



Innovation Fund for Assistive Tech



Agenda for today's webcast

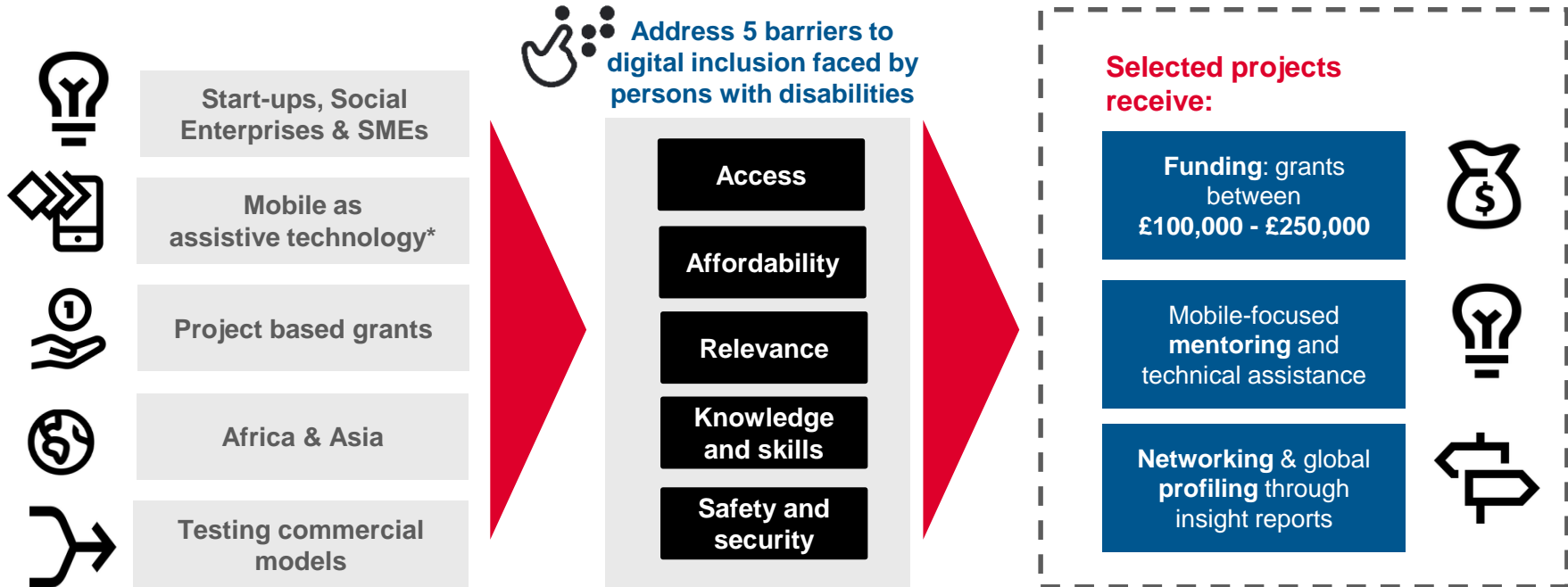


- GSMA Innovation Fund for Assistive Tech: objectives and scope
- Funding and other support available
- Addressing barriers to digital inclusion
- Eligibility criteria for applicants
- Application process, including key dates and resources
- Q&A – *please type questions into the chat box*



GSMA Innovation Fund for Assistive Tech

Est. 8 – 12 projects will be selected by an independent fund panel



* The application of mobile, where products or services support or improve an individual's functioning, independence and well being.

GSMA Innovation Fund for Assistive Tech fund is funded by **UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)** and run by GSMA's Innovation Fund Team (a central M4D funding unit).

Selected projects receive:

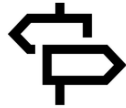
Funding: grants
between
£100,000 - £250,000



Mobile-focused
mentoring and
technical assistance



Networking & global
profiling through insight
reports



- The funding should be **used for a specific project** e.g. scaling up an existing product or service or replicating to a new market.
- The amount can be between **£100,000 and £250,000**.
- The **funding will be milestone-based** (i.e. incremental fund payments will be dependent on the start-up delivering proof that mutually-agreed targets have been completed/achieved).
- The duration of the project can be between **15 and 18 months**.

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Mobile-focused mentoring and technical assistance



Networking & global profiling through insight reports



- Mentoring on the use of mobile technology including **expert advice and bringing organisations** together to share **relevant insights**, and best practice on how to overcome the barriers preventing the digital inclusion of people with disabilities (“Bootcamp”).
- **Learning exchange opportunities** with other grantees and networking opportunities with Assistive Tech’s networks.
- **Profiling of projects at key events** and across GSMA’s platforms.
- **Monitoring and evaluation support** to evidence socio-economic impact and promote product improvement.





Project: Geography & Focus

Supports innovative **start-ups**, **small to medium enterprises**, or **social enterprises**. Projects are implemented in the lower and middle income (classified by the [OECD DAC](#)) countries in the following regions:

Africa and South Asia*

*Preference will be given to lower- and middle-income countries in South Asia but high quality proposals will be considered from across Asia

The grant projects must seek to:

- **Test innovations** which increase digital inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Develop approaches or business models that can be **scaled or replicated in similar** markets.
- Generate data and learnings to **demonstrate commercially sustainable** models

Applicants must **proactively demonstrate their solution reaches people with disabilities and** tackles the barriers to digital inclusion.

Access

Affordability

Relevance

Knowledge and skills

Safety and security



Five barriers to drive the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities:

Access

Increasing accessibility and usability of mobile technology to increase access to services for people with disabilities.

