

Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 23 June 2023, no. Min-BuZa.2023.15586-32, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2006 Grant Regulations 2006 (Migration and Displacement 2023-2028)

The Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation;

Having regard to articles 6 and 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree;

Having regard to articles 2.7, 2.8(a) to (e), and 2.9(b), (c) and (f) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006;

Orders:

#### Article 1

The administrative rules appended as an annexe to this Order apply to grants awarded under articles 2.7, 2.8(a) to (e), and 2.9(b), (c) and (f) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 with a view to financing activities in the area of migration cooperation and prospects for refugees and host communities for the period from the date on which this Order enters into force up to and including 31 December 2028.

#### Article 2

1. A grant ceiling of €57 million applies during the period referred to in Article 1, with the funds being divided over the following themes:

- a) €12 million for applications aimed at migration cooperation;
- b) €45 million for applications aimed at prospects for refugees and host communities.

2. If any funds remain for one of the two policy objectives referred to in the first paragraph, they will become available for applications aimed at the other policy objective, if and insofar as such applications meet the criteria laid down in the annexe to this Order.

3. Multi-year grants may be awarded subject to the condition referred to in section 4:34 of the General Administrative Law Act that sufficient funds are made available for them in the applicable budget.

#### Article 3

Applications for a grant within the scope of Migration and Displacement 2023-2028 may be submitted from 12:00 CEST on July 4, 2023 until 12:00 CEST on September 3, 2023, using the application form as stipulated by the Minister and accompanied by the documents stipulated in that form.<sup>1</sup>

#### Article 4

The funds earmarked under Article 2, paragraph 1, will be allocated in accordance with an assessment based on the criteria set out in the annexe to this Order, on the understanding that, of the applications that meet the criteria, those that best meet them best will be given priority for a grant, with due regard for an even distribution as referred to in article 8, paragraph 3 (d) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Decree.

#### Article 5

This Order enters into force on the day after the publication date of the Government Gazette in which it appears and lapses with effect from January 1, 2029, with the proviso that it continues to apply to grants awarded prior to that date.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs/documents/decrees/2023/07/03/subsidy-framework-migration-and-displacement-2023-2028>.

This Order and its accompanying annexe, excluding the appendices, will be published in the Government Gazette. Appendices to the annexe will be published on the Internet.<sup>2</sup>

Director General of International Cooperation

for

the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

P. Grotenhuis

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs/documents/decrees/2023/07/03/subsidy-framework-migration-and-displacement-2023-2028>.

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# Migration and Displacement Grant Policy Framework 2023-2028

## 1. Introduction

This grant policy framework is an annexe to the Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of June 23, 2023, no. Min-BuZa.2023.15586-32, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2006 Grant Regulations 2006. It contains administrative rules for the award of grants under *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028*.

## 2. Definitions

For purposes of this grant policy framework, the following definitions apply:

Displaced persons	Persons who have been forced to flee their homes either across an international border (refugees) or within their own country (internally displaced persons) for fear of persecution, conflict, situations of general violence, or other circumstances that have severely disturbed the public order, and need protection and a safe place to live.
Refugees	Persons who are outside of their country of origin due to a fear of persecution, conflict, situations of general violence or other circumstances that have severely disrupted the public order and as a consequence are in need of international protection.
Migrants	Persons who have moved away from their place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons.
Host communities	The local, regional and national governmental, social and economic structures in which migrants and refugees reside.
Local actors /In-country partners	Actors in the field of migration cooperation and/or prospects for refugees and host communities who are enabled by this grant policy framework to take on a larger and independent role in pursuing development objectives aimed at migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities. These may include: a) local NGOs based in the country for which the results of the planned activities are intended (not being country offices or sister organisations of northern NGOs, b) local youth and women's collectives, c) local trade unions or d) local religious organisations.
Support partners	Both southern and northern NGOs reinforcing and empowering <i>in-country</i> partners in carrying out their independent activities in migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities.
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	A not-for-profit organisation not connected to a public authority either de facto or under its constitution, which serves a public interest and possesses legal personality under civil law, and which either was not established by a public authority or has become fully autonomous from the public authority that established it (also known as a civil society organisation).

### 3. Background

As outlined in the policy document "Do what we do best"<sup>3</sup>, the Netherlands is working to ensure the safe and humane reception of displaced persons and refugees in their regions of origin. The government promotes self-reliance of refugees and host communities by funding projects in various fields, including protection (including social protection such as child protection or mental health care projects), education and training, employment and infrastructure (clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, waste management, housing and digital information facilities and systems) in the Horn of Africa, the MENA region, Pakistan and Türkiye. The Netherlands is also investing in bolstering migration cooperation with partner countries, prioritizing the protection of migrants and their human rights, reducing irregular migration, countering human trafficking and people smuggling, better border management and promoting voluntary return and reintegration.

