

## **Council of Ministers Overseas Aid Committee Announces Greater Emphasis on Local Charities for this year's Small Grants Funding Scheme.**

The Overseas Aid Committee of the Council of Ministers announced today that applications for funding of Small Grants – one-off payments of between £10,000 and £100,000 – would be accepted from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010, with an increased emphasis being placed upon applications from Manx- based charities for projects overseas.

The purpose of the Small Grants Scheme is to support small projects in the developing world conducted by Manx or UK based organisations. Projects may be funded for up to 100% of eligible costs. The objective of the scheme is to enable organisations to address the root causes of poverty in the developing world in a way that is strategic and cost-effective.

Projects or programmes covered by the all of the Committee's schemes must seek to address the Millennium Development Goals, which are:-

- Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4 Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5 Improve maternal health
- Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

In addition, priority, but not exclusivity, is given to projects or programmes in countries classified as "Low Development" on the United Nations' Human Development Index.

Chairman of the Overseas Aid Committee, Mr George Waft MLC said: "The Committee has decided that, providing they meet the criteria for Overseas Aid, applications from charities based locally will be given first consideration in the 2010-2011 Small Grants funding round; essentially, we want to put them on the top of the pile. We are, after all, the Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee and as such we want to be supporting the vital contributions that Manx and charities people provide throughout the world for those in need."

Other changes to the 2010-2011 Small Grants funding round include charities being permitted to submit two projects for the Committee's consideration, as opposed to four as in previous years.

Charities who require further assistance prior to submitting applications are strongly encouraged to contact staff at the Chief Secretary's Office, either Kayleigh Parkinson (01624 685207) or Shelley Syme (01624 685774). For further information on the Overseas Aid Committee, its funding programmes, and application forms please visit the Committee's website at [www.gov.im/cso/externalrelations/aid.xml](http://www.gov.im/cso/externalrelations/aid.xml) , or e-mail [overseas.aid@gov.im](mailto:overseas.aid@gov.im).