



Responsible Business Fund Plus (RBF+)

2024 To 2028



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- Accomplishments of RBF

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- Further details
- Discussion

About RBF

Year Established

August 2017

**MMK 21 billion
(USD 15 - 20 million)**

Matching Grant Fund

**Supported by
Denmark**

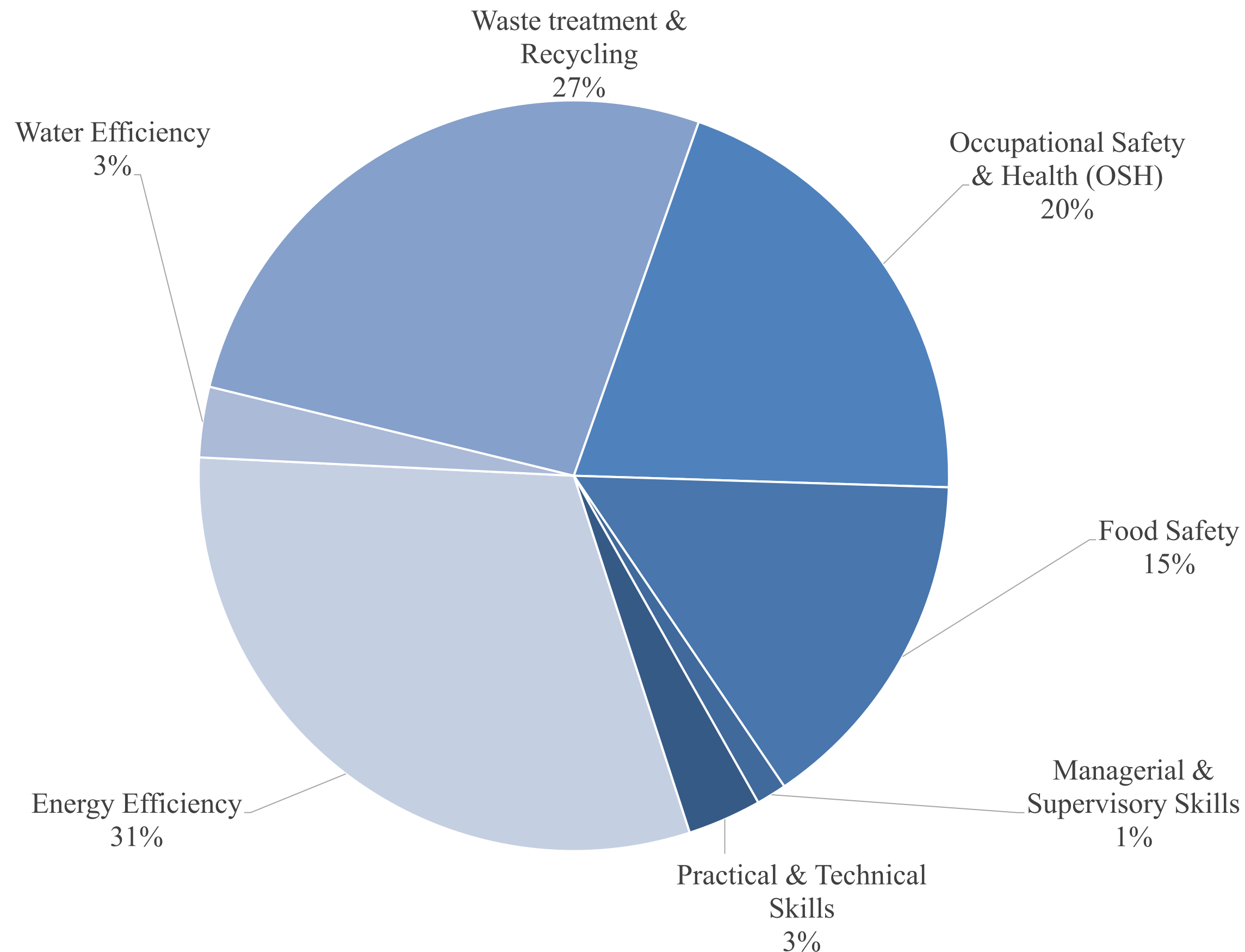
Objective

To “**increase the competitiveness and responsible behavior of Myanmar enterprises**”
by providing matching grants to MSMEs for the implementation of projects that
demonstrate financial feasibility of new Technologies and Responsible Business Practices.

