

Introduction

The Civil Society Fund (CSF) programme is a joint initiative of the European Union (EU) and the Ethiopian Government with the overall aim of increasing the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the development and democratization process in the country. The EU support has been made available through three phases, starting with CSF I, which was implemented between 2006 to 2012, followed by CSF II from 2012 to 2019, and currently CSF III, a 4-year programme, which began operations in November 2018. All three interventions have been managed by the European Union’s Delegation to Ethiopia, with the support of a Technical Assistance Unit (TAU).

The TAU of the current phase is provided by International Consulting Expertise (ICE), a Belgian Company, in a consortium with INTRAC Ltd (UK); CIDEAL Foundation (Spain), and FCG Swedish Development AB.

EU-Civil Society Fund III

EU support to the civil society sector in Ethiopia has now reached its third phase under the 11th EDF. CSF III commenced operations in November 2018 will run until February 2023.

Objective

Its overall objective is to **increase the contribution of citizens and CSOs in the development and democratization process of the country**. In pursuit of this goal, CSF III plans to achieve three outcomes, namely:



Pic. 1: ©JeCCDO: Stakeholders Participating in Establishing Peace Committees

1. Increased voice of CSOs (representing constituencies and citizens) in policy dialogue;
2. Enhanced role of CSOs (representing constituencies and citizens) in the monitoring of policies; and,
3. Strengthened overall capacity of CSOs.

Expected result

The programme aims to help civil society gain a stronger foothold in policymaking, monitoring, and implementation. It attempts to strengthen the engagement of CSOs in Ethiopia by going beyond service provision and seeks to enhance their intermediary role between state bodies and citizens.

Source of Funding

Following the launch of a **Call for Proposals** in April 2019, the EU committed a total grant amount of EUR 10.9 m from the EDF 11. This was awarded to 23 lead CSOs and their networks (along with 36 partner

organisations) to support interventions in democratic governance and rule of law (12); service delivery and community engagement (7); and gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment and protection (4). In addition, the programme provided a further EUR 850,000 as four Direct Grants to CSOs responding to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. The grant component therefore now totals EUR 11.75m and is benefiting 27 lead and 39 co-applicant CSOs and their networks. These 27 Actions are spread across every region in the country, with the exception of Harari, and involve around 60 different implementation sites, while four may be described as national in scope. Various non-grant support mechanisms (in particular those that focus on policy dialogue, capacity building and the creation of an enabling environment for the actions of CSOs) are also in place to reach the wider civil society sector.



Pic. 3 : ©CETU: Domestic workers being sensitized on their Rights



Pic. 2 ©OSSHD: EU-CSF III Project Peer Educators' Training Participants

KEY INFORMATION ON CSF III PROGRAMME

- Total Budget : EUR 16,618,420.00
- EU Contribution : EUR 16,000,000.00 (96.3%)
 - Grant Component : EUR 11,750,000
- Duration : February 2018 – February 2023
- Funding Instrument : 11th European Development Fund

European Union – Civil Society Fund – III Technical Assistance Unit

Website: www.csf3.org Tel.: +251 991 189 689 Email: info@csf3.org



civil society fund III



Civil Society Fund III, Ethiopia

Address: NOAH Centrum Building - near Atlas Hotel, accessed just before Base Ethiopia Hotel, Mickey Leyland Street, Bole sub-city Addis Ababa, Ethiopia