



**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESA)**

- 2021-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN -





**WITHOUT  
CIVIL  
SOCIETY  
THERE IS NO  
DEMOCRACY**

# WHO WE ARE



Founded in 1995, ForumCiv is the largest civil society platform in Sweden with around 140 member organisations from Swedish civil society.

## About Us

ForumCiv is a politically and religiously unaffiliated development cooperation organisation. Together we work with human and civil rights and facilitate popular participation around the globe. Our work centres on enabling people to organise to claim their rights and take control of their lives; for it is only then that democracy can grow, resources can be distributed more fairly, and poverty can be reduced.



ForumCiv has extensive experience in civil society strengthening, democracy and human rights, having had a presence in Eastern and Southern Africa through country offices and different development interventions. The Office in Kenya was registered in 2008 and has been crucial in coordinating all the work in the region.

## Our Vision

A just and sustainable world where all people have the power to effect change



## Purpose

- Strengthen marginalised people around the world who organise to claim their rights.
- Advocate for changes that contribute to a just and sustainable world.



## Our roles

**Advocator:** We advocate for change that contributes to a just and sustainable world.

**Capacity developer:** We strengthen development in Sweden and abroad.

**Development actor:** We run development programmes in partnership with organisations in partner countries.

**Grant administrator:** We distribute grants and assure quality to organisations working with international development cooperations.





# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



ForumCiv  
-organizations  
collaborating  
for just and  
sustainable  
world

Strengthening  
marginalized  
people to claim  
their rights.  
Advocating for  
change

To promote  
and defend  
human rights  
and democracy  
through a diverse  
and independent  
civil society

A just and sustainable  
world where all  
people have the  
power to effect  
change

# GEOGRAPHICAL

## SCOPE





# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

Respecting human rights is not only a legal obligation and a legitimate aspiration of all human beings. It is also a pre-condition for our societies to grow and prosper in peace and security. There is great demand globally for protection of human rights, strengthening rights holder participation in decision making and making institutions accountable. This requires strengthening of civil society organisations who are now working in repressive environments as well as other who are working towards sustainable development. The unprecedented coronavirus pandemic has resulted in significant social, political, and legal challenges globally. Extensive lockdowns adopted to slow transmission of the virus restrict by necessity freedom of movement and, in the process, freedom to enjoy many other human rights. While many of these measures are necessary and effective, some have had adverse side effects on the functioning of our democracies. The COVID-19 crisis has thus exacerbated the vulnerability of the least protected in society, further highlighting deep economic and social inequalities and further undermined sustainable development at a time in which efforts need to be accelerated to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda, underpinned by human rights, provides a comprehensive blueprint for sustainable recovery from the pandemic. To promote human rights and democracy in the ESA region, the Regional

office will continue to partner with civil society organizations and creative actors through use of innovative approaches such as use of music, media, activism, cultural festivals, documentaries and investigative journalism. The Regional office ESA will build on existing programming to address key issues such as shrinking civic space, and interference with media and freedom of expression. The Regional office will also focus on leadership and governance issues by holding governments accountable for corruption and lack of transparency.

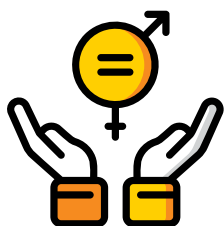
### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

**Promoting accountable democratic culture and respect for human rights**

#### ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

- a. Improving participation of people in political processes and advocating for their rights.
- b. Enhancing an inclusive and people-centred approach for a sustainable post-COVID-19 rebuilding
- c. Adoption of innovative advocacy mechanisms in pursuit of accountable and democratic culture and respect for human rights (use of non-traditional actors)
- d. Influencing regulations and policies at institutional and structural levels





## GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY

Despite the progress made in gender equality through shifts in laws, policies and social norms, women remain underrepresented in leadership. Discrimination and violence are still present in lives of women and girls and other minority groups such as LGBTQI. This calls for more efforts to ensure realization of gender equality and equity. Due to increasing inequality and exclusion, women and girls, the elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, refugees and migrants continue to be affected. Women are still underrepresented in political positions. Violence against women and girls is still high and access to reproductive health and rights remains a challenge in ESA region. During the plan period, Regional office ESA will work towards ensuring that marginalised groups particularly women and youth are not excluded in the economic and political processes in the region. This will be through advocating for the participation of marginalized groups in decision making at all levels of the society. The Regional office will ensure gender mainstreaming in its programmes and develop key strategic partnerships with other actors in the region for networking, research and learning.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

**Promoting gender equality and equity mainstreaming**

#### ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

- a. Influence policy development and advocacy work in gender equality and equity.
- b. Empower women, youth and the marginalized communities and groups including LGBTQI to claim their rights and as change makers.
- c. Empower women and men in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.
- d. Promote participation of women in leadership.



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Eastern and Southern Africa region is among the worst hit regions by effects of climate change. This calls for countries to mitigate and adapt to impact of climate change. The Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs relating to the environment, land, natural resources and environmental protection in the 2030 Agenda, have created a political momentum to tackle climate change. Sustainable use of natural resources, including equitable access to land, requires laws, appropriate regulations and mechanisms. Communities affected by climate change need to be empowered to protect their rights and participate in their development. Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa are among the most vulnerable to effects of climate change and therefore adaptation measures such as promotion of climate smart agriculture will be critical. During the plan period, Regional office ESA will work with civil society organizations and community-based organisations in advocating for sustainable business models that do not harm the environment. This will be through building the

capacity of these organisations to participate in climate change related policy issues and facilitate dialogue between rights holders and duty bearers. Additionally, Regional office ESA will work with lawmakers in various countries within the region to contribute to the development of responsive policies to issues of environment and climate change.

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE** Enhancing environmental protection and resilience to climate change

#### **ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE**

- a. Empower vulnerable populations to adapt to climate change.
- b. Advocate for policies that promote sustainable use of natural resources.
- c. Strengthen capacities of partner organizations to respond to environment degradation and climate change effects.





## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The human desire to seek better living conditions, peaceful and free environment is at the core of the migration-development nexus. Regional office ESA region continues to experience an increase in migration and changing patterns in migration resulting in countries playing the roles of origin, transit and destination simultaneously. The increase in volume of migration has seen an increase in violation of migrants in countries of transit and destination whose rights need protection. Migration has been on the rise and rights of migrants continue to be violated both during transit and in destination countries. The economic crisis induced by COVID-19 could be long, deep, and pervasive when viewed through a migration lens. Migrant remittances provide a financial lifeline to poor households in many countries; reducing remittance flows could increase poverty and reduce households' access to much-needed health services. The crisis could exacerbate xenophobic, discriminatory treatment of migrants, which calls for greater vigilance against such practices. There is need

to create awareness of human rights to enable migrants be fully aware of and able to claim their rights. Regional office ESA will partner with organisations present in ESA region who deal with migration and development to promote rights of migrants and empower them as development actors.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

**Protection of migrant's rights and empowering migrants as development actors**

#### ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

- a. Contribute to promotion and protection of the rights of migrants and host communities.
- b. Enabling migrants to participate actively as development actors
- c. Support of mainstreaming of migration rights into local and national policy planning.
- d. Mitigating gender inequalities and women's human rights in migration





## REGIONAL OFFICE EXCELLENCE

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

**Strengthening Regional office's  
excellence and enhancing  
financial sustainability**

#### **Achieving the objective**

- a. Establishment of regional and national networks in the thematic areas of focus.
- b. Strengthen the capacity of ForumCiv Regional office ESA
- c. Raising the profile of the Regional office's work
- d. Promote effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability.
- e. Enhance quality data management and evidence-based communication and decision making.
- f. Deepen relations with the existing donors
- g. Diversify the donor base
- h. Strengthen internal fundraising capacity