RBF Supported Areas- 2017 to 2023

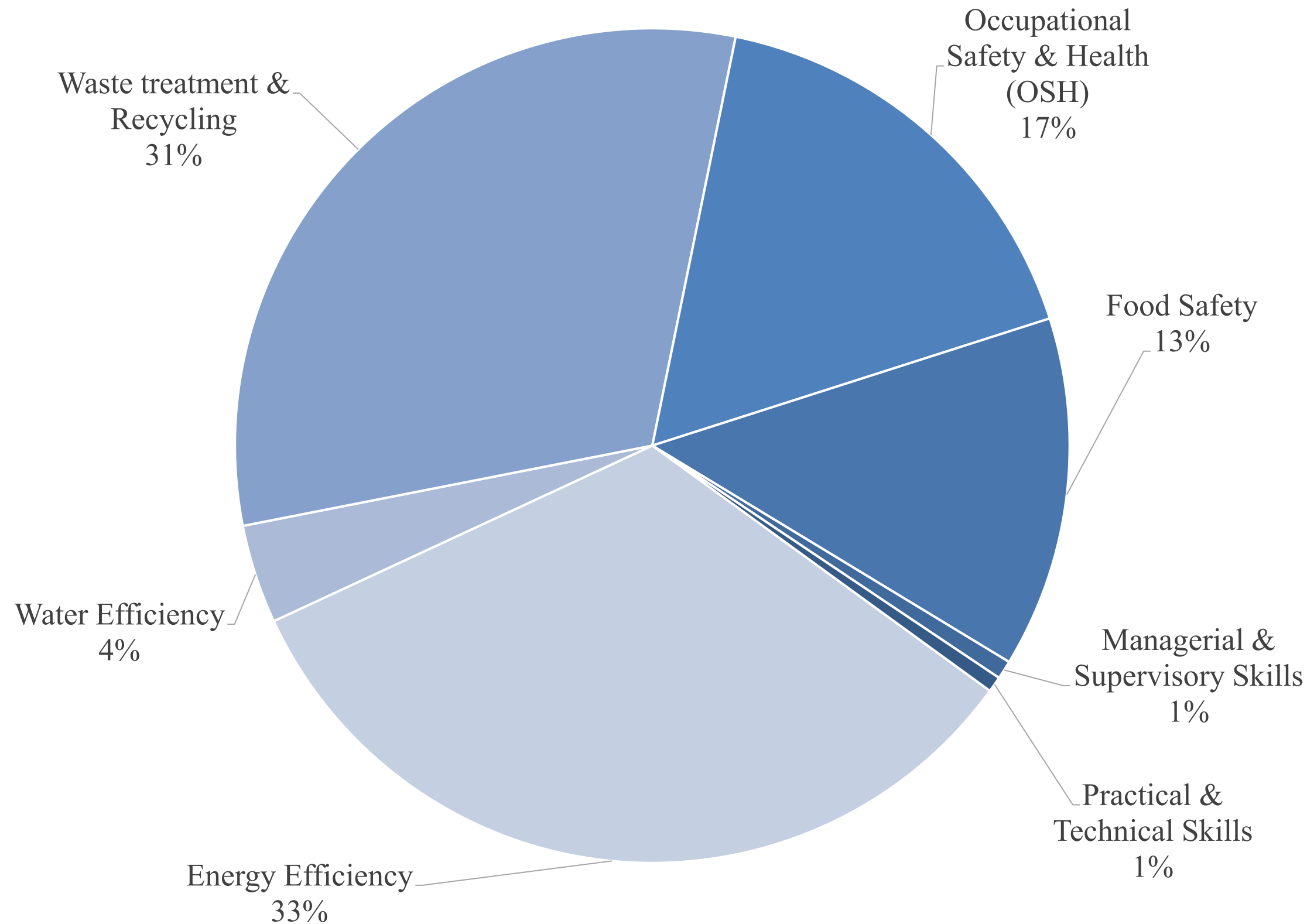
- 1) Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
- 2) Water Efficiency
- 3) Waste Treatment & Recycling
- 4) Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)
- 5) Food Safety
- 6) Managerial & Supervisory Skills
- 7) Practical & Technical Skills

