

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Applications (RFA) Women Enterprise Recovery Fund:

Promoting and Upscaling Digital Solutions for Enhancing Women Enterprise Growth and Resilience
in Selected Countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam)

- This document intends to provide answers to potential applicants for recurring questions about this RFA.
- If your question is not included in this document, please email to rfa.ide.asia@uncdf.org

1. Who can apply under this request for applications (RFA)?

- The applicant must be a **registered** entity. Eligible applicants who can apply for the Innovation Fund include: mobile financial service providers, regulated Financial Institutions (Banks, Insurance, MFIs), regulated peer-to-peer lending providers, smart agriculture equipment providers, agricultural input suppliers/providers, agent banking aggregators, mobile network operators, technology providers, agricultural value chain companies, FMCG/ distributors/ wholesalers, and Fintech/Agritech/Insurtech companies and weather index-based crop insurance companies.
- The applicant can be based anywhere globally, but the project implementation and solution must target women enterprises in one or more of the target countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam).
- Joint applications between market players (including those examples of registered entities given above) in the target country or countries are encouraged if the solution proposed will expand delivery networks and promote rural and/or other last-mile access to market and financial services.
- Applications from consortiums of organizations must show that the partnership was established prior to this call for applications or due to this call for application with a letter of intent.
- If the applicant does not have regulatory approval to pilot the proposed solution in the target country or countries, then the applicant must partner with a regulated financial institution in the country/countries to deliver the solution.
- The lead applicant and their financial service provider partner must be registered entities with at least one year of operations and must have statutory accounts and audited financial statements for at least one operating year.
- Applicants must have an existing solution having tested a proof of concept that is ready to undergo pilot testing for a duration of 9 to 12 months.
- The solution proposed must be implementable in 2021 and 2022, with a project duration of between 9 and 12 months and ending by June 2022.

- Applicants must contribute at least 30 per cent of the project's cash costs (costs may include technical infrastructure, resources, and operations).
- Applicants shall not have been the subject of bankruptcy, liquidation, judicial settlement, safeguarding, cessation of activity or any other similar situation resulting from a similar procedure.
- Applicants and any of their staff or member of their board of directors shall not be included in the **United Nations financial sanctions lists**,¹ particularly in the fight against the financing of terrorism and against attacks on international peace and security.
- Applicants must not be involved in any of the following activities:²
 - Manufacture, sale or distribution of controversial weapons or their components, including cluster bombs, anti-personnel mines, and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons
 - Manufacture, sale or distribution of armaments and/or weapons or their components, including military supplies and equipment
 - Replica weapons marketed to children
 - Manufacture, sale or distribution of tobacco or tobacco products
 - Involvement in the manufacture, sale and distribution of pornography
 - Manufacture, sale or distribution of substances subject to international bans or phase-outs, and wildlife or products regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
 - Gambling, including casino operations, betting, and so on (excluding lotteries with charitable objectives)
 - Violation of human rights or complicity in human rights violations
 - Use or toleration of forced or compulsory labour
 - Use or toleration of child labour

2. When is the application due?

Applications must be submitted by 23:59 hours (EST, the New York time zone) on 15 February 2021.

¹ See: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/information>.

² See UNDP Policy on Due Diligence and Partnerships with the Private Sector (2013): https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/BERA_Partnerships_UNDP%20private%20sector%20due%20diligence%20policy%202013_FINAL.pdf&action=default

3. What languages should I use?

English.

4. How can I submit my RFA?

Applications must be submitted through the online form. Submissions via email will **not** be accepted.

- 5. With the online application form, an incomplete question blocks access to the next page. This means that I have no insight on whether any of these questions could be a deal breaker for my company and at which point down the line. Would it be possible to receive a document with all questions of the application?**

A PDF version of the online application can be downloaded from the UNCDF Website at <http://uncdf.live/werf>

Please note that UNCDF will only accept applications submitted through the online platform and the PDF document is only for information purposes.

6. Can I submit multiple applications?

You can submit multiple online applications (using different devices and/or email), as long as they relate to different projects/solutions. However, only one proposal per applicant will be selected.

7. Can I modify my application?

Yes, you can 'save' your application if you want to complete it in different stages while using the same device. However, it is not possible to amend your application after using 'submit'. Please prepare all the required answers and documents before submitting.

8. Does UNCDF provide any assistance in developing the concept note and proposal?

UNCDF will not provide any assistance to applicants in preparing proposals. In case of queries not addressed by these FAQs, and further clarifications on the RFA is required, please send an email to rfa.ide.asia@uncdf.org. Please mention in the email subject line – Query – RFA Women Enterprise Recovery Fund.

9. How will my application be evaluated?

The first round of application selection will be assessed by a panel of UNCDF and independent experts. The following dimensions will be considered in assessing both the proposal and the company:

- The stage of development of the proposed solution (e.g. if the proposed solution, product or service is ready to go to the market or already in the market)
- The relevance of the solution, to what extent does the product or service solution address the needs of women entrepreneurs?
- The additionality and value for money of the project (e.g. enabling new or innovative approaches to be piloted that would not normally be financed through commercial financing routes)

- The sustainability and scalability of the proposed solution. How sustainable is the solution for long-term growth? To what extent can the solution be scaled in the target country market?
- The potential impact of the solution on women MSMEs in the agricultural and FMCG sectors.
- The experience of the applicant in the proposed field. What is the team composition?
- Risk profile of proposed solution.

10. Can I apply alone or do I need partners?

Yes, an institution can apply alone, as long as it satisfies the requirements given in answer to question 1 above ('Who can apply under this request for applications?').

11. Can I apply in a consortium with other firms or start-ups?

Yes, an entity can apply as part of a consortium or joint venture. Joint applications are encouraged between target-country market players that expand delivery networks and promote digital solutions to support women MSMEs during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. All partnerships must have been established, however, prior to this call for applications. In addition to consortiums needing to demonstrate that pre-existence, we expect to see clear goals and division of roles in place.

12. When a consortium application has been selected, will the entire consortium sign the performance-based agreement?

If a consortium applies and is selected, only the lead applicant will be signing the performance-based agreement with UNCDF and will be considered accountable by UNCDF and responsible for the other partner members.

13. Can the lead applicant be from any country? Are there any restrictions on the country of intervention of a successful project?

Applicants can be based anywhere in the world, but the interventions should impact women-led micro and small enterprises from the following countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam.