



Guidelines

Implementation of the ACHR-SELAVIP Decent Poor Fund 2014

from January to August 2014

The Decent Poor Fund provides small, flexible grants to bridge the gap between the poor and the very poor, allowing for more inclusive and sustainable city-wide upgrading. This goal will be achieved by supporting the poorest families of the poor communities, who are identified by their fellow community members through their city-wide networks together with the national committees.

Through the 3 years of implementation since 2010 with the Thai community network and then with ACHR network in 2012 and 2013, the DPF has been implemented in parallel with the ACCA program. The DPF has no longer been operated in isolation but as a larger part of the process of city-wide upgrading and housing. The grants have not been given as welfare handouts individually but as a tool to bind the community together at different levels. The city-wide community network and national network ensure better the selection process to reach the poorest as well.

Last year of 2013, the DPF has even demonstrated that reaching national scale is possible, even with very modest budgets per country - 10,000 US\$. The program started with scale and with the intention of opening up a new national platform to reach out to the poorest of the poor communities, as in many cities and as many countries in Asia as possible. As a result, the DPF 2013 has been implemented in the 12 countries, 70 cities and 5 villages, while the fund supported directly the 206 poorest families. In many countries and cities, this very humble support of 500 US\$ per family is no longer considered as welfare service and individual hand-out, but as a tool to bind the community together. Also, with this flexible and limited grant of 500 US\$, the DPF has encouraged the whole local systems, community network and beneficiary families find solutions and dynamics to achieve the full housing improvements with a variety of cheap, simple and local know-how and techniques.

Based on these key concepts, working methods and experiences, WE are very happy to receive **SELAVIP Support Fund** (41-14 project) to continue the third year of implementation **the ACCA- SELAVIP Decent Poor Fund in 2014**.

Total Decent Poor Fund 2014: **100,000 US\$**; in which

+ SELAVIP contribution: **80,000 US\$**

+ ACHR contribution: **20,000 US\$**

Total grants available: **200**

Size of each grant is flexible, up to maximum 500 USD per family.

The ceiling support fund per country is flexible, up to maximum 10,000 US\$.

Notes: Last year national community networks even could make use this humble fund of 10,000 US\$ to support more than 20 poorest families per country: Cambodia (17 cities and 21 families), Sri Lanka (8 cities and 21 families) and Thailand (20 cities and 24 families).

The objectives of the Decent Poor Fund 2014 are as follows:

- **To support the poorest** who are unable to afford access to secure land and housing through the implementation of ACCA;
- **To bridge the gap in city-wide upgrading** so as to reach all of the poor, and to lead to innovation in how the very poor can also be active participants in housing activities;
- **To boost awareness** of the ACCA housing movement so that it can be inclusive, for all the poor in communities, not only the ones with more money;
- **To demonstrate how national wide, city-wide networks and communities can solve problems** of the very poor, together, through a community-based model which also serves as a protection mechanism for the longer term livelihood prospects of the very poorest;
- **To demonstrate a very cheap, simple and practical model** of how housing for the very poorest can be solved with a subsidy of only 500 USD.

Participating countries:

This year, the Secretariat would invite the 14 coalition members to participate to the DPF 2014 in the whole Asia

- 7 countries in South East Asia: Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand.

- 5 countries in South Asia : Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- 2 countries in East Asia and Pacific: Mongolia and Fiji

Target families:

The target poor persons or families to be supported through the Decent Poor program should be the very poorest in the communities in question. These persons or families should be selected by the community network at different levels :national, city and community. The common potential recipients are following include:

- Persons who are elderly; have no relatives; or have too many dependents;
- Persons who have financial and other burdens, such as sickness or unemployment;
- Persons who are victims of a calamity or disaster such as a fire;
- Persons who may already have benefited from housing but face unexpected financial difficulties in repaying loans, arising from injury, sickness, unemployment, debt;
- Persons who are active participants in the community process such as by joining the savings group, and are generally involved in community activities.

Selection process: In this third year of implementation, ACHR Secretariat would encourage all participating countries to send a new and more comprehensive proposal for the Decent Poor Fund 2014. There are 2 **important suggestions for your consideration to write up and send the new proposal:**

- *Timeline and activity plan: As agreement signed with SELAVIP for One-Year project all the DPF proposal should have clear activity plan/timeline and completed in September 2014.*
- *Fund distribution: Given the limit of budget shared and the short time Project, PLEASE send us the proposal as quickly as possible; like we did last year, the fund will be distributed on a first come first served basis.*

Timeline and Activities planned:

Time	Activities
December 2013	Approved and Signed the 41-14 SELAVIP and ACHR Agreement
January 2014	Dissemination key concepts, the Guideline of the Regional Decent Poor Fund 2014 to Coalition members.
January – February 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each country will review their own experiences and process and then will make a new proposal for the DPF 2014 that meet the objectives and working methods of the regional DPF. Community networks at different levels (national, city and community) will discuss and refining criteria for the selection and implementation process to fit in the local context. • A more comprehensive proposal will be prepared to advance towards a consolidation of the DPF 2014 within the ACCA program and strengthen city-wide/national wide network in each country.
February– March 2014	<p>Each country send a new DPF proposal and the list of beneficiaries to ACHR Secretariat by the end of February 2014 at latest. !!!</p> <p>Each community network begins search for and vetting process of possible Decent Poor recipients in their town/city and take these choices back to national committee. National committee decides on the proposed recipients of the Decent Poor Grant. Once the national committee agreed, the proposal will send further to ACCA Committee for final approval. As soon as ACCA Committee approves, Decent Poor Fund Agreement will be signed b/t ACHR and participating country/or local partner.</p> <p>A progress report will be submitted in the end of March, 2014</p>
March–April 2014	The first batch of 40,000 \$US will be transferred from SELAVIP when there will at least 5 countries signed DPF Agreements. The ACHR Secretariat will transfer the fund to the National Committee of each country to start construction process immediately.
May – August 2014	The second batch of 40,000 \$US will be transferred when the second Group of countries send the new proposal .

	<p>Members of the national committee carry out initial follow up to verify how the fund has been used by the selected Decent Poor, and whether the target group of the poorest has been reached as well as impact of the program.</p> <p>A final assessment of the Regional Decent Poor Fund will be made at the end of August 2014.</p>
September 2014	Completion of housing construction.