

## Getting Started: What Makes a Project Successful?

A successful Aruba DOET project requires a **clear, meaningful goal** that is **achievable in 1–2 days** and **enjoyable** for volunteers. **Plan to effectively involve volunteers and partners** and ensure the project has a **defined beginning and end**.

### Who can apply for ARUBA DOET

Any **foundation, sports association, care institute, or school** with its own bank account is eligible to apply for financial support from **Oranje Fonds**.

### Getting Started with Your Aruba DOET Project

Before diving into the planning steps, start by creating your profile on the Aruba DOET website. Begin by outlining your project details on paper—this helps you organize key information and ensure your activity is well-structured and impactful. Once everything is clear, upload it online.

The website process includes three parts:

1. Create your organization profile
2. Add your project details
3. Complete the financial request section (even if no funding is needed)

After your project is approved by Team Aruba DOET, you can begin contacting volunteers who signed up. For extra guidance, check our explainer videos on YouTube.

**Step-by-Step Guide to Planning Your Project** This approach ensures your activity is well-structured, clearly presented, and ready to make a positive impact for the host organization.

#### Step 1: Define Your Project

- Decide what you want to do, where, and who it benefits.
- The project must take place **during Aruba DOET weekend (May 15–16, 2026)**.
- Ensure the project is realistic and can be completed in 1–2 days.
- Projects must take place on the premises of a social organization. Work cannot be carried out at private homes or external workshops.
- The funding request must come from the host organization of the project, not from a volunteer group.
- Assign a project leader or coach.
- Think about what would be fun and engaging for your target group.



**Step 2: Involve Volunteers**

- Estimate how many volunteers you'll need.

**At least 50% of volunteers must be new to the organization.**

Exception: Projects for vulnerable groups (e.g., elderly or people with disabilities) may be carried out entirely by the organization's own volunteers.

- Plan meaningful and enjoyable tasks for them.
- Prepare a short message about your organization to inspire and inform volunteers.

**Step 3: List of Materials & Supplies**

- Make a clear inventory of everything needed for the project.
- Include tools, equipment, and any special items.

**Step 4: Financials, Budget Planning**

- Visit suppliers and calculate costs for materials and supplies.
- Use the budget form and supply list → **BUDGET tab**
- If needed, apply for financial support from the Oranje Fonds on time.

**Step 5: Create an Action Plan**

- Develop a timeline with tasks and responsibilities.
- Include preparation steps and a protocol for the Aruba DOET day.
- Ask:  
What needs to be done?  
Who will do it?  
Is it achievable?

 **Tip: Use the Aruba DOET checklist to stay on track.** → **AGENDA tab**

**Step 6: Find Partners**

- Identify organizations or individuals who can help with:
- Materials or supplies
- Expertise or skills
- Affordable goods or services
- Qualified volunteers

**Step 7: Promote Your Project**

- Use social media, press, and your network to raise awareness.
- Highlight your partners and volunteers.
- Ask:  
Who should know about the project?  
Who can support it?  
How can we spotlight our contributors?

All projects must align with Aruba DOET's mission:  
Encourage people to volunteer.  
Benefit the host or main requesting organization.



## Stay Connected

Your **Aruba DOET coordinator** will be assigned by the Aruba DOET team and will contact you in **March or early April**. Keep them informed of any changes and reach out if you need help.

✦ **Note:** In a later section of this manual, we will explain the roles and responsibilities of both the **project coach** and the **Aruba DOET coordinator** in more detail.



## Early DOETI vs Aruba DOET projects



Early DOETI projects are simply regular Aruba DOET projects that complete registration early! They're the same fantastic projects that will take place in May during the main Aruba DOET event.

Registering early allows the Aruba DOET team to review your project sooner and send it to Oranje Fonds for approval.

