

FAQ – STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE BY EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY THE SUDANESE CONFLICT

General remark: please note that no answer will be given to questions enquiring about specific situation of applicants (such as annual turnover or financial requirements, administrative requirements, eligibility of project orientation, examples of activities etc.), in order to guarantee fair competition and equality of treatment between all applicants.

General questions

Questions		Observations
1	How many projects can be awarded	Only 1 project of 8 MEUR will be awarded
2	What is the Head Quarter of AFD	Our head office in Paris, France
3	Could you please clarify what is defined by "concept note" and "final project note"	The concept note or "Technical and financial proposal" is the proposal submitted by the applicant. The final project note is the project that the selected applicant and the AFD team will agree on following the negotiation phase. This final project note will be submitted for approval to the AFD Board.
4	Deadline for submission of application	The deadline is Monday 19 th May until 12pm (night from Monday to Tuesday) Paris time
5	Is there a code of conduct for the project	There is no specific code of conduct or set of rules for this project
6	Can two different partners operate in the same country but not necessarily in the same targeted area (ie: one partners covers area 1 and the other covers area 2) or do they both need to work in the same area? This would be for complementary approach in the same country	The selection of target areas in each country _ including their locations, number of areas, and implementation modalities within the consortium, is entrusted to the discretion of the partners. The selection process will prioritize coherence with the defined project's objectives and budget scope.

Eligibility

	Questions	Observations
7	Is screening of final beneficiary required or preferred	As mentioned in Article 2.10 of the Call, if certain activities involve cash transfers to final beneficiaries, an exemption from the requirement to conduct due diligence as regards to money laundering or terrorist activities ("LAB-FT due diligence") may be granted, provided that the target area and sector are included in a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Exemption requests will only be analysed during the negotiation phase with the selected applicant.
8	Is an organization permitted to participate in multiple consortia under this call for proposals? Specifically, we would like to understand if it is acceptable for an organization to apply as a Project Lead Institution (PLI) in one consortium, while also participating as a Project Implementation Partner (PIP) or sub-partner in a different consortium	An organization is allowed to apply in <u>one consortium only</u> , either as PLI or PIP. An organization cannot participate in a consortium as a PLI and in another consortium as a PIP.
9	Could you confirm if UN agencies are eligible to apply as part of a Consortium	UN agencies are not eligible to participate to this specific call for proposals, either as PLI or PIP (France supports UN agencies through other financial means).
10	Is registration in each of the countries of this call mandatory	It is expected that the PLI should be registered in all the countries it proposes to cover in its proposal (for the recall, it is recommended to target 2 countries out of the 3 listed). For instance a PLI can be registered only in Ethiopia and South Soudan if its proposal covers only those 2 countries. It is not recommended to form a consortium with the PLI registered in only one of the targeted countries, and a PIP in the other country.
11	Application of networks of NGOs	In cases where an international NGO is not registered in the country of intervention due to its specific status, but operates in accordance with national legislation, it remains eligible to apply for the Call

12	<p>Is a "Consortium" understood as a partnership between two INGO or between an INGO and local NGO; Can two international NGOs be part of the consortium, with one serving as the lead and the other as the implementing partner, both having extensive experience related to this call</p>	<p>Applications as a consortium is mandatory. A consortium must be led by an International NGO. Other International NGOs can be part of the consortium, but it is not mandatory. It is however mandatory that the consortium includes national NGOs/CSOs (as PIPs).</p>
13	<p>Could you please clarify these financial requirements for the PLI? Specifically: - The PLI must have either an annual budget of €8 million for each of the past three years or a cumulative budget of €24 million over the last three years? - Does this budget (€8 million annually / €24 million over three years) represent the total combined budget across the two or three targeted countries, or is it the required budget for each individual targeted country?</p>	<p>The financial stability takes into account only the PLI budgets. The PLI must show a cumulated annual budget of minimum 8 MEUR <u>or</u> an overall budget of 24 MEUR over the past 3 years in <u>the 2 countries</u> targeted by its proposal. (if the proposal targets Sudan and South Sudan, the cumulated budget of the PLI in Sudan and South Sudan must be of 8M€ minimum annually, or 24M€ minimum over the past 3 years).</p>
14	<p>Could you clarify whether this (article 4.2 of the ToR) is an eligibility requirement of the PLI or if you will accept proposals from PLIs who do not meet this threshold?</p>	<p>All rules set in the ToR are mandatory, including the threshold set at article 4.2</p>
15	<p>Could you clarify whether organizations providing technical assistance to a consortium must meet your criteria for project implementation partners, specifically this criteria: "Must have a local office in the area of implementation?"</p>	<p>The rules set in the ToRs apply to consortium members. Technical assistance providers are considered sub-contractors and are not subject to this rule</p>
16	<p>Please clarify if proposals should limit themselves to two countries or if they can cover all three? If covering all three, do the financial stability requirements apply to the PLI's cumulative budget across all three countries?</p>	<p>As outlined in Article 1.4, proposals must be implemented in at least two countries. However, applicants may choose to cover all three countries. In making this decision, they are encouraged to carefully consider budgetary criteria _ particularly the proportion of the budget allocated to support costs, and the expected impact (e.g., does the number of target areas allow for meaningful results?). If the applicant chooses to cover 3 countries, the financial stability criteria should be evaluated regarding its cumulative budget over the three countries.</p>

