UEM *Financial* Support for Projects

I. Preamble

Vision

With its financial support for projects, the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and therefore to a life in dignity for everyone.

Mission

The support of selected communion member projects is a core task of the UEM and one of the UEM's specific contributions to missionary witness. The UEM reaffirms that all members of the communion are reliant upon sharing and receiving gifts so that God's mission may bear fruit. The UEM is committed to an understanding and practice of relationships in which all involved are both givers and takers, because all parties have needs requiring fulfilment as well as gifts to share with others.

The UEM Statement on Corporate Identity approved by the General Assembly in 2008 is the foundation of all work of the UEM, including the financial support of projects. The Corporate Identity of the UEM is based on these five areas:

- Advocacy
- Development
- Diaconia
- Evangelism
- Partnership.

II. Support criteria

General principles

The UEM's financial support of communion member projects is based on the following principles and objectives:

Climate justice and ecological awareness: The UEM's attention to preserving ecological resources in every project is part of its commitment to justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. Climate change is a fact. It is affecting all members of the UEM. This is why priority shall be given to supporting environmental friendly and "smart green" projects. All members of the communion are called upon to actively contribute to protecting the environment.

Gender justice: Projects supported by the UEM should reflect gender balance and gender justice in their planning process, implementation, and evaluation. Gender justice will be one of the criteria taken into account in evaluating the outline of the intended impacts of the various projects and when monitoring the project implementation.

Holistic witness: UEM-supported projects testify to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and do so in a way that is inviting, brings healing, and expresses committed solidarity.

Increased competences: A general objective of UEM project support is to strengthen and expand the theological, missionary, and diaconal competences and infrastructure of the churches in the UEM communion. In order to achieve this goal, the UEM also promotes and pursues capacity development in the area of project management and church leadership. The UEM wants to support agents of change who are helping to realize the vision of a life in dignity for all.

Local culture and resources: The UEM respects the cultures and beliefs of the population in each project region. Member churches and partners shall utilize their own resources and competences in solving problems and in promoting the spiritual, social, and economic development of these populations.

Networking: The UEM encourages and supports the interlinking of projects addressing the same work areas within the UEM communion. The UEM supports the networking of projects with other churches, religious communities, project partners, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the same area of activity, but project proposals must always be presented by an UEM member.

Overcoming discrimination and racism: Wherever possible, supported projects shall involve all people within their beneficiary groups, regardless of religion, confession, gender, age, ethnic origins, or minority status. The UEM stands against discrimination and racism.

Participation and empowerment: The UEM fosters the self-reliance of people by strengthening and enabling them to work on questions and develop problem solutions in their own living situations from their own resources.

Prevention of sexual harassment: The UEM opposes any form of sexual harassment in any context whatsoever. The Code of Conduct against Sexual Harassment shall be adhered to throughout the implementation of all projects.

Sustainability: An important goal of the UEM project support is to ensure each project's effectiveness over the long term, meaning that the project results are embedded within the day-to-day life of the target groups even after the project has ended. The empowerment achieved is also to be transferred to other areas of life. The UEM adheres to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and uses them as a reference in evaluating project effectiveness.

Transparency and combating corruption: The UEM opposes any form of corruption. Corruption destroys the foundation of our communion and endangers the success of projects. The UEM Code of Conduct against Corruption and for Transparency is therefore binding on all areas of project support.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UEM encourages its members to have their projects contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.
In the context of the UEM, the following goals have been identified as corresponding to the UEM support and activities:

No.	Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) https://sdgs.un.org/	Icon
1	No Poverty	
2	Zero Hunger	
3	Good Health and Well-Being	
4	Quality Education	
5	Gender Equality	
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
13	Climate Action	
15	Life on Land	
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	
17	Partnerships for the Goals	

Eligible areas for activities

The UEM project support is concentrated on the following thematic areas that represent and reflect the Corporate Identity (CI) Areas of the UEM:

Promotion of congregational life
CI Areas: Evangelism, Partnership

- Bible work, Bible translation
- Encounters
- Interreligious dialogue
- Music, culture, art
- Sunday school work
- Roof construction and roof maintenance on church buildings
- Unity and reconciliation in church and society
- Workshops and trainings for pastors, evangelists, and lay people
- Youth work
- …

