

Questions and answers; 2022 Call for Proposals for INGOs

This document includes questions the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) received within the given deadline (16.15 HRS (UTC/GMT +2) on Friday 11 November 2022 and answers to these questions.

The MFA received an unprecedented number of questions. Therefore, identical questions have been merged and questions are grouped according to the themes the questions relate to. Hence, if your organization has sent several questions, it might be possible that the questions are not in consecutive order but divided under different headings. Questions have also been edited for ease of reading purposes and to take out information, which might identify the organization or the project.

Due to the sheer volume of questions, the MFA is unable to respond to all questions in detail. The answers have been made based on the information provided in the questions.

The final decision of all applicants' eligibility regarding minimum requirements will be done as part of the overall assessment process of the applications. The eligibility assessment takes into consideration all the required information that has been submitted by the applicant.

All applications that have met the minimum requirements will be evaluated and assessed according to the criteria described in the Call for Proposals. Special consideration will be given to the overall quality of the proposal as well as which proposals are considered an optimal channel for promoting Finland's development policy objectives.

The INGO support is a discretionary government transfer by the Ministry. The final decision of funding is taken by the Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade and it is based on the overall assessment and screening process.

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1. Minimum requirements; governing structures and operations in more than two countries

- Q1 With regards to INGO Minimum Requirements that state the INGO must have at least three different nationalities represented in its governing structures – can you please elaborate on what exactly constitutes as the “governing structure” here – would that refer to the board of directors and/or senior management teams (which includes directors of respective departments)?
- Q2 One of the minimum requirements for eligibility to the call is for the INGO to have at least three different nationalities represented in its governing structures. Could you please elaborate whether the definition of governing structures goes beyond the INGO’s Board members to include Senior Management at the head office, regional offices and country office levels?
- Q3 Our Board of Directors has the majority of its members [Nationality A], but also a [Nationality B] and an [Nationality C]. Is this enough?
- Q4 Are the governing structures the board of directors or can it refer to the executive committee? Regarding nationalities, is it limited to the place of birth, the country of residency or any nationality one person might have?
- Q5 You state that “At least three different nationalities” must be represented in applicant’s governing structures. Please could you elaborate on this? (i.e..Does this just refer to the board, and/or senior leadership?) Secondly, if an individual has dual citizenship, are they considered a different nationality, even if half of their citizenship is the same as other board members?
- Q6 Our question comes from the minimum requirement touching on the applicant having at least 3 different nationalities represented within its governance structures. We are a [Nationality A] INGO with its headquarters in [Country A]. All the board members at the head office are [Nationality A]. At the regional level [Country B], the board comprises of [Nationality B] and [Nationality A] officials. Does this fit within the requirement as outlined?
- Q7 Regarding the first criterion, what do you mean by governing structures? Is it the governing structures of in-country entity or global entity? We are part of [Organization A] partnership, the governing structure of our global entity is the [Organization A] global Board of Directors, whereas [Organization A] country offices are governed by the offices’ Senior Leadership Team.

Q8 About the three nationalities composing the governing structures, we wanted to know if it includes the different desks of the INGO and the Board of directors. We have at least three nationalities in our Board of directors of the INGO. We also have staff from at least three nationalities as we have three desks for the entire INGO : in [Country A], in [Country B] and in [Country C].

A1 According to DAC statistical reporting purposes, an NGO would be classified as international when there is an international coordinating body facilitating the work of its members on the international level. The MFA of Finland requires at least three different nationalities represented in the applying INGO's highest governing body, such as board, executive committee or equivalent.

Therefore, it is not enough to have at least three different nationalities represented across the organisation, but the three different nationalities need to be represented in the highest governing body of the applying INGO.

A2 If an individual in the highest governing body of an applying INGO has a dual citizenship of e.g. Country A and Country B, it will be counted as one nationality but the nationality most beneficial to the applicant in fulfilling the criteria will be chosen.

A3 In the case of a consortium, a fund will be granted to an INGO, not a consortia of (I)NGOs. The applicant INGO is fully responsible for the use of the grant. It is required that the INGO receiving the grant fulfills the minimum requirements. Therefore, the applying INGO needs to have three nationalities represented in its highest governing structure.

A4 In the case of a global INGO with multiple regional or country organizations, the minimum requirement will be assessed against the applying INGO's highest governing body.

2. Minimum requirements; operations in more than two countries

Q9 Our NGO is registered in [Country A] and its board is made of [Country A] Nationals but we have members of other Nationalities. Currently we are operating in [Country A] but we have plans to open our programs in [Country B]. Please let know whether we can still apply or not.

Q10 The CFP states that organisations need to have operations in more than two countries. We are an organisation that only has an office and staff in one country however we run projects in numerous ODA eligible countries, in partnership with local organisations. Does this qualify? Or would you consider us ineligible because our office and staff are based in one country?

Q11 Can two entities come together to show coverage in two countries, e.g. Vietnam and Nepal?

Q12 [Organization A] is an INGO focused on using theatre based and participatory methods to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the most marginalised women and girls. We operate in [Country A] through our sister organisation [Organization B], which is registered as a [Country B] NGO. We also work in [Country C], through our partner, the [Organization C]. Could you please let me know, if we would

qualify to apply based on the above 2 current countries of operation, and our set up in each?