*Prospects for refugees and host communities* and *migration cooperation* are policy areas that are constantly changing. Providing lasting, sustainable solutions for people vulnerable to migration and displacement therefore requires concerted efforts at different levels. Currently, the lion's share of the development cooperation budget for prospects for refugees and host communities and migration cooperation is spent through international and multilateral organisations. Although these organisations have the advantage of operating on a large scale, they are generally further removed from local contexts and knowledge than people from the communities themselves, such as migrants, refugees and host communities.

Local organisations led and/or formed by people who are directly affected by the negative consequences of migration and displacement are usually more closely attuned to the needs of this target group. Nonetheless, several studies<sup>4</sup> have shown that local actors are rarely in the lead when it comes to charting the course of response and decision-making on the requirements for lasting solutions. As a result, the voices of those most affected are not heard sufficiently. Multilateral organisations occasionally consult and fund local actors through collaborative structures, but equitable partnerships are often lacking. In addition, local organisations face structural barriers in accessing funds to provide direct services to this target group, diminishing the effectiveness of support to those most affected by migration and displacement.

For the above reasons, the Minister through this grant policy framework wishes to simultaneously help break this pattern and reinforce the ownership and independence of local actors (hereafter: *in-country* partners) and support activities in the field of migration cooperation and prospects for refugees and host communities. This approach will help achieve impact on the objectives for migration cooperation and prospects for refugees and host communities. The Netherlands believes that in-country partners and organisations led by refugees and migrants can play a major role in this regard, serving as an important lynchpin between migrant and refugee communities on the one hand, and local communities, (inter)national authorities, and (inter)national aid actors on the other. Not only can they enable the voices of refugees and migrants being heard, they can also provide high-quality context analysis owing to their direct involvement and field knowledge and in some cases can act more quickly, flexibly and effectively. These actors often have a distinct voice from and/or more critical voice than other organisations, such as multilateral organisations.

The Netherlands has repeatedly affirmed the importance of localisation as a process of recognition, respect and reinforcing independent leadership and decision-making by local actors in development-oriented actions. As part of the Grand Bargain<sup>5</sup>, the Netherlands committed to the goal of disbursing 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national parties in the most direct way possible. FTDC's 2022 policy document "Do what we do best" highlights localisation as a method for maximising development impact. The Netherlands also endorsed the donor statement on supporting Locally Led Development in 2022<sup>6</sup>. This grant policy framework builds on the commitment to advance localisation and introduces an innovative approach to contribute to the goals for migration cooperation and prospects for refugees and host communities.

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<sup>3</sup> [Policy document 2022 'Do what we do best'](#)

<sup>4</sup> [ODI Localisation Report, October 2021](#)

<sup>5</sup> On May 23-24, 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul presented a series of reforms dubbed the "Grand Bargain" a joint effort by the largest donors and humanitarian organisations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian aid in order to help as many people in need as possible with available resources.

<sup>6</sup> [Donor Statement on Supporting Locally Led Development, December 2022](#)

## 4. Objectives targeted by this grant policy framework

Objectives targeted by this grant policy framework:

### **Migration cooperation objectives**

Applications aimed at migration cooperation must address at least one of the following objectives, through *in-country* partners and intervention strategies listed in chapter 6.

Protection of (vulnerable) migrants by in-country partners (through one of the following three objectives):

1. Migrants, including vulnerable migrants and (potential) victims of trafficking, and vulnerable members of host communities are provided with protection and assistance. This could include psychosocial assistance, temporary shelter and/or (legal) information and advice.
2. Communities are supported in responding against human trafficking and people smuggling. This may include setting up alert systems, improved access to justice and raising awareness about both the risks of human trafficking and people smuggling and prosecution.
3. Promoting an enabling environment for NGOs and human rights defenders advancing migrants' rights. This may include coalition building, mobilising support in cases of criminalisation and protecting civil society organisations and migrants' rights advocates.

In line with the priority countries for migration cooperation<sup>7</sup>, activities should exclusively take place in or be aimed at least one of the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Libya, Türkiye or Tunisia.

### **Prospects for refugees and host communities objectives**

Applications aimed at prospects for refugees and host communities must address at least one of the following objectives, through *in-country* partners and intervention strategies listed in chapter 6.

1. Protection of refugees and internally displaced persons by in-country partners

Sustainably improving the living conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup> in host countries by providing access to basic human rights. This may include freedom of movement, access to basic socioeconomic rights, improving access to legal documentation, access to justice and/or civil documents, and countering violence (including gender-related violence), exploitation and discrimination.

