



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Orange Corners Grant Programme

version 27 March 2023

Commissioned by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency

*>> Sustainable. Agricultural. Innovative.
International.*

This is a translation of the Dutch legislation, intended solely as a convenience to the non-Dutch reader. Any discrepancies or differences created in the translation are not binding and have no legal effect. If any questions arise relating to the accuracy of the information contained in this translation, please refer to the official, Dutch version.

Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 7 April 2023, Min-BuZa.2023.15230, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Orange Corners Grant Programme)

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,

Having regard to articles 6 and 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree;

Having regard to articles 5.1 and 7.2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006;

Orders:

Article 1

The administrative rules appended as an annexe to this Order apply to grants awarded under articles 5.1 and 7.2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 with a view to supporting young entrepreneurs who provide sustainable solutions to local challenges from the date on which this Order enters into force up to and including 31 December 2028.

Article 2

1. Grant applications under the Orange Corners Grant Programme may be submitted in several different rounds.
2. Applications for grants in the first round of the Orange Corners Grant Programme must focus on the target locations Algeria, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ghana, Iraq (Baghdad), Morocco and Mozambique and be submitted between 5 June 2023 and 12.00 noon CEST on 30 June 2023.
3. Applications for grants in the second round of the Orange Corners Grant Programme must focus **on the target locations Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq** (Kurdistan Region), Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan and Sudan, and be submitted between 4 September 2023 and 12.00 noon CEST on 29 September 2023.
4. The start of a possible third funding round of the Orange Corners Grant Programme will be announced at a later date.
5. Grant applications under the Orange Corners Grant Programme must be submitted using the application form made available by the Minister and must be accompanied by the documents stipulated in that form.¹

Article 3

A grant ceiling of €12,000,000 applies to Orange Corners grants awarded from the date on which this Order enters into force up to and including 31 December 2028. Of this amount, for each of the target locations a maximum of €750,000 is available.

Article 4

In the interests of efficiency, no more than one application for each target location as referred to in article 2, paragraphs 2 and 3 will be awarded a grant. The available funds referred to in article 3 will be allocated in accordance with an assessment based on the criteria set out in the annexe to this Order, on the understanding that, of the applications that meet the criteria, the application that meets them best will be given priority. If two or more applications for the same target location meet the criteria in equal measure, they will be ranked by drawing lots.

Article 5

This Order enters into force on the day after the date of the Government Gazette in which it appears and lapses with effect from 1 January 2029, with the proviso that it continues to apply to grants awarded prior to that time.

¹ <https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component>

This Order and its accompanying annexe, including the appendix, will be published in the Government Gazette.

Birgitta Tazelaar
Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation
For the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Annexe

1. Background

1.1 Orange Corners

The Netherlands wants to help accelerate sustainable development, including economic development and employment. It does this among other things by promoting entrepreneurship the world over, especially among young people in developing countries. Youth employment and youth entrepreneurship are special policy priorities for the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (hereafter: the Minister).² The 'Youth at Heart'³ strategy also puts young people at the heart of Dutch development policy. Young entrepreneurs have the energy and inventiveness required to develop solutions to local challenges, which can stimulate employment and innovation. This is also recognised in Resolution 73/225 ('Entrepreneurship for sustainable development')⁴, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 2018. The Resolution emphasises the pivotal role of entrepreneurship in achieving sustainable development and recognises that entrepreneurship drives economic growth by creating jobs, promoting decent work and sustainable agriculture, and fostering innovation.

Young entrepreneurs in developing countries face a wide range of challenges, including red tape, a lack of entrepreneurship education and difficulty accessing funding. Often, there is also a lack of access to high-quality entrepreneurial training, business development support and networks for young entrepreneurs, which would help them turn smart ideas into a sustainable revenue model. **The Netherlands' extensive experience in the field of entrepreneurship means** it is ideally placed to help address these challenges and support young entrepreneurs in establishing and developing their own businesses.

This is why the Minister established the Orange Corners initiative. Orange Corners strengthens the local ecosystems for young entrepreneurs in various countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East through, for example, incubation and acceleration programmes for startups, projects aimed at access to finance (for example, through the Orange Corners Innovation Fund),⁵ support for entrepreneurial education and the development of a better regulatory environment for entrepreneurship. Activities under the Orange Corners flag are designed for the local context and based on ecosystem mapping. This means that new activities are designed to address the gaps identified within each ecosystem.

