

Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation dated 1 November 2023, no. Min-BuZa.2023.20012-27, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Grant Programme *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031*)

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation;

Having regard to Articles 6 and 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Decree;

Having regard to Articles 2.5 and 2.6(d), (e), (g) and (h) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006;

Orders as follows:

Article 1

The administrative rules appended as an annexe to this Order apply to grants awarded under Articles 2.5 and 2.6(d), (e), (g) and (h) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 with a view to financing activities in the area of security for persons and communities and the area of peacebuilding and conflict mediation for the period from the date on which this Order enters into force up to and including 31 December 2031.

Article 2

1. A grant ceiling of €200 million applies for the period referred to in Article 1.
2. Multi-year grants may be awarded subject to the condition referred to in Article 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 under the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031* grant programme may be submitted from the date on which this Order enters into force until 21 December 2023 at 11:59 am CET, using the application form as stipulated by the Minister and accompanied by the documents stipulated in that form.¹

Article 4

1. The allocation of the funds referred to in Article 2 shall be made on the basis of an assessment in accordance with the criteria set out in the annexe to this Order, on the understanding that, of the applications that meet the criteria, those that 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.
2. In applying the first paragraph, no more than four grants will be awarded to applications relating to security for persons and communities, of which at least two applications aiming at protection of civilians, and no more than six grants will be awarded to applications relating to peacebuilding and conflict mediation, of which no more than four applications aiming at peacebuilding and no more than two applications aiming at conflict mediation.

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 1 January 2032, with the proviso that it continues to apply to grants awarded prior to that date.

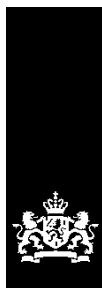
¹ The application form will be published on <http://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs/decrees/2023/11/09/subsidy-framework-contributing-to-peaceful-and-safe-societies-2024-2031>

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.²

The Director General of International Cooperation
for
the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

P. Grotenhuis

²<http://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs/decrees/2023/11/09/subsidy-framework-contributing-to-peaceful-and-safe-societies-2024-2031>



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Grant Policy Framework

Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies

2024-2031

Table of Contents

<i>Definitions.....</i>	<i>i</i>
1. <i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>1</i>
2. <i>Policy background and objective of the grant programme.....</i>	<i>2</i>
3. <i>What is eligible for grant funding.....</i>	<i>5</i>
4. <i>Duration of activities and requested grant funding.....</i>	<i>7</i>
5. <i>Who is eligible for a grant.....</i>	<i>7</i>
6. <i>Available funds and allocation.....</i>	<i>8</i>
7. <i>Eligible costs.....</i>	<i>9</i>
8. <i>Grant application requirements.....</i>	<i>9</i>
9. <i>Application procedure.....</i>	<i>11</i>
10. <i>Assessment procedure.....</i>	<i>12</i>
11. <i>Timeline.....</i>	<i>16</i>
12. <i>Grant obligations and disbursement.....</i>	<i>16</i>
13. <i>Administrative burden.....</i>	<i>17</i>
14. <i>Appendices.....</i>	<i>18</i>

Definitions

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

Adaptive programming	Programming that incorporates continuous learning and feedback loops to enable purposeful learning and consequently make adjustments to the programming. This includes adjusting programming in response to changes in the context of the programme, as well as adjusting programming based on insights gained about its effectiveness.
Umbrella- or network organisation	Association/foundation with legal personality under civil law, in which civil society organisations (CSOs/NGOs) unite and work together to coordinate activities and/or pool resources.
Localisation / locally led development	The process by which local actors - including individuals, communities, networks, organisations, private entities, and governments - set their own agendas, develop solutions, and mobilise the capacity, leadership, and resources to realise those solutions.
Non-governmental organisation (CSO/NGO)	A not-for-profit organisation, which possesses legal personality under civil law and serves a public interest, neither established by a public authority nor connected to a public authority either de facto or under its constitution, or which after its establishment by a public authority has become fully autonomous. Umbrella or network organisations (as defined above) may also qualify as a CSO/NGO under this grant policy framework if they satisfy this definition.

Grant Policy Framework *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* 2024-2031

1. Introduction

This grant policy framework is an annexe to the Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation dated 1 November 2023, no. Min-BuZa.2023.20012-27, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006. This grant policy framework contains administrative rules for the award of grants under the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031* grant policy framework.

Dutch development cooperation is focused on the West African Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and North Africa - regions currently home to some of the most fragile and conflict-affected states. Violent conflict, fragility and instability often have disastrous and self-reinforcing consequences. Countries facing serious problems of fragility and instability lag far behind in achieving sustainable development. Data show that poverty is increasingly concentrated in fragile states: by 2030, up to two-thirds of the world's extremely poor population could be living in fragile states,³ with people in vulnerable and marginalised situations - including women and young people - often being hit the hardest. For these reasons, the Netherlands is committed to working in these most difficult regions and countries, contributing to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies in fragile states through its Security and Rule of Law (SRoL) policy and programming.

Over the past few years, many lessons have been learned about working in fragile and conflict-affected states, and enhancing SRoL impact in these complex contexts.⁴ How can development cooperation contribute more effectively to preventing and resolving conflict and instability? Most importantly, evaluations and studies underscore the need for realistic and modest expectations regarding the sphere of influence of Dutch SRoL programming in fragile states. Simply put, it is not realistic to expect that Dutch SRoL efforts alone will foster lasting peace in regions such as the Sahel. Sustainable peace - or at least the absence of destabilisation - depends on myriad factors, most of which are intertwined with international, regional and national political power relations and interests beyond the direct sphere of influence of the Dutch SRoL portfolio. The Netherlands is one of many actors involved in SRoL in these contexts, making policy influencing targeting national, regional and international stakeholders a key part of achieving Dutch SRoL objectives.

