

Freedom House Rapid Response Fund Application Fact Sheet



Who can be supported under the RRF?

- Legal Advocacy Coalition members
- Civil Society Organizations
- Consultancy Firms
- Think Tanks

Possible illustrative activities for RRF

- Analysis and commentary on elections related legislation
- Support to litigation on issues related to the election
- Rapid assessments, studies, or reports related to limitations on civil and political rights during the election cycle
- Support urgent human rights concerns emerging from the COVID response
- Support for legal advice or legal representation to:
 - ✓ Journalists under attack
 - ✓ CSOs under attack
 - ✓ Key populations organizations under attack

Contact:

Freedom House
54A Ntinda II Road, Naguru
P. O. Box 484 Kampala,
Uganda
Tel: +256392176743
www.freedomhouse.org

USAID/Uganda Rights and Justice Activity (RAJA) is a three-year, \$5,000,000 activity implemented by Freedom House (FH)¹, which commenced on September 1, 2020. RAJA seeks to ensure that citizens know, use, and shape the law to exercise their civil and political rights in a safe and secure manner. The program aims to ensure that members of vulnerable populations who are victims of human rights abuses are supported to access justice, protection, and referral services. To achieve its objectives, RAJA will work with Ugandan CSOs to establish a Legal Advocacy Coalition aimed at identifying key human rights issues and developing advocacy initiatives to address them. In addition, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) will work with FH to provide technical support to Coalition members pursuing strategic litigation as a part of their advocacy initiatives.

Rapid Response Fund

Given the ever-evolving political situation in Uganda, especially considering potential human rights issues arising from the upcoming elections in January 2021 and COVID-19, FH has established a rapid response fund (RRF) under RAJA to respond to unforeseen and/or unexpected human rights opportunities and challenges in the pre- and post-election period in Uganda.

Scope of the RRF

FH will award rapid response grants to organizations including coalition members who propose short-term advocacy projects and protection requests that: (1) relate to the program's main focus areas (opening space for political and civic rights, child justice issues, digital and physical security, or access to justice for vulnerable groups); (2) establish that there is an urgent need to address the proposed project's identified area of concentration; (3) do not duplicate existing advocacy efforts; and (4) attempt to coordinate with other partners. During the proposal review process, FH will ensure that the awarded grants cover each of the program's aforementioned focus areas.

Eligibility

Applicant organizations must meet the following criteria:

Ugandan not-for-profit or non-governmental organizations that are legally registered and recognized under the laws of Uganda, including human rights networks, not-for-profit organizations registered as a company limited by guarantee, consultancy firms, think tanks, and organizations registered with the NGO Bureau. FH RRF sub-grants may not be extended to: government entities or government owned institutions²; political parties, groupings or institutions of their subsidiaries and affiliates; organizations that advocate, promote, or espouse anti-democratic policies or illegal activities; faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory religious purposes, and whose main objective of the deliverables are of a religious nature; any entity whose name appears on the *List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs*.

Application Process

FH will issue a call for applications via its website at www.freedomhouse.org or through known partners contacts providing the application format, funding limit, eligibility, duration of proposed projects, and evaluation criteria. FH will also provide the address of submission and any other submission requirements at the website and within the call documents. RRF applicants will submit proposals on a

rolling basis. If the proposal does not meet eligibility requirements, FH sends an out-of-mandate letter to the applicant. If the proposal is incomplete, FH notifies the applicant and give them 24 hours to submit the missing documents. If the proposal is eligible and complete, FH sends a letter to the applicant acknowledging the proposal is under review. For any inquiries, please contact Stephen Kintu, RAJA, via email: kintu@freedomhouse.org

¹ For more information about FH please visit www.freedomhouse.org

² In exceptional cases sub-grants to public sector institutions can be awarded only when USAID waiver per 22CFR228.54 has been obtained.