

SDC call for proposals: Questions and answers (questions sent by Tuesday 1.5.2018, 16.00)

Call	Question	Answer
General ¹ Applicants, which already receive a programme contribution from the SDC, through the Institutional Partnership Division, will not be eligible for proposing a project.	Is the Institutional Partnership Division a funding mechanism only Swiss agencies are eligible for, and therefore non-Swiss INGOs do not need to be concerned about this condition?	Non-Swiss NGOs cannot receive a programme contribution through the Institutional Partnership Division. Non-Swiss NGOs are eligible for proposing a project.
	Would FAO be eligible for this call or not?	FAO is eligible for proposing a project.
	Can organizations which receive a programme contribution from the SDC qualify as subcontractor of an eligible consortium/organization for the call?	Yes, in principle. However, they have to make sure that no double financing is occurring. The organization has to confirm that its contribution to this project is not financed by the programme contribution or by any other contribution from the Swiss Government. This will have to be certified through the ordinary external audit.
	Can an organization which already receives a programme contribution from the SDC through the institutional partnerships division, be a co-applicant (i.e. not the lead organisations or main applicant) or can such an organisation be sub-contracted ?	Not as a co-applicant, but as sub-contractor (see previous answer).
	Given the eligibility criteria under 2.1., are Swiss NGOs (with contributions through IP) eligible as co-applicant, as consortium members or as sub-contractors ?	No as a co-applicant. Yes as consortium member if not in a lead position. For sub-contractors see previous answer.
	Can organisations which receive a programme contribution from the SDC qualify as consortium member / co-applicant, partnering with an eligible main applicant for the call?	
	Are applicants that receive IP contribution still allowed to participate in a project proposal either a) as project partner (of the project applicant), or b) sub-contractor to the project applicant to implement specific components of the proposal? If question 1 is answered with yes: could you please clarify whether one and the same NGO can be listed as partner or subcontractor in various project proposals (submitted by different applicants)?	Yes, in principle if the applicant as a project partner is not in a lead position. However, they have to make sure that no double financing is occurring. The organization has to confirm that its contribution to this project is not financed by the programme contribution or by any other contribution from the Swiss Government. This will have to be certified through the ordinary external audit. There is no limit in the number of project proposals an NGO can be involved in.
General	Are overhead costs eligible for funding under this call? If so, what is the percentage allowed?	Overhead costs are allowed if it is the general policy of the applicant. The items covered by the overhead costs should be listed.

¹ General = Question raised for both calls

General	What are the specific costs that can be included in the category “Other costs?”	It is up to the applicant to present a coherent and realistic budget to deliver the anticipated results. There is no specific definition or limitation of costs that can be included in “other costs”. The items covered under “other costs” should be listed.
General	Is there a limit to the number of proposals submitted by each organization?	No, there is no limit.
General	Please confirm what file format the proposal should be submitted in.	There is no specific file format for the technical and financial proposals. Word, Excel or PDF are preferred.
General	Is there a specific format you have for us to use when submitting the concept note? Or is it sufficient to use a Word document covering all the points mentioned under 3.1 “Documents to be submitted”? For the budget the same; do you have a format to be used?	There is no specific file format for the technical and financial proposals. Word, Excel or PDF are preferred. The submission should include all documents listed under 3.1.
General	Are there any SDC Budget and Proposal templates that should be used, or can the organization use its own templates?	There are no specific templates for the technical and financial proposals. The applicant can use its own templates.
General	Please provide more information about the "Acceptance GCB" annex - is there a template for this?	There is no template for the “Acceptance of GCB”. The signed document to be submitted should specify that the applicant accepts without reservation the relevant standard contract: Federal contribution for project and General conditions for contracts concerning federal contributions for projects; or Contribution outside Switzerland, These documents can be found on the webpage: https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security
General	Is it compulsory to collaborate with Swiss Institution or an institution located outside of Switzerland can apply alone no problem.	No, it is not compulsory to collaborate with any Swiss institution.
SWM ²	Co-funding requirements: Could you please provide more specific information?	There are no special requirements. The co-financing could be covered by matching funds, by projects, by private sector contributions, by other donors and by own budget. The presented budget shall show all costs and all sources of finance.
SWM	Co-financing requirement: Would resources leveraged in-kind from existing programs be eligible as co-finance?	In-kind contributions have to be well documented and realistically valued. Co-financing can be covered by other non-SDC funded projects/programmes.
SWM	Is there a list of all eligible countries? Is South Africa specifically eligible?	No, there is no list of eligible countries. The focus of the SWM call for proposals is on Africa. The proposal can address all African countries, including South Africa. The proposal has to demonstrate that it is relevant at local level and have a clear link to policy frameworks or standard setting activities at various levels, including at

