



*civic*

The Civil Society & Social  
Innovation Alliance

# A catalyst for people-powered change

**Partnership  
Prospectus**



# CIVIC is building a future where communities lead solutions and global collaboration drives impact.

CIVIC: The Civil Society and Social Innovation Alliance is the World Bank Group's new global financing and support facility for civil society organizations (CSOs), social innovators, and social economy actors.

As a global program, CIVIC features two complementary funding streams: first, a pooled Multi-Donor Trust Fund that welcomes contributions from external partners like governments, philanthropy, and the private sector; and second, a Global Knowledge Platform that channels resources from other World Bank-managed funds and financing facilities.

CIVIC connects local changemakers with governments and global support to scale their solutions.

## Why now?

Across the world, civil society is teeming with innovation. Communities are solving problems with creativity, deep contextual knowledge, and scalable solutions—whether in climate resilience, gender equality, youth empowerment, or health systems. Yet these solutions remain disconnected from the levers of systemic change. Too often, grassroots innovations stall at the pilot stage. They lack access to large-scale finance, structured policy pathways, and integration into government systems.

### **This is not due to lack of potential—it's due to a structural gap.**

CIVIC aims to close this gap. As a flagship World Bank initiative, CIVIC provides the connective tissue between people-driven innovation and national and global development systems. By embedding flexible, scalable tools within the World Bank, CIVIC enables civil society organizations (CSOs) and social innovators to influence upstream policy, attract strategic financing, and shape development outcomes at scale.

We are seeking foundational partners to co-invest and co-lead this flagship initiative.

## The CIVIC Difference

As a bridge facility, CIVIC brings everyone to the table—across sectors and levels—to build on each other's strengths and drive systemic change.

CIVIC builds on the experience of the World Bank's previous civil society facility, the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA), which mobilized over \$60 million to civil society worldwide.

### **Why not just fund CSOs directly? Why channel resources through the World Bank?**

CIVIC is not just another fund. It is a systems-change platform with unique structural advantages that make us more than a traditional grant-making vehicle.

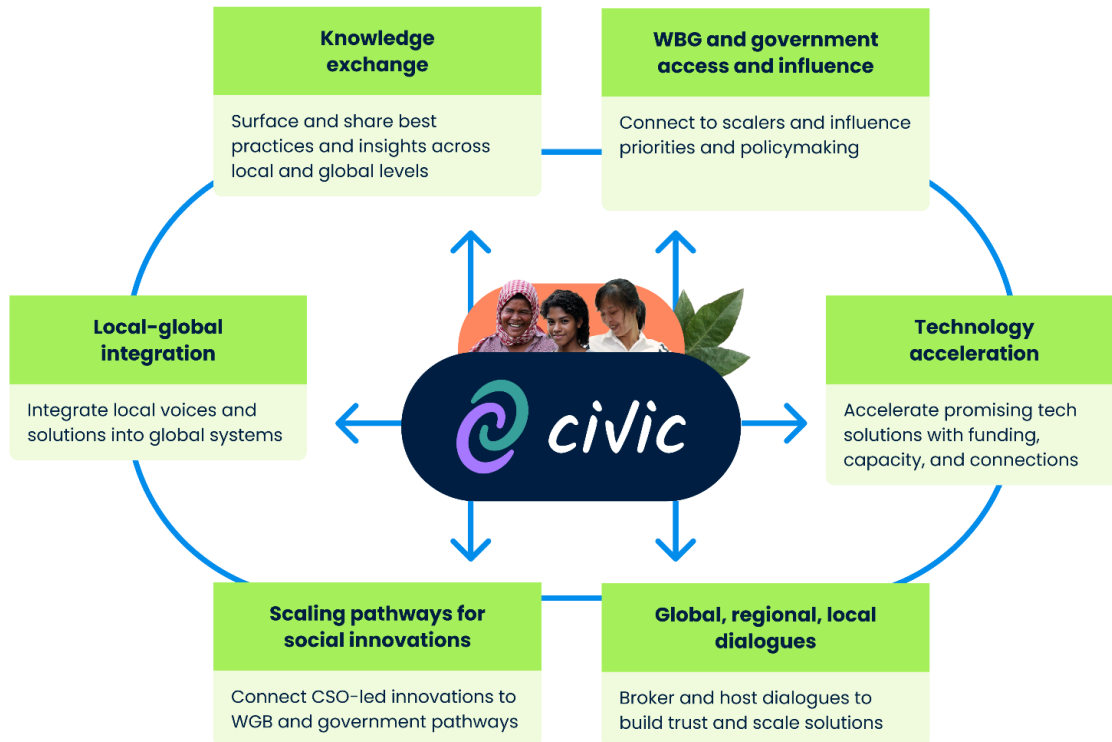
Rather than just funding CSOs individually, CIVIC brings resources together for exponential impact—transforming the World Bank's approach by fostering sustainable capacity building and connecting CSOs to national programs and policy frameworks at scale. By joining CIVIC, partners have a seat at the governing board of the MDTF, the Partnerships Council, to strategically steer policies and funding.

