

GSMA Disaster Response Innovation Fund – Round 1 – Frequently Asked Questions

For information only
Apply online at www.gsma.com/drinnovationfund

Concept Note applications

- 1. Is a Concept Note template available?** No. Please apply online (<https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/programmes/disaster-response/innovation-fund>) by clicking the "Apply Now" button. Concept Notes can only be submitted online will not be accepted in any other format (i.e. email, PDF attachments). Please note that you can open/start the online application form and return to it at a later point.
- 2. What information and level of detail is required in the Concept Note application?** For details of what is required in the application, please see the Concept Note application form and term sheet online (<https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/programmes/disaster-response/innovation-fund>). Please note that you can open/start the online application form and return to it at a later point.
- 3. Can Concept Notes be submitted in a language other than English?** No, concept notes must be submitted in English.
- 4. Can an applicant organisation submit more than one Concept Note?** There is no limit on the number of Concept Notes that can be submitted by an organisation. However, each application should be independent, in that it should not be dependent on the success of another Concept Note, and should present a different project concept.
- 5. How flexible are the application deadlines?** Deadlines are final, with no exceptions possible. For more information about application dates, please see sections 5 and 13 of the term sheet.

Eligibility

- 6. Do applicants need to have a partnership in place to be eligible for funding, or can a single organisation apply for funding?** Please see sections 1 and 10 of the term sheet. For a Concept Note to be eligible it must come from a collaboration comprising of two or more organisations from the following list: MNOs, NGOs, humanitarian agencies, private sector partners, and/or national emergency/environmental bodies. These organisations should be identified in the Concept Note, with supporting documentation required upon proposal submission to support the validity of the collaboration.
- 7. What content/format do you expect for a Memorandum of Understanding / Letter of Intent?** Please see the guidance in the term sheet section 10. For Market Validation projects, applicants must provide evidence of an established collaboration (signed memorandum of understanding between all parties). For Seed projects, applicants must provide a signed letter of intent (on company letterhead) from the listed partner organisation(s) that prove their interest in working together on the proposed project. Organisations should use their own templates for this documentation. Documentation must be signed by all parties listed in the application.
- 8. Can an individual employee apply for funding?** The GSMA can only provide funding to an organisation. Individuals are not eligible to apply.
- 9. Can a consortium of organisations apply for funding?** Please see sections 1 and 10 of the term sheet. For an application to be eligible it must come from a collaboration comprising of two or more organisations from the following list: MNOs, NGOs, humanitarian agencies, private sector partners, and/or national emergency/environmental bodies. In the case of consortiums, the application would need to outline which consortium member will take the lead role during the project.

10. **Can an application include multiple country offices within the same organisation, or Operating Companies within the same Group?** An application can include multiple branches/offices within the same organisation. However, the collaboration must include two or more different organisations from the following list: MNOs, NGOs, humanitarian agencies, private sector partners, and/or national emergency/environmental bodies. Multiple branches/offices of the same organisation will be considered as part of the same organisation, and so the application would require one or more additional organisation(s) to be eligible.
11. **Can a community-based organisation apply for funding?** For an application to be eligible it must come from a collaboration comprising of two or more organisations from the following list: MNOs, NGOs, humanitarian agencies, private sector partners, and/or national emergency/environmental bodies. If the community-based organisation does not have official registered NGO status, the application would need to include at least two other partners from the above list to be eligible. If the organisation does have registered NGO status, then the application would require a minimum of one further collaborating organisation to be eligible.
12. **Can a United Nations (UN) organisation apply for funding?** Yes, a UN organisation could be one of the organisations within the collaboration (either lead applicant or co-applicant).
13. **Which countries are eligible for funding?** All eligibility criteria are outlined in Section 10 of the term sheet. Projects can be implemented in countries within the following regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, Latin America.
14. **Can a project be implemented in a country or region other than the eligible regions listed in the term sheet?** Primary impact of the product or service must be delivered within one or more of the eligible regions. Impact could also be delivered in an ineligible region (i.e. North America, Europe), but this must not be the main aim of the project.
15. **Does funding need to support a specific project or can it go towards the development of a technology or partnership needed for various contexts?** Grant funding can be used for projects that are applicable across different countries/regions/contexts. However, the application must demonstrate how the project will be implemented and have impact in at least one specific country/context.
16. **Are projects which focus on mobile money/humanitarian cash transfers eligible?** Projects focusing on mobile money/humanitarian cash transfers are not eligible for this Round of funding. Mobile money may feature as an enabler for the project, but this should not be the main focus or outcome of the project. Please see the Fund infographic for examples of eligible projects.
17. **Can applications include an additional focus area (i.e. agriculture, health, water and sanitation, education)?** It is acceptable for an application to have an additional focus area, in addition to those listed in the term sheet (see section 3 and the infographic online), however it must be rooted in the Fund's Round 1 focus area.
18. **Will you provide funding to NGOs working on education, youth and gender issues?** Applications must be aligned with the Focus area outlined in the term sheet (section 3) and infographic.
19. **Can products/services be focused on reducing risk or building resilience (before a disaster occurs)?** Yes, the Fund is open to applications for innovative solutions that leverage mobile technologies to "save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for when such situations occur." Funding must support an innovative use of mobile technology and cannot be used to support "business as usual" activities.
20. **Can funding be used to extend network coverage in disaster prone areas?** Please refer to the term sheet. The Fund is open to applications for innovative solutions that leverage mobile technologies to "save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for when such situations

occur." Funding must support an innovative use of mobile technology and cannot be used to support "business as usual" activities, such as network roll-out, unless this is being done through innovative methods with measurable humanitarian impact

21. **What is the minimum level of development to be eligible for Seed funding (i.e. can Seed funding cover projects that would involve some technical development work prior to trialling)?** The Fund defines 'new products or services' as those where the product/service has sufficient features that are ready for testing in the field with users. Minimal technical development work could be done during the testing process.

Contracts and Grant Funding

22. **Which organisation within an applicant collaboration is responsible for legal matters?** The lead applicant (i.e. the organisation that will sign a grant contract with the GSMA and to whom the funds will be transferred) will be responsible for legal matters.
23. **Please clarify the match funding requirements (for example, do the match funds need to come during the term of the grant, or can historic funds be used)?** Please refer to section 9 of the term sheet. Matching cash funds can come from outside of the grant period as long as the applicant(s) can prove they have access to it during the project period (i.e. a loan letter and/or grant agreement with specified dates, etc.). Time and material in-kind contributions must take place during the grant period. Assets such as patents, land, etc. must be accompanied by a third party evaluation.
24. **Are standard DFID NPAC (Non-Project Attributable Cost) allowed?** Indirect or other overhead costs can be included; however, they must be clearly defined in the budget and need to be directly tied to the proposed project. These costs should account for less than 10% of the requested funds.
25. **Does the grant have a Payment-By-Results condition attached to it (i.e. will there be penalties for not achieving outputs and rewards for overachievement)?** Funding will be disbursed based on milestone achievements, which will be set at contracting stage. There is no additional payment available for overachievement. In the event of a delayed milestone, payment will be withheld until the milestone has been achieved.