



Protection Referral Guidelines:

I4C Africa Hub/SIDA-CHARM 2021



**INNOVATION
FOR CHANGE**
WHERE PEOPLE CONNECT TO CREATE TOMORROW

About Innovation for Change (I4C)

Innovation for Change (I4C) is a global network of people and organisations who want to connect, partner and learn together to defend and strengthen civic space and overcome restrictions to our basic freedoms of assembly, association and speech.

We are a community-led network inspired by ideas, methods, and technologies from across different sectors. We work together on advocacy, research, network building, education and training, fundraising, digital literacy and technology development. Our seven connected regional hubs are growing in both physical and online spaces across Africa, Central Asia, East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, the Pacific and South Asia. Here, people exchange ideas and share their successes, challenges and opportunities in incubating social change and building sustainable solutions.



Innovation for Change (I4C) – Africa Hub

Launched in 2017, the I4C Africa Hub – based in Nairobi, Kenya – has been working to strengthen the capacity of civil society through promoting home-grown African solutions, and as a result of being part of a global network, offers network members access to the latest thinking, resources and collaborations.

It has become a vital new physical and online space for regional ideas and social innovations, powered by its dynamic, growing community of civic space advocates, including CSOs, technologists, and cross-sectoral partners.

Innovation for Change (I4C) Africa Hub's main goal is to protect, respect, strengthen, expand and recover civil society space. The Hub's vision of success is building a support and referral system that is more demand-driven from the field alongside various organizations, individuals and groups (whether community-based, networks, grassroots or technical organizations) who may require specific support or services.



Why the Guide?

While Innovation for Change (I4C) Africa Hub does not directly provide protection services, I4C Africa Hub seeks to assist and equip Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)/CSO Activists/Network members with information on how they can access support for protection services through our partners. As part of the SIDA-CHARM Consortium, I4C Africa Hub will work with Defend Defenders/DD (the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project) and Civil Rights Defenders (CRD) to support Network members in need of support.

Guideline for Referrals of Emergency, Protection and Relocation Grants among SIDA-CHARM Consortium Partners

Defend Defenders/DD (the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project) and Civil Rights Defenders (CRD) provide assistance to Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) who are under threat or pressure as a result of their human rights work.

A Human Rights Defender/HRD is someone who, **individually or with others, acts to promote or protect human rights.** They can be journalists, lawyers, trade unionists, women's rights advocates or anyone who

promotes and protects human rights without violence. The requested measures should be aimed at addressing risks/threats to enable the HRDs to continue their human rights work.

Eligible Criteria

Who can Apply?

An individual, or organization defending human rights can apply for support. A family member, friend or close colleague can also apply on behalf of the HRD. The risk that prompted the need for protection or relocation must be a direct result of the applicant's human rights work. HRDs from any country in sub-Saharan Africa can apply, but priority will be given to:

- Partners of SIDA-CHARM Consortium members;
- Stakeholders in this regional program (e.g. women, LGBTI, journalists, environmental, labor and indigenous rights organizations and activists); and
- Priority countries in the regional program.

Types of Grants

What are Emergency/Preventive Grants?

Civil Rights Defenders can provide support for emergency or preventative security measures to HRDs at risk – including acute situations and risk prevention.

The eligible support can vary and may include:

- Short-term relocation for HRD and close family such as travel, housing, visa, livelihood;
- Security equipment such as CCTV cameras, security doors or assault alarms;
- Capacity building such as trainings in digital security, operational security, as well as assessments and consultations;
- Legal aid, only when connected to attacks on the HRD, such as fees for legal advice and representation after an arrest or court proceedings (note: support to pay fines, bails or damages will not be provided);
- Medical aid, only when connected to attacks of the HRD, such as psycho-social support and rehabilitation, medication, rest and respite; and
- Humanitarian support such as prison visits for families of imprisoned HRDs, support to dependants.

Funding under the Emergency Fund will be short-term and time-bound for a twelve-month period. If longer-term funding is needed, other support opportunities will need to be investigated.

What are Emergency Protection Grants?

Defend Defenders' protection program provides emergency protection grants to HRDs at risk aimed at in the short term mitigating the risks that they are faced with and in the long term, assisting them with the ability to regain their confidence and resume work. Depending on the risk faced by the HRD, Defend Defenders/DD protection intervention can include:

- Evacuation and short-term relocation;
- Access to medical services, including counseling;
- Resourcing resilience engagements;
- Family support;
- Legal support;
- Financial support to meet cost of living when relocated or evacuated;
- Equipment replacement;
- Security assessments;
- Security planning and protocols development;
- Trial observation missions;
- Solidarity visits;

- Technical support including internship and fellowship placements; and
- Access to capacity building programs.

What are Relocation Protection Grants?

African Defenders (the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network), hosted by Defend Defenders, can provide relocation grants under the Ubuntu Hub Cities initiative which enables HRDs at risk to relocate within the African continent. Relocation is to be understood as a measure of last resort when at-risk HRDs cannot be protected within their own country. Internal relocation is preferred whenever possible depending on the HRD situation. When the applicant needs to relocate outside their country of origin, AfricanDefenders has partners on the ground to ensure comprehensive support and follow up in Tunis, (Tunisia), Kampala, (Uganda), Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire), and Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Cape Town (South Africa). When relevant, relocation to other places (within the continent) can also be supported.

Eligible support can include:

- Evacuation;
- Living costs in the host city;

- Educational or professional placements;
- Family support;
- Psychosocial and wellbeing support;
- Security assessments and advice; and
- Return assistance.

Support under the Ubuntu Hub Cities initiative can be short, medium, and long-term, generally without exceeding one (1) year.

Application Process & Referrals

Incoming applications are assessed according to the internal assessment guidelines of each organization and grants are awarded based on individual evaluations of each case. Applications can be submitted in *English, French or Arabic*.

For **emergency protection** grants, please contact both of the organizations below:

Defend Defenders: protection@defenddefenders.org

Civil Rights Defenders: civicusemergencyfund@crd.org

For **relocation protection** grants, please contact:

African Defenders: hubcities@africandefenders.org.



Please include here the instructions/guidance on what should be written on the Subject line use the subject line;

“.....SIDA-CHARM Regional.....”

regardless of grant type, and **CC**

njambi@innovationforchange.net and

jennifer@innovationforchange.net.

Verification Process

Before referring a person or organization to apply for support, please verify that:

- The applicant is an HRD; and
- Threats/security risks are verified and resulting from the HRD’s human rights work.

In order to award a grant, Civil Rights Defenders/CRD and Defend Defenders/African Defenders (DD) need to ensure that the work and security status of the person has been verified by two independent sources. SIDA-

CHARM Consortium members can themselves be listed as reference.

Cases are verified in the application process and Civil Rights Defenders/CRD and Defend Defenders/DD reserve the right to seek additional verification for incoming cases.

Working Principles

- Verification of the information received is carried out. This is with regard to the human rights work of the activist and the threats that they have received;
- Situations are handled on a case by case basis;
- Interventions are developed together with the defender who is fully informed, and consent sought before any interventions are put in place; and
- The No Harm Policy is observed at all levels of intervention.



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