



Lifeline: Embattled Civil Society Organizations Assistance Fund

www.csolifeline.org



WHAT IS LIFELINE?

The Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund is a consortium of 7 international NGOs that provides **emergency assistance grants** to civil society organizations (CSOs) facing threats due to their human rights work and rapid response **advocacy** and **resiliency grants** to address broader threats to civic space and freedom of association and assembly.



WHO SUPPORTS LIFELINE?

Lifeline was established in 2011 as a multi-donor response to closing civic space; it is now supported by 19 governments including: Australia, Benin, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay.



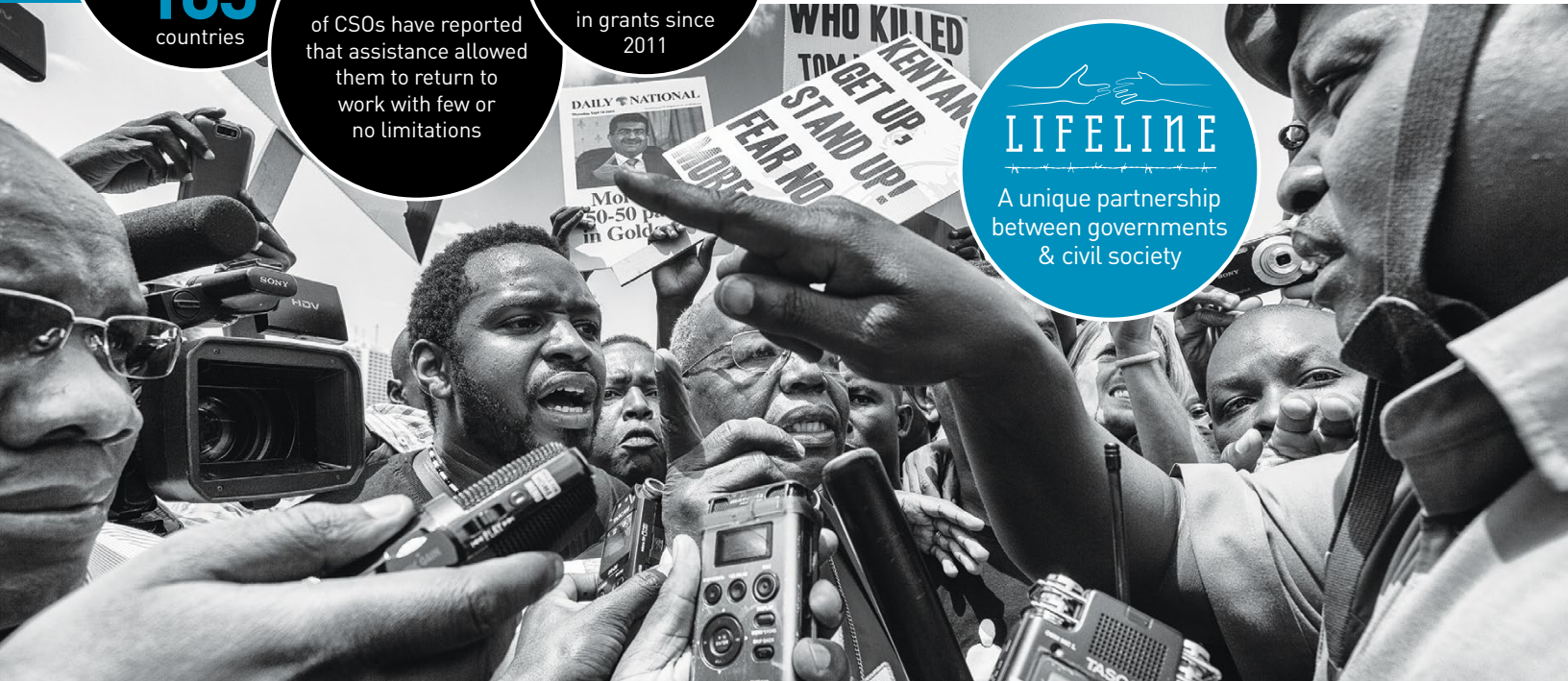
HOW DOES THE LIFELINE CONSORTIUM WORK?

