

## Small-Scale Embassy Projects in Nigeria

### A Background and Rationale

Switzerland has long been active in international efforts to reduce poverty through various worldwide development schemes. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation ([SDC](#)) is Switzerland's main development assistance body and is active in several countries. In Nigeria, however, the SDC has no cooperation office, as Nigeria is not considered a low-income country. Nevertheless, the Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja offers an annual credit of up to 100'000 USD to support five to six small-scale projects per year in various fields. Experience has shown that even on a small scale, development assistance can have considerable effects.

### B Approach

The Small-Scale Embassy Projects in Nigeria are designed to assist local initiatives of groups or of organisations whose works contribute to the country's overall socio-economic progress. Dynamic actors of the civil society, especially women and minority representatives, are thus helped in their efforts to generate sustainable reforms and overall improvement of living conditions in the country.

### C Eligibility Criteria for Small-Scale Project Grants

In the selection process of projects that will receive support, the Embassy adheres to the following guiding principles:

- **Registration:** The organization should be registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- **Self-help:** The Embassy supports local initiatives in the area of capacity building.
- **Sustainability:** It prioritises projects that promise long lasting effects even after their completion.
- **Innovation:** It encourages innovative and original initiatives.
- **Local needs:** It favours projects that particularly meet the needs of the local population and reinforce existing structures.
- **Subsidiarity:** Applicants are expected to contribute to the project first; support from the Embassy only comes second.
- **Choice of target group and impact:** The project applicants need to clearly state who will be the beneficiaries of the project, what impact they intend to make and how they aim to reach their goals.
- **Organizational competence:** The project applicants need to have sufficient organizational competences in order to conduct the project by their own capacities.
- **Pertinence:** The project should be clear, comprehensible and consist of simple but effectual measures.
- **Timeframe:** The project should form a one-time intervention that is fully implemented by local organisations or agencies within one year.

Projects of the following kind are **NOT** supported in the framework of the Embassy's scheme:

- Profit-oriented enterprises
- Schemes with religious purposes
- Propositions that only and exclusively consist of material supply
- Projects that involve only a single person
- Scholarships or study grants
- Foreign consulting missions
- Charity events / Campaigns
- Projects that have been supported before

### D Previous Projects

Over the last years, the Embassy has supported five to six projects per year that aimed at capacity building/development in the fields of agriculture, education, gender, water and sanitation, healthcare, and alternative energies.

In 2020, Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) received the Embassy's support to promote the principles of transparency and accountability in the management of public resources in Edo State. With focus on corruption-migration nexus, ANEEJ undertook a research on public spending on human capital investment, and enhanced the capacity of CSOs to advocate for increase in public spending on human capital development in the bid to curtail irregular migration out of Edo State.

Through the Centre for Youth Integrated Development (CYID), the Embassy provided small and medium enterprises with competitive advantage strategies to increase revenue generation, promote business growth, and provide opportunities for job creation.

In partnership with Livebridge Charitable Foundation, the Embassy provided a healthcare centre, including a water supply system, in Awayi community of Nasarawa State to provide easy access to sustainable healthcare for Awayi and surrounding communities. With the outbreak of the global coronavirus pandemic, Livebridge Charitable Foundation also cascaded public health information on COVID-19 to these communities while providing them with personal protective equipment.

Furthermore, through the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria, the Embassy promoted the mitigation of gender-based violence through the training of community paralegals in the Federal Capital Territory. As a result, a training manual was developed and used in the training of community paralegals on appropriate response to and escalation of incidences of gender-based violence in their communities.

With the collaboration of the Initiative for the Advancement of Waste in Africa (W.A.S.T.E Africa), additional Cash4Trash solar-powered recycling hubs were added to the city of Abuja (Kubwa and Gwagwalada) where locals can exchange plastic and recyclable trash for cash. In addition, Waste Pickers were trained on Health and Safety, and provided with subsidized healthcare insurance package, and personal protective equipment.

## **E Application Procedure**

Registered NGOs, organisations and groups are welcome to present their project proposals to the Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja. Please read the following systematic description of the application procedure to apply for small-scale development project support.

- Once you have elaborated your project idea on how to improve a specific and important area of Nigeria's socio-economic development, please contact the Embassy at [abuja@eda.admin.ch](mailto:abuja@eda.admin.ch) for an application form
- Please note that the application process is open from **1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31 October 2021**. If you would like to request support for a project in 2022, ensure your proposal reaches the Embassy by **Sunday, 31 October 2021**.
- The proposal must clearly outline the goal of the project, the suggested course of action, the budget needed, the expected results and eventual risks involved.
- In a rigorous process, five to six projects are selected. The project holders are notified of their successful application at the beginning of the year.
- Afterwards, the project applicants and the Embassy of Switzerland conclude a written agreement in which the exact terms of the project are defined.
- This marks the beginning and enables the project managers to commence implementation.