

Order of the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 2 September 2026, no. BZ2631286, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 in connection with additional earmarked funding for capacity strengthening of national mine action authorities in Syria (Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III (Top-Up II) 2025-2030)

The Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,

Having regard to articles 6, 7 and 10 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree,

Having regard to articles 2.5 and 2.6 (d) and (f) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006;

Orders:

Article 1

The administrative rules appended as an annexe to this Order apply to grants awarded under articles 2.5 and 2.6 (d) and (f) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 with a view to financing activities in the field of mine action in Syria (Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III (Top-Up II) 2025-2030).

Article 2

An overall ceiling of €3,000,000 applies to Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III (Top-Up II) 2025-2030 grants for capacity strengthening of national mine action authorities in Syria awarded from the date this Order enters into force up to and including 31 December 2030.

Article 3

1. Eligibility for grants under the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III (Top-Up II) 2025-2030 is limited to organisations that have been awarded grants under the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III 2025-2030.¹
2. The maximum grant amount available is €3,000,000.

Article 4

Applications for grants under the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III (Top-Up II) 2025-2030 may be submitted from the date that this Order enters into force until 23.59 CEST on 7 October 2026.

Article 5

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 January 2031, with the proviso that it continues to apply to grants awarded prior to that date.

Article 6

This Order is to be cited as the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III (Top-Up II) 2025-2030 Order.

¹ Government Gazette 2024, no. 42978.

This Order and its accompanying annexe will be published in the Government Gazette.

Pascalie Grotenhuis

Director-General for International Cooperation

For the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

ANNEXE

I. Background

The background and policy principles of the Netherlands' humanitarian mine action policy can be found in the grant policy framework accompanying the Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of 20 December 2024, no. BZ2410991, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III 2025-2030).²

II. Top-up grants under the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III 2025-2030

In recent years, the then Minister for Foreign Trade and Development allocated funding to activities focusing on mine action and the clearance of cluster munitions, with a view to promoting peace and security after the end of an armed conflict. Most recently, this funding was allocated through the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III 2025-2030 (MACM III). Under the approved Foreign Trade and Development Aid budget for 2026, an additional amount of EUR 25 million has been made available to promote stability and reconstruction in Syria. As part of this, funds have been made available for activities focused on capacity strengthening of national mine action authorities in Syria.

The grant policy framework for the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme III (Top-Up II) 2025-2030 ties in with the MACM III and is intended for additional activities focused on capacity strengthening of national mine action authorities in Syria. This additional grant is a departure from paragraph 4.3, note 2, and paragraph 11.2.2, D.11 (c) of the MACM III grant policy framework, according to which activities aimed at capacity strengthening of the national mine action authorities in Syria are not eligible for funding. Besides the General Administrative Law Act, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006, the criteria set out in these administrative rules apply to these top-up grant awards.

III. Organisations that are eligible for a grant

Top-up grants are available only to organisations that have a proven track record in the area of mine action and that have already been awarded an MACM III grant. The requirement set out in paragraph 4.2 of the MACM III grant policy framework that, for each country, the applicant must choose to focus on either mine action or capacity strengthening of the national mine action authorities still applies. Organisations that have already been awarded a grant for mine action activities in Syria are therefore not eligible for this top-up grant.

Eligible organisations may be awarded top-up grants to supplement their existing grants.

² Government Gazette 2024, no. 42978.

IV. Primary objective; eligible activities; geographical priorities and duration of activities

IV.1 Primary objective

The Minister will use the available resources under this grant policy framework to support the long-term objective of the MACM III: improving security of people by reducing the risks of explosive remnants of war and taking care of survivors' needs, thus contributing to stabilisation and enabling socio-economic development.

IV.2 Eligible activities

In the context of this grant programme, eligible operational activities must be focused on capacity strengthening of the national mine action authorities in Syria.

IV.3 Geographical priorities

Top-up grants are intended exclusively for activities in Syria, which complement existing activities in Syria for which the applicant has already received grant funding from other donors.

IV.4 Start date and duration of the activities

The activities for which a grant is requested must start no later than 1 December 2026 and have a duration of no more than 12 months.

V. Availability and allocation of resources

An overall ceiling of €3,000,000 applies to grants awarded under this grant policy framework.

VI. Threshold criteria

To be eligible for a top-up grant, applicants and activities for which a grant is requested must meet the following threshold criteria. **Applications that do not meet all of the threshold criteria will be rejected and will not be assessed further.**

- D.1** The application is submitted by an independent applicant.
- D.2** The applicant has already received an MACM III grant.
- D.3** The activities for which grant funding is sought will have a maximum duration of 12 months.
- D.4** The activities for which grant funding is sought will start no later than 1 December 2026.
- D.5** The application concerns activities focused on capacity strengthening of the national mine action authorities in Syria.
- D.6** The applicant has a proven track record in the period from 2025 to 2026 in capacity strengthening of the national mine action authorities in Syria.
- D.7** The applicant is not already carrying out activities in Syria focused on mine action that are funded under the MACM III grant policy framework, and will not carry out such activities for the duration of the grant period.
- D.8** The grant amount requested does not exceed €3,000,000.

VII. Application and assessment procedure

Applications for a top-up grant must be signed by an authorised signatory and received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by 23.59 CEST on 7 October 2026.

Applications must be submitted in English and an activity plan and budget for the grant period of 12 months must be appended to them.

Applications must be submitted by email to DSH-MACM-III@minbuza.nl. The Minister will decide on the submitted applications by 10 October 2026 at the latest. 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 incomplete application is submitted, the Minister may request a supplement. In this case, the date of receipt of the application will be deemed to be the date on which the application was supplemented. If the application is submitted less than two weeks before the deadline, the lead party runs the risk that, if it is incomplete, the Minister will not use their discretionary powers to request a supplement because it cannot be submitted before the deadline. In that case, the application will be assessed as it stands.