

Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 14 October 2021 no. MIN-BuZa-2021-9101-13, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (DIETS programme)

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation;  
Having regard to articles 6 and 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree;  
Having regard to article 5.1 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006;  
Orders:

#### Article 1

1. The administrative rules appended as an annexe to this Order apply to grants awarded on the basis of article 5.1 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 within the framework of the DIETS programme ('Driving nutrition Impact through implementing national policies'), from the date on which this Order enters into force up to and including 30 June 2022.

2. A grant ceiling of €60 million applies during the period referred to in paragraph 1, on condition that sufficient funds are made available by the budget legislator.

#### Article 2

For efficiency reasons, a grant will only be awarded to one applicant. The application that best meets the criteria set out in the administrative rules referred to in article 1, paragraph 1 will be eligible for a grant.

#### Article 3

Applications for the DIETS programme grant may be submitted from 9.00 CET on the day this order enters into force until 17.00 CET on 31 January 2022, using the application form stipulated by the Minister and accompanied by the documents stipulated in the form.<sup>1</sup>

#### Article 4

This Order enters into force on the day after the date of the Government Gazette in which it appears and lapses with effect from 1 May 2022, with the proviso that it continues to apply to the grant awarded prior to that date.

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

K. van der Heijden  
Director-General for International Cooperation  
For the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

---

<sup>1</sup> The application form can be downloaded from [Subsidie DIETS programma | Publicatie | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) and [Subsidy DIETS programme | Publication | Government.nl](#)

<sup>2</sup> Appendices can be found on [Subsidie DIETS programma | Publicatie | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) and [Subsidy DIETS programme | Publication | Government.nl](#)

## Grant policy framework for the DIETS programme (Driving nutrition Impact through impleMenting naTional policieS)

### 1. Policy background

This grant policy framework provides guidance for the assessment of grant applications under the DIETS programme. The policy document on foreign trade and development cooperation ‘Investing in Global Prospects’ (Parliamentary Papers 34952-1, 18 May 2018),<sup>3</sup> states that the Netherlands will invest in stability and poverty reduction by, among other things, helping to combat hunger and malnutrition as part of its efforts to achieve SDG 2. The Netherlands aims to permanently lift at least 32 million people out of malnutrition by 2030, with a particular focus on children and on women of reproductive age.

The Netherlands’ efforts to this end are further elaborated in the letter to parliament on food security of 6 June 2019 (‘Towards a World Without Hunger in 2030: The Dutch Contribution’; Parliamentary Papers 33625-2803).<sup>4</sup> More specifically, this letter to parliament discusses the causes of malnutrition and the great social and economic importance of combating it. It addresses the quality and affordability of food as well as food safety. In line with the recommendations made by the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB) in its policy review on food security,<sup>5</sup> the Netherlands seeks to greatly enhance food security, with a particular focus on malnourished children and their mothers.

In recent years, Dutch efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition have made significant progress in reaching large numbers of people through direct nutrition interventions.<sup>6</sup> However, the number of malnourished people who are actually eating healthier diets and/or have become more resilient to food price and/or climate shocks is considerably lower, and results achieved at outcome level are considered off-track.<sup>7</sup> It has therefore been decided to place substantially greater emphasis in the coming years on supporting transitions which will greatly improve access to and consumption of affordable, healthy diets among as many malnourished people as possible, and in relation to this, enhance these people’s resilience to amongst others food price and climate shocks.

To this end, in line with the IOB recommendations, the Netherlands aims to align its efforts as closely as possible with existing policies in the countries concerned, and with the implementation of nutrition-related interventions in a limited number of countries. These are countries where, on the one hand, malnutrition is a major problem and, on the other hand, the conditions for change are relatively favourable. The countries being considered for the programme are Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique. Concretely, this means that the Netherlands particularly aims to improve at scale the food environment for malnourished people in stable partner countries whose governments recognise the importance of private sector development and good governance, and where the Netherlands is already actively helping to promote food security.

In the next five years, the Netherlands aims to reach the goal outlined above for 10 million people by pursuing two strategies within its nutrition portfolio: (1) strengthening current market-oriented efforts focused on food value chains in a way that leads to year-round access to and consumption of healthy diets by millions of ‘bottom of the pyramid’ consumers,<sup>8</sup> and (2) strengthening the implementation of existing national, nutrition-related policies so that, in particular, millions of children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition can consume a healthy diet year-round. This call for grant proposals makes funds available for activities focused on strategy 2: strengthening existing nutrition-related policies.

As strategy 2 covers a particularly wide range of contexts and policy areas – including social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, healthcare, the environment and energy – the Netherlands has

---

<sup>3</sup> [Investing in Global Prospects \(Policy document, 2018\) | Government.nl.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Letter to parliament: ‘Towards a World Without Hunger in 2030: The Dutch Contribution’ | Parliamentary Papers | Government.nl.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Policy review: Dutch food security policy – Food for thought | Report | Policy and Operations Evaluation Department \(IOB\) \(iob-evaluatie.nl\).](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Home | Dutch Development Cooperation.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.nlontwikkelingssamenwerking.nl/en/home#/themes/food-security.](https://www.nlontwikkelingssamenwerking.nl/en/home#/themes/food-security)

<sup>8</sup> The ‘bottom of the pyramid’ is the largest and poorest socioeconomic group. In global terms, it comprises the nearly 3 billion people who live on less than \$2.50 a day.

decided to use this call for grant proposals to select a consortium that can contribute to the implementation of this specific component of its nutrition portfolio. The title of the programme developed for this purpose is 'Driving nutrition Impact through implementing national policies' (DIETS programme).

On the basis of the applications submitted in response to this call for grant proposals, a lead party will be selected for a consortium which, on the basis of an approved grant application, will use the grant to implement the DIETS programme. Grant applications must satisfy specific conditions, set out in this grant policy framework, which derive from the Dutch policy parameters and objectives set out above and the social, economic and political situation in Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique. An English translation of the grant policy framework is available online.<sup>9</sup>

## **2. Scope of the DIETS programme**

### **2.1 Objective and problem definition**

The activities for which grant funds are made available under the DIETS programme grant policy framework must be based on a theory of change (ToC)<sup>10</sup> developed by the consortium partners (lead party and co-applicants) that is focused on the DIETS programme's general objective: strengthening existing national nutrition-related policies. The activities should tackle problems relating to livelihood and behaviour among, in particular, children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition so as to achieve, on a large scale, a significant increase in these children's and women's access to and consumption of healthy, affordable diets, and greater resilience to price and climate shocks. In this, it should be noted that whereas the definition of malnutrition includes three conditions – i.e. undernutrition, micronutrient-related malnutrition, and overweight – the DIETS programme focuses on undernutrition and micronutrient-related malnutrition.

