

## Small-Scale Embassy Projects in Nigeria

### A *Background and Rationale*

Switzerland has long been active in international efforts to reduce poverty through various worldwide development schemes. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's main development assistance body and is active in several countries. In Nigeria, however, the SDC has no cooperation office as Nigeria is not considered a low-income country. Nevertheless, the Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja offers an annual credit of up to 100'000 USD to support small-scale projects in various fields. Experience has shown that even on a small scale, development assistance can have considerable effects.

### B *Approach*

The Small-Scale Embassy Projects in Nigeria are designed to assist local initiatives of groups or of organisations whose works contribute to the country's overall socio-economic progress. Dynamic actors of the civil society, especially women and minority representatives, are thus helped in their efforts to generate sustainable reforms and overall improvement of living conditions in the country.

### C *Eligibility Criteria for Small-Scale Project Grants*

In the selection of the projects that receive support, the Embassy adheres to the following guidelines:

- **Registration:** The organization is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- **Self-help:** The Embassy supports local initiatives in the area of capacity building.
- **Sustainability:** Projects that promise long lasting effects even after their completion.
- **Innovation:** Encourages innovative and original initiatives.
- **Local needs:** Meets the needs of the local population and reinforce existing structures.
- **Subsidiarity:** Organizations contribute to the project first; support from the Embassy only comes second.
- **Choice of target group and impact:** The beneficiaries of the project, the expected impact, and how the goals will be reached, are clearly stated.
- **Organizational competence:** There needs to be sufficient organizational competence in order to conduct the project by own capacities.
- **Pertinence:** The project is clear, comprehensible and consist of simple but effectual measures.
- **Timeframe:** The project forms a one-time intervention that is fully implemented within one year.

Projects of the following kind are **NOT** supported in the framework of the Embassy's scheme:

- Profit-oriented enterprises
- Schemes with religious purposes
- Propositions that only and exclusively consist of material supply
- Projects that involve only a single person
- Scholarships or study grants
- Foreign consulting missions
- Charity events / Campaigns
- Projects that have been supported before

## **D Previous Projects**

Over the last years, the Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja has annually supported grassroots projects in the fields of agriculture, education, gender, water and sanitation, healthcare, and alternative energies.

Early in 2023, the Center for Development and Cultural Interchange (CDCI) received support from the Embassy to strengthen the capacity of commercial transport operators, civil society organizations and law enforcement agencies in Edo State to prevent and combat human trafficking and people smuggling.

Following a fire outbreak at the Maiduguri Monday market that gutted about 90% of the market in February 2023, the Center for Advocacy, Transparency and Accountability Initiative (CATAI), with support of the Embassy of Switzerland, built the resilience of 150 beneficiaries and small and medium businesses within the market by providing cash, food and items assistance to the victims.

The Civil Society Network on Migration and Development (CSOnetMADE) in December 2023, with financial support of the Embassy, enhanced the comprehensive understanding of 100 members of the civil society organization on internal migration dynamics and its impact on effective national migration governance in Nigeria.

Among its activities in 2023, the South Saharan Social Development Organization (SSDO) was supported by the Embassy to provide sustainable access to clean and safe drinking water and drainage facilities to the 5'000+ people living with disabilities (PWD) at the Karonmajigi community in Abuja.

## **E Application Procedure**

Registered NGOs, organisations and groups are welcome to present their project proposals to the Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja. Please read the following procedure.

- Once you have elaborated your project idea on how to improve a specific and important area of Nigeria's socio-economic development, please contact the Embassy at [abuja@eda.admin.ch](mailto:abuja@eda.admin.ch)
- The proposal must clearly outline the goal of the project, the suggested course of action, the budget needed (in Nigerian naira NGN), the expected results and potential risks.
- The project applicants and the Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja conclude a written agreement in which the exact terms of the project are defined.
- This marks the beginning and enables the project managers to commence implementation.