Orange Corners⁶ is implemented by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), in collaboration with the diplomatic missions of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Local businesses and civil society organisations play an important role in its implementation, together with the financial and in-kind contributions of (other) local private organisations.

1.2 Orange Corners Grant Programme

The Orange Corners Grant Programme contributes to the Orange Corners mission in a number of ways.

Firstly, the grant programme provides financial support to local businesses and civil society organisations so they can set up entrepreneurial training (incubation and/or acceleration) programmes. These give participants access to training, mentorship, networks and facilities in order to start or grow their business. Financing these incubation and acceleration programmes is the main objective of this grant programme.

Secondly, the grant programme also contributes to wider awareness and knowledge of entrepreneurship in the target location and promotes the development of entrepreneurial spirit and skills, in particular among young people in education and recent graduates. Raising the profile of local Orange Corners activities, and thus promoting training pipelines at local level, also raises awareness of entrepreneurship as a possible career path for young people. Raising awareness of **entrepreneurship and encouraging young people's entrepreneurial spirit and skills** is a secondary objective of the grant programme.

² www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/beleidsnotas/2022/06/24/beleidsnotitie-buitenlandse-handel-en-ontwikkelingssamenwerking

³ www.youthatheart.nl

⁴ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1660776>

⁵ <https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-innovation-fund-ocif>

⁶ www.orangecorners.com

Thirdly, the grant programme aims to strengthen the capacity of local businesses and civil society organisations implementing the training programmes (the grant recipients). Strengthening capacity is a way of emphasising the sustainability and self-reliance of these local organisations. This improves the quality of the activities and increases the likelihood that the initiatives funded by the grant programme will be continued after the grant period. This also makes the role played by Dutch support more relevant in **an international context. Strengthening grant recipients' capacity is** also a secondary objective of the grant programme.

Broadly speaking, this will result in the grant programme strengthening local ecosystems for young entrepreneurs.

Besides the Orange Corners HQ team at RVO, the missions of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the relevant (other) local private organisations in the target countries play important supporting roles in facilitating the implementation of the grant programme. This will create a strong partnership to help achieve the **programme's** intended results and ensure effective coordination of private cofunding. Alignment and synergy will also be sought with existing Dutch initiatives aimed at youth employment and young entrepreneurs, to ensure the lasting relevance, efficiency and impact of Orange Corners.

The funds made available for the grant programme will be used to award grants to local businesses and local civil society organisations to implement activities that contribute to the main objective and secondary objectives described above.

2. Implementing organisation

The Minister has mandated the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), an agency of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, to implement this grant programme.

3. Glossary

The following definitions are used:

- *Target locations*: the countries or regions where the Orange Corners Grant Programme supports activities.
- *Local civil society organisation*: a not-for-profit organisation established in a target location, not connected to a government organisation either de facto or under its constitution which serves a public interest and possesses legal personality under civil law in the country where it has its registered office. It must not have been established by a government organisation or must have become fully autonomous from the government organisation that established it. The organisation must also be registered accordingly in the target location where the grant-funded activities will be implemented.
- *Local business*: an organisation other than a civil society organisation that has legal personality under civil law in the country where it is registered and that implements economic activities. An economic activity is the offering of goods or services on an economic market. The organisation must be registered in the target location where the grant-funded activities are to be implemented.
- *Minister*: the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

4. Orange Corners Grant Programme

4.1 Purpose

Main objective

Training and otherwise supporting young entrepreneurs aged 18 to 35, so they can turn their ideas into businesses with sustainable revenue models.

Secondary objectives

- **Raising awareness of entrepreneurship and encouraging young people's entrepreneurial spirit and skills.**
- Strengthening the capacity of local businesses and local civil society organisations.

To be eligible for a grant the activities must in any case target the main objective described above. Activities may also target one or both of the secondary objectives. In this case, the applicant must

meet the requirement specified below regarding the ratio of each activity relative to the total eligible costs.

The grant programme is aimed at activities in the target locations Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ghana, Iraq (Baghdad), Iraq (Kurdistan Region), Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan and Sudan.

