Transform Digital Spaces to Reflect Feminist Democratic Principles  
(Transform) Activity  
Program Innovation Grant Opportunity

Supporting locally led innovations to monitor, prevent, mitigate, and address Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence

Request for Concept Notes  
Deadline: October 3, 2023 at 11:59 pm East African Time

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Key Grant Opportunity Information and Dates</th>
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| Request Number | FY24-Transform-Grant Opportunity  
Issued under USAID Transform Cooperative Agreement  
Associate Award No. 7200AA22LA00002 |
| Issue Date | September 19, 2023 |
| Email | innovation.transform@irex.org |
| Questions | Submit questions by email on an ongoing basis by October 3, 2023  
To: innovation.transform@irex.org  
Subject: FY24-Transform-Grant Opportunity Questions |
| Grant Opportunity Deadline | Submit concept notes by October 3, 2023 at 11:59 pm East African Time  
To: innovation.transform@irex.org  
Subject: FY24-Transform-Grant Opportunity Concept Note-Kenya |
| Second Round: Co-creation and Full Proposal | Select applicants will be invited to attend a co-creation workshop approximately three weeks after the concept note deadline to discuss their proposal with Transform team members and other selected local organizations.  
Address and additional information to be provided to selected organizations.  
After participating in the co-creation workshop, selected applicants will be asked to submit a full application. |
| Grant Start Date | By December 2023 |
About Transform: Transform Digital Spaces to Reflect Feminist Democratic Principles (Transform) Activity is a three-year global pilot activity funded by USAID, which supports practical approaches to preventing, mitigating, and responding to Technology-Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV), with a focus on addressing violence experienced by women in politics and public life (WIPPL). Transform activities take place in Kenya, Georgia, and Guatemala.

Transform aims to strengthen individuals’ resilience to TFGBV, bolster institutions’ capacity and commitment to decreasing its prevalence, and promote equity-focused social norms related to gender and digital citizenship to reduce the negative impact of TFGBV on the lived experience of women in all their diversity, particularly those in politics and public life, LGBTQI+ individuals, and marginalized communities.

What is Technology-Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV)? UN Women defines TFGBV as any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified by the use of information communication technologies or other digital tools which results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, social, political or economic harm or other infringements of rights and freedoms. These are forms of violence that are directed against women because they are women and/or that affect women disproportionately.

Who is Transform’s target audience? While the Transform program recognizes the threat of TFGBV across public and private domains, this opportunity is specifically focused on preventing, mitigating, and responding to TFGBV against women in politics and public life, including women politicians, public officials/local government workers, journalists, human rights defenders, activists, and others active in public life.

About the Innovation Grant opportunity: Transform will provide Innovation Grants to local organizations with the purpose of supporting implementation of locally led solutions to monitor, prevent, mitigate, and address TFGBV targeting women in politics and public life.

Innovation Grants funds will support initiatives that advance the safety, inclusion, participation, and leadership of women in digital and online spaces. These initiatives could be focused on a variety of aspects that contribute to, perpetuate, and allow TFGBV to happen. Initiatives could also be focused on improving the legislative and/or policy environment, organizational and institutional practices in sectors that employ women in public roles, and tools for protection, reporting, and mitigation.

Transform will fund either of the following:

- Organizations that seek to develop a new project, program model, or concept that addresses one or multiple manifestations of TFGBV against women in politics and public life such as gendered disinformation, online harassment, doxing, etc. Transform funding will enable organizations to implement such initiatives and to better collaborate with other organizations in the achievement of this goal.

- Organizations looking to expand an existing project or program funded by another donor to address TFGBV against women in politics and public life. Transform funding will enable organizations to scale their existing initiatives to new audiences, collaborate with new partners, add research and learning activities, share effective tools, or to tailor the scope to explicitly focus on TFGBV against women in politics and public life if this is not already the primary target.
Illustrative activities which could be funded include (but are not limited to):

- Trainings, capacity-building activities, workshops, and other ways to increase local prevention, response, and mitigation capacity among diverse stakeholders who include government, legislators, civil society, human rights, anti-GBV, women empowerment, technology sector, media, and others. This could include improving the capacity of organizations and institutions where WIPPL serve to prevent and address TFGBV.

- Advocacy efforts to shape public agendas, change public policies, and influence other processes that impact TFGBV prevalence against women in politics and public life. Efforts could include campaigns, engagement with legislative and policy processes, public interest litigation, letter writing campaigns, and others.

