

Open Policy Advisory Fund (OPAF) Project

Mini-Fund for Women's Empowerment

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Gender Equality

Gender equality is an explicit goal, principle and quality criterion throughout German development cooperation. The economic and political empowerment of women is a driving force for the achievement of gender equality, economic growth and poverty reduction. Gender equality is a cross-cutting theme and therefore finds its expression in the promotion of equal political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights for women and men. Of special importance for the Open Policy Advisory Fund (OPAF) Afghanistan is equal access to exercise social and political participation.

According to Germany's Gender Equality Strategy, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) pursues a threefold approach to the promotion of gender equality:

- Gender Mainstreaming: The various living conditions, interests and potential of women and men are considered in all development projects. The planning of projects is gender sensitive and concerns of women and girls are appropriately considered.
- Empowerment: Projects are geared specifically to empowering women in order to compensate for gender-based discrimination and support them in realizing their rights.
- Women's rights in development policy dialogues: Women's rights and gender equality are systematically included in bilateral and multilateral development policy dialogues. Women's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled at the highest social and political levels.

Areas to Engage in Promoting Gender Equality

OPAF identified several areas where applicants can engage in. These are only suggested areas and the list is not exhaustive. Applicants may well identify other areas of engagement.

- Social and Political Participation
 - o Ensure women's political participation, voice and leadership, including efforts to help governments meet their responsibility to guarantee political participation by women, make participatory processes inclusive and place participatory rights on a sound legal and institutional footing.
 - o Support civil society advocacy of women's rights and protect human rights defenders.
- Gainful Employment and Economic Empowerment
 - o Engage in policy dialogue aimed at strengthening efforts to give women equal participation in economic and working life consistent with the International Labour Organization's core labor standards.
- Tackling multidimensional discrimination
 - o Make more and better information on discrimination issues available in the partner countries.
- Cooperation with female and male stakeholders
 - o Promote gender equality through stronger cooperation with male and female stakeholders acting as change agents and role models.

- Work with civil society to dismantle gender stereotypes and discriminatory socio-cultural norms.
- Gender competence / knowledge management
 - Work towards institutional implementation of gender-responsive development policies and organizational processes by building gender expertise.
- Strengthening women's organizations
 - Support the participation and voice of independent civil society actors and national human rights institutions and ensure that their contribution to progressive, innovative policy on women's rights and gender is used.
 - Provide focused training for representatives of women's organizations and capacity building measures to strengthen their organizations.
 - Support the cooperation of state and non-state institutions to promote the social and political participation of women's organizations.

Level of Implementation

The applicant may focus their efforts and projects on different levels of implementation, but OPAF would advise that the scope of the Mini-Fund for Women's Empowerment focusses on the meso and micro levels.

- Macro Level: Creation and/or strengthening of a political, normative, legal or economic environment.
- Meso Level: Support for and strengthening at local and national levels of the capacity of public bodies, non-state actors and private companies to participate in processes promoting the protection of women's rights such as access to political participation.
- Micro Level: Support for the development and implementation of gender-sensitive initiatives – addressing inequality, discrimination and vulnerability hampering women's full participation in the political process.

Contact Details for More Information

Interested applicants may obtain further information by contacting this email address:

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