The main problems related to this general objective, on which activities must explicitly focus in order to be eligible for the DIETS programme grant are the following:

- 1) National policies that should in principle help improve the livelihoods situation and nutritional behaviour of the target group are often not effective enough, especially at household level, in improving the nutritional status of, in particular, children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition.
- 2) Public-private partnerships between government bodies and private service providers are often far from effective or efficient in implementing nutrition-related national policies. As a result, efforts in the areas of social protection, WASH, education, healthcare, the environment and energy have too little impact on improving access to and consumption of healthy diets, particularly by children and by women of reproductive age.
- 3) The target group's current livelihood and food environment make it difficult for them to consume healthy diets year-round. A balanced diet is often insufficiently available and affordable locally. Moreover, women in particular tend to lack sufficient resources and/or knowledge to grow and process nutritious crops, and for various reasons a sufficiently varied diet is not always available to individual household members.
- 4) Members of households struggling with malnutrition are often unaware of what a healthy diet consists of, and their dietary habits tend to be heavily influenced by cultural norms and taboos. Inequality in terms of knowledge, access and decision-making authority (which especially affects women and girls) is common.

---

<sup>9</sup> See: [Subsidie DIETS programma | Publicatie | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) and [Subsidy DIETS programme | Publication | Government.nl](#)

<sup>10</sup> A ToC defines all the building blocks that, taken together, are required to reach a given long-term goal. It presents the underlying analysis, assumptions, preconditions and intended results – outputs, outcomes and impact – in a logical manner. The ToC serves as a basis for defining interventions at each step of the process, and makes clear what role each of the stakeholders plays. The change process is based on assumptions. The ToC indicates what outcome the chosen strategy leads to and how this contributes to the objectives that have been set.

To contribute as effectively and efficiently as possible to the general objective of the DIETS programme, the consortium needs to be capable of working closely with actors involved in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in each of the countries concerned. It is essential to strive in each country for maximum synergy with the first, complementary strategy set out in chapter 1, which is aimed in these same countries at strengthening the existing market-oriented efforts focused on food value chains. After all, this strategy, like the DIETS programme, is aimed at enhancing year-round access to and consumption of healthy diets among millions of vulnerable people.

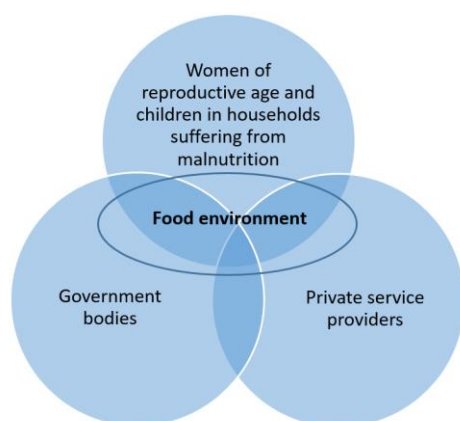
In view of the need to work closely with the actors implementing national nutrition-related policies and the target group in six different countries, the consortium will need to have an office and a nutrition-related network at its disposal in each programme country (Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique), either through a consortium member established in that country or in some other way. [

An analysis should be conducted in each country as to whether climate change will have an impact on the implementation of the proposed interventions, and whether those interventions will strengthen the target group's resilience to climate shocks in particular. Where expedient, this analysis should explicitly result in tangible activities within the country-specific intervention strategies.

## 2.2 Framework for the ToC

The ToC should indicate how the most directly related government bodies and private service providers and the target group itself can take coordinated action to help change the immediate food environment, to improve access to and consumption of healthy diets year-round for children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition. The proposed interventions in the activity plan, which must be submitted with the application together with the Theory of Change, should be country- and context-specific by definition, and should be implemented in a manner that is in keeping with the ToC. This means that decisions about which issues should and should not be tackled and why should be taken on a country-by-country basis. The applicant should also indicate the budget for each proposed intervention, and state with whom the consortium will collaborate.

The figure below delimits the stakeholder groups which are expected to be involved in bringing about the intended changes to the food environment.



In general, the following intended changes and corresponding assumptions may be appropriate for the distinguishable stakeholder groups:

### Government bodies

#### *Intended changes:*

- From implementation of national nutrition-related policy that is aimed exclusively at achieving sectoral priorities, to implementation of policy that is also aimed at promoting year-round consumption of healthy foods, particularly by children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition.

- From government predominance, to dialogues and partnerships with multiple stakeholders and implementers of nutrition-related national policy that makes a positive contribution to the target group's access to and consumption of healthy diets.

*Assumptions:* Sufficient political will is present in the programme countries; when compared to approaches that reinforce compartmentalisation, integrated approaches have added value in addressing behavioural and livelihood barriers in food environments which are relevant to the target group.

#### Private service providers (involved in implementing national nutrition-related policy)

##### *Intended changes:*

- From offering and providing private nutrition-related services which do not meet the target group's needs, to offering and providing private services which are accessible, affordable and desirable for households struggling with malnutrition.
- From private service providers operating independently, to private service providers which contribute to the development and implementation of integrated, effective and efficient national nutrition-related policy focused on the target group.

*Assumptions:* both government and the target group view private service providers as essential players in promoting year-round access to and consumption of healthy diets, particularly by children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition. The objectives of and readiness to implement policy among private service providers are in harmony with the benefits of healthy diets for society as a whole.

#### Target group

##### *Intended changes:*

- From uninformed or poorly informed household members (mostly women) struggling with malnutrition, to more fully informed women who are drivers of change and take autonomous decisions about access to and preparation and consumption of healthy foods for themselves and the other members of their household.

*Assumptions:* informed decisions lead to greater consumption of healthy foods; members of households struggling with malnutrition are willing to promote equality between men and women, and between generations.

#### Synergy:

##### *Intended changes:*

- From no synergy to maximum synergy, as positive changes within the stakeholder groups – private service providers, government bodies and the target group – mutually reinforce each other, resulting in a substantially improved food environment that enables, at scale, year-round access to and consumption of healthy diets, particularly by children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition.
- From no synergy to maximum synergy, due to mutually reinforcing improvements at scale in the implementation of nutrition-related national policy and market-oriented solutions, both aimed at a substantially improved food environment for households struggling with malnutrition.

