

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. However, 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:

- **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

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

In 2017, through the Community Initiative For Awareness and Development (CIFAAD) in Zamfara State, the Embassy supported the empowerment of 180 vulnerable and displaced women to remain economically viable through a cost effective and local initiative - the rearing and reproduction of goats.

Through Tamaiko House of Refuge in Kaduna, the Embassy provided assistive technology equipment for therapy and education of 32 children with special needs at the Fer School for Special Kids. In addition, volunteer therapy experts were engaged to develop the capacities of Caregivers in order to maximize the abilities and potentials of the children.

In partnership with Development Support Institute in Lagos, the Embassy provided a 10-room toilet facility to the staff and pupils of Anglican Primary School in Alimosho Local Government Area. This intervention has enhanced hygiene in the school and reduced the level of truancy caused by non-availability of functional toilet facilities.

Also in 2017, Centre for Children in Crisis in Plateau State was supported in providing the inhabitants of Niyes community with a block of healthcare facility to build upon the activities of the existing Primary Healthcare Centre. The project placed gender issues in the forefront as it provided accessible healthcare and immediate attention to all members of the community, but especially to pregnant women in the bid to reduce maternal mortality. Along the same line, Alkali Hussaini Foundation received funding for the provision of maternity room and supporting facilities to the Madadi Community Health Centre in Kebbi State to reduce maternal and child mortality, encourage antenatal attendance, and provide early rectification of issues related to vesico-vaginal fistula (VVF).

In Owerri, Imo State, through the Christina Specialist Hospital, 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.

E Application Procedure

Details of the opening and closing dates for the next round of application will be available on the website of the Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria (<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/nigeria/en/home.html>) from August 2018.