Q13 One of the eligibility criteria is to have operations in more than 2 countries. How do you define 'operation' for this call? E.g. do you need to have a local registration or is an operation defined via implementation of a local project or partnership agreement?

A5 The requirement is that the applicant INGO itself must have operations in more than two countries in order to be eligible for this call for proposals. Operations means a project, programme or any other activity implemented by the applying INGO in a country.

A6 Applicant INGO does not need to have an office or staff in the country of operations.

A7 Proposed projects do not need to be implemented in the same countries where the applying INGO already has operations.

A8 In the case of a consortium, a fund will be granted to an INGO, not a consortia of (I)NGOs. The applicant INGO is fully responsible for the use of the grant. It is required that the INGO receiving the grant fulfills the minimum requirements. Therefore, the applying INGO needs to have operations in more than two countries.

A9 Please also see the answers in section 1.

3. Minimum requirements; general questions about the eligibility to apply

Q14 Do applying organizations have to be Finnish based?

Q15 Can a non-Finnish INGO apply to this proposal? We are a French INGO

Q16 Are organizations that are not based in Finland eligible to apply?

Q17 Please clarify if NGOs based in other than Finland are eligible to apply for this call of proposal[...]

Q18 [W]ill priority be given to Finnish INGOs or INGOs with an existing or previous relationship with the MFA?

Q19 As a UN agency are we eligible to apply individually or in consortium for this call?

Q20 Regarding the subject mentioned above, we would like to know if the local NGO in Cambodia could be allowed to submit the proposal.

A10 This Call for Proposal targets International Non-governmental Organisations. The Call does not target Finnish, other national NGOs or intergovernmental organisations.

A11 The Ministry cannot grant funding to Finnish NGOs in this Call for Proposals. If a Finnish NGO is a partner of the INGO applicant, funding cannot be granted for administrative costs of the Finnish NGO.

A12 Organizations that have existing or previous relationship with the MFA will not be given priority over other applicants in this Call. All applicants are evaluated according to the same criteria.

Q21 On the registration status, my organization is registered at two levels: overall organization registration in [Country A] (headquarters) and country specific registration in each country we work in. Should we use the country level registration or the HQ level registration Certificate?

Q22 When you say to include registration documents for the INGO, are you referring to registration in Finland, registration in another home-office country (i.e. based in another European or North American country), or registration in the country the project would be implemented in?

A13 In order to be eligible, the applying INGO has to have been registered and/or legally competent for at least two years.

The country of registration does not matter. As part of the attachments, the MFA requires the copy of the registration document of the applying INGO.

Q23 To confirm, INGOs with Headquarters outside of the European Union that fulfill all of the minimum requirements listed are eligible to apply?

A14 Yes.

Q24 [Organization A] is a peacebuilding organization whose mission is to end violent conflict around the world. As economic development isn't part of our core mandate, I wanted to kindly ask if we would be considered eligible by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland?

Q25 I wish to find out if my organisation, a continental policy think tank with a footprint in 17 African countries, is eligible to apply as an INGO.

Q26 [...] what are the criteria used to determine if you are an INGO?

A15 In order to be eligible the INGO has to have at least three different nationalities represented in its governing structures, have operations in more than two countries, have been registered and/or legally competent for at least two years and has to have funding from at least one other source.

Q27 We are currently not listed on the OECD/DAC list, can we be eligible to apply to this call for proposal?.

Q28 Are only organisations listed in the OECD Annex 2 (see attachment) eligible to apply?

Q29 For the first theme (Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights globally, regionally and locally, especially among women and girls in vulnerable positions (e.g. persons with disabilities, persons belonging to minorities) and situations (humanitarian and fragile contexts), you mention the fact that it is necessary to be on the list of ODA-eligible international organizations, for core funding. Concerning thematic 2 and 3, do

we also need to be on this list as an organization, both for core funding and for project funding?

- Q30** The Question 5.3 in the application form (“5.3. Is the organisation on the OECD/DAC list of ODA eligible organisations? Please give DAC code if applicable.”) probably means the list attached. [Organization A] is not listed and therefore not eligible, correct?
- Q31** The Latinoamerican countries listed on the DAC List of ODA Recipients | Effective for reporting on 2022 and 2023 flows, are eligible for this call? If my organization is not in the *List* ([Annex 2 for 2021 flows](#), xls, July 2022), could we present a proposal?
- A16** For thematic focus area 1 applicants can apply only for core funding. For thematic focus area 2 and 3 applicants must choose whether they apply for core or project funding.
- A17** For thematic focus area 1, only applicants that are on the OECD DAC list of ODA-eligible international organizations are eligible to apply.
- A18** The question 5.3. in the application form only refers to organizations who apply under the thematic focus area 1.
- A19** For thematic focus areas 2 and 3 applicants do not need to be on the OECD DAC list of ODA-eligible international organizations in order to apply for core funding. However, in thematic focus areas 2 and 3 core funding can be granted only to INGOs that have a minimum operating annual budget of 3 million euros over the period of last two years.

