

Guidelines for Submitting Grant Application for PAIDAR Program Round-II

PAIDAR is a five-year programme funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to support the Government of Sindh in implementing its Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). With the aim of driving sustainable poverty reduction in Sindh, PAIDAR is supporting technical assistance, capacity building, and financial support to a significant number of micro and small enterprises in target districts to support enterprise/ business development.

ACT International is the designated implementing partner of UNIDO for PAIDAR Program in District Thatta, Sindh. Through this Call for EOIs/ Proposals, ACT International invites prospective and eligible entrepreneurs across the district Thatta to set up or expand nano/micro and small businesses that demonstrate strong potential for enterprise development, income generation, job creation and retention.

Who Can Apply

Any individual intending to:

- Upgrade an existing micro or small business, or
- Set up a new business in District Thatta

Funding Details

- Grant limit: Up to EUR 10,000/- for eligible individual applicants with PKR: 3.3 million.
- Grants are non-refundable and must be used strictly for business development purposes.

Priority Sectors / Type of Businesses

Provide a list of priority business sectors or types, based on feasibility, local needs, and market potential (*examples: food processing, tailoring, handicrafts, digital services, fisheries, aquaculture, poultry etc.*)

S.No	Name of Business	S.No	Name of business
01	Extraction of different oils (e.g., mustard, sunflower, cotton) business.	05	Vehicle maintenance and repair services
02	Tomato-based products (e.g., ketchup, paste, puree) work and bi products of fish etc.	06	Tourism and hospitality-related business
03	Dairy biproducts (e.g., Khoya, Paneer, Cheese, Ice Cream) business.	07	Food processing and preservation business.
04	Handicrafts and technology development business.	08	Prawn and crab farming – value chain development business.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Hold a valid CNIC.
- Be aged between 18 and 60 years.
- Have a valid NTN or be willing to obtain one if selected.
- Have a bank account or be willing to open one if selected.
- Have no outstanding loans from any financial institution (evidenced by a clear ECIB report or similar proof).
- Be willing to establish the proposed business within the Thatta district only. the target district only.

Ineligible Activities / Items

The following will **not be funded** under this grant scheme:

- Projects requiring **construction or civil works**.
- Purchase of **land or buildings**.
- Acquisition of existing businesses**.
- Any type of **vehicle purchase**.
- Used or refurbished** machinery or equipment.
- Proposals where **stock/raw material exceeds 30%** of total project cost (*exceptions may apply, subject to prior approval*).
- Primary agriculture**, livestock, and dairy production—except:
 - Aquaculture** (fish, shrimp, crab farming)
 - Poultry** farming
 - Ostrich farming**; and
 - Any sort of value addition to the above-mentioned primary products.
- Home-based informal businesses** without a **dedicated space** for operations.

Application Process & Evaluation

After publishing the advertisement inviting applications for the small grants, the following steps will be taken to further process the grant application including:

- Submission,
- Initial screening,
- Evaluation (Social and Technical Appraisal and Business Development Plan)
- Interview (if applicable),
- Final selection.
- Note: *Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for the next steps in the evaluation process.*

Application Access and Submission Details

Those who are willing to apply for the small grants can reach to ACT International Office Makli, Thatta on the following address: **House # A 25, Zainab Hospital Road, Housing Society Makli, Thatta** or can download the Application Form, Guidelines and Check list both in Sindhi and English from the website of ACT International: <https://act-international.org/>

In addition to this, ACT International has established an **Information Sharing and Facilitation Desk** inside the premises of ACT Office Makli to support and guide all those who want to apply for the small grants. Office Address is mentioned above.

Applications with sealed envelopes will be accepted and can be submitted only to the BDO and Grant Specialist, ACT International Office, Makli, Thatta before August 10, 2025. The application may also be submitted via courier to the above-mentioned address.

For information, please contact

Mr Sadam Hussain, Admin and Logistic Officer, ACT International, Thatta

Office Tel: 0298-770075, Email: jabbar@act-international.org

Address: House # A 25, Zainab Hospital Road, Housing Society Makli, Thatta

A checklist of documents to be submitted along with the application form (*e.g. CNIC copy, etc.*) The check list is attached below:

Grievance Redressal Mechanism

In case of any complain & suggestion following contact details can be reached @:
0092 3111 1999899

Check list of documents for Submitting Grant Applications for Second Round

Individual Business Conditions: Required Documents

1. The applicant must submit a copy of their CNIC attested by any government officer.
2. Along with the grant application, the applicant must submit two (2) recent passport-size photographs.
3. The applicant must submit an affidavits on Rs. 50 Stamp paper, attested by any government professional (at least Grade 14) as a guarantor, along with a copy of their CNIC.
4. Additionally, a respected individual from the village must also act as a guarantor and provide their CNIC and signature.
5. The affidavit form can be obtained from the ACT International office or downloaded from the website.
6. One person can only act as a guarantor for one applicant at a time.
7. Clear and verifiable proof of an existing business must be submitted along with the application. This may include photographs, lease agreement, electricity bill, income tax documents.
8. Bank account details and NTN number must also be submitted.
9. In case of a new business, the applicant must be skilled and experienced in the relevant trade. Proof can be submitted like degree/ certificate, experience certificates or affidavits, defining duration of experience where he/ she has learnt that particularly skills etc. In case of experience, two references will be required for verification.
10. The applicant will be required to participate in training sessions or business-related program by ACT International.

The applicant must submit the following details of their existing business:

- Name and Type of Business
- Initial investment amount

- Current gross income per month
- Current net profit per month
- Required grant amount
- Purpose for which the grant is required (additional resources, upgradation etc.)
- Estimated gross income after receiving the grant
- Expected net profit after receiving the grant
- How many employment opportunities the business will create after receiving the grant

ACT International reserves the right to approve or reject any applicant based on its institutional policy.

Incomplete application or providing fake or incorrect information will be rejected.

For more information, please check the website given below