



A Livable and Fair Future

Our Funding Concept

The Hand in Hand Fund supports eco-social development projects in the Global South that aim to strengthen civil societies in a sustainable way. The central motto is to strengthen self-reliance. The Fund is a joint initiative between the company Rapunzel Naturkost and the NGO Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (Environmental Action Germany).

Projects

The Fund supports non-profit organizations that carry out small scale projects that last from several months to one year. A typical proposal aims to create sustainable change, and the NGO ensures that the local community is involved in all aspects of the project concept. Usually, a project addresses both social and ecological improvements; however the Fund also supports projects focusing on only one of these issues.

Applicants

Applications can be submitted by non-profit organizations that work in developing or emerging countries in Africa, Latin America or Asia. We request that organizations include a document confirming their charitable status when submitting their application. The organization may be located in the project country or in another country.

Application forms

If you are seeking funding, you may request an application form via e-mail. Please make sure to fill in all of the required information on the form by the provided deadline.

Decision process

The Hand in Hand-Fund decides which projects will be funded twice a year, in spring and in autumn.

Reporting

Each funded organization must submit an in-depth feedback report (high resolution photos included) that describes and evaluates the measures and documents the project expenses. This report must be received after the completion of the project or one year after the project start.

Together for a just and self-determined future

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations serve as an important guideline for the Hand in Hand Fund. The projects that we fund prove that it is possible to act in a sustainable manner according to the SDGs. The SDGs that went into effect on January 1st, 2016 are intended to ensure sustainable development at the economic, social and ecological level.

Philosophy of Rapunzel Naturkost and Deutsche Umwelthilfe

Rapunzel Naturkost and Deutsche Umwelthilfe adhere to the guidelines of the SDGs in all of their activities on a national, European and international level. They do so both in their daily work and in their Hand in Hand Fund activities. Both partners place the highest value on environmental protection – especially biodiversity and climate – fair trade, organic agriculture and informing consumers. For more information about Rapunzel's philosophy please visit its website at www.rapunzel.de where you can download the sustainability report. Deutsche Umwelthilfe documents its political lobbying and its own projects in the annual report and at www.duh.de.

Actively engaged since 1998

The Hand in Hand-Fund developed out of a joint initiative between Rapunzel Naturkost and Deutsche Umwelthilfe in 1998. Rapunzel's annual donation makes up the lion's share of the Fund. Additionally the Fund profits from fundraising campaigns and donations. Since its inception, the Fund has supported more than 400 projects for environmental and developmental work.

Focus of Funding

Promoting and developing education

Education is the key to a more self-determined life. People need access to skills and knowledge in order to implement sustainable development in both rural and urban communities. We support the infrastructure of schools or community centers. In addition to supporting general education, our funded projects also promote knowledge transfer in the communities.

Income generating activities

We support small scale projects which create sustainable income in the agricultural, craft or service sector. The grant is intended to be an initial aid for creating a self-sustaining economy. In that case your proposal includes an in-depth business plan.

The Fund supports investments as well as providing personnel for trainings. This could include offering micro loans. Many of our project partners are work places (i.e. tailors, carpenters, mills) where stigmatized individuals such as people with disabilities or victims of sexual abuse can lead an independent life.

Organic agriculture

We support projects that create knowledge transfer in the areas of farming methods, organic pesticides, habitat-adopted crops and processing. We support the purchase of saplings and seeds or tools, and other infrastructure, as well as the development of marketing structures. Some of our project partners revitalize traditional farming methods. Model farms can also be project partners.

Support for women

Many of our projects aim to empower girls and women via specific education, micro loans or by creating women's communities. Thanks to such projects, the participants are able to earn their own income which makes it possible for their children to attend school or for the women to apply their knowledge about hygiene and healthy nutrition in their families. When women live in a self-determined way, they have better chances of contributing to social life.

Access to clean water

In 2010 the Assembly of the United Nations acknowledged that access to clean water is a human right. We help to harvest rainwater, install pumps, and rehabilitate wells or sources, i.e. via reforestation. In addition to providing access to clean water, constructing or rehabilitating sanitary facilities, hygiene workshops or sustainable water management are important issues.

Access to renewable energy

In rural regions of developing or emerging countries, electricity supply is often lacking. But even in cities, hospitals and schools often suffer from power failures. Solar panels are an important resource for providing a decentralized electricity supply. We have already funded numerous solar projects and place a high value on workshops for the beneficiaries that enable them to maintain the solar facilities and to repair them in case of minor damages.

Protection of habitats and species on land and in the oceans

This field includes the prevention of desertification and erosion or flood damages, too. We grant funding to protecting tropical rainforests, mangroves, marshlands and fresh water resources. For example activities for the conservation of species, reforestation or environmental education are regularly funded.

Emergency aid

We also grant financial aid to our partners in the case of natural disasters or fire in order to make successful projects resistant to setbacks.

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