



Strengthening CSO and Media capacity and resilience in communicating and reporting about illegal transnational issues affecting Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe

Call for Applications- Civil Society Organisations

Course Dates: TBC February- March 2025, 9:00-16:00 local time
Course Location: In-person, In Country
Application deadline: 23:59 EAT, Tuesday, 28th January 2025

➤ [APPLY HERE](#) : Please apply using the link

Are you a CSO leader or activist, working in Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Kenya with an interest in driving social change? If you are, this exciting new training programme may be for you!

1. Introduction

Thomson Reuters Foundation (TRF) is the corporate foundation of Thomson Reuters, the global news and information services company. As an independent charity we work to advance media freedom, foster more inclusive economies, and promote human rights. We combine our unique media development and legal services to drive systemic change through news, capacity strengthening, free legal assistance, and convening initiatives.

As part of its global programme to advance free, fair and informed societies, the Thomson Reuters Foundation is working to strengthen the resilience, credibility and editorial sustainability of media in sub-Saharan Africa. Working with newsrooms, journalists and civil society organisations, the project aims to ensure that audiences in the region have access to transparent and accurate reporting. The focus countries for this project are Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

One of the key aspects of the project involves TRF's unique dual-track training for civil society organisations (CSOs) and journalists on strategic communications and reporting on transnational issues, in order to strengthen public-interest reporting on these issues for a wider audience.

The initial 4-day course will be delivered through TRF's Dual Track approach; journalists and representatives of CSOs will take part in simultaneous training courses (tracks) led by our leading team of trainers. At strategic moments during the five days, and through subsequent programme engagements, the two tracks will come together for joint sessions to facilitate mutual learning and networking. This approach has proven highly successful in strengthening collaboration between the media and civil society.

TRF acknowledges the importance of both CSOs and journalists in bringing to light issues on transnational illegal activities such as wildlife smuggling, unregulated fishing and exploitative labour practices, which are impacting countries' economies as well as wider regional stability.

The training will look at key challenges journalists in Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe face when investigating these stories, as well give useful tips to improve the quality of the content they produce on these issues. Additionally, the training will equip Civil Society Organisations working on these topics on how to effectively engage the media to raise awareness and garner action from policy makers on these issues.



2. Background

Transnational issues in sub-Saharan African countries, such as cross-border trade, migration, and security threats, pose significant challenges that affect the region's stability and development. These complex issues often have far-reaching consequences, impacting economic growth, social cohesion, and political stability.

As such, independent public-interest journalism has a role to play by accurately reporting on and producing accessible content to publics in order to hold those in power accountable. Part of that high quality reporting is to have access to Civil society actors in this space who are able to communicate their work so media can ensure they capture all community voices and frontline issues.

3. Training and Mentoring

Accordingly, Thomson Reuters Foundation (TRF), the corporate foundation of Thomson Reuters, is delivering a communications training and mentoring programme that addresses the needs of CSOs in Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe as well as journalism training for journalists to strengthen the work of both groups and lead to more informed audiences.

The four-day training course will be delivered through TRF's Dual Track approach; representatives of CSOs and journalists will take part in simultaneous training courses (tracks) led by our leading team of experienced professional trainers.

The training will equip CSOs working on these topics on how to effectively engage the media to raise awareness and garner action from policy makers on these issues.

3. The Programme

This programme offers long-term, targeted support to CSOs to drive real change in attitudes, practices, and policy on several transnational issues through the following stages:

1. Onboarding onto the programme through one-to-one conversations with TRF staff.
2. Participation in TRF's dual-track training course either in Harare, Zimbabwe, Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania between February and March 2025.
3. The opportunity to access direct one-to-one mentorship, working directly with a TRF mentor to pursue an agreed communications objective. Places on the mentoring scheme will be awarded through a competitive proposal review process on the topic of transnational issues.
4. The opportunity to access pro bono legal support through signing up to TRF's [TrustLaw network](#) – the world's largest pro-bono legal service.
5. Participation in an alumni network of CSOs and journalists, with opportunities to engage in other relevant TRF programmes as they are rolled out.

4. Expected Programme Outcomes

CSO participants will be able to develop clear and compelling messaging and communicate about the work they do – and why it is important. Participants will be better equipped to engage with the media through planned and unplanned interactions with journalists. CSOs will also be introduced to digital and multimedia tools, communications tactics and content creation techniques.

5. The Dual-Track Training Course

Participation in the Dual-Track Training course is the third stage of the programme, and requires your in-person participation for four days between February-March 2025

Training Course Format:

Course Dates: TBC in February-March 2025 (in person)

Course Location: In Country

- The four-day course will be delivered through a blend of in-person modules, practical group work, guest sessions with subject-matter experts, exercises and individual assignments.
- The CSO and journalism training tracks will proceed separately, with joint sessions built into the agenda to bring the two tracks together at various points for discussion on some of the issues, shared learning, and networking.
- The training will be run in English.
- CSO participants should be prepared to develop a succinct, engaging, informative 90-second presentation on a key initiative and confidently handle any questions asked. They will have the opportunity to deliver their presentations to the journalism training participants at a joint meeting on the final day.
- CSO participants will have the opportunity to be interviewed by their journalist counterparts in practical joint exercises.

Training Course Costs:

The following costs will be covered by TRF:

- Local transportation to/from course venue
- Meals and refreshments and/or a daily per-diem to cover meals not provided during course hours.

TRF will consider reimbursement of other reasonable costs which participants may expect to incur to enable participation in the training course. Costs outside of those listed above must be discussed and agreed with TRF in advance of the course.

Training Course Principles:

The training course is a safe environment designed to be practical and interactive—participants will work on real-world and hypothetical issues, contributing to discussions and sharing insights from their experience.

TRF expects:

- Participants to provide respectful, constructive, and meaningful contributions during and after the course.
- Journalists and civil society participants to forge networks and identify issues worthy of coverage.

All participants to engage with one another, share knowledge and experience of their work and examples of how they may have overcome challenges.

- Ongoing and active engagement in activities as described above.

6. Application Process and Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility – CSOs:

To be eligible to participate in this course, CSO applicants must be:

- Employees or official affiliates of a civil society organisation tackling human rights issues/transnational issues listed above
- Working in Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe
- Working in an organisation that is eligible for membership of TrustLaw – criteria can be found [here](#)
- Employed or actively involved in a communications, advocacy, or other public-facing role within that organisation
- At least three years of professional experience
- Involved in organisational projects or initiatives focused on at least one of the following themes: wildlife smuggling, unregulated fishing and exploitative labour practices, which are impacting countries' economies as well as wider regional stability.

- Fluent in English. The mode of delivery of all sessions will be in English.

Application requirements

To apply, please complete the application form using the link below. The form must be completed in full for your application to be considered.

Should your application be successful, you will be required to provide a letter from your manager, or an appropriate senior leader from the civil society organisation confirming your availability to travel and participate in the four-day training course.

 [APPLY HERE](#)

Please note: There are limited spaces available for this programme. All applications will be considered on merit.

If you have any difficulties applying, please email light.juma@thomsonreuters.com or cosmas.tabuche@thomsonreuters.com