

Afghanistan: Call for proposals for FC0's programme fund 2019/20

We are looking for a range of proposals which can demonstrate impact in one year, including where a project will act as a catalyst for alternative, sustainable sources of funding.

Currently we are inviting bids in the following areas:

Media freedom and the protection of journalists

- Bids of up to £100,000: supporting the safety of journalists reporting in Afghanistan, seeking to reduce the numbers of journalists killed and injured in Afghanistan and help them to safely report to the Afghan public.
- Bids of up to £50,000: promoting greater accessibility of government information for journalists and the public. Proposals should consider how to work with the access to information commission and government media.
- Bids of up to £75,000: developing the capability and capacity of female citizen journalists working outside of Kabul, particularly focusing on social media training and ability to report from provinces.

Promoting the rights of the child and championing youth participation

- Bids of up to £80,000: promoting greater youth access to and participation in sport, particularly for girls, as a vehicle for promoting community stability. Proposals could include (but not limited to) building upon the success of the Afghanistan Cricket team and the recent Cricket World Cup in England and Wales.
- Bids of up to £60,000: promoting the UK's Chevening Programme across Afghanistan, helping to ensure an increase in quality applications from candidates outside of Kabul, particularly from female applicants.

Criteria for selection

In all thematic areas, proposals will be expected to demonstrate that:

- the project proposal provides good value for money
- the proposal has clear, achievable outcomes, and responds to a local

demand or need

- the organisation has the capacity to deliver the project to a high standard (successful proposals will be subject to a due diligence assessment of the organisation)
- the project helps build Afghan capacity (International NGOs/companies should aim to partner with a local Afghan counterpart where feasible)
- the impact of the project will be sustainable beyond the end of the funding period (i.e. 31 March 2020)
- activities can be delivered over the project life-cycle (i.e. not all planned for the final quarter of the year)
- all risks have been carefully identified and measured and have suitable mitigations proposed

How to apply

To apply, you should:

- read all the documents and requirements (attached below)
- complete the project proposal form and submit your proposal to hedayatullah.noori@fco.gov.uk by 9th July 2019; please ensure the theme area of the bid is included in the subject line

Implementers whose proposals are awarded funding will be notified by the end of July 2019, with an expectation that activity could begin shortly afterwards, and end by 31 March 2020.

Before bidding please familiarise yourself with the following key documents:

Government sets out new plans to open up public appointments

Minister for Implementation Oliver Dowden has announced updates to the Public Appointments Diversity Action Plan.

Government sets out new plans to open up public appointments

- Minister sets out next steps in drive to boost the diversity of boards of public bodies, such as the NHS and UK museums
- Government publishes updated Diversity Action Plan to ensure those who sit on boards of public bodies are representative of the society they serve

- Findings from a landmark, independent review by Lord Holmes into opening up public appointments for disabled people underpin this plan

The latest steps in an ambitious plan to ensure appointees to the boards of public bodies better reflect the public have been outlined today (27 June) by the Minister for Implementation, Oliver Dowden.

A refreshed Public Appointments Diversity Action Plan commits the government to improving all kinds of diversity on the boards of public bodies. It sets out a roadmap for realising an ambition that half of all public appointees will be female and 14 percent of public appointments will be from ethnic minorities by 2022.

The plan confirms actions to improve how appointments are made including:

- piloting a mentoring scheme to help those who narrowly miss out
- testing new approaches to the recruitment process, to ensure diverse skills and lived experience are taken into account
- induction training that gives those newly appointed the best start to their roles.

The Minister also confirmed that the government is accepting the principle of all the recommendations of Lord Holmes' independent review into opening up public appointments to disabled people, which was commissioned last year. This includes committing the government to improving the quality of data on appointees so that it can take a decision on what the government's ambition for the numbers of disabled people appointed to boards should be by the end of 2020.

The shake-up comes just days after the Prime Minister announced a new package of measures to tackle the injustices faced by disabled people in the workplace, at home and in the community.

The Minister for Implementation, Oliver Dowden, said:

There is both a moral and practical case for ensuring the boards of our public institutions reflect the communities they serve.

That's why I'm announcing changes today that will remove obstacles not only for disabled people but for all underrepresented groups in public appointments, opening up exciting roles across the UK to applicants with fresh opinions, ideas, backgrounds and experiences.

Lord Holmes said:

I am passionate about the benefits of Diversity and Inclusion. I am delighted the Government has accepted the principles of all of the recommendations I have made.

The review made recommendations in four areas: data and

transparency, attracting talent, applications and interviews, and beyond. Whilst I am grateful for this unqualified support for the principles, the detail regarding specific recommendations, particularly around data and transparency, will have to be carefully monitored.

The Government and Cabinet Office have a fantastic opportunity to set a gold standard and demonstrate, not just the benefits of diversity, but how to recruit the best talent.

Corporate information: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – Statistics at Defra

We publish national and official statistics relating to the environment, rural communities, food, farming and biosecurity.

UN Human Rights Council 41: Violence Against Women at Work

The UK set out its belief that women must be empowered to have a voice and be able to access opportunities that are fundamental to freedom and development.