

THE  
CARTER CENTER



*Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope.*

## **Request for Applications (RFA)**

### **Zambia**

**Title:** Women’s Resilience in Environmental Stewardship and Empowerment (SheRise) – Women Advocates Programmatic Grants, under the Women’s Rights Initiative of The Carter Center’s Human Rights Program.

**Award ceiling:** \$65,000

**Number of awards:** Up to 2

**Issue date:** February 21, 2025

**Closing date:** March 21, 2025

**Contact information:** [hrprocurement@cartercenter.org](mailto:hrprocurement@cartercenter.org)

#### **Background:**

The Carter Center, through the work of President and Mrs. Carter, has long upheld the belief that people can improve their lives when provided with the necessary skills, knowledge, and access to resources. In his seminal 2014 book on women’s rights, “A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power,” President Jimmy Carter proclaimed: *“the world’s discrimination and violence against women and girls is the most serious, pervasive, and ignored violation of basic human rights.”* The book continues to serve as an important wake-up call to the pervasive abuse of women and girls around the world, highlighting severe violations, including strangulation, genital cutting, child marriage, and the deprivation of equal opportunity for women even in wealthier nations.

It is increasingly recognized that environmental degradation and climate change disproportionately affect women – killing more women than men, especially in regions with low levels of gender equality. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has stressed that women, especially those in poverty, face high risks and experience a greater impact of climate change. Lack of land ownership and access to financial resources makes them further vulnerable to negative changes in the environment. Additionally, climate change is seen as a risk multiplier, resulting in more women being exposed to physical, sexual, and domestic abuse at higher rates following a natural disaster.

Given that women and girls are intricately linked to the climate crisis, The Carter Center's Human Rights Program, after completing a detailed scoping assessment is implementing the Women's Resilience in Environmental Stewardship and Empowerment (SheRise) pilot project in Zambia.

**Project Goal:** To **effectively engage existing women environmental rights defenders (WERDs)** in Zambia to **participate in climate action in their communities** through strengthening capacity and increasing resilience, resources, and protection.

Based on a needs assessment in Zambia, the SheRise project was designed considering key principles such as impact, sustainability, localization, and complementarity. The project aims to guide WERDs through a self-fulfillment journey targeting the individual, community, and ecosystem levels. The following thematic areas have been identified with the objective of empowering Zambian women advocates by reinforcing their advocacy skills and participation in climate decision-making.

**Thematic areas:**

The SheRise – Women Advocates Programmatic Awards will scale or amplify existing work or projects that:

1. Increase the understanding and awareness of the climate crisis and its impact on communities and women in Zambia.
2. Reinforce communities, and particularly women's, advocacy capabilities in climate change, women's rights, economic empowerment and any other relevant topics.
3. Facilitate high-level representation of WERDs at national, regional, and international climate-related events.

**Illustrative activities:**

- Design and deliver workshops with local communities and climate experts to inform the development of content and curriculum on climate change, climate rights, and Zambian climate and environmental laws.
- Develop advocacy strategies and conduct workshops enhancing advocacy skills of communities, with a focus on women.
- Mentorship programs schemes that connect upcoming WERDs with seasoned climate advocates.
- Other activities that meet the project goal will be considered.

The Carter Center will be providing technical assistance and oversight throughout the engagement and implementation process.

**Issue date:** February 21, 2025

**Application deadline:** March 21, 2025

**Duration:** Limited duration. At most 9 months.

**Start date:** April 14, 2025 or later.

**End date:** No later than January 15, 2026.

### **Eligibility:**

The RFA is open to organizations operating in Zambia, with the ability to carry out implementation activities in regions including Lusaka, Southern Province, Eastern Province (Chipata District), Northern Province (Kasama District), and Copperbelt.

Other eligibility considerations:

1. Organizations should be not-for-profit organizations/charities according to national laws. For-profit entities are not eligible.
2. They should qualify as civil society/non-governmental organizations. Governmental entities are not eligible.
3. Public and private educational institutions are eligible if they meet the above criteria.
4. Individuals are not eligible.

Priority will be given to organizations and initiatives that are led by women and focus on projects that involve women in civic participation.

Successful applicants must complete a pre-award survey from The Carter Center. The Carter Center will use the pre-award survey to exercise due diligence on prospective grant recipients. Organizations may submit applications individually or in partnership with other international or local organizations. Each applicant is limited to one application submission under this RFA as the prime applicant. There is no limitation on being included as a potential sub-recipient in multiple applications submitted by other prime applicants.

