



U.S. Embassy, Yaounde - Cameroon

STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY

BUILDING CAPACITY OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Terms of reference and call for expressions of interest

November 2024

CONTEXT

Since 1990, Cameroon has made progress in enshrining fundamental rights and freedoms. In particular, with the adoption of the 1990 laws on freedoms, the 1996 law revising the Constitution, and the 1999 law on NGOs. This breath of fresh air has greatly encouraged the emergence of a number of civil society organizations (CSOs). While many of them are small agricultural cooperatives or collective savings schemes, joint initiative groups or community associations, many also work to promote and defend human rights. And among these human rights organizations, many are dedicated to the protection and defense of women's rights, youth civic engagement, good governance, access to justice, etc.

In addition, Cameroon has ratified the majority of human rights instruments at both regional and universal levels. To guarantee the legitimacy and full development of civil society organizations, Cameroon has ratified several texts protecting freedom of association. These include the African Youth Charter (CAJ) and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (CADEG), in which States commit to create a conducive framework for the development of civil society organization.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have gradually emerged as partners in the implementation and/or monitoring and evaluation of public policies and international aid programs. They are often presented as a guarantee of ownership, transparency and effectiveness of development strategies. Recognition of the role and importance of CSOs in the national development process, in governance and in assisting the population, certainly reflects their work in animating the public arena. But it also reflects the level of expectations and confidence that partners (state actors, private sector, technical and financial partners) have in these actors, particularly as reliable and representative interlocutors.

However, despite the commitment of CSOs in the public sphere and in the community, many of them struggle to stand out from the crowd. CSOs in general, and those working at grassroots or local level in particular, do not always have sufficient institutional capacity to establish their legitimacy, representativeness and credibility vis-à-vis other players. They do not always have sufficient skills, and have very little presence in the monitoring and advocacy chain.

NDH-Cameroon, within the framework of the program “Strong civil society for a Stronger Democracy”, with the financial support of the US Government, intends to support and accompany interested Cameroonian CSOs. This will involve support in terms of technical and institutional capacity building. The aim is not only to help them respond more effectively to the needs of the population, but also to enable them to establish better internal governance. All of which will undoubtedly strengthen their legitimacy, representativeness and credibility in the eyes of public authorities and other stakeholders. It will also enable them to play an active role in the consolidation of the democratic process.

1. OBJECTIVE

The aim here is to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of civil society leaders and organizations. To make them more effective and resilient, thereby increasing their ability to positively influence their communities and support Cameroon's democratic system.

2. METHODOLOGY AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION

➤ METHODOLOGY

- Registration forms and needs assessment;
- Interviews
- Training seminar for selected CSOs

- Restitution workshops
- Coaching
 - **AREAS OF INTERVENTION**

It is important to note that the project has two main areas of intervention:

1 - Training and knowledge exchanges

- **Regional training:** Five workshops will be organized in five cities, bringing together 30 leaders with at least two years of experience within an association, an NGO, a union or a community organization. Each workshop will bring together participants from two regions. The sessions will cover key themes, among others, the management of human, financial and material resources, communication and visibility of organizations, leadership and community engagement, fundraising, the principles and mechanisms of US federal assistance and monitoring, project evaluation, the legal framework and the role of CSOs in a democracy, the Gender approach and the human rights approach. Below is the table showing the different training locations:

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|---|---------|
| Regional Workshop 1 (Centre et Sud) | Yaoundé |
| Regional Workshop 2 (Extrême-Nord et Nord) | Maroua |
| Regional Workshop 3 (Est et Adamaoua) | Bertoua |
| Regional Workshop 4 (Nord-Ouest et Sud-Ouest) | Buea |
| Regional Workshop 5 (Littoral et Ouest) | Douala |

- **Local restitution workshops:** Each participant will commit to organizing at least one workshop to restitution of acquired knowledge for 10 CSO members in their city. These workshops will be structured around the key skills acquired during regional training.

2 - Institutional development

- **Institutional assessment:** An assessment of the organizational and managerial capacities of participating CSOs will be carried out. This assessment will include individual diagnostics to identify strengths, weaknesses, and training and support needs.
- **Support sessions:** After the training workshops, participants will benefit from personalized mentoring and coaching sessions to help them apply the skills learned and solve specific challenges encountered in their CSOs

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be an organization based and operating in Cameroon (association, NGO, trade union or community organization)
- Have at least 02 years of legal existence;
- Be committed to organizing a restitution workshop for a minimum of 10 CSO members in its locality.
- Have concrete achievements

4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- A completed application form available on the following website: www.ndhcam.org
- A letter of commitment duly signed by the organization's authorized representative
- A copy of the association's registration certificate

- A copy of the latest annual activity report
- A copy of the organization's bylaws
- CV of the leader taking part in the program

Physical deposit: NDH-Cameroon headquarters, montée du lycée Nkol Eton, opposite Hôtel Meumi

By Post: BP 4063 Yaoundé

By email : ndhcameroun97@gmail.org / ndhcam@yahoo.fr / floline23@yahoo.fr

5. DEADLINE

OSCs interested in this offer are asked to send in their applications by midnight on December 31, 2024.

Note : only selected CSOs will be contacted