Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do applicants need to apply for all four countries at once?
It is not necessary for applicants to apply for all four countries at once. IFAD is open to receiving proposals for one, two, three, or all four countries, provided that one design proposal and one budget proposal *for each country* are submitted.

2. If applicants propose working in fewer countries, is the funding ceiling reduced?
The grant resources are considered divided among all four countries. The precise grant allocation for all four countries combined is US$4,800,000.

3. What is the intended duration of the project?
The grant implementation period spans 3 years and must end on 31 December 2024.

4. Where can I find the Financial Management Self-Assessment Questionnaire (FMAQ)?
The webpage for the Call for Proposals has been updated and the FMAQ document is attached.

5. Do you have a preference for where hubs should be located? In other words, do you envision hubs being set up in specific locations in each country?
IFAD does not have any preference for where hubs will be located in each participating country.

6. Can the co-financing contribution of 8 per cent of the total proposal be considered in-kind, or should it be in cash?
The counterpart co-financing of 8 per cent will only be considered in cash.

7. How many people in each country will be directly targeted for outreach?
Each country is expected to have an average target of about 1,500 rural young people (70 per cent of whom will look for wage employment opportunities and 30 per cent self-employment opportunities).

8. How many people in each country will be indirectly targeted?
The indirect target outreach per country will occur through the enterprise development track (i.e., self-employment). We expect that enterprises headed by self-employed participants will stimulate demand for wage jobs as they grow, and that each enterprise will create a minimum of five wage jobs over the project duration. Assuming 1,800 enterprises per country, that works out to 2,250 jobs created per country, or 9,000 jobs total across all participating countries.

9. Is there a specific template for the brief institutional profile – especially for the sections regarding detailed experience in the priority area and the specific theme?
No, there is no set template; applicants are welcome to submit this in any format of their choosing.

10. Where can I find more information on financial expenditures?
The webpage has been updated with further guidance documentation on eligible financial expenditures.

11. Does IFAD expect a single hub per country or (preferably) multiple hubs per country?
The concept is to establish one or more hubs that build upon already existing entities (TVET centres, accelerators, training institutions, incubators, etc.). Each entity should have a physical site equipped with training facilities, have prior training experience, and meet certain basic criteria (please refer to the evaluation sheet and the recipient selection and capacity specifications).

We envisage one principal hub per country. In some instances, the principal hub may also be inter-connected to other secondary and tertiary entities that can be considered "satellite hubs". However, there should be only one principal hub. Grant resources should be channelled through the principal hub to satellite hubs as necessary.

12. What is the broader farming community?
The broader farming community represents a wide array of stakeholders and actors relevant to agribusiness, including representatives from a variety of state and non-state actors, along with the private sector. This typically includes policymakers, farmers' organizations, agribusiness firms, employers, public organizations, private investors, service providers, and cooperatives, among others.

13. Will monitoring and evaluation (M&E) be done through internal means, or should an external evaluator be engaged?
The bidder must undertake all M&E activities related to their operations. In terms of the larger programme, IFAD will engage its core technical team to conduct an impact assessment for all hubs, and will rely on the M&E data generated by bidders.

14. Can the funds for this open call be used to fund projects that build on existing IFAD-supported projects?
These funds cannot be used to build on existing IFAD-supported projects. However, the current "Rural youth employment opportunities" initiative links with and creates synergies and collaborations with existing IFAD-supported projects.

15. Can proposals be submitted in languages other than English?
All applications are expected to be submitted in English only.

16. If an applicant submits proposals for more than one country, are the proposals evaluated together or separately?
The evaluation will be done per country and all materials for each country will be assessed separately.

17. If an applicant submits proposals for more than one country and is successful, would there be one grant award for multiple countries, or separate grants for each?
In this case, there will be one grant award for multiple countries.

18. Can applicants submit a separate budget narrative document?
Applicants can submit a separate budget narrative in addition to the budget template provided.