Number of RBF Supported Demonstrations - 7 Areas



Area	Number of Grants
Energy Efficiency	213
Water Efficiency	21
Waste Treatment and Recycling	184
Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)	139
Food Safety	104
Managerial & Supervisory Skills	9
Practical & Technical Skills	22
Total	692

Distribution of RBF Grants – 7 Areas of Support



Area	Million MMK
Energy Efficiency	6,904
Water Efficiency	799
Waste Treatment and Recycling	6,528
Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)	3,520
Food Safety	2,839
Managerial & Supervisory Skills	150
Practical & Technical Skills	126
Total	20,866

Implementation Overview - Approved RBF Projects

Status	1 st Call	2 nd Call	3 rd Call	4 th Call	5 th Call	6 th Call	Total
Number of Grants approved	117	185	202	141	248	131	1,024
Number of Drop-Out Cases Unable to fulfill conditions of approval	31	27	78	56	92	48	332
Number of Projects Implemented	86	158	124	85	156	83	692

Geographic/Gender Distribution Demonstrations



States & Regions	1 st Call	2 nd Call	3 rd Call	4 th Call	5 th Call	6 th Call	Total	Managed by Women	Owned by Women
Ayeyarwady	3	2	11	3	5	5	29	7	3
Bago	4	7	5	4	10	10	40	7	5
Chin	1	3	1	2	0	-	7	2	2
Kachin	-	1	-	19	42	10	72	36	32
Kayah	-	2	-	1	2	-	5	1	1
Kayin	-	-	-	1	11	3	15	5	3
Magway	1	4	6	5	4	7	27	8	8
Mandalay	5	51	7	14	8	17	102	32	28
Mon	3	2	1	2	2	4	14	3	3
Naypyidaw	1	2	2	2	5	2	14	3	3
Rakhine	-	-	2	14	50	2	68	6	11
Sagaing	1	9	46	10	4	2	72	13	8
Shan	20	31	10	4	2	7	74	21	16
Tanintharyi	3	1	2	-	2	2	10	0	0
Yangon	44	43	31	4	9	12	143	60	49
Total	86	158	124	85	156	83	692	204	172

In compliance with the desire of RBF+ Donors and the lower incremental demonstration value of supporting RBF+ supported projects in Yangon and Mandalay regions, Concept Notes from MSMEs from other states and regions will be given a higher priority.

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About RBF+

2024 To 2028

About RBF+

Donors



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



**EMBASSY
OF DENMARK**
Yangon

❖ RBF+ Objective

Promote **inclusive growth of Agrifood MSMEs** in local **agricultural value chains**, to enhance their economic resilience.

❖ Mechanism

RBF+ will continue to use the “**Matching Grant**” mechanism.

❖ Instruments of Support

- Up to **50% of the relevant project costs**, with a maximum of **MMK 400 million (Window 1)**, a maximum of **MMK 200 million (Window 2)**, a maximum of up to **MMK 35 million (Area 8- Window 3)** and,
- Up to **100% of the relevant project costs**, with a maximum of up to **MMK 25 million (Area 9- Window 3)** for each project.

❖ **Direct Target Group**

MSMEs within the various Agricultural Value Chains that can **benefit the farmers with productivity improvements, cost reduction or access to markets.**

❖ **Enabling/Facilitation Target Group**

Companies, Equipment/ Technology Suppliers, Business Associations, and Large Local Retailers/ International Importers, that have a commercial interest in serving the economic and environmental sustainability goals of Farmers and Agrifood MSMEs.

