Gulf Strategy Fund, Bahrain: call for bids for Financial Year 2026-2027

The British Embassy in Bahrain is pleased to announce a Call for Bids for the financial year 2026-2027 under the Gulf Strategy Fund (GSF). The Embassy would welcome bids in the range of £80,000 to £100,000, although applications for smaller projects may also be considered. Final bids must be submitted by 31 December 2026.

We invite applications from not-for-profit organisations for projects that support Bahrain's green transition and environmental sustainability, while strengthening the UK–Bahrain partnership. We welcome proposals under the following two themes:

Green transition and energy security

Projects may support:

- Solar power generation and distribution
- Energy efficiency
- Clean and sustainable transport
- Sustainable finance
- Industrial decarbonisation
- Waste, resource efficiency and the circular economy
- digital innovation and AI for the green transition

Environmental sustainability

Projects may support:

- Water security and the energy–water nexus
- Sustainable desalination
- Climate-resilient agriculture and food security
- Urban heat and climate resilience
- Data and technology for climate resilience
- Investible climate-resilience projects

Proposed projects would ideally draw on UK expertise and partnerships to support Bahraini priorities, strengthen institutional capability and identify opportunities for deeper policy, investment and commercial cooperation.

We would expect the project to be in the range of £80,000 to £100,000 and should be completed by 18th March 2027. Applications for smaller projects may also be considered.

Project objectives

Projects should contribute to one or more of the following objectives:

- Support Bahrain's net zero, environmental sustainability and green transition commitments through practical, evidence-based policy, regulatory or technical support.
- Strengthen institutional and local capability to plan, finance and deliver the green transition.
- Build lasting partnerships between British and Bahraini organisations, including government, regulators, academia and the private sector.
- Desirable: identify opportunities for UK expertise, investment and commercial collaboration in Bahrain's green transition.

Scope of work

Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Technical assistance, policy analysis and regulatory advice.
- Training, workshops and capacity-building programmes.
- Feasibility studies, sector assessments and roadmaps.
- Knowledge exchange and study visits between the UK and Bahrain.
- Stakeholder engagement and convening events that bring together British and Bahraini partners.

Eligibility and procedural requirements

Eligibility

- Applications are only open to not-for-profit organisations, including NGOs, academic institutions, and think tanks/research centres, based in the UK or Bahrain. Priority will be given to organisations that can show experience of delivering in Bahrain and the wider Gulf region.
- Applicants must demonstrate relevant expertise in environmental sustainability, climate or the green transition, ideally in the specific theme most relevant to the project's scope as outlined above.

- Applicants must be able to demonstrate how the proposed project will benefit the UK and strengthen links between the UK and Bahrain.
- Ethics and do no harm: concept notes/proposals must include adequate ethical risk assessments, including in relation to any potential issues around data, safeguarding and other relevant ethical issues.

How to apply

The British Embassy in Bahrain encourages potential applicants to submit an initial concept note, in the format of your choice to Bahrain Programmes mailbox: Bahrain.Programmes@fcdo.gov.uk by 14th December 2026. We will aim to provide feedback within 5 working days of concept note submission.

You will need to complete the full project proposal form, and Activity Based Budget template, provided below, and submit to Bahrain.Programmes@fcdo.gov.uk by 31st December 2026. Please ensure that these forms are used for the final proposal submission. Submissions using any other forms will not be accepted.

- Project proposal form.
- Activity Based Budget template.

We strongly encourage submitting bids as soon as possible to allow time for feedback and guidance.

The Activity Based Budget must clearly indicate the planned expenditure, including itemised delivery, administrative and staffing costs.

Timeline

Activity	Date
Call for concept notes opens	1st December 2026
Information Webinar	8th December 2026 (link to register)
Concept note submission deadline (optional)	14th December 2026

Full proposal submission deadline	31st December 2026
Communication of funding decisions	11th January 2027
Project completion deadline	18th March 2027

Process

Projects will be assessed against the appraisal criteria below. For approved projects, and prior to awarding grants, the Embassy will begin the mobilisation process, including:

- Due diligence assessments.
- Preparation and signing of an Accountable Grant Agreement (AGA).

Appraisal criteria

- Strategic fit.
- Value for money.
- Evidence of local demand or need.
- Project viability, including capacity of implementing organisation(s) and feasibility to deliver the proposed outcomes within the project time period.
- Project design, including clear achievable impact.
- Risk and stakeholder management consideration of cross-cutting issues.

Useful links

- FCDO's Programme Operating Framework.

Contact

Email: Bahrain.Programmes@fcdo.gov.uk