

Frequently-Asked Questions	Responses
Who is eligible?	<p>Organizations are eligible so long as they fulfil the grant selection criteria and requirements noted in the bidder's eligibility form and follow the submission instructions (including using the correct grant design document template and bidders eligibility form template for submission).</p> <p>Some relevant requirements include being registered in a member state of IFAD, being able to provide 2 years of audited financial statements, and following procurement requirements listed – with some exceptions. Other expectations are listed in the form, and written explanations are allowed in certain cases.</p>
Are there any excluding requirements?	<p>Submissions should follow the guidelines and documents online, the submission format must follow the Grant Design Document and cannot be in a different format, organizations should match the description listed on the call, and all proposals should include some form of cash or in-kind co-financing. Other reasons for exclusion may apply.</p>
Can I submit a proposal in another language other than English?	<p>No. We request that all proposals will be submitted in English for ease and fairness of selection by the Competitive Screening Evaluation Team.</p>
In what format should we submit?	<p>The following three deliverables in PDF format.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grant Design Document Template fully filled out 2. Bidders self-certification of eligibility for IFAD grant financing; and 3. a brief institutional profile, detailing experience in the priority area and specific theme outlined in the Grant Concept Note, and in the region/country(ies) where the grant would be implemented
What should I fill out and leave blank in the Grant Design Document?	<p>Proposals should fill out the Grant Design Document in its entirety</p>

How should I submit my proposal?	Please submit the proposal in PDF form by email to Sustain@ifad.org by the extended deadline of 18 June 2021 (12:00 hours Rome Time)
Can my organization apply and get funding for a separate project?	No. For this specific call for proposals under the grant, "SUSTAIN," there is a very pre-set goal of financing with which all proposals need to comply, and is not approved to be used as direct financial assistance. To be eligible, submissions should follow the Grant Concept Note and Project Description. For projects beyond the scope of this call, we are unable to review and very much wish the best in any search for assistance.
Can my organization partner with another?	Bidders are welcome to present proposal in partnerships with other organisations, even encouraged. Should you choose to work with partners, it is just necessary that there be one recipient – the formal grantee that sign the legal grant agreement with IFAD. Other entities can be subcontracted under the grantee.
Can my proposal cover only a country or a region?	<p>No, activities should be global. This means that proposals should look to explain how trainings and support could be provided for countries from 3 of IFAD's regions (Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa). The exact country selection (Low Income Countries (LICs) and Low Middle Income Countries (LMICs) (including fragile countries) should come at a later stage in close collaboration between IFAD and the grantee following selection; however, the organization submitting a proposal should be willing (and demonstrate the ability) to work with countries of all IFAD regions.</p> <p>That does not mean the bidding organization must be global and not regional; the organization just needs to elaborate in the proposal how they will work in the 3 participating regions (providing regional trainings, or cross-regional trainings, communities of practice etc.) as well as ensure the other IFAD non participating regions (LAC, NEN) benefit from grant outputs.</p>

<p>Why must my proposal be global and not in a country or region?</p>	<p>This grant concept note was approved for financing on the basis of being global, and the grant seeks to provide all countries that could benefit from training in environment, social and climate standards and best practices. As stated above, the exact country selection should come at a later stage, however, the bidding organization should be willing (and demonstrate the ability) to work with countries of all IFAD regions.</p> <p>That being said, the grantee and any relevant sub grantees are not required to operate in all of IFAD regions. The proposal can reflect how the grantee and any partnering operations plan to reach PMUs by the means it sees fit (ie workshops, cross regional trainings, regional trainings, etc).</p>
<p>Can you confirm an approximate anticipated breakdown of countries participating by IFAD region?</p>	<p>The exact country selection (low income countries, low middle income countries and fragile countries) should come at a later stage in close collaboration between IFAD and the grantee; however, the organization should be willing (and demonstrate the ability) to work with countries of the 3 IFAD regions (Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa).</p>
<p>Is the co-financing considered within the overall project budget?</p>	<p>The total project budget includes the US\$2 million of IFAD financing + the level of co-financing from the grantee.</p>
<p>How much should my organization offer in co-financing?</p>	<p>All proposals must offer some level of cash and/or in-kind co-financing. There is no minimum requirement, except for private sector companies. Private sector companies are required to propose a minimum of 20% of co-financing.</p> <p>Co-financing will be considered in the evaluation for grant selection as a sub component of the financial criteria (Financial criteria in total = 25% of evaluation criteria).</p>
<p>Is the curriculum and training to be provided in English only? i.e. should translation of materials be costed and if so in which languages</p>	<p>It is envisioned that the core materials will be beneficial to all participating regions and non-participating IFAD regions. The four official languages of IFAD are English, French, Spanish and</p>

