



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Eligibility Criteria

Emergency & Recovery Funding to NGOs

Emergency & Recovery Section, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Overview

The Emergency & Recovery (E&R) Section of Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, provides humanitarian funding for emergency response and early recovery programmes based on core humanitarian principles and in line with good practice of Humanitarian Donorship. This funding is channelled through the following different financing mechanisms:

- 1) **Humanitarian Programme Plan (HPP)**, which provides predictable funding on an annual basis to a group of invited NGO partners that have demonstrated capacities for humanitarian response in situations of protracted and predictable crises.
- 2) **Emergency Response Fund Scheme (ERFS)**, through which funding is pre-positioned with invited NGO partners on an annual basis to enable timely and reliable assistance in the days immediately after a sudden onset crisis or deteriorations in protracted emergency situations.
- 3) **Rapid Response Initiative** which includes two key elements: (i) the recruitment, training and deployment of Rapid Response Corps members; and ii) the stock piling of essential humanitarian provisions which are distributed by NGO and UN partners on the ground.
- 4) **'Call for Proposals'** invitations to NGOs to respond rapidly and effectively to sudden onset disasters or deteriorations in protracted emergency situations; or for specific thematic areas.

The criteria for eligibility for funding for the 'Call for Proposals' mechanism are set out below (separate criteria apply for HPP, ERFS and Rapid Response). **Applications cannot be considered from organisations which do not meet these eligibility criteria.** In general, applications for funding are only submitted in response to a call for proposals or upon invitation. For non-Irish organisations, applications should only be submitted upon specific invitation to apply for funding.

The call for proposals will be issued in response to a specific emergency situation or for a specific sector or thematic response. The decision to issue a call will be based on the particular nature of the crisis, the level of needs, and the availability of resources. The call will outline the specific focus of Ireland's response and the expertise required. It will also outline the main criteria for appraisal of the applications. Organisations will be requested to submit a project or programme proposal. Final decisions regarding funding will be made following a full appraisal of the proposals and subject to approval from the Minister of State for Trade and Development.

Eligibility

1. **Country of origin:** The applicant organisation must either be Irish-based, or a non-Irish organisation which has received an invitation to apply for funding.
2. **Organisational Status:** The applicant must be a non-governmental, non-profit, civil society organisation. It must have legal status and must have received charitable tax exemption from the Irish Office of the Revenue Commissioners i.e. be the holder of a charity reference (CHY) number for a minimum of two years prior to the date of application. An equivalent exemption will be required for non-Irish organisations.
3. **Governance:** Applicants must have a formal decision-making structure (e.g. a board of trustees) which can take legal responsibility for the administration and use of Irish Aid funds. All Irish applicants must have such a structure legally recognised in Ireland.
4. **Accounts:** Applicants must have annual audited accounts comprising at a minimum the Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Statement, and Cash Flow statement for the two financial years prior to application¹. These accounts must be externally and independently audited and must be available on the organisation's website at the date of application for funding.
5. **Organisational Income:** As a general rule, the average annual organisational income over the preceding three year period should have been a **minimum of €400,000**.
6. **Dependency on Irish Aid:** Income received from Irish Aid, either directly or indirectly, must not exceed 60% of the overall organisational income of the applicant. This should be calculated based on the last two years accounts.
7. **Focus of Work:** The areas of intervention by the agency must meet the OECD DAC definition of Official Development Assistance and take place in a country classified as eligible for assistance. See www.oecd.org/dac/stats/methodology for details.
8. **Humanitarian Expertise:** Applicants must (a) have an organisational humanitarian policy; (b) have dedicated humanitarian staff at HQ to support emergency programming; (c) have a demonstrated track record in emergency programming; and d) design projects and programmes which meet internationally accepted standards and good practice and which address the issues highlighted.
9. **Child Protection:** Applicants must have a Child Protection Policy in place.
10. **Security:** Applicants will be expected to make every reasonable effort to ensure the safety and security of their staff and to conform to Irish Aid's Guidelines for NGO Professional Safety and Security Risk Management.

¹ The organisation's own financial year can be used here.

11. **Record of Compliance:** Applicants, previously in receipt of Irish Aid funds, must have a record of compliance in terms of the administration and use of such funds. Applicants which have a previous record of non-compliance with the terms of an Irish Aid contract(s) may not be considered for funding.

Points to Note

- ❖ Additional eligibility criteria apply for the Humanitarian Programme Plan (HPP) and the Emergency Response Fund Scheme (ERFS).
- ❖ Irish Aid has separate funding streams - including from the Development Education and Civil Society Section - to cover preparedness, longer term recovery work, disaster risk reduction and development work.

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