*Assumptions:* The intended changes will have sufficient positive effects on the food environment, thus leading to substantially greater year-round access to and consumption of healthy diets, particularly for children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition; the actors involved have sufficient opportunities and political will to further strengthen the required internal and external coordination, where necessary.

## Pathways towards solutions

To bring about the changes described above – and tackle problems with the implementation of national nutrition-related policy – effective and efficient programming is required, linked particularly to the following, mutually connected pathways towards solutions.

### **The livelihood pathway: strengthening the implementation of policy aimed at improving livelihoods**

This pathway focuses, on the one hand, on strengthening the implementation of national policy aimed at enhancing the resilience of vulnerable households to price and other shocks and, on the other hand, on strengthening the implementation of national policy aimed at offering vulnerable people opportunities to structurally improve their livelihoods. In both cases, efforts to achieve lasting improvements in access to and consumption of healthy diets are extremely important to the target group's health, productive capacity and self-reliance. A particular focus on women is crucial because of their role in the household; greater knowledge on their part can lead to improved consumption of healthy foods in families. Examples of possible interventions include agricultural information campaigns on planting nutritious fruits and vegetables in the garden, strengthening the implementation of national policy on more energy-efficient food preparation, or improving hygiene in relation to drinking water.

### **The Social Protection pathway: strengthening the implementation of policy aimed at social protection/safety nets**

This pathway focuses on strengthening the implementation of national social protection policy (possibly through targeted distribution of resources (such as cash, vouchers and (school) feeding in kind) to structurally malnourished people) so that the target group can eat healthy diets year-round. Both governments and major companies invest in social safety nets of this type. In some cases resources are provided in advance without conditions (for example to people with a disability, or to older people who are poor and no longer able to work). In other cases they are provided as payment or as an additional transfer (in money or in kind) in return for work on building or maintaining labour-intensive public works, work in a factory or on a plantation, or enrolment in (adult) education. Although such policies are implemented in many countries, there is often room for improving the impact of these safety nets on the quality of people's diets. In addition to the opportunity to ensure that the implementation of policy on social protection contributes more explicitly to structurally raising the nutritional quality of vulnerable people's diets, there is also an opportunity when implementing this policy to help improve the resilience of vulnerable people to price and other shocks.<sup>11 12 13 14</sup>

### **The Essential Nutrition Services pathway: strengthening the implementation of policy aimed at specific measures to improve nutrition**

This pathway focuses on strengthening the implementation of policy that provides for information campaigns and the delivery of special nutritional products which improve people's nutritional status. Examples include campaigns promoting exclusive breastfeeding for infants during the first six months, as well as campaigns at school on healthy eating. It can also be expedient to strengthen the implementation of policy aimed at fortifying food with micronutrients or at measures to improve hygiene and deworming.<sup>15</sup> Strengthening policy to make special nutritional products available to (for example) pregnant women also falls within this pathway. In many

---

<sup>11</sup> WFP (2021), 'Fill the Nutrient Gap and Cash-Based Transfers', <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000123468/download/>; WFP (2021), 'WFP Evidence Summary: Cash-based Transfers: Lessons from Evaluations', <https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-evidence-summary-cash-based-transfers-lessons-evaluations>.

<sup>12</sup> FAO & WFP (2018), *Home-Grown School Feeding: Resource Framework*, <http://www.fao.org/3/ca0957en/CA0957EN.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 14.

<sup>14</sup> These products fill a nutrient gap caused by limited access to and limited affordability of a healthy balanced diet. Filling this nutrient gap is a medium- to long-term goal, directly linked to prevention of stunting during the first 1,000 days of life. The products are also convenient to prepare, as they require little cooking time. See: WFP, 'Specialised Nutritious Food', <https://www.wfp.org/specialized-nutritious-food>; Africa Improved Foods, <https://africaimprovedfoods.com/>; WHO (2020), 'Global Action Plan on Child Wasting', <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/global-action-plan-on-child-wasting-a-framework-for-action>.

<sup>15</sup> WHO (2019), *Essential Nutrition Actions: Mainstreaming Nutrition through the Life-course*, [9789241515856-eng.pdf \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/global-action-plan-on-child-wasting-a-framework-for-action).

countries interventions of this kind are integrated with community-level healthcare programmes and/or WASH programmes, which are often also aimed at enhancing knowledge, access and behaviour change.

### **The Empowerment pathway: strengthening the implementation of equal opportunities policy**

This pathway focuses on making key stakeholders more assertive and more influential. These are stakeholders that are well placed to strengthen the implementation of national nutrition-related policy, mainly through structural improvements benefiting, in particular, children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition. Examples of such stakeholders include youth organisations, women's movements, water users' associations, parents' associations and organisations representing producers, consumers and SMEs.

Through policy support aimed at more effective communication and negotiation with government authorities, lenders, insurance companies and others, these actions can help secure improved access to and promote consumption of healthy diets for the target group. Empowering women is crucial because they often directly determine what their children and other household members eat. Policy measures that help women and girls in particular to obtain better access to means of production such as land, knowledge and capital can thus be of vital importance in bringing about structural improvements in the nutritional status of vulnerable people.<sup>16</sup>

#### Approach

To ensure that these pathways have the greatest possible impact, effective cooperation is important in all cases with government authorities and other relevant actors (such as other donors, NGOs, multilateral organisations and knowledge institutions). These include the parties involved in the first strategy, which focuses on market-based solutions (see chapter 1), and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in the six programme countries. The consortium will often be required to promote coordination between the different actors. This will involve an active policy dialogue with government authorities (focusing where necessary on the formulation, reformulation, honing, planning, monitoring and evaluation of national policy), as well as the promotion of the most effective and efficient possible coordination between the responsible authorities and non-state actors.

### **2.3 Results and indicators**

The grant to be awarded under the DIETS programme is aimed at making a direct, measurable contribution to the following key objective of Dutch food security policy:

- End hunger and malnutrition (SDGs 2.1 and 2.2), with the Netherlands aiming for a lasting improvement in the nutritional status of 32 million people, especially children and women of reproductive age, over the period 2016-2030.