	<p>Arabic, and this may be a useful starting point for organizations to consider if they prefer proposing that trainings and materials are available in multiple languages, if translators will be used, or if certain languages should be added or consolidated into fewer widely spoken languages. This depends on the grantee at this stage to propose how it best sees to operations with its training proposal - and these methods can be refined at a later stage once the exact country selection has occurred.</p>
<p>Can IFAD provide any support for training venues e.g. access to country/regional offices</p>	<p>No, IFAD cannot provide the venues for the training.</p>
<p>Is there any anticipated duration of the face-to-face trainings and communities of practice or is this at the discretion of the bidder?</p>	<p>Anticipated duration and operations of face-to-face trainings and communities of practice are at the discretion of the bidder. It is encouraged that communities of practice involve interregional learning visits to the extent possible.</p>
<p>Exhibit K-3 states that Salaries and allowances should not exceed 30% of the total grant amount. However given the nature of services to be provided across the components, we anticipate the cost of salaries and allowances taking a higher proportion of the project budget. Can you confirm that this is acceptable?</p>	<p>30% of costs allocated to salaries and allowances is a recommendation and not a requirement. Therefore, higher proportions can be considered. There is a requirement, however, stipulating that there is a cap of 20% of total grant amount to be spent on project management costs and cap of 8% of direct costs to be used for indirect costs.</p> <p>Additionally, it should be noted that if external consultants are hired for trainings, etc, they are considered under a different budget lines. As is travel. Only staff are considered under the salaries and allowances category.</p>

<p>Are we supposed to stick to four project component areas? And should we maintain the components names you have provided in Grant Concept Note or we can name our own components?</p>	<p>For this specific call for proposals under the grant, Strengthening Borrowers' Capacity on Environmental, Social and Climate Best Practices, there is a very pre-set goal of financing with which all proposals must follow. While there is flexibility in how organizations develops the capacity building, delivers the training, builds knowledge management and communities of practice and follow-up support – the fundamentals of the deliverables cannot be altered. The funding for US\$ 2 million was approved on the basis of following the Grant Concept Note.</p> <p>That being said, should the organization have other ways to organize, adjust or name the components (i.e. combining 2 components into 1 component, calling them outputs, etc) – this is not a problem. So long as the project component areas are Strengthening Borrowers' Capacity on Environmental, Social and Climate Best Practices where IFAD works (and planning a program for other regions), then providing avenues of support, proposals may tweak these components.</p>
<p>Can you confirm an approximate anticipated breakdown of countries participating by IFAD region?</p>	<p>The grant will cover all Low Income Countries (LICs) and Low Middle Income Countries (LMICs) in the 3 Regions (Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa,). Other non-participating countries/regions will benefit from the grant products and outputs (E-learning modules, web-based toolkits and lessons from communities of practice) which will be made freely available. The organization should be willing (and demonstrate the ability) to work with countries of all IFAD regions.</p>
<p>Who should be the target group of people?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct target groups: PMUs; senior government officials assigned to project oversight; national staff from ministries of agriculture, environment and other relevant sectors; and ESC regulatory bodies; 2. Indirect target groups: ESC consultants, contractors and non-sovereign operations (NSOs).

<p>Is there a limit in the amount of people that can be in the team that will work in the initiative?</p>	<p>There is no limit on the number of people- however the organization of the team must adhere to the budgeting requirements found in the Guidance Note on Eligible Expenditures. There is a suggested limit of 30% to salaries and allowances, however this may be altered depending on the nature of the grant. There is a required, non-negotiable cap for project management costs – there is a cap of 20% of total grant amount to be spent on project management costs and cap of 8% of direct costs to be used for indirect costs.</p>
<p>Are there different eligibility requirements for private sector companies?</p>	<p>Private sector companies are eligible to submit a proposal and have two differences in requirements at this stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A private sector company should fill out Part II of the Bidders self-certification for Eligibility. • As described in the Project description, all grantees are expected to provide some kind of cash or in-kind co-financing. Private sector companies are required a minimum amount of 20%.
<p>The achievement target numbers mentioned region/countrywide , is there any division for these numbers to be achieved region/country wise?</p>	<p>There is no pre-determined division between numbers to be achieved at region/country Level.</p> <p>Bidders are encouraged to propose such division, together with a methodology to obtain geographical allocation of results.</p>
<p>Is there any ratio mentioned for the 20% Co-financing part between cash and kind contribution for profit companies?</p>	<p>There is no criteria on the ratio of co-financing.</p>