## MEASURING THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

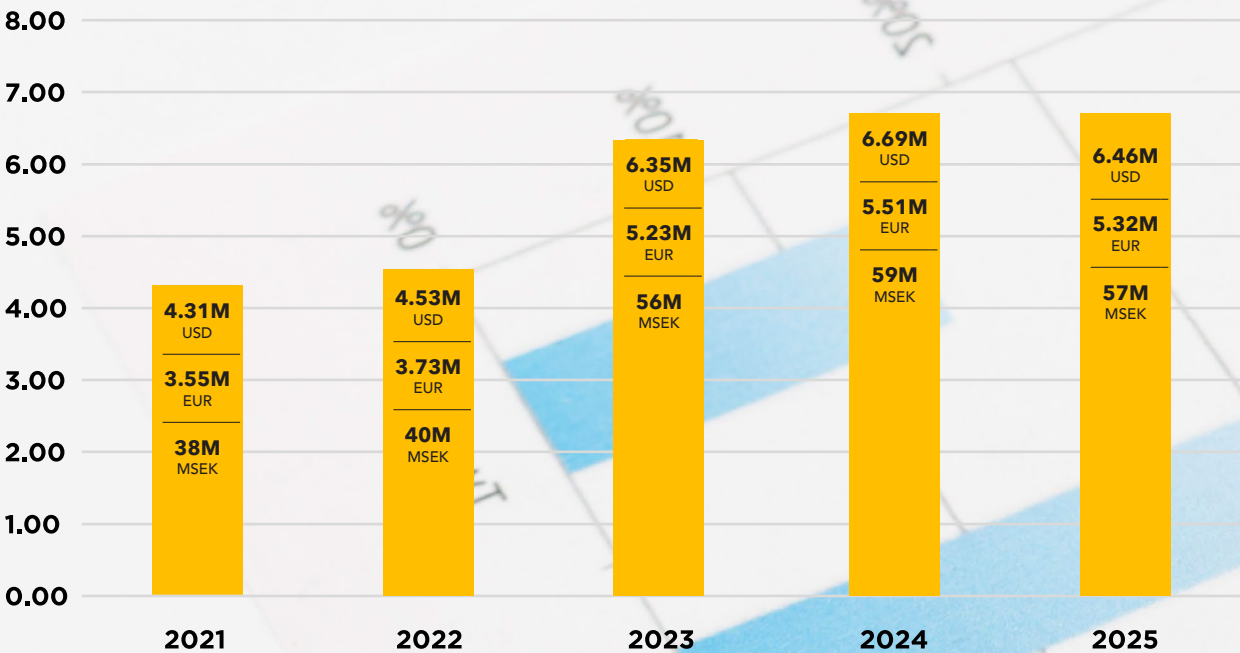
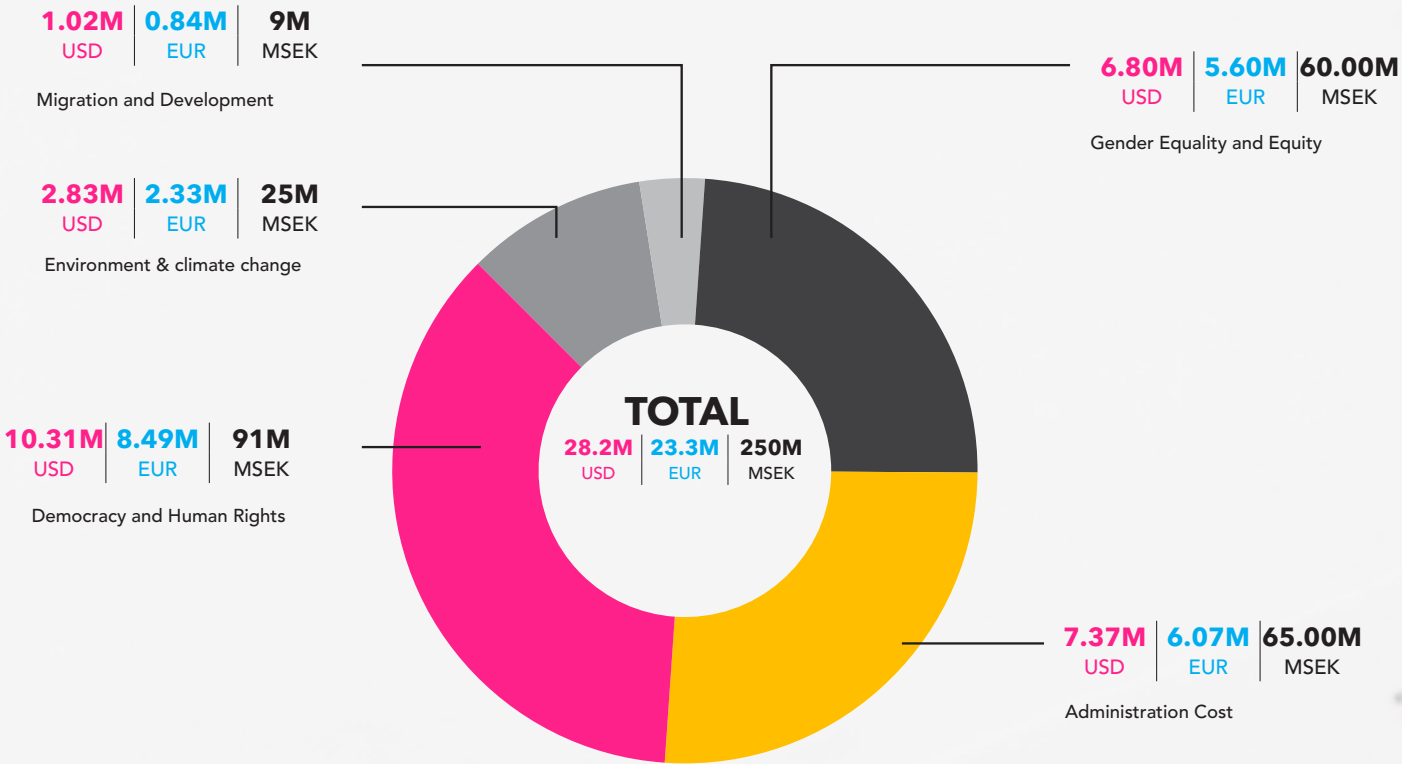
Successful implementation of this strategic plan requires clarifying decision rights, improving information flow, establishing the right motivators, structuring Regional office ESA to suit the strategic choices and continuous monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken at management and the Board level. In support of our commitment to accountability and continuous learning, following measures have been put in place to monitor, evaluate and learn:

- i. Regional office ESA strategic plan will be operationalised through annual workplans.
- ii. The management (Regional office ESA Manager and Managers) will oversee implementation of the strategic plan.
- iii. The management will hold tertial meetings to review the status of the strategic plan implementation as it relates to their respective areas.
- iv. The management will be reporting annually to ForumCiv Board on the progress of the strategic plan implementation.
- v. An annual review of implementation status of the strategic plan will be undertaken and reported through Sopal, a results management system.
- vi. A midterm review of the strategic plan will also be carried out informed by prevailing operational environment.
- vii. End term evaluation of the strategic plan will be undertaken to assess the achievement of the strategic plan and inform the next planning period.

# Financing the Strategic Plan

ForumCiv Regional office ESA will require adequate resources to implement the Strategic Plan. Resources will be obtained mainly from the donors. Funds mobilised will enable ForumCiv Regional office ESA coordinate global, regional and country programmes

During the plan period 2021-2025, The Regional office requires SEK 250 Million resources to enable implementation of the strategic plan. The projections are based on resource requirement for the implementation of the strategic plan. This includes programmes costs and other general expenses of running Regional office including core reserve.











**FORUMCIV.**  
Power to change