The programme will contribute indirectly, in a manner that is only approximately measurable, to the objective:

- A strengthened social contract between government and citizens, and increased stability.

The following indicators can be used to make the Dutch contribution clear at output and outcome levels:<sup>17</sup>

#### Output (annual results):

- A.x.1.1. Number of people (M/F/young people)<sup>18</sup> directly affected by measures improving nutrition.
- A.x.1.2. Number of people (M/F/young people) indirectly affected by measures improving nutrition.
- A.x.1.3. Number of people (M/F/young people) for whom fortified food has become available.
- 4.1 Number of reforms/improvements/changes in major<sup>19</sup> national or international policy documents/laws/schemes.

---

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council (2018), 'Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls', Commission on the Status of Women (62nd session), <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2018/3>.

<sup>17</sup> These are standard indicators from the BZ results framework for food security and gender, see Appendix 4. Grant applicants should explain in point K-V.1 of the application on which of these standard indicators their proposed programme will yield results. They may also add situation- and context-specific indicators of their own as they see fit.

<sup>18</sup> Disaggregated by sex (male/female) and age (older or younger than 35).

<sup>19</sup> At a minimum, tens of thousands of malnourished people must benefit from these changes.

- 5.2.2 Number of people (M/F/young people) with increased capacity (knowledge and skills) to promote women's rights and gender equality.

Outcome (change measured from baseline):

- A.1. Number of people (M/F/young people) with a more balanced, healthier diet (to be measured using one or more of the following internationally recognised methods: MAD,<sup>20</sup> MDD-W<sup>21</sup> or an alternative, well substantiated method that can be correlated to those).
- A.2. Number of people (M/F/young people) whose nutritional status has become more resilient to price shocks (to be measured using one or more of the following internationally recognised methods: HFIAS<sup>22</sup>, MHAFF<sup>23</sup> or FIES<sup>24</sup> or an alternative, well substantiated method that can be correlated to those).
- B.1.c Number of female small-scale food producers with an increased voice in decision-making (to be measured using the internationally recognised WEIA<sup>25</sup> methods or an alternative, well substantiated method that can be correlated to those).
- 3.3. Number of people (M/F/young people) with an improved attitude and improved practices with regard to women's economic rights and empowerment (to be measured using one or more of the following internationally recognised methods: WEI,<sup>26</sup> WEIA or an alternative, well substantiated method that can be correlated to those).

The interconnection between the different outcomes can be shown quantitatively, as the percentage of beneficiaries reached who profit simultaneously from several different effects, and qualitatively, by explaining the significance of these cumulative effects. These two measures can serve as a surrogate for the synergistic effects that can contribute to the necessary sustainable changes in the food environment of vulnerable people.

As indicators for the overall targets to be reached, the DIETS programme aims for the intended results (outcomes) to benefit at least 5 million children and women of reproductive age in 1.5 to 2 million households struggling with malnutrition. Besides establishing satisfactorily that this number of households will in fact consume healthier diets and become more resilient to price and other shocks as a result of the proposed interventions, applicants should also explain how they can validate the conclusion that the intended change in the target group's nutritional status will actually take place.

### **3. Award of the DIETS programme grant: an overview**

The Minister will provide €60,000,000 in grant funding under the DIETS programme for a period of no more than five years. These resources count as ODA.<sup>27</sup> For efficiency reasons, only one consortium (through its lead party) will be awarded a grant on the basis of this grant policy framework.

All applications received on time will be assessed according to the criteria laid down in this grant policy framework. An applicant must in any case satisfy all of the threshold criteria, and obtain sufficiently high scores on the qualitative criteria in order to be eligible for the grant. The consortium whose application best satisfies the criteria set out in this framework will qualify for the DIETS programme grant. The lead party of this consortium will receive a grant decision, specifying an obligation to submit a satisfactory monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan for the entire grant period within nine months of the commencement date, as well as additional details of the partnerships being entered into outside the consortium.

<sup>20</sup> <https://index.nutrition.tufts.edu/data4diets/indicator/minimum-acceptable-diet-mad>.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.fantaproject.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/minimum-dietary-diversity-women-indicator-mddw>.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.fantaproject.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/household-food-insecurity-access-scale-hfiass>.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.fantaproject.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/mahfp>.

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl354e.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> <http://weai.ifpri.info/2018/04/27/introducing-pro-weai-a-tool-for-measuring-womens-empowerment-in-agricultural-development-projects/>.

<sup>26</sup> [Women-Empowerment-Index-The-Hunger-Project-2017.pdf \(thehungerproject.nl\)](#).

<sup>27</sup> [Official development assistance – definition and coverage - OECD](#)



### 3.1 Who is eligible for a grant?

#### *Type of organisation*

- Dutch<sup>28</sup> and non-Dutch organisations with legal personality (including NGOs,<sup>29</sup> knowledge institutions and companies) and a solid track record in results-based advocacy and in strengthening nutrition-related national policies in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Only consortia, through a lead party that submits the application on the consortium's behalf, can apply for the DIETS programme grant. A consortium is a framework for cooperation between two or more organisations, as defined above, that have concluded a partnership agreement with a view to implementing the activities for which a grant is requested. All parties in the consortium actively contribute to the project's final objectives and deliver demonstrable added value, both individually and collectively, with regard to the selected themes or geographical coverage, for instance. If the application is approved, the lead party is the grant recipient and, as such, bears full responsibility towards the Minister for implementation of the proposed activities and compliance with the obligations in respect of the grant.
- An organisation may submit only one DIETS programme grant application as a lead party. Whether or not an organisation submits an application as lead party of a consortium, it may be a co-applicant<sup>30</sup> in up to two other applications submitted on behalf of other consortia by other organisations acting as lead party.  
If an organisation submits more than one application as a lead party, only the first application submitted will be considered. Any applications subsequently received will be rejected. The same rule will apply to a situation in which an organisation is a co-applicant for more than two applications submitted by other lead parties on behalf of a consortium.
- Local and other governments, intergovernmental organisations and organisations in which a public authority is the sole shareholder are not eligible for a grant, and therefore cannot be an applicant, lead party or co-applicant.

### 3.2 Duration of the activities

The implementation of the proposed activities will start no sooner than the date of the grant award and no later than 30 June 2022. The activities will end no later than 31 December 2026.