<p>Reference is made to e-learning modules ILO is developing for IFAD: what are the topics and how far have these progressed?</p>	<p>A total of nine modules are being developed:</p> <p>Module 1: Basic overview: fundamentals, concepts, principles of ESC considerations in country strategies and projects Module 2: ESC in IFAD project cycle Module 3: Each of IFAD's nine standards (60 min) Module 4: SECAP screening tool (Mandatory for Project Designer and Consultants only if possible) Module 5: Diving in each of the standards as required (45 min each + 6 h 45 min) Module 6: ESC and procurement in the project cycle Module 7: ESDD in the project cycle Module 8: Project-level grievance redress mechanisms Module 9: Stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The final set of modules is expected in September.</p>
<p>Besides these modules is there other material being or having been prepared that should be part of the packages that is shared under SUSTAIN?</p>	<p>Not at this stage. Just note that the updated Social, environmental and climate assessment procedures will be disclosed in IFAD website shortly.</p>
<p>Is there a strategy for prioritisation of the countries to be covered under SUSTAIN beyond the choice for the three regions?</p>	<p>Prioritization of countries will be based on the following criteria: Fragile states, then Low Income countries, then Lower Middle income countries, finally Upper middle income countries.</p>
<p>The development of 7 training modules is mentioned in the concept note (key outputs: <i>Seven tailored e-learning modules</i>. Is the number referring to number of target audiences (<i>Senior officials assigned to project oversight, national staff from ministries of agriculture, environment and other</i></p>	<p>The number refers to the E-learning modules currently under development by ILO. Note the number of modules has been increased to 9. These would need to be tailored to better benefit the targeted audience. The modules are:</p>

<p><i>relevant sectors; ESC regulatory bodies; PMUs; consultants; contractors; and NSOs) and / or is there a reasoning for the number and is more information on content or desired sequence / relation between the modules available?</i></p>	<p>Module 1: Basic overview: fundamentals, concepts, principles of ESC considerations in country strategies and projects Module 2: ESC in IFAD project cycle Module 3: Each of IFAD’s nine standards (60 min) Module 4: SECAP screening tool (Mandatory for Project Designer and Consultants only if possible) Module 5: Diving in each of the standards as required (45 min each + 6 h 45 min) Module 6: ESC and procurement in the project cycle Module 7: ESDD in the project cycle Module 8: Project-level grievance redress mechanisms Module 9: Stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The final set of modules is expected in September.</p>
<p>The proposal mentions 9 standards as benchmark for ESC mainstreaming and compliance (Component 1, content modules: (iii) objectives and key requirements of each of the nine standards. Is there more information regarding these standards?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Biodiversity Conservation 2- resource efficiency and pollution prevention 3- cultural heritage 4- indigenous people 5- Labour and working conditions 6- Community Health, Safety and Security 7- Physical and economic resettlement 8- Financial intermediaries and direct investments 9- Climate change
<p>The proposal also mentions IFAD 11/12 priorities (integrate mainstreaming priorities fundamental to delivering IFAD11 and 12 priorities.). We would be grateful to know where we could find more information regarding the mentioned IFAD 11 and 12 priorities?</p>	<p>IFAD 11 Priorities can be found here IFAD 12 Strategic Directions can be found here</p>
<p>For now we do not require more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500, 000) for the expansion envisaged. Following this consideration, can we still apply</p>	<p>Yes, the application can still be made.</p>

<p>considering that you give \$2 million to prospective grantees.</p>	
<p>In which language should the proposal be presented?</p>	<p>The proposal must be submitted in English.</p>
<p>Is the training curriculum development foreseen in the grant mainly adaptation/customization of existing or soon-to-be-released SECAP e-learning training curricula?</p>	<p>Correct.</p>
<p>Does IFAD have a preference for a certain type of donors, IFI's or private sector to co-finance activities under this grant?</p>	<p>IFAD has no preference on the type of donors, IFI's or private sector to co-finance activities under this grant.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are unable to open the Financial Management Self-Assessment Questionnaire (FMAQ), could you please add it as an attachment? ○ We are unable to open the "Guidance on eligible expenditure under grant financing and other costing aspects" could you please add it as an attachment? 	<p>We have added the documents also under the call for proposal page on the IFAD website, even though many bidders did not have the same issue.</p>