4.2 Target group

The grant programme's ultimate target group are young people aged 18 to 35 in the target locations specified in section 4.1, looking for support to turn their ideas into businesses with sustainable revenue models. The grant programme places particular focus on women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs whose business operations will contribute to the SDGs.

4.3 Parties that may be eligible for a grant

The grant programme is open to local businesses and local civil society organisations. Only one application per group⁷ or per tax group will be eligible for a grant.⁸

The applicant must:

- have experience in developing and managing entrepreneurial training programmes (incubation/acceleration);
- comply with all the necessary administrative and regulatory requirements, and have experience with project management, marketing and communication in the context of a project, acquisition, maintaining an active network in the target location, and project-related monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting;
- be capable of proper financial management and be able to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the activities for which grant funding is sought;
- demonstrate that it has adopted a code of conduct/integrity policy and that it has introduced procedures to apply that policy. This code of conduct/integrity policy and these procedures should prevent as much as possible any sexual misconduct and other serious forms of inappropriate behaviour towards employees and other individuals during the implementation of the proposed activities by the applicant and any other parties they involve in the activities, and in the event of such incidents, to investigate and take appropriate measures to put an end as promptly as possible to the misconduct or inappropriate behaviour and mitigate the consequences. These procedures must be structured in a way that guarantees prompt reporting of any such incidents to RVO.

4.4 Recommendation

Before submitting a grant application, the applicant must request a recommendation based on a quick scan (screening)⁹ submitted for this purpose. The recommendation is issued by an RVO adviser and is non-binding. Potential applicants decide themselves whether or not to submit an application. When submitting an application, the applicant is responsible for ensuring that it meets all relevant criteria in order to be eligible for a grant.

As a request for a recommendation takes about two weeks to process, requests submitted less than two weeks before the application deadline for a round will be rejected.

4.5 Eligible activities

The following activities are eligible for an Orange Corners grant, taking account of the ratio of each type of activity relative to the total eligible costs.

Entrepreneurial training programme (> 90% of total eligible costs)

Activities of this type must include all of the following elements:

- The programme aims to increase the knowledge and competences of young entrepreneurs aged 18 to 35 over a five-year period with a view to helping them successfully start and grow a business.
 - Training should be tailored to the individual needs of each entrepreneur as much as possible.
 - At a practical outcome level, the programme should at the very least result in a sound business plan (document) that will support the establishment and growth of a business

⁷ An economic unit in which entities with legal personality and partnerships/companies form a single organisation.

⁸ A group of businesses seen as one business for tax purposes.

⁹ <https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component>

- with a sustainable revenue model.
- In-person training will be available for at least 30 young people each year, but the intervention should preferably be designed to provide in-person and/or online training to larger numbers of young people in several locations/regions within the target location.
- Selection of participants for the entrepreneurial training programme, including the implementation of a recruitment and selection procedure.
- Provision of one or more workspaces for participants. Workspaces must as a minimum include: desks for working at, unlimited high-speed internet (>9Mbps/s), conference rooms and printing facilities.
- Extra activities, including individual mentorship and individual strategic and operational support (business development services) for the entrepreneur and their business.
- Activities aimed at linking participants with other businesses and financial institutions in the target location, such as networking activities, masterclasses and field visits.
- A public event at the end of each training cycle, designed to encourage partnerships and attract funding for participating entrepreneurs.
- The creation and maintenance of an alumni network for former participants, including the organisation of relevant activities for alumni.
- Activities that support the implementation of the intervention, including monitoring, evaluation and learning, marketing and communication (including setting up and actively maintaining social media accounts) and administrative tasks, based on the Orange Corners guidelines.
- Activities for mobilising new, local private partners to ensure lasting financial and in-kind support for the entrepreneurial training programme.

Promoting entrepreneurship (< 5% of total eligible costs)

- Campaigns, events and other activities to promote entrepreneurship in the target location as a whole.
- Activities with/within knowledge institutions to promote entrepreneurship as a possible career path for students.

Capacity strengthening (< 5% of total eligible costs)

- Training, workshops, soliciting external advice and other activities aimed at strengthening the grant recipient's capacity in terms of having the knowledge and/or know-how to support young entrepreneurs.
- Training, workshops, soliciting external advice and other activities aimed at strengthening the grant recipient's capacity for the proper management and implementation of relevant activities.