² SWM = Question raised in relation to the Sustainable Water Management for Food Security and Nutrition in Agriculture and Food Systems call for proposals

		global level. Multi-country proposals are preferred. Single country proposals might face the difficulty to have a clear link to policy frameworks or standard setting activities at global level.
SWM	The projects should focus in Africa, do you have priority areas in Africa? We are thinking to send an application for Malawi.	The focus of the SWM call for proposals is on Africa. There are no priority areas/countries the proposals should address. The proposal can address all African countries, including Malawi. The proposal has to demonstrate that it is relevant at local level and have a clear link to policy frameworks or standard setting activities at various levels, including at global level. Multi-country proposals are preferred. Single country proposals might face the difficulty to have a clear link to policy frameworks or standard setting activities at global level.
SWM	Nous voulons juste savoir l'éligibilité de Eau Vive, représentation du Sénégal à l'appel à projets car, notre représentation au Burkina a déjà bénéficié d'un projet de la DDC-Burkina dénommé « Démarche Valorisation des Compétences – Phase 2 / DBVAC – 2 » dont la mise en œuvre a été faite de 2013 à 2017.	Any consortium, including different stakeholder groups, can participate in the call. Eau Vive, as part of a consortium is eligible.
CRFS ³	Are there any specific African countries – or is it all of Africa -- for the opportunities that SDC released last week on city regions and food security.	No there is no specific country.
CRFS	Is Bolivia an eligible country for this project?	Yes
CRFS	Is this call applicable for Kenya?	Yes
CRFS	The call states under 1.3 'According to SDC's position paper on Rural-Urban link, this project should focus on small and middle-sized towns (market towns) in developing countries (LDC)...' Could you kindly clarify whether the call exclusively focusses on least developed countries OR whether proposals may include other low income countries as well as lower and upper middle income countries?	The focus on LDC is preferred but other countries could also be part of a regional or multi-country initiative.
CRFS	Is the focus limited only to countries currently listed in the official UN list of LDC? Should we consider as not included in the geographic focus of the call, the following countries: Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran?	The focus on LDC is preferred but other countries could also be part of a regional or multi-country initiative.
CRFS	Do do you fund one project only for this announcement?	Yes

³ CRFS = Question raised in relation to the City Region Food System call for proposals

CRFS	In the case of the City regions food systems call, in section 2.5 Co-funding, it is not completely clear if after the two initial years where in-kind contribution only is accepted, cash contributions will be mandatory during the remaining two years. Could you please clarify?	This project is conceived as a contribution to the realization of an innovative project and is not a mandate that SDC is tendering out. As such a co-contribution is requested (20-50%). For the first two years it can be an in-kind contribution only. After this period, SDC is expected to see partners interested in this innovative idea and start to progressively co-finance it further development and scaling out.
CRFS	Is co-funding from other SDC funded projects which have a strong linkage with City Region Food Systems eligible?	To avoid double funding and duplications, it is not accepted.
CRFS	Is co-funding from the Private Sector also eligible?	Yes
CRFS	What is the “applicant and contact partner” mentioned in section. 3.2? We assume that this means the lead institution, right?	Yes, one institution has to take the lead and will be the contracting partner for SDC.