



Civic Engagement Fund (CEF)

Swiss Portfolio Outcome:	Improved social well-being for all, including in emergencies
Implementation Period:	01.08.2023 – 31.05.2027
Implementing Partner:	GFA Consulting Group GmbH
Swiss Contribution:	CHF 14.49 million
Modality:	Contribution

General Description

The Civic Engagement Fund (CEF) is a collaborative effort among multiple donors, civil society, and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) aimed at fostering coordinated dialogue to advance Sustainable Development Goals 16 (stronger institutions) and 5 (gender equality). It is designed to prioritize civic space and citizen engagement, empowering individuals to exercise their civic and human rights, enhance institutional governance, and safeguard the democratic space. CEF will engage with civil society organizations through grant funding to address pressing challenges they encounter, by adopting a human rights-based, Leave No One Behind (LNOB) approach with a particular emphasis on fostering inclusivity across society. Through its initiatives, CEF aims to amplify the voices and participation of approximately 200,000 individuals, particularly women, youth, and marginalized communities, in decision-making processes, governmental accountability mechanisms, and efforts to address rights violations.

Objectives

CEF aims to foster a peaceful, fair, and inclusive Bangladesh with a strong civil society that empowers people to exercise their rights, enhances institution governance, and protects democratic spaces. During its implementation, CEF will strengthen civil society's capacity to amplify their influence and hold the government accountable for its decision-making, legislations and policies related to its focus areas.

Lines of Action / Components

- Community mobilization and outreach
- Research, policy analysis, and evidence generation.
- Representation, Voice, and Political Dialogue.
- Support innovations
- Peer-to-Peer Learning and Capacity Building

Intended Impact in terms of Systemic Change

CEF will have a significant contribution to strengthen civil society's capacity for responsive governance; boost the voice, representation, and participation of citizens, especially women, youth, and marginalized communities, in decision-making and governance; improve access to justice, reinforce the rule of law, and enhance oversight at local and national levels in Bangladesh. These efforts seek to bring about lasting changes that promote inclusivity and accountability.

Intervention Targets

- Strengthen 20-30 civil society institutions to accelerate progress of achieving SDG-16 and SDG-5.
- Reach around 200,000 individuals, with a focus on women, youth, and marginalized communities with the intended outcomes of CEF.
- Strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society to take part in improving governance and policies.
- Regular interactions and dialogues with the government of Bangladesh to improve governance and policies.