



NL Agency
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Infrastructure for development

ORIO funds public works and
facilities in developing countries

>> Focus on international
business and cooperation

**ORIO supports the entire process of development,
operation and maintenance of public infrastructure
in developing countries.**

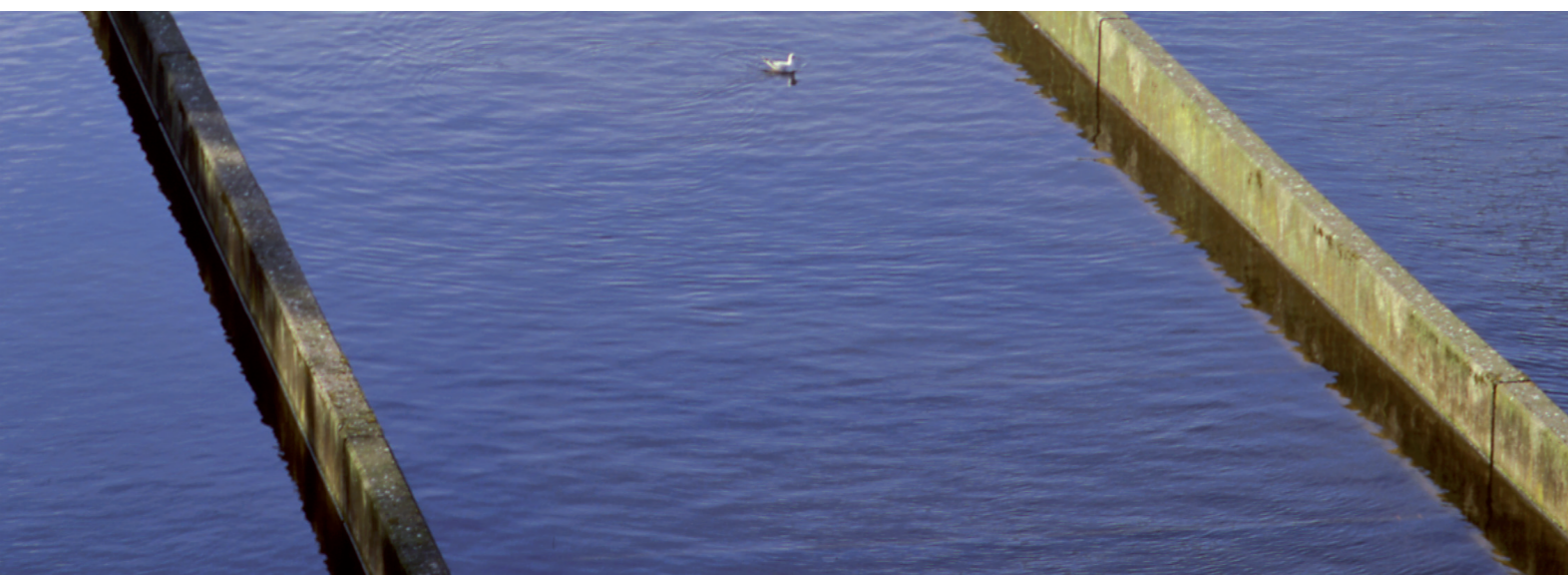
NL Agency is a department of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation that implements government policy for sustainability, innovation, and international business and cooperation. It is the contact point for businesses, educational institutions and government bodies for information and advice, financing, networking and regulatory matters.

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Visiting address
Prinses Beatrixlaan 2 | 2595 AL The Hague | The Netherlands
orio@info.agentschapnl.nl | www.orio.nl
T +31(0)88 602 8104

Postal address
P.O. Box 93144 | 2509 AC The Hague | The Netherlands

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ORIO gives large numbers of people better access to basic facilities. It supports the entire process of infrastructure development and contributes to the development, construction/expansion, operation and maintenance of public infrastructure in developing countries.



Governments and businesses are teaming up to reduce poverty in developing countries by creating public infrastructure.

Whether it's about building a new road to connect an isolated village with the outside world, linking up the inhabitants in an entire region to a reliable electricity or drinking water supply, or fighting the risk of flooding, governments in developing countries can apply for an ORIO grant for their infrastructure development projects. The funding they receive enables local authorities in partnership with the business community to create public works and facilities related to drinking water, irrigation, wastewater, the environment, energy, transport, civil works, health care, etc.

Sustainable economic growth is an important condition for reducing poverty and improving the living standards of people in developing countries.

The private sector is a driver of sustainable economic growth. Accessible and well-functioning infrastructure multiplies opportunities for further developing the private sector. For instance, irrigation can increase crop yields, and better harbours or roads can boost exports.

Accessible, well-functioning infrastructure also directly promotes better living standards (human development). Access to health care, education, drinking water or energy gives people a better chance of escaping from poverty.

ORIO encourages the involvement of international business in developing and realising public infrastructure projects in order to tap the private sector's knowledge and expertise.



ORIO funds projects related to drinking water, irrigation, wastewater, the environment, energy, transport, civil works, health care, etc.

ORIO provides grants for infrastructure development. Applications are assessed by NL Agency against criteria such as feasibility, sustainability, relevance to end users, and contribution to private sector development and human development.



Reliable infrastructure is crucial for developing countries to be able to develop their private sector and improve their citizens' standard of living. ORIO, a grant facility financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contributes to the development, construction/expansion, operation and maintenance of public infrastructure in developing countries.

ORIO is the Infrastructure Development Facility. The needs of the applicant country's government are key. Consequently, it is central government that submits the application, although the initiative may come from a private enterprise.

Selection is on a first-come, first-served basis. On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NL Agency assesses project applications' relevance and logic and their impact on the people and businesses that will be using the proposed infrastructure. Consideration is also given to feasibility, sustainability (including social and environmental effects), relevance to end users, and cost efficiency.

The project budget must be a minimum of €2 million and a maximum of €60 million. A portion of the project funding is given in the form of a grant, and the remainder is supplied by the recipient government. The size of the grant varies according to the country and the phase of the project.

ORIO grants are a form of untied aid. Goods, works and services for a project must be purchased in a transparent and efficient manner in accordance with the legislation in the applicant's country and the OECD Good Procurement Practices for Official Development Assistance. Implementation must be in line with the guidelines on corporate social responsibility (see www.orio.nl for a summary of the relevant guidelines).

For more information go to: www.orio.nl