The grant will be prepaid in instalments on the basis of liquidity forecasts. In the spring of 2024 a mid-term review will be held in consultation with the grant provider, financed by the grant recipient, to determine what adjustments are needed, if any, for the successful implementation of the DIETS programme. The instalment prepaid for the last year of the grant period will not exceed 80% of the funds requested for that year. Reports to the Minister about the implementation of the grant project, the results achieved and the disbursement of the grant amount should continue up to and including December 2026. Narrative and financial final reports must be submitted after the grant period has ended so that the definitive grant amount can be determined. The final settling of accounts will take place after the definitive grant amount has been determined. The grant recipient must comply with the grant requirements and objectives for the entire grant period (2022–2026). The administrative rules laid down in this grant policy framework will apply throughout this period.

### 3.3 Allocation of the available funds

The allocation of the funds available for the DIETS programme will take place by means of a call for proposals. All applications submitted on time will be assessed and ranked according to the criteria set out in chapter 4, on the basis of the information received before the deadline for applications. To qualify for a grant a consortium

---

<sup>28</sup> 'Dutch' means: established in the Netherlands, subject to Dutch law and having its registered office in the Netherlands.

<sup>29</sup> 'NGO' means: 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.

<sup>30</sup> A co-applicant is a consortium partner other than the lead party.

must, first, meet all the threshold criteria set out in section 4.1. The applications that meet the threshold criteria will go on to a check of the qualitative criteria included in section 4.2 of this grant policy framework, and ranked on the basis of their scores on these criteria. To qualify for a grant under the DIETS programme, the application must in any case be of sufficient quality. The application that best meets the criteria will be awarded the grant.

### 3.4 Eligible costs

In calculating the costs eligible for a grant, the following principles apply:

- only costs are eligible that are necessary for the implementation of the proposed activities and that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to fund from their own resources or other sources;
- only costs are eligible that are incurred after receipt of the grant decision;
- costs of materials and depreciation costs on investments related to the implementation of the proposed activities are eligible;
- costs of third-party services for which an external party is contracted and which are invoiced in arrears are eligible;
- costs will be compared with local standards and assessed for reasonableness.

In all cases, the funds must to the greatest possible extent be used to achieve the envisaged changes that will benefit the target group. Indirect costs, as defined in the model budget, should be kept to a minimum and must in no case exceed 15%, calculated over the total of the direct and indirect costs. This maximum percentage applies to the total costs of all the consortium partners together for the implementation of subsidized activities, with the possible exception of the staff costs of knowledge institutions. These institutions may claim staff costs on the basis of a comprehensive costing system or of rates agreed with the national authorities. Under the Top Incomes (Standardisation) Act (WNT 2020), the gross hourly rate calculated in this way may not exceed €193.00. This rate consists of direct salary costs and a surcharge for indirect (non-project-specific) costs. If the rates passed on by a knowledge institution are based on a comprehensive costing system or on rates agreed with the national authorities, no additional indirect costs may be charged.

With reference to chapter 2 of appendix 2 (mandatory Budget Model), the following two examples illustrate the rules laid down above.

Example 1: allocation of direct and indirect costs in a consortium without a specific breakdown of costs for a knowledge institution. The notional percentage of indirect costs for the consortium in this case is 13%.

	<u>Direct costs</u>	<u>Indirect costs</u>	<u>Subtotal</u> <u>(direct + indirect)</u>	<u>Contingencies</u>
I	II	III	IV	V
Percentage of the total grant amount requested	87% (=100% - 13%)	13%	100% (=87% + 13%)	2,5% of subtotal (column IV)

Example 2: allocation of direct and indirect costs in a consortium *with* a specific breakdown of costs for a knowledge institution. The notional percentage of indirect costs for the consortium partners (except for the knowledge institution) in this case is the maximum allowed: 15%\* of the total. The percentage of the total grant amount requested to be allocated to the knowledge institution is 10%.\*\*

<u>Consortium partner(s)</u>	<u>Direct costs</u>	<u>Indirect costs</u>	<u>Subtotal</u> <u>(direct + indirect)</u>	<u>Contingencies</u>
I	II	III	IV	V
Percentage of the total grant amount requested to be allocated to the <b>knowledge institution</b>	10% <sup>a</sup>	0%*	10%	0%*

Percentage of the total grant amount requested to be allocated to the <b>other consortium partners</b>	76.5% <sup>e</sup> ( $= (100\%^e - 15\%^b) \times 90\%^c$ )	13.5% <sup>d</sup> ( $= 15\%^b \times 90\%^c$ )	90% <sup>c</sup>	2.5% of subtotal (Column IV)
<b>Total</b>	<b>86.5%</b>	<b>13.5%<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>100%<sup>e</sup></b>	2.5% of subtotal (Column IV)

\* Due to the all-in rate, these percentages are always zero.

The following costs are in any case not eligible for a grant:

- costs associated with developing, preparing or submitting the application, and other costs incurred before receipt of the grant decision;
- VAT;
- costs due to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations which are greater than 5% of the total eligible costs;
- costs of investment and depreciation unrelated to activities under the DIETS programme;
- costs of registering and maintaining intellectual property rights;
- the proportion of total indirect costs that exceeds the permitted maximum of 15% of the total grant amount requested (e.g. if the total indirect costs amount to 20%, the last 5% are considered ineligible);
- the proportion of the hourly rate charged by a knowledge institution that exceeds the WNT norm.

These principles should be applied to the budget submitted with the application.

The grant is to be used to implement activities in or aimed at Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique which help achieve the goals set out in this grant policy framework (see chapter 2). In principle, at least 10% of the total grant amount requested is to be disbursed in any one target country. No more than 10% of the total grant amount requested may be spent on transnational activities (such as promoting knowledge sharing among the six programme countries, knowledge sharing by actors in the six programme countries with counterparts in other relevant countries, etc.).

### 3.5 Requirements for the grant application

Grant applications must be submitted using the form stipulated by the Minister and accompanied by the documents stipulated in the form.<sup>31</sup>

Applications must in any case be accompanied by a ToC (see chapter 2), an activity plan for the first 12 months, an outline of an activity plan for the rest of the grant period, a budget in line with the mandatory model budget, a liquidity forecast and an overview (set out in a partnership agreement as referred to under criterion D.2) of the division of roles and tasks within the consortium.

Both the activity plan for the first 12 months and the outline of the activity plan for the rest of the grant period must contain an overview of the nature, scale and phasing of the activities and the relationship between them in terms of objectives and results envisaged and the effects expected in the period for which a grant is requested. Where possible, the objectives, results and effects must be expressed in measurable terms.

