK 16.000.000 from 2020-2022

Applicants can either apply for:

- a) Small grants up to DKK 1.000.000 in total;
- b) Large grants up to DKK 2.500.000 in total.

An approved additional grant is a one-time grant that will not increase the yearly base funding of the program – nor will it increase the base funding allowed to be applied for in the next program period.

Deadline for applications is March 2, 2020. The implementation period of the supplementary grant will begin in April 2020 and end no later than December 2022.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Following the general principles and processes in the Civil Society Fund, the application will be assessed either as granted, granted with good advices, granted with conditions, or rejected. Applications for small grants will not be subjected to competitive scoring, whereas applications for large grants will be scored in accordance

with the general principles for "ranking and scoring" in the Civil Society Fund. To secure a system that is in accordance with the funds available, CISU reserves, within the limit of the funds available, the right to equally reduce the amounts granted for two (or more) applicants that end up with the same score and ranking.

APPLICATION FORMAT

Submit an application of maximum 8 pages using the provided template. The application must include a 1-2-page summary of the existing program. This summary can be used as reference point when illustrating where new and/or revised activities are relevant for the proposed strategy/ToC.

A budget covering expected costs in relation to the supplementary grant for the period and explanatory budget notes must be enclosed using the CISU budget template for the supplementary grant. The details of the budget are mainly to assist the assessment committee to understand the intervention logic of the proposal. No other appendixes can be submitted except if requested from the assessment committee in the process. Applications must be submitted in accordance with the directions on the application format.

The new/additional outcomes related to the supplementary grant must be clearly stated in the application. It is not required to present a complete updated result-framework as part of the application. However, it is expected that an updated result-framework will be presented in the next annual consultation with CISU following a grant approval.

REPORTING CONDITIONS

The application should include an M&E plan, which should be in compliance with the existing program's M&E framework. An updated program results framework incorporating the supplementary grant's outcomes, milestones, targets and indicators must be submitted prior to the first coming annual consultation with CISU (as part of the program yearly status reporting).

Reporting on the supplementary grant will be included in the applicant's yearly program reporting to CISU with a completion report to be submitted March 1st 2023. For programs ending December 31st 2021, the last budget year of the grant will be conditioned by the approval of a new program phase.

Specifications regarding reporting and fund management are outlined in CISU's administrative guidelines for programs.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

It is important to note that the application must demonstrate coherence, both within the individual criteria and with the existing program, as the additional initiatives are meant to be interlinked and integrated in the existing program. Thus, the assessment and decision on whether the application can be approved will be based on an overall estimate of strategic relevance and coherence in terms of the existing program objectives as well as the promotion of climate adaptation and resilience within SDG 13 and other relevant climate-related targets in the other SDGs.

The application for a supplementary grant will be assessed according to the following criteria:

CRITERIA

1.	<p><i>Strengthening civil society in the global South in accordance with the general principles in the Civil Society Fund and the Sustainable Development Goals (20%)</i></p>
	<p>Assessment criteria: Applicants must present activities and initiatives that focus on strengthening (the role of) civil society in creating sustainable improvements in vulnerable people’s living conditions, fulfilment of rights and securing of equal opportunities in relation to SDG 13 and other climate-related targets within the other SDGs.</p> <p>The assessment of the criteria will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Capacity of the involved/relevant CSOs in relation to SDG 13 – The degree to which the proposed activities promote and strengthen civil society in the global South in relation to climate resilience and adaptation in SDG 13 and other climate-related targets in other SDGs. Especially to which extent the respective proposal supports efforts to form part of relevant local, national, regional or international strategies, plans and priorities to promote climate resilience in the Global South. – The degree to which activities engage, empower and/or benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups, including gender considerations, in line with the general principles of the CSF.
2.	<p><i>Relevance of proposed new activities to Theory of Change and program synergy (10%)</i></p>
	<p>Assessment criteria: The supplementary grant must complement the ongoing program in a coherent and value-adding manner and not duplicate already funded activities or efforts. Applicants must relate the proposed new activities to the existing ToC and demonstrate how the proposed activities relate to – and improve – the program focus. A revised ToC where the new and/or revised elements are clearly indicated must be presented.</p> <p>The proposed activities are not required to address all aspects or components of the current program strategy/ToC. However, they must be relevant to the overall strategy.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Whether and how the programme target groups are impacted by or vulnerable to climate changes. – The degree to which the programme thematic focus and achievement of programme objectives are impacted by climate change. – The degree to which the proposed activities strategically and qualitatively improve the synergy and learning within the program and its ToC, thereby demonstrating how the activities contribute to strengthening the impact, outcomes, efficiency, effectiveness and/or quality of the overall program.

3.	<i>Innovative approaches and/or new methods (20%)</i>
	<p>Assessment criteria: A priority in the supplementary grant is the creation of innovative and/or new approaches and new insights within climate adaptation and resilience in relation to the existing program. It must be demonstrated how the introduction of new methods or approaches related to climate action are expected to contribute to improvements in impact, outcomes, efficiency, effectiveness, or quality of the program.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <p>Small grants: For programs that do not have a current climate focus, this criterion is especially related to efforts to integrate climate resilience into the existing program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The degree to which the proposed activities build climate action capacity of civil society actors not currently working in the field of climate resilience and adaptation. – The degree to which the proposed activities create knowledge and capacity of stakeholders that can lead to increased climate resilience for vulnerable communities. <p>Large grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The degree to which the proposed activities introduce innovative and/or improved methods and/or make use of new experimental approaches, including reflections on how these are expected to benefit the program over time. – To which extent the proposed activities develop and pilot innovative approaches to building of climate resilience and adaptation.
4.	<i>Climate Action (50%)</i>
	<p>Assessment criteria: The supplementary grant is focused on climate action within SDG 13 and the climate-related targets of the other SDGs. The supplementary grant aims at supporting integration of climate action in a variety of sectors in line with those sectors/thematic areas that the applicant programme is already working with. The application must demonstrate how the proposed initiatives are expected to lead to improvements in the local civil society’s capacity to work with advocacy for climate adaptation efforts. Moreover, reflection must be included on how the supplementary grant is expected to benefit the program over time.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <p>Small grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The degree to which the proposed activities realistically introduce integration of climate action into the program; – The degree to which the proposed activities are addressing the adverse impacts and risks posed by climate change on poor communities, and how the initiatives will increase the target groups’ resilience towards climate variability; – The degree to which the proposed activities promote sharing of knowledge and awareness raising within SDG 13 or other climate-related targets within the other SDGs. – Reflections on the realism in integrating the proposed activities in the long-term operations of the program (in a 2-3 year perspective).

Large grants:

- The degree to which the proposed activities offer a catalytic effect by means of involving multiple stakeholders and/or regional connections within climate action efforts;
- The approach to and relevance of national and/or regional advocacy efforts in support of climate adaptation and resilience of vulnerable communities, including how likely they are to produce visible and tangible results on the ground by reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience and adaptive capacity of people and systems to respond to the impacts of climate change, including climate variability;
- The degree to which the proposal will be working with creating and communicating evidence for efficient building of climate resilience and adaptation.