# Our Theory of Change

If we...	Then...
<b>Provide grants and non-financial support</b> to expand proven people-driven solutions with significant potential for scale, impact and sustainability	Civil society's capacity and ecosystem connectivity will grow
<b>Build connective tissue</b> across CSOs, WBG operations, and government priorities and initiatives	People-driven solutions will scale sustainably
<b>Foster constructive dialogue</b> between CSOs and their governments	Enabling environments for citizen-led change will take root

## CIVIC is uniquely positioned to:

- **Enable deep collaboration and trust building:** among donor countries, the WBG and other multilaterals, country governments, philanthropies, CSOs, social innovation networks, the private sector, and more to influence systemic change and act as a force multiplier.
- **Engage civil society in WBG operations:** so that local voices and solutions are integrated into program design, implementation, and policy reform to better reflect the needs and demands of impacted communities.
- **Scale solutions by providing catalytic capital:** to civil society-led social innovations and connecting them to government systems.
- **Connect grassroots innovation with national reform agendas:** and global development dialogues, creating a feedback loop between community-driven knowledge and multilateral action.



## How will CIVIC influence WBG operations and embed civil society in them?

- **Country Compacts:** Country Compacts developed by CIVIC align resources and social innovations with the WBG's Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) to ensure proven solutions are attuned to country needs and have potential to be integrated into government programs through WBG operations.
- **Links to WBG Operations:** CIVIC aims to institutionalize and sustain engagement with social sector actors to inform the design of operations, moving away from an ad-hoc approach.
  - **Investment Policy Financing:** Sector-specific operations can tap into CIVIC's trusted network of CSOs and social actors to engage them during project design, implementation, and monitoring.
  - **Development Policy Financing:** Collaborative engagement with CIVIC's thematically relevant CSO networks can enable the WBG to more readily understand and address societal concerns of proposed policy reforms.

- **Strategic Policy Dialogue:** Country-level engagement on WBG strategies, such as Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) and sector-specific policy notes, can benefit from structured dialogues within the CIVIC ecosystem.

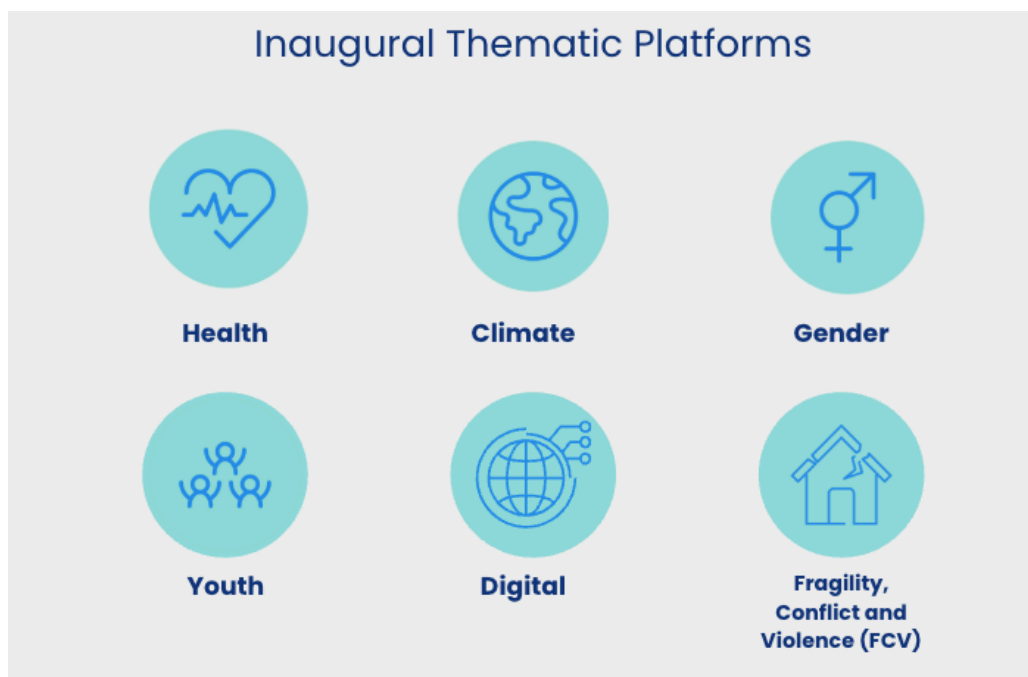
### Which countries are eligible for CIVIC?