2. Access to education and training for displaced persons and host communities through in-country partners

Sustainably improving the living conditions of refugee communities, vulnerable members of host communities and internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup> in host countries, by providing them with direct access to education and training (regular education, after-school activities, skills training, vocational training and tertiary education), to develop skills that will enhance their opportunities on the labour market.

3. Promoting economic development and job opportunities through in-country partners

Sustainably improving the living conditions of refugee communities, vulnerable host communities and internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup> in host countries by providing them with direct access employment and/or support to engage in income-generating activities.

4. Access to improved services, facilities and information systems for displaced persons and host communities

Sustainably improving the living conditions of refugee communities, vulnerable host communities and internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup> in host countries by providing access to improved services, facilities and information systems (=essential infrastructure). This may include access to improved safe drinking water systems, sanitation and/or waste management

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<sup>7</sup> [Policy memorandum 2022 'Doing what the Netherlands does best'](#)

facilities, housing and digital information facilities and systems.

In line with the geographic focus for prospects for refugees and host communities<sup>8</sup>, activities should exclusively take place in or be aimed at least one of the following countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sudan, Türkiye or Uganda.

## 5. Who are eligible for grants

In this grant policy framework, a distinction is made between the following actors:

- **Target group:** migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup> and host communities.
- **In-country partners:** Actors in the field of migration cooperation and/or prospects for refugees and host communities who are enabled by this grant policy framework to take on a larger and independent role in pursuing development objectives aimed at migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities. These may include: a) local NGOs based in the country for which the results of the planned activities are intended (not being country offices or sister organisations of northern NGOs), b) local youth and women's collectives, c) local trade unions or d) local religious organisations.
- **Support partners:** Both southern and northern NGOs reinforcing and empowering *in-country* partners in carrying out their independent activities in migration cooperation and/ prospects for refugees and host communities.

Of these three actors, only support partners are eligible for a grant under *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028*. Applicants (support partners) have to meet the following requirements. The organisation must:

- a) have as its main activity/activities one or more of the intervention strategies listed in chapter 6 in the fields of migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities:
  - capacity strengthening of in-country partners;
  - direct funding of in-country partners;
  - meaningful participation of refugees or migrants in national and international policy influencing);
- b) have a proven track record in carrying out projects targeting the target group.

Important:

The applicant is not required to have a country office. For applications focused on migration cooperation, experience in and having a network in the country for which the grant is requested will be taken into account in the assessment.

Applications made on behalf of a consortium are not eligible for a *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028* grant.

Organisations can qualify for up to one grant per policy objective - migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities. If an organisation submits multiple applications for the same policy objective, only the application received first will be considered and any subsequent applications for the same policy objective will be rejected.

## 6. Eligible activities

To be eligible for a grant under *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028*, applications must address *either* (one or more of) the migration cooperation objectives and their focus countries (see chapter

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<sup>8</sup> [Policy document 2022 'Do what we do best'](#)

4), or (one or more of) the prospects for refugees and host communities objectives and their focus countries (see chapter 4).

The starting point for this grant policy framework is locally led development. Therefore, the proposed approach should focus on reinforcing and empowering in-country partners who carry out migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities independently of the support partner. Moreover, the extent to which the strategy is aimed at sustainable reinforcement and empowerment of in-country partners will be taken into account when assessing the grant application (see chapter 12).

Given the above, applications should be for activities that belong to at least one of the following three intervention strategies:

**A. Capacity strengthening of in-country partners:**

Support partners provide guidance and advice to in-country partners in designing, establishing, deploying, implementing, managing, monitoring and evaluating activities linked to (one or more of) the objectives for migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities, based on the learning and support needs determined by in-country partners themselves.

In addition, support partners also facilitate knowledge sharing as part of this intervention strategy: in-country partners are put in touch with each other to learn from each other and enabled to connect with organisations, initiatives and processes at national, regional and international levels.

**B. Direct funding of in-country partners:**

Support partners offer a financial contribution to in-country partners to benefit locally-led initiatives aimed at (one or more of) the objectives for migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities as described in chapter 4.

**C. Meaningful participation of refugees or migrants in national and international policy influencing:**

Support partners reinforce meaningful participation of refugees or migrants, helping to ensure that refugees or migrants can have their voices heard directly in national, international and institutional processes of policy making, adaptation, implementation and/or compliance. It is important that support partners put refugees or migrants forward/first as much as possible in national and international forums, rather than acting as conduits for local knowledge.