- Awareness and social and behavior change campaigns and initiatives to target toxic narratives that normalize TFGBV against WIPPL. These efforts could be broad or targeted in nature, engaging diverse audiences and stakeholders.

- Localized creation and adaptation of tools to respond to TFGBV, which could include but are not limited to technology- and/or internet-based resources, such as websites, applications, plug ins, and other computerized resources that execute, facilitate, and/or enhance processes, functionality, and engagement.

- Trainings, campaigns, tools, and/or other initiatives which seek to address TFGBV for a particular subset of WIPPL (e.g. indigenous or other minority).

- Improved locally-provided services to those impacted by TFGBV, including rapid and emergency response.

- Collaboration and engagement of cross-sectoral organizations, such as human rights, media, anti-GBV organizations, civic tech companies, and others to influence and improve digital spaces and experiences.

- Initiatives targeting perpetrators of TFGBV against WIPPL which can focus on identifying and exposing perpetrators, denouncing abuse, and creating demand for consequences, such as removal from positions of power, legal action, and prosecution for perpetrators. These initiatives could include but are not limited to digital campaigns; legislative advocacy efforts; legal support, such as strategic litigation; support or training for civil society organizations, media, civic tech, and women political participation organizations; and efforts to establish networks and coalitions.

- Activities focused on improving gender-informed technology and/or digital democracy efforts, or which focus on improving gendered norms and policies in the tech sector to reduce TFGBV against women in politics and public life.

- Actionable research and dissemination of research outcomes to others with the goal of expanding the evidence base and enabling actors to act to address the threat. Research efforts must be combined with application components, such as engagement of critical stakeholders, campaigns, etc.

Transform’s implementing partners will provide technical support, mentoring, and coaching to innovation grantees as they implement their initiatives. Innovation grantees will benefit from lessons learned derived from global expertise, and Transform partners will benefit from new insights generated by and with local partners. Partners selected for grant funding will be expected to contribute to Transform’s broader objective of increasing collaboration between organizations and sectors working to address TFGBV; this will be done through learning exchanges and other similar opportunities to convene and share updates, lessons learned, and more. Partners are encouraged to consider how their activity, if funded, would contribute to cross-sectoral collaboration and engagement.

**Expectations for Monitoring and Evaluation:** All funded organizations will be required to report periodically on their progress and results of funded activities. Because there is a wide range of possible activities that could be funded, Transform implementing partners will provide technical support, mentoring, and coaching in devising and implementing a plan to evaluate their activities in alignment with
Transform goals and the overall Transform Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan.

Issuance of any requests for concepts or proposals will not constitute an award commitment on the part of Transform, nor does it commit Transform, IREX, or USAID to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any applications. All applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant’s expense.

I. What kind of grants are available?

- **Purpose:** Transform will provide innovation grants to local partners in Kenya to implement innovative solutions to improving anti-TFGBV outcomes in their communities or to expand the knowledge base around the threat of TFGBV and responses to counter it.
- **Location:** Kenya
- **Number of Awards Available:** At least one and up to five. Subject to the availability of funds, Transform reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.
- **Type:** Fixed Amount Subaward or Cost Reimbursable Subaward
- **Individual Grant Budget:** Total funding available for this opportunity is $330,000. IREX will fund one or multiple grants depending on the types of ideas and partnerships proposed. The size of the proposed grants therefore can range from $50,000 to $330,000. Final grant budgets will be finalized with selected the proposal before signing of grant contracts. Cost share is not required.
- **Anticipated Period of Performance:** 6-16 months¹. Applicants can propose the time required for project implementation within this range.

2. Who can apply to the grant opportunity?

**Eligibility:** Transform will fund locally-led organizations to better understand and address the priorities of women, sexual and gender minorities, and marginalized groups—especially those in politics and public life—for this problem in the given country and/or region. Eligible organizations include (but are not limited to) those working to support women public leadership, to advance safety, inclusion, and participation of women in digital democracy, to prevent and mitigate gender based violence (GBV), TFGBV, violence against women in politics (VAWIP) (such as women public participation, digital democracy, and anti-violence organizations), as well as organizations that focus on response and service provision to those impacted by this violence (such as service and support organizations). This list is not exhaustive and can include other organizations, such as technology focused organizations, with relevant missions.