With regard to the programme objectives and the activities for which a grant is requested, the activity plan should provide information on the following:

- **The extent to which the activities contribute to the Minister's specific policy objectives in the area of private sector development, based on the following indicators:**
 - the number of entrepreneurs trained or who have developed relevant skills;
 - the number of businesses with a supported plan to invest, trade or provide services;
 - the number of direct jobs supported in individually supported MSMEs;
 - the number of entrepreneurs successfully supported to formally register their business;
 - the number of entrepreneurs successfully supported in obtaining funding.
- For each target location: the priority sectors and/or thematic focus of the local training programme (see Appendix 1).
- There should be particular emphasis on women entrepreneurs and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (gender equality):
 - Action must be taken to ensure at least a (more) equal ratio of male to female participants. In many cases this will imply working towards a minimum participation rate of 50% for women entrepreneurs.
 - In order to help achieve SDG 5, activities must in any case be gender-responsive and, where possible, gender-transformative.¹⁰ Attention must therefore be given to the quality of participation for and the specific needs of women entrepreneurs, with due consideration for the sociocultural context of the project and the target location and for gender-related obstacles. This may require adapted training methods, locations and times, and relevant social support. It may also be necessary to investigate which business needs of women entrepreneurs are not being met and which structural obstacles they encounter in

¹⁰ <https://odi.org/en/publications/womens-economic-empowerment-supporting-transformative-change/> en www.enterprise-development.org/implementing-psd/womens-economic-empowerment/

developing their businesses, and to facilitate, where necessary, the development of extra skills, social dialogue and coordination.

- There must be a special focus on entrepreneurs whose business activities contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It is requested to give special attention to the following themes:
 - greening/sustainability
 - innovation
 - digitalisation
 - diversity and inclusion.

Activities which already receive grant funding or a contribution directly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget are not eligible for a grant.

4.6 Duration of activities

The activities for which a grant is requested must have a duration of five years, starting on 1 January 2024 and ending on 31 December 2028.

4.7 Size of the grant

Grants will be awarded for 75% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum of €750,000.

This means that the own contribution must be at least 25% of the eligible costs. The own contribution (in cash) must, wherever possible, be sourced from local private organisations. At least one local private organisation must be involved in the activities from the outset. During the course of the activities new partnerships with local private organisations can be entered into, to strengthen and supplement the own contribution.

Partnerships with larger, local private organisations are invaluable for the success of the activities and growth of young entrepreneurs. With their financial means, knowledge and experience, these organisations can make an important contribution to the activities and set an inspiring example for young entrepreneurs. Besides contributing financially, it is also important that local private organisations make contributions in kind, for example by providing instructors and mentors, offering strategic and operational support (business development services) to individual young entrepreneurs and/or organising masterclasses and workshops for participants. Contributions in kind do not fall under the total costs covered by the grant; the grant is only for costs incurred by the grant recipient.

The local private organisations involved must not pose a risk to the reputation of Orange Corners. Their operations should ideally relate to the focus themes and sectors for the target location and/or include a special focus on youth employment, young entrepreneurs and/or the Sustainable Development Goals.

4.8 State aid

The grants awarded under the Orange Corners Grant Programme do not constitute State aid: they cause no distortion of competition on the European market, as the activities supported are carried out solely by organisations outside the European Union and solely in third-country markets, and wholly benefit local enterprises (including startups) operating in these third-country markets. To qualify as State aid, the support provided would have to have these features, which it does not.

5. Eligible costs

5.1 Principles

In calculating the costs eligible for a grant, the following principles apply:

- costs must be necessary and proportionate for the implementation of the activities for which grant funding is sought;
- costs must be directly related to carrying out the activities;
- only costs incurred after the application is submitted are eligible for a grant;
- internal costs are eligible without mark-up;
- costs will be compared with local standards and assessed for reasonableness;
- revenues obtained directly from the activities, for example for providing training and advice, will be deducted from the eligible costs.

5.2 Eligible costs

The following costs to be incurred by the applicant are eligible for a grant:

- a. Direct wage costs, calculated as an hourly rate multiplied by the number of hours worked by

people directly involved with the eligible activities, plus an additional 50% for indirect costs. Direct wage costs are the gross wage costs plus employer contributions, the costs of fringe benefits, fees and redundancy payment.

