AFRICAN CSOs AGAINST COVID-19 INITIATIVE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. Background and Rationale

The COVID-19 pandemic has spun the world into facing unprecedented humanitarian, health and development challenges. In Africa, the pandemic has affected over 160,000 of people and claimed just over 4,000 lives. Despite alarming projections from international organizations and non-African governments, Africa is appearing to resist more than other continents to the pandemic.

The African Development Bank Group has moved rapidly to provide flexible responses aimed at lessening the severe economic and social impact of this pandemic on its regional member countries and on Africa’s private sector. The African Development Bank Group has created a dedicated facility, the COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility (CRF), providing up to USD 10 billion to African governments and private enterprises.

While the pandemic still progresses and our institutions rally to limit its social and economic impact, African citizens are coming together to build solutions as true unsung heroes of this global crisis. Every day, stories emerge about people across the continent joining in on the effort to fight the COVID-19: We have heard about engineering students creating automatic sanitizer dispensers and medical robots, ventilators etc., seen bloggers leading the battle against fake news online and witnessed fashion designers creating new chic trends for face masks. Unprecedented challenges such as those brought along in a global pandemic call for new measures to limit their impact and CSOs are the champions for such solutions. Through its “African CSOs against COVID-19” Initiative, the African Development Bank Group intends to shed light on the role that CSOs play in the inclusive development of the continent and the key role they hold in times of crisis. The TORs below define the initiative’s scope.

1 Figures as at June 5, 2020 based on statistics of Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [online] Available at: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/> [Accessed 5 June 2020].

B. Objectives of the Initiative

The overall objective of the “African CSOs against COVID-19 Initiative” is to identify and document existing solutions and initiatives launched by civil society organizations during the sanitary crisis that have helped or are helping the most vulnerable communities endure the pandemic and mitigate its effects on the economy and social life. The inventory will then be utilized through different projects to highlight, promote and support the most relevant initiatives and solutions.

Specifically, the call for proposals seeks to showcase initiatives that:

- Target the most vulnerable and difficult to reach segments of the population
- Can be upscaled and replicated
- Are innovative and context-relevant
- Are gender sensitive
- Have already proven results
- Show potential for scaling up

C. Areas of focus

Initiatives could be based on the non-exhaustive list of following areas:

- Awareness raising on the pandemic
- Combating fake news through fact checking
- Distribution of Personal Protection Equipments (masks, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Access to water and sanitation
- Access to food and nutrition
- Access to energy
- Connectivity
- Access to health services & infrastructures
- Access to education
- Combating Gender-based violence and promoting gender equality

D. Criteria for Selecting CSOs

Each proposal will be assessed based on the impact assessment matrix below complying with the following principles: effectiveness, efficiency, impact/sustainability

<p>| 1. Vulnerability of the targeted community | What characterizes the community targeted by the CSO based on geographic location, age, gender, special care needs, exposure to abuse, neglect or violence? |
| 2. Readiness for deployment | What are the resources, (human and financial) workplans and in place as well as the capacity of the CSO to deploy at short notice? |
| 3. Innovativeness | How will the project use new or novel ideas and approaches to solve existing problems? |
| 4. Gender Mainstreaming | Is the project designed in such a way that integrates the promotion of gender equality or a special focus on the needs of women and girls in the current context? |</p>
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<th>5. Capacity to reproduce the initiative in a different geographic zone and readiness for scaling up</th>
<th>Can the activities be replicated in other parts of the country or the region? Is the project characterized by successful, adaptable and sustainable initiatives that integrate monitoring and evaluation throughout the process and can it be scaled up?</th>
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<td>6. Readiness for investment</td>
<td>Can the project receive funding, if so in what forms and what amounts are expected and to what end?</td>
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E. Opportunities

Selected initiatives will be offered the following opportunities:
- Participation in a communication campaign promoted by the Bank on its social media platforms and website
- Pitch the innovation to the Bank’s Management Team and investors during virtual event “CSE in the COVID-19 Response” the Civil Society Forum
- Virtual Exhibition throughout the Civil Society Forum
- Networking opportunities with potential partners for funding and technical assistance

F. Financial Implications

The Bank does not, to this date, commit to support the CSOs selected as part of the initiative financially. The Bank will undertake promotion effort destined to support the selected initiatives and introduce them to potential partners for funding and technical assistance.