Local organizations focused on some aspect(s) of GBV, TFGBV, VAWPP, or related threats and who meet the following minimum criteria and share Transform objectives are eligible to apply. Organizations led by or serving marginalized groups, which may include age, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and other identities, are encouraged to apply. The grant opportunity is not restricted to certain technical sectors or to research organizations.

¹ Proposed grant periods reflect the time needed for compliant close out of innovation grants as well as IREX subaward close out with Pact prior to the end of the Transform program in September 2025.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible</th>
<th>Not Eligible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔ Registered Organizations</td>
<td>× Individuals (unless they are registered as private entrepreneurs) or Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Non-profit legally registered entities</td>
<td>× International organizations and groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Nongovernmental</td>
<td>× Government Institutions or Political Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Eligible to receive USAID funding:</td>
<td>× Not eligible due to any of the following reasons:</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Has or is willing to register for a [Unique Entity ID (UEI)]</td>
<td>o Appears on Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control list</td>
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<td>o Able to sign [ADS 303] Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient</td>
<td>o Has active exclusions in the [System for Award Management (SAM)]</td>
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<td>✔ Prepared to allocate time to capacity strengthening trainings and augment current operational and technical processes as a result</td>
<td>× Entities with conflict of interest due to engagement of their representatives in Transform program as staff, Community Advisory Board member, and other positions of influence</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Organization which does not have any active exclusions in the System for Award Management (<a href="http://www.sam.gov">www.sam.gov</a>), does not appear on the Specifically Designated Nationals (SDN) and Blocked Persons List maintained by the U.S. Treasury for the Office of Foreign Assets Control, and is not listed in the United Nations Security designation list</td>
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3. How can eligible organizations apply to the grant opportunity?

Complete responses in Annex I. [Concept Note Template](#). Submit concept notes by email by **October 3, 2023 at 11:59 pm East African Time**.

To: [innovation.transform@irex.org](mailto:innovation.transform@irex.org)

Subject line: FY24-Transform-Grant Opportunity Concept Note-Kenya

Include:
- Concept Note [Annex I. Parts A, B, and C] as a Word Document attachment
- Signed Certifications and additional attachments [Annex I. Part D] as a PDF attachment
- Up to 3 optional materials [Annex I. Part E] in any format (links or attachment)
Innovation grants will be awarded through a two-stage process:

1. Eligible organizations will complete and submit a concept note to the Transform team by October 3, 2023 to innovation.transform@irex.org that addresses some aspect of the threat of TFGBV.
2. Selected organizations will be invited to a co-creation session the last week of October to discuss their proposal with Transform team members and other selected local organizations and will then be invited to submit a full proposal for grant funding.

Any questions concerning this request for concepts should be submitted to innovation.transform@irex.org. Applicants should retain for their records one copy of all enclosures which accompany their application.

Concepts must be received electronically via email to innovation.transform@irex.org no later than October 3, 2023. Pre-award costs are not allowable and will not be reimbursed.

Participation in Co-Creation and Capacity building: Transform seeks partners interested and committed to collaborating and learning through a co-creative granting process. Selected applicants will be invited to at least one mandatory co-creation session wherein selected applicants will meet to discuss the needs that their proposed intervention addresses, and to further refine the proposed scope of work. These co-creation sessions are anticipated to take place during October-November 2023. Transform’s consortium partners - Moonshot, Makaia and Sonke - will provide technical support, mentoring, and coaching to innovation grantees as they implement their initiatives. IREX will also provide technical support and assistance to innovation grantees to track and monitor implementation and impact as well as ensuring responsible U.S. Government-funded grant management.

4. How will applicants be selected to move on to the full proposal stage?

1. **Eligibility screening:** IREX will conduct an initial review of the submitted concept note, based on the following criteria for responses, and disqualify applicants and concept notes that are not eligible for consideration.
   - ✓ Does the concept note satisfy the basic parameters? [Refer to Section 1]
   - ✓ Does the applicant meet the minimum eligibility criteria? [Refer to Section 2]
   - ✓ Is the concept note complete and submitted on time? [Refer to Section 3]

2. **Transform team review:** A review panel, comprised of Transform staff from across consortium partners, Transform Community Advisory Board members, IREX Grants and Contracts Personnel, and members of IREX’s country-based personnel will review eligible concept notes based on the below selection criteria. Each member of the review panel will submit their final recommendation to other members of the review panel and will collaboratively agree on concept notes to recommend for the co-creation stage.