RBF+ Grant Support

Areas of Support

- 1) Modern Inputs and Technologies for Farmers
- 2) Technology Localization for Agrifood MSMEs
- 3) Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
- 4) Water Efficiency
- 5) Waste Treatment & Recycling
- 6) Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)
- 7) Food Safety & Value-Added Production
- 8) Agrifood MSMEs Participation in Trade Fairs
- 9) Knowledge Sharing for Farmers & Agrifood MSMEs

Window (1)

Capacity improvement of
**Companies and Equipment
Suppliers**, to offer modern
Agricultural Inputs, Services
and new Technologies

Area 1

Modern Inputs and Technologies for Farmers

Area 2

Technology Localization for Agrifood MSMEs

Window (2)

Strengthening the capacities of
MSMEs providing Agri
Inputs to farmers and
Agrifood MSMEs processing
agricultural output

Area 3

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Area 4

Water Efficiency

Area 5

Waste Treatment & Recycling

Area 6

Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)

Area 7

Food Safety & Value-Added Production

Window (3)

Improved Market Access
(Domestic and Export) for
Agrifood MSMEs and Farmers
through **Business Associations**
and **Large Local Retailers /**
International Importers

Area 8

Agrifood MSMEs Participation in Trade Fairs

Area 9

Knowledge Sharing for Farmers & Agrifood MSMEs
Market Requirements & Standards

Area 1

Modern Inputs and Technologies for Farmers

- ❖ Satellite Images/ Data based Analytics and Advisory Services for Precision Agriculture
- ❖ Tech Solutions Platform for Animal Care
- ❖ Innovative Crop Nutrients, Microbes and Protectants that lower production costs for farmers
- ❖ Affordable Irrigation Management solutions using Sensors



Source - <https://www.circuitdigest.com>



Source - <https://www.apacoutlookmag.com>



Source - <https://freshfruitportal.com>



Source - <https://www.irriiot.com>

Area 2

Technology Localization for Agrifood MSMEs

- ❖ Energy Efficient Off-Grid Solar Powered Cold Storage Units
- ❖ Cost Effective Drip Irrigation solutions for Small Farmers
- ❖ Cost Effective Small Cold Storage solutions using Thermal Energy Storage Technology
- ❖ Local Fabricated Cost Effective Grain Dryer
- ❖ Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) for Fish Farmers
- ❖ Cost Effective Tractor Driven and Self-Propelled Combine Harvesters



Source - <https://freshbydesign.com>

Area 3

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

- ❖ Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems
- ❖ Solar Water Pumping Systems
- ❖ Biomass Power Systems
- ❖ Energy Efficient Motors and Compressors
- ❖ Micro Hydropower Plants
- ❖ Energy Efficient Dryers



Source - <https://imperiya.by>



Area 4

Water Efficiency

- ❖ Rainwater Harvesting
- ❖ Drip Irrigation System
- ❖ Sprinkler Irrigation System
- ❖ Aeroponics
- ❖ Aquaponics
- ❖ Hydroponics



Area 5

Waste Treatment & Recycling

- ❖ Biomass Briquetting and Pelleting Systems
- ❖ Waste minimizing Rice Husk Gasifiers
- ❖ Agro-waste to Organic Fertilizer Production Lines
- ❖ Biomass Grain Dryers
- ❖ Upcycling Products from Agro-waste



Area 6

Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)

- ❖ Evaporative Cooling System
- ❖ Fire Safety System
- ❖ Ventilation System
- ❖ Conveyor belts for Grain movement
- ❖ Modern Rice Milling Equipment
- ❖ Safe Farm Equipment



Source - <https://master-mfg.com/product/10-foot-premium-broadcast-sprayer-boom-kit/>

Area 7

Food Safety & Value-Added Production

- ❖ Solar Dryer Dome
- ❖ Electric Dryer
- ❖ Heat Pump Dryer
- ❖ Epoxy Flooring in food factories
- ❖ Food Packaging Equipment
- ❖ Cold Storage and Transport System
- ❖ Value-addition production equipment in food processing facilities