Lifeline is comprised of 7 international organizations with regional presence including:
Freedom House (Consortium Lead)
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Front Line Defenders
International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
People in Need
Swedish International Liberal Centre

1500+
CSOs supported in
105
countries

68%
of CSOs have reported
that assistance allowed
them to return to
work with few or
no limitations

Lifeline has
provided more than
\$11
MILLION
in grants since
2011



LIFELINE
A unique partnership
between governments
& civil society

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Through Freedom House and Front Line Defenders, Lifeline provides small, short-term emergency grants to CSOs threatened because of their human rights work. These grants can address:

- Office Security / Security Training
- Medical Expenses
- Legal Representation
- Prison Visits
- Trial Monitoring
- Temporary Relocation
- Equipment Replacement
- Other Urgently Needed Expenses



“Support from Lifeline allowed us to gain strong legal representation to defend our staff, and thankfully they were acquitted. Now, we can continue advocating for the rights of our community.”

Thai CSO Representative

ELIGIBILITY CHECK LIST

- CSO has a track record of human rights work
- Threat is related to human rights work and occurred in the past 3 months
- Independent references can verify threat and the CSO's human rights credentials
- Requests should not seek funds for core operations costs or programmatic expenses
- CSOs can be informal or un-registered, including journalist associations, networks, community-based organizations, student groups, and labor unions.

HOW CAN CSOs SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?

Emergency applications can be submitted in Arabic, English, French, Farsi, Russian, and Spanish. To request an application from **Freedom House**, email info@csolifeline.org. To request funding through **Front Line Defenders**, apply at <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/>.

LIFELINE RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

RESPONDING GLOBALLY TO CRACKDOWNS AND RESTRICTIONS ON ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

Amidst a global decline in fundamental freedoms, the crackdown on civil society and restrictions on the freedoms of association and assembly has led to the criminalization of dissent around the world. Lifeline rapid response grants help CSOs push back against threats to civic space and strengthen their ability to prevent and mitigate threats.

RAPID RESPONSE ADVOCACY GRANTS

Advocacy grants assist local CSOs to identify challenges to freedom of association and assembly and target key actors to push back against these threats. Examples include:

- Analyzing the impact of restrictive legislation and organizing a campaign to repeal or revise
- Building a broad-based coalition of CSOs to engage decision-makers at a local or national level
- Strategic litigation that challenges restrictions to freedom of association and assembly
- Community mobilization or media campaigns to counter negative narratives about civil society

RAPID RESPONSE RESILIENCY GRANTS

Resiliency grants enable at-risk CSOs to proactively take steps to prevent or mitigate the threats they face. These initiatives are highly flexible and context-specific.

Examples include:

- Digital, physical, and psychosocial protection training
- Legal training and direct aid to respond to restrictive CSO legislation
- Establishing a temporary, offshore hub to help CSOs return to work
- Developing peer-to-peer protection networks at a local or national level

ELIGIBILITY CHECK-LIST FOR RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

- Proposed project is short-term (<6 months)
- Project responds to a time-bound opportunity or change in threat environment that CSOs face
- Funds cannot cover core operations or excessive staff costs
- Project seeks to enable CSOs to continue their human rights work, especially in high-risk environments

HOW TO APPLY FOR ADVOCACY AND RESILIENCY GRANTS

Each consortium partner has its own selection criteria and can be contacted directly:

- **Freedom House** – advocacy@csolifeline.org
- **SILC** – lifeline@silc.se
- **ICNL** – lifeline@icnl.org
- **CIVICUS Crisis Response Fund (CRF)** – crisis.response@civicus.org
- **PIN** – advocacy.lifeline@peopleinneed.cz
- **FORUM-ASIA** – membership-based selection criteria



“We put ourselves on the list of thousands of human rights organizations and human rights defenders who have survived thanks to Lifeline's assistance at very critical moments.”

Congolese CSO Representative

