



2025

Calls for proposals L'Initiative

Questions raised during the webinar « info session on the call for proposals of L'Initiative » on 3 December 2024.

**Strengthening Health Systems at all levels
(Community to national)**

&

**Strengthening the role of key and vulnerable populations in
relation to HIV, Tuberculosis and/or malaria to improve their
health and well-being**

Deadline for calls: 21 JANUARY 2025 AT 12 : 00 NOON (UTC+1)

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

Is the webinar recorded? If so, where can we watch it?

The webinar is being recorded in French and English.

The recordings will be available on L'Initiative website in the next few days.

What is the difference between L'Initiative's two channels?

For the year 2025, L'Initiative is launching **two separate but complementary channels** for project funding:

1) **The first channel** is for **new projects** across the three standard L'Initiative calls:

- Call (24-2025-INIT-HSS-APR-01) on strengthening health systems (HSS) at all levels (from community to national), with a particular focus on capacity strengthening of health personnel.
- Call for projects 24-2025-INIT-VP-APR-02 on strengthening the role of key and vulnerable populations (VPs) to improve their health and well-being.
- Call 24-2025-INIT-APR-OR-03 on operational research focused on resistance-related issues.

2) **second channel** is **focused exclusively on "next phase projects"** for projects previously funded by L'Initiative, to continue and expand existing successes and/or scale up their interventions. This channel aims to fund projects focused on health systems strengthening (call 24-2025-INIT-HSS-AP0-01) or strengthening the role of key and vulnerable populations (call 24-2025-INIT-VP-AP0-02).

Is it possible for the same organisation to submit 3 HSS projects as lead applicant, split between the different channels?

For example: 2 HSS projects in the first channel and 1 HSS project in the "next phase projects" channel.

The maximum number of projects submitted as lead applicant is three in all the calls for proposals (i.e. in the five published calls: the 3 "new projects" call for proposals and the 2 "next phase projects" call for proposals), and a maximum of two projects in any one call for projects.

In the case you have mentioned, it is therefore possible to submit two HSS projects as lead applicant in the "new projects" call for proposals targeting HSS and one next phase project in the HSS "next phase projects" call for proposals.

To submit your three projects as lead applicant via POPs, you will still need to create several accounts with a different contact name but with the same organisation name and ID number: two to be able to submit your two projects in the same RSS "new projects" call and use one of the two accounts used to be able to submit your "scale-up project" in the HSS "next phase projects" call.

According to the information on the website, our organisation cannot apply for operational research support for an intervention that has already been funded. Does this apply to an intervention that has already been funded by L'Initiative, but applied to different population groups?

The model of community provision of antiretrovirals that was previously funded by L'Initiative was aimed at stable people living with HIV, and we hope that the model will be applied to vulnerable populations such as older people.

Projects from the Operational Research (OR) call for proposals are not targeted by this "next-phase projects" channel. In order to use the results of your previous OR project funded by L'Initiative, you could perhaps submit it for the HSS call and keep some operational research activities (maximum 15% of the action's budget must be devoted to OR actions). If you wish to carry out new operational research, in the theme of this year's OR call ("Resistances"), you will have to submit your proposal in the "new projects" OR call.

How many projects will L'Initiative fund under the "next phase projects" channel?

We cannot give an order of magnitude for this call, as for the others, because it will depend on many parameters, including the quality of the proposals received.

Can you give us an order of magnitude for the budget for the HSS and VP next phase projects?

We cannot give an order of magnitude for this call, as for the others, because it will depend on many parameters, including the quality of the proposals received.

APPLICANT'S ELIGIBILITY

Our project will be implemented in one of the 38 eligible countries. The lead applicant of the project is legally registered in this country. Can academic institutions from another country (not one of the 38 eligible countries) be implementing partners and receive part of the funding?

Yes, academic institutions can be implementing partners even if they are not registered in one of the 38 countries eligible (+France) for the calls for proposals. However, their budget delegation will be limited to a maximum of 15% of the grant requested from L'Initiative.

Can a government agency apply as lead applicant?

Yes, a government agency can submit a project as lead applicant.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

Can our association apply as lead applicant?



All the eligibility criteria for lead applicants are detailed in the rules for calls for projects, from point 4 onwards.

For the next phase of our project, can we continue in the current three countries with a plan to extend to another country that is not on the list of eligible countries?

Only projects implemented in the 38 eligible countries will be eligible for funding under L'Initiative's calls for proposals.

Which countries are eligible?

A project must be implemented in one or more of the 38 eligible countries listed below:

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Algeria |  Guinea-Bissau |
|  Benin |  Haiti |
|  Burundi |  Laos |
|  Cambodia |  Lebanon |
|  Cameroon |  Liberia |
|  Central African Republic |  Madagascar |
|  Chad |  Morocco |
|  Comoros |  Mauritius |
|  Congo |  Mauritania |
|  Côte d'Ivoire |  Mozambique |
|  Democratic Republic of the Congo |  Myanmar |
|  Dominican Republic |  Rwanda |
|  Djibouti |  Senegal |
|  Equatorial Guinea |  Sierra Leone |
|  Ethiopia |  Thailand |
|  Gabon |  Togo |
|  Gambia |  Tunisia |
|  Ghana |  Ukraine |
|  Guinea |  Vietnam |

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Phase 1 of our project covered 2 countries (Senegal and Burkina Faso). Phase 2 will only cover 1 country, as Burkina Faso is not on the list of eligible countries. Can we submit our project through this channel? Is it good for Senegal?

