

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Call for expressions of interest - Accelerating the response to malaria through community-based approaches

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Will we have access to the webinar recording?

The webinar is recorded in French and English. We will make these recordings available on the L'Initiative website.

2. Can you confirm the duration of the project to be presented?

24 to 48 months (2 to 4 years)

3. A promoter may submit 1 to 4 projects, each with a different partner?

YES, but this doesn't guarantee that it will be selected (and it doesn't necessarily increase the chances of having a project selected).

ELIGIBLE STRUCTURES

4. Did I understand correctly that the project owner can be a private company, such as a limited liability company? Yes, the project owner can be a private company, as long as no profit is made from the subsidy.

5. Are churches and charities eligible? Sierra Leone: consortium with other organizations?

Yes, churches and charities are eligible if they meet the eligibility criteria.

6. Organisations implementing the global fund project are allowed to apply ?

Yes Principal Recipients and Subrecipients of the GF are eligible

7. Is it possible to have a European institution as a partner, and what budgetary considerations and responsibilities need to be taken into account?

No, European institutions are not eligible as implementing partners for budget delegation.

8. Can a sponsor partner with a university academic institutions or gov entity's

Yes, any legally existing structure can be a partner in implementing the project.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

- 9. Could you come back to the question of registration at head office level (for example, an organization whose head office is in the UK or US but which has a representative office in one of the countries covered by the appeal may be eligible?**

For this CoEI, the project owner must be of French nationality, or from one of the 38 countries eligible for L'Initiative. This means that the promoter must have articles of association registered in that country, with a board of directors or executive board.

Antennas, representations and local offices, even if recognized and duly registered in one of the countries on the list, but emanating from an organization based in a non-eligible country (such as the UK, Switzerland or the USA), are not eligible as applicants; they are, however, eligible as implementing partners, but may only be delegated a maximum of 15% of the total budget of the grant applied for.

- 10. Can the project concern only one region of a country?**

Yes, the project can be limited to a single region in one of the 6 eligible countries.

- 11. Can a local organization in Sierra Leone with no headquarters in other countries apply?**

Yes

- 12. Can an organization operating in two countries apply for two countries?**

Yes, one project in 2 countries or 2 projects with 1 project per country

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 13. Is there a minimum number of partners?**

Yes, at least one partner is required.

- 14. If we haven't yet worked on the themathics included in the CoEI, can we still be eligible?**

Yes

- 15. Is a consortium compulsory, and what are the rules concerning partnerships and the nature of the carriers and implementing partners?**

Can an organization collaborate with several partners or themes in a single project?

Are local partners mandatory?

As indicated on page 5 of the call regulations, the proposed project must be implemented in partnership with :

- A project leader who will receive the grant, sign the contract and be accountable to Expertise France;

- One or more implementing partners, who will receive a budget delegation from the sponsor and will have a contractual relationship only with the sponsor;
- Stakeholders, who will not receive a budget delegation but may be closely involved in the implementation of certain activities. The sponsor must therefore have at least one implementing partner. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring that international project sponsors have a partner in the country of intervention.

The project sponsor and its partners may be healthcare structures, civil society organizations, ministries and associated programs, international or national NGOs, research institutes, universities or any other organization meeting the eligibility criteria. The nature of the project leader, implementing partner or stakeholder may vary: NGO, association, national program, private or public entity, etc.

The project owner must be of French nationality or from one of the 38 countries eligible for the Initiative; this means that the owner must have articles of association registered in that country, with a board of directors or management. There are no eligibility rules for partners. However, partners who are not based in France or in one of the 38 eligible countries must not manage a budget exceeding 15% of the total amount of the grant. French applicants must have (at least) one partner in the country of implementation.

16. Can an organization be in a consortium as a carrier on the one hand and SR on the other, with 2 different themes?

Yes carrier on one and partner on the other ok

17. In terms of geographical coverage, the project will only be implemented in DPSs not covered by the global fund, is that correct?

Not necessarily, you have to justify complementarity with the Global Fund. We can propose an area covered by the Global Fund.

