

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
SAARC & BIMSTEC Wing  
SAARC Section  
Dhaka  
([www.mofa.gov.bd](http://www.mofa.gov.bd))



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05 April 2020

**Sub: Regarding the grant proposal for COVID-19 Emergency Response Project(s) under SAARC Development Fund (SDF) social window.**

With reference to above, the undersigned is directed to inform that the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) has allocated the total fund for the SDF-COVID 19 Emergency Project(s) shall be US \$ 5.00 Million for all the 08 (Eight) SAARC Member States. Social Window (SW) has committed a total of 73.74 million out of 100 million allocated for SW projects and currently has a balance of US \$ 26.26 million. The SDF has stated its main objective is to provide support to the SAARC Member States in their efforts towards responding to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and to protect the people of the SAARC Member States by mitigating the financial losses and severe socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

02. It may be mentioned that, the SDF has proposed the following 04 (four) basic eligibility funding criteria:

- a) Have at least 3 or more SAARC countries participating in the project.
- b) Due to unusual circumstances and nature of this intervention, the minimum requirement of 50% cash co-funding from the project proponents shall be exempted as an exceptional case.
- c) Government and government agencies including SAARC Bodies are eligible.
- d) For NGO/ private sector/ other agencies, the proponent should be registered in any of the SAARC Member State having the experience of working continuously for a minimum of 5 years in the relevant field with a commitment of co-financing.

03. The SDF has also informed that, the grant shall be utilized to address the shortage of fund to mitigate the socio-economic impact especially on the vulnerable population of the Member States. SDF added that, all proposals shall be reviewed and due diligence would be ensured. The approval process, project implementation, fund disbursement, management, monitoring and reporting shall be as per the existing board approved policy and practices of SDF and Social Window.

04. In this regard, the SDF has requested to the all eligible agencies in the SAARC Member States to submit proposals as per SDF and Social Window funding criteria and guidelines.

05. In view of the above, the Finance Division is requested to take necessary actions in this regard and convey the same to this Ministry at the earliest.

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**‘Mujib Year’s Diplomacy, Friendship & Prosperity’**