

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFICATION SHEET

HVFC International

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Funding entity	The Government of the Netherlands
Funding program	FemFocus – Encouraging women's entrepreneurship
Funding agency	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
Submission deadline	7 January 2026, 23:59 CEST
Grant amount	Minimum of EUR 18,260,055 and a maximum of EUR 27,417,500
Geographic focus	Applications should target at least two of the following countries: Egypt, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Benin, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Tunisia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
Total budget available	€54,835,000
Co-financing required	Not specified in the document.
Project length	60 months
Envisioned start date	January 1 st , 2026

2. PRIORITIES OVERVIEW

Overall objective of the call:

To strengthen women's entrepreneurship at the individual level and to remove socio-cultural and institutional barriers at the societal level, by providing financial and capacity-strengthening support to local civil society organisations to reach women entrepreneurs and linking to other initiatives to enable further business growth. Effective programmes encouraging women's entrepreneurship often follow a two-track approach

- 1) strengthening business skills and improving access to markets, networks, products and services at the individual level; and
- 2) reducing socio-cultural and institutional barriers at the societal level, so that women can develop their businesses and strengthen their role in the formal economy.

On the basis of these insights, this instrument pursues the following policy objectives:

- a) to strengthen women's entrepreneurship at the individual level;
- b) to remove socio-cultural and institutional barriers at the societal level.

Geographic focus: Selected African countries where the Netherlands has trade and economic interests; applications should target at least two of the following: Egypt, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Benin, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Tunisia, Democratic Republic of Congo.

3. AVAILABLE BUDGET

The estimated available call budget is €39,880,000. Specific budget information per topic can be found in the table below:

Topic budget total	Budget per proposal	Co-financing (own contribution)
€54.835.000,-	€18.260.055,- (min)	Not specified
	€27.417.500,- (max)	Not specified

4. ELIGIBILITY AND CONSORTIUM REQUIREMENTS

- **Only one applicant** – no consortia. Partners will ONLY be selected in the inception phase (first 6 months of the program).
- The applicant is a civil society organization submitting a grant application independently. Can be based in **the Netherlands or in a low- or middle-income country** on the OECD-DAC list only (!).
- In the **2022-2024** period, an average of **at least 25% of the applicant's total annual income came from sources other than the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. This criterion does not apply to specialist organisations and small southern organisations.
- The applicant has at least **five years of demonstrable experience in capacity strengthening** of in-country partners in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and in providing financing to in-country partners for independently developed and implemented activities. This experience must have been acquired within the ten years preceding 1 October 2025.
- The applicant has at least **five years of proven experience in the policy themes and objectives** of the instrument for which it is applying, in the countries included in its project proposal.
- The applicant has a policy and system in place (applied in the five years preceding 1 October 2025) for selecting and monitoring the in-country partners it supports.
- The gross remuneration of each individual member of the applicant's management and governing bodies does not exceed States a maximum of EUR 226,000 per calendar year for Applicants legally established in the Netherlands or other EU Member States.
- Individual applicants may be awarded a maximum of one grant under this framework

5. CALL DOCUMENTS

Link to call documents	https://www.government.nl/topics/grant-programmes/documents/policy-notes/2022/10/15/grant-policy-framework-femfocus-2026-2030
Link to call guidelines	https://www.government.nl/binaries/government/documenten/policy-notes/2022/10/15/grant-policy-framework-femfocus-2026-2030/Grant+policy+framework+FemFocus+%282026+-+2030%29.pdf

6. COMPETITIVENESS


The call is expected to be highly competitive. The main reasons are:

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- Only 2 or 3 applications will win.
- Applicants from the Netherlands and from a low- or middle-income country on the OECD-DAC list can apply.
- Collaboration starts with inception phase. This means the proposal design costs are limited.
- Only one organization can be applicant. No consortia allowed.

7. HVFC CONTACT

For more information about this opportunity, you can reach out to one of the following HVFC consultants:

HVFC Consultant 1	Han Valk – Founder – han@hvfc-international.com	
HVFC Consultant 2	Kenneth Van Toll – Senior Consultant – kenneth@hvfc-international.com	

Disclaimer: Please be noted that this is a summary of the funding opportunity. There might be mistakes / errors in the summary. We strongly advise you to always check the original documents. These are always leading. No rights can be taken from this document.