Encouraging self-help
CI Area: Development

- Literacy
- Animal husbandry
- Clean energy: solar energy, etc.
- Environmental protection projects, sustainability
- Microfinance schemes
- Rural development
- Water projects: WASH – Water Sanitation Hygiene
- …

Training youth
CI Areas: Development, Partnership

- Culture
- Education from preschool to university
- Encounters
- Combating abuse, human trafficking, child soldiers
- Projects for street children
- Support of education sites
- …

Defending human rights
CI Area: Advocacy

- Ecological awareness
- Emergency aid; WASH – Water Sanitation Hygiene
- Fair trade
- Combating abuse, human trafficking, …
- Human rights of indigenous peoples

- Projects combating extremism and violence
- Projects combating land grabbing
- …

Care for the sick
CI Area: Diaconia

- Awareness campaigns
- Clinical pastoral education
- HIV/AIDS work
- Support in facing epidemics and pandemics
- Support of medical facilities: hospitals, dispensaries, etc.
- Trainings for medical staff
- …

Supporting the disadvantaged
CI Area: Diaconia

- Elder care
- Soup kitchens
- Funds to centres for the disadvantaged and marginalized
- …

Emergency aid
CI Area: Diaconia, Advocacy

When emergencies like wars, epidemics, or natural disasters occur, the UEM will give priority to project applications addressing these urgent needs and will invite the whole communion to contribute to funding the responses planned.

The UEM model for financial project support:

III. Standards and processes in project support

Basic principles

Mutual responsibility and transparency, along with mutual learning and action, form the foundation of project cooperation within the UEM. The standards and procedures set out here contribute to:

- Competent selection, guidance, and support of projects.
- Thematic exchange and networking, making possible the realization of common witness in practical fields.
- Professional and sustainable management of projects.
- Joint planning of supporting measures such as consultancies or capacity development.
- Accountability to the UEM communion and to donors.

Application procedure

Any member of the UEM can apply for project support through the relevant UEM department/team or the Service Team for Projects. Use of the "Project Application Form – UEM Financial Support for Projects" is recommended.

Applications from institutions, departments, church groups, or congregations, as well as other organizations, require the consent of the respective UEM member.

If the project budget exceeds the equivalent of 5,000 euros, the UEM department/team responsible or the Service Team for Projects will submit the project application to the UEM Project Committee, which usually meets once per month.

It is expected that the applicant will provide their own additional contribution to the project.
In order to ensure transparency in line with the UEM Code of Conduct against Corruption and for Transparency, project contributions from additional donors must be listed and explained.

Salary costs can only be paid for special, project-related reasons and only for a limited period.

The UEM Guidelines for Sustainable Construction apply in cases of the planned construction or renovation of buildings.

Project management –
Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (PMEAL)

Regarding the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (PMEAL) process, the UEM supports the implementing church/institution where appropriate through training measures, temporary deployments of experts, and/or other means based on the respective application.

The UEM members or the institutions within the communion are generally responsible for project implementation, accounting, and reporting.

