



Announcement and call for proposals

Cooperative Facility for Africa

ILO - Coop^{AFRICA}

1. The Cooperative Facility for Africa (Coop^{AFRICA}) funded by DFID, is a partnership programme implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) aiming at supporting the development and promotion of cooperatives in Africa.
2. The programme disposes of three financial facilities called ‘Challenge Funds’, namely for: ‘Services’, ‘Innovation’, and ‘Training’. All funds are accessible through a competitive bidding process.
3. Coop^{AFRICA} Challenge Funds can support project proposals up to US\$50,000. Two calls for proposals are organised per year for projects ranging from US\$ 20,000 to US\$ 50,000. Projects below US\$ 20,000 can be submitted at any time of the year, under the “Coop^{AFRICA} Small Grants” procedure.
4. It is highly recommended that applicants enter into a formal partnership with an organisation (e.g. apex, college or business service provider) that has the proven capacity to support the implementation of the project.
5. Calls for proposals are open to 9 African countries including Tanzania under a high competitive bidding. Two calls have been organised so far: the first in June 2008 and the second in November 2008. 30 organizations have already benefited from Coop^{AFRICA} grants, for a total funding of approximately US\$ 1,400,000.
6. Organisations eligible for the Challenge Funds are:
 - *Challenge Fund for Services:* This is a fund enabling all institutions having significant technical expertise on cooperative development to provide technical support and support services to cooperative stakeholders (e.g. guidance on market information, financial services, business planning, legal issues, etc.)
 - *Challenge Fund for Innovation:* First and foremost for primary cooperative societies, this fund aims at promoting new forms of cooperatives (e.g. shared service cooperatives, social service cooperatives, burial cooperatives, etc.)
 - *Challenge Fund for Training:* all cooperative stakeholders (cooperatives and apex organizations, public bodies, social partners, NGO, etc.) with the objective of promoting capacity building services for the development of cooperatives (e.g. provision of updated cooperative curricula, staff training, development of training material etc.) can apply to this fund

7. Coop^{AFRICA} strongly recommends that project proposals directly also contribute to the implementation of the Tanzania Decent Work Country Programme, particularly relating to the priority areas of: i) Poverty reduction through creation of decent work opportunities with a focus on young women and men; ii) Incidence of child labour and its worst forms reduced; and iii) Socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS at the workplace mitigated.
8. The ILO invites applications for the three above-mentioned Challenge Fund types. Those interested in participating should contact the Coop^{AFRICA} Focal Point

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9. The deadline for the third call for proposals (i.e. above US\$ 20,000) is 17th May. Below this threshold, proposals can be received at any time.

For more information, please consult the website: www.ilo.org/coopafrika



***ILO is celebrating its 90th Anniversary in Tanzania!
Popular events on Social Justice, Decent Work and
Fair Globalization are planned on
April 20th, 2009 at Mnozi Moja.***

Marking the 90th Anniversary!