Area 8

Agrifood MSMEs Participation in Trade Fairs

- ❖ Food Expo Hong Kong
- ❖ VIETFISH - Vietnam Fisheries International Exhibition
- ❖ Coffee Expo Seoul
- ❖ Global Pulse Event
- ❖ World Sesame & Peanut Conference



Area 9

Knowledge Sharing for Farmers & Agrifood MSMEs Market Requirements & Standards

❖ Market Requirements Knowledge Sharing Events for:

- Rice
- Maize
- Beans and Pulses
- Onion
- Mangoes
- Avocados
- Melons
- Chilies
- Others



Source – <https://ricetoday.irri.org/>



Window (1)

Capacity improvement of **Companies and Equipment Suppliers**, to offer modern Agricultural Inputs, Services and new Technologies

(50% of total project cost - Maximum up to MMK 400 Million)

Area 1

Modern Inputs and Technologies for Farmers

Area 2

Technology Localization for Agrifood MSMEs

Who Can Apply for RBF+ Grant Support Under Window (1)?



- ❖ Registered as a business in Myanmar
- ❖ Has been operational for a minimum of two years
- ❖ Financial statements and accounts for the most recent year
- ❖ **Well prepared** for the proposed project in terms of: **technology identification;**
supplier shortlisting and **raising finances** to complete project implementation
within **12 months from signing the Grant Agreement**

Who Can Apply for RBF+ Grant Support Under Window (1)?



- ❖ **Must have a history of serving the needs of either Farmers or Primary Agrifood producers in the past**
- ❖ **Potential to help Farmers or Primary Agrifood producers to:**
 - **improve productivity**
 - **reduce costs**
 - **access new markets.**

Window (1) - Selection Criteria

No.	Selection Criteria	Weighting
1	Commercial viability of the investment as measured by the pay-back period of the investment.	50%
2	Preparedness of the Grantee to deliver the proposed project within the indicated project period as assessed by RBF+ SEC based on the details in the Project Proposal and verified through telephone or other conversations.	10%
3	Potential for the specific investment or the technology, input, or service to improve the economic performance of agrifood sector MSMEs and provide economic benefits to primary producers, based on the description of results in the Project Proposal.	10%
4	Predicted reduction of environmental and climate impacts of primary production, by agrifood MSMEs and primary agricultural producers in the relevant value chains, based on the description of results in the Project Proposal.	15%
5	Appropriateness of the proposed service, input or technology in the Myanmar context.	15%
6	The grantee considers GESI and conflict sensitivity in their proposal to show that they will do no harm (Up to 5 bonus points may be given for proposals that are GESI or conflict transformative).	Yes/No
	Total	100%

Window (2)

Strengthening the capacities of **MSMEs** providing **Agri Inputs** to farmers and **Agrifood MSMEs** processing agricultural output

(50% of total project cost - Maximum up to MMK 200 Million)

Area 3

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Area 4

Water Efficiency

Area 5

Waste Treatment & Recycling

Window (2)

Strengthening the capacities of **MSMEs** providing **Agri Inputs** to farmers and **Agrifood MSMEs** processing agricultural output

(50% of total project cost - Maximum up to MMK 200 Million)

Area 6

Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)

Area 7

Food Safety & Value-Added Production

Who Can Apply for RBF+ Grant Support Under Window (2)?



- ❖ Registered in Myanmar and is an MSME employing 600 or less permanent staff or has less than 1 billion MMK in paid-up capital
- ❖ Operational for a minimum of two years
- ❖ Financial statements and accounts for the most recent year
- ❖ **Well prepared** for the proposed project in terms of: **technology identification; supplier shortlisting and raising finances** to complete project implementation within **12 months from signing the Grant Agreement**

Who Can Apply for RBF+ Grant Support Under Window (2)?