### **Submission and co-creation:**

Applications should include:

- a) A cover page including:
  - i. Proposal title
  - ii. Organization name
  - iii. Address
  - iv. Phone number
  - v. Email address
  - vi. Point of contact
  - vii. Total amount of request
  
- b) A two (2) – three (3) page narrative proposal, including but not limited to:
  - i. Background of working with climate and environmental rights defenders and local communities;
  - ii. Opportunity to which the intervention is responding;
  - iii. A program design overview with activities, their impacts, beneficiary groups, and an implementation timeline;
  - iv. Thematic working areas for the activities;  
*instead of a narrative proposal, applicants can prepare **five to seven slides** outlining the same information above.*

- c) A budget detailing line item and activity costs, including staff allocation, for the suggested time period. *See the attached budget and Gantt template.*
- d) Brief budget notes explaining calculation costs in the budget.
- e) A Gantt chart identifying activities and timeline. *See the attached budget and Gantt template.*
- f) Successful applicants will work with The Carter Center on a work plan and adaptive implementation.

**Timeline:**

February 21, 2025: RFA release

March 21, 2025: Submission deadline

March 24-26, 2025: Review of applications. The Carter Center reserves the right to ask clarifying questions. Questions do not indicate a successful application.

March 26, 2025: Completion of review of applications.

March 27 – April 1, 2025: Successful applicants will undergo a due diligence review.

April 2, 2025: Announcement of successful recipients.

April 14, 2025: A kickoff call will be scheduled to identify roles, responsibilities, and expectations, including work plans, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting requirements.

**Process**

Full application packages should be submitted to [hrpprocurement@cartercenter.org](mailto:hrpprocurement@cartercenter.org) with the subject “SheRise – Women Advocates Programmatic Grant [NAME OF SUBMITTING ENTITY]”.

The Carter Center will acknowledge receipt of the proposal package within two business days.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

	<b>Points</b>
Technical Proposal (relevance to the program’s goals and objectives, sustainability, impact)	40
Relevant Experience (relating to climate change, women’s rights, women environmental rights defenders)	25
Financial Proposal (cost reasonableness and allowability)	35
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## **Instructions to applicants:**

### 1. Basic Parameters

The Carter Center invites eligible organizations to submit technical and financial proposals to meet the specificities of the RFA above:

- a. Successful applications will align with the specificities described above.
- b. The Carter Center may, at its discretion, cancel the RFA in whole or in part.

### 2. Cost of proposal

The costs of preparing a proposal are the applicants' responsibility, regardless of the outcome.

### 3. Eligibility

The Carter Center reserves the right to verify any information in the applicant's proposal or request additional information after the proposal is received.

### 4. Questions related to RFA documents

A prospective applicant requiring clarification of the required RFA documents may contact The Carter Center in writing at [hrpprocurement@cartercenter.org](mailto:hrpprocurement@cartercenter.org).

### 5. Language of proposal

The proposal and all related correspondence must be in English.

### 6. Clarification of proposals

To assist in the examination, evaluation, and comparison of proposals, The Carter Center may request further written clarification from an applicant after the proposal submission deadline. To ensure timely review, the applicant must answer any requests for further clarification or information within three business days.

### 7. Proposal currencies

All prices quoted in the financial proposal must only be in United States Dollars. Any agreements resulting from this RFA will be issued in United States Dollars.

### 8. Evaluation of technical and financial proposal

## **TECHNICAL PROPOSAL**

Proposals must include the following sections:

- Background of working with women rights defenders; climate advocates
- A program design overview with activities, their impacts, beneficiary groups, and an implementation timeline;
- Thematic working areas for the activities.

The following supporting materials are not required but may be submitted:

- CVs or descriptions of key project team members (no more than two pages)
- Brief summary of previous awards within the past five years (no more than two pages).

Applicants must demonstrate organizational experience and ability to plan and manage programming, progress reports, and financial compliance.

### FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Financial proposals will be evaluated following the completion of the technical proposal evaluation. Applicants are encouraged to develop a realistic budget that includes only a small portion of costs for overhead expenses. Budgets must be consistent with proposed activities. The applicant must have the ability to account for all costs and demonstrate an ability to reconcile expenses and maintain acceptable standards of compliance properly. The amount of funding per successful applicant depends on the number of awards.

### 9. Award

The award will be made to the most qualified applicant(s) who can successfully demonstrate their capacity to implement the activities outlined in their proposal with the greatest efficiency and best cost. The Carter Center reserves the right to negotiate with the selected applicant(s) to adjust their proposal to meet The Carter Center's program objectives. The award will only go into effect once all components of an applicant's proposal are agreed upon and an agreement between the applicant and The Carter Center is signed.

The selected applicants are expected to commence implementing successful projects as of the date and time stipulated in this RFA.

The Carter Center

"Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope."

A not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization, The Carter Center has helped to improve life for people in over 80 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; and improving mental health care. The Carter Center was founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, in partnership with Emory University, to advance peace and health worldwide.

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