### What does this mean for you?

- **Exclusive gifts:** Early DOETI projects get a golden badge, and volunteers receive an extra gift on pick-up day.
- **Faster approval:** Beat the rush and secure your spot early.
- **More time:** Get feedback and make changes with ease.
- **Funding security:** Early approval boosts your chances.
- **Better prep:** Be ready and "warmed up" for Aruba DOET in May!



## Project Inspiration - Make a Difference!

### Need an idea for Aruba DOET?

Explore projects that beautify our island and support vulnerable groups.

Pick one that matches your passion and skills—let's make Aruba better together!

### Gardening & Sustainability Projects

- **Planter Boxes:** Build containers for gardening.
- **Compost Stations:** Promote sustainable waste management.
- **Botanical Planting:** Add native plants to the garden.
- **Park Refresh:** Landscape and paint parks.
- **Schoolyard Greening:** Beautify schools with plants and murals.
- **Rainwater Systems:** Install simple collection systems.
- **Raised Beds:** Build accessible garden plots.
- **Therapeutic Garden:** Create calming green spaces.
- **Sensory Garden:** Create a garden with textures and sounds.

### Art, Beautification & DIY Projects

- **School Painting:** Refresh classrooms and fences.
- **Benches & Walls:** Repaint public seating and surfaces.
- **Art Installations:** Paint murals with local artists, youth or volunteers.
- **Art Therapy:** Organize creative healing sessions.
- **Story Bench/Table:** Build and paint a reading corner; donate books.
- **Kindness Wall:** Paint a mural with positive messages.
- **Message Stones:** Decorate stones with uplifting words.
- **Game Table:** Set up a public play table.
- **Community Murals:** Beautify walls with themed art.
- **Community Renovation:** Paint and repair community buildings.

### Food & Sharing Initiatives

- **Inclusive Cooking:** Cook with people with disabilities.
- **Community Pantry:** Public shelf for sharing food, books, essentials.
- **Book Swap:** Set up a station for exchanging books.

### School projects

- **Bike Safety Workshop:** Teach kids bike maintenance and safe riding.
- **Paint Playground Games:** Refresh outdoor play areas.
- **Classroom or Fence:** Repaint school walls or fences.
- **Story Recording:** Collect elders' oral histories for digital archive/podcast.
- **Community Library:** Create a lending station for students.
- **Storage Room:** Help NGOs or schools organize supplies.



### Senior & Vulnerable Group Engagement

- **Senior Outing:** Host lunch or activity day for elderly residents.
- **Dance Event:** Organize music and movement for seniors.
- **Games for Seniors:** Bring games, snacks, and music to care homes.
- **Pampering Day:** Offer relaxation services for residents.
- **Mobile Book Cart:** Provide books and puzzles at elderly homes.
- **Pet Therapy:** Arrange visits with trained pets to care centers.
- **Inclusive Cooking:** Cook with people with disabilities.
- **Sensory Garden:** Build a garden with textures, scents, and sounds.
- **High Tea:** Host social events for seniors and disabled groups.
- **Digital Literacy:** Teach basic tech skills to seniors or families.

### Cleanups & Environmental Action

- **Neighborhood Cleanup:** Collect trash in local areas.
- **Beach Cleanup:** Organize coastal cleanups with youth.
- **Plastic Cleanup:** Remove ocean waste from shorelines.
- **Youth-Led Cleanups:** Empower students to clean public spaces.
- **Park & Forest Cleanup:** Remove litter from natural areas.
- **Storage Room Organizing:** Help NGOs or schools tidy supplies.
- **Toy Sanitizing:** Clean and organize daycare toys.

### Animal Welfare

- **Shelter Support:** Build fences and clean kennels.
- **Animal Care:** Clean and care for animals.
- **Center Assistance:** Help with feeding, cleaning, and maintenance.

Let's transform inspiration into action!

📌 Choose a project that fits your team's skills and enthusiasm.

**Got a different idea?**

Message Team Aruba DOET on WhatsApp (5678119) for guidance!