- b. Depreciation of assets during the course of the activities.
- c. Costs of third parties: costs payable to third parties, supported by an invoice, for example if any eligible activities are outsourced, and costs of goods and services purchased for the eligible activities.
- d. Subsistence costs: the maximum reimbursement is the number of nights multiplied by the UN Daily Subsistence Allowance rates in effect on the project starting date.¹¹

5.3 Costs not eligible for a grant

The following costs are in any event not eligible:

- costs associated with developing, preparing or submitting the application;
- value-added tax (VAT), in so far as this is not a cost item;
- costs due to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations which are greater than 5% of the total eligible costs;
- costs of registering and maintaining intellectual property rights.

6. Application

6.1 Requirements

Before submitting their grant application, an applicant must ask RVO to issue a recommendation based on the quick scan (screening), as described in section 4.4.

Applications must be submitted in English using the form supplied for this purpose, which can be downloaded from the RVO website. The form must be accompanied by the documents specified in it, in the formats prescribed by RVO.¹²

The application must in any event include:

- the reference number of the recommendation issued by RVO;
- an activity plan, drawn up in line with section 4 (except for section 4.4) and Appendix 1, and not exceeding 25 A4 pages (single spacing, Verdana 9 font). The activity plan must include a risk analysis, identifying both implementation and RBC¹³ risks and measures to mitigate them;
- a budget, including a liquidity prognosis;
- a timetable of the activities;
- **CVs of the applicant's staff members** who will be involved in the implementation of the activities;
- at least one letter of intent from a private organisation to cover all or part of the own contribution (in cash) and pledging (in-kind) support for the eligible activities;
- annual accounts for the last two years (T-1 and T-2) audited by an external, independent auditor, or, if no audited annual accounts are available yet, one or more non-audited annual accounts.

The applicant must also declare that it is aware of and will act in accordance with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises,¹⁴ and that it is aware of the exclusion list of the FMO, the Dutch development bank, and will not engage in any activities on that list.¹⁵ The IFC Performance Standards also apply. The applicant must declare that it is aware of and endorses these standards. The applicant must immediately notify RVO of any facts or circumstances that indicate breaches of these guidelines. The applicant must be open to making improvements if requested.

6.2 Remedy period

With regard to the application procedure, particular attention is drawn to article 7, paragraph 3 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree. If an incomplete application is submitted, the Minister may request a supplement in accordance with Section 4:5 of the General Administrative Law Act. In this case, the date and time of receipt of the application will be the date and time on which the supplement was received; a supplement may not be submitted after the deadline for the submission of applications. Moreover, incomplete or insufficiently substantiated applications (in

¹¹ <https://icsc.un.org/Home/DailySubsistence>

¹² <https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component>

¹³ Responsible Business Conduct

¹⁴ www.oecd.org/corporate/mne

¹⁵ www.fmo.nl/exclusion-list

whole or in part) may be rejected on the grounds of failure to adequately satisfy the requirements and criteria.

When completing the form, it is not sufficient to refer for the sake of brevity to other parts of the application, websites or annexes, unless the application form states that this is wholly or partly acceptable. Incomplete applications may be rejected.

7. Assessment of applications and allocation of resources

The provisions of the General Administrative Law Act, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 are fully applicable to the assessment of applications and the award of grants under this grant programme. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the above legislation and the requirements set out in this grant programme.

To be eligible for a grant, applications must satisfy the requirements above, especially those set out in sections 4 to 6. Only applications that meet these requirements will be substantively assessed on the basis of the criteria set out below. Applications must achieve a minimum score of 65 points out of the maximum of 100 points in order to be eligible for a grant. For each target location, the application that best meets the criteria will be given priority in the award of grants, followed by the application that is ranked second.

