Cynllun Grantiau Cymru ac Affrica Llywodraeth Cymru

Ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by Welsh Government

Welsh Government's Wales and Africa Grant Scheme

Wales and Africa Grants Scheme guidance

Linking Wales and Africa to enable community action in contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

This guide is designed to help applicants to understand more about the Wales and Africa grant; including - who can apply for funding, what projects are able to be funded, and what is required from applicants.

Specific guidance has been provided alongside the questions within the application form.

THE WALES AND AFRICA GRANT SCHEME 2026

The Wales and Africa grant scheme is a flagship initiative of Welsh Government's Wales and Africa programme. The scheme enables community groups and organisations in Wales to access funding for small-scale projects

that contribute to Wales' delivery of UN Sustainable Development Goals and deliver benefits to Wales and Africa.

The Wales and Africa programme supports and encourages civil society, business and public bodies in Wales to take action on poverty in Africa through active global citizenship, skills exchanges and mutual learning, partnership working, and climate change action.

The Wales and Africa grants scheme is a grant fund for community groups and organisations throughout Wales who work with partnerships in Sub Saharan Africa.

Applicants can apply for funding between **£5,000-£25,000 for a 12 month project.** If you wish to discuss a project outside of this funding range, please contact the WCVA grants team.

TIMESCALE & PROCESS FOR AWARDS

Stage	Date	Detail
Grant scheme open for requests	27 October 2026	The process for funding requests is live on WCVA's bespoke Multipurpose Application Portal (MAP).
Deadline for submissions	21 December 2026	Applications will not be able to be submitted after this deadline
Panel meeting	February 2027	Formal approval of requests which will be funded.
Applicants informed	February 2027	Grant offer letters sent to successful requests.
Earliest projects start date	1 April 2027	

WHO CAN ACCESS THE FUND?

In order to be eligible, you must:

- Be an incorporated body based in and operating for the benefit of people in Wales
- Have governing documents containing suitable asset lock and dividend distribution control
- Have the ability to demonstrate suitable oversight and independence from a qualified and quorate Board with a minimum of three directors or trustees
- Have appropriate minimum policy standards in place (e.g., safeguarding).

Applicants will also need to ensure that their organisation meets the following criteria:

- The lead applicant must be **based within Wales**
- All activities should clearly demonstrate a benefit to Wales
- Applications should clearly demonstrate a fit with one or more of the four thematic areas
- Applicants with prior experience of delivering grant funded activity from the Wales and Africa Programme should demonstrate the impact of this project and any lessons learned
- Individuals cannot apply; however, they may apply through a host organisation, the grant agreement will be held with the organisation and no direct payments will be made from the Wales Africa grant scheme into an individual's bank account
- All relevant purchases to be made with Wales and Africa grant scheme funding will consider ethical and Fair Trade criteria

The grants scheme can be accessed by groups in Wales who work in collaboration with African partners to deliver a diverse range of activities, including:

- Building capacity of small Welsh international development NGOs
- Promoting international development volunteering
- Promoting best practice in fair trade and ethical procurement across all sectors
- Facilitating the work of diaspora communities in Wales to maximise their impact on SDG delivery in their home country.
- Health projects
- Projects run for and by people with disabilities

Applications are open to constituted organisations in Wales, including:

- Constituted group

- Registered charity
- Community Interest Company
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Company limited by guarantee
- Private limited company
- Community Council
- Town Council
- Local Authority

Please note: Only **one university or university health board** will be awarded funding **in each round**.
While **multiple institutions may submit applications**, only **one** will be selected for funding.
Therefore, it is **strongly advised** that applicants **liaise with colleagues within their own institution** to agree on a single, strategic application to put forward, in order to maximise its competitiveness.

If you are unsure whether your organisation fits these criteria, or have any general enquiries please contact WalesAfricaGrants@wcva.cymru.

PRE-APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before applying to the fund, please check that you can supply the following documentation to support your funding request:

- Constitution/governing documents for your organisation.
- Copy of your organisation's most recent financial statements or audited annual accounts.

- Proof of an organisation's bank account.
- Signed copy of the Wales and Africa Code of Conduct.
- A copy of your organisation's Environmental Policy.
- A copy of your organisation's Equal Opportunities Policy. (If you do not have Equal Opportunities and Environmental Policies, there are statements of intent which must be signed by your organisation. Please request the template from walesafricagrants@wcva.cymru
- A copy of your organisation's Safeguarding Policy – Hub Cymru Africa can assist in the development of this policy. (Safeguarding policies must be fit for purpose. If on review updates/amendments need to be made you will be notified. **No application will be recommended to panel with an insufficient Safeguarding policy**.) Hub Cymru Africa can help with the development a safeguarding policy in an international development context or see guidance: https://thirdsectorsupport.wales/resources/safeguarding-policyguidance/
- Proof of match funding – if your project will use funding from multiple sources, successful applicants will need to provide confirmation of match funding before the first grant payment is released.

