

Small-Scale Development 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 and has thus delegated the administration of development aid projects to the [Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja](#). Depending on the general yearly budget planning, the Embassy receives an annual credit of up to 100'000 USD. This amount is used 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 Development Projects in Nigeria are designed to assist local initiatives of groups or of organisations whose works contribute to the country's overall 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:

- **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 organisational competences in order to conduct the project by their own capacities.
- **Pertinence:** The project should be clear, comprehensible and should consist of simple but effectual measures.
- **Timeframe:** The project should form a one-time intervention that is fully administered and conducted 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

In 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. The projects received financial support from the Embassy, and were successfully administered and completed by the selected organizations.

In 2016, through the Christina Specialist Hospital, Owerri – Imo State, the Embassy supported the purchase of instruments for osteosynthesis, and strengthened the capacity of healthcare practitioners to perform optimally in orthopaedic cases, while improving medical treatment to accident victims, patients with life-threatening bone problems, and children born with deformities of the limbs.

Through Tengwood Organization, the Embassy sustained the protection of natural habitats and wildlife by installing clean drinking water systems at Afi Mountain Ranger Station and Cross River National Park Okwangwo Divisional Headquarters. These installations reinforce the work of the rangers who patrol some of Nigeria's remaining protected areas, while educating 2'000+ members of the surrounding communities on the influence of human actions on natural activities.

In partnership with the Initiative for Peace, Justice and Sustainability, the Embassy enhanced the standard of hygiene for 240 households in the Yola Kosam community of Bwari – Federal Capital Territory, by constructing six public toilets and installing two boreholes. Practical training on agriculture value chain was provided to 30 men and women, and a farm centre was constructed for crop storage.

Also in 2016, Love-2-Work Charity Organization was supported in providing beneficiaries in Iseyin, Oyo State, with clean water through the donation of two community boreholes. Under the same project, access to sanitation facilities was improved for school pupils as toilets were constructed in three primary schools. Swiss funds to Child Rights Network improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities in three community schools in Abia State. In the same vein, Enugu-based Rural Water Supply and Health Initiative was supported in improving access to clean water for dwellers of Amata and Mgbalaukwu communities of Ebonyi State.

E Application Procedure

NGOs, organisations, groups and institutes are welcome to present their project proposals to the Embassy of Switzerland. Please read the following step-by-step 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 **fill in the Application Form available on the webpage**, and e-mail it to: abu.vertretung@eda.admin.ch.
- 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 with the project.
- Please note that the **application deadline is 31 October of the calendar year previous to the start of the projects**. If you would like, for instance, to submit a project for the year 2018, ensure your proposal reaches the Embassy by **Tuesday, 31 October 2017**.
- In a rigorous selection process five to six projects are chosen, depending on the Embassy's possibilities. The project holders are notified of their successful application at the beginning of the year.
- Following suit, 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 start their work.

F Submission of a Project Proposal

Do you have an idea for a small-scale project in Nigeria that corresponds to the above mentioned criteria? You are welcome to apply.