



ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT BANK



MULTILATERAL
COOPERATION CENTER
FOR DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT FINANCE (MCDF) SPECIAL FUND

November 2025



WHAT IS THE MCDF?

The Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance Special Fund was established for grants received by AIIB as Implementing Partner (IP) of [the Finance Facility of the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance \(MCDF\)](#). The MCDF is a multilateral initiative to increase **high-quality infrastructure and connectivity investments** in developing countries in compliance with International Financial Institutions (IFI) standards through partnerships.

** Independent from its role as Implementing Partner, AIIB also serves as the Administrator of the MCDF, and hosts the MCDF Secretariat.*

WHAT ARE ITS PRIORITY AREAS?

The MCDF is designed to reinforce the numerous existing global, regional, and sectoral initiatives established in response to the need for **more connectivity infrastructure in the world**.

The MCDF is also intended to support implementation of the G20 Quality Infrastructure Principles, the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Climate Agreement.

KEY LINKS

1. [Introduction to the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance Special Fund \(MCDF\)](#).
2. [MCDF Governing Instrument](#).
3. [MCDF Operational Manual](#).
4. [Approved MCDF Special Funds Grants](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, visit the [MCDF page](#) on AIIB's [website](#) or send any questions through the AIIB's [Public Information Request Form](#).

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

AIIB low- and middle-income Members, or territories that have an active program with the Bank, are eligible to directly benefit from MCDF-funded activities for both sovereign or non-sovereign infrastructure and connectivity projects.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

The MCDF Finance Facility provides **technical assistance grants** that are meant to support the MCDF's objectives to foster high quality infrastructure and connectivity investments, which clearly align with the mandate and priorities of AIIB. As Implementing Partner of the MCDF Finance Facility, AIIB can help its Members access grant resources for the following:

- **Project Preparation Activities.** To finance consultancy services and related costs to support project preparation activities, including, but not limited to pre-concept paper activities; feasibility studies and due diligence; debt sustainability assessments; and environmental and social assessments.
- **Capacity Building Activities.** To enhance relevant know-how, institutional capacity, and regulatory reform of developing countries and their development partners in areas including, but not limited to debt sustainability, environmental and social frameworks, governance, financial and operational performance improvements, gender equality, inclusion, investment climate, investment cycle capacity building that enhances the integration of standards, procurement, risk management, including risks related to environment and greenhouse gas emissions, and trade facilitation.
- **Information and Knowledge Sharing Activities.** For collection, storage, processing, and dissemination of data and knowledge products related to cooperation opportunities, preparation and implementation of high-quality connectivity projects, and adoption and implementation of IFI standards.

HOW DOES IT WORK IN PRACTICE?

- **Proposal Submission:** AIIB Project Team will work in close coordination with the Client to prepare and submit a proposal to request MCDF grant. Proposals for project preparation will require a Non Objection Letter from the Client government.
- **AIIB Internal Review and Approval:** AIIB assesses the proposal's alignment with AIIB and MCDF requirements, and seeks AIIB internal approval prior to submission to the MCDF.
- **MCDF Review and Approval:** Following AIIB's endorsement, the AIIB Project Team submits the MCDF Grant Proposal to the MCDF Secretariat (MCDF Sec) for review. MCDF Sec then presents the proposal to the MCDF Governing Committee (MCDF GC), which provides the final decision on grant approval.
- **Implementation:** AIIB receives and allocates the approved funds as an Implementing Partner.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can private sector entities access the MCDF Special Fund? Generally, the funds are prioritized for sovereign projects by AIIB Members. AIIB and MCDF Secretariat will assess proposals from private sector entities on a case-by-case basis.

How long does the approval process take? The approval process duration depends on the complexity of the project proposal and the thoroughness of the initial submission. MCDF GC considers proposals on a quarterly basis. Typically, it can take several months from initial consultation to final approval.

How is project performance monitored? The AIIB employs a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to track project performance. Regular reports and site visits ensure that projects are on track and achieving their intended outcomes.

Can MCDF support pre-concept activities? Yes, the AIIB MCDF Special Fund has a window to support pre-concept activities subject to fund availability. The activities supported include pre-feasibility and feasibility activities and studies, debt sustainability assessments, and environmental and social assessments.