The following criteria apply (the maximum number of points that can be awarded in each category and for each criterion is indicated in brackets):

1. Policy contribution (15 points)	
The extent to which the activities contribute to the Minister's policy objectives in the area of private sector development, based on the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the number of entrepreneurs trained or who have developed relevant skills; - the number of businesses with a supported plan to invest, trade or provide services; - the number of direct jobs supported in individually supported MSMEs; - the number of entrepreneurs successfully supported to formally register their business; - the number of entrepreneurs successfully supported in obtaining funding; 	10
The extent to which the activities align with the local policy priorities of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for private sector development in or relating to the target location (see appendix 1).	5
2. Action plan (35 points in total)	
The extent to which it can be demonstrated that the action plan will achieve the formulated objectives and results.	25
The extent to which the action plan indicates that lessons learned during the project will be used to improve the action plan in the course of the project.	5
The extent to which the action plan is creative and innovative.	5
3. Organisation and network (15 points in total)	
The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has sufficient capacity, systems and experience with the different aspects of project management, such as monitoring, evaluating and learning (MEL), marketing and communication, human resources, financial projections and accounting, reporting, logistics and other kinds of administration.	5
The quality and experience of the proposed team with regard to developing and managing entrepreneurial training programmes (incubation/acceleration).	5
The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has active relationships with the following actors within the local ecosystem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - central and local/regional governments - private organisations - banks, investment funds and networks, individual investors and other relevant financial parties - institutions for tertiary education and other relevant knowledge institutions - relevant multilateral organisations and other donors - instructors, mentors and technical experts. 	5

4. Financial criteria (15 points)	
The extent to which the eligible costs included in the budget are reasonable.	2.5
The extent to which the qualitative and quantitative impact of the activities is in proportion to the costs incurred.	2.5
The extent to which the applicant has already secured declarations of intent or confirmations from private organisations to cover all or part of the own contribution and pledging support for the eligible activities.	5
The extent to which the applicant has a sound plan for mobilising new local private partners during the grant period.	5
5. Social impact (15 points in total)	
The extent to which the action plan specifically addresses SDG 5 (gender equality) and the needs of women entrepreneurs.	5
The extent to which the action plan addresses the following themes: - greening/sustainability (2.5 points) - digitalisation (2.5 points) - innovation (2.5 points) - diversity and inclusion (2.5 points).	10
6. Risk management (5 points)	
The extent to which the risk analysis submitted identifies both implementation and RBC risks and includes effective measures to mitigate the most significant risks.	5

In aid of its assessment, RVO may undertake action to verify any assumptions or statements made in the application. To this end, it may collect any information needed to properly assess the quality of the application.

RVO may also consult external experts during the substantive assessment procedure. The diplomatic missions of the Kingdom of the Netherlands are always asked to participate in the assessment of applications, in particular concerning the extent to which applications are aligned with the mission's policy and with the local situation.

8. Grounds for rejection

In addition to the grounds for rejection set out in section 4:35 of the General Administrative Law Act, a grant application will be rejected if it does not satisfy the provisions of this grant programme or if the budget available is insufficient.

9. Oversight

RVO will carry out random checks to assess the proper use of grant funds, checking regularity and efficiency under the terms of the grant decision.

10. Obligations

The grant decision will set out the obligations tied to the grant, including in any event an obligation to notify RVO if the grant recipient cannot (or cannot fully) comply with the conditions of the grant and/or cannot (or cannot fully) carry out the activities for which the grant has been awarded. The grant decision will also include an obligation for the grant recipient and the primary supplier to not use child and/or forced labour.¹⁶ The grant recipient must also immediately notify RVO of any facts or circumstances that would suggest these organisations are using child and/or forced labour.

The grant recipient must also arrange for an audit to be carried out by an independent external auditor after the first year and after the end of the grant period.

The grant recipient will be asked to actively participate in the Orange Corners international network. This includes regular participation in consultations with all grant recipients (Community of

¹⁶ Any form of labour that the International Labour Organization seeks to prevent with the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (no. 29), the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) or the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138).

Practice) and actively connecting alumni from the local programme with the international alumni network.

The grant decision may also require the grant recipient to ensure that the organisations or persons being worked with do not appear on EU or UN international sanctions lists,¹⁷ as these are excluded from funding. In appropriate cases, this obligation will be formulated so as to ensure that the grant recipient must apply it to agreements with third parties.

11. Administrative burden

A test based on a standard cost model has been carried out in the interests of accountability for the administrative burden that the applicant will face, from drafting and submitting the application to the management phase, the determining of the definitive grant amount, and any objection and appeal procedures. The calculation shows that the administrative burden expressed as a percentage of the total available grant budget is 2.4%.

