

Lesotho: call for bids for provision of Assistive Technology

World news story

The British High Commission is inviting local NGOs and established community-based organisations to bid for funding for the sustainable provision of Assistive Technology to people with disabilities.



Overview

The British High Commission Maseru is inviting NGOs working with communities in Lesotho and established community-based organisations to bid for small grant funding of up to M100,000, for the sustainable provision of Assistive Technology to people with disabilities in Lesotho.

The bidding process is competitive. Only the strongest bids will be selected.

The deadline for submitting bids is Sunday, 7 August 2022.

Selected projects will be informed by Monday, 15 August 2022. Implementing organisations will be required to attend a preparatory seminar. Project

activity should start in early September 2022 and all activity must be completed by 1 February 2023. Funding will be paid on completion of all activities and project reports.

Objectives

All projects must lead to sustainable improvements in the provision of assistive technology in Lesotho. For example, this could be through changes in policies/ practices; development of low-cost alternative technologies; or additional training that will lead to improved maintenance of devices, or enable better use of existing resources.

The grant will not support the direct external purchase of Assistive Technology (AT) devices for individuals.

Selection criteria

Bids will be judged on:

- potential impact (including the scope of the project and the likelihood of achieving that impact)
- evidence that the bidding organisation has strong links with the target communities and relevant prior experience
- value for money
- sustainability, including the potential for the project to be scaled up or replicated elsewhere
- the capacity of the bidding organisation, including a track record of previous successful projects
- proper presentation of project objectives and budget

A project bidding form can be obtained by emailing BHC.maseru@fcdo.gov.uk. Project forms must be returned to the British High Commission by Sunday, 8 August 2022. Project bids received after this date will not be considered.

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[Working with partners on the ground and at the UN on a constructive way forward for Libya](#)

Thank you President. Thank you Martha for your briefing today. I would like

to pay tribute to Stephanie Williams' dedication to her role and welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to find a new Special Representative. I will make four points.

Firstly, the UK is concerned about the recent violence in Tripoli and Misrata. Preservation of peace has been one of the successes of the past two years. There needs to be de-escalation to ensure this relative peace continues.

Combined with the protests that took place earlier this month, these events demonstrate the urgent need for the delivery of a Libyan-led and -owned, inclusive political process. And Libyan parties need to compromise and agree a pathway to achieve parliamentary and presidential elections.

Secondly, we urge Libyan actors must refrain from the politicisation of state institutions, including the National Oil Corporation. The Libyan people need to see the full resumption of oil production and the equitable distribution of the state's oil wealth. However, this should not come at the expense of the integrity and independence of the National Oil Corporation, or jeopardise Libya's progress towards stability, sovereignty, and national unity.

Thirdly, it is imperative, as you said Martha, that authorities respect and protect human rights across Libya. The United Kingdom remains very concerned about human rights abuses and violations identified in the latest interim-report of the Fact Finding Mission, and recent crackdowns on civil society.

Libyan authorities must build and deliver mechanisms for the safeguarding of human rights and enable civil society to flourish as a key component of accountability.

Lastly, the UK welcomes Operation Irini's interdiction of a vessel carrying military vehicles intended for Libya and underscores all member states' responsibility to comply fully with the UN arms embargo on Libya.

In conclusion, the UK reaffirms its readiness to work with Libya and all international partners on a constructive way forward, both on the ground in Libya and in the Council.

Thank you.

[Lesotho: call for bids for women's civic education projects](#)

World news story

The British High Commission is inviting NGOs and established community-based

organisations to bid for funding for civic and voter education for women.



Overview

The British High Commission Maseru is inviting NGOs working with communities in Lesotho and established community-based organisations to bid for small grant funding of up to M100,000 for civic and voter education for women during September and October 2022.

These should be based in the following constituencies:

- Maputsoe
- Maletsunyane
- Thaba Putsoa
- Melikane
- Tele
- Sebapala
- Mount Moorosi
- Tsoelike
- Thaba Moea
- Mats'onyane
- Ketane

Organisations bidding must have an existing link with communities in these constituencies and must be politically neutral.

The bidding process is competitive. Only the strongest bids will be selected.

The deadline for submitting bids is Sunday, 7 August 2022.