4. Consortiums, partnerships and lead/sub-applicants

- Q32** If we apply in a consortium, must consortium members be international NGOs, can they be local organizations?
- Q33** Please could you clarify if it is ok for an INGO working in partnership with a local partner organisation to submit a proposal (with the INGO taking full responsibility for the use of the grant)? The application form makes reference to local partners, so assume this is fine?
- A20** It is required that the applying INGO fulfills the minimum requirements. Other members of the consortium or implementing partners can be local organizations.
- A21** Please also see answers to the questions in sections 1, 2 and 3.
- Q34** Any limit on the number of partners that can submit a joint application?
- A22** There is no limit to the number of partners in a consortium, however, the grant will be granted to one INGO (the applicant) only, not to a consortium. The applicant INGO is fully responsible for the use of the grant. It is required that the applicant INGO fulfills the minimum requirements.
- Q35** I am writing to ask whether a local implementing organization can be member of two consortium (with 2 different international organization applying for this call as implementing partner).

- Q36 [...] our intention is for one of the two organisations to lead on the proposal and the other to be a partner. Is this a set-up that the MFA support for core financing?
- Q37 Can we apply as the lead (for contracting) in one application, at the same time can we appear in one or more applications of other leads, as a member in a consortium led by another organization?
- Q38 Can an international organisation be part of another consortium for instance as lead on "Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and "Strengthening the food and nutrition security of children and youth, with an emphasis on school meals as co-applicant?
- Q39 [W]e would like to seek your guidance on whether the same international organisation sitting in three different countries can apply as both the lead-applicant and the sub-applicant.
- Q40 We understand that only one application can be successful in this Call. Does this prevent organisations from submitting more than one application to the Call? Can one organisation be successful in one application as lead as well as in another application as a partner?
- A23** An organization can apply as a lead and as a member of a consortium or implementing partner at the same time. However, organization can be successful as a lead only in one application.
- A24** Please also see answers to the questions in section 8.
- Q41 We wish to understand whether a proposal from a consortium of [Organization A Country A], [Organization A Country B] and [Organization A Country C] shall be acceptable as a submission to your Call for Proposal or not.
- Q42 What are the requirements for partnerships or sub-consultants?
- Q43 Are there opportunities for collaboration with other MFA award recipients?
- Q44 Can we work with a local organization, private sector partner or research institution?
- Q45 If applicants apply for work in more than 1 country, would the lead organisation be expected to be registered in each country, or only the partner carrying out work there?
- A25** A fund will be granted to an INGO, not a consortia of (I)NGOs. However, the applicant INGO can have implementing partners, but it is required that the applicant INGO fulfills the minimum requirements. The implementing partners need to be aware of the conditions and restrictions of the grant. The applicant INGO is fully responsible for the use of the grant in line with the official principles regulating the development cooperation of the Government of Finland and adhere to the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001).
- A26** The applicant INGO can work with local organizations, private sector partners and research institutions.

A27 The lead INGO does not need to be registered in the country of operations.

A28 See also answers in section 10 regarding synergies with others.

5. Core and project funding

Q46 Are there specific guidelines on what constitutes core funding and/or project funding?

Q47 Could you please elaborate on the difference between core funding and project funding?

Q48 [...] the option for core support funding is built within individual lots rather than being a separate form of funding and that for lot 1, core support is the only option available. Could you please provide more information about what you would expect in an application for core funding related to lots? Are applicants expected to present activities, outputs and outcomes across their whole programme in that specific thematic area?

Q49 Would it be possible to provide written clarification on the difference between a core support proposal and project support proposal, particularly when it comes to budgeting?

Q50 For applications for core support funding, what is expected to be shown in the detailed multi-year budget for the applied funding? How does this differ from a multi-year budget for applications for project support?

Q51 What constitutes core funding and project funding and can an INGO apply for only core funding?

Q52 [...] if you could provide more information on allowable/non-allowable expenditures for core funding vs project funding.

Q53 What would the Finnish MFA cover under core funding? Core funding is often used to cover “core” organizational and administrative costs of an NGO, including salaries of non-project staff, rent, equipment, utilities, and communications. Can you please specify what would be eligible costs for core funding applications?

Q54 For a core support submission, could the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirm that applicants should include all projected sources of funding for the strategy?

Q55 There is an indication in the call that MFA will only support core funding. Does this mean that any other costs such as administrative & people costs won't be covered by the funding?

Q56 The call mentions core or project support in different areas. What is the difference between the 2?

A29 Core support means funds are directed to an INGO for use at the latter's discretion, and contribute to programmes and activities which the INGO have developed themselves, and which they implement on their own authority and responsibility with possible partners. A project is a set of inputs, activities and outputs, to reach specific

objectives/outcomes within a defined time frame, with a defined budget and a defined geographical area. Projects can vary significantly in terms of objectives, complexity, amounts involved and duration. Both in core and project funding the conditions and restrictions of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland grant have to be adhered to.

- A30** In both core and project proposals applicants are requested to submit same information and attachments (e.g. activities, outcomes and outputs, risk matrix etc.). The description in the core funding applications, however, can be more on a general level i.e. explanation of the program instead of a specific project. This also applies to questions such as the budget.
- A31** For thematic focus area 1 applicants can apply only for core funding. For thematic focus area 2 and 3 applicants must choose whether they apply for core or project funding.
- A32** Regarding acceptable costs please review the [General conditions for the use of discretionary government grants awarded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the ethical code of conduct](#). The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland may set additional special conditions in its discretionary government grant decisions or in the Agreement between the Ministry and the grant recipient.

