

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		OVERALL WEIGHT: 30
Assessment of strategic relevance of the programme and partnership approach.		
Criteria 1	Strategic approach strengthening civil society in the Global South and relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.	50
Criteria 2	Relevance of partner organisations and their local, national and/or global networking partners, and their approach strengthening local leadership as part of the programme.	50

CAPACITY		OVERALL WEIGHT: 30
Assessment of track record and proven and demonstrated organisational capacity by applicant organisation and partners.		
Criteria 3	Organisational capacity and popular involvement.	20
Criteria 4	Financial management and administrative capacity.	15
Criteria 5	Analytical capacity and learning.	20
Criteria 6	Delivering and documenting results.	45

PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES		OVERALL WEIGHT: 40
Assessment of the programme content and the methods and approaches applied.		
Criteria 7	Theory of Change and programme synergy.	30
Criteria 8	Result Framework and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system.	20
Criteria 9	A Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA).	10
Criteria 10	Sustainability.	15
Criteria 11	Financial resources and cost level.	20
Criteria 12	Information activities in Denmark.	5

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE

Why is the programme relevant for civil society: Assessment of strategic relevance of the programme and partnership approach.

Strategic relevance looks at what the programme seeks to achieve and how this is strategically relevant to civil society in the contexts it is implemented. Central to the relevance of partner organisations and networks is their ability to relate local priorities with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) agenda, and their efforts to build on the results achieved in previous projects and/or phases of the programme.

<p>Criteria 1 Strategic approach: strengthening civil society in the Global South and relevance to the SDGs.</p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Present overall strategic approach which will contribute to strengthening civil society in the Global South so that it has the autonomy, space, diversity, and capacity to relate local priorities with the realisation of the SDGs.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coherence of applicant overall mission with the outcomes and strategic approach of the programme application (e.g. as described in the Theory of Change). – For existing programmes: the degree to which the proposed programme proposes new and innovative strategic and professional approaches within the thematic field of the application. – For new programme applicants: the degree to which the proposed programme offers synergies among partner organisations and apply professional approaches within the thematic field of the application. – How the programme relates to the national SDG targets. 	<p>Basis for assessment</p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Concept Note</p> <p>Programme Document</p>
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Criteria 2 Relevance of partner organisations and their local, national and/or global networking partners capacity strengthening local leadership.	Basis for assessment
<p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Present partnership engagements contributing to local leadership and the development of a strong, independent, vocal, and diverse civil society in the Global South through meaningful, equal, and mutually committing partnerships. Applicants proposing programme components in countries and regions, where the applicant has not previously been present, must demonstrate knowledge regarding country context and civil society environment. Organisations proposing interventions in fragile situations shall demonstrate capacity to work with partners in such contexts.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Track record in engaging in meaningful, equal, and mutually committing partnerships with relevant South-based actors, including mechanisms how to allow for synergy between partners. – Partnership approaches strengthening local leadership for key partners in the programme (i.e., equal partnership, financial resources and support, capacity strengthening, participation, and strengthening influence in coordination mechanisms and policy fora). – Network and global connections: involvement of networking partners and global connections with relevance for the programme. 	<p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Track Record Document</p> <p>Concept Note</p> <p>Programme Document</p>

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

What capacities already exist: Assessment of track record and proven and demonstrated organisational capacity by applicant organisation and partners.

Capacity assessment has a professional focus on the Danish organisation's competencies, popular engagement, practice, systems, and on learning and innovation, as well as the participating partners' and other actors' legitimacy, experience, capacity, and resources. In addition, it looks at what results have been achieved so far, either in relation to previous projects or in relation to previous programme phases.

Criteria 3 Organisation capacity and popular involvement.

Applicants must:

Demonstrate organisational and human resource capacity to enhance development effectiveness of the Danish applicant organisation and the participating partners in the programme by maintaining satisfactory professional competency and technical capacity. Organisations must further show a track record of involving relevant groups and stakeholders in the Danish society to broaden and sustain popular involvement and engagement. Organisations proposing interventions in fragile situations shall demonstrate capacity to operate in such contexts.

