



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

## Annex – Eligibility criteria and further details for project applications August 2022

### I. Call for proposals – Final round of COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund (RRF)

The final round of the COVID-19 RRF addresses the continued social, spiritual and economic impact of COVID-19 on LWF member churches and the communities they serve.

In 2022 the COVID-19 RRF aims to address some of the longer-lasting negative effects around inequalities and the overall economy. Projects should increasingly have a strong focus on recovery and livelihoods.

**Deadline for applications:** 16 October 2022

The following **eligibility criteria** apply to COVID-19 RRF grants:

- **Eligibility of project holder:**
  - Any LWF member church, national committee, regional expression or related diaconal institution is eligible to apply.
  - Only one application per church may be submitted for the fourth round of the COVID-19 RRF. (Additionally, a long-term project can be submitted.)
  - Project holders of previous rounds are eligible to apply for another project.
- **Eligibility of project concept:** The project concept has to show a clear link between the proposed activities and the impact that COVID-19 has on member churches and the communities they serve. The project should show a shift to recovery and livelihoods, addressing the continued impact of COVID-19.

*“Livelihoods are defined to include the capabilities, assets (both material and social), and activities required for a means of living. In addition to income and employment, the concept of livelihoods encompasses any reliable ways that people access food, shelter, health care, education, safe water and sanitation, security, and protection.”<sup>1</sup>*

Recovery indicates the process of a community returning to ‘normal’ after a shock.

- **Recovery and livelihoods projects:** Examples are skills training, start-up funding for small scale businesses, back to school initiatives, community gardens;

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Program: Livelihoods & Economic Recovery in Crisis Situations, 2013

- **Existential needs:** Providing for basic needs (e.g., food) will be considered, where a shift to recovery & livelihoods appears not yet appropriate or feasible in a given context. This must be shown clearly in the application.
- **Strengthening / rebuilding resilience:** Projects responding to natural disasters or other emergencies will only be considered, where coping mechanisms and resilience have been reduced due to COVID-19. This must be shown clearly in the application.
- Medical/health interventions are discouraged for safety reasons where the necessary professional skill set is not obviously present.

**Cross-cutting Issues:**

Please demonstrate in the application how the project design takes into account the uneven impact of COVID-19, where some groups have been affected stronger than others. Address growing inequalities and the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on particular groups, including

- Equality and gender justice/empowerment: e.g., support to women economic empowerment and to survivors of domestic violence /SGBV;
  - youth, in particular in low-income countries and young women;
  - low-income groups, e.g., migrant workers, unskilled labor, daily wage workers;
  - advocacy to address structural and cultural causes of injustice and violence.
- **Maximum amount requested to LWF:** EUR 10,000 per church, national committee, regional expression or related diaconal institution; EUR 5,000 for projects addressing basic needs
  - **Project duration:** Up to 6 months (exceptionally up to 12 months, if justified by objectives / activities).

The following **screening and approval criteria** apply to eligible applications:

The application must:

- Be fully completed including budget and church endorsement;
- Identify and analyze clearly the COVID-19 related need to which the project is responding;
- Demonstrate convincingly the relevance of the project's objectives and activities in relation to the expressed needs;
- Demonstrate clearly how the project will contribute to livelihoods and recovery;
- Outline a coherent approach and reflect meaningful stakeholders' involvement; in particular of youth and women;
- Show that the scope of the project's objectives and activities in relation to the budget and the capacities of the applicant is realistic.

Regional balance in allocation of grants will be observed, depending on most urgent needs and churches' own available resources to respond.

## II. Call for proposals – long-term projects

We are calling for **new** member church projects starting in 2024, running a maximum of three years. Applications for **project extensions** for projects currently in their first cycle (typically running from 2021 to 2023) can be submitted for another two years maximum, starting in 2024 and finishing latest in 2025. Projects are not automatically extended and must apply for a new cycle.

**Deadline for applications:** 09 January 2023

The following **eligibility criteria** apply to long-term grants:

- **Eligibility of project holder:**
  - Any LWF member church, national committee, regional expression or related diaconal institution is eligible to apply.
  - Only one application per church (entity) may be submitted. (Additionally, a COVID-19 RRF can be submitted.)
- **New projects and extensions**
  - We are looking for **new projects**, which address a strategic priority of the member church. This means that the projects are not a continuation of a current project by the same project holder with no or only small changes to the previous application. New projects have a focus on needs and objectives different from current projects.
  - Current projects **can only be extended once**. Projects that can be extended have the letter 'a' in their project code (e.g. PMXX3a). Typically, these projects started for the first time in 2021 and finish in 2023. Due to budget limitations, project extensions are limited to two years (implementation period 2024-25).
  - The new phase must fulfil the following conditions:
    - Relevance: objectives build up on the achievements of the previous phase and/or activities are scaled up to new geographical areas and target groups
    - Sustainability: the new phase strengthens the achievements of the previous phase to ensure that the positive change will last after the project has ended
    - Increasing financial ownership: the budget must reflect a progressive reduction of the LWF share and a consequent increase of the project own contribution and/or third-party contribution in order to set the basis for LWF funding withdrawal
- **Eligibility of project concept:** The project concept has to show a clear link between the identified needs and the proposed activities. Projects should aim at:
  - Deepening the participation of churches in holistic mission, i.e., proclamation, diakonia and advocacy. Please note that we welcome the submission of a communication project.
  - Strengthening churches' presence in the public space and their local witness by addressing important needs of congregations and the wider community.
- **Maximum amount requested to LWF:** EUR 150,000 over three years, max EUR 50,000 per year
- **Project duration:** Up to 3 years for new projects. Up to 2 years for projects in their second cycle.

The following **screening and approval criteria** apply to eligible applications received from churches:

- The application must:
  - Be fully completed including budget; church endorsement and church profile;

- Identify and analyze clearly the needs to which the project is responding;
  - Demonstrate convincingly the relevance of the project's objectives and activities in relation to the expressed needs;
  - Demonstrate clearly how the project will achieve sustainability;
  - Outline a coherent approach and reflect meaningful stakeholders' involvement; in particular of youth and women;
  - Show that the scope of the project's objectives and activities in relation to the budget and the capacities of the applicant is realistic.
- The application process will be **competitive** taking into account the identified needs and how clearly the proposal demonstrates compliance with the above criteria.
  - For fairness reasons member churches or related diaconal institutions should have only one long-term project at any given time.