

**Guidelines for financial support of projects and institutions
from the Fund for Development Cooperation Abroad (EA)
of the Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland**

1. Guidelines

The criteria laid down in the principles and guidelines for HEKS development projects (HEKS Strategy 2008-2012, p. 14) and in the mission21 theological guidelines for 2008 are decisive. These include participation, partnership, sustainability, empowerment, gender equality and cultural awareness, among others, while using resources sparingly.

2. Project Selection

The work of the church relief organizations and missions as well as other projects which meet the criteria mentioned above are supported.

Thematic focal points of the supported works and projects are:

- Integration of socially disadvantaged people
- Solidarity with financially weaker Christian sister churches and works at home and abroad, in particular the promotion of diaconal projects.
- Promoting the dissemination of the biblical message
- Training and support of teaching and research for church ministries, especially for partner churches abroad
- Promotion of international ecumenism
- Commitment to advocacy for refugees
- Commitment to people who are persecuted for their religious convictions
- Peacebuilding and advocacy for universal human rights
- Projects to promote access to vital resources
- the development of rural communities, with particular emphasis on ecology and fair working and trading conditions
- Humanitarian aid in the event of natural and environmental disasters and armed conflicts

Individuals are not supported. Exception: Persons involved in ecumenical exchange programmes and scholarships within the framework of official church or community relations can be supported after consultation with the sponsors of such exchange programmes.

As a rule, projects are supported for one to three years. In specially justified cases, the support can be extended to a maximum of five years.

3. Priorities for the Allocation of Funds

First and foremost, the church works (Bfa, HEKS, mission21) and their programmes are supported. In addition, applications submitted by parishes and organisations can also be considered.

In the case of contributions to other organisations and works, special consideration should be given to those tasks or programmes which receive less easy funding in public fundraising campaigns and at parish level, but which nevertheless meet the above criteria (principle of subsidiarity).

4. Project Documentation

Project applications should normally include the following elements: the name of the sponsorship and basic objectives of the organisation, project description, duration and objective, indication of project costs and desired support contribution, disclosure of support by other donors as far as possible, annual accounts, audit report and payment address (account number or payment slip). Impersonal, general support requests will not be processed.

These guidelines are also recommended to be observed by the parishes of the Canton of St. Gallen when allocating support funds.

Approved by the Council of Churches at its meeting of 4 July 2011.

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator. In case of doubt, the German version (GE 62-13) applies.