The budget for the first 12 months of the grant period must be drawn up in accordance with the model budget stipulated and mandated by the Minister (appendix 2 to this grant policy framework), and must specify the expected revenues, including contributions from third parties, and expenditures relating to the proposed

<sup>31</sup>See: [Subsidie DIETS programma | Publicatie | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) and [Subsidy DIETS programme | Publication | Government.nl](#)

activities for the period for which the grant is requested, accompanied by explanatory notes for each budget item.

The liquidity forecast must be linked to the activity plan and the budget, and contain estimates of the funds required for periods of no more than 12 months.

### **3.6 Assessment procedure**

The consortium, the consortium partners and the activities for which a grant is requested must first of all pass the threshold check. This means applications must satisfy all of the threshold criteria set out in section 4.1 of this grant policy framework.

Applications that satisfy the threshold criteria will then be assessed and ranked on the basis of qualitative criteria (see section 4.2). The better an application satisfies these criteria, the higher its scores and its ranking. A definitive selection will be made on the basis of the outcome of this ranking. To be eligible for a grant under the DIETS programme, the application must in any case be of sufficient quality (see explanation section 4.2). The application that best meets the qualitative criteria, will be the only one selected.

Before the grant is awarded, a check will be done on organisational capacity and integrity policy.

Under article 4, paragraph 1 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree, 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.

The lead party must also demonstrate that it and all co-applicants have adopted an integrity policy and that it and they have or have introduced procedures to apply that policy. This integrity policy and these procedures should serve to prevent as far as possible any sexual misconduct and other serious forms of inappropriate behaviour towards employees and other individuals during the implementation of the proposed activities by the lead party, its co-applicants 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.

Organisational capacity and integrity policy are only checked for the consortium whose application has passed the threshold check and has a sufficiently high score on the qualitative criteria to make it eligible for the grant. The lead party of this consortium will be invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to demonstrate within a prescribed time limit that it has sufficient organisational capacity and that all the consortium partners have an adequate integrity policy. If these checks result in a positive assessment, the consortium's application will be eligible for the grant. Otherwise the application will be rejected. Applications will also be rejected if any additional information requested for assessing organisational capacity and/or integrity policy is not provided or not provided on time.

Therefore, the information required for the check of organisational capacity and integrity does not need to be submitted immediately together with the application. To allow a final decision to be reached in good time, applicants will only be given short notice to demonstrate that their organisational capacity and integrity policy are satisfactory: 10 working days at most. The introduction to the application form explains what documents must be submitted for these two checks.

A decision on the applications will be taken on **30 June 2022** at the latest.

## **4. Assessment criteria**

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 the DIETS programme 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.

#### **4.1 Threshold criteria**

First, all applications received on time will be subjected to a check of the threshold criteria. Applications must meet all of the threshold criteria or be rejected.

##### **D.1 Type of organisation**

- a. Applications must be submitted by a lead party on behalf of a consortium.
- b. The consortium lead party and all of the co-applicants must be Dutch and/or non-Dutch organisations which possess legal personality under civil law, whose objectives as set out in their constitution are in line with the objectives set out in this grant policy framework on the basis of which a DIETS programme grant can be awarded.
- c. All parties in the consortium (lead party and co-applicants) deliver demonstrable added value, both individually and collectively, with regard to, for instance, the selected themes or geographical coverage.

A consortium is a framework for cooperation between two or more organisations, as defined above, that have concluded a partnership agreement with a view to implementing the activities for which a grant is requested. All parties in the consortium must make an active contribution to the activities' final objectives.

##### **D.2 Requirements for partnerships**

The application must include a partnership agreement, signed by all the consortium partners, which has been concluded with a view to implementing the activities for which a DIETS programme grant is requested. As a minimum, the agreement must include undertakings on how:

- i. each of the consortium partners will contribute to the consortium's activities;
- ii. decisions are made within the consortium;
- iii. costs and risks are shared among the consortium partners;
- iv. the partnership will ensure that it fulfils its obligations towards the Minister in respect of the grant, including responsibility for the joint aggregated reports (including IATI-compliant reports);
- v. the lead party will fulfil its responsibility<sup>32</sup> for the implementation of the activities for which the grant is requested.
- vi. the consortium partners will keep each other informed about, in particular, their financial health;
- vii. the partnership can be adapted;
- viii. each of the consortium partners will monitor and evaluate progress on the activities for which the grant has been received.

##### **D.3 Expertise, based on experience, on strengthening the implementation of nutrition-related national policy in sub-Saharan Africa**

The lead party has or the consortium partners collectively have at least 36 months' experience<sup>33</sup> with implementing at least three projects aimed at strengthening the implementation of nutrition-related national policy in sub-Saharan Africa (with 1 January 2022 as the reference date).

##### **D.4 Local presence in the programme countries**

---

<sup>32</sup> Under the terms of the grant award, the grant recipient (the lead party) must take responsibility for the implementation of the project as a whole for which the grant is awarded, including project activities implemented by the consortium partners or other local partners.

<sup>33</sup> In demonstrating and assessing this experience, the lead party and the consortium partners together may also refer to experience gained by members of their staff in a previous job with another organisation.

The consortium must have an office and a suitable network at its disposal, through a consortium partner based there or otherwise, in each of the following countries: Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

#### **D.5 Maximum number of applications per organisation**

A party in a consortium for which an application is submitted may be:

- the lead party of a consortium for only one application,<sup>34</sup> and
- a co-applicant<sup>35</sup> for up to two applications submitted on behalf a consortium by another organisation acting as lead party.

#### **D.6 Extent of the consortium's financial independence**

In the 2018-2020 period at least 25% of the total annual income of the lead party and co-applicants came from sources other than direct grants and/or contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including missions). This criterion applies to the consortium as a whole. Consequently, if one of the consortium partners derives less than 25% of its total annual income from sources other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs grants or contributions, this may be offset by another partner in the consortium.

#### **D.7 Financial capacity of the consortium**

In the financial years 2018-2020, nutrition-related expenditure by the consortium partners together amounted to at least €20 million a year.

#### **D.8 Maximum remuneration**

##### **D.8.A Lead party and co-applicants established in the Netherlands**

The remuneration of individual management and board members of the lead party and any co-applicants established in the Netherlands and which are legal persons or institutions as referred to in section 1.3 of the Standards for remunerations of senior officials in the public and semi-public sector (Standards for Remuneration) Act must, no later than the start of the period for which the grant is requested, comply with the maximum set by that Act.