GRANT THEMES

Projects will be awarded under one of the following four thematic areas:

1. Health

We seek to contribute to protecting the mental and physical health and wellbeing of communities in Africa through our grants. Examples of this could include:

- Supporting knowledge and skills sharing between health institutions in Wales and Africa for mutual learning and benefit;
- Supporting healthcare professionals in Africa to access small scale training and support from Wales; and
- Supporting communities in Wales and Africa to access to more equitable, quality healthcare

2. Lifelong Learning

Under Lifelong Learning we will support individuals or groups of young people or adults in Wales and/or Africa to gain skills and knowledge. Examples of this could include:

- Linking communities in Wales with African partners to develop mutual understanding of global development and international issues;
- Supporting the educational needs of disadvantaged children in Africa and sharing that experience with school pupils in Wales, contributing to their global citizenship education; and
- Supporting people in Africa to learn practical/vocational/artistic skills to improve their livelihoods.

3. Climate Change and Environment

Under our climate change and environment grant stream, we will support initiatives that reduce environmental degradation and biodiversity loss in Africa as well as strategic and practical work to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and to protect people from the impacts of climate change on food supplies, water availability or safety. Examples of this could include:

- Activities which support African farmers to adapt to a changing climate;
- Projects which enable the use of renewable energy in Africa;
- Projects engaging people in Wales with climate change issues as they affect Africa; or
- Work aiming to support African partners in implementing sustainable development practices.

4. Sustainable livelihoods

We seek to promote realistic and sustainable livelihood opportunities in Wales and Africa, ensuring that marginalized individuals are included in grassroots economic and social development. Initiatives that we support include:

- Community-led, income generating cooperatives that have benefit to Wales and Africa;
- Engaging the public through Fair Trade campaigns, advocacy or policy;
- Activities that bring the consumer closer to the producer in a sustainable way;
- Support to small-scale agricultural projects and activities; and
- Support to grassroots income generating activities.

THE WALES AND AFRICA GRANT SCHEME WILL NOT FUND

- Religious activities - religious groups may apply, however the scheme will not fund any activity deemed to have any element of proselytising.
- School trips/exchanges - teacher exchanges which are better placed for funding under the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme
- Private for-profit ventures
- Orphanages, unless the request is to support transition to alternative models of family or community care. For more information see this resource.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Welsh Government guidance on international travel has recently changed, and as such, the Wales Africa Grant Scheme can now once again fund activities which require international travel. Whilst we seek to be as flexible as possible, caution should be exercised in planning for activity involving travel; including purchase of flexible travel tickets where possible and ensuring the appropriate level of insurance cover is obtained.

Should advice change and travel restrictions resume, any organisation or volunteer acting as part of a Wales Africa funded project should adhere to the guidance immediately. Any costs incurred because of not following guidance will not be reimbursed through the scheme. Quarantine costs will not be an eligible expenditure of a Wales Africa funded project.

TARGETS AND OUTPUTS

In the project profile you will be asked to set targets and outputs by which you can measure the success of your project. There is some information that we expect all projects to provide and to set targets for; these are **the general scheme targets**. You will also be asked to profile **theme specific targets** for at least one theme. The theme profiled should be the most relevant to your activity but if there are other theme targets which your project also meets then you are welcome to provide additional targets.

Applicants are advised to be realistic when setting their project's targets. The targets you set will need to be easily cross referenced to the narrative part of the funding request form.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

The Wales and Africa grants scheme will fund both capital and revenue costs, there is no requirement ratio. examples of eligible costs include:

- Staff salaries
- A 15% uplift on the total staff salaries costs applied for can be included into your project costs to cover overheads such as utilities and running costs, where applicable
- Equipment and tools where there is a clear project need
- Publicity materials
- Venue hire, stall hire, event fees
- Training costs

MATCH FUNDING

Although match funding is not a specific requirement of the scheme, it can be used to support wider projects in conjunction with other sources of funding. If an applicant has secured match funding for their project activity, this may be looked on favourably at assessment. In-kind match funding can be included into your project budget, examples of this may include the provision of works, goods, materials or services donated to the project by another provider.

Each volunteer should have a description of the role that they are contributing to the project. Projects may need to provide evidence of this through volunteering.

SAFEGUARDING

It is a requirement for strengthened Safeguarding practice by including identified, trained Safeguarding leads within each grant recipient as a condition of grant approval. The conditions for accepting a small grant under the scheme have been amended to include a requirement that each agency or group in receipt of a grant needs to:

- Provide approved Safeguarding Policy (please send with application)
- All representatives within the grant recipient are aware of and have had induction/training in the policy and its requirements
- Designate a representative as the Safeguarding Lead responsible for receiving safeguarding concerns, reporting onwards under the agreed procedure, liaising with WCVA and responding appropriately to concerns. This designated person will be required to undertake mandatory safeguarding online training with Hub Cymru Africa

The duties of that person are outlined in the grant offer letter for successful applicants. In summary, that person is responsible for:

- Receiving and recording reports of Safeguarding concern
- Reporting that concern to the appropriate officer of WCVA
- Liaising with WCVA on the basis of WCVA criteria to ensure appropriate response and follow up
- The safeguarding lead is required to have undertaken Safeguarding Training which includes:
- An explanation of the risks and indicators of safeguarding concerns
- An explanation of the criteria of a reportable Safeguarding concern
- An explanation of the considerations and procedure involved in making a report
- An explanation of the criteria and process to be applied by the grant recipient and WCVA in responding to a reported safeguarding concern

APPLICATION PROCESS

In order to apply to the Wales and Africa Grant, you will need to register with WCVA's Multipurpose Application Portal (MAP). If you have previously

registered with MAP, you can log in by entering your username and password on the home screen.