18. Can a previous collaboration in a network be a justification?

Yes on border countries more logical, if not you need to add value on multi-country.

19. Is it compulsory to apply in partnership with an organization that has already received funding from the initiative?

No, it's not a criterion.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

20. Hello, could you specify the list of eligible costs for the CoEI of L'Accélérateur? This is not specified in the regulations. Is it the same list as the annual calls for proposals?

Yes, it's the same list as for the annual calls for proposals.

- 21. Administrative costs: 7% only for the main sponsor or also for the partners? Cost categories as listed in pg 2 of the CoEI; are these the only costs allowed? Management fees of max 7%?**

Administrative costs are capped at 7% of the total grant, to be shared between partners according to the project's set-up (there is no specific rule on this allocation).

- 22. We used the funds to build offices and facilities in the 2023 fiscal year. Can these funds count as part of the porter's budget?**

Total expenses for the previous year will be analyzed, depending on the previous year's financial report.

Only the total expenditure incurred in 2023, as mentioned in your 2023 financial report, is taken into account in the financial capacity calculation. If construction expenditure does appear in your 2023 financial report, then it will indeed be taken into account.

- 23. Will you finance several projects of 500,000 EUR per country? Will you finance several projects per country if they are of the size of 500,000 EUR max for example? Is the EUR 8,000,000 for the 6 countries?**

The amount between 500,000 EUR and 2,000,000 EUR has not been fixed per country; the 8 million is for the 6 countries, but not for each of them: the total envelope will be shared between the most relevant projects, with the aim of having at least one project per eligible country (Burundi, Guinea, Liberia, CAR, DRC, Sierra Leone). There is no minimum quota of projects per country, although ideally the Initiative team would like to be able to fund at least one project per country. It is not impossible for the CoEI to finance several projects of 500,000 EUR per country.

- 24. CoEI cost categories: are these the only categories? For example: travel, operating, supplies, HR etc.**

The CoEI budget framework is a simplified one, but you can add any categories you feel are relevant if necessary.

- 25. The 10% co-financing: is Global Fund financing excluded? can the CoEI benefit an implementing partner that is already a Global Fund recipient? can NGOs that are under-recipients of Global Fund financing apply for additional funding for malaria chemoprevention activities? otherwise, in Guinea, we still have areas that are eligible for CPS but are not covered due to lack of funding.**

Yes, Global Fund recipients are eligible, provided they meet the eligibility criteria, in particular that they are headquartered in an eligible country (France or one of the 38 eligible countries)

The 10% project co-financing may include FM funding. The CoEI can benefit an implementing partner that is already a recipient of the FM. However, care must be taken to ensure that the activities and funding are complementary and do not duplicate FM activities. This means that

the project must not finance activities, inputs, personnel or any other expenditure already financed by Global Fund grants in the country. These often include ARV treatment, for example, or seasonal chemo-prophylaxis, impregnated mosquito nets or the salaries of health workers, depending on the content of the Global Fund grant in the country concerned. This point is not, however, an eliminatory criterion, and the budget can be reviewed in Phase II if the project is selected. On the other hand, it would be interesting for projects to demonstrate their complementarity with Global Fund malaria grants.

26. Is there a budget allocation limit for implementing partners?

There is no limit to the budget delegation for an implementing partner in an CoEI-eligible country (list of 38 countries), however :

- the suitability of the partner and budget allocation will be examined by the evaluation committees;
- non-eligible implementing partners (based outside a country eligible for the Initiative) may receive no more than 15% of the project budget.

27. And if the result of the calculation, taking into account our 2023 expenses, exceeds 2 million?

There are no contraindications if you are over 2 million, and you can be a carrier or an implementation partner.

28. Can financial capacities be calculated for the entire consortium?

No, the analysis of financial capacity concerns only the project owner.

29. Can a project implemented with the EU be co-financed under this call for proposals?

Yes, the initiative's CoEI Malaria can co-finance another project. Please note that the funding request must represent 50% of the total project budget.

30. Appendix 2: You are asked to enter the forecast expenditure for 2024. Is this a mistake?

No, we're keeping 2024 for expenses. If you have your forecasts for 2025, please attach them.

