

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Fashaa Madhadhu Loan**

### **1. Who is this loan targeted for?**

- This loan is targeted at:
  - **Women entrepreneurs** who have difficulty obtaining financing from conventional banks due to not maintaining or routing their business income through the banking system.
  - **Women entrepreneurs** whose annual business revenue does not exceed MVR1.0 million Rufiyaa.

### **2. Is this loan only for start-up businesses?**

- This loan targets start-ups and existing businesses owned and operated by **women**.

### **3. Are there any ownership requirements for women when applying for this loan through a company or partnership?**

- Yes, to be eligible for this loan when applying through a company or partnership, women must hold the majority of ownership shares.
- This requirement ensures that the business is woman-led and aligns with the purpose of empowering women entrepreneurs.

### **4. Can I apply for this loan if I have taken loans from other banks?**

- Yes, however, your application can proceed only if you have serviced your monthly loan payments on time for the past 12 months at the time of application. (*applicable for the business and co-borrowers as well*)

### **5. Do I need to have additional income to apply for this loan?**

- **Additional income is required only for start-up businesses**. The purpose of additional income is to confirm the borrower's ability to make monthly interest payments during the grace period.
- If the primary borrower has no verifiable additional income, a co-borrower with verifiable income can be added to proceed under this product.

### **6. If I have an operational business, what documents can I provide as proof that it has been operational for more than six months?**

- To demonstrate experience, you may submit stock purchase invoices received from suppliers for which payments are reflected in your bank statement, relevant contracts, or letters of reference, in addition to a bank statement showing payment transactions.
- You may submit a letter from your local council to demonstrate engagement in business activity or the relevant field.

### **7. Do you have any restricted business activities?**

- SDFC's current restrictions will apply to this product as well.

#### **Current restricted business activities are.**

- Start-up Construction, Retail and Wholesale, Café/Restaurant, Catering, Fuel business activities.
- Start-up and existing Real Estate business activities

**8. Is any equity investment required for this loan?**

- No, however, any additional expenses that may not be covered by the loan amount must be borne by the borrower.

**9. What is the application submission period?**

- Submissions will be open from 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

**10. How do I submit the application?**

- Application must be submitted online via our customer portal <https://portal.sdfc.mv/login>
- Applications **can only be submitted through the eFaas accounts of female individuals**, including those representing companies and partnerships.

**11. Are there any fees associated with submitting the application?**

- Yes, a **non-refundable evaluation fee of MVR 300** applies to all submitted applications that meet the **Eligibility Criteria** set for all products.
  - *Within 3 working days of submission, we will assess your application as per our eligibility criteria.*
  - *If the eligibility criteria are met, the evaluation fee will be charged and payable within 3 working days to proceed with the basic documentation processing.*
  - *If the fees are not paid within 3 working days, the application will be canceled.*
  - *Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be canceled with no fee charged.*
- The **fee is non-refundable regardless of the final decision on your application**, as the fee is charged for the processing and evaluation of the application.

**12. What is assessed during the eligibility check?**

- The application will be screened to ensure:
  - That the application meets the product criteria. (product information/criteria available at [www.sdfc.mv](http://www.sdfc.mv))
  - If all borrowers (including the business) have a satisfactory repayment history during the past 12 months towards facilities availed from other banks/financial institutions.

**13. How long is the process expected to take?**

- The application will be accepted upon completion of the review and verification process, after which credit evaluation will commence, which is expected to take 4-5 weeks from acceptance and document completion date.
- Applications submitted with incomplete, incorrect, or insufficient documents, the process may take longer than expected.

**14. When is a co-borrower required?**

- If the primary borrower is or will be 65 years old during the loan tenure.
- If the income of the primary borrower is not verified

**15. Is it necessary for the co-borrower to have a verified income?**

- The co-borrower must have a verifiable income routed through their bank account for the past six months.

**16. Does my business have to be registered to apply for this loan?**

- A registered business is not required. However, you will be conditioned to register the business upon loan approval. The business registration process must be completed to receive the disbursement.

**17. Am I eligible to apply for this product more than once?**

- Each individual can max. 01 facility under this product (either as a main applicant or a co-borrower)
- However, if an existing facility was closed after the full settlement of the loan, another facility can be availed by the individual.

**18. Are there any formalities that need to be completed upon loan approval before the disbursement of funds?**

- Completion of the basic financial literacy online program via our website
- Completion of the Direct Debit authorization process
- Completion of conditions prior to disbursement (CP)

**19. Are there any processing fees that need to be paid?**

A processing fee of 1.25% of the approved limit will be charged for all applications. (A minimum of MVR300.)

**20. Do you disburse the funds directly to the borrower?**

- Disbursements will be made to the borrower or suppliers based on the project, which will be decided during the evaluation stage.
- Borrowers must ensure that the disbursed funds are used for the purpose allocated in the loan terms.

**21. Do I have to make payments during the grace period?**

- Yes, you will be required to make interest payments during the grace period.

**22. How do we make monthly repayments?**

- The repayment amount will be deducted from your bank account through a direct debit process via the primary bank account details provided on the application form.