Evaluations underline that, in the past, SRoL efforts have suffered from an overly top-down, inflexible design, hampering the ability to respond effectively to the complex and rapidly changing contexts of fragile states. SRoL activities - including policy influencing - are most relevant and effective if they are locally led and adaptive. Moreover, the synergies between policy and programming can be improved by strengthening the learning loop in which lessons learned during programme implementation are used to develop policy, and policy changes are translated into programme adjustments.

Furthermore, evaluations show that, in many cases, funding for SRoL activities has been too fragmented: resources were spread too thinly over a large number of small, widely dispersed activities. Project budgets and durations were too limited and did not match the lofty ambitions of the SRoL policy and the complex and dynamic environments in which the projects were implemented. Concretely, this means there is a need for setting more specific, more realistic goals and allowing more room for long-term engagement, in which learning and intermediate adjustments will have a more prominent role.

In managing its SRoL portfolio, the Netherlands has deliberately chosen to make a distinction between centralised and decentralised programming. To achieve better and more context-sensitive

³ World Bank: [Fragility, Conflict and Violence Overview \(worldbank.org\)](https://www.worldbank.org/)

⁴ See e.g. [IOB 2019 Less Pretension, More Realism; Interrogating the evidence base on humanitarian localisation: a literature study](#); [IOB 2023 Inconvenient Realities – An evaluation of Dutch contributions to stability, security and rule of law](#); and [OESO/DAC 2023 Peer Review The Netherlands](#)

results, in-depth and thorough country-specific knowledge of fragile and conflict-affected states is needed. Therefore, the Netherlands has set a goal of allocating at least two-thirds of the available SRoL budget to Dutch embassies in SRoL focus countries. The embassies support the programming of this budget to achieve country-specific results. The remaining SRoL budget is used to support programmes beyond the individual country level. These programmes are centrally managed from The Hague and should preferably span multiple years, have a larger budget and lead to outcomes that significantly influence regional and/or international policy. These programmes have more time to achieve impact in the broader thematic area and thus increase knowledge of thematic issues and implementation methods in fragile and conflict-affected states. The present *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme is funded out of the central SRoL budget. The outcomes of the proposed activities should therefore transcend country-level outcomes and have a broader scope of application (i.e., they should also be applicable in other countries).

The grant programme was developed with the aforementioned lessons in mind and contains several **innovative** elements relative to previous SRoL grant programmes:

- Emphasis on providing **prolonged** support to organisations that **specialise in the relevant policy themes**, relying on the knowledge and expertise of the organisations in question (**outcome-level orientation**);
- Emphasis on efforts that revolve around learning and intermediate adaptations (**adaptive programming**);
- Emphasis on **locally led** activities, both in terms of design and execution;
- Emphasis on strengthening policy influencing based on insights derived from the implementation of country-level activities (**learning loop between policy and programme outcomes**);
- Emphasis on outcomes that transcend the country level (**departure from country-level orientation**);
- Emphasis on results that are within the applicants' span of control (**modesty and realism**).

These elements are described in greater in detail in the following chapters.

2. Policy background and objective of the grant programme

2.1 Policy background

Security and Rule of Law (SRoL) is one of the spearheads of Dutch development cooperation. It is an important building block for achieving the main goals of the Dutch development cooperation policy, as outlined in the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation's policy document "Do what the we do best" (2022). These main goals are: addressing the root causes of poverty, terrorism, irregular migration and climate change, and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁵ In line with SDG 16, the overarching objective of the Dutch SRoL policy is to contribute to peaceful, just and inclusive societies by empowering people and groups to work towards these goals themselves. The perspectives and needs of people, as well as their empowerment and resilience, stand front and centre in the SRoL programming approach.⁶ In this, the Netherlands works throughout the conflict cycle – before, during and after violent conflict – and in situations of long-term fragility.

The policy document "Do what we do best" identifies several working methods to maximise the impact of development programmes, particularly those implemented in fragile and conflict-affected states. The *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme embraces two of these

⁵ See: [Policy Document for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation: Do what we do best | Policy note | Government.nl](#)

⁶ See: [Theory of Change - Security and Rule of Law \(English, January 2023\) | Publication | Government.nl](#), pp.7-8.

working methods in particular: locally led development and adaptive programming.

With regard to locally led development, the policy document stresses that the Netherlands seeks partnerships on an equal footing, with greater influence of Southern organisations in designing and implementing of development cooperation. The Netherlands has made an international commitment to this agenda.⁷ The SRoL Theory of Change (ToC) underscores this, positing that the root causes of conflict can best be identified and addressed by people and communities themselves. People's needs, experiences and problem-solving ideas should be at the centre of SRoL programming to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of these efforts.⁸

The policy document also outlines the Netherlands' commitment to an adaptive approach to working in fragile settings. Programmes will be designed on a modular basis to achieve maximum flexibility, enabling components to be rapidly scaled up or down as circumstances dictate.⁹ The SRoL ToC posits that in the rapidly changing contexts of fragile and conflict-affected states, implementing organisations may find during implementation that their chosen approach is no longer optimally effective and requires adjustment. To allow for adaptable strategies and tactics, SRoL programming must provide flexibility without losing focus on the stated objectives.¹⁰

2.2 Objective, themes and working method

2.2.1 Purpose and policy themes

The *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme aims to contribute to strengthening broader policy and programming on the following two policy themes:

A. Security for persons and communities¹¹: Within this policy theme, the Netherlands seeks to work with persons and communities that are experiencing insecurity (caused by individual or organised, armed and non-armed, state or non-state actors), by supporting them to apply nonviolent approaches to conflict prevention and resolution.

The *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme, within the security for persons and communities theme, **aims** to: contribute to programmes that support efforts by persons and communities to break violent conflict cycles and thereby reduce the levels of violence and fear of violence. These programmes include:

- community security programmes, including efforts to enhance the interface between demand for, and supply of, security (through, for example, strengthening protection of civilians policy and practice);
- programmes aimed at strengthening personal and community conflict management behaviour and mechanisms (through, for example, unarmed civilian protection).

