



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

## Annex – Eligibility criteria and further details for project applications (September 2025)

### I. Call for proposals – long-term projects

We are calling for new member church projects starting in 2027, running for a maximum of three years.

Please be aware that ongoing projects will not be automatically extended. Thus, member churches who wish to continue their projects concluding in 2026 should apply for a second phase which may last until 2029 at the latest.

**Deadline for applications:** Thursday, 08 January 2026

The following **eligibility criteria** apply to long-term grants:

- **Eligibility of project holder:**
  - Any LWF member church, national committee, regional expression or related diaconal institution is eligible to apply.
  - Each church (entity) may only submit one application.
  - Member Churches must have paid their LWF membership fee in at least one of the three years prior to the start of the project to be eligible for approval
  
- **Eligibility of new projects:**
  - Projects should aim at:
    - Addressing strategic priorities of the member churches;
    - Deepening the participation of churches in holistic mission, i.e. proclamation, diakonia and advocacy;
    - Strengthening churches' presence in the public space and their local witness by addressing important needs of congregations and the wider community.
  - The project concept must demonstrate a clear link between the identified needs and the proposed activities.
  - It is essential that new submissions demonstrate a clear element of innovation and distinctiveness from past or current initiatives funded by LWF to qualify as "new project".
  
- **Continuation of ongoing projects:**
  - Projects that are currently under implementation can only be extended once.
  - Projects that are eligible to be extended typically have the letter "a" appearing in the project code (e.g. PMXX3a) and have 2024 as start year and 2026 as completion year.
  - Applications to extend an ongoing project must fulfil the following conditions:

- **Relevance:** objectives build up on the achievements of the previous phase and/or activities are scaled up to new geographical areas and target groups or adapted to changing context as needed;
  - **Sustainability:** the new phase strengthens the achievements of the previous phase to ensure that the positive change will last after the project has ended;
  - If possible, have **increasing financial ownership:** the budget should reflect a progressive reduction of the LWF share and a consequent increase of the own contribution and/or third-party contribution in order to set the basis for LWF funding withdrawal.
- **Project duration:** Up to 3 years.
  - **Maximum amount requested to LWF:** EUR 150,000 over three years, max EUR 50,000 per year. Please keep in mind that eligible projects often receive less than the maximum amount to ensure a wider distribution of funds across multiple projects.
  - **Own contribution:** Project holders are required to contribute a minimum of 5% of the project's total budget. Contributions in kind can be accepted to show commitment if the financial contribution is not possible.

The following **screening and approval criteria** apply to eligible applications received from churches:

- The application must:
  - Be fully complete, including the budget, church endorsement, and church profile.
  - Clearly identify and analyze the needs that the project aims to address.
  - Convincingly demonstrate the relevance of the project's objectives and activities in relation to the expressed needs.
  - Clearly demonstrate how the project will achieve sustainability.
  - Outline a coherent approach and reflect meaningful stakeholder involvement, particularly of youth and women.
  - Show that the scope of the project's objectives and activities is realistic in relation to the budget and the applicant's capacities.
- The application process will be **competitive**, taking into account the identified needs and the clarity with which the proposal demonstrates compliance with the specified criteria.
- For reasons of fairness, member churches or related diaconal institutions that do not have an ongoing project will be given priority.

## II. How to apply

Project applications must be submitted via the online portal of the LWF at the following address: [https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/lwf\\_pcmprogram\\_en](https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/lwf_pcmprogram_en). User guidelines are attached.

You can send an e-mail to [dtmjprojects@lutheranworld.org](mailto:dtmjprojects@lutheranworld.org) if you have any issues with the platform and need support. The member church projects coordination team is there to answer your questions and to help.