

**Project full name:**

Wajibika Tanzania Programme (WTP)

Priority:

Protecting and promoting civic space

Phase I:

2024 - 2028

SDC contribution:

CHF 8'200'000

Total phase budget:

CHF 18'220'821

Contract partner:

The United Kingdom (UK) – Foreign Commonwealth Development Office FCDO (Tanzania)

Implementing partner:

Oxford Policy Management (OPM)

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Project overview

Tanzania has experienced a gradual shift towards a more open environment for civil society organizations (CSOs) and the media in recent years. However, there is still a need for further reforms to strengthen the legal framework governing the operation of CSOs and media, to ensure greater space for their activities and contributions to society.

Switzerland brings over 20 years of practical experience in supporting the civil society and media sectors in Tanzania. Through the Wajibika initiative, Switzerland aims to strategically strengthen civil society and media actors in advocating for amendments of restrictive laws that hamper their operations, enhancing their credibility and evidence-based approaches, fostering greater coordination, and building stronger relationships between them, government, and the citizens they serve.

Overall goal

To contribute to a more open and inclusive society in which different tiers of government demonstrate greater accountability to, and collaborate with, civil society actors to find innovative public service solutions that better meet the needs of citizens.

Approach

Wajibika is co-funded by UK's Foreign Commonwealth Department Office (FCDO) and implemented by Oxford Policy Management (OPM). It aims to enhance government accountability to citizens demands by supporting CSOs and the media. Wajibika addresses both supply and demand-side challenges through three key components:

Component 1 - Inclusive and effective civic space:

Restrictive legislation and regulations are challenged with input from CSOs and faith-based organisations (FBOs). Efforts are made to improve CSO governance, coordination, evidence generation, and engagement with the Government

of Tanzania, aiming to enhance policy-making and service delivery. Additionally, women-led coalitions are strengthened to advocate for a more gender-inclusive civic space.

Component 2 - Media freedom: Media challenges disproportionate regulations, including those governing the online space, and works to expand its capacity for public interest journalism.

Component 3 - Governance innovation facility: Government and key stakeholders are supported through technical assistance (TA) to explore innovative solutions for addressing long-standing service delivery challenges.

To concretely open up the civic space, Wajibika follows a three-pronged approach:

- **Convene** civil society and media actors to effectively coordinate on key issues, ensuring collaborative work, knowledge sharing, and monitoring and evaluation.
- **Catalyse** the work of civil society and media through small, issue-based grants, such as research and evidence generation, capacity building, events, and advocacy.
- **Influence** elite decision-makers to reduce barriers to civic space and address broader governance challenges that impact the Government's capacity for public service delivery.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. **Effective civic space and political inclusion:** CSOs become more effective, credible and sustainable, strengthening their connections with the public. They use evidence to demonstrate their value to the government and challenge disproportionate regulations.
2. **Media freedom and access to information:** The media challenges disproportionate regulations, including those governing the online space, while building its capacity to engage in public interest journalism.
3. **Government service delivery:** Key government actors address long-standing service delivery challenges by implementing innovative and inclusive solutions

Beneficiaries

Primary: CSOs, NGOs, Media, FBOs and relevant government sectoral actors.

Secondary: Tanzanian citizens, particularly the most vulnerable groups (women, youth, people with disabilities).