CIVIC can support innovative work in any of the WBG's partner countries, especially in contexts where civil society is most likely to benefit from support. CIVIC works to support enabling environments for effective, participatory development to take place by improving trust between governments and civil society, in addition to building resilient civic and social innovation networks.

## CIVIC's Platform Approach: Aligning Action, Empowering Changemakers

CIVIC anchors civil society engagement around thematic platforms that support grantmaking, spark dialogue, and spread knowledge.

Each platform connects CSOs, social innovation networks, WBG programs, and country-level initiatives, helping to align global priorities with local needs.



## Each thematic platform includes:

- **Grantmaking** to CSOs and social innovators. We provide technical assistance and financing to systematically connect scalable innovations to large-scale implementation.
- **Multi-stakeholder dialogue** among CSOs, governments, private sector, philanthropies, and more. Through these communities, we promote collaboration and coalition building, networking, and collective action.
- **Knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening** for North-South and South-South learning exchange and connectivity. We help address the non-financial obstacles to scale and sustainability that hold people-driven solutions back with tailored coaching, learning tools, and opportunities for changemakers.

## Cross Cutting Drivers:

Across all thematic platforms, CIVIC:

- Prioritizes support for social innovations (whether from civil society or other social economy actors) with significant potential for scale, impact, and long-term sustainability.
- Collaborates with leading innovators to test and scale emerging digital technology solutions.
- Partners with CSOs to expand accountability, transparency, and citizen engagement in areas such as monitoring services, training community leaders, and supporting research on shrinking civic space.

## Pathways to scale

CIVIC prioritizes community-identified pathways to scaling people-driven innovations, which may include:



Replication across regions or countries



Expansion into new services or sectors



Integration into government systems and World Bank operations



Transformation through stronger long-term collaboration and influence

## CIVIC's Governance Model: Co-Creating Change, Together

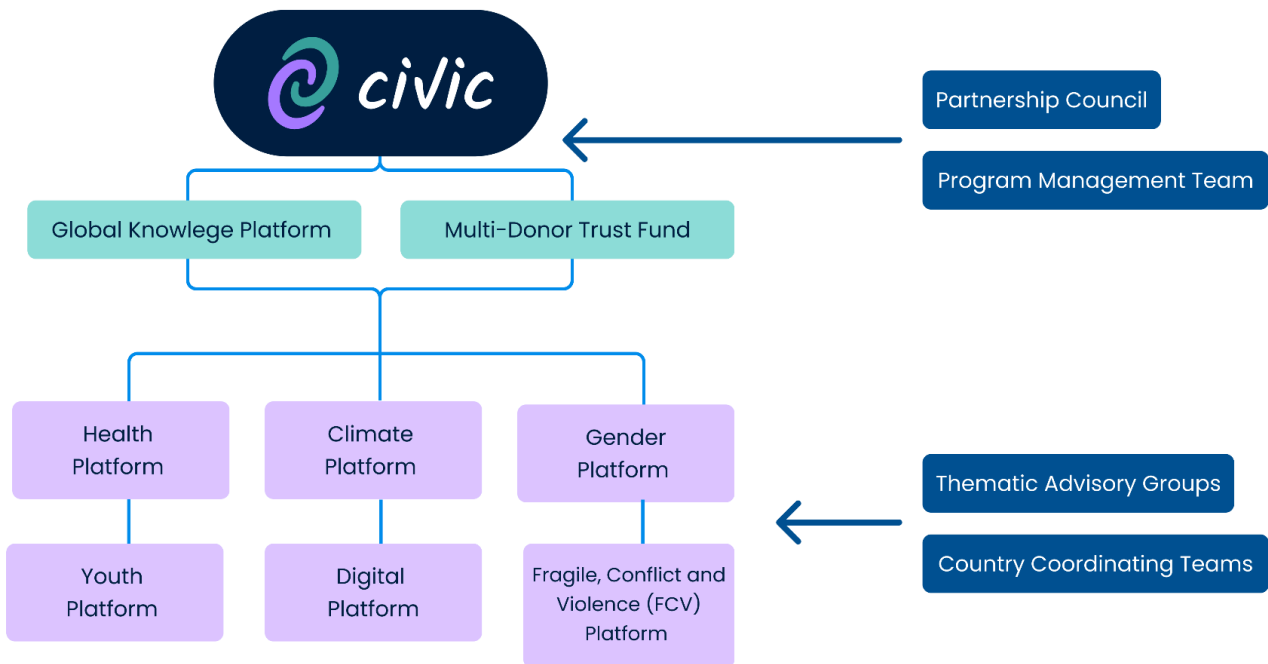
Designed to foster shared leadership, deep collaboration, and adaptive learning, CIVIC's governance model draws on the experience and strengths of multi-donor trust funds and global partnerships while centering civil society as a core driver of strategy and impact.

