

Freedom House Rapid Response Fund Application Fact Sheet

Possible illustrative activities for RRF:

1. Support for legal advice or legal representation to:
 - a) Journalists under attack
 - b) CSOs under attack
 - c) Key populations organizations under attack
2. Analysis and commentary on legislation
3. Analysis and commentary on upcoming legislation
4. Rapid assessments, studies, or reports related to limitations on civil and political rights
5. Radio/social media campaigns to raise awareness of COVID-19; Support urgent human rights concerns emerging from the COVID-19 response

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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 works with Ugandan CSOs under the 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) works 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, FH established a rapid response fund (RRF) under RAJA to respond to unforeseen and/or unexpected human rights opportunities and challenges in Uganda.

Scope of the RRF

FH will award rapid response grants to organizations who propose short-term projects that: (1) relate to the program's main focus areas (opening space for political and civic activism, child justice issues (in line with FH's PEPFAR commitments), digital and physical security, or access to justice for vulnerable groups including, but not limited to, journalists and key population members); (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,² 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 institutions;^{3,4} political

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.

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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; and any entity whose name appears on the *List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs*.

Application Process

FH issues calls for proposals via its website at www.freedomhouse.org or through known partners contacts providing the proposal format, funding limit, eligibility, duration of proposed projects, and evaluation criteria. FH also provides 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 applicants 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.