- ❖ **Must have a history of serving the needs of either Farmers or Primary Agrifood producers in the past**
- ❖ **Potential to help Farmers or Primary Agrifood producers to:**
 - **improve productivity**
 - **reduce costs**
 - **access new markets**

Window (2) - Selection Criteria

No.	Selection Criteria	Weighting
1	Commercial viability of the investment as measured by the pay-back period of the investment.	50%
2	Preparedness of the Grantee to deliver the proposed project within the indicated project period as assessed by RBF+ SEC based on the details in the Project Proposal and verified through telephone or other conversations.	15%
3	Track record of Equipment/ Technology supplier measured by the number of years in successfully serving similar customers in Myanmar and other countries in Asia.	10%
4	Potential for the specific investment or the technology, to improve the economic performance of agrifood sector MSMEs and provide economic benefits to primary producers, based on the description of results in the Project Proposal.	10%
5	Predicted reduction of environmental and climate impacts of primary production, by agrifood MSMEs and primary agricultural producers in the relevant value chains, based on the description of results in the Project Proposal.	15%
6	The grantee considers GESI and conflict sensitivity in their proposal to show that they will do no harm (Up to 5 bonus points may be given for proposals that are GESI or conflict transformative).	Yes/No
	Total	100%

Window (3)

Improved Market Access (Domestic and Export) for Agrifood MSMEs and Farmers through **Business Associations and Large Local Retailers / International Importers**

Area 8 – (50% of the Total Project Cost - Maximum up to MMK 200 Million)

Area 9 – (100% of the Total Project Cost - Maximum up to MMK 35 Million and MMK 25 Million)

Area 8

Agrifood MSMEs Participation in Trade Fairs

Area 9

Knowledge Sharing for Farmers & Agrifood MSMEs
Market Requirements & Standards

Who Can Apply for RBF+ Grant Support Under Window (3)?



- ❖ Registered as a Business Association in Myanmar
- ❖ Has been operational for a minimum of two years
- ❖ Financial statements and accounts for the most recent year
- ❖ **Well prepared** for the proposed project in terms of: **identifying appropriate trade fairs or trainings/ workshops and raising finances** to complete project implementation.

Who Can Apply for RBF+ Grant Support Under Window (3)?



- ❖ **Must have a history of serving the needs of either Farmers or Primary Agrifood producers in the past**
- ❖ **Potential to help Farmers or Primary Agrifood producers to:**
 - **improve productivity**
 - **reduce costs**
 - **access new markets**

Window (3) - Selection Criteria

No.	Selection Criteria	Weighting
1	Preparedness of the Grantee to deliver the proposed project within the indicated project period as assessed by RBF+ SEC based on the details in the Project Proposal and telephone conversations.	60%
2	Potential for the specific investment or the technology, to improve the economic performance of agrifood sector MSMEs and provide economic benefits to primary producers, based on the description of results in the Project Proposal.	20%
3	Appropriateness of the proposed service and target market in the Myanmar context.	20%
4	The grantee considers GESI and conflict sensitivity in their proposal to show that they will do no harm. (Up to 5 bonus points may be given for applications that are GESI or conflict transformative.)	Yes/No
	Total	100%

Notice



- ❖ Not operating in excluded sectors (hard liquor, gambling, tobacco, weapons, internationally recognized exclusion list)
- ❖ Not received RBF grant support in the past for the Area in which the RBF+ Grant Application is being submitted

What RBF+ Can Support

- ✓ **Equipment/Machinery/Auxiliary Systems and incidental investment costs** that are directly related to the investment/intervention in any of the RBF+ focus areas under Area 1 to 7
- ✓ **Technical Assistance** provided by national and international experts or organizations
- ✓ **Training** either within Myanmar or abroad provided competent technology partners
- ✓ Costs of organizing **Knowledge Sharing Workshops/Seminars** within Myanmar
- ✓ **Out-of-pocket expenses** such as travel etc., that are directly related to the investment/interventions in any of the RBF+ focus areas under Area 1, 2, 8, and 9