The assessment of the criteria will include:

- Management systems for planning, implementing, and monitoring overall programme portfolio.
- Human resource strategies and systems to ensure staffs can sustain strategic intervention areas of the proposed partnership engagement.
- Organisational structure to ensure satisfactory accountability while also promoting responsiveness and flexibility.
- Proven capacity to extend and develop applicant's position to engage and involve the population in Denmark in development cooperation.
- By December 31, 2023, policies and procedures that address the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs four 'red lines': anti-corruption, safeguarding (PSHEA), child labour, and anti-terror must be in place. The policies and procedures can be separate documents or collected in a Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics. The clauses stipulating the red lines are included in the grant contract and must be adhered to by all parties.

Basis for assessment

CapPro or Review Report

Track Record Document

Concept Note

Programme Document

Minutes from latest Annual Consultations (for existing programmes)

<p><i>Criteria 4 Financial management and administrative capacity.</i></p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Maintain a satisfactory internal level of financial management and administrative capacity, adequate for meeting the overall requirements and responsibilities related to management of CISU grants.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Performance: systems, procedures, and capacities to assess and monitor financial performance, including adequate internal financial and administrative control systems. Furthermore, applicants have a system to review costs and outcomes during programme implementation to reallocate budgetary resources to enhance cost effectiveness. – Anti-corruption: implementation of anti-corruption policy including training and ensuring implementation also at partner level to prevent, disclose and actively follow up on financial irregularities at all levels, both internally and, when relevant, with respect to partners by December 31, 2023. – Approach to financial resource allocation: financial management systems in place to track expenditures in relation to result achievements during programme implementation to enable resource reallocation if necessary. 	<p><i>Basis for assessment</i></p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Track Record Document</p> <p>Concept Note</p> <p>Programme Document</p> <p>Financial monitoring review with applicant</p>
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<p><i>Criteria 5 Analytical capacity and learning.</i></p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Have capacity to undertake comprehensive context analysis and risk assessments, and to utilize evidence-based learning from programme implementation to inform analysis, planning and innovation of strategies and operational approaches.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Analysis: ability to ensure context and stakeholder analysis as a basis for programme design, planning and innovation. – Risk management: relevant policies, guidelines, and methodologies for risk management systems. – Learning and innovation: learning and knowledge management for generation of evidence-based learning and innovation from programme implementation (including learning from failures/non-achievements), reviews, capacity assessments, evaluation, and research. 	<p><i>Basis for assessment</i></p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Track Record Document</p> <p>Concept Note</p> <p>Programme Document</p>
<p><i>Criteria 6 Delivering and documenting results.</i></p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Have demonstrated ability to deliver results at outcome level in a cost-effective manner in previous interventions.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Track record on delivering and documenting results at outcome level, demonstrating applicant capacity – together with partners in the Global South – to monitor and report on significant changes at the level of targeted rights holders. – Track record of prioritising budget resources in cost-effective manner. 	<p><i>Basis for assessment</i></p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Track Record Document</p>

PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES

How the programme will be implemented: Assessment of the programme content and the methods and approaches applied.

The programme approach looks specifically at how the programme is expected to be implemented, and whether the use of Theory of Change (ToC) and the interventions that are planned to be implemented in an aggregated manner leads to partner synergies and fulfilment of programme objective (impact). There is a special focus on the strategy e.g., how the programme relates to the SDG agenda based on a human rights-based approach, and whether the development triangle has a relevant balance. In addition, it is also assessed how the programme is implemented in relation to target group composition, risk analysis, cost-effectiveness, and programme-related information work.

Criteria 7 Theory of Change and programme synergy.

Applicants must:

Present a comprehensive strategy on how the various interventions clearly relate and intertwine to the overall programme approach in the form of a ToC. This shall include justified strategic choices of intervention that contribute to the programme objective (impact) and outcomes and consider relevant risks that may hinder or delay programme outcomes.

