

BIG on... International Funding



Since 2004 we have distributed over £4.4 billion across the UK to projects covering health, education, the environment and charitable purposes. Our mission is to bring real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need. BIG is an outcomes funder, we are interested in what works and what makes a positive difference to the communities in which we deliver funding. We are also able to deliver non lottery funding. This briefing outlines our funding that is related to the portfolio interest of DfID.

To date the Big Lottery Fund has distributed over £250 million to more than 400 UK-based NGOs that work in partnership with in-country organisations to deliver projects directly to the poorest and most marginalised communities around the world.

Tackling the causes of poverty and deprivation and making a long-term difference

BIG's funding for the world's most disadvantaged communities is currently guided by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which set targets in relation to the world's main development challenges to be tackled by 2015. The global financial crisis, conflicts, natural disasters and a food security crisis have however hampered efforts to achieve these goals, and there remain groups of people particularly vulnerable to extreme poverty.

Our international projects tackle a number of key areas: improving access to primary education; improving health, including mother and child health, reproductive health and mental health; access to natural resources, including access to safe water and sanitation; improving human rights; and improving livelihoods.

From 2006-2009, BIG's £60 million International programme included an open, broadly based strand (International Communities) a more targeted strand, focussed on particular MDGs (International Strategic) and grants for feasibility studies (International Small Grants). The Board also approved an additional £12 million for the longer term reconstruction of areas affected by the Asian Tsunami of 2004.

Current Funding

BIG has built on the success of its previous programmes and incorporated the learning from them into a new International Communities programme, launched in September 2010. This five year initiative has an agreed budget of £25 million up to March 2012.

Case Study - Y Care International International Communities - £521,116

The project aims to reduce poverty and social exclusion amongst vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in The Gambia, by promoting and supporting young people through vocational training courses and offering them assistance to find work or start their own business. The project has also established a youth advocacy group in each region, which reaches out to young people and campaigns to raise awareness of issues important to them, such as the dangers of young people attempting to illegally emigrate to Europe.

So far 1,502 young people have completed training courses, 82 have been supported to find employment and 96 small businesses have been set up by young people.

In particular, we know that BIG is making a real contribution to improving the position and life chances of women through our funding and by funding capacity-building activities in all our projects, we have empowered not only individual beneficiaries but wider communities and organisations overseas.

Working with NGOs

BIG awards all its international funding to UK-based organisations who work in conjunction with partners in the target countries. Benefits of this approach to funding are:

- UK NGOs can build the capacity of overseas organisations and wider civil society
- Building of capacity enables organisations and communities to become more sustainable and independent
- Community ownership of projects makes them more effective and sustainable, designed and delivered around the real needs of the community

Case Study - HelpAge International

International Strategic - £5,110,820

This portfolio aims to address the needs of older people, people living with HIV/AIDS and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) who live in multi-generational households where, due to sickness or death of the middle generation, the burden of care for supporting the family lies with the older family members. Nine projects across Eastern and Southern Africa include activities to increase economic empowerment for OVCs and advocacy to mainstream older people's issues into HIV/AIDS programming at national and regional levels.

Nick Roseveare, Chief Executive, Bond:

"Bond and our member organisations greatly appreciate the Big Lottery Fund international programme. BIG is open to dialogue and to investing in what works best, and is willing to support work that many other donors do not. This means that international development NGOs have been able to deliver real impact in parts of the world where human need is greatest. Bond members look forward to continuing to deliver more life-changing positive action through this relationship with BIG long into the future."

Economic Downturn

The impact of the economic downturn has been felt acutely by the international sector. In May 2009 BIG's Board made available additional funds to assist grant holders experiencing difficulties and we have been happy to support 75 of our existing international grant holders experiencing difficulties by offering them support and extra funding totalling £2million.

Paul Chandler, Chief Executive, Traidcraft Exchange:
"Traidcraft has very much valued our partnership with BIG. Amongst our many institutional funders the team at the Lottery stand out as having a high degree of understanding of the issues facing development organisations, and a real willingness and desire to tackle issues constructively for the good of beneficiaries. We regard BIG as among our most "enlightened" partners, and hope that the approaches you follow will come to be adopted as best practice by many other agencies."



Further information on all programmes, awards and evaluation reports are available from www.biglotteryfund.org.uk
For further information please contact Baljeet Farmah on 0121 345 7904 or baljeet.farmah@biglotteryfund.org.uk