



Reliable infrastructure is of vital importance for a country's economic growth which, in its turn, reduces poverty and helps attain the Millennium Development Goals. ORIO, a grant facility financed by the Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation, contributes to the development and implementation (construction and/or expansion), operation and maintenance of public infrastructure projects in developing countries.

ORIO is a facility for infrastructure development. Prime focus goes to what the applicant country requests. That is why the respective government submits the application, although the initial stimulus can come from a private company.

The available budget is allocated to the applications evaluated the highest.

Selection is made on the basis of competition. The EVD (The Netherlands government agency for International Business And Cooperation), working on behalf of the Minister for Development Cooperation, assesses the applications on their demand-driven character and relevance to the applying country's development. Criteria include the degree to which the project contributes to economic growth, private sector development and the degree to which the poorer segments of the population profit from the social benefits that arise

The scope of the project budget must be between € 2 million and € 60 million. The grant percentage for the development phase is 100 percent of the project budget for the least developed countries and for heavily indebted poor countries and 50 percent for other countries. The grant percentage for the implementation, operation and maintenance phases is 50 percent of the project budget for the least developed countries and 35 percent for other countries. For several countries (see country list) the grant percentage can be 80 percent. The recipient government will finance the remaining sum.

ORIO requires international competitive bidding for most

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Governments, together with the private sector, build public infrastructure to combat poverty in developing countries.



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from the project. Applications are also assessed on their feasibility, sustainability, social and environmental impact and on the involvement of small and medium-size enterprises.

countries in accordance with international agreements on untangling aid. Procurement may be organised in other ways in the other countries. (See country list).

Whether it is a new road to give access to an isolated hamlet, providing all inhabitants of a region with reliable electricity supply, access to drinking water or helping to fight floods, governments of developing countries can call upon the ORIO grant facility to help develop their infrastructure. Local governments working with the business community can use the grants from this fund for public works and services related to drinking water, irrigation, wastewater, environmental protection, energy, transport, civil engineering projects, health care, education, etc.

Poor or non-existent infrastructure hinders economic growth in many developing countries, while economic growth is an important condition in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Economic growth in itself is, however, not sufficient. The poor must be able to participate in this growth. The social benefits of the infrastructure that is realised should therefore primarily benefit the poorer sections of the population.

ORIO wishes to encourage the involvement of international business in the development and realisation of Public Infrastructure Projects in order to utilise the knowledge, skills and developing power of the private sector.

ORIO specifically encourages SMEs to get involved.



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Infrastructure for Development

ORIO FINANCES PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

