

Order of the Minister for Development Cooperation of 28 February 2008, no. DJZ/BR-0164/08, establishing policy rules for the provision of grants on the basis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (MDG3 Fund: Investing in Equality)

The Minister for Development Cooperation,

having regard to article 6 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree,¹

having regard to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006,²

Orders as follows:

Article 1

The policy rules appended to this order apply to grants awarded under one or more provisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 with a view to achieving the third international Millennium Development Goal by 2015.

Article 2

1. Applications for MDG3 Fund grants may be submitted from 15 March 2008 to 14 May 2008.
2. To request a grant the applicant must fill in and submit the appropriate application form.³
3. The requested documents must be submitted with the application form.

Article 3

A ceiling of €50 million applies to grants from the MDG3 Fund awarded between 1 January 2008 and 30 June 2011.

Article 4

¹ Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 2005, 137.

² Government Gazette 2005, 251.

³ The application form can be found at www.minbuza.nl/Ontwikkelingssamenwerking/Subsidies and at www.MDG3.nl. To request postal delivery of a form call +31 70 342 6530.

The funds will be allocated in accordance with an evaluation based on the criteria set out in the annexe to this order, with the understanding that of the applications that meet the criteria those that meet them best will be given priority, with due observance of the need for even distribution within the meaning of article 8, paragraph 3 (d) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

Article 5

This order enters into force on the second day after the date of publication in the Government Gazette in which it appears and lapses on 30 June 2011.

This order will be published in the Government Gazette with the annexe.

R.J. Treffers
Director-General for International Cooperation
For the Minister for Development Cooperation

ANNEXE

Background: international millennium development goals

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are internationally agreed guidelines for development which have been endorsed by the Dutch government. The fourth Balkenende government pledged in its coalition agreement that the Netherlands would step up its efforts in a bid to make up lost ground and achieve the goals by 2015. The Millennium Development Goals aim to:

1. Reduce by half (relative to 1990) the number of people living in extreme poverty
2. Ensure that all boys and girls are able to complete a full course of primary schooling
3. Eliminate gender disparity at all levels
4. Reduce by two thirds (relative to 1990) the mortality rate among children under five
5. Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters (relative to 1990)
6. Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and other major diseases
7. Reduce by half (relative to 1990) the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and, by 2020, achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes
8. Make poverty reduction a goal of all governments worldwide and achieve clear and fair agreements on good governance and fair trade. Solve the debt problem and provide better and more generous development assistance

The Minister for Development Cooperation is responsible for directing Dutch efforts to meet the MDGs and coordinating the Dutch government's international commitments in this area.

MDG3

Gender inequality is a worldwide phenomenon. Fewer girls than boys finish primary and secondary school and women still have fewer opportunities in the labour market. Sexual and reproductive health and rights cannot be taken for granted. The AIDS epidemic has hit women hardest and many women are subjected to domestic and other forms of violence. Women have fewer property rights and lose out when it comes to inheritance rights. Women are underrepresented in national legislative bodies. The subjugation of women is the result

of a combination of primarily cultural factors in which the power imbalance between women and men is firmly anchored. Deeply rooted gender inequality is widely acknowledged to be a major obstacle to all forms of development and is hindering progress on the other MDGs. After engaging in dialogue and consultations with development organisations, companies, citizens and researchers on ways to bring the MDGs closer to fruition, the Minister for Development Cooperation decided to make a specific commitment to achieving MDG3, equal rights and opportunities for girls and women.

Pact of Schokland MDG3 Fund: Investing in Equality

Studies⁴ show that in the past few years considerably less money has gone to organisations that focus their efforts on achieving MDG3. This is a good reason to provide extra funding for activities aimed at promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and girls. The minister has set up the MDG3 Fund to provide additional financial resources. From 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2011 the fund will distribute up to €50 million.

