

Policy on Education Projects

This policy sets out how The Nick Webber Trust (NWT) will source and assess proposals to fund one-off or ongoing education projects in Malawi that do not derive their legitimacy from the current political framework. It has been developed to ensure that NWT education activities reflect the priorities for investment identified by the democratically elected Malawian government.

NWT will fund education projects

- that are national or regional education in scope, or that benefit schools or individuals located within the districts of Mchinji, Lilongwe rural east, Lilongwe rural west, and Salima;
- and that fit with the Malawian government’s stated priorities for investment in education.

NWT will therefore consider applications for projects that provide or improve any of the following:

Infrastructure: including building or improving classrooms, toilets, boarding facilities, science labs, libraries, teacher housing, teacher facilities, play areas, and furniture.

Teaching and learning materials: including developing, purchasing, or shipping educational resources and materials, computers, vocational equipment, reference and fiction books, science equipment, play and sports equipment.

Bursaries and school fees: including enabling individuals or groups to meet the costs of uniforms, school equipment, boarding fees, and secondary school fees.

Health improvements: including feeding programmes, HIV/AIDS education, general health education, and sex education, delivered through school-based or after-school activities.

Each project must benefit children and young people within at least one of the Malawian government's stated priority groups. These are:

- Orphans
- Children who cannot live at home with their families, including street children
- Children who have, or whose parents have, a chronic illness such as HIV/AIDS
- Disabled children and children with special educational needs
- Girls
- Children in rural areas
- Young mothers
- Children aged 5-6
- Children from minority ethnic groups
- Those who cannot afford to attend secondary school
- Those who are poorer than the Malawian average

In addition to the priorities set out above, education projects funded by NWT must meet our partner organisations policy, which can be downloaded from our website.

Projects must meet these criteria to be considered, but meeting these criteria does not guarantee that a project will receive financial support from NWT.

How we choose between projects

Projects that meet the criteria above will be selected based on the following factors:

1. impact: including short-term and long-term benefit to the individual, wider family, and community, and the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries.
2. value for money: ratio of cost to impact
3. ability of the project to fulfill the principles set out in the project proposal guidelines.

Preference will be not given to projects which benefit children from more than one of the identified priority groups where those groups overlap (for example, young mothers and girls). However, where they benefit children in two groups that don't overlap this may be taken into account.

Who can apply?

NWT will accept applications for funding from any group, whether elected, appointed, community-based, or an NGO, who can demonstrate that their project meets the criteria above and that they comply with our partner organisations policy.

The application process

We will seek to inform individuals and groups within the target area about the availability of funding, and direct them to the website. We will do this by writing to District Education Officers and MPs within the geographical area, and any other specific group on whom the committee has agreed.

Projects seeking funding should submit an application by email, taking notice of our guidelines, to: info@nickwebbertrust.org.uk

Funding applications will be considered by the NWT Committee twice a year. The deadlines for applications are 31 May and 30 November. The education sub-committee will filter out projects that do not meet the criteria before submitting those that do meet our criteria to the committee for consideration.

Details of the application process, NWT policies, and application deadlines will be published on the NWT website.

Policy adopted by the Trustees: 4 July 2009