For both types of programmes, the Netherlands is committed to gender-responsive and inclusive security mechanisms, mental health and psychosocial support, and the promotion of nonviolent conflict resolution pathways and infrastructures.

B. Peacebuilding and conflict mediation¹²: Efforts in this policy theme enable stakeholders to contribute to sustaining peace in order to prevent the outbreak, continuation, escalation and recurrence of violent conflict. The topic of mental health and psychosocial support is of particular prominence in the Netherlands' peacebuilding efforts, as they are instrumental for fostering trust

⁷ See: [Policy Document for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation: Do what we do best | Policy note | Government.nl](#), p.39.

⁸ See: [Theory of Change - Security and Rule of Law \(English, January 2023\) | Publication | Government.nl](#), pp.21-22.

⁹ See: [Policy Document for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation: Do what we do best | Policy note | Government.nl](#), p.40.

¹⁰ See: [Theory of Change - Security and Rule of Law \(English, January 2023\) | Publication | Government.nl](#), p.27.

¹¹ Sub-theme 1.i in the SRoL ToC, see: [Theory of Change - Security and Rule of Law \(English, January 2023\) | Publication | Government.nl](#), p.10.

¹² Sub-theme 3.ii in the SRoL ToC, see: [Theory of Change - Security and Rule of Law \(English, January 2023\) | Publication | Government.nl](#), p.20.

and social cohesion in societies, which in turn are essential for sustainable peace.

Within the peacebuilding and conflict mediation theme, the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme **aims** to: support programmes that enable stakeholders to contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, in order to prevent violent conflict and support peace across the peace continuum. These programmes include:

- Peacebuilding:
 - o strengthening the social cohesion, trust and resilience of persons and communities;
 - o improving the quality, coherence, effectiveness and conflict sensitivity of international support to fragile and conflict-affected states in order to achieve sustainable peace.
- Conflict mediation:
 - o conflict transformation and resolution at various levels, including third-party conflict mediation and local community dialogue and negotiation skills training.

2.2.2 Working methods

The *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme takes locally led development and adaptive programming as starting points for the way of working in fragile and conflict-affected states:

- **Adaptive programming** incorporates continuous learning and feedback loops to enable purposeful learning and consequently make adjustments to the programming. This includes adjusting programming in response to changes in the context of the programme, as well as adjusting programming based on insights gained about its effectiveness.
- **Locally led development** is the process by which local actors - including individuals, communities, networks, organisations, private entities, and governments - set their own agendas, develop solutions, and mobilise the capacity, leadership, and resources to realise those solutions. Locally led development touches on the ways in which applicants involve local communities in their activities and on how they engage and partner up with local organisations.

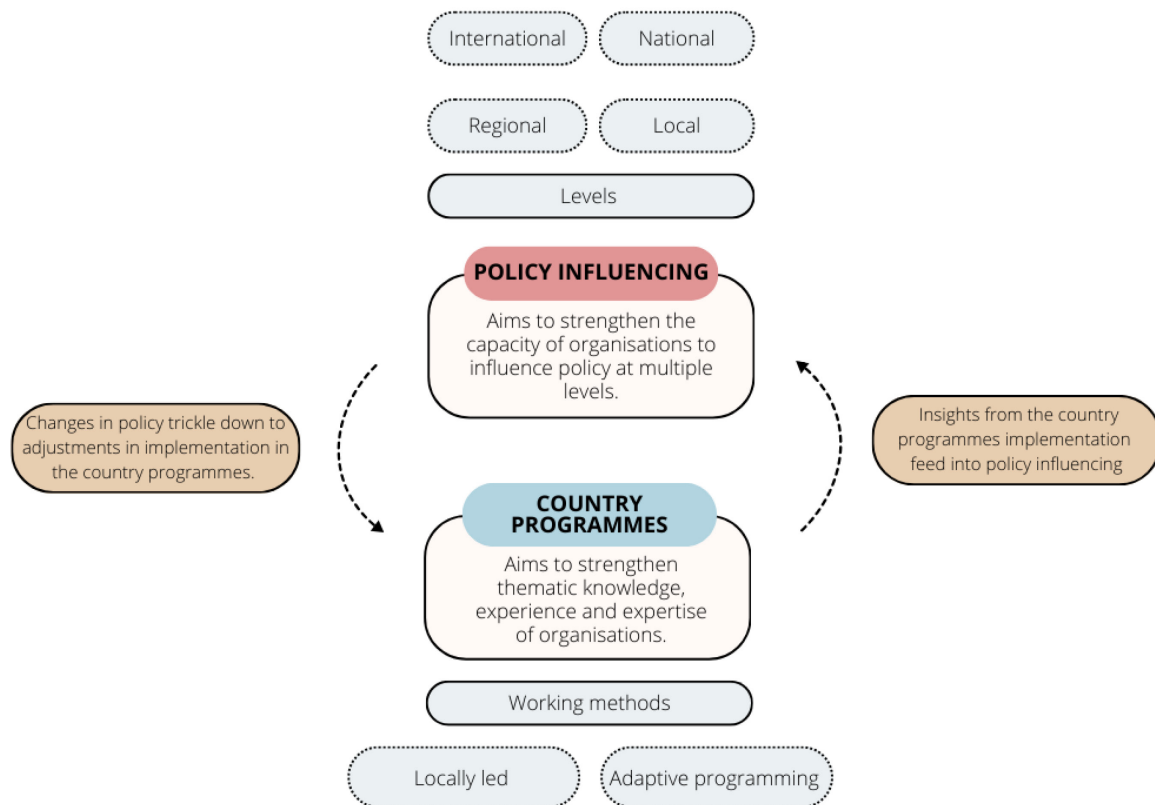
The grant programme is aimed at supporting activities that apply and advance **both** of these working methods to the policy themes listed under Section 2.2.1.

