

IMAC – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does IMAC stand for and who comprises it?

IMAC stands for Inter Ministerial Appraisal Committee and was established in December 2005. It is comprised of GoSS Ministries that meet as a committee as required to appraise and approve development projects for Southern Sudan.

The core members of the IMAC are; Finance, Regional Cooperation, Presidential Affairs, Legal Affairs, Housing, Southern Sudan Commission for Census and Statistics, and the Local Government Board. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning chairs the committee.

Ministries belonging to the Sector in which a project falls are invited on an ad hoc basis. The same is true for Donor partners who are granted observer Status.

2. What does the IMAC do?

The IMAC is mandated to appraise and approve all donor funded projects within Southern Sudan. Its main objective is to ensure that Donor projects are consistent with the GoSS Aid Strategy, are aligned with GoSS priorities and avoid unnecessary duplication, concentration or neglect. This applies to all Donor funded project, including those channelled through 3rd parties such as the UND and NGOs.

Following the approval of the IMAC, the project is signed off by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

3. Why are projects signed by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning?

The Ministry of Finance is the Government institution mandated to manage all Government budgetary and financial issues, including flows of donor aid. As such, it is the only agency allowed to sign external financing agreements.

4. Why should my organisation bring a project to IMAC?

All projects must go through IMAC in order to ensure that the relevant stakeholders are consulted and to ensure that GoSS is aware of projects being undertaken in Southern Sudan. The aim is to ensure that projects and programmes are consistent with GoSS priorities and funding needs.

The IMAC has the added benefit for donors and partner organisations of ensuring that Government is in agreement with the project being undertaken. This can assist partners in generating further support for their project, and also providing an avenue for discussion with State Governments.

5. How do we submit our project to IMAC?

All projects are submitted to the IMAC through the relevant GoSS Ministry, which will present the project. If it is unclear to either the donor or the NGO as to who to contact, the Directorate of Aid Coordination in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning will provide additional assistance.

6. Do we have to submit every small project (under 250,000) to IMAC?

Projects valued at less than USD \$ 1 million may be approved by the chairperson of the IMAC without a full committee meeting. Donor partners should note that large grants that are broken down into small projects should be submitted to the IMAC as a package, with each NGO partner providing a summary of their specific project.

7. What can be done to improve overall partner coordination?

Transparency of information, and open discussion will lead to more effective partner coordination. Frequent consultation and involvement of all stakeholders (Donor partners, GoSS and State Line Ministries, other NGOs, Communities, etc.) will ensure that a project passes through the IMAC without any significant hindrance.

8. What happens if the IMAC does not approve?

The IMAC never rejects projects. It provides comments to be incorporated, and asks for the project to be re-submitted.