Project funds shall be transferred to a separate project account where possible.
To ensure transparency and accountability, the UEM will inform the following parties about project funding, and additional parties where indicated:
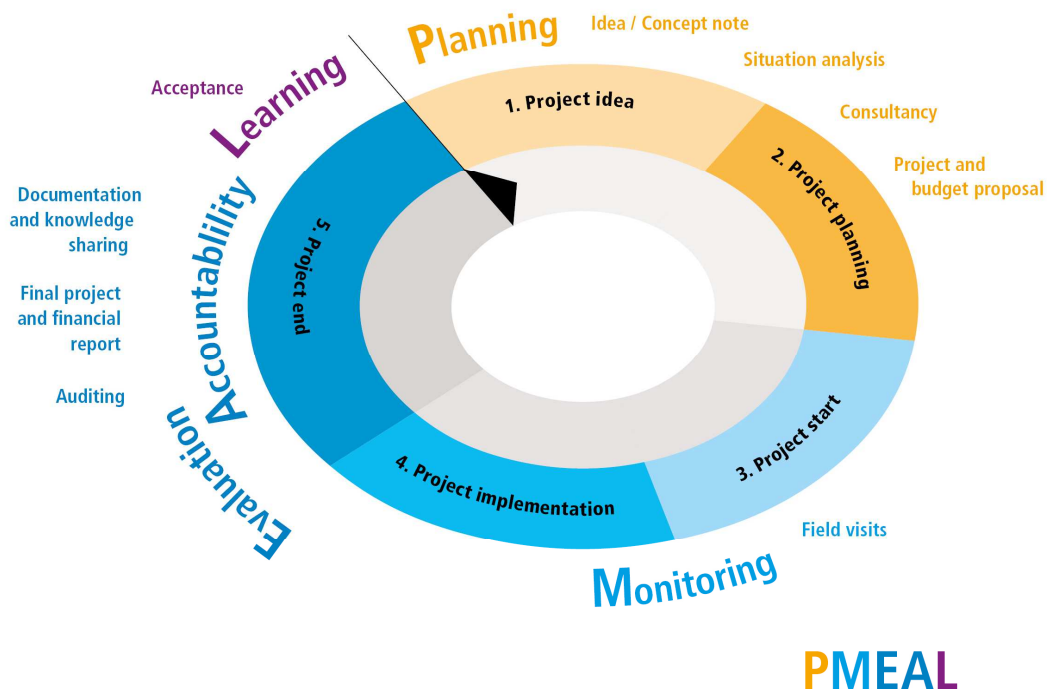
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- Church President/Bishop/Moderator, as applicable, and his/her deputies/deans
- General Secretary/Administrator
- Treasurer
- Project Officer and all persons in charge of the project.

Unless otherwise agreed, applicants shall submit a report to the respective UEM department/team or the Service Team for Projects ninety days after implementation. Use of the "Project Reporting Form – UEM Financial Support for Projects" is recommended. Reports shall focus on the impact of the project on the target group. The member receiving funds shall keep track of all receipts for the usage of the funds and provide them upon request. External audits (financial and organizational) can be agreed upon separately.

Project holders are requested to provide specific case studies and stories to the UEM for fundraising purposes, as well as photographs, videos, and other media that illustrate the project.

The UEM Service Team for Projects is in charge of project monitoring. The UEM staff will visit funded projects whenever possible and feasible.

The UEM Project Support Cycle

Funding sources // Accountability

The UEM funds its projects through member contributions, as well as through revenue from donations and investments. The UEM has a great responsibility, especially towards its donors and

members, to utilize resources in accordance with its constitution and to verify that funds are used appropriately.

United Action Campaign

The churches and their members in Africa and Asia shall develop a strong sense of ownership in the UEM. One way to do so is by contributing to the United Action Campaign – the UEM fundraising campaign launched in 2012 by the General Assembly.
In light of this, the UEM encourages its members to implement resource mobilization strategies to secure the work of members as well as the work of the UEM.

Fundraising and public relations

The UEM members share a joint responsibility for effective fundraising as part of the project selection, implementation, and reporting process. Member churches receiving funds shall make known and visible that a project is funded by the UEM, for example by using the UEM logo.

Fundraising is far more than raising financial resources. Fundraising conveys images and ideas about the people in the UEM member churches and their respective countries of origin, which in return reflect on their own self-image. One of the crucial challenges for the UEM fundraising is to refrain from conveying the stereotype of givers and takers and instead to make clear that, as an international ecumenical communion, the entire UEM bears joint and unified witness to God's passionate love for all creation. Based on this aspiration, fundraising can only be understood as a shared duty.

Overview: UEM guidelines and documents related to project support

- Planning Projects in Partnership – UEM Project Manual
- Project Application Form
  UEM Financial Support for Projects
- Project Reporting Form
  UEM Financial Support for Projects
- UEM Code of Conduct against Corruption and for Transparency
- UEM Code of Conduct against Sexual Harassment
- UEM Guidelines for Emergency Support
- UEM Guidelines for Publication Support
- UEM Guidelines for Sustainable Construction
- UEM Statement on Corporate Identity