SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR ENERGY (SARI/Energy)

SARI/Energy
Small Grants Program
SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR ENERGY (SARI/Energy)

Agenda:
The Program
Objectives
Criteria for award – Eligibility, Usage
Fund & Cost Sharing
Grant Flowchart
Application Structure
Application Evaluation
Thus Far
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The Programme seeks to build the capacity of local institutions and to increase the number of institutions engaged in regional energy issues. This is expected to be one of the main vehicles for public participation in SARI/E projects, among others, by community organisations and is expected to raise awareness and involvement at grassroots, local, national and regional levels by improving business and/or livelihood practices in SARI/E countries.
Funding for direct disbursement of small grants:

- **Base Period (Present to July 31, 2010):** USD$ 400,000
- **Option Period (August 01, 2009 to July 31, 2010):** USD$ 200,000

For the Round-I, USAID/SARI/Energy has budgeted USD$ 10,000 to $15,000 per grant to organisations in South Asia to assist small-scale endeavours of qualified non-governmental and community groups implementing relevant programs in the SARI/E geographic areas being targeted by USAID/SARI/Energy.
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GUIDING PHILOSOPHY:

- Promote **good ideas / initiatives**
  - That are **valuable and replicable** in the **regional context**
  - That **demonstrably engage** (have a stake) **and mobilise community**
  - Work across and among geographies and cultures (‘concept of twining’ - collaboration of organisations across SARI/E countries)
  - Which **accrue benefits to a broad number of beneficiaries**
  - Which **scale up from conceptualisation, testing, through to commercialisation**
OUR COMMITMENT:

• Handhold organisations/teams to develop fundable proposals
What sort of activities might fall within the ambit?

**INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES:**

- Addressing impediments to trade and investments; trade regulations;
- Coordinating standards across the region (energy efficiency labelling);
- Feasibility studies for trans-national electricity exchange;
- Improved access to and quality of rural energy;
- Development in renewable energy technologies and usages (domestic/ commercial / industrial) – Solar-Powered ECG, anyone!
- Demonstrable ideas for energy efficiency and conservation;

The application of funds need not be restricted to the above activities.
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Who is eligible? …

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

• be in existence for at least two years

• be non-profit

• be non-political, non-police and non-military in purpose and organisation

• should have the minimum attributes of a formal organisation (e.g., elected officers; receive dues from members or receive revenues in other ways; has a written charter, constitution or by-laws for its operations)

• demonstrate financial soundness; and be responsible and accountable for all monies distributed under this activity
Who is eligible?

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
INCLUDE:

- be organised to serve legitimate and socially desirable community functions, particularly those that promote women-in-energy issues

- If a school, must be a non-government school

- If a religious or church organization, the activity for which funds are requested must be a community-based activity that serves all people in the community without regard for membership in that religious organization (e.g., a day-care centre that is open to all children of the community)
What can the funds be used for?

Funds may be used for (indicative list)

1. Buy commodities (materials, equipment, machinery, etc.)
2. Pay for specialised construction work that the community can not easily do; and/or
3. Pay for selected services (e.g. outreach)
Funds may not be used for:

- purely religious, police or military activities
- surveillance equipment
- abortion equipment and services
- luxury goods and services
- luxury goods and gambling equipment
- weather modification equipment
- toxic or otherwise unsafe products, such as certain pesticides, pharmaceuticals, hazardous chemicals (without a waiver); or
- used equipment
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APPLICANT TO ESTABLISH CLEAR REASONABLE BUDGET FOR GRANT

- Itemise cost of commodities (materials, equipment, machinery, etc.)
  - price quotations
  - source origin
  - names and addresses for at least three potential suppliers of equipment or materials

- Show cost of specialised construction work that the endeavour cannot easily do

- Define a monetary value on the endeavour’s contribution (cash or in-kind), including:
  - the self help contribution (in cash or kind), and
  - the nature and value of the contribution
ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTABILITY BY INCLUSION OF

- Describe competently the endeavour’s involvement
- Provide other donor agencies contacted
- List the number of beneficiaries
- List the responsible parties for managing the small grant
- Describe how the results of the project will be sustained once USAID funding is complete
COST SHARING CONTRIBUTION

- A **minimum of 50% grantees contribution** is required.
- Grantee is highly encouraged to provide higher grantee contribution whenever feasible

- Applicant cost-sharing can take a number of forms:
  - direct expenditures to be made by the applicant
  - value of employee and contract labor
  - value of buildings dedicated to the project
  - value of materials and other supplies provided by the applicant to support the project
  - value of transportation serviced provided by the applicant
  - other (non-USAID) sources of funding.
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APPLICATION
Solicitation process...

GRANT FLOWCHART

Request for Application

Proposals received; initial screening by Program Administrator

Evaluation Committee (EC) Review

Finalists submitted to USAID

Grantees selected and awards made
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**APPLICATION**

**General Grant Proposal** ...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Part I.</strong></th>
<th>Coversheet</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part II.</strong></td>
<td>Information on applicant organisation/initiative group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part III.</strong></td>
<td>Project description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part IV.</strong></td>
<td>Work plan and implementation schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part V.</strong></td>
<td>Budget and detailed expenses sheet (including applicant contributions)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition, applicants should provide information related to the new or expanded business e.g. business plan, feasibility study.
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**APPLICATION Evaluation Criteria:  
**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA AND SCORING USED:</th>
<th>MAXIMUM POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of USAID/SARI/Energy SAWIE Objectives</td>
<td>40 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization status and community impact</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project funding</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility and innovativeness of implementation plan</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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- A minimum 'threshold' of 70 points (out of a possible 100) for further consideration of an application
- Applications scoring less than 70 will be returned to the applicant with appropriate feedback.
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PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

- Programme announced in November 2008 in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Initial solicitations were received via the South Asia Women in Energy program.
- Applications were evaluated within the context of the small grants application process and four applications have been selected for approval and follow-up development.
UNSOLICITED APPLICATIONS

Four shortlisted applications include:

- Capacity building of 50-60 women to promote energy efficient lighting program in 30 villages.
- Promotion of rural women as improved cook stove technicians.
- Training women to take up domestic electrical wiring under a Rural Electrification Program.
- Setting up a rural bio-briquette enterprise, run by women; 30 women to be trained on briquette production technology.
ROUND – I OF REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

• SARI/Energy sought applications from qualified entities that are eligible to apply for small grants and promote clean energy access via a Request for Applications (Round-I) announced on March 20, 2009.

• Over forty responses were received till end of April 2009.
  - Received applications from all geographies (barring Maldives & Bhutan)
  - Largest chunk of applicants are NGOs
  - Capacity Development along with awareness generation comprises of more than half of the submissions
  - While most projects mention benefit to women, 33% were oriented towards women

• The applications are currently being evaluated with the projects expected to take off by the end of June 2009.
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Q & A / Discussion