Together, these elements ensure that CIVIC's governance is not a technical add-on, but a living engine for collaboration, credibility, and systemic change.

- **Partnership Council:** Composed of World Bank and donor representatives, the Council functions like a steering committee and provides strategic guidance, sets priorities by consensus, endorses work programs, and ensures CIVIC stays grounded in co-creation and accountability.
- **Thematic Advisory Groups:** Composed of civil society representatives, technical experts, and other partners, the Thematic Advisory Groups provide independent advice and expertise to each of CIVIC's thematic platforms. They elevate civil society voices and involve diverse perspectives in shaping CIVIC's thematic work.



- **Program Management Team:** Composed of Civic Engagement staff at the World Bank, the Program Management Team operates like a secretariat and handles day-to-day coordination and learning. It stewards CIVIC’s strategy and operations, connecting insights across platforms and countries.

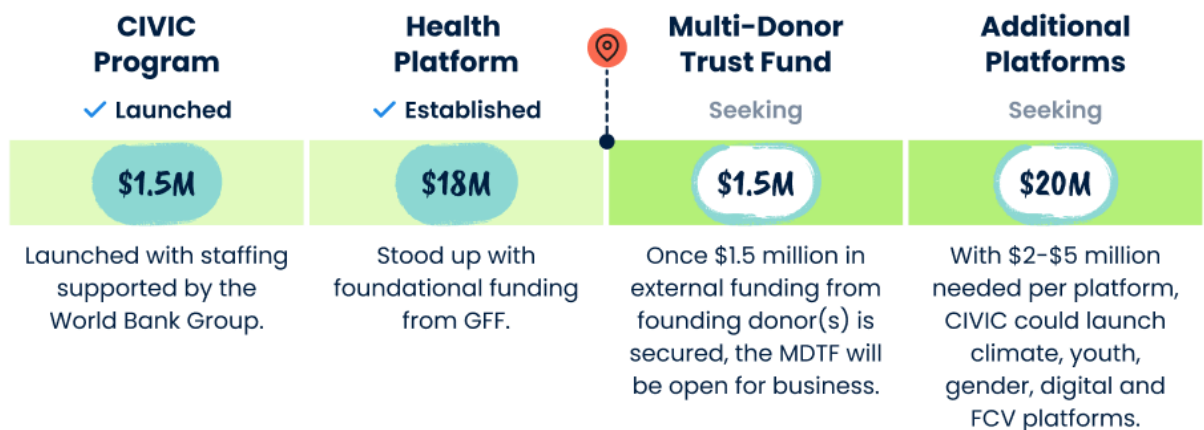


Each participating country will also have a **Country Coordinating Team** that fosters CIVIC’s local work and connections. These teams help align country priorities, convene stakeholders, and co-create programs, translating CIVIC’s strategy into local action and impact.

