

Project Policy



In considering application(s) received for project finance, the following factors shall be considered:

1. A core value is relationships. Applications will normally be considered only from existing partners where a proven track record/history has already been established.

Reason: *We want to ensure clear accountability for our funds.*

2. Applications from new applicants will be considered where there appears to be a good basis for expecting a relationship of mutual accountability and clearly defined expectations of all parties to the relationship. This would normally be after a meeting with the applicant and/or a site visit.

Reason: *Trust is an important core value but we recognise the need to develop our network of relationships in appropriate cases.*

3. There will be a presumption to decline unsolicited applications from those who are unknown to us, except those as a result of strong recommendation from existing project partners.

Reason: *Links International is not a general funding agency and we prefer to distribute limited resources by working with national partners where trust and accountability have already been established.*

4. Accounts, progress reports and photographs will be required from every applicant at pre-determined and mutually agreeable intervals once funding has been committed.

Reason: *It is important that our applicants are seen to be accountable for the funds they receive.*

5. Donors will normally be contacted and a report given for all projects funded at mutually agreed intervals.

Reason: *We want to operate with a similar level of accountability and transparency with our own donors.*

6. Applications will be given priority where there are clear organisational and financial self-sustaining elements at their core.

Reason: *Our vision is to empower people and help them to help themselves and take responsibility for their own destiny with appropriate support.*

7. Capital funding requests will be considered only where there is a clear income stream available to meet ongoing revenue costs. As a matter of principle, we will normally consider capital funding only and would not generally be prepared to take on any responsibility for ongoing running costs, salaries, etc.

Reason: *We want to break the historical tendency for an unintentional, ongoing dependency on the West for ongoing finance to run the projects.*

8. There is a presumption against funding vehicles.

Reason: *Experience has shown that providing vehicles makes the recipients poorer as it places on them the additional financial burden for repairs and replacements for which no funds locally are normally available. In appropriate circumstances, funding for vehicles will be considered if it forms part of a wider, sustainable project proposal (eg mobile clinics; income-generating taxi projects etc)*

9. There is a presumption against funding of hospitals.

Reason: *Experience has shown there is usually little or no local funding to cover the ongoing revenue requirements e.g. doctors and nurses salaries and drugs costs. We prefer to work on the basis that prevention is better than cure.*

10. There is a presumption against funding of church buildings unless they form part of a wider project to benefit the local community.

Reason: *We do not want to commit capital funds to building religious buildings without a sustainable, multi-use element (eg to also provide healthcare, restaurant, childcare or other similar community benefits.*

11. A site visit would normally be undertaken within 2-years.

Reason: *To oversee and monitor projects at first hand, and to give any relevant advice and assistance.*

Rich Hubbard
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