



THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE UGANDA (HRCU) CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Selection of Grassroots Organisations & Media to Monitor, Document, and Report Human Rights Violations in West Nile and Karamoja Sub-Regions

Project Title	The Civic Space Improvement Project
Target Regions	West Nile Sub-Region: Nebbi, Arua, Arua City, Yumbe Karamoja Sub-Region: Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido, Kaabong
Target Applicants	Grassroots Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), and Media Organisations/Journalists
Collaborating Networks	RIAMIRIAM Civil Society Network & West-Nile Civil Society Network (WECISNET)
Number of Targets	30 Grassroots Organisations in total (15 per region)
Project Duration	15 Months (October 2026 – December 2027)

1. BACKGROUND & INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

The Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU), in partnership with state and non-state actors, is implementing the **Civic Space Improvement Project** under the **Programme on Accountability, Civic Engagement, and Rights (PACER)**. The project aims to improve civic space by 2027 through stronger government-NGO accountability and collaboration. It focuses on three key areas: strengthening security institutions, enhancing multi-stakeholder oversight and accountability, and building civil society capacity and evidence-generation systems.



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To translate the project's strategic objectives into action, the project addresses key operational challenges faced by grassroots civil society and human rights defenders, including limited technical capacity, weak reporting systems, and inadequate sustainable funding. These challenges affect their ability to effectively monitor, document, and report human rights concerns and civic space developments.

The project will establish a structured human rights monitoring framework in West Nile and Karamoja, working with RIAMIRIAM Civil Society Network and WECISNET to identify, assess, train, and support 30 grassroots organisations to continuously monitor and document human rights violations in their respective districts.

To strengthen institutional resilience, the activity will promote structured knowledge sharing through quarterly review and learning meetings, training on standardized documentation approaches, and access to secure digital reporting tools such as *HRDs Interact*. The activity will establish a functional network of grassroots actors able to generate credible and verified information to support evidence-based advocacy, policy engagement, accountability and multi-stakeholder oversight.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CALL

Under Output 2.3 the project focuses on supporting grassroots organisations to effectively monitor, document and report to generate evidence for advocacy, legislative and policy reform and strengthened accountability. HRCU, in collaboration with RIAMIRIAM Civil Society Network and WECISNET, is issuing this call for applications to source and identify suitable and interested grassroots organisations, including media actors, operating in the targeted districts of West Nile and Karamoja.



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A total of 30 grassroots organisations (15 in West Nile and 15 in Karamoja) will be selected to execute these monitoring activities.

3. TARGET GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Applications are strictly open to organisations operating within the following specified districts and urban entities:

- A. West Nile Sub-Region (15 Organisations): Nebbi, Arua, Arua City, and Yumbe.
- B. Karamoja Sub-Region (15 Organisations): Nakapiripirit (Napiripiriti), Moroto, Kotido, and Kaabong.

4. FACILITATION & TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO SELECTED ORGANISATIONS

Selected partner organisations shall be facilitated and supported by HRCU to effectively implement human rights monitoring activities, undertake compliance, and carry out oversight in their respective areas of operation. This will include:

- a) **Financial & Operational Facilitation:** The selected organisations shall be facilitated to implement monitoring activities within their areas of operation.
- b) **Capacity Enhancement & Training:** Selected organisations will undergo a capacity building on HRBA, human rights monitoring methodologies, the use of digital documentation tools, and compliance.
- c) **Support to Online Review & Connectivity:** Facilitation and internet data connectivity support will be provided for quarterly online review and learning meetings across districts.
- d) **Digital Platform Access:** Integration into secure, real-time reporting digital platforms, including HRDs Interact.

5. ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

Interested organisations must fulfil the following mandatory criteria:



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- a) **Operational Presence:** Must be a registered and active non-governmental organisation (NGO), community-based organisation (CBO), civil society organisation (CSO), or media organisation physically operating in Nebbi, Arua, Arua City, Yumbe, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido, or Kaabong.
- b) **Institutional Alignment:** Must have demonstrable interest and experience in human rights protection, civic space promotion, community monitoring, legal empowerment, or investigative media reporting.
- c) **Personnel Capacity:** Availability of a designated Principal Officer with human rights experience to lead the monitoring, documentation, and reporting activities.
- d) **Due Diligence Assessment:** Willingness to undergo a formal due diligence assessment conducted by HRCU, RIAMIRIAM, and WECISNET to evaluate operational credibility, performance potential, data credibility, and financial management capacity.
- e) **Commitment to Learning & Compliance:** Readiness to participate in joint quarterly monitoring, verification, and quality assurance visits, compliance reviews, and online learning sessions.
- f) **Data protection/ Confidentiality:** Demonstrated commitment to protecting the confidentiality, privacy and security of information collected during human rights monitoring, including personal information relating to victims, witnesses and vulnerable persons.

6. DUE DILIGENCE & SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will follow a structured two-stage approach:

STAGE 1: SOURCING & SHORTLISTING

Initial sourcing and identification of interested organisations will be conducted in close partnership with RIAMIRIAM Civil Society Network (for Karamoja sub-region) and WECISNET (for West Nile sub-region). This will follow organisation responses to this call for applications.



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STAGE 2: DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT

Prior to formal partnership commencement, HRCU alongside RIAMIRIAM and WECISNET will carry out a due diligence assessment of all shortlisted organisations to verify their legal standing, governance, operational capacity, data protection and confidentiality practices, and ability to execute the human rights monitoring mandate effectively.

7. HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Interested organisations and media entities are invited to submit their expressions of interest containing:

- a) The Filled Standard Application form
- b) A brief Organisational Profile highlighting key human rights or monitoring activities.
- c) Copy of Registration Certificate and/ or official operational mandate in the respective district.
- d) CV and contact details of the Lead/ Principal Officer designated for human rights monitoring.
- e) Indication of physical district of operation (Nebbi, Arua, Arua City, Yumbe, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido, or Kaabong).

Submission Channels: Applications may be submitted directly to The Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) via email: info@hrcug.org or kochieng@hrcug.org

Organisations may seek support and apply through WECISNET and RIAMIRIAM Civil Society Network.

Deadline for Applications: 21st August 2026.