Important:

To respond to country-specific situations, the approach to activities may differ from country to country. For countries where political obstacles stand in the way of smooth implementation, for example, activities may be initiated from a country other than the country for which the results are intended. Proposals should be aligned with applicable guidelines and regulations on migration and prospects for refugees and host communities of local authorities in the countries for which funding is requested.

## 7. Duration of activities

Activities should last a minimum of 36 months and a maximum of 60 months. Activities should start no later than January 1, 2024 and end no later than December 31, 2028.

## 8. Available funds and allocation

A total of €57 million is available for grants under *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028*. This amount will be divided between the two policy objectives as follows:

- c) **€12 million** for applications aimed at **migration cooperation**;
- d) **€45 million** for applications aimed at **prospects for refugees and host communities**.



The allocation of the funds available for *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028* will take place by means of a grant tender. After the closing of the application period, all the applications received by the deadline will be considered, and ranked by quality. Each application will be assessed on the basis of the information received before the closing of the application period. The applications will be ranked on the basis of an assessment using the quality assessment criteria given in this grant policy framework (section 12.3). The applications that best meet the criteria will be given priority in the award of grants. The Minister will award grants in accordance with this ranking until the available budget is exhausted, allowing for an even distribution of resources by the priority countries as mentioned in chapter 4, as provided in article 8 (3) (d) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

In addition, for efficiency reasons, a maximum of eight grants will be awarded for applications aimed at prospects for refugees and host communities and a maximum of three grants for applications aimed at migration cooperation, provided that sufficient qualifying applications are submitted.

If too few qualifying applications are submitted for one of the two policy objectives and the grant ceiling for said policy objective is subsequently not reached, the remaining funds will become available for qualifying applications for the other policy objective.

## 9. Eligible costs

Only costs that are necessary for carrying out the activities for which grant funding is sought, and which cannot reasonably be covered from the applicant's own resources or in some other way, are eligible for a grant<sup>9</sup>. Activities that started prior to the submission date of the application are not eligible for funding, nor are the corresponding costs<sup>10</sup>.

In all cases, the funds must to the greatest extent possible be used to achieve the intended changes that will benefit the target group. Indirect costs of support partners - as defined in appendix 5 to these policies - should be kept to a minimum and must in no case exceed **15%** of the total grant amount requested. Further information on this subject can be found in the model budget (appendix 5).

## 10. Grant application requirements

Grant applications must be submitted using the form stipulated by the Minister (see appendix 1 to these administrative rules). The application form must be completed in full and must be accompanied with the documents listed on the form.

The application form accompanying the grant application requires the following mandatory annexes:

- i. The applicant's **constitution**;
- ii. Recent **registration certificate from the Business Register**, no older than January 1, 2023;
- iii. The most recent **vision document or multi-year strategic plan** adopted and/or published no later than April 1, 2023.
- iv. **Financial statements, or a summary of the applicant's financial situation** for the past three years (2020, 2021, 2022).
- v. A **track record** describing the applicant's previous experience with the intervention strategy/strategies for which grant funding is sought (see chapter 6) and experience working with the target group (see chapter 5). Applications aimed to migration cooperation should preferably describe the applicant's experience with working in the priority countries

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<sup>9</sup> Article 14, paragraph 1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

<sup>10</sup> Article 9 Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

(see chapter 4). As part of the track record, applicants must provide two *showcases* highlighting these experiences.

- vi. A **project proposal** consisting of the following components:
- o General (i.e. non-country-specific) problem analysis.
  - o Country-specific context analysis.
  - o Description of how the intervention strategy/strategies (see Chapter 6) will take shape (=intervention logic), consisting of:
    - A. an overall approach per intervention strategy and country, including an overview of the corresponding activity types for each intervention strategy.
    - B. lessons learned based on previous experience with the chosen intervention strategy/strategies and how these lessons are incorporated into the proposed intervention.
    - C. the mechanism with and conditions under which in-country partners are selected to participate in the project.
    - D. the intended qualitative and/or quantitative outputs and outcomes with corresponding success criteria and/or indicators, including underlying assumptions.
    - E. a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system that will enable the applicant to monitor progress and make adjustments to resources, activities, outputs, outcomes and underlying assumptions, as well as an explanation of the roles of the various partners within the project.
    - F. how the intervention contributes to the sustainable reinforcement of in-country partners.
  - o Risk analysis per country (overview of contextual and programmatic risks) with associated mitigating measures.
  - o A rationale explaining the proposed distribution of the requested funds among the chosen intervention strategy/strategies.
- vii. A **budget** for the first year, drawn up in accordance with the mandatory format accompanying the application template, broken down by country and intervention strategy. The budget provides insight into income, including contributions from third parties, and expenses related to the planned activities. The budget must be accompanied by a financial estimate for the remainder of the period covered by the application.
- viii. A **liquidity forecast** for the first 12 months.