##### **D.8.B Lead party and co-applicants established elsewhere**

From the start of the period for which a grant is requested, the maximum remuneration of individual managers and board members of a lead party and any co-applicants other than those referred to in criterion D.8.A must be in reasonable proportion to the seniority of their position and to the organisation's geographical location, size and complexity. Amounts in other currencies must be converted into euros using the Ministry corporate rates as at 1 January 2021.

#### **D.9 Grant amount requested**

The grant amount requested is €60,000,000.

#### **D.10 Duration of activities**

The activities must start no earlier than the date on which the grant decision is received and no later than 30 June 2022. The activities must be completed by 31 December 2026.

#### **D.11 Distribution of fund expenditure**

- a. The activities for which the grant is requested will be implemented in or for the benefit of Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique.
- b. At least 10% of the total grant amount requested must be spent in each of the countries referred to under D.11.a. No more than 10% of the total grant amount requested may be spent on activities that cannot be attributed to any separate country.

---

<sup>34</sup> A consortium partner that submits an application on the consortium's behalf.

<sup>35</sup> A co-applicant is a consortium partner other than the lead party.

## D.12 Thematic focus

The activities for which the grant is requested should be based on a Theory of Change developed by the lead party and co-applicants, with a focus on the general and specific objectives of the DIETS programme grant policy framework, namely:

1. the general objective of the nutrition portfolio: the elimination of hunger and malnutrition;
2. the specific objective of the DIETS programme grant policy framework: strengthening the implementation of existing national nutrition-related policies in a way that tackles problems relating to livelihoods and behaviour among, in particular, children and women of reproductive age in households struggling with malnutrition. The result should be a significant increase at scale in these children's and women's access to and consumption of healthy, affordable diets, and in their resilience to price and other shocks.

## D.13 Activities not eligible for funding

The activities for which grant funding is requested must not concern:

- initiatives aimed wholly or partly at proselytisation;
- for-profit activities;
- activities which already receive grant funding or a contribution directly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget;
- activities of a local civil society organisation which already receive a contribution indirectly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget;
- activities of organisations already receiving core funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget during the DIETS programme grant period.

## 4.2 Qualitative criteria

In the qualitative check, the quality of the application is assessed in two respects: the consortium and its track record, and the proposal. To be eligible for a grant, applications must in any case obtain 65% of the maximum attainable points on both parts of the qualitative check (the consortium and track record check, and the proposal check).

### ***4.2.1 Consortium and track record check: qualitative criteria concerning the consortium and its track record [max. 25 points]***

The criteria below are used to assess the consortium's organisational quality and its track record as a whole. The maximum number of points attainable for each quality criterion is given in brackets.

#### **K-A.1 Experience with and impact of previous projects aimed at strengthening the implementation of national nutrition-related policies in sub-Saharan Africa [max. 8 points]**

The extent of the lead party's and co-applicants' (past and present) experience<sup>36</sup> with and impact on fields related to the DIETS programme's objective, both individually or collectively. Impact must have been established after 1 January 2017, and achieved through projects aimed at influencing and strengthening the implementation of national nutrition-related policies in stable countries in sub-Saharan Africa, referred to in chapter 1.

#### **K-A.2 Effective mobilisation and advocacy [max. 4 points]**

The extent to which the lead party and co-applicants have or have had successful and relevant experience, both individually and collectively, after 1 January 2017 with mobilising demonstrably effective convening

---

<sup>36</sup> With regard to demonstrating and assessing the experience available, the lead party and co-applicants may include experiences of staff members of the organisations gained in service of another organisation other than the organisation where the staff member is employed at the time of submission.

power to sufficiently persuade government bodies responsible for nutrition-related policy (as referred to in criterion K-A.1) to develop and approve necessary changes/adjustments to policy implementation.

### **K-A.3 Networking with local implementing parties** [max. 8 points]

The extent to which the lead party and co-applicants have, both individually and collectively, networks at their disposal - including the multi-sector platforms and stakeholder networks supported by the SUN movement - and experience in working with local, nutrition-related private service providers and government bodies in the six countries where the activities will be implemented.

### **K-A.4 Learning, results-based management and reporting** [max. 5 points]

The extent to which the lead party and co-applicants attach importance to learning, judging by the experience of the past five years (since 1 January 2017) with results management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting, with regard to:

- using standardised outcome indicators based on a sound methodology;
- applying and contributing to national and international knowledge and innovation agendas;
- evaluations and publications at outcome level;
- IATI-compliant reporting.

### ***4.2.2 Proposal check Qualitative criteria regarding the ToC and activity plans, contextual analysis, local partnerships and synergy, cross-cutting features, and the project budget*** [max. 75 points]

#### **K-V.1 Quality of the ToC and activity plans**

**a.** The extent to which the ToC developed by the lead party and co-applicants for the DIETS programme will enable achievement of the objectives set out in this grant policy framework, both at programme level and for each country [max. 7 points];

**b.** The extent to which the envisaged changes as referred to in section 2.2 of this grant policy framework are prioritised, giving reasons, and elaborated for each country [max. 6 points];

**c.** The extent to which the pathways as referred to in section 2.2 of this grant policy framework are prioritised, giving reasons, and elaborated for each country [max. 6 points];

**d.** The extent to which the quantitative and qualitative outcome indicators used align with the indicators listed in this grant policy framework [max. 7 points]; and

**e.** The extent to which the MEL strategy proposed by the consortium demonstrates that the effects on diets and resilience forecast at individual and household level will actually be attributable to the envisaged interventions set out in the activity plans [max. 4 points].

[Total for (a) to (e): max. 30 points]

#### **K-V.2 Quality of the contextual analysis and the commitment to local partnerships and synergy**

**a.** The extent to which the institutional landscape of each country has been analysed and has determined the country-specific intervention strategies [max. 5 points];

**b.** the extent to which the proposals for each country build on the knowledge and experience gained from previous and current projects by organisations that are not consortium partners but are working in the same countries to achieve year-round improvements in the nutritional status of, in particular, children and women of reproductive age in households that are struggling with malnutrition [max. 5 points];



**c.** the extent to which local private service providers and/or government bodies in each country have exerted effective influence on the development and content of the activity plans and on the country-specific part of the budget [max. 4 points];

**d.** the extent to which the consortium will work in each country and at transnational level with the organisations involved in complementary, market-oriented programmes aimed at year-round access to and consumption of healthy diets by bottom-of-the-pyramid consumers (strategy 1 as set out in chapter 1 of this grant policy framework) [max. 4 points].