2.2.3 Objective summary

In summary, the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme will:

- 1) support internationally operating civil society organisations that aim to contribute to the policy theme of security for persons and communities, and/or peacebuilding and conflict mediation;
- 2) thereby enable them to influence the policies of local, national, regional and international stakeholders working on these policy issues;
- 3) simultaneously encourage them to increase their knowledge of and experience with programming on one of these policy themes in fragile and conflict-affected states;
- 4) based on insights and evidence gained from an adaptive, locally led approach to development programming.

The approach can be visualised as follows:



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to stress the importance of learning and innovation in this regard. It is therefore intended that applicants will use the grant in part to: (i) further develop their methods for addressing security for persons and communities, or peacebuilding and conflict mediation; (ii) further develop their methods for implementing a learning loop both within and between policy influencing and programming activities at the country level (adaptive programming); and (iii) continue to foster locally led development in their work (programming and policy influencing).

3. What is eligible for grant funding

3.1 Eligible activities

To be eligible for a grant under the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme, applications must address one of the two policy themes described in Section 2.2.1. Applications addressing both policy themes will be rejected.

Applications must furthermore apply both working methods outlined in Section 2.2.2 in the proposed activities.

Also, the proposed programme (in line with the figure in Section 2.2) should consist of two components of activities, linked together by integrating a learning loop:

A. Evidence-based policy influencing

No less than 25% and no more than 40% of the requested grant funding should be earmarked for evidence-based policy influencing.

The proposed evidence-based policy influencing activities should address:

- a. local, national, regional and international policy influencing in the area of security for persons and communities, *or* in the area of peacebuilding and conflict mediation. Policy influencing should be targeted at relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional, and international level - including governments, multilateral organisations (e.g., the UN and World Bank), discussion forums (e.g., the G-20, COP, and the World Summit), and supranational bodies (e.g., the EU, OECD, NATO, and the African Union); and
- b. reinforcing the learning loop between local, national, regional and international policy influencing and the implementation of adaptive, locally led programmes in order to strengthen the evidence base for policy influencing in the area of security for persons and communities, *or* in the area of peacebuilding and conflict mediation. This includes the necessary capacity building activities both within the applicant's own organisation and among the applicant's partners.

B. Country-level adaptive, locally led programming

No less than 60% and no more than 75% of the requested grant funding should be earmarked for country-level adaptive, locally led programming (including institutional capacity building of local partners) related to security for persons and communities, *or* related to peacebuilding and conflict mediation.

The proposed country-level adaptive, locally led programming activities should be implemented in SRoL focus countries (see Section 3.2). Proposed activities should build on the applicant's existing programming and networks in those countries.¹³ Activities in countries where this is not the case are not eligible for funding.

Because the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme is funded out of the centrally managed SRoL budget, the outcomes of the proposed activities should transcend country-level outcomes and have a broader scope of application (i.e., they should also be applicable in other countries). The results of the proposed country-level adaptive, locally led programming should expressly be used to enhance the evidence base of effective policy and programming (i.e., knowledge and experience related to the relevant policy theme and working methods in fragile and conflict-affected states), thus strengthening the learning loop as a basis for effective policy influencing and more effective programming. For this reason, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not request applicants to submit country-specific activity plans. Instead, applicants should submit a brief context analysis for each SRoL focus country and the planned intervention strategy (incl. budget) arising from these analyses.

Note: The key principles for the allocation of funds between the two components are as follows:

- a. the total of the requested grant funding divided between evidence-based policy influencing and country-level adaptive, locally led programming should be 100%;
- b. indirect costs should be calculated as a fixed percentage of the total direct costs of the requested grant funding, in accordance with the mandatory budget model (see Appendix 4.vi to this grant policy framework).

3.2 Focus countries

The *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme is focused on the Dutch SRoL focus countries: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (Eastern DRC), Iraq, Yemen, Mali, Niger, Uganda, Palestinian Territories, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, and South Sudan.

To be eligible for funding under this grant programme, the proposed local, national and regional policy influencing activities should target the SRoL focus countries. International policy influencing activities should build as much as possible on insights gained in SRoL focus countries.

The proposed adaptive, locally led programming activities should be implemented in no fewer than two and no more than four SRoL focus countries.

¹³ Note: applicants may not apply for grant funding for activities that have already commenced at the time of application, see Article 9 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Decree.

Exception to the requirement of no more than four SRoL focus countries for adaptive, locally led programming activities: For applications that focus entirely (i.e., 100% of the requested grant funding) on the area of *conflict mediation* under the peacebuilding and conflict mediation policy theme, a maximum of SRoL focus countries does not apply. The requirement of no less than two SRoL focus countries does continue to apply. This exception was made because it is difficult to predict where and when the need for conflict mediation will arise.

3.3 Guiding principles for activities

The following guiding principles for implementing SRoL activities in fragile and conflict-affected states should be taken into account in the design and implementation of activities proposed under this grant programme:

Inclusivity: The activities contribute to the equal distribution of social and material benefits among social groups and categories, and to addressing the structural factors that cause and perpetuate exclusion and marginalisation of people in vulnerable situations in society. Inclusive decision-making, equal access to power and resources and a participatory approach are central. Activities should be gender- and youth-responsive: i.e., they should contribute to preventing increasing gender and youth inequality, and advance gender and youth equality. As such, applicants must apply a gender- and youth-sensitive lens in their programming, consistently consulting and involving women and young people in programming and policy influencing decisions, and eliminating barriers that may interfere with their meaningful participation in activities.

Conflict sensitivity: Activities should be designed to consciously avoid or minimise negative impacts on and unintended contributions to conflict, and equally consciously aim to positively impact on conflict dynamics and enhance opportunities for peace and inclusion. This requires the ability (i) to analyse and understand the operational context in which activities take place; (ii) to translate that understanding into consequences for interventions and interactions with that context; and (iii) to incorporate and update conflict sensitivity throughout the activity cycle. Given the importance the Netherlands attaches to the issue of mental health and psychosocial support as part of its engagement in fragile and conflict-affected states, it is important to include psychosocial dimensions and dynamics as part of conflict sensitivity when analysing and understanding the contexts in which activities take place.

