

Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 6 April 2020, no. Min-BuZa.2020.5142-11, laying down administrative rules for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework)

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation;

Having regard to articles 6 and 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree;

Having regard to article 10.5 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006;

Orders as follows:

Article 1

The administrative rules appended as an annexe to this Order apply to grants awarded on the basis of article 10.5 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impact under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework.

Article 2

1. Eligibility for grants under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework is limited to organisations that have already been awarded a grant on the basis of articles 2.5, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1 or 10.2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006, of which the grant period has not ended and of which at least €1,000,000 has not yet been spent on the activities for which the grant was awarded.

2. An application for a grant under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework must be for an amount of at least €1,000,000.

3. Grants are awarded exclusively for activities to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impact.

Article 3

Applications for a grant under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework must be submitted in the period from 8 April 2020 up to and including 7 May 2020 using the application form stipulated by the Minister and accompanied by the documents requested in the form.¹

Article 4

1. This Order will enter into force immediately upon publication of the Government Gazette in which it appears.

2. This Order lapses with effect from 9 April 2021, with the proviso that it continues to apply to grants awarded prior to that date.

This Order and its accompanying annexe will be published in the Government Gazette.

¹ The application form will be published on www.rijksoverheid.nl and www.government.nl.

K. van der Heijden

Director-General for International Cooperation

For the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

ANNEXE

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented the world with an enormous challenge, the impact of which is also increasingly being felt by the target group of development cooperation. The need to support developing countries is greater and more urgent than ever. The Netherlands is contributing to efforts to combat the pandemic with a focus on humanitarian aid, preventive measures and socioeconomic resilience, recognising the need to act, shoulder responsibility and show solidarity with the most vulnerable countries. These contributions are being made through multilateral channels such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These organisations are able to take quick, effective and coordinated action.

NGOs play a vital role in achieving development objectives. There are many effective ways in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can work with NGOs, including grant programmes. NGOs can also play a crucial role during the coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, many have expressed a wish to work together to help alleviate the crisis. Because of the pandemic, many grant recipients are finding it impossible to continue implementing activities funded by Ministry grants as originally planned.

The Ministry appreciates that the crisis will lead to delays in the implementation of existing programmes by our partners. And all the while the need to alleviate the distress being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is becoming ever greater. If a grant recipient can no longer carry out all its grant-funded activities, a portion of the grant will remain unspent. The current crisis calls for exceptional measures and flexibility. The current grant policy framework therefore provides an opportunity, within the existing grant-based relationship, to redirect funds that can no longer be spent as envisaged – or which could be put to a different and more logical use in the light of the altered circumstances – towards activities related to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. This document explains how to submit an application for a new grant for the activities and how applications will be assessed.

Procedure for awarding grants under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework

If a grant recipient wishes to make use of the opportunity to redirect grant funding that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it no longer wishes or is able to spend on the activities for which the grant was awarded, towards activities to combat the pandemic and mitigate its impact, it may apply for a new grant for those activities. In view of the urgency of the situation, an accelerated procedure has been devised, consisting of the following steps:

1. No later than 7 May 2020, the grant recipient, using the application form specified² and attaching the requested documents set out in the form, must submit an application for a new grant and a request to have its existing grant reduced to the contact stated in the existing grant award decision. The grant recipient must also send a copy to dso-covid19@minbuza.nl.³ The request to amend the existing grant award decision should at any rate specify the requested adjustment to the grant amount. If possible, it should also provide information on changes to the activities, timetable and – if necessary – the liquidity forecast.
2. The application for a new grant will be assessed against the criteria set out in this grant policy framework. If the application qualifies for a grant, decisions to amend the existing grant and award a grant for the new activities will be made within four weeks after the application and the amendment request have been submitted.
3. If instructed to do so in the grant award decision and/or the amendment decision, the grant recipient must provide the aforementioned contact with further details by 1 July 2020 at the latest of the new activities for which a new grant has been awarded and/or the changes to the activities for which a grant was awarded previously.

² The application form will be made available on www.rijksoverheid.nl and www.government.nl.

³ Please note that the email server will reject files larger than 14MB. Larger files should be split up into smaller files and sent in separate emails. If an application is split into several files which are each sent separately by email, the emails must be numbered, with both the email number and the total number of emails clearly indicated in the subject line (e.g. 'email 1 of 5', 'email 2 of 5', etc.).

4. The grant recipient must account for the spending of the funds for both grants at the end of the respective grant periods.
5. Recipients of grants awarded under the Strategic Partnerships in the Area of Lobbying and Advocacy 2016-2020,⁴ SRHR Partnerships 2016-2020⁵, Funding Leadership Opportunities for Women 2016-2020⁶, Women, Peace and Security 2016–2019⁷ and Women, Peace and Security 2020⁸ programmes must in principle complete both the existing activities and the activities under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework before 1 January 2021.

With regard to bullet point 2, please note that the funding for the new activities, i.e. under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework, must come from money as yet unspent from the existing grant budget. The grant amount requested by the grant recipient for the new activities must therefore be freely available under the existing grant budget. This means that if an application under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework is accepted, the existing grant will be reduced by the corresponding amount.

Criteria

Besides the provisions of the General Administrative Law Act, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006, the following criteria apply to grants awarded under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework.

a Organisations that may be eligible for a grant:

eligibility for grants under the Coronavirus NGO Grant Policy Framework is limited to organisations that currently receive a grant on the basis of articles 2.5, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1 or 10.2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 where the grant period has not ended and there is still sufficient unspent budget (at least €1,000,000, see 'b' below) to be redirected from the activities for which the grant was originally awarded.

b Grant amount: the grant amount applied for must be at least €1,000,000.

c Start of activities: the activities for which a grant is applied must not begin before the application has been submitted.⁹

d Content of the application: the quality of the application is assessed against the following criteria:

1) **Synergy:** the proposal must generate synergy with the activities of other (international) non-governmental organisations, the World Health Organization, governments etc. in order to avoid fragmentation.

⁴ Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 7 May 2014, no. DSO/MO-113/2014, laying down administrative rules for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Strategic Partnerships in the Area of Lobbying and Advocacy (2016-2020)), Government Gazette 2014, no. 13509.

⁵ Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 19 March 2015, no. DSO/GA-113/15, laying down administrative rules for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (SRHR Partnerships 2016-2020), Government Gazette 2015, no. 8330.

⁶ Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 3 June 2015, no. TFGV 122-15, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women 2016-2020), Government Gazette 2015, no. 15691.

⁷ Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 3 May 2016, no. MINBUZA-2016.242245, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Women, Peace and Security 2016-2019), Government Gazette 2016, no. 24150.

⁸ Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 5 September 2019, no. Min-BuZa.2019.4266-30, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Women, Peace and Security 2020), Government Gazette 2019, no. 50466.

⁹ Article 9 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

- 2) Sphere of influence: the proposal must be consistent with the applicant's experience, capacity and objectives.
- 3) Realism: the application must be aligned with ongoing initiatives and the local context, be time-bound and achievable.
- 4) Speed: there should be opportunities to act quickly, scale up activities and achieve results.