

## **Fondation SUEZ**

### **Pre-selection criteria for projects**

#### **Our mission: to encourage social inclusion**

By supporting our partners' projects, we are favouring access to essential services – water, sanitation and waste management – for underprivileged populations in developing countries. In France, we are combating social exclusion whilst respecting the participation and dignity of all.

#### ***Access to essential services***

*Support sustainable and replicable actions to reinforce the independence of underprivileged populations in developing countries.*

#### ***Insertion via employment and training***

*Support sustainable and replicable actions to contribute towards the insertion of people made vulnerable by the loss of social ties or who are too far removed from training or employment structures.*

#### ***Social cohesion thanks to education, culture and sport***

*The Fondation SUEZ supports projects aiming to improve integration and community life in France, for young adults or minors drawing support from education, culture and sport as levers of social cohesion.*

#### ***Emergency***

*Support projects in developing countries or in France in the context of emergency conditions, whether health emergencies, humanitarian crises, natural or climatic disasters for affected populations, or vulnerable, strongly weakened by a climate crisis, social or conflict.*

### **1. Context**

The Fondation SUEZ wants to contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

These 17 Goals build on the results of the Millennium Development Goals by encompassing new concerns such as climate change, peace and justice, among other priorities. All of these Goals are closely interlinked; the success of one Goal often depending on the resolution of problems generally associated with another Goal.

Based on partnership and pragmatism, the SDGs aim to improve the living conditions of populations whilst making the right choices to lastingly improve the fate of future generations from the very outset. Every country is asked to follow a process with clear targets in keeping with its priorities and global ecological challenges.

The SDGs constitute a programme which is designed to ensure that no-one is cast aside. They aim to eradicate poverty by tackling its causes and to bring people together to really change things as much for populations as for the planet.

According to the United Nations, **the scarcity of water affects more than 40 % of the world's population**, a worrying proportion which is more than likely to increase owing to the global rise in temperature as a result of climate change. Since 1990, 2.1 billion more people now benefit from better access to water and sanitation services. However, the depletion of drinking water resources remains a major concern which affects all of the continents.

Ensuring a universal and fair access to drinking water, at an affordable price, by 2030, requires investments in adequate infrastructures, sanitation facilities to be put in place and hygiene to be promoted at every level.

Today, **more than one third of the world's population still lives without a toilet** and 1.8 billion people consume water which is contaminated with faecal matter. Every day 1000 children die from diarrheal diseases owing to poor sanitation, mediocre hygiene or dirty water.

**More than half of the world's population does not have access to a domestic waste collection service** and approximately 4 billion people use illegal or unregulated waste tips, which serve as the dumping ground for more than 40% of the waste produced at a global level.

In emergency situations (following a climate disaster, a conflict involving population displacement, a major economic crisis), access to water and sanitation is the absolute priority to avoid any humanitarian crisis (epidemic, malnutrition, etc.). Lack of toilets and sanitation - like lack of waste management - is the main cause of water contamination and the spread of water-borne diseases.

In France, situations of exclusion and social fragility are increasing. In addition, health crises such as those related to Covid-19 or the severe cold, economic crises that exclude already weakened people lead to serious social and health situations. The emergence of these situations reinforces the exclusion and affects every population category: unemployed people of all ages, the homeless or people living in inadequate accommodation, the elderly, young school dropouts, ethnic minorities, refugees, .... It is therefore necessary to support associations and NGOs in their interventions with these audiences and strengthen solidarity and citizen-oriented actions to fight against exclusion.

## **2. Scopes of intervention**

The Fondation SUEZ has set itself several priorities:

- **To support and accompany development projects via financial and skills-based sponsorship partnerships** developed with international solidarity organizations, non-profit making specialized institutions.
- **To accompany humanitarian and emergency operations** in the field of access to essential services.
- **To support and accompany insertion projects** encouraging employment and training in France. The Fondation is making a long-term commitment in this sense and is looking to contribute towards the social and economic revitalisation of territories.

