

WMIDA – Migrant Women for Development in Africa

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2008

**Co-funding and technical support
for co-development entrepreneurial projects
presented by Sub-Saharan Western African women
regularly residing in Italy**

1. Background

WMIDA (Migrant Women for Development in Africa) is a project promoted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and supported by the Italian Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

With the WMIDA project IOM promotes and supports an innovating strategy of International Cooperation, aimed at making migrant women active in the socio-economic growth of their countries of origin, through the identification of possible synergies between migrants' resources and the needs identified in the countries of origin.

WMIDA does not necessarily entail the physical return of migrant women to their home countries; it rather envisages a wider approach and formulas suiting their desire to contribute to the development of their countries of origin. It is a transfer of human and financial resources, according to the priorities identified in the countries of origin, towards co-development entrepreneurial initiatives.

The term "co-development" indicates **an entrepreneurial project**, proposed by an individual or a group, **having a specific social value and envisaging a strong partnership** among local authorities (Municipalities, Provinces, Regions), civil society (NGOs, associations) and the private sector (enterprises, banks, foundations and others), both in Italy and in the country of origin.

MIDA strategy is therefore in line with the principles of Migration and Development, which have gained broad acknowledgement by the international community as well as by national Governments: convinced that international migration, if supported by adequate policies, can positively influence the development of countries of origin and destination alike, they have agreed to incorporate international migration into the development agenda and to integrate migration into national development strategies, including possibly into poverty reduction strategies.

2. Overall Objective

The overall objective of WMIDA is to contribute to the socio-economic development of Western African countries of origin of migrant women in Italy, through the identification and transfer of skills, financial, social and professional resources of the female expatriates living in Italy and the promotion of partnerships between hosting and origin communities.

3. Specific Objective

Support, through co-funding, training and technical assistance, viable entrepreneurial co-development projects enhancing the role of western African migrant women in Italy towards their home country.

4. Target Group

The present call is open to **migrant women** regularly residing in Italy and to their **officially registered associations**, coming from the following countries:

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Ivory Coast
- Liberia
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

Submitted projects must be supported by **a strong partnership** among local authorities (Municipalities, Provinces, Regions), civil society (NGOs, associations), and the private sector (entrepreneurial associations, banks, foundations and others), willing to create and manage a co-development project in migrants' country of origin.

To participate in the selection, applicants will have to thoroughly illustrate the social and economic co-development project they intend to set up, through the specific **Project Application Form** (Annex B).

5. Content of the present Call for Proposals

5.1 Beneficiaries' entitlements

According to the present Call for Proposals, selected beneficiaries will receive support for their projects' start-up through the joint provision of a **grant** and **training course/technical support**.

5.1.1 Grant

The total budget available for grants for 2008 is € 200.000.

The selected co-development initiatives will receive a co-funding in form of donation from the *Cooperazione Italiana* through IOM, up to a **maximum of 30%** of the total budget of each co-development project, within the **maximum ceiling of € 20.000**.

The total budget of submitted projects must not exceed **€ 73.000**

The final amounts to be awarded to each project proposal will be determined by the selecting commission on the basis of the available budget and of the evaluation of the selected proposals.

The donation is intended to award the partnership effort aimed at connecting the countries of origin and destination, as well as the social impact of the project proposal.

Applicants will have to notify with written communication the references of the bank account in the country of origin on which the grant will have to be paid in case of selection of their project.

5.1.2 Technical support/ Training on business management

In order to acquire the needed skills to manage a business profitably and respecting the local legal framework, selected beneficiaries (or their appointed local partners) will be entitled to attend a professional training course.

The training course will focus on business start-up and enterprise management, business plan editing, administration, accounting and access to credit, and will be completed by technical assistance during the project start up.

Information on the training course venue and starting date will be provided to the beneficiaries after completion of the selection process. Applicants will have to notify with written communication the name and contact details of the person who will attend the training course (the applicant herself or her appointed local partner).

5.2 Eligible costs

The grant from *Cooperazione Italiana* must be totally used for activities in the country of project implementation.

5.3 Payment conditions

The grant shall be paid under the following conditions:

- A first instalment, amounting to 50% of the total grant, upon signature of the **Grant Agreement**;
- A second instalment, amounting to 30% of the total grant;
- A final instalment, amounting to 20% of the total grant, upon receipt and approval of a report on the co-funded project, including a narrative and a financial report.

6. Eligibility, selection and award criteria

6.1 Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be: migrant women from one of the countries set out at point 4, regularly residing in Italy; Migrant women associations officially registered; Cooperatives of migrant women; Already existing enterprises owned by migrant women.
In case the applicant is a collective entity (i.e. association, cooperative, etc.), at least part of its members must be migrant women coming from one or more of the abovementioned countries.
- Submitted projects must be implemented in one of the countries set out at point 4.
- Associations, cooperatives and enterprises who apply for grant, must provide official documentation, issued by relevant authorities, of their registration.
- Applicants must present their curriculum vitae in attachment to the project proposal.
- Applicants must provide evidence of their financial investment in the project (cash or kind), amounting at least to **10%** of the project total costs.
- The project proposal's budget must be partially covered by **other partners** of the project: local authorities, civil society associations and private partners, in Italy or in the country of project implementation.
- The participation of private and public partners in the project must be proven through a **partnership letter**. The application for grant must include an explicit written commitment from each partner, stipulating that it will provide the amount of funding stated in the grant application.
- Applicants must submit project proposals environmental-friendly and respectful of the rights of workers involved in the project.