Alignment and coordination: In many SRoL focus countries, and in fragile states in general, the SRoL agenda is carried out and implemented by a diverse group of actors working on similar issues. In order to avoid overlap and advance complementarity of efforts, it is essential that activities be aligned with broader national and international development strategies and programmes, so that their outcomes are more likely to be embedded in a broader set of relevant activities and more likely to create a catalytic and sustainable effect in the longer-term (results that are greater than the sum of their parts).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will ask successful applicants to give an account of how these guiding principles were implemented in their annual reports. This issue will also be addressed in the regular policy dialogue meetings between the Ministry and successful applicants, as well as in the foreseen evaluations.

4. Duration of activities and requested grant funding

The activities for which a grant is requested have a minimum duration of 91 months and a maximum duration of 96 months. Activities must commence no earlier than 1 January 2024, and no later than 1 June 2024, and must be completed by 31 December 2031.

Applicants must apply for no less than €10 million and no more than €25 million in funding.

5. Who is eligible for a grant

5.1 Type of organisation

To be eligible for a grant under the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme,

organisations must satisfy the following requirements:

- The applicant is an internationally operating civil society organisation (CSO/NGO), in the sense that it conducts activities in multiple countries.
- The organisation's activities focus explicitly on the policy themes central to this grant programme: security for persons and communities, and/or peacebuilding and conflict mediation. This must be evidenced by the annual accounts and/or financial statements submitted by the applicant.
- The organisation must have a proven track record of at least ten years in implementing activities (including policy influencing) relevant to the policy theme for which the applicant is requesting funding (security for persons and communities, or peacebuilding and conflict mediation) in fragile and conflict-affected states (including SRoL focus countries).

Not eligible for grant funding under the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme are:

- Applications on behalf of an alliance;
- Organisations whose activities are not explicitly focused on security for persons and communities, and/or peacebuilding and conflict mediation. Organisations whose activities revolve primarily around development cooperation in a broader sense, such as poverty alleviation or the promotion of basic services such as health, education, housing or water, as well as organisations whose activities revolve primarily around humanitarian assistance, are therefore not eligible for a grant under this grant programme;
- For-profit organisations;
- Local and other authorities, intergovernmental organisations and organisations in which the government is the sole or majority shareholder.

5.2 Number of applications per organisation

Applicants are eligible for no more than one grant under the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme, regardless of the policy theme chosen (security for persons and communities, or peacebuilding and conflict mediation). If an applicant submits more than one application, only the application received first will be considered. All subsequent applications will be rejected.

6. Available funds and allocation

The grant ceiling of the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme is €200 million for an eight-year period (2024 - 2031). These funds qualify as ODA.

The allocation of the funds available will take place by means of a tender. Applications that are received by the deadline and satisfy the threshold criteria undergo a quality assessment based on the substantive criteria listed in Section 10.3 of this grant policy framework. The applications are subsequently ranked by how well they satisfy the criteria, after which the Minister will award grants in accordance with the ranking (from high to low) until the available budget has been exhausted.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will award up to 10 grants (provided that enough qualifying applications are submitted). These grants will be distributed among the policy themes of security for persons and communities, and peacebuilding and conflict mediation, as follows:

- Up to four grants will be awarded in the policy area of security for persons and communities, of which at least two grants specifically targeting the protection of civilians.
- Up to six grants will be awarded in the policy area of peacebuilding and conflict mediation, of which up to four grants specifically focusing on peacebuilding and up to two grants specifically focusing on conflict mediation. Of these six grants, at least one will be awarded to an umbrella- or network organisation.

In allocating the funds available, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will strive to strike a balance between the various focus countries listed in Section 3 of this grant policy framework.

If the grants requested in these up to ten applications exceed the total funds available under the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme, an equal percentage of the amount requested will be rejected from each application.

7. Eligible costs

Only those costs that are necessary to carry out the grant activities and that cannot reasonably be funded with the applicant's own resources or through an alternative source are eligible for funding.¹⁴ Activities that have commenced before submitting the application and/or before 1 January 2024 are not eligible for funding.¹⁵ Consequently, the costs involved in these activities or not eligible either.

8. Grant application requirements

Applicants must use the application form stipulated by the Minister (see Appendix 1 to this grant policy framework). 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 articles of association.
- ii. The applicant's annual accounts and/or financial statements covering the past three years (2020, 2021, 2022).
- iii. A track record, drawn up in accordance with the mandatory format accompanying the application template (see Appendix 4.i to this grant policy framework), demonstrating that the applicant has at least ten years (in any case the 2013-2022 period) of experience in implementing activities (including policy influencing) relevant to the policy theme for which the applicant is requesting funding (safety for persons and communities *or* peacebuilding and conflict mediation) in fragile and conflict-affected states (including SRoL focus countries).
- iv. Two showcases of up to 1,500 words each, drawn up in accordance with the mandatory format accompanying the application template (see Appendix 4.ii to this grant policy framework). In the showcases, the applicant outlines its experience with policy influencing activities relevant to the policy theme for which the applicant is requesting funding (security for persons and communities, *or* peacebuilding and conflict mediation). This experience must be based on insights gained from implementing adaptive and locally led development programming in fragile and conflict-affected states (preferably in the SRoL focus countries). The showcases must also highlight the applicant's experience in applying a learning loop, illustrating their main achievements and lessons learned in this area. The showcases refer to activities carried out in the period 2013-2022, and whose outcome/impact was achieved in the period 2020-2022.
- v. A programme proposal, drawn up in accordance with the mandatory format accompanying the application template (see Appendix 4.iii to this grant policy framework), consisting of the following:
 - a. An overarching Theory of Change (ToC), consisting of a narrative of up to 1,000 words and a graphic representation of the ToC. The ToC should be based on the core elements detailed in Section 2 and Section 3 and should include the following:

¹⁴ Article 14, paragraph 1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

¹⁵ Article 9 Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Decree.

