



GENDER ACTION PLATFORM (GAP) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In 2016-17, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Gender Equality Fund will provide \$10 million for the Australian NGO Gender Action Platform (the GAP). The GAP is a competitive grants process for Australian NGOs accredited under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) to strengthen gender equality programming in the Indo-Pacific. The GAP is a separate funding mechanism from the ANCP and is funded through the Gender Equality Fund.

How much will each grant be?

Full ANCP NGOs may submit applications for a grant between \$500,000 and \$3 million. Base NGOs can apply for a \$500,000 grant. Project proposals can be submitted for implementation up to 3 years.

A project proposal may be successful in the selection process for a grant amount less than the proposed amount in the application. In that case the ANCP NGO will be given the opportunity to revise the project funding to the proposed amount or redesign the project. Additional time will be allowed accordingly.

How will consortiums operate? What is the difference between a Consortium and a Partnership?

NGOs are encouraged to develop and deliver projects in consortium or partnership with the private sector, governments, other ANCP accredited NGOs or other non-traditional networks. This is in line with the ANCP Thematic Review on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment which highlights the benefits of collective action and noting the amount of GAP funding available (\$10 million) for the size of projects (up to \$3 million).

For the purposes of the GAP, we consider a consortium as a structured and formal partnership with another organisation (including Australian NGOs) or group with a defined governance structure and implementation arrangement. A partnership is a broader term that could include in-country implementing partners, private sector or government partnerships etc.

One Lead Organisation must be identified in the proposal and submit the proposal on behalf of the consortium. The Lead Organisation in a consortium will manage the grant agreement including accountability of all funds. The Lead Organisation is responsible to DFAT for the performance of the consortium under the grant agreement to achieve the proposed objectives.

An ANCP NGO may only be the Lead Organisation of one project proposal. This does not prevent the NGO from being part of other consortia to deliver separate GAP projects.

Will ANCP projects be funded?

ANCP and non-ANCP projects are eligible for submission to the GAP. However, the project must comply with the GAP Guidelines to be eligible for GAP funding.



Matched Funding

Where a three year proposal has been successful under the GAP does the 1:5 match (20 per cent) for the grant need to be contributed to the project upfront/in the first year?

No. The NGO's matched funding can be made against annual budgets as long as the total matched funding equals 20% of the overall grant amount at project's end.

Do the matched funds need to be raised from the Australian community like ANCP match funds?

Yes. Clause 4.8 of the ANCP Manual applies to the GAP. Please read:

“The NGO contribution to ANCP projects consists of cash funds raised from the Australian community”

as:

“The NGO contribution to GAP projects consists of cash funds raised from the Australian community”.

Matched funds cannot be raised overseas.

Can we use matched funding from an existing ANCP project as our matched contribution for a GAP project?

Matched funding for the GAP must meet the requirements in clause 4.8 of the ANCP manual. The intention of matched funding for the GAP is to demonstrate NGO commitment to funding/ implementing a new project specific to the GAP selection criteria.

Project Focus

Will projects need to align with DFAT's Aid Policy?

Projects for the GAP must align with DFAT's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy and the Aid Program's overarching goals. In line with the ANCP, GAP projects are not required to align specifically with DFAT Aid Investment Plans. Other eligibility and criteria are outlined in the GAP Guidelines.

Will projects addressing challenges outside of the ones identified by DFAT country/regional programs be funded?

DFAT has identified priority country and/or regional gender equality challenges to help target the work of coalitions around key issues (refer to GAP Guidelines). Proposals addressing challenges outside of those nominated by Post that have particular innovative merits will also be assessed as reflected in **Criteria 1**:

Demonstrates alignment to country/regional gender equality challenges and/or Clear explanation of how the new or scaled up project demonstrates innovation by improving the lives of people in developing countries more effectively than existing approaches.

Can GAP funding be put towards a 'program' or multiple related 'projects'?

GAP funding is only available for a project addressing gender inequality. As defined in the ANCP Manual 'Projects are discrete investments in particular countries, contexts and/or sectors, with a specific start and end date and identified funding.' However, a project is not restricted to one country, context, sector or year of implementation, noting that the GAP funding must be expended within the 3 year implementation timeframe.



Will there be any projects funded outside of the Indo-Pacific?

In line with the Aid Program (Target 5: Focusing on the Indo-Pacific Region), the regional focus of the GAP will be at least 90 per cent in the Indo-Pacific. Projects may be considered outside this area and a small number have been included in the country gender equality challenges (GAP Guidelines: Attachment B).

How will DFAT posts be involved in the GAP?

DFAT has identified priority country and/or regional gender equality challenges to help target the work of coalitions around key issues (refer to the GAP Guidelines). The relationship between ANCP NGOs and Posts will vary depending upon the size of the Post and available resourcing and relevance of the project to Post priorities.

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information please contact the GAP team: gap@dfat.gov.au

