Grant Scheme for Pilot Diaspora Investment Projects

A large number of Nigerians have migrated to the United Kingdom, the United States of America, South Africa and other parts of the world to pursue advanced study and to improve their career chances and thereby improve their standard of living. Some continue to participate in Nigerian affairs through the community and professional associations to which they belong. In addition to their individual contributions of helping their family members and organizing personal projects in Nigeria, some of them have participated in short term schemes of skills transfer organized by community organizations and professional associations. The Government of Nigeria in recognition of the financial contributions that the diaspora is making in the development of the country established the Nigeria National Volunteer Service and the House Committee on Diaspora Affairs to manage Diaspora Affairs.

The Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS) is working in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to engage the Nigerian Diaspora to contribute to national development by calling for them to participate in a diaspora investment scheme. This investment scheme is funded by the European Union within the framework of a national 10th European Development Fund project which is promoting better management of migration in Nigeria.

**Aim of the Call**

We invite members of the Nigerian Diaspora community who have a desire to support and contribute to national development in Nigeria to apply for these funds to implement an investment project. The project should be able to ensure sustainable impact on the selected community.

Applicants must demonstrate at least some portion of the leverage in form of financial contribution. In addition to monetary contributions, independently verifiable and tangible in kind resources such as business premises (property), equipment and supplies are also acceptable. Applicants must clearly specify the contribution and indicate the cash value of in kind support. Labour will not qualify as in kind.

This activity is within the framework of the EU funded 10th National EDF project “Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria”
General Eligibility Requirements

- The grant scheme for pilot diaspora investments projects is open to registered members of Diaspora organizations who are interested in contributing their skills, expertise, or resources to Nigeria’s development.
- Application to access the funds must be submitted by a Nigerian Diaspora who is an active member of a diaspora organization and will be an active member of the project management team. Ownership is defined as having a verifiable stake in the business.
- Participating project must be a start-up or established for profit business seeking to commence (or expand) production of goods or delivery of services in Nigeria.
- The projects to be funded should be able to contribute to the development of the community where the projects are being implemented and ensure sustainable impact.
- The grant scheme will fund projects with the implementation period of six (6) months.

Definition of Nigerian Diaspora
The Nigerian Diaspora could be referred to as those Nigerians living outside the country and who have links to their country and are eager to contribute or already contributing to the development of Nigeria.

Investment Project Implementation Duration

- Activities to be funded by the grant must be implemented in Nigeria and completed by December 2015. Investment projects will be accepted from agriculture, manufacturing, services and any other commercially viable business in any other sector.
- Acceptable business proposals should leverage Information and Communication Technology (ICT) such as Social media, internet marketing, e-commerce, distance learning etc that improve efficiency quality; provide customer benefits or reduce operating costs. The NNVS portal will be linked to these ICT innovations.

Financial Management systems and reporting requirements

- Must have in place a financial management system that allows for an accurate disclosure of the financial results of the projects including accounting records that are supported by documentations.

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**Award size and duration**

The grant scheme will fund five (5) projects, each to a maximum of 15,000 Euros. The duration for project implementation under this grant scheme shall be to the maximum of six (6) months. Extension of project will not be granted.

**Contract**

A contract shall be concluded with IOM Nigeria, in collaboration with NNVS. The project contract will set out the terms and conditions of grant assistance as well as the roles and responsibilities of the parties.

For each approved project, the following information shall be made public by IOM Nigeria and Nigeria National Volunteer Service.

- The name and address of the beneficiary.
- The title of the pilot diaspora investment as well as a brief overview of the investment project.
- The amount awarded.

Projects selected under this grant scheme must be prepared to commence immediately upon signing of the project contract.

**Visibility**

Visibility of EU funding will be ensured through the inclusion of the EU logo and other related EU visibility materials throughout the course of project implementation. As a minimum the inscription “This activity is within the framework of the EU funded 10th National EDF project “Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria” will be referred in all information disseminated to partner NGOs, project beneficiaries, national institutions and UN agencies etc.

**Submission of investment project proposal**

The call for grant scheme for Diaspora investment follows a two-step application process: the submission of the investment proposal and signing of the grant contract.

Applicants are required to submit a proposal on the advertised deadline containing the following information:

1. **Background information**: brief description of the organization, area of intervention, registration status, current activities and operational capacity.

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II. **Contact details**: the name, address, phone number (cell and land line if possible) and email address of the contact person.

III. **Description and relevance of the investment project**: general presentation and the relevance of the proposal to contribute to national development.

IV. **Approach and Management**: general description of the proposed approach and methodology for achieving the project’s objectives and produce the expected results.

V. **Estimate of the budget**

The investment proposal for the grant scheme note and supporting documents must be sent by email to: iomnigeria@iom.int. The deadline for the submission of proposals is **25/05/2015 at 17:00hrs**

**Recommended Reading and Website**

Website of EEA Grants:
http://www.eeagrants.org/

EEA Grants Regulations and Annexes:
http://www.eeagrants.org/id/2354.0

IOM’s Website:
http://www.iom.int/jahia/jsp/index.jsp
http://pbmmnigeria.com/

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