

The New Zealand High Commission Fund

PURPOSE OF THE FUND

The New Zealand High Commission Fund (HEF) supports small scale, short-term community projects that contribute to wider community well-being. The projects must be in line with the purpose of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation programme, which is to develop shared prosperity and stability.

PRIORITY OUTCOME AREAS

To apply for this funding round, your application should focus on one of these three outcome areas:

- Women's empowerment, including the elimination of gender-based violence
- Youth empowerment and economic development
- Climate adaptation and resilience

ELIGIBILITY

To access the HEF you must meet the following criteria:

1. Your organisation must be a registered non-governmental organisation (NGOs), school, local government agency, local small business association and women or marginalised peoples' and entrepreneurship groups with a focus on community development from one of the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
2. Applications from organisations that have received HEF funding in the previous two funding rounds are not eligible in this round.
3. Funding can be requested up to a maximum of NZ\$50,000 (or local currency equivalent) for a single project.
4. The recommended length of an individual project is up to one year. However, longer-term projects (up to 3 years) will also be considered for funding.
5. Project plans must start on, or after, 1 May 2026.
6. Incomplete applications will not be eligible.

WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED

The following are **not** eligible for support through the HEF:

- Political, religious and/or evangelical activities (*Please note faith-based groups may apply for funding where the proposed project is consistent with the HEF purpose*)
- Site visits
- Construction projects
- Unsolicited donations
- Individual student scholarships
- International airfares/overseas conference attendance

- On-going (recurrent) funding of recipients' operational/organisational costs such as wages and salaries, office items and communications

DEVELOPING YOUR APPLICATION

We particularly welcome project applications that deliver impact through one or more of the following priority areas:

- Provide skills and resources to improve livelihoods
- Involve and benefit as many people as possible
- Promote the advancement and participation of women
- Sustainable development
- Strengthen capacity and/or resilience
- Create jobs
- Meet the needs of the most marginalised and vulnerable members of the community
- Target rural areas or other areas with poor services and infrastructure
- Address environmental and conservation concerns

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The process will consist of two phases:

- Phase 1: Applicants must complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) Online form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScY5keQk3jcN_Obmoia4rAqI4ix2TEcJXuSt6P11UAi55Gdq/viewform?usp=header
- Phase 2: Shortlisted applicants from Phase 1 will be invited to submit a detailed HEF application form including a detailed budget, implementation plan, and health and safety plan.

There is always a high demand for HEF funding, so we encourage you to:

- Read the criteria before developing your application, as shortlisting will only consider projects that align with the HEF's priorities and eligibility criteria.
- Complete the EOI form in English.
- Submit the EOI before the closing date.

Shortlisted applicants from Phase 1 will be contacted by 6 March 2026, with a 2-week period from being contacted to complete a full application. Due to the high volume of applications received by the NZHC, only applications that are shortlisted in the EOI phase will be contacted. If you have not heard from us by 6 March 2026, your application has not been shortlisted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for the HEF 2025/2026 round will open from **19 January 2026** and will close on **13 February 2026**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

All enquiries should be sent to the HEF mailbox at: PRE-HEF@mfat.govt.nz