About the K.O.O.K. foundation and the project application conditions

K.O.O.K. (Committee for Development cooperation in Alkmaar, Holland) was founded in 1969. Currently, we run a shop in secondhand goods, where the money is earned for our development work. As far as we know we are the longest existing shop of this kind in Holland. We work with 90 volunteers who get no compensation whatsoever for their work. The board of K.O.O.K. guarantees that at least 75% of the turnover of the shop is used for projects in developing countries.

The foundation aims at a world of equal distribution in opportunities for everyone, by striving after freedom, equality and brotherhood. Projects that are taken into consideration must aim at improving the life of the poor in developing countries. We do not donate for labor costs, trainings, transport costs, running costs of existing projects, food aid, fertilizer, costs of medicines (except the starting stock of a hospital, clinic or pharmacy or worker in health care) or projects for the benefit of an individual.

Organizations or private individuals may apply for funds for a project in a developing country. Request coming from the region Alkmaar are given priority. Project requests will be processed only if they are submitted on our application form. All questions in the application form must be answered on the form itself. Appendices can be made if there is lack of space in the application form. Finally, the form must be signed.

We prefer self contained, independent projects of which the communities are the direct beneficiaries, for example, water supply, community based health care, food production, employment, education. Projects that enable people to help themselves. However, if there is sufficient financial space, sometimes we also accept well defined and well distinguishable parts of larger projects, for example school furniture, beds for a clinic and so on.

Applications for financing a vehicle are possible if it is an essential part of the project and is exclusively used for that project. The receiving organization must be able to pay the operational costs and maintenance, and be aware of making reserves for replacement. For all projects goes that they must have a healthy economic basis so that after our donation, the project can continue to operate self-reliantly.

The time for processing project requests from receiving till the actual transfer of money is from 4 months to one year. This depends on the number of requests and the income from the monthly sales of the second hand goods. The maximum donation is 6.000 Euro. The usual requests vary between 1.000 – 6.000 Euro.

The following rules must be observed:

1. The financial support must be used exclusively for the approved project.
2. Changes in the project set up must be submitted for our approval, and can come into effect only after a written approval.
3. Beneficiaries must report on the project implementation and its benefits within a year. If possible send us some photographs of the project, so we can assess the impact.
4. If KOOK decides to inspect the project full co-operation must be given
5. A new application can be made after two years only.