Selected projects will be informed by Monday, 15 August 2022 and implementing organisations will be required to attend a preparatory seminar. Successful organisations will also be required to obtain registration from the Independent Electoral Commission before confirmation of the grant.

Project activity should start in early September 2022 and all activity must be completed by 1 November 2022. Funding will be paid on completion of all activities and project reports.

Organisations bidding for funding, and their senior executives, must not have any links to, or affiliations with, registered political parties.

Objectives

The projects should meet the following objective:

1. Increased voter participation, particularly participation of women, in constituencies identified as 'low turn-out' in the last (2017) election.
2. Female voters in low-turn-out constituencies have increased awareness of the issues of importance to women; improved knowledge of political party manifestos and candidate pledges relating to these issues; and better understanding of their role as informed voters and the importance of holding elected representatives to account.

Selection criteria

Bids will be judged on:

- planned activities and likely impact
- evidence that the bidding organisation has strong links with the target communities
- value for money (including numbers of voters reached)
- the capacity of the bidding organisation, including a track record of previous successful projects
- proper presentation of project aims, activities and budget

A project bidding form can be obtained by emailing BHC.maseru@fcdo.gov.uk. Project forms must be returned to the British High Commission by Sunday, 7 August 2022.

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Defence Secretary visits Slovakia to discuss support for Ukraine

News story

Ben Wallace, the first Defence Secretary to visit Slovakia in over a decade, met with Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad in Bratislava for talks on how we can work even more closely to enhance our support.



Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and Slovakian Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad in Bratislava

The Defence Secretary visited Slovakia today (Mon 25 July) to meet his counterpart and discuss our joint work to support Ukraine and safeguard European security.

The UK and Slovakia have been working in lockstep to support Ukraine as it defends itself against Russia's illegal invasion. Britain was the first European country to supply military aid to Ukraine and recently announced plans to [send hundreds of drones and scores of artillery guns](#), while Slovakia was the first NATO ally to donate air defence systems and recently revealed it would send self-propelled howitzers to the country.

Ben Wallace met with Slovakian Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad in Bratislava to speak about what more can be done and how we work together going forward to enhance our support for Ukraine.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

Slovakia is a leader in Central Europe in standing up for Ukraine and resisting Russian aggression.

I was delighted to visit my good friend Jaroslav Nad today. Our bilateral meeting explored next steps in military aid to the conflict as well as British support to Slovakian defence.

Ben Wallace and Jaroslav Nad discussed other important topics during the one-day visit, including our joint work through NATO and efforts to counter Russian disinformation in Eastern Europe and promote peace and stability in the region.

They also spoke about how we might expand and deepen our historic defence partnership, which dates back to World War 2, when Slovak pilots served in the RAF and brave soldiers from the former Czechoslovakia, trained in the UK in cooperation with the Czechoslovakian government in exile in Britain, assassinated high-ranking Nazi Reinhard Heydrich.

Today, the UK and Slovakia have a close defence relationship which is growing, with cooperation in a number of areas such as through joint training and exercises, including the British Military Advisory Training Team (BMATT), which is delivering a course this month in Slovakia.

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[Monkeypox case definition updated to include new symptoms](#)

News story

In light of clinical experience during this outbreak, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is updating the case definition for monkeypox.



The [symptom list has been expanded](#) to include a single lesion or lesions on the genitals, anus and surrounding area, lesions in the mouth, and symptoms of proctitis (anal or rectal pain or bleeding), especially if the individual has had a new sexual partner recently. This will help both individuals and clinical professionals identify monkeypox symptoms.

The majority of people with monkeypox can safely manage their symptoms at

home and there have been no deaths in the UK. Most people experience mild disease but it can cause a significant illness in some, requiring hospitalisation, including for severe pain.

Meera Chand, Director of Clinical and Emerging Infections at UKHSA, said:

We continue to see new diagnoses of monkeypox, passed on primarily through close or sexual contact.

We have updated our case definitions to reflect the clinical presentations that have been seen during this outbreak. It is important to recognise that just one or two genital or anal lesions, or lesions in the mouth can be signs of monkeypox, especially if you have had a new sexual partner. If you think you have monkeypox, stay at home and contact 111 or your local sexual health service for advice.

There is still a need to be cautious and stay alert for symptoms. For many people symptoms can be mild but for some people, hospital treatment may be required.

Guidance and materials are being updated to reflect the new case definition and expanded symptoms list.

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