

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. Funding can be requested up to a maximum of NZ\$50,000 (or local currency equivalent) for a single project.
3. The recommended length of an individual project is one year. However, longer-term projects (up to 3 years) will also be considered for funding.

WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED

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

- Political, religious and/or evangelical activities. *Please note that faith-based groups can apply for funding where the proposed project is consistent with the HEF's 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
- Organisations that have received HEF funding in the previous two funding rounds.

DEVELOPING YOUR APPLICATION

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

- Provide skills and resources to improve livelihoods
- Involve and benefit as many people as possible
- Promote the advancement and participation of women and/or youth
- 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
- Consider environmental and conservation concerns

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The process will consist of two phases:

- Phase 1: Applicants must complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) form through an online form, in English:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScY5keQk3jcN_Obmoia4rAgl4ix2TEcJXulSt6P11UAi55Gdg/viewform?usp=header
- Phase 2: Shortlisted applicants from Phase 1 will be invited to submit a detailed HEF application form, which will include a requirement to complete a detailed budget, implementation plan and health and safety plan.

There is always high demand for HEF funding, so we encourage you to read the criteria before developing your application, as shortlisting will prioritise projects that align with the HEF's priorities and eligibility criteria.

Shortlisted applicants from Phase 1 should be contacted by 13 November 2026. Due to the high volume of applications received by the High Commission, only applications that are shortlisted in the EOI phase will be contacted. If you have not heard from us by 20 November 2026, your application has not been shortlisted. Please note that, due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to respond to individual enquiries regarding receipt of applications.

We anticipate that shortlisted applicants will be required to complete the detailed HEF application form during the period 16 – 30 November 2026.

We expect decisions regarding successful applications will be communicated to applicants in mid-January 2027, with project implementation beginning from February 2027.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Expressions of interest for the HEF 2026/2027 round will run from **19 October to 1 November 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