

Order of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the 7th of May 2024, no. MinBuZa-2024.490262, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Extension of Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Acting in agreement with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,

Having regard to articles 6 and 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree,¹

Having regard to articles 2.5 and 2.6 (f) and (h) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006,²

Orders:

Article 1

The administrative rules appended as an annexe to this Order apply to grants awarded under articles 2.5 and 2.6 (f) and (h) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 with a view to financing activities in the field of mine action and cluster munition clearance, which help promote peace and security after the end of an armed conflict (Extension of Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024).

Article 2

An overall ceiling of €3,808,809 applies to the Extension of Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024 for grants awarded from the time this Order enters into force up to and including 31 March 2025, to be allocated for operational mine action activities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Ukraine.

Article 3

1. Eligibility for grants is limited to organisations that received grants under the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024.³
2. The maximum grant amount (rounded off to the nearest euro) available for each organisation is equal to 7/48ths of the amount made available under the Mine Action and Cluster Munition Programme 2020-2024 and referred to in the grant decision.
3. Grants are awarded only for activities following on from activities for which grants were previously awarded in the decision referred to in paragraph 2, and which will not conclude prior to 31 August 2024.

Article 4

Grant applications can be submitted from the date that this Order enters into force until 23.59 CEST on 27 June 2024.

¹ [Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 2005, 137.](#)

² [Government Gazette 2005, 251.](#)

³ Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 3 March 2020, no. MINBUZA-2020.5035-46, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024), Government Gazette 2020, no. 17117.

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 April 2025, with the proviso that it continues to apply to grants awarded prior to that date.

This Order and its accompanying annexe will be published in the Government Gazette. The appendix to the annexe will be published online.⁴

Pascalie Grotenhuis
Director-General for International Cooperation
For the Minister of Foreign Affairs

⁴ Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024 | Grant programmes | Government.nl

Annexe

I. Background

For background and policy principles of the Netherlands' humanitarian mine action policy, see the grant policy framework for the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024 (hereinafter: MACM II).⁵

II. Additional grants to the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024

In recent years, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation has provided funding for activities around mine action and the clearance of cluster munitions, with an eye to promoting peace and security in the wake of armed conflict. Most recently, this has taken place under MACM II.⁶

The Minister of Foreign Affairs intends to establish a new grant policy framework for related activities around mine action and the clearance of cluster munitions (MACM III). This new policy framework will apply for a period of five years. For organisational reasons it is not likely it will enter into force until the spring of 2025, thus leaving a hiatus following the end of the current grant policy framework MACM II. In light of the urgency in the countries affected by mine contamination, and of the importance of responsible donorship, the Minister wishes to bridge this gap by making additional grant funds available to organisations that receive grants for operational mine action activities under the current grant policy framework. As the intervening period between MACM II and MACM III is seven months (September 2024 to March 2025), the maximum additional grant amount available per grant recipient is equal to 7/48ths of the amount made available under the Mine Action and Cluster Munition Programme 2020-2024 and referred to in the grant decision. Additional grants are awarded only for activities following on from those carried out under the MACM II grant policy framework, and which will not conclude prior to 31 August 2024.

It should be noted that the award of an additional grant under the Extension of MACM II does not guarantee that a grant will be awarded under the new grant policy framework (MACM III).

The present grant policy framework for the Extension of MACM II is supplemental to the grant policy framework MACM II. Its purpose is to award grants for the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 March 2025. The intention is for MACM III to enter into force in the spring of 2025 and for the activities funded under it to begin at that time. The present grant policy framework makes it possible to provide funding in the interim period between MACM II and MACM III.

The Extension of MACM II grant policy framework includes no provisions for contingency funding.

Besides the provisions of the General Administrative Law Act, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006, the criteria laid down in these administrative rules apply to the awarding of grants under the Extension of MACM II grant policy framework.

III. Organisations that qualify for grants

Additional grants under the **Extension of the Mine Action and Cluster Munition Programme 2020-2024** (hereinafter: Extension of MACM II) are available only to organisations that were previously awarded grants under the MACM II grant programme (see section I). These organisations may be awarded additional grants to supplement the grants previously awarded to them.

⁵ <https://www.government.nl/topics/grant-programmes/mine-action-and-cluster-munitions-programme-2020-2024>

⁶ Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 3 March 2020, no. MINBUZA-2020.5035-46, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024), Government Gazette 2020, no. 17117.

IV. Goals; eligible activities; geographical priorities

IV.1 Goals

The funds available under the Extension of MACM II are intended to address the primary long-term goal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' results framework for security and the rule of law (see annex 1 to this grant policy framework):⁷ to reduce the levels of violence and fear experienced, and in particular goal 1.2: to reduce physical threats to personal safety posed by landmines and other explosive hazards.

Goal 1.2 has three secondary goals:

1.2.1 Policy promoting universal acceptance as well as the implementation of the Ottawa Treaty.

1.2.2 Technical assistance and capacity building through partners to strengthen capacity of national and local mine action authorities to effectively tackle mines, explosive remnants of war and associated problems.

