

Global Church Funding Policy of the Diocese of Mainz

Global Church Funding Committee

1. Foundations of Global Church Engagement

The pastoral framework of the Diocese of Mainz and the Vision Statement for the Pastoral Path 2030 place *sharing* at the heart of all individual and institutional action within the diocese. As “part of the worldwide People of God, we are called and sent to be signs and instruments of God’s closeness and compassion for all people” (Pastoral Framework).

The Diocese of Mainz understands itself as a Church that shares:

- **Resources** – by sharing financial resources, managing existing resources responsibly and sustainably, and avoiding exploitation in all its forms;
- **Life** – by orienting itself to people’s lived realities, acknowledging cultural and religious diversity, and promoting peaceful dialogue;
- **Faith** – by praying with and for one another as part of the universal Church;
- **Responsibility** – by communicating and living out Christian values in society, particularly with regard to justice and the equitable distribution of goods (cf. Vision Statement).

On the basis of this commitment, financial resources from the church tax budget are allocated in accordance with the diocesan funding regulations to support projects and initiatives in the field of church-based development cooperation, in a spirit of solidarity.

2. Objectives and Priority Areas of Funding

The global church funding of the Diocese of Mainz is guided by the *Ten Principles for Global Church Engagement* of the Expert Group for Global Church Affairs – *Partnership with the Poor* (2004). These principles form the theological and ethical foundation of the Diocese’s approach to global partnership and cooperation.

The principles are: respect for human dignity; shared objectives; responsible and transparent partner selection; mutual accountability; recognition of partners’ autonomy; mutual complementarity; reliability and long-term commitment; accountability and transparency; fair and pre-defined mechanisms for conflict resolution; shared responsibility in cases of failure.

Through its funding, the Diocese of Mainz seeks to support people in partner local Churches worldwide in a spirit of solidarity, to help secure basic human needs, and to contribute to the Church’s mission of evangelization. Funding decisions are strictly aligned with the principles of sustainable, poverty-oriented development and pastoral work, committed to human dignity and the protection of creation.

Priority is given to cooperation with local Churches and partners with whom a particular bond or partnership exists. The guiding principle is a spirit of open and reciprocal sharing of resources, experiences, and responsibilities.

3. Formal Funding Criteria

Eligible applicants include dioceses, religious congregations, institutes, and other legally constituted organizations worldwide, including civil society organizations.

Funding is granted upon submission of a written application to the Episcopal Ordinariate of Mainz. The project proposal must include the following elements and be sufficiently detailed to allow for further review:

- clearly defined objectives, target groups, and planned activities;
- background information and contextual analysis of the project;
- an implementation and completion timeline;
- a detailed budget and financing plan outlining total project costs, contributions from other donors where applicable, and demonstrating sound financial planning as well as an appropriate own contribution;
- a safeguarding policy or documented evidence of appropriate measures for the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of minors and vulnerable adults;
- a letter of recommendation from the local ordinary or the competent religious superior;
- a transparent presentation of the project and a substantiated assurance that the persons or groups responsible for implementation are competent, reliable, and trustworthy.

Scholarships for postgraduate theological studies are awarded exclusively within the framework of the *Albertus Magnus Programme* of the German Bishops' Conference (DBK), in accordance with the applicable guidelines.

Recipient institutions are required to formally acknowledge receipt of funds and to submit a narrative and financial report documenting project implementation, achievement of objectives, any evaluation undertaken, and the appropriate use of funds. Where appropriate, this may be supplemented by an external audit.

There is no legal entitlement to funding. One-time, project-specific grants do not constitute a basis for future or recurring funding.

Funding decisions are made in close coordination with the Catholic aid agencies *Adveniat*, *Caritas Internationalis*, *Kindermannswerk*, *Misereor*, *Missio*, and *Renovabis*. Projects submitted to these agencies, assessed as eligible for funding, and proposed to the Diocese of Mainz for co-financing may be considered within the diocesan funding framework.

4. Global Church Funding Committee

The Diocese of Mainz supports social and pastoral projects through the Global Church Funding Committee. Funds are made available annually as operational resources from the church tax budget.

All advisory and decision-making processes related to funding allocation are carried out by the Committee.

Composition:

- **Chair:** a member of the diocesan leadership with responsibility for global church affairs;
- **Ex officio members:** appointed from the relevant diocesan departments and confirmed by the Diocesan Leadership Conference;
- **Volunteer members:** may be appointed from the following areas:

- diocesan international partnership groups;
- civil society engagement in development cooperation;
- ecumenical relations.

The Committee meets four times per year and takes decisions by simple majority. Meetings may be held in person or via video conference. In duly justified exceptional cases, decisions may be taken by written procedure. The Committee has a quorum when at least half of its members are present.

Project applications are reviewed for eligibility prior to deliberation, in cooperation with the Global Church Team and the relevant Catholic aid agencies. One-time emergency grants of up to EUR 5,000 may be approved without prior Committee authorization; such grants are nevertheless documented and reported to the Committee.

A formal funding agreement is concluded with each project partner, confirming acceptance of the funding conditions. This includes the submission of all required documentation at the time of application (financial plan, recommendation of the local bishop or religious superior, safeguarding policy where available, contact details, implementation schedule, and commitment to submit a final report). Signed agreements constitute a prerequisite for disbursement, which is administered through the diocesan finance office.

Funds are provided as non-repayable grants. Responsibility for compliance with local legal, tax, and non-profit regulations in the recipient country rests solely with the funding recipients.