Organisations can register by visiting the website: map.wcva.cymru

Once you have registered with MAP you will be able to apply for any funding opportunities administered by WCVA.

There is guidance provided for each of the questions and requests will be assessed against how strongly they meet the priorities of the scheme and how well they address the specifications given. Scores will be awarded based on how well the application addresses the guidance, recommendations will then be made to Welsh Government, who will make the final funding decisions.

Although the quality of the written application will guide the numerical scoring of the application form, other factors will be considered when funding award decisions are being made, these include benefit to Wales and the geographical spread of projects and panel's consideration of the overall difference the project will make in what it is trying to achieve.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grants under £10,000 will receive 100% of the funding upon start of the project. Grants £10,000 and over will receive 80% upfront upon the start of their project, with the remainder 20% being paid upon submission of a satisfactory final project report. WCVA reserves the right to claim the money back on behalf of the Welsh Government should the recipient not follow the monitoring and reporting requirements, this is outlined in the grant terms and conditions issued to successful applicants.
Monitoring reports will be required at 6 month intervals as the project progresses as a grant requirement.

FURTHER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

For any further guidance please contact walesafricagrants@wcva.org.uk or call 0300 111 0124

Applicants seeking guidance on improving the quality of their application or the impact of their work are encouraged to contact Hub Cymru Africa for support:

Email: advice@hubcymruafrica.wales
Phone: 02920 028 410

If your organisation is new to the scheme or applying for the first time, it is essential that you get in touch with Hub Cymru Africa during the preparation phase. Their team can:

- Advise on your organisation's suitability for the scheme, and
- Help you strengthen your application for better chances of success.

Applicants are welcome to contact the Wales and Africa team to discuss their bids at any time. Email: WalesforAfrica@gov.wales Tel: 03000 251670

Thematic areas	**Activity examples**	**Scheme targets** (applicable to all thematic areas)	**Project level targets** (specific to selected thematic area)	**SDG contributions**	**WFGA contributions**
1. Health	• Supporting knowledge and skills sharing between health institutions in Wales and Africa for mutual learning and benefit; • Supporting healthcare professionals in Africa to access small scale training and support; and • Supporting communities in Wales and Africa to access to more equitable, quality healthcare	No. of communities engaged in Africa to support the improvement in their wellbeing No. of individuals directly engaged to support their wellbeing	No. of Health Care professionals supported in Africa No. of people supported to access more equitable, quality healthcare (in Wales and Africa)	You will need to report on the progress of the contributions as identified in your approved application form and additional contributions if applicable (Qualitative in application and	You will need to report on the progress of the contributions as identified in your approved application form and additional contributions if applicable (Qualitative in application and monitoring) Goals 1-7

2. Life Long Learning	• Linking communities in Wales with African partners to develop mutual understanding of global development and international issues; • Supporting the educational needs of disadvantaged children in Africa and sharing that experience with school pupils in Wales, contributing to their global education; and	No. of links between communities in Wales and Africa established. No. of Welsh volunteers involved in project activities No. of African volunteers involved in project activity	No of Wales and African communities linked No. of Welsh school children engaged No. of African children that have been supported with	monitoring) Goals 1-17	

	• Supporting people in Africa to learn practical/vocational/artistic skills to improve their livelihoods (e.g. theatre and dance, IT and carpentry).	No. of people from Welsh communities supporting the project through donations, events attended etc	their educational needs No. of people supported to improve their skills (Wales and Africa)		

3. Climate Change & Environment	• Activities that support African farmers to adapt to a changing climate; • Projects which enable the use of renewable energy in Africa; • Projects engaging people in Wales with climate change issues as they affect Africa; or • Work aiming to support African partners in implementing sustainable development practices	No. of organisations strengthened or empowered as a result of partnership working No. of events/sessions delivered (no. of people attending? - in Wales or Africa) What is practical to record from African Partners?	No. of African farmers supported to adapt to climate change No. of communities supported to use renewable energy No. of individuals engaged in reducing the impact of climate change		
4. Sustainable Livelihoods	• Community-led, income generating cooperatives that have benefit to Wales and Africa;		No. of community coops supported		

	• Engaging the public through Fair Trade campaigns, advocacy or policy; Activities • that bring the consumer closer to the producer in a sustainable way; Support to small scale • agricultural projects and activities; and Support to grassroots income • generating activities e.g. arts & crafts.		No. of community coops setup No. of people engaged through a FairTrade campaign No. of individuals supported to make their livelihood more sustainable		