6. Co-financing

- Q57** Can you please elaborate what the Finnish MFA expects from applicants in terms of match-funding/co-funding when saying that "The discretionary government grant cannot cover the full amount of the total costs incurred from the activities of the proposal. In order to fulfill this legal obligation, applicants need to specify their funding sources (e.g. public, private etc.)."?
- Q58** With regards to this section of the CFP "The discretionary government grant cannot cover the full amount of the total costs incurred from the activities of the proposal." – can you elaborate on what percentage of the activities of the proposal the grant can cover – in order to help us with our budgeting parameters.
- Q59** With regard to the statement 'The discretionary government grant cannot cover the full amount of the total costs incurred from the activities of the proposal. In order to fulfill this legal obligation, applicants need to specify their funding sources (e.g. public, private etc.)', is there a percentage of the total budget required to be covered by other funding sources?
- Q60** What is the minimum level of co-financing required?
- Q61** Does the grant require own contribution / matching funds by the applicant INGO, and up to which percent of the contract financial value?
- Q62** Is it possible to provide co-financing in kind or in cash?
- Q63** Can another project provide co-financing?
- Q64** What is the minimum amount of co-financing required?
- Q65** In terms of the budget, is there a threshold on the expected co-funding ratio?

- Q66 It does not seem as though co-funding/match funding is required for this opportunity, but clarification on this point would be appreciated.
- Q67 I would like to know if 'the 2022 call for proposals for INGOs by MFA requires the applicant to bear any percentage of the cost by their organization, during the implementation of the project? Is any co-financing required?
- Q68 The discretionary government grant cannot cover the full amount of the total costs incurred from the activities of the proposal. In order to fulfill this legal obligation, applicants need to specify their funding sources (e.g. public, private etc.).- does this mean that we have to show match-funding? If so, what is the preferred ratio?
- Q69 Attachments to application forms says that- Applicants need to specify funding sources (e.g. public, private etc.). Is this referring to the match funding that needs to be shown?
- Q70 This implies that match funding or co-funding is required from the applicant. In order to help us plan would you be able to provide either an indicative % of co-funding that will be required from a successful grantee, or the costs that will need to be covered by the grantee because they will not be eligible from the government grant, whichever is applicable.
- Q71 Additionally, can you confirm that you are asking applicants to specify whether we will receive funds from additional sources but are only requiring that we indicate whether these sources are public or private?
- Q72 Is there a minimum co-financing/cost-share requirement to be demonstrated in an application?
- Q73 Are there any compliance requirements or restrictions to complementary funding for the project?

A33 According to the Call for Proposal “The discretionary government grant cannot cover the full amount of the total costs incurred from the activities of the proposal. In order to fulfill this legal obligation, applicants need to specify their funding sources (e.g. public, private etc.).”

Co-financing is, therefore, required in this Call for Proposal. This requirement applies to both core and project funding applications. However, the co-/self-financing shares of programmes/projects are not specifically regulated (i.e. there is no regulated minimum amount or % ratio for co-financing). The only requirement in this regard is that the INGO must have funding from at least one other source and the funding needs to be monetary. The source may be e.g. public/private donor(s) or own resources. An applicant must indicate in the application the amount or ratio of co-financing and the source (e.g. other donors, own resources etc.).

A34 Furthermore, successful applicants are expected to be financially stable and as a part of the overall assessment of the application, the MFA pays attention to the INGOs financial stability.

A35 In addition, all INGOs successful in the call will need to assure that they are not under severe financial difficulties. In its funding decision the MFA can set additional terms regarding the use of the government grant.

7. Budget and budgeting

Q74 For project funding proposals, is a percentage of overhead cost acceptable?

Q75 What is the Finnish MFA's threshold for overhead costs? Will the Finnish MFA account for cost of living increases in the current economic climate?

Q76 Does the Finnish MFA have budget guidance available?

Q77 Is there budgetary guidance for this grant program?

Q78 Are there any limitations on indirect rates in the budget?

Q79 Are there travel guidelines the grantee should consider in budgeting?

Q80 Does this mean that the funding can be used to cover non-programmatic costs? If so, what percentage of the funding can be allocated to non-programmatic costs - e.g. overheads, administrative staff, governance, fundraising, communications?

Q81 Does the grant offer ICR / OCA (operational cost allowance) for the project, and up to what percentage of the contract financial value?

Q82 Are there any caps or limitations on indirect costs in the budget?

Q83 In the existing guidance for project support proposals, it is not clear if necessary operational costs or shared program costs will be covered in the budget as direct costs by the MFA funds. If this could be clarified, it would be appreciated.

Q84 Finally, what is the ICR rate for your INGO proposals?

Q85 Acceptable Administrative costs may not exceed 10% of the projects actual total annual expenses. Do 'administrative costs' include an organization's indirect cost rate?

Q86 What is the Ministry's policy for foreign exchange losses and gains during the implementation period?

Q87 Does MAF finance big construction work, such as irrigation or solar systems, to support the home grown food production?

Q88 If you applied for project funding, will you be allowed to budget for the project overhead costs (project staff costs and indirect costs) be considered an eligible cost in the budget. Basically what is the difference between core funding and project funding.