Apart from the grant application and attachments above, applicants must submit an **Organisational Risk and Integrity Assessment (ORIA)** (with regard to the requirements listed in section 12.1). The following special provisions apply to annexe ix:

- only organisations that have passed the Threshold Check (consisting of the criteria listed in section 12.2) will be asked to submit the ORIA (appendix 2 to these administrative rules) including the attachments requested therein;
- annexe ix must be submitted before the separate deadline of 12:00 CEST on October 3, 2023, by which all documents must be delivered completed in full via [DSH-MO-subsidies@minbuza.nl](mailto:DSH-MO-subsidies@minbuza.nl).

Applicants without an approved ORIA are not eligible for funding.

## 11. Application process

Applications can be submitted from 12:00 CST on July 4, 2023 until 12:00 CEST on September 3. Applications submitted after the date and time stated above will be rejected. The time at which the application is received at the Ministry will be considered the time of submission (see below). The

applicant bears sole responsibility for ensuring that the application is complete and submitted on time. For the separate deadline for annexe ix to the application, see chapter 10.

With regard to the application procedure, particular attention is drawn to article 7, paragraph 3 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree. If an application does not comply with the formal requirements set out in this grant policy framework, the Minister may request a supplement. In this case, the date and time of receipt of the application will be the date and time on which the supplemented application is received. The shorter the time remaining between submission of the application and the deadline, the greater the risk that, if the application is incomplete, the Minister will not use their discretionary powers to request a supplement; this in connection with the time required to check all applications are complete. In this case, no supplement will be requested and the application will be assessed as it stands. This may lead to a lower ranking or even rejection of the application.

Applications must be submitted in full and without reservation, duly signed by the person authorised to do so on behalf of the applicant, indicating name and position. It is not possible to submit a preliminary application.

When drawing up the grant application, it is not sufficient to refer for the sake of brevity to other parts of the application or annexes, unless the application form explicitly states that this is wholly or partly acceptable. Incomplete applications – including applications lacking annexes – may be rejected.

Applications should be submitted in English. Annexes written in another language should be accompanied by an English translation. Additional information (such as information on USB flash drives or links to background information about an organisation) will not be taken into account when assessing an application

Applications should preferably be submitted by email in PDF format by sending them to: [DSH-MO-subsidies@minbuza.nl](mailto:DSH-MO-subsidies@minbuza.nl) with *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028* in the subject line.

The time when the email is received on the servers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be considered the time of submission. Please note that the total size of attachments accepted by the Ministry's email server is 14MB. If the size of all attachments together is more than 14MB, these should be divided over separate emails. In this case, the time at which the last email is received will be considered the time the application is submitted. If an application is split into several files which are sent in multiple emails, the emails must be numbered, with both the email number and the total number of emails clearly indicated in the subject line.<sup>11</sup>

Any technical or other issues relating to submission are at the applicant's own cost and risk.

Submitting applications by post is not recommended.<sup>12</sup> Applicants who nonetheless choose to submit applications by post or courier or in person should contact the Ministry at: [DSH-MO-subsidies@minbuza.nl](mailto:DSH-MO-subsidies@minbuza.nl) with Migration and displacement 2023-2028 in the subject line.

Questions concerning this document or any other matters will only be accepted if they are sent by email to [DSH-MO-subsidies@minbuza.nl](mailto:DSH-MO-subsidies@minbuza.nl) no later than August 25, 2023. Questions will be anonymised and, if necessary, aggregated. Answers to questions will be published biweekly (as much as possible) on <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs/documents/decrees/2023/07/03/subsidy-framework-migration-and-displacement-2023-2028>.

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<sup>11</sup>E.g. 'email 1 of 5', 'email 2 of 5', etc.

<sup>12</sup>If the applicant nevertheless prefers this option, they should send their application by registered post to: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DSH secretariat; Migration and Displacement 2023-2028, Postbus 20061, 2500 EB The Hague. If an application is sent by standard post instead of registered post, the sender bears the full risk of it being received late or not at all. Applications sent by post (apart from those using a 'postage paid' envelope) and postmarked on a date before the application deadline are considered to have been submitted on time, provided they are received no later than one week after the deadline for applications has passed. Applications sent by post using a 'postage paid' envelope are considered to have been submitted on time if they are delivered to the Ministry before 12:00 CEST on September 3, 2023. An item is not considered received until it has been recorded by the Ministry's mail department. Incoming mail is not recorded in the evenings or at weekends.

## 12. Assessment procedure

### 12.1 Assessment

The provisions of the General Administrative Law Act, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 are fully applicable to the assessment of applications under this grant policy framework. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the above legislation and pursuant to the criteria set out in this grant policy framework.