6.2 Selection criteria

Project proposals should:

- Benefit the community where the enterprise is settled.
- Refer to viable economic and social co-development projects enhancing the role of migrant women in Italy.
- Refer to self sustainable and job generating activities.

- Entail large partnerships in Italy and in the country of origin, facilitating transnational relationships.
- Use innovative technologies and/or entail transfer of new technologies.
- Enhance and promote the participation of local communities.

6.3 Award criteria

Among the projects meeting the eligibility and selection criteria, preference will be granted to projects which:

- Reinvest part of the revenues raised from the enterprise in social activities
- Entail a social impact of entrepreneurial activities
- Entail a co-funding from the private sector
- Entail the insertion of the enterprise in production chains

For further information on the selection criteria, applicants may refer to the attached Evaluation Grid (Annex A), which will be used as a tool to select the beneficiaries under this Call for Proposals.

7. Submission of the Application

7.1 How to submit a project application

The project proposal must be submitted through the filling up of the specific **Project Application Form** (Annex B).

The application must be exact and **complete**, i.e. **all** the documents and elements defined in the application form must be presented (including annexes and documents requested in the form, which must be completed as requested). If a requested document is unavailable, it is necessary to specify this and to provide an explanation.

The Project Application Form, duly filled, must be submitted in **electronic format** (i.e. file attached to an email; CD Rom; floppy disc).

Applications on paper will **not** be considered.

Applications via e-mail must be sent to: Midaitalia@iom.int

Applications in DVD or floppy disc format can be delivered by post, courier or by hand to:

Programma WMIDA c/o OIM Roma
Via Nomentana, 62
00161 Roma

7.2 Language of the application

Applications must be submitted in **English or French**, in order to be evaluated by IOM staff in the implementation country and by the agencies providing the training.

7.3 Deadline for the call for proposals

The deadline for this call for proposals is **30 September 2008**.

To verify the respect of the deadline, the posting date is considered, or the date certified by the receiver in case of courier or hand delivery.

8. Where to find the necessary documentation

The Project Application forms are available upon request to IOM (Midaitalia@iom.int)

9. Follow-up to the submission of applications

OIM will examine the applications received and will produce a short list of possible beneficiaries satisfying the eligibility criteria set out at point 6.1. The final selection on the basis of this list will be carried out by an experts' Evaluation Committee.

Only selected beneficiaries will receive written notice of the outcome of the selection, complete with all the information related to the starting date of the training course and related duration.

Not selected applicants will **not** receive any written information.

10. Monitoring

Selected projects will be monitored by IOM staff and by the consultancy agencies providing the professional training to the beneficiaries. Meetings with main partners and stakeholders will be organized to assess/discuss need for backstopping, adjustments or strategy revision.

Attachment A – EVALUATION CRITERIA

A) CRITERIA RELATED TO THE PROJECT	Points
1. Strategic relevance and partnership	Max 35
1.1 Capacity of the planned enterprise to generate job and income for the local community	Max 10
1.2 Participation in viable economic development programmes sponsored by Italian local institutions, promoting transnational partnerships	Max 5
1.3 Level of participation of local private and public partners in Italy and in target countries, in different project stages (project identification; financial support; implementation and contribution in terms of skills, competencies, technologies, distribution chains, evaluation).	Max 10
1.4 Insertion of the project in local development plans, by addressing local priority sectors (in term of geographical areas and productive sectors) and by involving local authorities in territorial networks	Max 5
1.5 Insertion of the project in production chains and in economical collaborations with other subjects in the target country	Max 5
2. Methodology/ Project coherence	Max 35
2.1 Economical and financial sustainability	Max 10
2.2 Project proposal's relevancy with respect to the context of intervention, the project purpose and the local conditions of the chosen productive sector	Max 10
2.3 Added value in terms of innovating technologies and approaches, possibility to create a multiplier effect (possibility to replicate the project and to extend the project results, information dissemination, impact on the context).	Max 5
2.4 Presence of indicators to evaluate activities and outcomes	Max 5
2.5 Adequacy of the envisaged costs to the project implementation's activities; transparency and accuracy of the budget plan.	Max 5
3. Socio-Economical effects	Max 15
3.1 Enhancement and valorisation of local human resources, involvement and empowerment of women in the local community (Italy and target country)	Max 10
3.2 Capacity to generate economical impact in terms of the creation of linked activities	Max 5
B. CRITERIA RELATED TO THE APPLICANT	
4. Relevance	Max 15
4.1 Skills/experience of the applicant and of the local partners in the enterprise specific sector	Max 10
4.2 Associations, cooperative/associative types of enterprises (already existent or to be created) or/and participation in enterprises consortia	Max 5
5. Management skills	Max 20
5.1 Capacity of the applicant to contribute in cash to the project financing	Max 5
5.2 Capacity of the applicant to gather co-funding from other partners, to cover the costs not financed by IOM and by the applicant	Max 10
5.3. Clearness in the roles and competencies assignments within the management team (in Italy and in the target country)	Max 5
MAXIMUM POINTS TO BE AWARDED	120