A36 General guidelines for budgeting are specified in the [General conditions for the use of discretionary government grants awarded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the ethical code of conduct](#). The MFA does not have any other budget guidance.

- A37** The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland may set additional special conditions in its discretionary government grant decisions or in the Agreement (see [core support](#) / [project support](#) agreements) between the Ministry and the grant recipient.
- A38** According to the General conditions “Acceptable administrative costs of a project may not exceed 10 per cent of the project’s actual total annual expenses (including administrative costs). The administrative costs incurred by the project in the host country of the INGO can be accepted as the administrative costs of the project. The administrative costs need not be itemised.”
- A39** Indirect costs / overhead costs are part of the administrative costs.
- A40** According to the General conditions “Costs arising from investments, such as construction, renovation and equipment acquisitions, may be covered by the discretionary government grant only if they form an essential part of the project’s implementation towards the achievement of the project’s ultimate objectives. Discretionary government grants cannot be used to buy land.”
- A41** Please also see answers to the questions in section 5.
- Q89** Will there be a project audit and if so, is it acceptable to charge audit expenses to the Ministry?
- A42** According to the Agreement (see [core support](#) / [project support](#) agreements) that will be signed by the MFA and grant recipient “The Agency shall, on request, give the Ministry an opportunity to audit how the contribution has been used by the Agency and thereby supply information necessary for the audit. The Agency shall also furnish the Ministry with any other information on the Activities and the use of the Grant that the Ministry deems necessary or as may be reasonably requested from time to time for public information, dissemination or other purposes.”
- Q90** The “How to Apply” section states that “Detailed multi-year budget for the applied funding. Applicants need to specify funding sources (e.g. public, private etc.).” Does “applied funding” refer to the amount we are requesting from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?
- A43** The applied funding refers to the amount of funding the applicant is requesting from the MFA.

8. Number of proposals / grants awarded

- Q91** Please could you clarify in terms of eligibility requirements whether an organisation can submit more than one application? Either overall, or per lot?
- Q92** Does the Finnish MFA have a policy around the number of grants awarded to an organisation/per country?
- Q93** Can an INGO submit two separate proposals for two different countries and two different thematic areas? (e.g.; Thematic focus area 3 - home grown school feeding – for Kenya, and thematic focus area 1 – sexual reproductive health – for Uganda?

A44 Organizations can submit multiple applications. However, only one application per organisation can be successful in this Call. The MFA strongly recommends for organisations to focus on one thematic area and on one application instead of submitting multiple applications.

A45 Please also see answers to the questions in section 4.

9. Specific thematic focus areas

a. Thematic focus area 1; Promotion of SRHR

Q94 I am confused about point b under the SRHR thematic focus, which says “*Financing will be available only for core funding and only to INGOs that meet the eligibility criteria for official development aid (ODA), set by OECD/DAC. [List of ODA-eligible international organisations](#).*” Does that mean: Only those INGOs who are on the list of ODA eligible international organizations can get funding under the SRHR thematic? Only core funding is available under the SRHR thematic and not project funding?

Q95 Thematic focus area 1 (SRHR) indicates that “Financing will be available only for core funding and only to INGOs that meet the eligibility criteria for official development aid (ODA), set by OECD/DAC.” Can you please confirm that if our organization is not listed in the attached file (OECD Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD-DAC) Single table - for 2021 data) that we should not bother applying because we will not be considered?

Q96 Are there any alternative ways to prove our capacity, e.g. if an organization has “at least 10 years of relevant experience and proven ability in both service provision in developing countries and in advocacy”?

Q97 We are confused by the following eligibility criteria: “Financing will be available only for core funding and only to INGOs that meet the eligibility criteria for official development aid (ODA), set by OECD/DAC. List of ODA-eligible international organisations.” Since we are registered in the US, does this make us ineligible to apply since we aren’t an ODA-eligible international org?

Q98 We wonder if it is possible for us to submit a proposal for a SRHR project if our organization is not on the OECD list (for a project and not for core funding) ?

Q99 Can you please clarify if the main applicant should be the entity included on the list available on [OECD DAC](#) website OR they should only fulfil the assessment criteria for the organizations applying to be officially recognized as ODA-eligible organizations?

Q100 Does the eligibility requirement only apply to the main applicant OR all the entities from the project consortium (if the consortium submits the project)?

Q101 If my organization is not in the List ([Annex 2 for 2021 flows](#), xls, July 2022), could we present a proposal?

Q102 If you are not on the [List of ODA-eligible international organisations](#), are you eligible to apply?

Q103 Is it our correct understanding that for the theme of SRHR only core funding is available (and not project funding?)

Q104 How should an INGO proof 10 years of working experience on SRHR?

Q105 If the INGO meets the ODA criteria, but is not on the ODA list of eligible international organizations, is the INGO still eligible to apply for this funding?

Q106 Is an organization eligible to submit an application for this thematic area if they are not on the ODA list of eligible international organizations, but operate in an ODA eligible country?

Q107 Could you clarify whether this means that only INGOs with an annual budget above USD 50 million can apply under the SRHR theme?

Q108 If our organisation is not on the list of ODA-eligible international organisations yet we meet the ODA definition "provided the main objective of the organisation is the promotion of economic development and welfare of developing countries" as well as all of the other criteria laid out in the Call for Proposals would that make us eligible for funding under this Call for Proposals?

