



## **Strengthening Women's Leadership in Local Governance**

### **A National Call for Project Proposals**

#### **1. Background**

The Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ) has secured a 1.5 million Kwacha grant from the Canadian government under the auspices of the Canada Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI). The grant will be applied to strengthen women's leadership by providing financial and technical support to women-led development initiatives at the local level. This will also help LGAZ to document and showcase the contributions of women leaders towards Zambia's agenda for socio-economic transformation and improved livelihoods.

The Association is therefore inviting project proposals from women mayors/council chairpersons/councillors and women potential leaders in local government who are interested in initiating and implementing small-scale but high-impact community projects.

#### **2. Eligible Recipients**

Eligible recipients are serving women councillors (including women mayors/council chairpersons) as well as women potential leaders who are based in any part of Zambia. Women potential leaders are Zambian citizens interested in taking up elective leadership positions at the local level. In addition, recipients must be those registered with LGAZ for capacity building trainings and mentorship under the auspices of the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation - Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project which is implemented in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with financial support from the Canadian government. Interested women are encouraged to form and work in small groups (team of 3 to 5 women), comprising a combination of serving councillors and women potential leaders who are all domiciled in the same district.

#### **3. Priority Projects**

All projects or initiatives must align with at least one of the following priorities:

- Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including those from marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities. This skills and leadership trainings and concrete actions to promote inclusive service delivery.
- Advancement of fundamental rights for women and girls, including their meaningful participation in leadership and decision making at the local level.
- Prevention of gender-based violence, early and forced marriages, and teen pregnancies.
- Inclusive democratic governance, including upholding of human rights, civic engagement (citizen participation), transparency and social accountability.
- Human dignity, covering health, education, access to clean water and sanitation and sustainable diets or nutrition.
- Child protection and family strengthening, including parenting education.

- Environment and climate action focusing on adaptation and mitigation, as well as inclusive natural resource management and sustainable community practices.
- Any other innovative action that will contribute to reducing inequalities and transforming the livelihoods of marginalised groups, including children, youth, and persons with disabilities.

#### 4. Duration

Preference will be given to projects which can be completed not later than March 2026.

#### 5. Location

Projects that target marginalised groups or underserved communities in any part of Zambia. This includes rural, remote, and urban poor communities.

#### 6. Financial Value

Projects with a financial value not exceeding K200,000.

#### 7. Selection Process and Timelines

LGAZ will establish an independent, multi-stakeholder adjudication panel to review and recommend project proposals for possible funding. The selection process and timelines are outlined in the table below:

S/n	Action	Responsible	Due Date (2025)
1.	A national call for project proposals circulated.	LGAZ	2 <sup>nd</sup> July
2.	An independent, multi-stakeholder selection panel established.	LGAZ	18 <sup>th</sup> July
3.	Verification and endorsement of panel members.	Canadian High Commission (CHC)	25 <sup>th</sup> July
4.	<b>Submission of project proposals</b> ( <i>based on a template provided by LGAZ</i> )	<b>Applicants</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> July</b>
5.	Orientation of panel members on their roles and responsibilities ( <i>based on approved terms of reference</i> )	LGAZ	8 <sup>th</sup> August
6.	Preliminary review of proposals to check for eligibility and completeness.	LGAZ	15 <sup>th</sup> August
7.	Virtual presentations and desk appraisal of project proposal	Selection panel & Applicants	19 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> August
8.	Submission of a report on recommended projects for approval by the CHC	LGAZ	25 <sup>th</sup> August
9.	Official Announcement of Awardees	LGAZ & CHC	29 <sup>th</sup> August
10.	Sign letters of agreement with awardees	LGAZ	5 <sup>th</sup> September
11.	Launch of awarded projects in target communities	Awardees	19 <sup>th</sup> September

## **8. Submission of Proposals**

To participate in this project, interested women are required to develop and submit a joint proposal using a template accessible on this link: <https://bit.ly/simplifiedproposaltemplate>

Questions or clarifications may be directed to the PMI-WILL National Project Coordinator, Mr. Stanley Chanda, on mobile number: 0971 736163. Only fully completed proposals will be considered.

Proposals should be sent to the address below via email by close of business on **31<sup>st</sup> July 2025**.

The Executive Director

Local Government Association of Zambia

Email: [info@lgazambia.org.zm](mailto:info@lgazambia.org.zm) and copy: [stanley.chanda@lgazambia.org.zm](mailto:stanley.chanda@lgazambia.org.zm)