## CIVIC: Co-Investing for Co-Impact

The complex challenges facing our world demand collaborative and collective action and solutions. CIVIC combines flexible financing with the power of connection to meet this moment.

By pooling funding from a variety of sources, we provide the large-scale financing civil society and social innovators need to scale solutions. Our global knowledge platform pools funding from WBG internal and program sources while our multi-donor trust fund pools funding from external partners.



Beyond financing, CIVIC is a force multiplier, bringing people and networks together to scale solutions further and drive systemic change.

Each year, CIVIC channels funding through both competitive and direct allocations, guided by priorities set by our Partnership Council. This approach ensures support reaches where it's needed most and balances the needs of regions, World Bank teams, and eligible CSOs.

**CIVIC stands to influence the global portfolio of the World Bank in health, climate, gender, youth, fragility, conflict and violence (FCV), and digital, in over 189 member countries.**

### How Funds Flow:

- **Competitive Grants:** For most funding, CIVIC requests proposals through an external call mechanism or collaborative efforts with partners. Our Program Management Team reviews proposals and consults with WBG Departments, donor representatives, and advisory groups, as needed, on allocation criteria and decisions.
- **Direct Allocations:** In other cases, direct allocations complement competitive allocations to meet donor preference arrangements and/or increase integration of CIVIC activities within the World Bank.

## A new, improved approach to civil society support

CIVIC partners with networks of organizations to reach local changemakers, and competitively funds CSO consortia that, in turn, provide grants to smaller organizations at more local levels.

### The consortium for each thematic platform:

- Comprises a CSO coalition working together to advance a specific agenda.
- Designs an equitable and transparent process to select grant partners.
- Manages the on-granting process, ensuring that WBG standards are met and more localized organizations and networks are reached.

This approach enables nimbler design and dynamic implementation while preventing fragmented portfolios of individual small grants. It speeds up funding and reduces barriers to accessing it, while fostering a common thematic focus and consolidating resources to develop knowledge and best practices.

### CIVIC in action

CIVIC and the World Bank-hosted Global Financing Facility (GFF) are partnering to accelerate progress on maternal, child, and adolescent health by providing financing to scale people-driven innovations and embed civil society and youth leadership into public health systems. This collaboration leverages the World Bank's convening power and operational reach alongside the frontline knowledge, trust, and agility of CSOs and youth-led organizations (YLOs)—especially in delivering last-mile services and ensuring accountability.

The World Bank's Global Financing Facility is contributing \$18 million to CIVIC to implement a joint strategy that elevates the role of civil society and youth in advancing primary health care and nutrition outcomes. This investment will provide grant financing and technical assistance to CSOs and YLOs in GFF partner countries, with a focus on strengthening civil society coalitions, amplifying advocacy and accountability, and scaling innovative, people-driven solutions that expand access to essential health services for women, children, and adolescents.

# Strategic Partnership: Co-Create Change at Scale

From scaling people-driven innovations to catalyzing impact from local to global levels. But CIVIC can't do it alone. We are looking for strategic partners who share our ambition and want to combine efforts, leveraging the reach of the WBG.

- **Your funding** enables catalytic capital, platform development, and leverages larger WBG investments.
- **Your voice** helps build momentum, attract co-financing, and shape the global agenda.
- **Your participation** ensures CIVIC's governance remains inclusive, transparent, and accountable.

When you invest, you gain:

- **Insight:** Unique access and insight into the social economy and World Bank operations on issues and geographies of interest to you.
- **Impact:** Opportunities to share your expertise, learn from others, and combine your resources and efforts with like-minded partners to go further.
- **Influence:** A seat at the table to shape the focus and priorities of CIVIC and its thematic platforms, while also shaping the future of development finance.

## Partnership Levels



### Strategic Partnerships

#### Council Partner

Join our Partnership Council as a core donor, help shape CIVIC's work and set priorities.



### Platform Co-sponsor

Join as a catalytic and foundational partner for a thematic platform, help shape its issue area and priorities.





## Be a part of systemic change



Email our team at [\*\*civic@worldbank.org\*\*](mailto:civic@worldbank.org) to explore strategic investment and partnership opportunities

To learn more, visit [\*\*www.civicglobal.org\*\*](http://www.civicglobal.org) and follow us on



**CIVIC: The Civil Society  
and Social  
Innovation Alliance**



**@civicalliancewb**