1. A clear problem analysis resulting in a strategic programme objective consistent with *one* of the objectives of the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme (reinforcing broader policy and programming in the area of security for persons and communities, or peacebuilding and conflict mediation); and
 2. An outline of the various steps that will be taken to achieve the strategic programme objective, including an analysis of the underlying assumptions that link these various steps.
- b. A presentation of up to 3,000 words of the planned intervention strategies, including an overview of the corresponding types of activities, that the applicant expects to apply to achieve the foreseen outcomes, broken down into:
1. Evidence-based policy influencing, specifying the intended target groups. The applicant demonstrates how the planned intervention strategy and corresponding types of activities build on insights gained from adaptive, locally led programming in fragile and conflict-affected states; and
 2. Country-level adaptive, locally led programming, indicating where activities are expected to take place. Full country-level output proposals are not expected. Instead, applicants are asked to specify their intervention strategy and corresponding types of activities for each SRoL focus country in the proposal, and to demonstrate how these build on the applicant's existing programming and networks, and relate to the planned policy influencing intervention strategy.
- c. A concise context analysis of up to 1,500 words for each proposed SRoL focus country, explaining (i) how the planned intervention strategies relate to problems relevant to the chosen policy theme in the proposed SRoL focus country; (ii) how the planned intervention strategies will be applied in the proposed programme; and (iii) how this application will contribute to achieving results in the proposed SRoL focus country, as well as meeting the strategic programme objective. Given the importance the Netherlands attaches to the issue of mental health and psychosocial support as part of its engagement in fragile and conflict-affected states, it is important to also consider the psychosocial dimensions and dynamics in analysing and understanding the contexts in which activities take place.
- d. A MEL strategy of no more than 1,500 words (excluding indicators) consistent with the working methods described in Section 2.2.2, as well as with the applicant's institutional MEL strategy. For those elements of the proposed MEL strategy that are not yet part of the institutional MEL strategy, the applicant shall explain how they will be incorporated into the institutional MEL strategy. The MEL strategy includes:
1. An explanation of the purpose of MEL in relation to the proposed programme, specifying how the learning loop between local, national, regional and international policy influencing and country-level adaptive, locally led programming will be put into practice, and how the applicant intends to develop and reinforce these practices (i.e., applicants should outline their own learning ambitions for the programme);
 2. A description (in general terms) of which methodologies will be used to conduct MEL, and what is the purpose of each step therein;
 3. A reflection on the skills needed (and possible further capacity building required), and the division of labour within the applicant's programme team and the partners that will be involved in the proposed activities, in light of the two working methods central to the grant programme: adaptive programming and locally led development;
 4. A framework with a limited number of qualitative and/or quantitative results (outcomes) and indicators relevant to the programme's ToC and to the SRoL ToC of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The degree of change

covered by the outcomes should be realistic within the time period and sphere of influence of the programme, and the proposed indicators should be appropriate for assessing progress on the proposed policy influencing and adaptive, locally led programming activities.

- vi. Four vision documents of up to 750 words each, drawn up in accordance with the mandatory format accompanying the application template (see Appendix 4.iv to this grant policy framework), focusing on the working methods used to implement the proposed intervention strategies. The vision documents should succinctly present the applicant's lessons learned in applying the working methods, and outline the applicant's ambitions for further developing these methods. The vision documents should focus on:
 - a. The general way in which the applicant works to effect progress on the policy theme for which the applicant is requesting funding (security for persons and communities, *or* peacebuilding and conflict mediation);
 - b. Adaptive programming, emphasising the process of implementing a learning loop within and between policy influencing and country-level programming;
 - c. Locally led development, broken down by 1) the involvement of local communities (including women and young people), and 2) how the applicant will engage and partner up with local organisations;
 - d. The general manner (institutional policy) in which the applicant works in fragile and conflict-affected states, taking into account the guiding principles for implementing SRoL activities in these contexts as indicated in Section 3.3.
- vii. A risk analysis and risk strategy relevant to the proposed programme, drawn up in accordance with the mandatory format accompanying the application template (see Appendix 4.v to this grant policy framework). The risk strategy should follow logically from the risk analysis, problem analysis and context analysis presented, and be appropriate to adaptive, locally led programming.
- viii. A budget for the first 12 months, drawn up in accordance with the mandatory (Excel) format accompanying the application template (see Appendix 4.vi to this grant policy framework). The budget should provide insight into the applicant's income, including contributions from third parties, and expenditures related to the planned activities, accompanied by a line-by-line detailed explanation. The budget is accompanied by a financial forecast for the remainder of the period covered by the application. The grant award decision will determine the extent to which applicants have room to adjust the budget during the grant period to facilitate adaptive programming. Partner organisation will thus be able to easily and quickly adjust their programming if unforeseen obstacles or opportunities arise during the eight-year implementation period.

9. Application procedure

Applications may be submitted from the date on which this Order enters into force until 21 December 2023 at 11:59 am CET at the latest. 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 also below). The applicant bears sole responsibility for ensuring that the application is complete and submitted on time.

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, legally signed by the person authorised to do so on behalf of the applicant organisation, stating their 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. Applicants should not include additional information (such as USB sticks or links to background information about an organisation) with their application, as these will not be taken into account when assessing the application.

Applications should preferably be submitted by e-mail in PDF format. Applications per e-mail are submitted by sending these to the following e-mail address: DSH-VR-subsidies@minbuza.nl with 'Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031' in the subject line.

The time when the e-mail is received on the servers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be considered the time of submission. Please note that the e-mail server will reject files larger than 14MB. Such files should be split up into smaller files sent in separate e-mails. In this case, the time at which the last e-mail is received will be considered the time the application is submitted. If an application is split into several files which are each sent separately by e-mail, the e-mails must be numbered, with both the e-mail number and the total number of e-mails clearly indicated in the subject line.¹⁶

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

Submitting applications by post is not recommended.¹⁷ Applicants who nonetheless choose to submit applications by post or courier or in person should contact the Ministry at: DSH-VR-subsidies@minbuza.nl with 'Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031' in the subject line.