¹⁷ www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/internationale-sancties/beleid-voor-internationale-sancties

Appendix 1: The Kingdom of the Netherlands’ local policy priorities in the area of private sector development

The following local policy priorities of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the area of private sector development apply to the applications.

New ecosystem mapping will be conducted for various target locations, notably Burundi, Mali and South Sudan, to identify the most relevant themes and geographic regions. This will be communicated separately to applicants as part of RVO’s recommendation based on the screening tool and will also be published at <https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component>.

Within the framework of a programmatic approach, Dutch missions are interested in discussing how the activities for which a grant is requested could be aligned with other local projects supported by the mission in the relevant target location.

Under the Orange Corners Innovation Fund (OCIF)¹⁸ funding will also be provided to participants of the entrepreneurial training programme in all target locations. Applicants in these target locations will therefore be expected to actively collaborate with OCIF grant recipients.

Target location	Relevant themes and sectors	Geographic focus	Other comments
Algeria	The most relevant themes and sectors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • renewable energy (including solar energy) • the environment • climate mitigation • agriculture • circular economy • water • recycling 	No specific requirements	
Angola	The most relevant themes and sectors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture 	No specific requirements	
Burundi	Will be published at https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component	Will be published at https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component	
Côte d’Ivoire	The most relevant themes and sectors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture, with focus on the horticultural and cacao value chains 	Abidjan and, where possible, other towns and cities relevant for the horticultural and cacao markets, including Yamoussoukro and Korhogo	

¹⁸ <https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-innovation-fund-ocif>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • circular economy 		
DRC	<p>The most relevant themes and sectors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food security (focusing on agriculture) • the environment and climate • access to water, including safe drinking water • green energy • local processing of mineral resources • digitalisation 	Kinshasa and, where possible, eastern DRC and Grand Katanga	
Egypt	<p>The most relevant themes and sectors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate-smart agriculture • water • waste management • sustainability • digitalisation • green technology 	The Upper Egypt region	Parties wishing to implement activities in Egypt will require a security clearance from the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation. The grant recipient should apply for this authorisation with the embassy's assistance.
Ghana	<p>The most relevant themes and sectors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture, with focus on the horticultural and cacao value chains 	Accra and, where possible, other towns, cities and regions relevant for the horticultural and cacao value chains, including Kumasi, Volta, Sunyani, Damongo, Bono, Ahafo, Ejura and Cape Coast	
Iraq (Baghdad)	<p>The most relevant themes and sectors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate • water • agriculture • food security <p>The focus should be on products and services that fulfil a role in society that is currently absent, with a view to the country's fragility.</p>	Baghdad and, where possible, other towns and cities in Iraq (Baghdad)	

Iraq (Kurdistan Region)	The most relevant themes and sectors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate-smart and modern agriculture • the environment and climate • water management • renewable energy • recycling • financial services • tech (including e-learning and e-commerce) 	Erbil	
Mali	Will be published at https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component	Will be published at https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component	
Morocco	The most relevant themes and sectors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water • energy • agriculture 	Entrepreneurial training and associated activities should preferably cover multiple towns and cities in Morocco	When a grant recipient is selected for implementing activities in Morocco, the Moroccan authorities (specifically the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs) must be informed of the organisation's name, and the objectives and duration of the activities for which the grant is awarded.
Mozambique	The most relevant themes and sectors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture 	Maputo and, where possible, the Beira corridor (including Beira) and the Cabo Delgado province	
Nigeria	The most relevant themes and sectors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture • circular economy • healthcare • renewable energy 	Lagos and, where possible, South and North Central Nigeria	
South Africa	No specific themes or sectors have been identified as most relevant. The focus should be on likelihood of success and scalability of the activities for which a grant is requested.	No specific requirements	
South Sudan	Will be published at https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-	Will be published at https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-	

	programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component	programmes/orange-corners-incubation-acceleration-component	
Sudan	<p>The most relevant themes and sectors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • agriculture • IT <p>The focus should be on products and services that fulfil a role in society that is currently absent, with a view to the country's fragility.</p>	<p>Khartoum and, where possible, Darfur and Kassala</p>	

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Netherlands Enterprise Agency
Prinses Beatrixlaan 2
PO Box 93144 | 2509 AC The Hague
T +31 (0) 88 042 42 42
Contact
www.rvo.nl

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