The applicant and all activities for which grant funding is sought must first satisfy all the threshold criteria listed in section 12.2. **Applications that fail to satisfy one or more of the threshold criteria will be rejected and will not be assessed any further.**

This means that only applications that satisfy all *threshold criteria* advance to the next two parts of the assessment process:

(1) The applicants of these applications are assessed to check whether they satisfy the requirements under article 4, paragraph 1 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree, which stipulates that grants are awarded solely to legal persons who are in a position to ensure adequate financial management and can guarantee effective and efficient implementation of the activities through experience and expertise in relation to activities of the kind for which grant funding is sought.

Applicants must also demonstrate that they have adopted an integrity policy and that they have introduced procedures to apply that policy. The integrity policy should include pre-employment screening and the necessary procedures to apply the policy. This integrity policy and these procedures should serve to prevent as far as possible any sexual misconduct, racism and other serious forms of inappropriate behaviour towards employees and other individuals during the implementation of the proposed activities by the applicant and other parties they involve in the activities, and in the event of such incidents ensure that they are investigated and appropriate measures are taken to put an end as promptly as possible to the misconduct or inappropriate behaviour and mitigate the consequences. These procedures must be structured in a way that guarantees prompt reporting of any such incidents to the Minister.

To demonstrate that they meet these requirements, these applicants must submit an ORIA (annexe ix. to the application; see also chapter 10). **If the ORIA is not submitted on time and/or an ORIA is submitted but not approved, the application will be rejected and will not be assessed any further.**

(2) Applications that have passed the threshold test are also subjected to a quality assessment based on the *qualitative assessment criteria* (see section 12.3). To qualify for a grant, an application must in any case be of sufficient quality. The selection of applications that are awarded a grant takes place according to the allocation mechanism laid down in chapter 8.

### 12.2 Threshold criteria

All applications received by the deadline will first be assessed on the basis of the threshold criteria below. Applications must satisfy all threshold criteria in order to be eligible for a grant.

#### **12.2.1 Threshold criteria concerning the applicant:**

- D.1 The applicant is a not-for-profit organisation not connected to a public authority either de facto or under its constitution, which serves a public interest and possesses legal personality under civil law, and which either was not established by a public authority or has become fully autonomous from the public authority that established it.
- D.2 The application was submitted by an independent applicant, not on behalf of a consortium.
- D.3 The applicant has as its main activity/activities one or more of the following intervention strategies: (i) capacity strengthening of in-country partners, (ii) direct funding of *in-country* partners, and/or (iii) meaningful participation of refugees or migrants in national and international policy influencing).

- D.4 The applicant has a proven track record and at least 24 aggregate months of relevant experience in the past five years (July 1, 2018 - July 1, 2023) in the implementation of projects aimed at the target group.
- D.5 In the 2020-2022 period on average at least 25% of the applicant's total annual income must have come from sources other than direct or indirect grants and/or contributions from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including missions).
- D.6 a) The gross remuneration of individual management and board members of an applicant legally established in the Netherlands or in another EU member state must not exceed €205,000 (gross) per calendar year, as from the start of the period for which the grant is being requested.<sup>13</sup>

For applicants legally established in an EU member state that does not use the euro, this amount is converted into local currency using the Ministry corporate rates (appendix 3 to these administrative rules) as of 1 January 2023.

b) The gross remuneration of individual management and board members of an applicant legally established in the United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland, Japan, US or Canada must not exceed, per calendar year, as from the start of the period for which the grant is being requested:<sup>14</sup>

- United Kingdom                      GBP 177,136;
- Norway                                    NOK 2,427,977;
- Switzerland                            CHF 313,392;
- Japan                                      YEN 28,500,537;
- US/Canada                              USD 243,013.

- c. The gross remuneration of individual management and board members of an applicant legally established in other countries must not exceed, per calendar year, the amount specified for the country in question in appendix 4 to these administrative rules, as from the start of the period for which the grant is being requested.<sup>15</sup>

- D.7 The applicant has not previously submitted an application under *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028* for the same policy objective (migration cooperation or prospects for refugees and host communities) as the current application.

### **12.2.2 Threshold criteria on the activities for which a grant is sought:**

- D.8 The application seeks funding amounting to:
- a) for grant applications aimed at Migration Cooperation: a minimum of €4 million and a maximum of €8 million;
  - b) for grant applications aimed at Prospects for Refugees and Host communities: a minimum of €5 million and a maximum of €10 million.
- D.9 The activities have a minimum duration of 36 months and a maximum duration of 60 months.
- D.10 The activities begin no later than January 1, 2024, and end no later than December 31, 2028.
- D.11 The activities are aimed at:

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<sup>13</sup> For further technical details on this criterion (such as employment and the constituent components of the amount, see D.6 in the application form. The remuneration ceilings for organisations established in these countries have been adjusted based on purchasing power data published by EUROSTAT (comparative price levels 2022), See: [Statistics | Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&plugin=1).

