



**UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (UNCDF)  
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

*Building inclusive innovative solutions that improve agricultural productivity, market linkages, extension services and access to inputs for smallholder farmers in west Nile and Northern Uganda*

**Frequently asked questions**

March 17, 2020

**Q:** May we know if there are guidelines on partnering with international organizations for the abovementioned call (e.g. Is it okay for a partner to not have a legal entity, staff or agreements in Uganda yet however have track record on working in the country?)

**A:** Partnering with International or other organizations is acceptable. The lead entity, that if selected will sign the agreement with UNCDF, needs to comply with the eligibility criteria of having a legal entity in Uganda. However, all the other eligibility criteria apply for all partners in the consortium.

**Q:** May we know if there is a guideline on getting subcontractor as part of the proposed project? May I clarify if subcontractors/ third party/ service providers are also considered as "partners"?

**A:** No specific guidelines for subcontracting as part of the proposed project.

**Q:** Please provide Clarity on the Area 3: The credit services, do you expect the applicant to provide working capital to issue loans to the groups and members through its digital solution or to provide digital solution where group members can access credit from their won savings?

**A:** Each applicant will have different models, will produce scoring-related information to be provided to Financial Services Providers, others would want to bare the risk by crowding in the investment fund and share the related income of these activities. Applicants must share their business models which differ from one to another.

**Q:** Which component does your solution have an impact on has education fields?

**A:** Erratum, UNCDF seeks information about impacts on the agricultural sector.

**Q:** Project lifespan: There are different end dates given in the RFA. Under section 1 (page 2), RFA mentions December 31, 2023 while section “4.2 Duration”, the expected completion of the project” is given as December 30, 2022. We also understand from section 5 that the selected projects can have a maximum life span of up to 36 months and they could run until December 2022. With the end date of Dec 2022, the maximum project period of 36 months cannot be availed. Therefore, request you to provide clarity on the expected start date, end date and maximum project duration.

**A:** Project lifespan could have an initial 2-year duration with possibility of scaling up if results show more potential within the activities.

**Q:** Team composition: Is combination of part-time and full-time human resources acceptable?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** As mentioned in the RfA, the grant award range is USD 50,000 to USD 350,000 per agreement:

- **Q:** Does it mean that a proposal built on only “one project area” can be proposed availing the maximum budget limit of USD 350,000?
- **A:** Yes
- **Q:** For instance, if an organization is submitting two project proposals separately for two project areas can it budget for a maximum of USD 350,000 for each proposal and a maximum total of USD 700,000 for both the projects? Likewise, for three areas and three proposals a maximum total of USD 1,050,000 with a maximum limit of USD 350,000 per project?
- **A:** Yes
- **Q:** Does the budget have any restrictions or caps on various sub-heads such as HR, travel, program hardware and software costs etc. within the overall proposed budget?
- **A:** No specific restrictions on this case.

**Q:** Under focus area 3, pilot and scale dedicated savings and credit services for farmers and agriculture value chain actors.

- **Q:** Does UNCDF already have financial institutions enrolled for providing financial services for the project? Or empaneling financial institutions for providing financial services is expected to be done by the bidders.
- **A:** No Financial Services Providers enrolled now for this specific action. Selection process of Financial Services Providers will follow UNCDF rules and will be in coordination with the selected partner institution.
- **Q:** Can two applicants bid for a project covering three focus areas? Likewise, two applicants for four focus areas?
- **A:** Yes.

**Q:** Does UNCDF have any technological specifications (technological and digital characteristics, architecture and modularity, operating system etc.) of the digital applications and platforms to be developed for the projects?

- **Q:** What is the expectation of UNCDF with regards to ownership of the digital platforms? Are bidding entities supposed to transfer the ownership rights to UNCDF following completion of the project? In case bidding entities customize their existing proprietary digital solutions for the project, would UNCDF provide user fee to continuing using the platforms post project completion?
- **A:** UNCDF expects to demonstrate how these platforms operate and grow in market players that can leverage these tools to scale up and must be open source.
- **Q:** Does the project have hardware support for promoting use of digital platforms among farmers such as mobile phones etc.?
- **A:** Hardware support for promoting use of digital platforms among farmers is part of an on-going project in the country.

**Q:** Does a bidder need to include all the regions (Kiryandongo, West Nile, Acholi and Lango) listed in RfA for pilot testing of the digital solutions proposed under the focus areas? Or we can we propose project with geographical coverage within these four regions to say one, two, three or all four regions?

**A:** Proposal should cover all regions in a phased approach, starting with one cluster for proof of concept.

**Q:** What is the expected minimum and maximum outreach in terms of number of farmers/beneficiaries, priority agri-commodities providing some indication of the scale to be achieved within the project period?

**A:** UNCDF does not expect getting a new solution to be developed at this stage, but rather interested in scaling up already piloted solutions.

**Q:** What happens at the end of the pilot? If the pilot is successful, where do we get any follow-on capital to then expand throughout the region?

**A:** If project is successful and shows a potential for additional scaling up, sustainability and improvements of the business model, UNCDF could evaluate additional financial and technical support (in different forms such as grants, guarantees, loans and others).