

EHRC-CSOs COORDINATION PLATFORM

**SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION AND
PARTNERSHIP
STRATEGY
2026–2031**

1. Introduction

This strategy sets out a long-term framework for sustainable resource mobilization and partnership development for the EHRC–CSOs Coordination Platform. Moving beyond short-term project funding, it establishes a multi-year vision (2025–2030) that ensures continuity, independence, and institutional growth for the platform and its members.

The strategy draws on experiences from EHRC and comparative global practices on human rights financing, emphasizing relationship-based fundraising, independence, and impact-driven collaboration.

This strategy operationalizes the mandate and responsibilities outlined in the EHRC–CSO Coordination Platform Terms of Reference (2025 revision), particularly the sections on resource mobilization and partnership.

2. Strategic Objective

To secure sustainable, diversified, and values-aligned resources that enable the EHRC–CSOs Coordination Platform to:

- Strengthen civic space and collective human rights advocacy;
- Support innovative human rights initiatives and partnerships;
- Institutionalize financial and operational sustainability;
- Build national ownership and long-term resilience.

3. Guiding Principles

- **Independence:** Maintain EHRC and CSO autonomy in all funding relationships. No donor engagement should compromise human rights principles or mandate integrity.
- **Strategic Alignment:** All funding must contribute directly to the platform's strategic priorities and the EHRC's broader mandate.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Clear reporting and ethical fundraising aligned with international standards.
- **Complementarity and Collaboration:** Leverage comparative strengths of CSOs and EHRC; avoid duplication and foster joint advocacy.
- **Local Ownership:** Promote domestic contributions, partnerships with the private sector, and community-based funding.
- **Long-Term Partnership Focus:** Build enduring relationships before proposals — *“relations first, projects second.”*

4. Resource Mobilization Ecosystem

4.1. Potential Funding Partners

International and Regional Donors

This category includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Bilateral Agencies: Sida, DANIDA, GIZ, NORAD
- Multilateral Agencies: UNDP, OHCHR, UN Women, UNODC, EU Delegation
- Foundations: Ford Foundation, Frececo Foundation, Gates Foundation
- Regional Entities: African Union, African Development Bank (AfDB), ECOSOCC
- Academic and Research Institutions: Joint projects and collaborations

National Stakeholders

This category includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Ethiopian private sector (corporate foundations, CSR initiatives);
- Academia and research institutes (joint proposals);
- Faith-based and community-based organizations;
- Local philanthropies and diaspora networks.

5. Strategic Approaches

5.1. Institutional Development and Donor Relations

- Establish a **Platform Fundraising and Partnership Unit** (building from the current Resource Mobilization Task Force) to manage donor engagement, monitor calls, and coordinate proposal development.
- Develop a **Donor Intelligence System** (database tracking donor priorities, cycles, and country programs).
- Adopt a **donor stewardship model** — maintain, grow, and diversify current donor relations through regular engagement, feedback, and transparent reporting.

5.2. Resource Diversification

- **Core and flexible funding:** Advocate for institutional or basket funding mechanisms for the Platform.

- **Thematic partnerships:** Co-develop multi-year programs on civic space, gender equality, transitional justice, and access to justice.
- **Innovative fundraising:**
 - Host annual *Human Rights Fundraising & Partnership Forum* (with embassies, businesses, CSOs).
 - Introduce “Friends of the Platform” — voluntary donor and supporter network.
 - Explore digital fundraising (crowdfunding for specific advocacy campaigns).
 - Develop a **private sector engagement framework** based on the EHRC’s “principles of non-compromise and alignment.”

5.3. Joint Proposal Development

- Build capacity among CSOs to co-develop proposals with EHRC under a shared results framework.
- Ensure every proposal includes an **exit or sustainability plan**, reducing dependency on single donors.

5.4. Knowledge and Visibility

- Showcase platform results through regular **impact briefs, social media storytelling, and donor roundtables**.
- Document lessons and case studies for donor engagement and advocacy.

6. Implementation Framework

Strategic Action	Responsible Entity	Timeline	Expected Result
Establish Fundraising & Partnership Unit	PMC / EHRC	Q1 2025	Operational coordination body
Conduct Donor Landscape	Task Force	Q2 2025	Updated donor

Mapping & Intelligence Database			intelligence database
Develop multi-year proposals (core + thematic)	EHRC & CSOs	2025–2027	At least 3 multi-year agreements
Launch Annual Human Rights Fundraising Forum	EHRC-CSO Platform	Annually	Strengthened donor and stakeholder relations
Build a national resource base (private & local actors)	PMC & EHRC	2026–2030	10% of funding from domestic sources
Introduce donor stewardship and visibility tools	Fundraising Unit	Continuous	Improved donor retention and confidence
Conduct mid-term and annual reviews	EHRC & CSO partners	Annually	Adaptive strategy and accountability

7. Sustainability Measures

- I. **Institutionalize fundraising systems:** Develop standard operating procedures for proposal writing, donor engagement, and reporting.
- II. **Capacity development:** Train CSO members on fundraising ethics, grant management, and donor communication.

- III. **Shared learning:** Annual peer review and mentorship exchanges within the platform.
- IV. **Local philanthropy & endowment:** Explore creation of a *Human Rights Innovation Fund* or endowment for long-term self-reliance.
- V. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL):** Track results and impact of resource mobilization to inform adaptive planning.

8. Governance and Accountability

- The **Platform Management Committee (PMC)** oversees implementation, ensures transparency, and approves funding decisions.
- **EHRC** provides technical support and ensures alignment with its institutional mandate.
- **Independent financial audits** and **annual performance reports** will be shared with all stakeholders.

9. Conclusion

The sustainability of the EHRC–CSOs Coordination Platform depends on strategic partnerships, proactive donor relations, and national ownership. By applying EHRC’s principles — *independence, strategic alignment, and relationship-based fundraising* — this strategy sets a roadmap toward a resilient, autonomous, and impactful human rights collaboration framework for Ethiopia through 2030 and beyond.