17	Does the PLI has to have a local office in each of the 3 countries mentioned in the call for proposal? Or having local office in only 2 countries is sufficient (in case the proposed intervention is developed and implemented in only 2 countries)?	The PLI is expected to have an established presence or operational office in each country included in the proposal. Accordingly, if the proposal covers two countries, demonstrated presence is required in those two countries only.
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Project budget

	Questions	Observations
18	What is the total amount of the grant? Is it 8M€, or 7.5M€ as mentioned during the presentation to the NGO forum?	The AFD has finally decided to award the total amount of the grant (8M€) to the selected applicant. As stated in article 4, AFD will support the cost and management of the external audit with another budget.
19	Could you please clarify what costs are meant to be included in the 10% overhead/management costs?	Please refer to the technical and financial proposal template page 8
20	Is there a possibility to finance preliminary studies	In accordance with article 2.6 of the ToR, AFD will not be responsible for any cost incurred by the applicant during the design of their proposal. However, applicants may include in their budget proposal any studies that directly support the project's objectives, granted they are performed after the contract signature.
21	Is the requirement of "25% of the total budget to be implemented by national NGOs" a minimum?	Yes, this percentage is a minimum.
22	What would be an acceptable ratio of support costs to be included (around 30%)?	AFD has chosen not to impose a fixed ceiling nor provide specific indications on ratio of support costs, in recognition of applicants' contextual knowledge of cost structures and market conditions in the targeted countries. Applicants are therefore invited to propose a support cost allocation they deem appropriate, accompanied by a clear rationale and justification within the budget narrative.
23	Can a crisis modifier be included in the contingency budget line?	Yes, a crisis modifier may be included in the budget under the "Miscellaneous and Contingency" category of the budget template.
24	Does the total amount of funding allocated over the past 3 years (p.17)	The total amount of funding allocated over the past 3 years (p.17) refers to

	should be the same as the total turnover of the PLI (p.18) for same respective year?	specific budget items by source of expenditure, whereas the total turnover of the PLI (p.18) includes all financial resources. Therefore, the amounts in these two budget tables are not expected to be identical.
25	If a national NGO has faced challenges in maintaining accurate financial planning or detailed multi-year budget records, can it still submit a proposal without providing a complete three-year budget history?	<p>National NGOs/CSOs are reminded that they are not eligible to apply as the PLI (Project Lead Implementer) or consortium lead. However, they are strongly encouraged to participate as members of an internationally-led consortium, in the role of Project Implementation Partner (PIP).</p> <p>This criterion reflects the high level of financial capacity, human resource expertise, and time investment required to manage AFD funding.</p> <p>PIPs are not required to provide detailed financial records for the past three years but should indicate their current annual budget in Section VI of the Information Sheet on Project Partners. If financial data have been lost due to conflict, national NGOs may provide an estimated budget amount and briefly explain the situation in the same section. This rationale will then be studied by AFD</p>

Project proposal framework

	Questions	Observations
26	Does the requirement for the PLI to initial each page of the proposal only apply to the Technical and financial proposal?	This requirement applies to the entire set of documents comprising the proposal, including administrative records, information sheets, etc. Electronic signatures or initials are expected across all file formats (Word, Excel, PDF), rather than handwritten marks on scanned documents. However, a degree of flexibility will be applied in assessing compliance with this requirement.
27	Could the AFD share the editable (Word or similar formats) versions of the forms to be filled and submitted by the applicants	The word format of these forms have been uploaded to the website and can be accessed here :

	(Appendixes 1 and 2, and Sections V and VI Information sheets?	https://www.afd.fr/sites/afd/files/Project_note_template.zip
28	Please clarify the information expected in Sections IV–VI regarding the organization's committees, board, general assembly, and legal registration?	If an NGO uses different terminology or administrative references, it is encouraged to explain the equivalences and provide related supporting documents.
29	In section V and VI "Information sheet", please clarify who are defined as "members" and who as "contributors"?	The term "members" refers to individuals, who officially constitute the Board of the NGO. The term "contributors" refers to the individuals (contributing members), who actively support and engage in the NGO activities through their financial contributions.
30	Can two different partners operate in the same country but not necessarily in the same targeted area	Yes, the proposal can cover different areas of the same country
31	Can AFD please clarify if we are restricted to the three provided objectives or can we add additional ones?	Applicants are allowed to include additional objectives granted it answers to the general objective of this call
32	Is it possible to fund national NGOs that are not members of the consortium, and still have that funding count toward the 25% requirement?	Yes, granted it makes sense with the overall project governance
33	Under 1.7.1 it states the PLI "Must have a local office in each country of this call". Is it sufficient to have offices in the two countries selected for implementation?	The PLI is indeed expected to have registered local offices only in the countries covered by the proposal, and not the three countries in case the proposal covers only two countries
34	In Point 4.3 in the Call for Proposals, the solicitation notes that "MEAL's responsibility will be assigned to a dedicated member within the consortium, or to a service provider contracted to support part of the MEAL." Is it intended that this would not be the PLI	The PLI can be tasked with the MEAL responsibility
35	The template for the logframe is mentioning only "objectives/outcomes" and "output" - could you confirm we should submit a logframe without Activities then Can AFD please clarify if they expect activity-level indicators or will output-level indicators be sufficient	This is correct, and no activity level indicators are expected. Applicants can however decide to use a different template for the logframe

36	the call mentions the AFD "Gender & Conflict" position paper but we can't find it online - could you share with us a link to this document	This document is accessible on the first page of the call under the name "MINKA peace and Resilience Instrument Gender & Conflicts position paper"
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