Q109 Does the 10 year experience requirement for thematic area 1 apply to a consortium as a whole, or to individual lead/partner organisations?

Q110 The call further states that financing will be available only for core funding and only to INGOs that meet the eligibility criteria for official development aid (ODA), set by OECD/DAC. My organization does not appear on the list, however, we have an annual budget exceeding USD 50 million and our international work covers development, humanitarian action and mine action. Could you please confirm if we are eligible to apply for the call?

Q111 We notice that no member of the [Organization A] is listed in the list of ODA-eligible international organizations (as per point 1.b. in the call), and wonder if this list may be non-exhaustive and if [Organization A A] would be eligible to apply for this call.

A46 For thematic focus area 1, only applicants that are on the OECD DAC list of ODA-eligible international organizations are eligible to apply. INGOs that meet the criteria to be on the list (i.e. have annual budget of USD 50 million), but that are not on the list, are not eligible to apply.

A47 Only core funding is available in thematic focus area 1.

A48 Specific thematic focus area criteria presented in the Call for Proposals, such as 10 years of relevant experience, apply to the lead applicant in consortiums. The applicant is responsible for presenting the required information in the application.

Q112 The Call stipulates that financing under thematic focus area SRHR will be available only for core funding. Am I right in drawing the conclusion [...], that our lead organisation can apply for core funding as long as the activities we plan to carry out are considered core to the organisation's mission?

- Q113 Does that mean you will only consider applications from INGOs whose sole priority is SRH, as opposed to INGOs who deliver some SRH projects alongside other *non*-SRH projects?
- Q114 Can applicants still focus on one specific project in their application, even if the potential award would be unrestricted funding?
- Q115 Given only core funding is available, does the main purpose / mission of an INGO grantee need to be SRHR, or can it be just a part of what they do? If the former, could an SRHR INGO represent a consortium of partners who would all work together on SRHR (even though some consortium members had a wider remit), or would that not fit the way that core funding works?
- A49** Core support means funds are directed to an INGO for use at the latter's discretion, and contribute to programmes and activities which the INGO have developed themselves, and which they implement on their own authority and responsibility with possible partners.
- A50** The number of project activities supported by core funding is not defined.
- A51** Thematic focus area 1 focuses on the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and targets INGOs that are able to fulfill the required activities described in the Call for Proposal. INGOs that have other activities that do not support the activities presented in the Call can only use core funding to support approved activities.
- Q116 Under the first thematic area "Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights", is an INGO required to submit a proposal for activities that include all three levels - local, regional, and international, or is a proposal that includes only one or two countries acceptable?
- Q117 Under the first thematic area "Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights", is a proposal required to include activities related to service provision and advocacy?
- Q118 Under the first thematic area "Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights", is it acceptable for an INGO to submit a proposal that is less than 3 years in duration?
- Q119 There is an emphasis on vulnerable positions (e.g., persons with disabilities, persons belonging to minorities) and situations (humanitarian and fragile contexts). Would you also consider vulnerability based on geographical locations i.e., rural versus urban and lack of access to services due to this?
- Q120 [...] my question is whether we would be considered as a stand alone intervention given that the services we provide are information services, rather than direct health provision.
- Q121 What is the definition used for this call for 'service provision'?
- Q122 What is the definition used for this call for 'advocacy'?

Q123 In the expectation that work will be conducted at local, regional and international levels mean fieldwork/service provision in more than one country? Or is this only anticipated at the local level and work at the regional and international levels would be more advocacy focused?

A52 According to the Call for Proposals “Successful applicants are expected to have at least 10 years of relevant experience and proven ability in both service provision in developing countries and in advocacy. It is expected that work is carried out at local, regional and international levels.”

A53 Applicants can submit proposals that are less than 3 years in duration.

A54 The thematic focus area 1 takes into account also vulnerable situations e.g. fragile contexts.

A55 Provision of services and advocacy are both required. Provision of services may include for example access to contraceptives and safe abortion. Advocacy may include include for example public education and policy influencing.

Q124 Please the budget ceiling for the applicant, is it the entire amount (€8M) for the thematic area for a single proposal?

Q125 On the amount of funding available for each submission, I understand there is 8 million available for up to 3 grants. Should I assume that you expect submission to have a budget of around 2.6 million on average?

Q126 Is a detailed budget also required under theme 1 since only core funding is available? If not, how would core funding work under this theme if applying with a partner organisation/consortium?

A56 The maximum available funding under thematic focus area 1 is 8 million euros. Applicants may present the amount of grant that they apply for their program within the limits of the available funding. The MFA makes the final decision how funding is allocated between the successful applicants based on applicants' proposals and quality of the applications.

A57 In both core and project proposals applicants are requested to submit same information and attachments (e.g. activities, outcomes and outputs, risk matrix etc.). The description in the core funding applications, however, can be more on a general level i.e. explanation of the program instead of a specific project. This also applies to questions such as the budget.

b. Thematic focus area 2; Promotion of tax justice, transparency and sustainable social contracts

Q127 We'd value further explanation of the phrase: “It is expected that work is carried out at local, regional and international levels”? Given that the focus of this area is supporting the capacities of civil society to hold government duty bearers accountable: Government duty bearers are usually national or local governments, so does this mean that every proposal must deliver work in more than one country (in the same region)? Or could 'local' work be carried out in just one country?