What RBF+ Cannot Support

- **Any operational cost** of MSMEs
- **All employee costs** of MSMEs, including the ones managing the RBF+ supported project
- Investment that can be used for **purposes other than** the RBF+ supported project (e.g. vehicles, land, etc...)
- **Building Related Civil construction costs**

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RBF + Grant Application Process



Stage (1) Concept Note Stage



Meeting with RBF+
SEC to develop
Concept Idea
(with/without the
assistance of Consultants/
Service Providers)



Online Submission of
Concept Note



Screening by RBF+
SEC



Approval of the Project
Idea by RBF+ SEC
based on Qualifying
Requirements

Stage (2) Full Proposal Stage



Preparation of Full
Project Proposal
with/without the
assistance of
Consultants/ Service
Providers



Online Submission of
Full Proposal



Evaluation and
Approval of Grant
Support by the RBF+
Grant Approval
Committee



Grant Agreement,
Implementation &
Reporting

Timeline – RBF+ 1st Call for Proposals

Date	Activity
14 th Aug to 4 th Sept 2024	Opening of RBF+ Call for Proposals
4 th Sept 2024	Last day for submission of Concept Notes by Grant Applicants
5 th to 25 th Sept 2024	Screening by RBF+ Secretariat
26 th Sept 2024	Announcement of Shortlisted Project Ideas - Concept Note Stage
27 th Sept to 21 st Oct 2024	Preparation/ Submission of Full Proposals by Shortlisted Grant Applicants
22 nd Oct to 14 th Nov 2024	RBF+ Secretariat conducts due diligence and submits Appraisal Notes to the RBF+ Grant Approval Committee
18 th Nov to 2 nd Dec 2024	Assessment by RBF+ Grant Approval Committee and approval of Grant Support to selected Grant Applicants
3 rd to 16 th Dec 2024	Grant Approvals (e-mails) are sent to selected Grant Applicants along with draft Grant Agreements
17 th Dec 2024 to 31 st Jan 2025	Collection of baseline data, consensus on Project Indicators, followed by signing of Grant Agreements between RBF+ and Grantee
17 th Dec 2024 to 17 th Dec 2025	Grantees implement approved project activities and with their own funds and claim reimbursement from RBF+ within the deadline of 12 months

Role of Consultant/ Service Provider



Develop the project idea together with Business/MSME/Business Association to apply for RBF+'s (9) Areas of support.



Develop a quality Project Proposal together with the Business/MSME/Business Association which includes a detailed implementation plan with clear timelines and milestones, identifies desired economic outcomes for MSMEs and producers, assesses potential environmental benefits, etc



Carry out the financial feasibility of the project idea which includes estimations of investment and expenses, calculations of potential revenue or cost reductions, an estimated payback period, and accurate cost allocation for the requested RBF+ support.



Identify two or more equipment suppliers to ensure that the business is proposing the right technology, service, and cost-effective equipment for the Business/MSME/Business Association to implement the project.

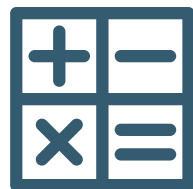
Role of Consultant/ Service Provider



Develop a quality Project Proposal together with the Business/MSME/Business Association which includes a detailed implementation plan of the project idea within the timeframe, identifying desired economic outcomes for MSMEs and producers, assessing potential environmental benefits, etc.



Demonstrate the strong connection between RBF+'s areas and Supported Equipment/Technical Assistance etc.



Collect baseline data required for establishing the Monitoring and Evaluation requirements of the project and assist the Business/MSME/Business Association in the pre-grant agreement meetings with the RBF+ Team, which is a prerequisite for signing the grant agreement.



Advice Business/MSME/Business Association about the documentation required at least seven days ahead of the required submission date.

RBF Plus Channels

Website



<https://rbfmyanmar.com/>

Telegram



<https://t.me/rbfplus>

Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/rbfmyanmar>

Viber



<https://invite.viber.com/rbfplus>

LinkedIn



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/responsible-business-fund-plus-rbfplus/>

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Thank You



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