Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund

About MDG-F

The MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F) is a United Nations resource that finances and supports national efforts to accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It was created in December 2006 with an initial commitment of €528 million by the Spanish Government to the United Nations. An additional €90 million were contributed in September 2008 mainly for child nutrition, food security, and private sector development.

The MDG-F supports joint programs, which bring together multiple UN Agencies, thereby strengthening the UN system's ability to deliver. Programs are implemented in more than 50 countries from 5 regions around the world. To achieve its goals, the MDG-F brings together almost 2000 partners from community organizations, national and local governments, private sector, NGOs and UN Agencies. 85% of the overall resources are allocated to financing 129 joint programs in 8 programmatic areas linked to the MDGs.

Areas of Work

The MDG-F focuses on the following areas:

- Development and the Private Sector (development of the pro-growth strategies that increase participation and benefits to the poor)
- Environment and Climate Change (reducing vulnerabilities and helping adapt to climate change)
- Democratic Economic Governance (democratizing access to services and utilities)
- Children, Food Security and Nutrition (tackling child hunger and under-nutrition)
- Gender Equality and Empowerment (increasing women's access to equal opportunities)
- Youth, Employment and Migration (promoting productive and decent work for young people)
- Conflict Prevention and Peace Building (fostering an enabling environment for development)
- Culture and Development (protecting and enhancing cultural rights and political participation)

Eligible Countries

Currently, 59 selected countries are eligible to apply to the MDG-F for country level support. These countries were identified in the Spanish Master Plan for International Cooperation. They are located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Eastern Europe.

Programs in Eastern Europe represent one of the smallest portfolios primarily focused on Youth Employment and Migration with an allocation of $19.4 million followed by Culture and Development with an allocation of $15 million. There are also programs in

Environment and Climate Change, Conflict Prevention, Economic Governance and one on Private Sector and Development.

European beneficiary countries include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey.

Project Selection Criteria

The MDG-F Steering Committee launches calls for proposals on 8 program areas in a phased manner, open to the 59 eligible countries. The key criterion for selection of proposals is the measurable impact on the achievement of the MDGs. The process entails the formulation by UN country teams of a "Concept Note" coherent with the UNDAF and national development priorities. If approved, this "Concept Note" is further developed into a Joint Program, which is endorsed by the National Steering Committee. The review and approval process for each program area is coordinated by a specific UN Agency, called a Convenor. For detailed information on Covenors of each MDG-F program as well as the joint program approval process, consult this link.

All "Concept Notes" are assessed against two sets of criteria: the technical strength of the application vis-à-vis the Terms of Reference for the Thematic Window concerned and the design criteria that relate to the broader goals and strategy of the MDG Achievement Fund.

How to apply

The Fund solicits applications to its Thematic Windows through a Request for Proposals (RfP). Multiple rounds of RfPs are expected to be launched over the life of the Fund, depending on the availability of resources. Eligible UN Country Teams should apply to specific Thematic Windows on the basis of a "Concept Note", which should be submitted to the Fund by the UN Resident Coordinator. Only one "Concept Note" per thematic window, per country, can be submitted in any given RfP round. However, more than one thematic window can be applied. Applications should have duration of no less than one and no more than three years, and an annual budget of no less than one and no more than 4 million USD.

RfP rounds are announced on the Fund's web site and by email to Resident Coordinators in all 59 eligible countries and to the headquarters of UN Agencies, Funds and Programs. Applications should be submitted through the Fund's On-line Project Application System (OPAS): http://sdnhq.undp.org/opas/en/user.

All members of the UN Development Group are eligible to manage MDG-F resources. UNECE is included on the current list of MDG-F eligible organizations. For more detailed information on how to apply, please consult the Application Section of this link.

For more information, please visit the MDG-F website:

http://www.undp.org/mdgf/index.shtml