

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4. The Small Grants Fund

Background

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs finances assistance projects within the framework of the Small Grants Fund. Most often, those funds are used for subsidising small assistance projects (e.g. the renovation of a school building, the purchase of computers for a community centre or the construction of a well), which have a positive impact on the local community. Projects are subsidised on the request of Polish embassies in developing countries. In previous years, Small Grants Fund assistance was provided to African countries, Cambodia and Mongolia.

Types of Grant

Funding or co-funding of small projects submitted by local community actors (non-government organisations (NGOs), local parishes, local schools, etc.). Mainly, the instruments finances small infrastructure projects.

Grant Size

Maximum grant size: US\$ 15,000; average grant size: US\$ 3,000

Own Contribution

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not ask applicants to make any obligatory contribution. Funding Priorities

- Education
- Global education (development education)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing
- Water and sanitation
- Public infrastructure – roads, bridges, other public facilities
- Social structure – support to unemployment reduction, public housing and public administration
- Civil society
- Support to unemployment-reduction policies
- Energy sector – production and distribution of energy; safety of energy sector
- Banking and public finance
- Industry sector support, including small, medium-sized and family enterprises
- Mining – geology and mineral exploration
- Commerce and tourism

- Environmental protection
- Empowerment of women
- Food aid
- Humanitarian and recovery assistance
- Migration – support to displaced persons
- Free market economy – support to economic transition and reforms
- European integration
- Euro-Atlantic integration
- Information access; support to mass media development
- Cross-border co-operation
- Post-conflict recovery
- Local government support
- Human rights protection
- Culture – support to rebuilding of cultural property
- Health care sector – HIV/AIDS prevention; improvement of maternal care.

Grant-making Criteria

Beneficiaries must be local community organisations, such as NGOs, Catholic Missions, schools, hospitals, etc.

Guidelines

The projects must fit into one of the funding priorities. They should fulfill the general criteria of local ownership; sustainability; gender equality; partnership; and responsibility for development. To facilitate the proposal-writing process, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published guidelines for NGOs. They are in Polish and can be found at: http://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/files/aktualnosci/20_czerwca_2006/Wytyczne_NGO_FINAL.pdf

Project Duration

Maximum one year

Deadline

End of each calendar year

Application Forms

Application forms can be found at Polish embassies in developing countries in Africa and Asia.

Application and Procedures

Project proposals should be submitted to the Polish embassy in each country. After an initial selection by embassy experts, projects are submitted to the Development Co-operation department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which takes the final decision on which projects to fund.

Language

English or Polish

Tips

Every applicant can get advice by sending an email to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: dwr@msz.gov.pl.

NAME OF GRANT PROGRAMME Small Grants Fund
NAME Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej
NAME IN ENGLISH Ministry of Foreign Affairs
ACRONYM MSZ
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COUNTRY INDEX

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Angola
Afghanistan
Belarus
Iraq
Georgia
Moldova
Palestinian Autonomy
Vietnam
Ukraine

OTHER COUNTRIES

AF	Cambodia
All African countries (Poland has 12 Embassies in Africa):	Laos
Angola	Mongolia
Algeria	Syria
DRC	Jordan
Egypt	Yemen
Kenya	North Korea
Libya	Kazakhstan
Morocco	Uzbekistan
Nigeria	Tajikistan
Senegal	Azerbejdzan
South Africa	Armenia
Tanzania	Turkmenistan
Zimbabwe)	