

ACBF PROJECT AND PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Projects and programs seeking to access funding support from ACBF are required to meet a set of criteria. As project and program environment and country situations differ, such projects and programs are required to satisfy a combination of the criteria listed below:

A. Consistency with ACBF Mandate and Core Competencies

First and foremost, a proposed intervention is expected to lie within the expanded mandate and the core competencies of the Foundation. The integration of PACT into ACBF has expanded the Foundation's mandate from the building of macroeconomic policy analysis and management capacity to the strengthening of public sector effectiveness and its interface with the private sector and civil society in order to improve the quality of public policy and promote good governance and sustainable development at national and regional levels. Within this mandate, the focus of activities is on improving public sector capacity for macro and sectoral policy analysis, design and management, as well as enhancement of effectiveness of institutions, systems, processes, procedures and practices that support policy and institutional reforms critical for improved transparency, accountability and good governance in the public sector. In addition to enhancing effectiveness of the core public sector, support is provided for activities designed to strengthen the interface between the public sector, on the one hand, and the private sector and civil society on the other. Thus, activities by the key stakeholders in national and regional development that are geared towards encouraging greater effectiveness of the core public sector, strengthening a participatory process in policy formulation and implementation, and reinforcing or inducing improvement in the policy environment define the focus of interventions that are potentially eligible for support. Project/program proposals both at national and regional levels that are designed to undertake such activities are expected to fit within one or more of the Foundation's six core competency areas in capacity building, as follows:

- Economic Policy Analysis and Development Management.
- Financial Management and Accountability.
- Enhancement and Monitoring of National Statistics.
- Public Administration and Management.
- Strengthening of Policy Analysis Capacity of National Parliaments.
- Professionalization of the Voices of the Private Sector and Civil Society.

B. Relevance to Core Capacity Needs and Enhanced Stakeholders' Ownership

Relevance of project/program to core capacity needs as evidenced by a recently conducted capacity needs assessment survey or country capacity profile. A proposed project/program is thus expected to derive from carefully assessed capacity needs. In the absence of a needs assessment survey or country capacity profile, a proposed project/program is required to demonstrate strong evidence of need for the proposed intervention. Stakeholders of the proposed project/program are expected to show a strong sense of ownership of the intervention sought and commitment to its successful implementation and sustainability.

C. Inclusivity of Potential Stakeholders/Commitment to a Participatory Process in Capacity Building and National/Regional Development

Project/program promoters/stakeholders are required to demonstrate evidence of their commitment to a strategy (in the identification, development and implementation of proposed activities) that promotes sustained participation of potential key stakeholders in national/regional development – the public sector, the private sector and civil society – in order to enhance sense of ownership of the project/program, the utility of its output and its long-run sustainability.

D. Demonstrated Commitment to Project and Program Sustainability

Project/program promoters/stakeholders are required to demonstrate strong evidence of commitment to the success of the proposed project and its sustainability.

E. Conduciveness of Project and Program Environment

It is expected that a project/program's environment will be conducive to the successful implementation of its activities. With regard to countries and regions emerging from conflicts, it is expected that a proposed project/program will contribute significantly to improvements in the policy environment and the emergence of a participatory process in development management. Conduciveness will also be assessed with respect to:

- Commitment to socio-political, economic and institutional reforms for poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- Existence of an effective institutional framework for the coordination of capacity building activities.
- Demonstrated commitment to capacity building as evidenced by active participation in ACBF's activities and availability of counterpart funding/co-financing, especially by project stakeholders.

F. Technical Soundness of Project/Program Proposal

Lastly, in addition to other eligibility criteria, a proposed project or program is expected to be technically sound in design to facilitate effective implementation and achievement of desired results/outcomes and impact. Its soundness will be assessed, among others, on the specificity of the identified capacity needs; feasibility of its objectives; effectiveness of implementation strategies; relevance of proposed activities; realism of budget and co-financing arrangements, expected output, outcomes and impact; and the plausibility of the performance evaluation framework and indicators.