

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 2018, Livebridge Charitable Foundation received the Embassy's support to improve the standard of basic education in Zugurma Community School, Niger State. Dilapidated classrooms were renovated; and a toilet facility, as well as a borehole, were provided. With deforestation and erosion being noticeable challenges in Zugurma, Livebridge Charitable Foundation planted 200 trees on the school premises.

Through the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), the Embassy improved the infrastructure and sanitary conditions of the Community Primary School, Luere Beeri, Rivers State, to increase school attendance, improve learning outcomes, and encourage healthier sanitary habits.

In partnership with the Centre for Youths Integrated Development (CYID), the Embassy equipped youth in Badagry, Lagos State, with business development competences for self-sustenance. The capacity of 76 beneficiaries was enhanced in the areas of entrepreneurship and vocational skills for tasks such as signage fabrication, image design, laser cutting and engraving, corporate branding, and souvenir production.

Furthermore, in 2018, through the Mankind Development and Rehabilitation Organization (MANDERO), the Embassy supported the construction of a solar-powered borehole and solar electrification to complement the day and night-time operations of the new Saburi Primary Healthcare Clinic in Deidei, Abuja.

In the Apete community of Oyo State, through Love-2-Work Charity Organization, the Embassy engaged with and improved the capacity of 40 women on agriculture and livestock production. With a greater percentage of the rural poor relying on agriculture, this project promotes middle to long-term advancement in community development.

With the collaboration of Movement for Christian Community Service of Nigeria (MCCSN), two boreholes were provided to local communities in Kogi and Kaduna States, to promote improved health and hygiene, while also reducing the risk of conflict with nomads as migrating cattle access limited stream.

E Application Procedure

Registered NGOs, organisations and groups are welcome to present their project proposals to the Embassy of Switzerland. 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 **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 before the start of the projects**. If you would like, for instance, to submit a project for the year 2020, ensure your proposal reaches the Embassy by **Thursday, 31 October 2019**.
- 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.

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.