3. **Selection Criteria:** The following criteria will be used to guide the selection of concepts notes to the full proposal stage:
   - Does the applicant clearly identify and demonstrate understanding of the problem that the concept will address?
• Does the proposed solution address the problem in a realistic, meaningful, and innovative way?
• Does the applicant demonstrate a clear understanding of the context? Does the applicant describe how it will adapt the concept to be effective in the context?
• Is the concept and approach responsive to the priorities of women in politics and public life and survivors of TFGBV? Does the applicant display understanding of risks and demonstrate safeguarding measures to ensure the concept does no more harm?
• Is the concept feasible for the applicant to implement within the proposed timeframe and funding amount? Does the applicant display the technical expertise needed for the proposed approach?

The panel will rate concept notes based on the following criteria:
• **Responsiveness:** concept’s approach and value for priorities related to the grant opportunity.
• **Feasibility:** applicant’s understanding of requirements and capacity to successfully implement the concept.
• **Impact:** concept’s potential to advance solutions to address TFGBV against WIPPL.

The reviewing team will provide an overall assessment of each concept note with brief comments that will be shared with the applicant and other members of the Transform review panel:

- Strongly recommended
- Recommended
- Not recommended

Selected applicants will be invited to the co-creation session in October/November 2023.

4. **Timeline for proposal review and selection:** Applicants invited to the co-creation stage will be notified within three weeks of submission.

**Late Applications**

Late applications are marked as “late” and are ineligible for review or award; however, IREX reserves the right to accept and include late applications in the review and award process when it is considered within the best interest of IREX to do so and if applications that were received on time have not been opened and reviewed. Applications that are submitted late or incomplete run the risk of **not** being considered for review.

**Administration of Award**

For awards to non-U.S. organizations that are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), USAID Standard Provisions for non-U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) would apply. For awards to non-US organizations that are businesses, USAID Standard Provisions for Businesses would apply.

Applicants may obtain copies of the referenced material at the following websites:

ANNEX I. CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE

Transform Innovation Grants Opportunity

Supporting locally led innovations to monitor, prevent, mitigate, and address Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence

Concept Note Template

October 3, 2023 11:59 on East African Time

A. Key Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Proposed Activity Title</th>
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<td>Proposed Activity Start Date</td>
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<td>Proposed Activity End Date</td>
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<td>Requested Funding Amount in Local Currency</td>
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<td>Organization Legal Name</td>
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B. Questions

1. **Problem**: Describe the need for your concept. What aspect of TFGBV as a problem do you propose to address? (250 words)

2. **Program Idea**: Describe your idea – what is the goal of the proposed initiative, what activities do you propose to implement, what results do you expect to see? (500 words)
3. People: Describe whom your concept will engage and impact. How will your concept identify and respond to women in politics and public life (WIPPL) priorities? Which groups of stakeholders will your concept engage to support a better digital experience for WIPPL? (250 words)

4. Geographic context: Is your initiative national, regional, localized, and/or otherwise geographically targeted? Please provide details and justification for geographic targeting. (150 words)

5. Protection: What are some of the risks that participants may face while engaging with your proposed concept? Outline initial mitigation strategies to address them. (250 words)

C. Capacity and Past Performance: list up to three projects of similar size and scope that demonstrate your organization’s capacity to successfully implement the proposed concept.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>Funder (if applicable)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Start and End Dates</th>
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D. Certifications

I, [Applicant Signatory Name and Title], certify that [Applicant Organization Name] is a local entity organization that:
- Is legally organized under the laws of Kenya;
- Has its principal place of business or operations in Kenya;
- Is majority-owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Kenya;
- Is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Kenya

I acknowledge that responses to Annex 1. Part B. Questions 1-5, except for any confidential or proprietary information contained in the questions marked below, may be shared at the discretion of Transform for the purpose of this grant opportunity.

The following questions contain confidential or proprietary information:

- Question 1
- Question 2
- Question 3
- Question 4
- Question 5

[Signature]
[Title]
[Organization]
[Date]

E. Optional Materials

Optional: share links or attachments (up to 20MB) for up to three materials in any format that demonstrate your organization’s commitment, impact, and learning related to combatting TFGBV.