The MDG3 Fund is part of a wider commitment within Dutch society to facilitate progress on MDG3. On 30 June 2007 this commitment was set down in writing in the Pact of Schokland entitled “MDG3 Fund: Investing in Equality”, which was signed by the Minister for Development Cooperation and the following organisations:

- Cordaid
- Hivos
- ICCO & Kerk in Actie
- Mama Cash
- Oxfam Novib
- Women in Leadership
- WO=MEN, Dutch Gender Platform
- Women on Top
- World Population Foundation

Each of these organisations makes a valuable and irreplaceable contribution to MDG3; they complement each other and work together to achieve equal rights and opportunities for women and girls. The signatories of the MDG3 pact contribute their knowledge, ideas, money, networks and capacity. Twice a year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will hold consultations on the MDG3 Fund with these organisations and others that support and

⁴ Kerr, J., The Second Fundher Report. Financial sustainability for Women’s Movement Worldwide, Association for Women’s Rights in Development, 2007.

develop their own activities in this area. The aim will be to harmonise policy and streamline and harmonise activity portfolios.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MDG3

The Social and Institutional Development Department (health, gender and civil society organisations) and its Gender Division (DSI/ER) are contributing to efforts to achieve MDG3. To this end, seven priority areas have been identified, based on the conclusions and recommendations of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality:⁵

1. Secondary education for girls
2. Sexual and reproductive health and rights
3. Time-saving infrastructure for women
4. Effective property and inheritance rights for women
5. Formal employment and equal employment opportunities
6. Participation and representation of women in politics and public administration
7. Stopping violence against women

Three target groups requiring specific attention have also been identified:

- women and girls in conflict situations
- marginalised women
- adolescents

Aim of MDG3 Fund: Investing in Equality

With the MDG3 Fund, the Minister for Development Cooperation is stepping up efforts to secure equal rights and opportunities for women and girls. The fund is intended for organisations, including private enterprises, which operate nationally, regionally and/or internationally, and in particular organisations located in developing countries. The fund awards activities grants for proposals aimed at improving rights and opportunities for women and girls in developing nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The Gender Division (DSI/ER) is responsible for administering the MDG3 Fund. The fund's specific purpose is to bring about improvements in gender equality and to empower women, with the focus on

⁵ *Gender Equality. Taking action: achieving gender equality and empowering women. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, UN Millennium Project/Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, 2005, Lead authors Caren Grown, Geeta Rao Gupta, Aslihan Kes.

securing property and inheritance rights for women, promoting employment and equal employment opportunities, increasing women's participation in politics and public administration and stopping violence against women.

Only single grants will be awarded: an organisation is eligible to receive a grant from the MDG3 Fund only once.

The MDG3 Fund is not a new grant scheme, but rather a temporary incentive facility (ending 30 June 2011) intended to boost the level of MDG3-related activity. Within the framework of the current Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006, the Fund offers financial assistance for activities with a specific emphasis.

In view of the above, the following criteria have been formulated to supplement the provisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Decree and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006.

Ineligibility

The following organisations are not eligible for a grant from the MDG3 Fund:

- the organisations that signed the Pact of Schokland MDG3 Fund
- international organisations (for instance UN organisations, World Bank, WTO)
- public authorities at all levels
- organisations which already receive a grant directly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;⁶ this means that no grants will be awarded to recipients of grants from the cofinancing and theme-based cofinancing programmes, the Emerging Markets Cooperation Programme, the Stability Fund, MATRA, SALIN or a grant phase-out scheme for cofinancing and theme-based cofinancing programmes. Double financing from the MDG3 Fund and the Schokland Fund is not permitted; organisations may receive a grant from just one of these two funds.

Scope of activities and size of grants

- MDG3 Fund grants for the 2008-2011 period are subject to a minimum of €900,000 and

⁶ This does not include non-EU local organisations which receive funding from the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister for Development Cooperation through Dutch missions outside the EU on the basis of private-law contribution agreements.

a maximum of €6,000,000.

- MDG3 Fund grants for the 2009-2011 period are subject to a minimum of €750,000 and a maximum of €5,150,000.
- Subsidised activities are to begin as soon as possible, and by 1 January 2009 at the latest.
- Subsidised activities must be completed by 30 June 2011.