1.2.3 Support programmes for the clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war, increased awareness of mine-related risks and support to mine victims.

Within the scope of the Extension of MACM II, secondary objectives 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 apply.

IV.2 Eligible activities

Eligible activities under the Extension of MACM II are operational mine action activities, including building the capacity of local and/or national mine action authorities.

Grants are awarded only for activities following on from those for which grants were previously awarded under MACM II.

Activities for which a grant has already been awarded and activities that have already begun at the time the application is submitted are not eligible for a grant under the Extension of MACM II grant policy framework.⁸

IV.3 Geographical priorities

Grants are awarded only for activities relating to those for which grants were previously awarded under MACM II and which will not conclude prior to 31 August 2024. This means that grants are awarded only for activities taking place in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Ukraine.

V. Available funds and allocation of funds

An overall ceiling of €3,808,809 is available under the Extension of MACM II for operational mine action activities, including building the capacity of local and/or national mine action authorities, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Ukraine.

Grants are awarded only to organisations that received grants under MACM II, and that will apply this previously received grant to activities in these countries that will not conclude prior to 31 August 2024. The maximum grant amount (rounded of to the nearest euro) awarded to each organisation under the Extension of MACM II is equal to 7/48ths of the amount made available per country under MACM II and referred to in the grant decision.

⁷ Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024 | Grant programmes | Government.nl

⁸ See article 9 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

VI. Threshold criteria

The applicant and the activities for which grant funding is requested must satisfy all the threshold criteria listed below. **If an application fails to meet one or more threshold criteria, it will be rejected and will not be assessed further.**

Applications for additional grants under the Extension of MACM II for organisations previously awarded grants under MACM II must meet at least the following criteria:

- D.1** The applicant received a grant under MACM II.
- D.2** The application pertains to activities that support goals 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 (see IV.1).
- D.3** The application pertains to activities other than those for which grants have already been awarded, and which have not yet begun as of the date the application is submitted.⁹
- D.4** The application is for a grant amounting to no more than 7/48ths of the amount (rounded off to the nearest euro) per country awarded and referred to in the grant decision under MACM II.
- D.5** The grant requested will be applied to new activities following on from those for which a grant was awarded under MACM II and which will not conclude prior to 31 August 2024 as specified in the application and annual plans for which a grant was awarded under MACM II; the activities are similar in nature to those for which a grant was awarded under MACM II.
- D.6** The activities for which a grant is requested will begin no earlier than 1 September 2024 and end no later than 31 March 2025.
- D.7** The activities for which a grant is requested focus on at least one of the following categories of activities:
 - 1. Clearance (mapping, marking and removal) of improvised or other mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), unexploded ordnance (UXO), abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO) and cluster munitions;
 - 2. Destruction of stockpiled improvised or other mines, ERW, UXO, AXO and cluster munitions (including dismantling production and storage facilities);
 - 3. Assistance to victims and their families, including rehabilitation, reintegration and psychosocial assistance;
 - 4. Awareness-raising and education among local populations about the risks of improvised and other mines, ERW, UXO, AXO and cluster munitions;
 - 5. Building the capacity of local and/or national implementing actors in connection with the activities listed under points (1) to (4) above.

Each applications must name the category/categories of activities it concerns specifically.

VII. Application and assessment procedure

Applications for grants under the Extension of MACM II must be signed by an officially authorised signatory and received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by **23.59 CEST on 27 June 2024**. Applications must be written in English and include an activity plan and budget for the extension period, which runs from 1 September 2024 to 31 March 2025 at the latest. Applications must not exceed 3,000 words per country.

⁹ If an organisation has previously submitted an application for a budget-neutral extension in order to carry out, after 31 August, activities for which a grant has already been awarded, the application must clearly distinguish between activities carried out under the previously awarded grant and additional activities to be carried out under the additional grant.

Applications should be submitted by email¹⁰ to DSH-MACM-III@minbuza.nl.

The Minister will decide on the applications submitted by **22 July 2024** at the latest.

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 this case, the date of receipt of the application will be the date on which the application was supplemented. If the application is submitted less than two weeks before the deadline, the lead party runs the risk that, if it is incomplete, the Minister will not use her discretionary powers to request a supplement because it cannot be submitted before the deadline. In that case, the application would have to be assessed as it stands.

¹⁰ The time when the email is received on the servers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be considered the time of submission. Please note that the email server will reject files larger than 14MB. If the size of all attachments together is more than 14MB, these should be divided over separate emails. In this case, the time at which the last email is received will be considered the time the application is submitted. If an application is split into several files which are each sent separately by email, the emails must be numbered, with both the email number and the total number of emails clearly indicated in the subject line (e.g. 'email 1 of 5', 'email 2 of 5', etc. up to 'email 5 of 5').
NB: Any technical issues relating to electronic submission are at the applicant's own cost and risk.