Grant Program

Target Group, Areas of Focus and Solution Approaches

Sabancı Foundation does not only provide financial support to NGOs by giving grants but also provides technical assistance, experience sharing opportunities and works in partnership with them. Accordingly:

- The grant process starts with applications of NGOs followed by a detailed review of all the applications. The applications qualified to be the grantees become part of the Grant Program network.
- Within this network grantees meet with other similar NGOs, participate in experience sharing meetings and get expert support if needed.
- Grantees find the chance to develop their capacities with workshops such as communication, impact assessment or experience sharing.
- As part of the monitoring process, grantees present interim and final reports and the Foundation organize fieldwork trips.
- The stories of the projects are gathered under a publication called the Sowing Season Grant Program Stories.
- Project video describing the purpose, activities and outputs of the project is prepared.
- All of the activities are shared with public by using the communication opportunities.

Program strategy is designed taking into account the primary problems and needs of women, youth and persons with disabilities and determined as follows:

**Target Group**

Projects must focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities experiencing discrimination.

**Areas of Focus**

The grant program supports education projects working to promote equal access to opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities. The projects should cover at least one of the aspects below:

- **Supporting Quality Education:** Projects that will be supported in this field shall aim to improve the quality of formal education. Projects shall address issues like improving education materials, empowering teachers, creating awareness among students about their rights and life skills, development of innovative education methods as well as the use of technology in learning processes. Projects on renovation and hardware procurement in schools will not be supported by the grant program.
- **Securing Access to Education and Retention**: Projects that will be supported in this field shall aim to include and maintain groups which are either outside the education system or experiencing difficulties in accessing education. Projects shall address issues like providing education access to groups like girls, refugees and disabled people, developing inclusive education methods, improving the retention rates of students, fighting against discrimination in schools, raising awareness in key actors like families.

- **Supporting Rights Based Non-Formal Education**: Projects that will be supported in this field shall aim to create awareness about human rights among women, youth and persons with disabilities, in out-of-school learning environments. Trainings empowering women, youth and persons with disabilities shall be supported under this field. Vocational trainings are out of the scope of the grant program.

**Solution Approaches**

You can find the success criteria of effective projects below. A project should:

- **Provide a rights-based approach**; support the right-seeking process of the people facing discrimination by raising their awareness.
- **Specify its target group clearly**. In case the target group is out of its area of experience, conduct a needs assessment in order to design the activities.
- **Empower** target group not only by providing trainings, but also by creating accessible opportunities, raise awareness in related actors and provide effective solutions.
- Ensure target group’s participation in the project, make them active agents in creating solutions and instead of speaking on behalf of them, try to include the target group in the decision-making processes.
- Provide models to increase the solidarity, cooperation and communication among the target group and try to eliminate prejudices by bringing them together with other groups.
- **Get support** from experts if needed and **work in partnership** with them during the project design and implementation processes.
- **Gather data, prepare reports and share with the related institutions** in order to make the problems visible and undertake efforts to overcome systemic inequities by providing new service models and/or proposals, implementing and sharing results.
- **Put emphasis on communication**: run campaigns and include national and local press into the project to inform public and make the problem visible.
- **Use new and innovative education methods**.