The assessment of the criteria will include:

- Context: whether applicant and partners have based the ToC on a thorough analyses of the context, desired changes, risks, and target group and stakeholder identification and involvement, including duty bearers and rights holders.
- Intervention logic: whether the ToC presents a clear and logical link from the context and stakeholder analyses to intervention logic and key assumptions to outcomes. This includes whether organisational capacity building relate to an assessment of existing organisational capacity strengths and weaknesses.
- Change triangle: whether the ToC has a coherent and relevant balance between the programme’s strategic deliveries, capacity building and advocacy.
 - In stable contexts, whether the potential for advocacy is adequately assessed.
 - In fragile contexts, strategic deliveries shall support capacity development and establish potential for advocacy.
- Policy link: approach to- and relevant track record in bringing operational experience and outcomes to policy level, considering relevant national, regional and/or global policy processes.

Basis for assessment

CapPro or Review Report

ToC diagram

Concept Note

Programme Document

<p><i>Criteria 8 Results Framework and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system.</i></p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Present a coherent results framework at programme level and have a proven system to operate sub-results frameworks at thematic and/or country level for relevant parts of the proposed programme. Applicants must have a description of the MEL approach to be applied on a programme level.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coherence between the programme objective (impact), outcomes, and indicators. – A relevant approach for how to prepare and carry out programme monitoring and evaluation that encourages reflection on the ToC-assumptions on which the programme is based, and on the risk factors and strategies for risk mitigation. – Approach to creating and sharing knowledge, data and analyses and promoting mutual learning and innovation among partner organisations, as well as CSOs and other relevant stakeholders. 	<p><i>Basis for assessment</i></p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Programme Document</p> <p>Summary Results Framework</p>
<p><i>Criteria 9 A human rights-based approach (HRBA).</i></p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Present a proposed programme with interventions based on a HRBA, gender equality, and the principle of multidimensional poverty orientation with a particular focus on poor, marginalised, and vulnerable groups (the SDG principle of ‘leaving no-one behind’).</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Track record and approach to mainstreaming HRBA principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, and transparency (PANT) in individual components, with partner organisations and within the applicant organisation. – Approach to how feedback is continuously received from programme target groups and how this is used to adjust til programme and operations. Track record and approach to support women and girls in the fulfilment of their rights in the proposed partnership engagement and in individual interventions. – The degree to which the proposed partnership engagement contributes to strengthen civil society organising to promote the fulfilment of rights and equal access to resources and participation to bring about sustainable improvements for poor, marginalised and vulnerable target groups (the SDG principle of ‘leaving no-one behind’). 	<p><i>Basis for assessment</i></p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Programme Document</p>

<p>Criteria 10 Sustainability.</p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Present an analysis of the sustainability of key expected changes achieved during the programme period, including how the intervention strengthens civil society entities that promote social justice and responsible climate and environmental conduct.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reflections on the programme’s sustainability – e.g., politically, organisationally, socially, technically, financially, and/or environmentally – in view of the overall programme framework, so that local partners and target groups have a responsible climate and environmental conduct and strengthened capacity, and do not end up in an inappropriate relationship of dependency. – Exit-strategies for programme partners and/or interventions which are planned to be handed over/phased out during programme phase. 	<p>Basis for assessment</p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Programme Document</p>
<p>Criteria 11 Financial resources and Cost Level.</p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Present a clear and transparent budget that clearly identifies and separates costs incurred at country level and costs relating to the Danish applicant.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Budget coherence: relationship between expected outcomes and expected target group(s), including justification of Danish costs (spending on administration, travel, and salaries both in partner country and in Denmark). – Own contribution: the approach towards obtaining supplementary resources for both applying organisation and local partners (donor diversification), and for mobilising and cooperating with other actors to expand access to resources and financing, thus boosting the effect and sustainability of interventions in programme. 	<p>Basis for assessment</p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Programme Document</p> <p>Programme Budget</p>

<p>Criteria 12 Information and engagement in Denmark.</p> <p><u>Applicants must:</u></p> <p>Describe how the programme engage with relevant groups and stakeholders in Denmark to strengthen the understanding of- and interest in global development challenges related to the programme, and the role of local partners and civil society in general.</p> <p><u>The assessment of the criteria will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Plans and methods to explore new ways of engaging volunteers and a larger and more diverse segment of the Danish public.– Plans for strengthening the understanding of and interest in global development challenges e.g., in the context of the SDGs, and the role of civil society partners.	<p>Basis for assessment</p> <p>CapPro or Review Report</p> <p>Programme Document</p>
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