<sup>14</sup> For further technical details on this criterion (such as employment and the constituent components of the amount, see D.6 in the application form. The remuneration ceilings for organisations established in these countries have been adjusted based on purchasing power data published by EUROSTAT (comparative price levels 2022), See: [Statistics | Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&plugin=1).

<sup>15</sup> For further technical details on this criterion (such as employment and the constituent components of the amount, see D.6 in the application form.

- a) one or more of the migration cooperation objectives, more specifically Protection of (vulnerable) migrants by in-country partners:
  - 1. Migrants, including vulnerable migrants and (potential) victims of trafficking are provided with protection and assistance;
  - 2. Communities are supported in responding against human trafficking and people smuggling;
  - 3. Promoting an enabling environment for NGOs and human rights defenders advancing migrants' rights.

or at:

- b) one or more of the prospects for refugees and host communities objectives:
  - 1. Protection of refugees and internally displaced persons by in-country partners:  
Sustainably improving the living conditions of refugee communities in host countries by providing access to basic human rights. This may include freedom of movement, access to basic socioeconomic rights, improving access to legal documentation, access to justice and/or civil documents, and countering violence (including gender-related violence), exploitation and discrimination;
  - 2. Access to education and training for displaced persons and host communities through in-country partners  
Sustainably improving the living conditions of refugee communities, vulnerable members of host communities and internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup> in host countries, by providing them with direct access to education and training (regular education, after-school activities, skills training, vocational training and tertiary education), so that they develop skills that will enhance their opportunities in the labour market.
  - 3. Promoting economic development and job opportunities through in-country partners  
Sustainably improving the living conditions of refugee communities, vulnerable host communities and internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup> in host countries by providing them with direct access to employment and/or support to engage in income-generating activities
  - 4. Access to improved services, facilities and information systems for displaced persons and host communities  
Sustainably improving the living conditions of refugee communities, vulnerable host communities and internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup> in host countries by providing access to improved services, facilities and information systems (= essential infrastructure).

D.12 The activities belong to one or more of the following intervention strategies: (i) capacity strengthening of in-country partners, (ii) direct funding of *in-country* partners, and/or (iii) meaningful participation of refugees or migrants in national and international policy influencing.

D.13 The activities are conducted in and/or aimed at least one of the following countries:

- a) for Migration Cooperation: Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Libya, Türkiye or Tunisia.
- b) for prospects for refugees and host communities: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sudan, Türkiye or Uganda.

D.14 The application must not relate to:

- a) proselytism;
- b) commercial activities;
- c) activities which already receive grant funding or a contribution directly or indirectly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

### 12.3 Qualitative criteria

Applications that satisfy the threshold criteria will be assessed on the basis of the following qualitative criteria. There are quality criteria for the track record, quality criteria for the project proposal, and qualitative criteria for the overall consistency and impact of the proposed intervention. For each set of criteria, the percentage of the total points that can be attained for those criteria has been indicated.

#### A. Track Record (40% of total points)

The quality of the track record is assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The extent to which the applicant has experience with the chosen intervention strategy/strategies: (i) capacity strengthening of in-country partners, (ii) direct funding of in-country partners and/or (iii) meaningful participation of refugees or migrants in national and international policy influencing).
2. The extent to which the applicant has experience in implementing projects that address the target group of *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028* (migrants, internally displaced persons<sup>8</sup>, refugees and host communities). This refers to the following type of experience:
  - a) for applications on **prospects for refugees and host communities**: worldwide experience;
  - b) for applications on **migration cooperation**: worldwide experience and experience in the priority countries, as well as access to a network in these priority countries.

#### B. Project proposal (50% of total points)

The quality of the project proposal (including intervention logic) will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

3. The extent to which the support partner's proposed intervention is consistent with and based on a sound global problem analysis and country-specific context analysis.
4. The extent to which the proposed intervention builds on knowledge gained and lessons learned from previous efforts or research.
5. The extent to which the applicant has properly translated the intervention into quantitative and/or qualitative outputs and outcomes with corresponding success criteria and/or indicators, including underlying assumptions.
6. The extent to which the proposed mechanism for selecting the project's in-country partners ensures that country-level objectives will be successfully achieved.
7. The degree of equality of in-country partners, as measured by a. ownership of and control over direction-setting and decision-making on interventions implemented by in-country partners, b. the presence of a reciprocal accountability mechanism and c. the degree of risk sharing.
8. The extent to which the system for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), including the division of roles between the support partner and in-country partners, will enable the applicant to monitor progress and make adjustments to resources, activities, outputs, outcomes and underlying assumptions.
9. The extent to which the risks to the proposed intervention have been identified and have been controlled with adequate mitigation measures.