- Questions concerning this document or any other matters will only be accepted if they are sent by e-mail to DSH-VR-subsidies@minbuza.nl with 'Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031' in the subject line, no later than 8 December 2023. Answers to questions – anonymised and, if necessary, aggregated – will be published bi-weekly (as much as possible) on: <https://www.government.nl/topics/grant-programmes/qa-subsidy-framework-contributing-to-peaceful-and-safe-societies-2024-2031>.

10. Assessment procedure

10.1 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.

¹⁶ E.g., 'email 1 of 5', 'email 2 of 5', etc.

¹⁷ However, if this option is preferred by the applicant, applications can be submitted by registered post to the following address: DSH Secretariat, stating 'Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031', Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Postbus 20061, 2500 EB Den Haag, The Netherlands. If an application is sent by standard post instead of registered post, the risk of it being received late or not at all is borne entirely by the applicant. 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 11:59 CEST on December 18, 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.

The applicant and all activities for which grant funding is sought must first satisfy all the threshold criteria listed in Section 10.2 **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, only applicants that satisfy all threshold criteria are invited by the Ministry to submit an Organisational Risk and Integrity Assessment (ORIA), an ORIA update form, or an ORIA light form. The invitation will explain which organisation is required to provide what information. **If the ORIA is not submitted on time and/or the 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 substantive assessment criteria (see Section 10.3). To qualify for a grant, an application must in any case be of sufficient quality. Ultimately, applications will be selected as per the allocation system laid down in Section 6.

10.2 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 requirements to be able to qualify for funding.

10.2.1 Threshold criteria concerning the applicant

- D1. The applicant is an internationally operating civil society organisation (CSO/NGO), in the sense that it conducts activities in multiple countries.
- D2. The applicant submits the application as an independent applicant, not on behalf of an alliance.
- D3. At least 60% of the applicant's average annual expenditures in the period 2020-2022 are related to the policy themes central to this grant programme: security for persons and communities, and/or peacebuilding and conflict mediation.
- D4. The applicant has a proven track record of at least ten years (in any case the 2013-2022 period) in implementing activities (including policy influencing) relevant to the policy theme for which the applicant is requesting funding (security for persons and communities, or peacebuilding and conflict mediation) in fragile and conflict-affected states (including SRoL focus countries).
- D5. In the 2020-2022 period, an average of at least 25% of the applicant's total annual income came from sources other than direct grants and/or contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including embassies).
- D6. 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.¹⁸

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 of Foreign Affairs' corporate rates (see Appendix 2 to this grant policy framework) 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 the following amounts per calendar year, as from the start of the period for which the grant is being requested:¹⁹

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, as from the start of the period for which the grant is being requested, not exceed the maximum annual remuneration for the country in question, as outlined in Appendix 3 to this grant policy framework.²⁰

- D7. The applicant has not previously submitted an application under the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies 2024-2031* grant programme.

10.2.2 Threshold criteria for the activities for which grant funding is requested

- D8. The activities for which grant funding is requested explicitly target one of the following two SRoL policy themes: either security for persons and communities, or peacebuilding and conflict mediation.
- D9. a) The activities for which grant funding is requested consist of two components: (i) evidence-based policy influencing, and (ii) country-level adaptive, locally-led programming; b) these components will be connected by integrating a *learning loop*.
- D10. The requested grant amount is:
- a) No less than €10,000,000
 - b) No more than €25,000,000
- D11. The activities for which grant funding is requested have a minimum duration of 91 months and a maximum duration of 96 months.
- D12. The activities for which grant funding is requested must commence no earlier than 1 January 2024, and no later than 1 June 2024, and must be completed by 31 December 2031.
- D13. The budget has been allocated to the components of activities listed in threshold criterion D9 as follows:
- a) No less than 25% and no more than 40% of the requested grant funding has been

¹⁸ For technical details on this criterion (such as tenure and the constituent components of the amount), see D.6 in the application form.

¹⁹ For technical details on this criterion (such as tenure and constituent component 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).

²⁰ For technical details on this criterion (such as tenure and constituent components of the amount), see D.6 in the application form.

earmarked for evidence-based policy influencing (including the necessary capacity-building activities both within the applicant's own organisation and among the applicant's partners).

- b) No less than 60% and no more than 75% of the requested grant funding has been earmarked for country-level adaptive, locally led programming (including the necessary institutional capacity building among local partners).
- D14. The proposed local, national and regional policy influencing activities target the SRoL focus countries: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (Eastern Congo), Iraq, Yemen, Mali, Niger, Uganda, Palestinian Territories, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, and South Sudan.
- D15. Country-level adaptive, locally led programming should take place in no fewer than two and no more than four of the SRoL focus countries listed in D14. The maximum of four SRoL focus countries does not apply to applications that focus entirely (i.e., 100% of the requested grant funding) on the area of *conflict mediation* under the peacebuilding and conflict mediation policy theme.
- D16. The country-level adaptive, locally led programming builds on the applicant's existing programming and networks in the proposed SRoL focus countries.
- D17. The application does 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 budget.

10.3 Substantive criteria

Applications that satisfy the threshold criteria will be assessed for quality. The following outlines the criteria by which this assessment will be made, based on the documents to be submitted with the application as described in Chapter 8 (showcases, programme proposal, vision documents, risk analysis and risk strategy, and budget).