Q128 Does 'international' refer to the aim for improved global tax rules and/or increased corporate social responsibility in OECD, UN and/or EU? If not, what does it refer to?

Q129 Would it be acceptable to focus on building the capacity of a regional civil society body, and its national members within that region?

Q130 Does the 'work' that needs to be at all 3 levels (local, regional, international) refer to the work building capacity of civil society actors, or to the work actively holding government duty bearers to account, or both?

Q131 Would the Ministry be open to considering a proposal that would build the civil society capacity to hold governments accountable and promote the use of public revenues for improved services, social protection and inclusiveness in countries outside of Sub-Saharan Africa?

A58 The work is expected to be carried out at local, regional and international levels. There is no requirement for a minimum or maximum number of countries where the project(s) need to be implemented. This does not mean that single country or multiple country proposals are preferred nor does this mean that the project(s) could not be implemented in more than one or two countries. The successful proposals are determined by the quality of the proposal and by consideration on which proposals are considered to be the optimal channel for promoting Finland's development policy objectives.

A59 The description in thematic focus area 2 of expected activities, geographical scope and level where activities should be conducted is indicative rather than exhaustive.

c. Thematic focus area 3; Strengthening the food and nutrition security of children and youth, with an emphasis on school meals

Q132 My question is can the international religious institutes working in the education sector, that is, in schools apply for the grant call you have published for food and nutrition security for children in schools?

Q133 Is Madagascar eligible for the development of such program under this topic?

Q134 In thematic focus area 3, the call mentions that the maximum total amount of funding available for this thematic focus area is 2 million euros. It is 2 m Euro per proposal or will be divided into 0-2 proposals?

Q135 In this [Country A] context, the most effective and sustainable method of ensuring children can access nutritious meals is by working with families for home-based production and consumption. Our question is whether the above approach is relevant and eligible under the MFA's third thematic focus area (Strengthening the food and nutrition security of children and youth, with an emphasis on school meals)?

A60 This Call for Proposal targets INGOs. Faith-based INGOs may also apply.

A61 Project funding is available to projects that fulfill the ODA criteria.

- A62** The maximum available funding under thematic focus area 3 is 2 million euros. Applicants may present the amount of grant that they apply for their program within the limits of the available funding. The MFA makes the final decision how funding is allocated between the successful applicants based on applicants' proposals and quality of the applications.
- A63** The focus in thematic focus area 3 will be given to initiatives that support the development of system for Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF). HGSF constitutes a school feeding model that is designed to provide children in schools with safe, diverse and nutritious food, sourced locally from smallholders.

10. Geographical focus of the thematic areas

- Q136 Could project funding be multi-country? Can more than one countries exist in the same application for the project funding of thematic areas 2 and 3?
- Q137 We would like to ask you whether a multi-country approach would be preferred and if there is a geographical scope for this call?
- Q138 Is it ok for one proposed project to be implemented/piloted in one country or should one project be multi-country?
- Q139 [H]ow many countries can we include in a proposal.
- Q140 Is there a limitation on the country coverage?
- Q141 The eligibility states that the INGO has to have operations in more than two countries; does this translate to the geographic coverage of the proposed project? Should implementation be done in more than two countries?
- Q142 We have projects operating in France, but mostly in Western Africa, is the call only for projects in Developing Countries?
- Q143 We would just like to ask you for clarification in relation to the area (THE COUNTRIES) that the proposal will cover.
- Q144 [...] the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and more specifically Iraq is considered eligible to be supported by this funding mechanism.
- Q145 Can we submit proposals for countries that are not mentioned as the bilateral partner country of the Finnish government, but include activities in neighbouring countries of those?
- Q146 Please let us know if we can apply even though we are not a priority country.
- Q147 In Finland's Development Policy is indicated: "The geographical focus of Finland's development cooperation is Africa, and cooperation is carried out mainly with the least developed countries. In terms of geography, the poorest areas are in sub-Saharan Africa, in parts of the Middle East, and in southern Asia." "Is this geographical focus exclusive to other regions/countries under this call? Are other target countries outside of this geographical focus also eligible, in particular Ukraine?"

Q148 Is there a preferred list of countries or regions you would like projects to be implemented in, or will any developing country be eligible?

A64 There is no requirement for a minimum or maximum number of countries where the project(s) or program need to be implemented. This does not mean that single country or multiple country proposals are preferred nor does this mean that the project(s) or program could not be implemented in more than one or two countries.

A65 Funding opportunities are not limited to certain countries except for the criteria that they have to be ODA eligible. If there is a preference on certain countries or areas where the project/programme should be implemented, it is mentioned in the Call (such as for thematic focus area 2.).

A66 Synergies with ongoing cooperation funded by Finland and in the focus countries are valued but the Call for Proposals does not spell out that this automatically will enhance possibilities of being selected for funding, since all criteria and priorities will be assessed as a whole.

11. The application form and its attachments

Q149 Do the character spacing limits include spaces between words and sentences?

A67 Yes.

Q150 Can you please specify if the application form is both for core and project funding proposals?

A68 Yes, the same application form is for both core and project funding.

Q151 In the 2021 Call applicants of project funding were required to submit both the application form of the MFA and project document. This time is only the application form required?