[Total for (a) to (d): max. 18 points]

### **K-V.3 Quality of the cross-cutting features**

**a.** The extent to which gender dimensions have been analysed and have determined the country-specific intervention strategies [max. 5 points];

**b.** the extent to which country-specific analyses have been done and conclusions reached as to whether climate change will have an impact on the implementation of the proposed interventions, and whether those interventions will strengthen resilience to climate shocks in particular [max. 4 points];

**c.** the extent to which the proposal ensures that the activities envisaged in each country will have lasting impact on the intended target groups [max. 3 points].

[Total for (a) to (c): max. 12 points]

### **K-V.4 Quality of the risk management system and budget.**

**a.** The extent to which the relevant contextual and programme risks have been described, analysed and addressed for each country and the whole of the project for which a grant is requested, through an adequate risk management system [max. 5 points]; and

**b.** the extent to which the proposal represents 'value for money' for each country, consisting of a combination of doing the right (effective) things economically and efficiently [max. 10 points].

[Total for (a) and (b): max. 15 points]

## **5. Reporting and other grant obligations**

The lead party will be accountable to the Minister for compliance with the obligations tied to the grant, which will be laid down in the grant decision and will in any case concern annual plans and reporting. Every year, an annual plan and accompanying budget for the forthcoming year must be submitted, including a statement of liquidity need. Among other things, reporting must be based on open data in accordance with the IATI standards that entered into force in 2016. The lead party and co-applicants will be expected to follow IATI developments and adapt their accountability procedures accordingly. For more information, please refer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publication 'How to use the IATI standard'.<sup>37</sup>

Organisations whose reporting is not yet IATI-compliant will be given the opportunity to remedy this. A deadline for compliance will be included in the grant decision.

Annual financial and narrative reporting should at a minimum comprise<sup>38</sup>:

- a financial annual report and audit opinion, including a report of findings (all in conformity with the audit protocol that will be included as an annexe to the grant decision);
- information about the geographic breakdown of grant funding;

---

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2021/07/29/how-to-use-the-iati-standard>.

<sup>38</sup> See chapter 2 of Annex 2: Budgetmodel

- a report on results achieved on a number of non-financial indicators to be specified in the grant decision.

## 6. Application procedure

Applications for a DIETS programme grant must be submitted using the model application form as stipulated by the Minister and accompanied by the documents stipulated in the form (appendix 1). The budget to be submitted with the application must be drawn up in accordance with the model budget in appendix 2 to these administrative rules.

Applications for a DIETS programme grant can be submitted from 9.00 CET on the day this order enters into force<sup>39</sup> to 17.00 CET on 31 January 2022. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be processed. The applicant bears sole responsibility for ensuring that the application is complete and submitted on time.

Applications should be complete and without reservations, signed by an officially authorised signatory (state name and position) on behalf of the applicant. It is not possible to submit a provisional application.

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 technical 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 was 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 her discretionary powers to request a supplement; this in connection with the time required to check all applications are complete. The application will then be assessed as it stands. This may lead to a lower ranking or even rejection of the application. If no supplement is requested it will not be possible to supplement a submitted application.

When filling in the form, it is not sufficient to refer for the sake of brevity to other parts of the application or annexes, unless the application form and model applications state that this is wholly or partly acceptable. If parts of the application, including annexes, are not completed and/or submitted, the application may be rejected.

Applications should be written in English.

Applicants should not include additional information (such as illustrative books, CD-ROMs, USB sticks or DVDs about their organisation) with their application, as these will not be taken into account when assessing the application.

The Ministry has a marked preference for applications to be submitted by email in PDF format to: [IGG@minbuza.nl](mailto:IGG@minbuza.nl) with ‘DIETS programme grant application’ 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. The maximum size of attachments submitted with an email is 10 MB. If the total size of the attachments to be submitted with an application is more than 10 MB, the application should be submitted in the form of multiple 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 submitted in the form of 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>40</sup>

Any technical issues relating to electronic submission are at the grant applicant’s own cost and risk.

<sup>39</sup> The day this order enters into force is one day after publication on [www.officielebekendmakingen.nl](http://www.officielebekendmakingen.nl)

<sup>40</sup> E.g. ‘email 1 of 5’, ‘email 2 of 5’, etc.

Submitting applications by post is not recommended.<sup>41</sup> If an applicant chooses nevertheless to submit an application by post or courier or in person, it should contact the Ministry well in advance of the submission deadline at the email address [IGG@minbuza.nl](mailto:IGG@minbuza.nl) with 'DIETS programme grant application' in the subject line.

Questions concerning this document or any other matters will only be accepted if they are sent to [IGG@minbuza.nl](mailto:IGG@minbuza.nl) no later than **15 January 2021**.

If necessary, questions will be aggregated, anonymised and published, with answers, at least once every two weeks beginning two weeks after publication of the grant policy framework and running until 26 January 2021, at [Subsidie DIETS programma | Publicatie | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) and [Subsidy DIETS programme | Publication | Government.nl](#)

## **7. Administrative burden**

The administrative burden associated with the implementation of this grant policy framework for the entire grant period is €308,000, which is 0.5% of the grant to be awarded. These are the costs of applying for the grant and implementing and reporting on the activities.

In drawing up this grant policy framework, a critical assessment has been done of whether the criteria and intended results have been clearly formulated for grant applicants. Attention has also been paid to ensuring clarity about the way in which project funding is supplied and about the associated requirements for reporting on spending of the corresponding grant. This should enable interested parties to determine whether they stand a reasonable chance of receiving a grant if they submit an application. The Ministry aims in this way to keep the administrative burden for grant applicants as low as possible.

## **8. Appendices**

All appendices can be found on: [Subsidie DIETS programma | Publicatie | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) and [Subsidy DIETS programme | Publication | Government.nl](#)

1. Application form
2. Mandatory model budget
3. 2021 corporate rates
4. MoFA results frameworks for food & nutrition security and gender

---

<sup>41</sup> If an application is sent by standard post instead of registered post, the sender bears the 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 no later than 17.00 CET on 31 January 2022. 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.