

## **Social Development Fund (SDF) of the French Embassy in Afghanistan**

### **What is the Social Development Fund (SDF) ?**

It is a financial tool the French ministry of foreign affairs has set up for use by the French embassies in countries located in the First Priority Zone (which Afghanistan is part of since 2003). These funds are provided to support “micro-projects” to reduce poverty and reinforce civil society. These projects are directed to the beneficiaries living in a difficult situation (urgent needs to satisfy, critical level of poverty, deficient level of local players, and weak capacity of action) who submitted a request and showed a will to take action, and who are organized or can be represented by a public or private institution.

### **The Afghanistan SDF**

The French Embassy in Afghanistan has just obtained from the French ministry of foreign affairs an initial and renewable SDF of 1 million euros, to finance micro-projects.

The beneficiaries of the micro-projects must be representatives of the Afghan civil society (NGO, associations, cooperatives, small businesses, diverse groups) or territorial organizations. In the special case of Afghanistan, where civil society is organized to a small degree, a French - or international - NGO could represent a group of beneficiaries (the NGO is then managing the micro-project). This NGO must be registered in Afghanistan as required.

The micro-projects should follow one or several of the following objectives:

- Contribute to the reinforcement of capacities, structuring and professionalization of the civil society organizations.
- Reinforcing the structuring and professionalization of territorial organizations, particularly in their relationship to the civil society (district projects, local development projects, etc)
- Support actions that help reduce poverty and inequalities through projects directed to self-reliance and responsibility of beneficiaries (improve the dynamism of micro-economic group, create income and jobs). A particular attention will be given to vulnerable and excluded populations (projects designed to improve gender equality, the rights of children and disabled)
- Reinforcing democracy and human rights through supporting the acquisition of fundamental rights by population, supporting democracy and dialog between civil society and the state

The amount of credit available through the SDF for a micro-project is between 10,000 and 35,000 euros.

The maximum duration of a micro-project is 18 months.

# **French embassy in Afghanistan**

## **Service of cooperation and culture**

### **Social development fund (SDF)**

#### **Request for funding for micro-project**

#### **Identification components of the micro-project**

Title of the micro-project:

Beneficiary organization (or group) or representatives of the beneficiaries:

Address of the organization:

Name of the director of the organization:

Name of the director of the micro-project (if it is different from the above director):

Bank information of the organization:

Date at which the request for the micro-project was submitted:

Amount requested from SDF:

Predicted duration of the project:

#### **1. Reference frame of the micro-project**

- 1.1. Initial situation (of the neighborhood, local population, and target group)
- 1.2. The major issues the micro-project intends to solve (justification of the project)
- 1.3. Identification of the beneficiaries
- 1.4. Identification and planned implication of the partners (when the micro-project is implemented by an operator)

#### **2. Objectives of the micro-project**

- 2.1. The main objective of the project
- 2.2. Performance indicators of the project (verifying that the objective has been reached)
- 2.3. Description of planned activities
- 2.4. The implementation structure (who is doing what? who will be responsible?)
- 2.5. Predicted work schedule (detail and the time frame each activity)
- 2.6. Project's budget (the total budget and budget per activity if possible, whatever the source of the credit)
- 2.7. Available funds (beneficiary's part, other source of funds)
- 2.8. Fund required from FSD (total, per activity, and per year if possible)

### **3. Situation when the micro-project is completed**

- 3.1. Expected impact on the beneficiaries (description)
- 3.2. Estimated impact on the campaign against poverty and/or reinforcement of civil society (activities and income increase, satisfaction of the main needs, and improvement of life conditions)
- 3.3. Evaluation of the sustainability of the expected outcomes (transfer of capacities, institutional strengthening, payment of recurrent costs, ownership of the change by the beneficiaries)

### **4. Commitment of the beneficiary organization or the representative of the beneficiaries:**

- 4.1. The information provided in the application forms is accurate and truthful
- 4.2. If a FSD credit is approved, the beneficiary pledges to complete the micro-project and respect the timetable.

#### **Note:**

- Attach a presentation of the beneficiary organization or representative of the beneficiary (brochures, summary of the activities)
- This application form should be filled clearly and concisely, avoiding repetitions (6 to 7 pages at the most). It should be sent to: Olivier Guillaume, Counselor for cooperation and culture (olivier.guillaume@diplomatie.gouv.fr)