



Date 8 April 2020
Re Flexibility within grants following COVID-19 pandemic

Dear partners,

I hope that this letter finds you in good health. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens the welfare and prosperity of us all. The government has therefore introduced extensive measures to control the spread of the virus in the Netherlands and protect the health of its people. In order to limit the economic impact of these measures, the government has also presented an emergency package for jobs and the economy.

At this time, we must continue to look beyond our own borders; it is both our moral duty and a matter of enlightened self-interest. As noted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the world is only as strong as our weakest health system. More and more developing countries are being affected by COVID-19 and its economic impact. These countries not only have to contend with weak healthcare systems, but also for example malnutrition and inadequate sanitation.

Last week I made available a €100 million emergency package for these countries, focusing on humanitarian aid, preventive measures and socioeconomic resilience. The package will be implemented primarily by multilateral organisations like the United Nations, the World Bank and the IMF, but also in part by Dutch civil society organisations in the humanitarian sector.

Alongside this package, I want to enable civil society organisations to continue playing an important role in combating this crisis. I have therefore decided exceptionally to open a new grant scheme to applications as of 8 April 2020. An accelerated and streamlined procedure will enable current grant recipients to redirect grant funding quickly and flexibly to COVID-19-related activities (with a minimum budget of €1 million). To this end you will receive a separate application form and Q&As on relevant questions.

Our reference
Min-Buza.2020.5311-10

At this difficult moment the world needs organisations like yours, with unique expertise and deep roots in society, more than ever. Let us continue together to build a strong and resilient civil society through our partnerships such as Power of Voices, and our collective response to this disruptive pandemic.



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of the Kingdom of the Netherlands