31. Who validates the audit report?

Depending on the country, validated by the audit firm or by a higher authority that validates the audit, the donor or by the organization's director directly.

THEMATIC QUESTIONS

32. Will projects be implemented in rural or urban areas? Is it up to the main sponsor to propose the geographical area?

The main sponsor defines the geographical area of his/her choice. The relevance of this choice will be assessed, the aim being to maximize impact in the most appropriate area. If the project concerns a remote area, it is important to present a history of work or demonstrate a link with a local partner. This will ensure that the project is operationally feasible

The geographical relevance of the project must be justified, whether in a rural or urban setting. The community approach must be relevant.

33. Can a bidder propose a project on a single theme? For example, only on AIDS or malaria?

This CoEI focuses specifically on malaria, but other themes may also be included.

34. In Appendix 1, point 7 (Gender, diversity and inclusion approach), it is stated: "This approach should be reflected throughout the concept note. Do not write anything in this section." Does this mean that the concept note stops at point 6?

Yes, the gender, diversity and inclusion approach should be integrated into all the other parts of the concept note, without the need for a dedicated section under point 7.

35. What are the expectations for the environmental health approach? Should we adopt a *One Health* approach, or rather a pilot approach to part of the target? Gender and community health are mandatory. We recommend adopting an environmental health/one health approach on one part of the project (component/activity/pilot).

36. Should partners only work in the healthcare field?

It depends on the project, partners if justified can operate in other areas

37. A note by theme?

You can deal with one or more themes in 1 single project, as long as it's all about malaria.

38. Can we use an integrated approach and climate-sensitive actions?

Yes, there is a climate change and malaria issue.

SUBMISSION

- 39. Will the generic address be functional by 01/13 for deposits? If not, which address(es) should I use?**

antoine.pogorzelski@expertisefrance.fr ; sarah.marin@expertisefrance.fr ;
adeline.battier@expertisefrance.fr ; sarah.respaut@expertisefrance.fr

- 40. What is the maximum number of applications per organization? Can I apply as a sponsor for each of the 3 friends of the gas pedal?**

There is only 1 CoEI, the Call for Projects is another funding channel, there is no limit to the number of applications for this CoEI.

- 41. Administrative form, can we go beyond the required number of pages?**

You must respect the number of pages for the note, it must remain synthetic and develop the idea for reasons of fairness on the admin form, no page limit.

- 42. Is there a format for submitting the concept note in the first phase?**

Yes, the Initiative format must be followed when submitting the concept note.

- 43. Are there several submission dates for the concept note?**

No, the only date is January 13, 2025. This is different from the AAPs where several dates are proposed.

OTHER

- 44. An evaluation grid is provided; is it returned completed by you if the application is rejected?**

The evaluation grid and project selection criteria are provided for guidance in structuring the letter of intent.

Applications will first be examined according to administrative eligibility criteria (country and status of the applicant, country of implementation, amount requested...) and then by a technical evaluation committee comprising external and internal experts-es on the various themes covered, in addition to the L'Accélérateur team managing this call. The evaluation criteria are detailed on page 7 of the call regulations. Following the technical committee meeting, applicants will be informed whether their application has been shortlisted or rejected. Shortlisted applicants will be given recommendations for drafting their full project (phase II), and will be offered support.

- 45. I see an appendix 3 that I didn't see in the list of documents to download.**

There is no appendix 3 to complete.

- 46. What support should we expect from the Initiative to develop the complete project, if the Concept Note passes? Is expert assistance in drafting the project free of charge?**

If a note is selected on the basis of a particularly interesting strategy, but the drafting skills of the complete project are limited on certain subjects, technical assistance may be made available to support the drafting of the project. This can be requested at the time of submission.

The initiative can take charge of the drafting TA, which is a specific form of support depending on the initiator and his or her needs. It can be a technical TA to integrate lesser-known aspects into project development (gender, climate change/environment, etc.). The project idea must be developed by the promoter.

47. Can the initiative recommend an organization with a community impact project that doesn't meet all the criteria?

The promoter must be eligible, but the partners do not have to be.