



Australian Embassy

Lebanon

The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is a flexible small grants program funded from Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget and managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade's (DFAT) overseas posts. The program aims to support projects with a strong development focus that complement Australia's broader aid program. DAP projects should promote a distinctive and positive image of Australia.

DAP is available on a not-for-profit basis to local organisations at the community level (community groups, NGOs and other entities engaged in development activities) in countries that are eligible for official development assistance (ODA). Lebanon is eligible for ODA.

The Australian Embassy in Beirut aims to support a geographic spread of projects and to balance support among different communities in Lebanon.

Funding

There is no minimum amount that a single DAP project can receive but the maximum is USD40,000 over the life of the project. We generally fund projects that are between **USD 10,000 – 25,000** in value.

We will look for projects that:

- that are self-contained and can be completed within one financial year (two-year projects are only approved in very rare circumstances),
- are participatory in nature, and have involved the beneficiaries in the identification, design and management of the project.
- achieve outcomes in the areas of education, health, water and sanitation, environmental protection, women's empowerment and gender equality, supporting people with disabilities, human rights (including LGBTQI+), economic livelihoods, and food security,
- that have sustainable outcomes, including having sustainable funding sources for the project (e.g. a proven method of paying salaries and paying recurrent costs for workers, equipment maintenance etc at a rehabilitated medical clinic),
- that can demonstrate the project will benefit members of the community in an inclusive way
- that might act as a catalyst for additional development of the community or a model for similar developments elsewhere,
- that demonstrate a commitment to disability inclusion in the design of the project,
- will see applicants and their communities make a contribution in labour, materials, transport or cash,
- that provide educational or occupational/skills training that will provide an enduring benefit for participants.

We will generally not support projects such as:

- cash grants or micro-credit schemes or projects that involve the return of money
- the establishment of commercial, for-profit ventures
- the purchase of major assets that have recurrent costs, e.g. vehicles and generators that rely on a steady supply of fuel
- international travel, including for study tours
- sponsorship of sporting tournaments or cultural displays that do not have a clear, ongoing developmental benefit
- staff salaries of the entity that is applying (except the use of contractors or consultants to achieve a specific outcome within the project)
- routine, recurring running costs and administrative expenses including office rental and utility costs, spare parts, routine maintenance
- catering and food and beverage expenses for events or conferences.

Terrorist Financing

Australia has obligations under a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions to prevent terrorist financing and to freeze terrorist assets. The Committee will not recommend any project unless it is satisfied that the project will not, directly or indirectly, provide support to terrorism.

Human and Environmental Safeguards

Applicants must ensure that individuals and organisations involved in implementing the project comply with DFAT's [Child Protection Policy](#), [PSEAH Policy](#) and [Environmental and Social Safeguards](#). Applicants should provide, in addition to the above policies, their current Code of Conduct, recruitment processes, or appropriate assurances relating to the protection of children, adults and the environment, as part of the application process.

Funding obligations

All recipients are required to provide written documentation to prove that DAP funds were spent according to the project proposal. The Embassy may seek reimbursement if acquittals are not completed within deadlines. Embassy officers would expect to visit the project. The Embassy would expect recipients to make a clear reference to Australia in public relations material and, if the project involves infrastructure, mark it as a gift from Australia. The Embassy expects to visit all DAP projects for verification and public diplomacy purposes.

Project proposals must be submitted by completing a project application via Smartygrants. The application should include:

- a brief outline of the applicant's activities and goals,
- the applicant's registration certificate, list of board members and internal policies,
- a brief outline of the applicant's sources of funding,
- at least two referees who can vouch for the bona fides of the applicant,
- a brief outline of the project,
- details of the beneficiaries,
- an explanation of how the project will assist beneficiaries to help themselves in a sustainable way; and
- a detailed budget for the project.

Our website (http://www.lebanon.embassy.gov.au/birt/development_cooperat.html) lists projects that have previously been funded under the Direct Aid Program.

The selection process is highly competitive, and proposals will be assessed based on the information provided. If a proposal is shortlisted for consideration, the Embassy may reach out for additional information to complete due diligence checks.

Indicative Process Timeline:

August – September	Applicants submit DAP project proposals.
October - November	DAP committee assesses project proposals, shortlisting and final selection for successful projects.
December - May	Disbursement of funds – Project implementation and monitoring.
June - July	Applicants submit end of project acquittal report on Smartygrants.