

TANDAZA – Expanding Democracy into Health and Gender Justice

Strengthening democratic participation in health systems is increasingly important as societies face rising polarization, declining institutional trust and growing pressure on public health systems.

Unlocking democratic participation and women’s leadership in Zambia’s health sector

Lead organisation: Aikkiya – Voices for Peaceful Diversity (Sweden)

Partner organisation: Women in Global Health Zambia

PROJECT FACTS

Location: Zambia

Duration: 2027–2029

Partners: NGO Aikkiya & Women in Global Health Zambia

Total Budget: SEK 3,529,410

Funding Applied: Sida (85%)

Co-financing Needed: 15%

The Challenge

Across the world, democratic institutions are facing declining public trust, increasing polarization, and misinformation. These challenges also affect public sectors such as healthcare, where inclusive leadership and accountability are essential.

In Zambia, **women represent nearly 70% of the health workforce**, yet remain significantly underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles within health governance.

Limited access to leadership opportunities, professional networks and civic participation mechanisms reduces women’s influence on health policies and democratic accountability.

Project Brief | Strategic Partnership Opportunity

Strengthening women's leadership in the health sector is therefore critical not only for gender equality, but also for **more accountable and inclusive democratic governance**.

The Initiative

TANDAZA is a three-year initiative designed to strengthen democratic participation and accountability in Zambia's health sector.

The project focuses on empowering women health professionals and civil society actors through:

- Civic education on democracy, human rights and the right to health
- Leadership and advocacy training for women health workers
- Dialogue platforms between civil society, health institutions and public authorities
- Support for women-led advocacy initiatives in health governance
- International knowledge exchange between civil society actors

The project will contribute to stronger collaboration between civil society organisations, health professionals and public institutions, supporting more transparent and inclusive health governance systems.

Partnership

The initiative is implemented through a partnership between:

Aikkiya – Voices for Peaceful Diversity (Sweden)

A civil society organisation promoting democratic participation, peaceful coexistence and human rights across diverse societies.

Women in Global Health Zambia

A national organisation working to strengthen women's leadership and gender equality within Zambia's health sector.

Together, the partners combine **local expertise and international civil society networks** to strengthen democratic resilience and gender-inclusive governance.

Expected Impact

The project aims to contribute to:

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- increased women's participation in health governance and decision-making
- stronger dialogue between civil society and public institutions
- improved accountability within health systems
- strengthened democratic participation and gender equality in Zambia.

In the long term, the initiative contributes to **more inclusive and democratic health governance systems** where women and communities actively participate in decision-making.

Funding Structure

Total project budget (3 years): **3,529,410 SEK**

- Sida funding: **3,000,000 SEK (85%)**
- Private co-financing required: **529,410 SEK (15%)**

This means that **private contributions directly unlock larger public funding** for democratic development, gender equality and health governance.

Partnership Opportunity

We are currently seeking **strategic philanthropic and corporate partners** who wish to contribute to strengthening democracy, gender equality and accountable health systems. Support from partners enables the project to reach women leaders across Zambia's health sector and strengthens civil society's role in democratic governance.

Contact

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