A69 In the 2022 Call for Proposals only the application form is required.

12. Are there any templates available?

Q152 According to the call, a detailed budget is required. Is there a specific or recommended budget template available?

Q153 Would the Ministry be able to provide a template for the multi-year budget to be submitted as part of the full application?

Q154 Is there a specific budget template required? I didn't see one in the annexes (links) in the application form. Likewise for the Results Framework and Risk Matrix

Q155 Should we just use our own templates?

Q156 I am writing to inquire if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland has preferred templates for the following attachments for this call: Detailed multi-year budget for the applied funding, Results Framework, Risk matrix analyzing risks and mitigation strategies.

Q157 Is there a template to present the proposal's budget?

Q158 Is there a budget format that you need us to follow?

Q159 Can you please share the templates for Results Framework and Detailed Multi-year Budget?

Q160 Is there a template to present the proposal's budget?

Q161 Will you provide templates on the multi-year budget, results framework and risk matrix or would you welcome applicants' own templates? Is there a page-limit for the attachments?

Q162 Does the Ministry have any templates or instructions for the budget, results framework and risk matrix (other than what is described in the Call for Proposals)? For example, when it says "detailed multi-year budget", is there are certain level of detail that the Ministry is looking for?

A70 The MFA does not provide any templates for the attachments (e.g. budget, results framework, risk matrix etc.) Applicants can use their own templates.

A71 The multi-year budget should be detailed enough for the MFA to be able to assess how the grant is going to be used.

13. Funding for third parties

Q163 We consider applying for a grant for Support for International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs), under the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights theme. The text of the call mentions we can only apply for core funding. We normally implement our projects working with smaller, local organisations that need this type of core funding to be able to implement their activities. Therefore our question is whether we could regrant the Support for International Non-governmental Organisations grant to smaller organisations to be used for their core funding?

A72 The implementation can be carried out directly or through implementing partners, including re-granting. However, it is important to clearly define in the proposal how the implementation is going to be carried out and how it is made sure that the management (incl. financial management) system takes into account the mode of implementation and possible risks that it creates. The Ministry assesses the chosen implementation form as part of the assessment process.

A73 The applicant INGO is fully responsible for the use of the grant.

A74 Please also see the [General conditions for the use of discretionary government grants awarded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the ethical code of conduct](#).

A75 Please also see the Agreement templates for [core support](#) and [project support](#).

14. Timetable of the Call for Proposals

Q164 Would the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consider extending the application deadline due to the concurrence of the 2022 International Conference on Family Planning?

A76 Unfortunately, the MFA cannot change the timetable of the Call.

The completed, signed application form and its attachments must be send by email and received by the Ministry no later than 16.15 HRS (Finnish time, UTC/GMT +2) on Wednesday 30 November 2022. Applications arriving after the given deadline will not be considered.

Q165 Expected start date of the project in 2023?

A77 The expected start date for the projects is most likely April-May in 2023.

15. General questions

Q166 [W]e would like to know if next year there will be a call similar to the one we can apply for in the event that this year we end up not having the time to prepare it. On what date will it be published?

Q167 Will there be another INGOs Support Call in 2023?

Q168 Is another Call foreseen for 2023 to cover the remaining thematic areas/policy development goals of the Finnish MFA?

A78 In the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland funding for civil society organizations' development co-operation projects or programmes goes through open call for proposals. In the MFA various Units/Embassies organize these calls. Each call has specific criteria for the applicants and applications. There can be multiple calls open at the same time. Please follow Ministry's website for information regarding any upcoming or open call for proposals.

A79 The current 2022 Call for Proposals for INGOs is organized by the Unit for Civil Society. Unit for Civil Society will most likely organize a next Call for Proposal for INGOs in 2025 or 2026. As mentioned, other Units or Embassies in the MFA may organize their own Call for Proposals for INGOs in the upcoming years. Therefore, please follow the Ministry's website for information regarding any upcoming or open Calls.

Q169 Finally, how many proposals do you receive to fund? This for us is decisive to understand the % of approval.

Q170 Do you have a rough estimate of the rate of acceptance for proposals for this call or past calls?

A80 In previous Call for Proposals the MFA has received between 5 to 30 applications per thematic focus area.

Q171 Additionally it would be extremely helpful to us if you could share with us some links or sources of information where we could obtain some further guidance on the specifics of the application process.

Q172 Does the Finnish MFA already have their own approaches to long-term sustainability and local change we can consider (any reference materials)?

A81 All the necessary guidance and links are presented in the [2022 Call for Proposals website](#).

Q173 Is it not required to submit a full proposal as it was the case in 2021?

A82 Applicants are requested to submit an application form and its attachments which is considered as a full proposal.

Q174 For the submission, according to the call, multiple emails of 7MB each can be sent. Is there a limitation on the number of emails?

A83 There is no limitation on the number of emails that an applicant can send to MFA. Applicants are requested to identify how many emails they are going to send.

Q175 Will successful applicants of the 2022 Call be allowed to apply for funding (core or project) that might become available from the Ministry in the future under the INGOs support scheme?

A84 Yes, applicants that have been successful in the 2022 Call may apply for funding from the MFA in the possible upcoming Calls during the implementation period of the 2022 Call.

