



Social Window Funding: Project Priorities 2018-2020

New

OVERVIEW

The SAARC Development Fund is the 'Umbrella Financial Institution' for SAARC projects and programs implemented in the SAARC region encompassing the 8 SAARC Member States of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It was established in 2010 under a Charter ratified by the Parliaments of eight Member States (MS) and its Bye-Laws were approved by the Governing Council of SDF.

SDF's governance structure consists of its Governing Council comprising of the Finance Ministers of the 8 SAARC Member States, and its Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Finance of each Member State. The SDF Secretariat is located in Thimphu, Bhutan.

SDF contributes to the enhancement of 'Regional Integration through Project Funding & Collaboration' through its mandate to:

- Promote the welfare of the people of the SAARC region;
- Improve their quality of life; and
- Accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.

It makes its funding available through three funding windows: Social, Economic and Infrastructure. As per SDF's Charter, projects focusing on Poverty Alleviation, Education, Health, Human Resource Development, Support to vulnerable/

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

- Uphold the principles of the SDF Charter: Project should demonstrate how it will fulfill the objectives of the SAARC Charter
- Have at least **3 or more SAARC Member States** participating in the proposed project
- Firm **commitment to co-finance** following a 50:50 co-financing model (cash only)



disadvantaged segments of society, Funding needs of communities, Micro Enterprises, and Rural Infrastructure Development are eligible for funding under its Social Funding Window.

SDF's strategy is to work with partners on the ground in the each of the SAARC Member Status to provide funding and co-financing opportunities to support projects and programs that ensure an inclusive environment for promoting the welfare of the people in the SAARC region, especially for the most vulnerable.

SDF is committed to strengthening and expanding partnerships with relevant partners and stakeholders to achieve the SAARC Development Goals, and the Sustainable Development's Goals. its greatest strength is that of being a neutral convener of government, development, private sector and civil society stakeholders for a regional solution to regional challenges.



USD **73.75** million
committed for **12** projects
with over **70** implementing
Agencies in **8** SAARC
Member States

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SDF's Charter adopted by Heads of Government's of the 8 SAARC Member States provides the guiding mandate for its work. For Social Funding Window, it has clearly defined the focus areas in which funding may be provided to eligible projects. It is also guided by the various SAARC Instruments, SAARC Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, and development priorities of the 8 SAARC Member States.

FOUR THEMATIC AREAS

SDF has identified four main thematic or outcome areas to be implemented over the next three years (2018-2020). These outcomes are in line with focus areas identified in SDF's Charter. Programs and interventions designed under these outcomes will deliver the maximum social benefits for the most vulnerable and marginalized segments of the populations. These are:

- Poverty Alleviation
- Human Development
- Education
- Health