Criteria

Threshold criteria for applicant organisations

The organisation:

- is a non-governmental organisation
- has legal personality
- works to secure equal rights and opportunities for women and girls in developing countries.⁷

Evaluation criteria concerning the substance and quality of the application

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation committee on the basis of predetermined criteria. The criteria cover the following areas:

- 1 Relevance to development: the extent to which the proposed activities contribute to the achievement of MDG3, particularly with regard to priorities 4, 5, 6 and 7 as mentioned above:
 - effective property and inheritance rights for women
 - formal employment and equal employment opportunities
 - participation and representation of women in politics and public administration
 - stopping violence against women
- 2 The extent to which the proposed activities focus on the three target groups specified above:
 - women and girls in conflict situations
 - marginalised women
 - adolescents
- 3 Countries where activities are carried out: activities to be carried out in countries that are on the DAC list have priority.⁸

⁷ See the DAC list at www.MDG3.nl and www.minbuza.nl/Ontwikkelingssamenwerking/Subsidies.

⁸ See the DAC list at www.MDG3.nl and www.minbuza.nl/Ontwikkelingssamenwerking/Subsidies.

- 4 Quality of the intervention strategy: extent to which a proposal provides a detailed description of the operational objectives, intended results, proposed activities and resources, and shows that there is a clear link between the objectives and the resources required to achieve them.
- 5 Detailed description of the intended results in terms of the SMART system (Specific, Measurable/demonstrable, Acceptable to relevant stakeholders, Realistic and achievable within a set Timeframe).
- 6 Origin of the applicant: the MDG3 Fund aims particularly (but not exclusively) to foster activities by organisations located in developing countries.
- 7 The organisation's support base: the extent to which the organisation is able to demonstrate that it has a support base in the countries where the proposed MDG3 activities are to be carried out.
- 8 Quality of the organisation's financial and administrative management.
- 9 Sustainability of the activity: the likelihood that the proposed activity will have a lasting impact.

Procedure

Application

Applications for grants must be submitted using the appropriate form, which can be downloaded at www.minbuza.nl/Ontwikkelingssamenwerking/Subsidies or www.MDG3.nl or requested from Pricewaterhouse Coopers (tel.: +31 70 3426530). The application form lists the documents which must be submitted with the application. The period for submitting applications starts on 15 March and closes on 14 May 2008. Applications must be signed by a legal representative and submitted in duplicate to Pricewaterhouse Coopers, attn: "MDG3-Fonds", Postbus 30715, 2500 GS Den Haag; an electronic copy of the written application must also be sent to info@MDG3.nl.

Applications may be submitted in Dutch or English.

The activity plan⁹ which must be submitted with the application should show that the activities will lead to expenditure of the following amounts for each year it is carried out:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
2008	€ 150,000	€ 850,000

⁹ See article 25, first paragraph, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

2009	€ 300,000	€ 2,000,000
2010	€ 300,000	€ 2,000,000
2011	€ 150,000	€ 1,150,000

Evaluation

The applications will be evaluated for compliance with the applicable regulations and the criteria laid down in these rules. Applications will be evaluated and grants awarded by tender. The grant applications will be compared to each other; of all the applications that meet the criteria those that meet them best will be given priority, with due observance of the need for even distribution within the meaning of article 8, paragraph 3 (d) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree. Based on the outcome of the evaluation the minister will rank the applications, placing at the top those that meet the criteria best and will therefore contribute most to the objective of this policy framework – achieving MDG3 by 2015. The minister will use this ranking to decide which applicants to award grants to. The decision is expected to come no later than 15 July 2008.

In 2009 grant recipients whose proposed activities will extend beyond 31 December 2009 will be required to develop a strategy for acquiring at least 25% of annual revenues in 2010 from their own financial resources and/or third-party contributions and translate that strategy into a concrete plan of action for 2010. The strategy and the plan of action must be submitted to the Minister for Development Cooperation along with the 2010 annual plan. This requirement will not be imposed if the Checklist for Organisational Capacity Assessment (COCA) submitted with the application shows that it has already been met.