

The World Bank

Turkmenistan



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WORLD BANK IN TURKMENISTAN ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 2008

Ashgabat, December 17, 2007 — The World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan is pleased to announce launch of the Small Grants Program for Turkmen organizations.

The Small Grants Program (SmGP) was created in 1983 to provide a way for the World Bank to promote dialogue and dissemination of information about development in forums outside its own operations. Grants are provided to civil society organizations through participating World Bank Country Offices. World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan has been administering the Small Grants Program since 2003.

Any institution involved in development broadly defined may apply for a grant. However, the SmGP prefers to support nonprofit, nongovernmental, nonacademic organizations. The SmGP provides grants in the range of \$4,000 to \$7,000 each, but the grants rarely fund more than half of the proposed budget for an activity, and therefore grantees are encouraged to use the SmGP grants to leverage additional contributions from other sources. Applications are accepted in World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan located in Ashgabat, application deadline is **February 15, 2008**.

The Small Grants Program supports activities related to *civic engagement for the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups*. Activities should:

- Promote dialogue and dissemination of information; and
- Enhance partnerships with key players in support of the development process. Key players could include government agencies, civil society organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundation, and private sector.

In 2008 the SmGP will support projects focusing on engagement of women and youth in the development processes. Priority will be given to projects implemented in the rural areas.

Civic engagement is the process through which civil society organizations actively engage in relationships and actions with the state and other development actors to address issues of public concern. World Bank believes that socially active and empowered citizens facilitate ownership of development initiatives by a broader sector of society.

Additional information on the Small Grants Program and the application form can be found at <http://www.worldbank.org/tm> or obtained in the World Bank Liaison Office located in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.