

World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan

THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 2008

Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations

About the Program

The Small Grants Program (SmGP) was created by the World Bank in 1983 to provide a way for the Bank to promote dialogue and disseminate information about development in forums outside its own operations. Grants are provided to civil society organizations through participating World Bank Country Offices.

The Small Grants Program has developed a focus on engagement of marginalized and vulnerable groups of population in civic activities by means of promoting dialogue and disseminating information and knowledge, as well as strengthening partnerships with key participants of the development processes. *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*

Outcomes of Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement can...

- **Promote public consensus and local ownership** for reforms and for national poverty reduction and development strategies by creating knowledge-sharing networks, building common ground for understanding, encouraging public-private cooperation, and sometimes even diffusing tensions;
- **Give voice to the concerns of primary and secondary stakeholders**, particularly poor and marginalized populations, and help ensure that their views are factored into policy and program decisions;
- **Strengthen and leverage impact of development programs** by providing local knowledge, identifying potential risks, targeting assistance, and expanding reach, particularly at the community level;
- **Bring innovative ideas and solutions to development challenges** at both the local and global levels;
- **Improve public transparency and accountability** of development activities, contributing to the enabling environment for good governance.

Before You Apply

The World Bank Small Grants Program is able to fund only a very small percentage of the requests it receives. Many requests are declined, not because they lack merit, but because they do not match either the current objectives, or the criteria of the Small Grants Program as closely as the selected proposals. Your activity may fall within the objectives and criteria, but the demand far surpasses the availability of funds.

Before applying, please take time to read the Guidelines to determine if there is a match.

Additional information and application forms could be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.worldbank.org/tm> or the World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan.

Who Can Apply?

- Civil society organizations based in a developing country and working on issues of development can apply for a grant.
- Civil society organizations must be in good standing and have a record of achievement in the community and record of financial probity;
- Priority will be given to organizations not supported by the Program in previous years (organizations are not eligible for more than three grants from the Small Grants Program within a five-year period).

What Kind of Activities are Supported?

The Small Grants Program supports activities whose **primary objective is civic engagement**. *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.* In addition:

- Activities may include, but are not limited to workshops and seminars to enhance civic engagement skills and/or knowledge; appropriate communication campaigns to influence policymaking or public service delivery; or innovative networking efforts to build the capacity of the particular sector.
- The activity should be completed within one year of the date the grant is awarded.
- Priority shall be given to organizations that have not been supported by the Program in previous years.

What Kind of Activities are not Supported?

Small Grants can not fund:

- Research programs;
- formal academic training programs;
- operational projects, provision of basic services;
- ongoing institutional core support (such as equipment and salaries);
- scholarships, fellowships, study programs, individuals applying on their own behalf, or non-legal entities.

Proposed activities should not compete with or substitute for regular World Bank instruments; the activity should be clearly distinguishable from the Bank's regular programs.

What Size of Grants are Awarded?

In Turkmenistan the individual grant size will be 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.

How Proposals are Evaluated?

Before evaluation by the Selection Committee all proposals are screened for compliance with the criteria of the Program.

Criteria:

- **The project focuses on engagement of women and youth in the development processes;**
- the project promotes dialogue and dissemination of information;
- the project enhances 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;
- proponent is a legally-established non-governmental organization or a public foundation;
- the grant is for a specific activity to be completed within one year;
- the application form is submitted before the deadline.

Proposals which meet the above-listed criteria, are reviewed and evaluated by the Small Grants Selection Committee, convened in the World Bank Country Office and comprised of the World Bank staff, other donors and civil society representatives. During evaluation the Committee pays special attention to the following factors:

- Strategic nature and importance of the proposed activity for ***engagement of target population in civic activities, especially in rural areas***;
- technical feasibility of the initiative: goals vs. means and technical capacity of the proponent
- innovative nature of the initiative;
- urgency and social importance;
- engagement of different categories of population;
- creation of favorable legal environment.

How to Apply for a Grant?

The Small Grants Program is administered out of participating World Bank Country Offices. Not all Country Offices administer the Small Grants Program. Requests and proposals should not be sent to the World Bank Headquarters, as decisions are not made at the Headquarters.

Guidelines and application forms for applicants from Turkmenistan are available from the World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan. The Small Grants Program makes decisions only once a year. Applicants are advised to read the criteria and the application form carefully before submitting an application to the World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan.

The deadline for submitting applications in Turkmenistan is **February 15, 2008**. The review may take up to two months to complete. Given the very large number of requests, personal visits and phone calls to the World Bank Office by the grantees are not encouraged.

Grant Application forms should be submitted in Russian or English to the World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan at the following address:

World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan
40 Galkynysh str., 4th Floor, 744013 Ashgabat, Tel: 350477, Fax: 351693
Email: sdjepbarov@worldbank.org, osultanov@worldbank.org

Additional resources are available from the World Bank website, www.worldbank.org.

Examples of Activities Supported by the Small Grants Program

Project 1. The project will support active engagement of women living in the rural areas in social and economic life of the region and encourage the increase of the share of their participation in the local governments thru organization of the joint seminars and trainings on women leadership and women rights; The activities will provide women with access to information related to development of women's social activity in rural areas; The project activities will facilitate local initiatives by holding "Open House" events and round tables with women activists, local authorities and communities, international organizations and civil society organizations experienced in women leadership issues to share experience and to provide opportunity women living in rural areas for dialogue with stakeholders.

Project 2. This project is aimed at promotion of interests of disabled women. The grantee will conduct series of educational seminars for disabled women from rural areas to improve their understanding of the necessity to promote their interests by participating in the decision-making process, more specifically – the process of formation of local budgets; and to improve understanding by decision-makers of the special needs of this vulnerable group of the society.

Project 3. The project is aimed at forming gender equality through gender education in issues related to employment, by developing competitiveness and entrepreneurship skills of youth from vulnerable groups of the society. In the course of the project, activities, such as trainings for target groups, a business fair, printing of information bulletins, contests will be carried out.