

“ The City of Heritage ”



CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY

FINAL 2026/2027

1. POLICY INFORMATION

Item	Description
Policy Title	Civil Society Policy
Financial Year	2026/2027
Drafted / Reviewed by	Special Programmes Section
Implementing Department	Community Services Department
Mandating Authority	Ulundi Local Municipality Council
Approval Authority	Ulundi Local Municipality Council
Date of Adoption	
Date of Next Review	June 2027

2. PREAMBLE

The Ulundi Local Municipality recognizes the critical role of Civil Society Structures (CSS) in strengthening the multi-sectoral response to HIV, TB, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). This policy establishes a structured Civil Society Forum (CSF) to guide, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate interventions aimed at reducing the impact of HIV, TB, and STIs within the municipality.

The policy further seeks to promote cooperation among government, civil society, and other stakeholders, protect the rights of people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, enhance community participation, and ensure alignment with national and provincial strategic frameworks.

3. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

This Civil Society Policy is developed and implemented in line with the following legislative, policy, and regulatory frameworks:

3.1 Constitutional Framework

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996:
 - Section 9 (Equality);
 - Section 10 (Human Dignity);
 - Section 27 (Access to Health Care Services);
 - Section 41 (Co-operative Governance);
 - Section 152 (Objects of Local Government).

3.2 Local Government Legislative Framework

- Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000);
- Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998);
- Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003);
- Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act No. 13 of 2005).

3.3 Health and Social Development Policy Framework

- National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV, TB, and STIs;
- South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) Civil Society Sector Guidelines;
- National Health Act, 2003 (Act No. 61 of 2003);
- Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (KwaZulu-Natal);
- Municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP);
- District and Local Implementation Plans (DIP/LIP).

3.4 International and Regional Commitments

- United Nations commitments on HIV and AIDS;
 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 on Good Health and Well-being.
-

3. BACKGROUND

The Ulundi Civil Society Forum (CSF) is a formally recognized municipal structure established to champion community development and social well-being, with a particular focus on HIV, TB, and STIs. The CSF operates in alignment with governance structures at national, provincial, district, and local levels to support an integrated and coordinated response to public health challenges.

4. VISION

The Ulundi Local Municipality is free from the burden of HIV, TB, and STIs.

5. MISSION

To contribute meaningfully towards eliminating HIV, TB, and STIs as public health threats in Ulundi Local Municipality by 2030 through coordinated civil society action.

6. GOALS

The goals of the Civil Society Forum are to:

- Strengthen the civil society response to HIV, TB, and STIs;

- Ensure effective civil society contribution to the implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP);
 - Promote inclusive community participation in prevention, treatment, care, and support initiatives;
 - Enhance accountability, coordination, and resource mobilization at community level.
-

7. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- **AIDS Organisation** includes community-based, faith-based, and non-governmental organisations implementing HIV and AIDS programmes.
 - **Community-Based Organisation (CBO)** means an organisation operating HIV and AIDS programmes at the community level.
 - **Department** refers to provincial or local government departments in KwaZulu-Natal.
 - **Faith-Based Organisation (FBO)** means a religious body implementing HIV and AIDS programmes.
 - **Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)** refers to voluntary associations, companies, trusts, or other civil society bodies implementing HIV and AIDS-related programmes.
-

8. STRATEGIC FUNCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The Civil Society Forum shall:

- Coordinate and streamline civil society contributions to the National Strategic Plan;
 - Monitor implementation progress and hold SANAC constituencies accountable;
 - Facilitate strategic information sharing and joint planning;
 - Advocate on key HIV, TB, and STI issues with government and stakeholders;
 - Ensure equitable allocation of resources to civil society sectors;
 - Communicate with civil society perspectives through SANAC structures.
-

9. VALUES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The following values shall guide the operations of the CSF:

- **Selflessness**
- **Integrity**
- **Objectivity**
- **Accountability**
- **Openness**

- **Honesty**
 - **Leadership**
-

10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CSF MEMBERS

CSF members shall:

- Support implementation of the NSP, PIP, and MDIP;
 - Uphold CSF governance instruments;
 - Participate in transparent representation processes;
 - Advocate for inclusive and equitable community participation;
 - Support monitoring, research, and community-led data processes;
 - Ensure accountability in service delivery.
-

11. COMPOSITION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The Forum shall comprise chairpersons and one nominated representative from the following civil society sectors:

- People with Disabilities
- Men
- Women
- Faith-Based Organisations
- Higher Education
- Labour
- Law and Human Rights
- NGOs
- Community-Based Organisations
- People Living with HIV (PLHIV)
- Sports, Arts, and Culture
- Traditional Leadership
- Youth
- LGBTQTI
- Sex Workers

The Forum shall elect an Executive Committee of no more than twelve (12) members.

12. QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT

Members must:

- Demonstrate expertise or experience in HIV and AIDS or community development;
- Be affiliated with an organisation operating within Ulundi Local Municipality;
- Demonstrate commitment to HIV-related work.

13. TERM OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES

- Members shall serve a five-year term, in accordance with term of Council.
 - Vacancies shall be filled using the original appointment procedure.
 - Membership may be terminated for misconduct, incapacity, or persistent absenteeism.
-

14. MEETINGS AND GOVERNANCE

- The Forum shall meet at least four times per year;
 - The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per month;
 - Decisions shall be taken by majority resolution;
 - Conflict of interest principles shall apply at all times.
-

15. ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

- The Local AIDS Council Secretariat shall support the Civil Society Forum;
 - The Executive Committee shall manage day-to-day operations;
 - Committees may be established to support strategic implementation.
-

16. REPORTING

- Quarterly and annual reports shall be submitted to the Local, District, and Provincial AIDS Councils;
 - Reports shall assess performance against objectives and NSP targets.
-

17. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- All funds shall be managed transparently;
 - Financial documents shall require dual signatories.
 - Annual audits shall be conducted;
 - The Treasurer shall report to the Executive Committee and Forum.
-

18. DISSOLUTION OF THE FORUM

The Forum may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority resolution of its members and Council resolution.

19. AMENDMENT OF THE POLICY

This policy may be amended by majority resolution of the Forum, subject to appropriate notice and Council processes.
