

## Call for proposals

### Purpose

The Netherlands Albert Schweitzer Fund (NASF) supports and empowers communities in Sub-Saharan Africa to create a **healthy living environment, to improve health literacy and to strengthen health care** by financing small-scale local health initiatives (projects) in Sub-Saharan Africa. To this end, NASF supports projects in the field of the following thematic areas, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 1. Clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), 2. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), 3. Pollution protection and management, 4. Primary Health Care, 5. Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (including nutrition), 6. Rehabilitation and support and 7. Mental health care and psychosocial support. These projects are being implemented in several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa – with a main focus on Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Burkina Faso and Ghana – with the ultimate goal that people from vulnerable communities in Sub-Saharan Africa are also able to take control of their own health. NASF works with health pioneers who are committed to identify appropriate solutions and open up new and innovative ways towards a sustainable improvement in health.

Every year, NASF finances approximately 25 projects, with an average contribution of EUR 7,000 per project.

### Who can apply

The Netherlands Albert Schweitzer Fund (NASF) welcomes applications from African health pioneers and organisations, such as grassroots non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, civil society groups, women's groups, schools and clinics, based in the focus countries, as long as the organisation 1) has a local bank account and 2) is responsible for the project implementation and reporting. NASF particularly welcomes new or innovative ideas from health pioneers addressing health problems in vulnerable communities.

### When to apply

Each year, NASF opens the call(s) for proposals for small-scale local health initiatives on a specific date. The precise date for each call for proposals will be published on the website approximately 3 months in advance. The tender will be open for applications until sufficient proposals have been received for each thematic area (this time frame varies from 1 day up to 1 week).

### What to submit

To apply for funding from NASF, the following information will need to be submitted: 1. the completed application form, 2. the completed bank account sheet, 3. a detailed project budget and 4. recent photos that support the application, such as the existing situation before the start of the project and the beneficiaries. *Your application for funding will only be considered when all the required documents are included.* The required application forms can be found online: <https://www.nasf.nl/project-applications/project-applications-english/>

## Selection process

NASF receives many more applications than can be supported each year. Therefore, NASF applies a thorough selection process to assess the applications submitted and select the projects that are most in line with its mission.

NASF applies a three-step selection and assessment process for all proposals. In order to be considered for funding, the proposals are screened against the threshold and selection criteria, and findings from this screening will be verified through project visits.

1. The first step determines the **threshold or the eligibility of the project proposals**. All applications must meet the following minimum standards: the proposal should include all 4 required documents and 1. focus on health, 2. be implemented in one of the focus countries, 3. concern a small-scale, one-off project, and 4. be initiated locally and requested by an African organisation. If an application does not meet all threshold criteria, it will be rejected.
2. Subsequently, the proposals are reviewed based on the **selection criteria** regarding the justification of the need for the project (or urgency), the feasibility of the project, the expected health effects for the target group, and the sustainability (long-term viability) of the project.

All project criteria can be found in the document called [Criteria for NASF financial support 2023, see Annex 1.](#)

Project proposals which align most closely with the selection criteria will be selected. Before moving to the next step of the process, NASF may like to obtain more information about the organisation or the project proposal. **NASF might ask additional questions for clarification, documentation, statements or references by email.** When we have received all information, the Board of NASF will decide whether the project proposal will be (conditionally) approved or rejected. Occasionally, NASF will also approach **external experts to seek advice** on the project applications.

3. The conditional approval from the Board will be followed by a visit to the applying organisation and the project site. The project visit will be conducted by an in-country and independent volunteer with the aim to provide more insights into and understanding of the proposed project in the given context and the organisation. The project visitor collects information and submits a project visit report, which will be discussed by the Board. Subsequently, the Board will decide whether to finance or reject the project.

## *Conclusion of the selection process*

All organisations will receive written notification informing them whether their proposal has been approved or rejected for funding.

## Agreement

In case the Board decides to finance the project, an official agreement between NASF and the organisation will be formulated and signed. Funds will then be transferred in the local currency into a local bank account in the name of the applicant organisation. NASF will request an acknowledgement of receipt of the funds transferred, followed by a project implementation plan (work plan) in which all project activities are described. The project should be completed within one year of the date of receipt of the funds transfer.