- **To support and accompany social cohesion projects via education, culture and sport.** The Fondation hopes to contribute towards preventing the exclusion of young people, limiting their marginalisation thanks to educational support projects and access to cultural and sporting practices.
- **To support and accompany emergency projects** aimed at providing food aid, basic necessities (excluding food), mobile water treatment stations and sanitation infrastructure, medico-psychological and social support.
- **To reinforce the expertise of local players and circulate expertise** by supporting actions to professionalize services, put in place specific training programmes and foster networking between players.
- **To boost innovation** and research applied to the realities of the field in developing countries, namely via the organisation of a Prize to reward and promote innovative projects having proven their worth and which can be replicated.

In all of its projects and alongside its partners, the Fondation SUEZ is careful to assemble all of the conditions to guarantee the **continuity of results, the autonomy of the populations concerned** and to develop contextualized and adapted solutions which are able to be replicated.

### **3. Location / implementation zone**

- a) For **access to essential service projects**, the Fondation supports projects implemented in developing countries. It does not intervene in so-called developed countries within the context of the domain considered. The Fondation is looking to focus its actions on problems encountered in urban and peri-urban areas: projects meeting this criterion will be studied as a matter of priority. However, projects in rural settings will not be disregarded if they permit the management of the services provided to be structured on a long-term basis.
- b) The Fondation supports projects at a global level, including in zones where for safety reasons, it will not be able to send personnel for project evaluation missions.
- c) For projects dedicated to **social insertion and cohesion**, the Fondation focuses solely on France.
- d) For Emergency projects, the Fondation supports project in developing countries and in France.

### **4. Project initiators and eligibility criteria**

The Fondation supports projects proposed by project initiators with an associative legal status and which have been legally established for at least one year prior to the date of the submission of the project application.

The Fondation does not support projects developed by individuals.

The Fondation attaches a great deal of importance to how actions are relayed on the site of intervention and gives priority to applicants which possess local divisions or which report a very close partnership with a local structure.

Similarly, particular attention will be paid to:

- The clearly identified demand and the determination of the populations concerned to contribute towards maintaining the service or activity to be created,
- Whether or not the project is of general interest,
- The commitment and support shown towards the project by local stakeholders: user associations, local resident communities, local authorities etc.
- The correspondence of the project with the national or regional policies adopted in the domain considered,
- Coherency with the other projects implemented on the same theme in the same geographical zone; for access to essential service projects: resource preservation, integrated management of the receiving environment, collection and treatment management...
- The search for efficiency and the sustainable improvement in the living conditions of populations as part of a development process which respects the environment,
- The search for the sustainability of actions thanks to the relevance of the prior assessment designed to measure the impacts of the project's achievements
- Impact measuring thanks to indicators and assessment mechanisms based on transparency, in conjunction – where possible – with the authorities in the countries concerned,
- The introduction of post-project monitoring,
- And, particularly for projects relating to access to essential services, the existence of training to improve and manage services, personnel training and awareness-raising actions among local populations with respect to health and hygiene.

## **5. Putting together the application**

All new projects must be submitted via the following link:  
[www.fondation-suez.com](http://www.fondation-suez.com)

The application can be accompanied by attachments.

For Access to Essential Services projects, applicants must submit:

1. A letter from the decentralized, competent local authorities for the territory and / or intervention field concerned by the project.
2. A letter from the local, foreign partner(s) – or a partnership agreement if one exists – This letter (or agreement) must set out details of the nature and level of involvement of each of the parties.

## **6. Submission dates**

Requests for financing can be received at any moment, but they will be processed according to the following schedule, depending on the progression of their assessment:

- Projects received before 31/10 will be presented at the Board of Directors Meeting in April-May depending on their course of assessment (see below).

- Projects received before 30/04 will be presented at the Board of Directors Meeting in October – November depending on their course of assessment (see below).

Within this context, and given the application processing timeframe:

- The start date for insertion projects must be a minimum of 6 months following the date of project submission.
- It is recommended that insertion projects span at least one civil or one school year.