- Q1. The extent to which the strategic long-term programme objective follows logically from the problem analysis and problem statement.
- Q2. a) The extent to which the strategic long-term programme objective has been operationalised into sustainable qualitative and/or quantitative outcomes (with corresponding success criteria and/or indicators), including underlying assumptions and risks; b) the extent to which these outcomes are relevant to the programme's ToC and realistic within the programme's duration and sphere of influence.
- Q3. The extent to which the proposed Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) strategy, including the presented methodologies and division of labour, will enable the applicant to monitor progress and make adjustments to resources, activities, outcomes and underlying assumptions.
- Q4. The extent to which proposed activities are aligned with (a) the operational context in which they take place, with consideration of the political-economic and psychosocial dimensions and dynamics, and (b) broader national and international development strategies and programmes.
- Q5. a) The extent to which the proposed programme is conflict-sensitive in its design and proposed methods of implementation; and b) the extent to which the applicant convincingly substantiates this in the showcases and vision documents.
- Q6. a) The extent to which the proposed programme is inclusive in its design and proposed methods of implementation, with particular consideration of (i) how local communities will be involved in the activities, and (ii) the situation and position of women and young people in society; and b) the extent to which the applicant convincingly substantiates this in the showcases and vision documents.
- Q7. a) The extent to which the applicant will establish partnerships on equal footing with local

organisations as part of the proposed programme, as evidenced by (i) the ownership and control of local actors in the development, decision-making and implementation of activities; (ii) the existence of a reciprocal accountability mechanism; and (iii) the degree of risk sharing, including how the applicant intends to further reinforce and develop risk sharing; and b) the extent to which the applicant convincingly substantiates this in the showcases and vision documents.

- Q8. a) The extent to which the proposed programme will put into practice a learning loop between local, national, regional and international policy influencing on the one hand, and adaptive, locally led programming on the other, including how the applicant intends to reinforce and develop this loop; and b) the extent to which the applicant convincingly substantiates this in the showcases and vision documents.
- Q9. a) The extent to which the applicant will effectively influence the agenda-setting and/or outcome of policy processes (at the local, national, regional and/or international level) relevant to the chosen policy theme (security for persons and communities, *or* peacebuilding and conflict mediation); and b) the extent to which the applicant convincingly substantiates this in the showcases and vision documents.
- Q10. a) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that the institutional working method in fragile and conflict-affected states will contribute to achieving outcomes relevant to the chosen policy theme (security for persons and communities, *or* peacebuilding and conflict mediation), including how the applicant intends to further strengthen and develop this; and b) the extent to which the applicant convincingly substantiates this in the showcases and vision documents.
- Q11. The extent to which a) the risks to the proposed intervention strategies have been identified; b) the risks are managed with adequate risk mitigation measures appropriate to an adaptive, locally led development approach; c) the applicant has realistically analysed risk mitigation options; and d) risks are mitigated given the planned operational contexts.
- Q12. The extent to which the required funds - as outlined in the budget - are proportional to the activities to be carried out and the outcomes to be achieved.

11. Timeline

Grants will be awarded no later than 1 May 2024. Specifically, this means the following:

Application window	From the date on which this Order enters into force	Until 21 December 2023, 11:59 am CET
Decision on grant applications submitted before the deadline	No later than 1 May 2024	

12. Grant obligations and disbursement

12.1 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 or to fulfil its reporting obligations, including the submission of interim and final narrative and financial reports in IATI. The following obligations will also be included:

- Conducting a baseline study in accordance with [IOB quality criteria](#), which outline the reference values for the quantitative and qualitative outcome indicators that will be used;
- Conducting an external mid-term evaluation (in 2028) and an external final evaluation (in 2031) in accordance with the [IOB quality criteria](#).

12.2 Grant disbursement

The grant will be paid in advance in annual instalments, following annual updates of the applicant's liquidity forecast, up to a maximum of 95% of the total grant amount.

Any funds remaining after the grant programme has come to an end shall be returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including those funds that have already been disbursed. An obligation to this effect will also be included in the grant award decision.

12.3 MFA Learning partner

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will contract a learning partner beyond the scope of this grant framework to support the Ministry in its own monitoring, evaluation and learning objectives for this grant programme.²¹ The Ministry's MEL objectives will focus on learning at the grant programme level by drawing lessons from each of the programmes awarded funding as implemented by the selected organisations.

The learning partner is expected to harness the insights gained from the MEL efforts conducted as part of the programmes that are awarded grants. The learning partner shall therefore establish and facilitate a regular series of learning events that will focus on bringing the selected organisations together to jointly exchange insights and experiences. The Ministry would greatly appreciate it if selected organisations were to participate in these events. Applicants that wish to participate may reserve a fixed budget of € 30,000 per year to cover the costs of this participation.

The learning partner will use the first six to nine months of 2024 to (i) identify learning questions encompassing the entire grant programme in consultation with the Ministry and the selected organisations; (ii) develop a concrete plan for operationalising these questions and organising a series of learning events; (iii) coordinate with the selected organisations and determine which of their indicators align with the indicators in the Ministry's SRoL results framework; and (iv) to identify which indicators within the Ministry's SRoL results framework can be monitored to help answer the Ministry's learning questions.

In addition, the learning partner is expected to conduct a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation of the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme as a whole, as well as other necessary MEL initiatives relevant to the Ministry.

13. Administrative burden

The administrative burden of implementing this grant policy framework is €3,858,000 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 €3.850,000 represents 1.8% of the total grant budget. This figure is based on the estimate that no more than 50 organisations will be interested in the grant policy framework and will submit an application that 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 of Foreign Affairs thus aims to minimise the administrative burden for applicants.

²¹ This contract will be publicly tendered through [Rijksinkoop samenwerking](#). Organisations bidding for the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme are excluded from the tender for the Ministry's learning partner, given that the learning partner is expected to conduct a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation of the *Contributing to Peaceful and Safe Societies* grant programme as a whole.

14. Appendices

1. Application form
2. Corporate rates 2023
3. Maximum Remuneration 'other countries'
4. Mandatory formats
 - i. Track record
 - ii. Showcases
 - iii. Programme proposal
 - iv. Vision documents
 - v. Risk analysis and risk strategy
 - vi. Budget, divided into a budget model and accompanying activity budget in Excel-format