## Monitoring and evaluation

The organisation will need to inform NASF regularly about the progress, at least 3 times per year. NASF requests that digital pictures of relevant activities – following instructions from the agreement – will be shared with a short written update by email or WhatsApp. The project will be implemented in accordance

with the approved budget. In case the organisation is facing challenges with implementation or deviations from the budget or work plan, NASF should be informed in advance and as soon as possible.

To evaluate the project, the organisation should submit 1) the completed project assessment form, 2) the project report with pictures of the activities and results and 3) the financial report with digital copies of receipts. NASF might invite the local representative to conduct a monitoring or an assessment visit to confirm the reported monitoring and/or evaluation results.

## Annex 1. Criteria for NASF financial support 2023

This document provides more information on the threshold and selection criteria used by NASF to review and select the proposals submitted. The Netherlands Albert Schweitzer Fund (NASF) welcomes applications that align with the following criteria:

### Project

#### Context and relevance

1. The proposal contributes to the **direct improvement of the health** of disadvantaged local people: either to a healthy living environment, health literacy and/or health care, in accordance with SDG 3 and/or 6<sup>1</sup> (THRESHOLD);
2. The project will be implemented in one of the following countries: Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Ghana or Burkina Faso (THRESHOLD);
3. The proposal describes a clearly defined target group, how the target group will benefit and how their needs are being addressed (THRESHOLD);
4. The proposal clearly identifies and describes the problem the project will address;
5. The proposal presents a sensible solution to the problem described with clear deliverables and tangible results: the results of the project can be measured or otherwise confirmed with certainty<sup>2</sup>;

#### Project approach

6. The project is initiated locally, based on local needs and is carried out by a team from/close to the local population (THRESHOLD);
7. It is a small-scale initiative, i.e. with a limited financial volume: the average amount of projects funded by NASF is EUR 7,000 (THRESHOLD);
8. It concerns a one-off support intervention (THRESHOLD);
9. The implementation of the project will be completed within one year;
10. The proposal contains at least one added element or activity to strengthen health-related knowledge or skills of the target group;
11. Projects are carried out in a way that respects and protects the climate and the environment. Projects addressing climate and environmental challenges in their approach are particularly encouraged;

#### Sustainability or long-term viability

12. Maintenance and ownership of the project deliverables and results are agreed upon and described in the proposal. NB. If relevant, a business case might be requested by NASF;
13. After the implementation of the project, the project results or effects can be continued independently by the agreed upon owner of the project: either by the local organisation, the community (structure) or the local government;
14. In case other partners or stakeholders are involved in the project implementation or the continuation of the activities after implementation, their role(s) in and contribution(s) to the project are described explicitly;

#### Budget and other costs

15. The project plan is accompanied by a detailed and realistic budget in the local currency and in euros;

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

<sup>2</sup> NASF can initiate the verification of results through for example monitoring, assessment and/or evaluation visits.

16. In case the presented project is part of a bigger program or project, it must be clearly stated in the application; including the total amount of the full program or project. If the organisation applied for (co-)funding elsewhere for (part of) this bigger program or project, this should be specified as well;
17. Overhead costs do not exceed 10% of the total budget, and do not include salaries for the applying organisation;
18. If the main activity of the project includes construction work, the applying organisation has to submit tenders of at least two different contractors;

#### Organisation and administration

19. The application is complete (all 4 required documents included), is an original and not a copy of an application submitted previously (THRESHOLD);
20. The application concerns a direct request from an African organisation and not a foundation based in the Netherlands (THRESHOLD);
21. The local organisation is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project;
22. The organisation has fulfilled all its obligations resulting from any former project funded by NASF;
23. The organisation needs to have a local bank account. Funds will be transferred *in the local currency into a local bank account in the name of the applicant organisation*. NASF does not transfer money into bank accounts in euros or any other foreign currency;

The following projects or activities will **not** be subsidised by NASF:

1. Projects or activities that only indirectly contribute to health, such as income-generating activities or economic empowerment;
2. Emergency aid;
3. Exchange projects, study trips, scholarships, research and/or internships;
4. Projects intended *solely* for education or information purposes;
5. Religious activities.

The following costs will **not** be subsidised by NASF:

1. Overhead costs, in particular salaries, for the applying organisation;
2. Project expenses that have already been made;
3. Extra costs that have emerged after a definitive decision by NASF;
4. Costs of medical or technical devices, machinery or goods that are bought in the Netherlands or any other high-income country, when these can be acquired or manufactured locally.
5. Travel expenses or in-country accommodation costs;
6. Transport costs to or from abroad.