## **7. Course of assessment and monitoring for a project application within the SUEZ Fondation**

- Receipt of applications via the [www.fondation-suez.com](http://www.fondation-suez.com) link
- Pre-selection of applications by the Fondation team in keeping with the selection criteria.
- Transmission of pre-selected applications to internal Group evaluators for their opinion.
- Submission of pre-selected and assessed projects to the Board of Directors Meeting in April or October for acceptance, deferral or refusal.
- When the project is accepted, signature of a partnership agreement with the initiators of the projects selected.
- Accompaniment and monitoring of the projects selected by a project referent specifically appointed to monitor the project by the Fondation team.

## **8. Total sum of the financial aid awarded**

Financial aid from the Fondation is not generally awarded to the organisation itself but is allocated to an identified and defined project.

The Fondation studies all of the projects, whatever their size.

- In accordance with the thresholds defined by the Board of Directors, the maximum support cut-off levels that may be requested are as follows:
  - For projects regarding **access to essential services**, grant up to 80 K€ maximum. For a first endowment with a new partner, the limit can be up to 50 K€ maximum.
  - For projects regarding **social inclusion** and **social cohesion** in France, grant up to 40 K€ maximum. For a first endowment with a new partner, the limit can be up to a maximum of 25K€.

The Board of Directors remains sovereign in the final decision to allocate the amount of the endowment.

The Fondation does not support projects for which it would be the sole backer. It intervenes as a co-funder of projects which benefit from other sources of financing, whether these sources are the own resources of the project initiator or public subsidies (European Union, local authorities, public

establishments etc...) or financial aid provided by other backers, such as companies or other foundations.

The Fondation can award up to 50% of the project's total budget.

The Fondation is in favour of the participation of the populations concerned in financing the service provided, both in terms of cash contributions and labour, within their capabilities.

### **9. Duration of projects**

The Fondation considers applications from both once-only projects and multi-year projects. It does however only support associations, organisations or institutions having proven the relevance of their action and the durability of their results.

### **10. Contractualisation process**

Reciprocal commitments between the project initiator and the Fondation are embodied by the signature of an agreement.

Even if the project is accepted by the Fondation, the agreement cannot be signed until 80% of the project's financing, including the contribution by the Fondation, has been confirmed. Letters of commitment from other backers must be sent to the Fondation to permit the establishment of the agreement.

In the case where all project financing is not completed within six months following the notification by the Fondation to the project initiator, the decision to award financial aid will be annulled and the sum in question will be reintegrated into the budgetary envelope to be subsequently awarded to other projects by the Fondation.

### **11. Project monitoring by the Fondation**

The Fondation reserves the right to monitor the progression of the project and assess the achievement of the objectives initially announced, where needs be by sending out delegates to complete assessment missions.

When the financial aid provided by the Fondation is the focus of several instalments, these instalments may be conditioned by the progression of the project and the concretisation of decisional milestones fixed when the agreement is signed.

Meetings for the launch, annual monitoring and project end are to be provided for.

### **12. Continuity of action**

The Fondation attaches particular importance to the continuity of the actions undertaken. It is therefore especially attentive to measures to organise financing and governance adopted with a view to ensuring the long-term establishment of the improvements made by the programme presented, including post-project monitoring.

### **13. The SUEZ Fondation does NOT finance:**

- Projects which do not come within the scope of intervention of the Fondation and which do not meet the above-listed criteria.
- Projects requiring more than 50% of their financing to be provided by the Fondation.
- Personal projects, projects initiated by student associations, trips, educational grants, study trips, work placements, university theses and dissertations.
- Projects already carried out (except in the case of the projects rewarded by the SUEZ–Institut de France Awards).
- Projects for which a major part of the budget serves to finance their functioning.
- Projects developed by individuals.
- Communication actions or projects with a promotional or publicity objective.
- Editorial projects or cinematographic productions.
- Projects with no other partners.

*Updated: June 2020*