GRANT PROPOSAL FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNDER SDF SOCIAL WINDOW

PROJECT: SDF-COVID 19 Emergency Response Project (s)

Fund Allocation
The total fund for this response project(s) shall be USD 5.00 Million for all the 8 SAARC Member States. Social Window (SW) has committed a total of USD 73.74 million out of 100 million allocated for SW projects and currently has a balance of USD 26.26 million.

Source of Fund
This project shall be funded by SDF under its Social Window thematic areas. However, priority will be given to health thematic area (Article 4 of SDF Charter).

Objective
To provide fund support to the SAARC Member States in their efforts towards responding to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and to protect the people of the SAARC Member States by mitigating the financial losses and severe socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

Eligible Countries
All 8 SAARC Member States (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) with project related to COVID-19 response / mitigation are eligible.

Basic eligibility funding criteria
1. Have at least 3 or more SAARC countries participating in the project.
2. Minimum of 50% cash co-funding from the project proponents. However, 100% grant may be considered for project proposals originating from SAARC bodies, Government and autonomous bodies of the Government.
3. For NGO/ private sector/ other agencies, the proponent should be registered in any of the SAARC Member State having the experience of working continuously for a minimum of 5 years in the relevant field with a commitment of 50% cash co-funding.

Use of Fund
The grant shall be utilized to address the shortage of fund to mitigate the socio-economic impact especially on the vulnerable population of the Member States.

Guidelines and Policies
All proposals shall be reviewed and due diligence would be ensured. The approval process, project implementation, fund disbursement, management, monitoring and reporting shall be as per the existing board approved policy and practices of SDF and Social Window.
Soliciting of Projects
All eligible agencies in the SAARC Member States are requested to submit proposals as per SDF and Social Window funding criteria and guidelines.

Please submit your proposals to the following:

Dr. Sunil Motiwal
Chief Executive Officer
SAARC Development Fund
Mobile: +975-17140975
Email: ceo@sdfsec.org

www.sdfsec.org
https://www.facebook.com/SaarcDevelopmentFund/
https://twitter.com/SDF_SAARC
https://www.instagram.com/saarc_development_fund/?hl=si
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtziBEaIxXpQuWSBdc2p5uQ/videos
Guidelines for Submission of Project Proposals under SOCIAL WINDOW

1. Introduction

SAARC Development Fund was established in April 2010 as the umbrella financial institution for the SAARC Member States. As per Article 4 of SDF Charter defined in Volume I: Legal Documents, SDF has three funding windows: Social Window, Economic Window and Infrastructure Window. This policy guidelines provides the guidance for applying for funding under Social Window portfolio.

2. Focus Areas

Under the Social Window, the SDF will support projects that focus on the following areas:

- Poverty alleviation;
- Education;
- Health;
- Human resources development;
- Support to vulnerable/disadvantaged segments of the society;
- Funding needs of communities;
- Micro-enterprises; and
- Rural enterprise development.

3. Who Can Apply?

The following entities are eligible to apply for funding:

- Governmental Organizations of Member States preferably with a commitment for co-funding / financing;
- Not for Profit, Non-Government Organizations registered in any of the SAARC Member States having experience of working continuously for minimum of 5 years in the relevant field preferably with a commitment of co-funding;
- International Organizations with a commitment to provide technical assistance preferably with a commitment to co-fund SDF funded projects; and
- Private sector agencies registered in any of the SAARC Member States having experience of working continuously for minimum of 5 years in the relevant field with a firm commitment to co-fund SDF funded projects.
4. **Basic Eligibility Criteria:**

- Have at least 3 or more SAARC countries participating in the project.
- Minimum of 50% cash co-funding from the project proponents. However, 100% grant may be considered for project proposals originating from SAARC bodies, Government and autonomous bodies of the Government.
- For NGO/ private sector/ other agencies, the proponent should be registered in any of the SAARC Member State having the experience of working continuously for a minimum of 5 years in the relevant field with a commitment of 50% cash co-funding.

5. **Submission of Proposal and Review Process**

   5.1 **Submission of Project Proposal**

   All proposals, which includes a brief summary of the proposal and a detailed project proposal must be emailed in a password protected file to info@sdfsec.org using the Project Document Formats. The Project Document Formats provide a more detailed articulation of the project proposal. If approved, the project document serves as the basis for project implementation.

   5.2 **Technical Review**

   All proposals are subject to technical reviews by SDF to ensure eligibility of the proposals and quality assurance. The draft project document will be appraised by SDF, inviting external experts for their opinion and feedback, if necessary.

   5.3 **Final Review and Approval/Rejection of Project Documents**

   Approved proposals shall be submitted to SDF’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for review and recommendation to the Board of Directors, and for their subsequent approval. Projects that are approved will receive formal notice from SDF. IPs of approved projects will be invited to sign the Project Financing Agreement.

6. **Project Commencement and Fund Disbursement**

Projects expected to commence implementation within six months of final approval by the Board of Directors. Fund disbursements will be initiated only after at least three Member States have signed the Project Financing Agreement. The project commencement date will be the date of signing of at least 3 PFAs for the implementation of the project. Funds will be disbursed on a quarterly basis, and subsequent disbursement will be dependent on the good performance of the IAs.
7. Project Cancellation

SDF reserves the right to cancel projects based on the following reasons:

- Less than 3 of the participating countries are implementing the project within six months of the approval;
- Non-materialization of co-funding commitments;
- Non-fulfilment of conditions laid out in the Project Financing Agreement; and
- Other conditions as determined by SDF.

8. Dispute Resolution

In the event of any disputes that arises between SDF the IA, the parties will attempt in good faith to resolve such dispute. If the dispute cannot be otherwise resolved, the parties shall consider resolving disputes through arbitration under the provisions of SAARC Arbitration Council.

9. Disclaimer

The SDF accepts no liability, financial or otherwise, except as set out in these terms and conditions, or otherwise agreed in writing, for expenditure or liability arising from:

- Any costs incurred or loss or liability suffered by the IA or any third party in relation to SDF or as a result of their own research and/or commercial activities;
- Any lost expectation of profits by IA or any third party;
- Any failure by IA or any third party to understand their rights in relation to Intellectual Property; and
- Any other benefit the IA or any third party may expect to gain by participating in SDF Social Window.