#### C. Overall consistency and impact (10%)

10. The extent to which the relationships between the assumptions, proposed intervention and outputs and outcomes follow logically from each other.
11. The extent to and likelihood that the project will contribute to the sustainable empowerment of *in-country* partners and the applicant's chosen objectives as laid down in chapter 4.

## 12.4 Inception phase

After a grant is awarded, the grant recipients will go through an inception phase of no more than six months in order to tailor the general and high-level plans submitted with the grant application to country-specific scenarios. (see chapter 10, item vi). Grant recipients shall develop this further detail in close cooperation and co-creation with the intended in-country partners.

More specifically, grant recipients should use the inception phase to do at least the following:

1. Identify and select (the first group of) in-country partners;
2. Conduct a baseline study, including a needs assessment performed by in-country partners (needs assessment);
3. Draw up country-specific plans and intended results, based on the identified needs of in-country partners for the countries in which the grant activities are implemented or targeted. This also includes a country-specific MEL system, including a division of roles between in-country and support partners for monitoring progress and adjusting intended results.
4. Align the project and MEL system with the DSH-MO results framework and learning agenda. The framework and learning agenda will be shared with grant recipients and be described/explained in further detail after a grant is awarded.
5. Establish a "code of cooperation," consisting of a role description of support and in-country partners and mutual expectations with regard to accountability, risk sharing and adaptive programming.

Upon completion of the inception phase, grant recipients must submit an inception report to the Ministry on the activities carried out in this phase and their results. The report shall also include country-specific plans for the remaining activity period.

If the country-specific plans are found to be satisfactory, the costs associated with the activities to be carried out in the remaining project period become eligible for funding.

The grant is paid through periodic instalments. No more than 90% of the funds requested for the final funding year will be paid in advance.

## 13. Timeline

A decision will be taken on the applications no later than December 3, 2023. Specifically, this means the following.

Grant application deadline	From 12:00 CEST on 4-7-2023	Until 12:00 CEST on 3-9-2023
ORIA deadline (at the invitation of MFA)	-	12:00 CEST on 3 October 2023
Decision on grant applications submitted before the deadline	No later than 3-12-2023	

## 14. Reporting and other grant obligations

The grant decision will set out obligations tied to the grant, including an obligation to notify the Minister of facts and circumstances that may have a significant impact on the grant award, such as the applicant's temporary or complete inability to implement the activities for which a grant is



awarded and reporting obligations, including the submission of interim and final narrative and financial reports in IATI. Also on the following items obligations will be included:

- Conducting a baseline study in line with the [IOB quality criteria](#);
- Conducting an external Mid-Term Evaluation in line with the [IOB quality criteria](#);
- Cooperation in a learning process, iterative evaluations and a final external evaluation of the entire grant policy framework in line with the [IOB quality criteria](#);
- IATI reporting on indicators linking to the Migration and Displacement Results Framework.

The support partner should be transparent about the projects funded through *Migration and Displacement 2023-2028* grants. Annual substantive and financial reporting should be provided, including at least an overview of the project pipeline. Grant recipients must also provide an annual plan and corresponding budget for the coming year on an annual basis.

Any funds remaining after the project has been completed shall be returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An obligation to this effect will also be included in the grant award decision.

## 15. Administrative burden

The administrative burden of implementing this grant policy framework will amount to €71,700 for the total grant period. The administrative burden consists of work associated with the obligations to provide information as part of the application process and, if a grant is awarded, the work involved in meeting the reporting obligations under the grant. The amount of €71,700 represents 1.9 percent of the total grant budget. This calculation is based on an estimate that no more than 15 organisations will be interested in the grant policy framework and will submit an application for which a grant can be awarded.

In drafting the grant policy framework, critical attention has been paid, first, to ensuring that the criteria for grant applicants and the intended results are clearly formulated, and second, to providing clarity about how the grants awarded will be funded and accounted for. Applicants must consider whether the administrative burden entailed in submitting a grant application are in reasonable proportion to the grant amount requested and the likelihood of obtaining it. The Ministry aims in this way to keep the administrative burden for applicants to a minimum.

## 16. Appendices

1. Application form
2. ORIA template
3. Corporate Rates 2023
4. Maximum Remuneration "other countries"
5. Track record, project proposal and budget proposal templates