Senegal is an eligible country for L'Initiative's calls for proposals.

You can submit your project via this channel, but only if you can justify the interest and relevance of this next phase project, which will take place exclusively in Senegal.

Is there a deadline for the end of the previous phase (phase 1)?

The committee did not want to set a deadline for the end of your previous phase. However, in the concept note, you will need to justify the relevance of resuming activities that were completed X amount of time ago in a series of projects. In the case of a project that is still being funded, the activities must be scheduled to end in 2025.

Our project (initially lasting 3 years) has been underway for 1 year and 6 months. Can we apply now for the next phase of our project?

In the case of a project that is still being funded, activities must be scheduled to end in 2025.

The Evaluation Committee will generally use the mid-term evaluation report from the previously funded project as a basis for assessing whether the approach should be continued. If the end of your current project is not scheduled for 2025, you are advised to apply next year.

Our 3-year project ends in April 2026. An external evaluation of L'Initiative was carried out at the end of year 1. Is our organisation eligible for this channel?

In your case, we recommend that you submit to the 2026 "next phase projects calls for proposals instead, which, if you are selected in April 2026, will enable you to start your project suite in May 2026.

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Is AFD co-financing possible?

Yes, AFD co-financing is possible.

In the specific case where the project submitted receives confirmed or planned co-financing by AFD or Expertise France, or by any other French bilateral financial or human support, the applicant must:

- Present the characteristics of the project and its financing in a fully transparent manner as early as the note of intent stage (assets, requested, period, type of contract, reference, etc.) and,
- In the case of co-financing with another French actor, provide for consultation between the French co-financiers prior to approval of funding, in order to best meet the requirements of accountability to our supervisory authorities and prevent the risk of double-funding.

We would like to submit 2 projects. Must the total of the 2 budgets be less than 70% of the organisation's costs? Or are each of the 2 budgets considered separately?

budget is considered separately when calculating management capacity. However, the Selection Committee may take into account the fact that you have submitted 2 proposals and may question your ability to manage two types of funding at the same time.

What is the difference between total costs/expenditure and the annual budget?

The annual budget shows expenditure/expenses + income. Annual costs are the organisation's own annual expenses. Income represents the money you receive to finance these expenses.

Concerning the 70% of the annual budget: does this mean that the total budget requested must not exceed 70% of the organisation's annual budget, or does it mean the budget requested per year?

The average annual cost of the project must not exceed 70% of the total annual costs (expenditure) of the lead applicant. The total costs (expenses) are established on the basis of the complete 2023 financial report (income statement and balance sheet), validated by the General Meeting or any other governance body.

It will be up to the evaluation committee to determine overall whether your organisation has the capacity to manage the funding requested on the basis of the information you provide.

SUBMISSION ON POPS

Does the organisation have to download all the documents?

Yes, you must download the consultation file in order to be able to open the annexes that you must use to prepare your proposal.

Are letters of support from CCMs required before 21 January 2025?

We will take into account the difficulties in obtaining letters of support from CCMs in time, given the tight deadlines between the publication of the CFP and the submission of proposals on 21 January 2025.

It is still compulsory to provide the letters, as indicated in the guidelines, but on POPS we have deliberately set up the platform so that you can submit your application without this document, which may be missing. However, you will need to submit the missing letters by early March at the latest, so that your application can be examined by the Selection Committee. You can send them to the following address: aap.linitiative@expertisefrance.fr

What does the "national identification number" mean for a French organisation? Is it a tax number?

It is the number given to you in the legal registration document in one of the 38 eligible countries (+France). The format of the number differs from country to country. In France we call it SIRET/SIREN or association registration number. You must also send us the proof of legal registration on which we will find this number.

What number should be indicated on POPS? The SIRET/SIREN or the number allocated by the prefecture for recognition of status? We have indicated both numbers.

Use your SIRET/SIREN. However, depending on the country, you may need to enter another number. We will check this number by consulting the two supporting documents you give us (the official document giving you a registration number + the official articles of association filed with the prefecture).

As a partner organisation, do we need to have an account on POPS or is it only the lead organisation that submits the application?

Each organisation can have an account on POPS. However, the proposal must only be submitted through the account of the lead partner who will be submitting the application on behalf of the consortium.

If an organisation is planning to submit a proposal for several calls for proposals, do you consider this to be a single application or two separate applications?

One POPS application = one project proposal. Therefore, if you are submitting three projects, you will need to submit three separate applications. Please read carefully the section on the maximum number of proposals per applicant in the guidelines: a lead applicant organisation may only submit a maximum of 2 projects under a single call, and 3 projects in total under all L'Initiative's calls for proposals.

However, there is no limit on participation as an implementing partner or stakeholder.

OTHER QUESTIONS

My organization submitted letters of intent last year, which were rejected. There was no explanation in the notification. Is it possible to obtain information on this subject?

You can contact L'Initiative at the following address: aap.linitiative@expertisefrance.fr

Is it possible to access the consultations that have been selected in the 2024 call for proposals for VP?

You can access this list on L'Initiative's website.

We submitted a project last year and received notification of non-acceptance without receiving the reasons/reasons for refusal. Where can we find the reasons for refusal?

You can contact L'Initiative at the following address: aap.linitiative@expertisefrance.fr

L'INITIATIVE

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