



USAID
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Civil Society and Media Strengthened Together and Advancing in New Directions (CSM-STAND)

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT FACT SHEET

INTRODUCTION TO CSM-STAND

The Civil Society and Media-Strengthened Together and Advancing in New Directions project (CSM-STAND) supports local, regional, and cross-regional programming that enhances civic engagement to build resilient societies. Globally, CSM-STAND supports civil society and media actors as engines of social change, equipping them to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing their local, national, and regional communities. This includes strengthening and expanding diverse civic actors, including within marginalized communities, to press for accountable governance and foster collective action on topics that require whole-of-system responses. It also includes promoting access to accurate information on complex issues and empowering individuals and communities to be critical consumers of media.

CSM-STAND PROGRAM OPTIONS FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT-FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS

Programming aimed at achieving climate- and environment-focused outcomes is necessarily complex, often requiring the coordinated actions of government, private sector, other non-state actors, and even individuals. Civil society and media play essential roles in advocating for policy change, informing and educating local communities, mobilizing marginalized communities, facilitating collective action, and demanding accountability from public officials, companies, and other powerholders. Examples of program areas include:



Strengthening local and regional capacity

- Expanding collaboration among diverse networks of climate and environmental justice activists
- Investing in individual leaders of climate-focused movements and organizations, including women, youth, and indigenous leaders
- Strengthening civil society awareness of climate and environmental issues and solutions, including on complex topics like climate finance
- Promoting the digital and physical safety and well-being of climate activists



Advocacy and civic engagement

- Supporting civic monitoring of government and private sector climate and environmental commitments
- Promoting implementation of free prior informed consent for green infrastructure and related projects
- Strengthening advocacy for climate and environmental legal and policy reform and enforcement
- Mobilizing communities to implement climate mitigation strategies or respond to crises, such as sudden displacement



Access to information and media literacy

- Strengthening investigative, explanatory, and data journalism on climate and environment-focused topics
- Bolstering resilience to climate-focused misinformation and disinformation
- Promoting transparency and access to information regarding emerging “green” supply chains
- Developing and testing accurate and compelling media narratives that promote action on climate and environmental issues

WHAT IS CSM-STAND?

CSM-STAND includes two parallel five-year Leader with Associates (LWA) Cooperative Agreements, delineated geographically: Africa & the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Asia, Europe & Eurasia (EE), and Latin America & Caribbean (LAC). The awards are managed by Pact, who co-leads the LWAs with IREX. Each regional program is composed of a “Leader Award” and “Associate Awards.”

Leader Award



- Overall management of the global program, including associate awards
- Co-creating and implementing a trans-regional learning agenda and learning system
- Incorporating learning into associate awards and influencing wider development practices

Associate Awards



- Contextualized civil society and media activities meeting USAID Mission, Regional Bureau and Operating Unit priorities

WHY CSM-STAND?

CSM-STAND offers USAID missions and operating units a flexible platform for designing and implementing activities that address urgent and cross-sectoral development challenges while leveraging and strengthening civil society and independent media as change agents.

- **Efficient funding mechanism:** As a pre-competed mechanism, CSM-STAND allows for quick and efficient procurement processes, including in sensitive operating environments.
- **Focus on flexibility and adaption:** CSM-STAND prioritizes adaptive technical and management approaches to achieving results, including in post-conflict spaces.
- **Support for co-creation and participatory design:** CSM-STAND partners with USAID and local partners to co-create interventions and approaches at the pre- and post-award stage.
- **Commitment to locally-driven development:** CSM-STAND prioritizes innovative and effective local partnership approaches in alignment with USAID’s Local Capacity Development Policy and the New Partnership Initiative.
- **Mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion (GESI):** CSM-STAND integrates GESI principles and approaches across all activities to advance equitable outcomes.

CSM-STAND TEAM

GLOBAL PARTNERS



Pact: Global award management, strengthens local partner knowledge and skills for sustainable social impact.



IREX: Empowers youth, and extends access to quality education and information.



Aga Khan Foundation: improves service delivery, enhances indigenous philanthropy.



ICNL: improves the legal environment for civil society, philanthropy, and public participation



The Asia Foundation: helps societies flourish across a dynamic and developing Asia.

REGIONAL PARTNERS: AFRICA



Sonke Gender Justice: advance gender justice, prevent gender-based violence and reduce the spread of HIV and the impact of AIDS.



WACSI: strengthens civil society in West Africa to be responsive, collaborative, representative, resilient



AfriLabs: supports the development of the African technology and innovation ecosystem

MIDDLE EAST



Samir Kassir Foundation: strengthens the resilience of media by connecting journalists to new ideas, skills and support.



ANHRE: unifies and coordinates efforts among different civil societies to influence policies

ASIA



FORUM-ASIA: strengthens the capacity of civil society in Asia

EUROPE AND EURASIA



Prague Civil Society Centre: strengthening civil society and promoting healthy information ecosystems within the Europe and Eurasia region



European Journalism Centre: connects journalists and media to new ideas, provides skills development, and produces training.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN



The Gabo Foundation: encourages journalists and promotes the ethical and creative use of power



Makaia: strengthens capacities for social development through technology, innovation and international cooperation.

TECHNICAL PARTNERS



Moonshot: improves use of digital technology and use of data-proven techniques.



eQualitie: strengthens the capacity around web and digital security



TechSoup: provides access to an online e-learning platform and network of technical assistance for the use of digital technologies



Omdena: provide Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning tools for development solutions

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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