Affordability

Improving the affordability of handsets or mobile phones and usage fees for people with disabilities.

Relevance

Ensuring availability of content, products and services that are relevant to, and meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Knowledge and skills

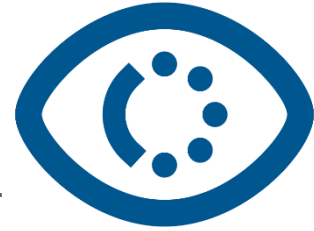
Providing people with disabilities with the knowledge and skills required to access and use mobile services, as well as increasing awareness and understanding of the benefits of mobile technology.

Safety and security

Addressing harassment, theft, fraud and security concerns of people with disabilities who want to use mobile services and/or building trust in these services.



Grant Funding & Matching Contributions*



Matching contribution demonstrates interest and trust from the wider investor community.

- If applicants request a grant amount between **£100,000** to **£150,000**
 - **25%** of the grant requested is required.
 - For instance, if an applicant requests £100,000, a contribution of at least £25,000 from other sources is required.
- Requesting an amount between **£150,001** to **£250,000**
 - **50%** of the grant requested is required.
 - For instance, if an applicant requests £200,000, a contribution of at least £100,000 from other sources is required.

*Matching *must* be used towards the proposed project and spent in full across the **15 to 18 month project cycle**. Matching contributions can be made 'in cash' and/or 'in kind' where approved by the Fund.



Applicant Organisation: Eligibility Criteria



- Organisations should have **active users and revenue** in at least one eligible low- or middle-income market
- Social enterprises registered as not for profit legal entities that can demonstrate that a majority of their **income is derived from commercial activities** will be considered eligible.
- Entities such as **tech hubs, incubators and accelerators are NOT eligible** to apply to the Fund. NGOs are **NOT** eligible to apply. Applicants cannot apply as a **consortium**.



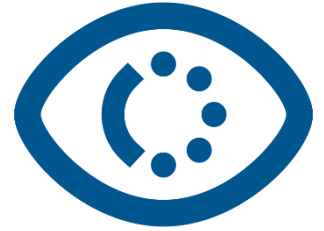
Applicant Organisation: Eligibility Criteria



- Be fully **compliant with relevant business licensing, taxation, employee and other regulations** in all applicable countries of grant project operation.
- Be registered and have a **bank account in the country** where they will receive the grant money (if not the same as the project implementation country).
- Be **compliant** with fundamental [Human Rights Laws, the UK Modern Slavery Act and Gender Equality Act, Child Protection Policies](#).
- Be compliant with GSMA **Safeguarding Policy (on Children and Vulnerable Adults)** and any other **relevant disability laws** in all implementation markets.
- Be able to demonstrate adherence with [EU General Data Protection Regulation](#) on **data and privacy** (GDPR).



Applicant Organisation: What else?

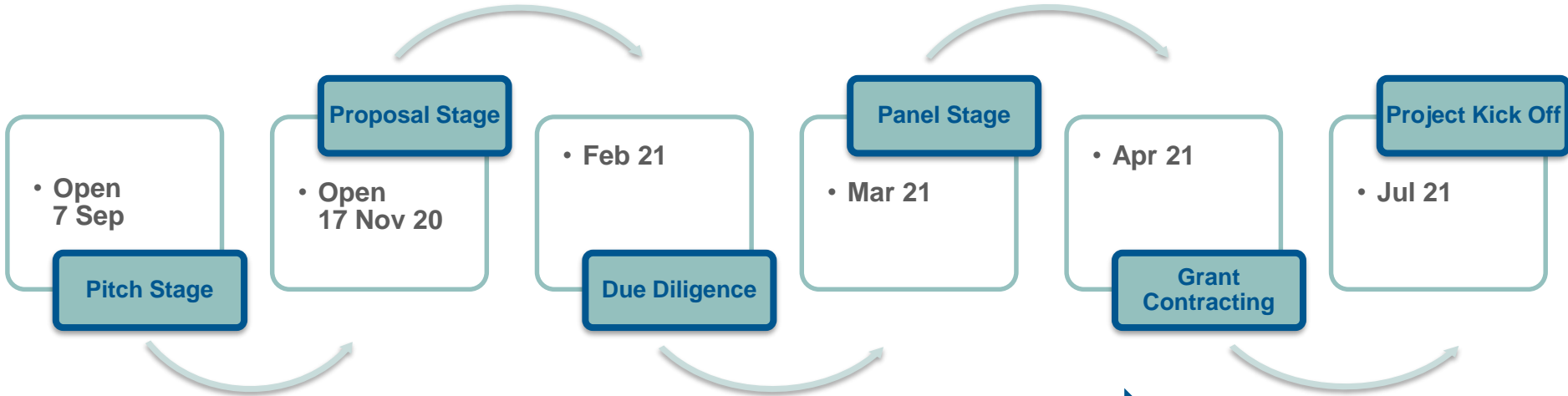


We particularly encourage the following to apply:

- Applicants must **proactively demonstrate their solution reaches persons with disabilities as a priority** and/or have solutions that disproportionately and actively reach more persons with disabilities as users.
- **Entrepreneurs with disabilities**, and applicants with good representation of people with disabilities at all levels of the organisation. Project must focus on people with disabilities.
- **Local entrepreneurs**, where innovators have localised or first hand experience of the problem they are trying to solve and are represented at all levels of the organisation.
- Female founders, and applicants with **good representation of women at all levels** of the organisation. Projects where approaches have been developed to reach female users also encouraged.



Innovation Fund Process



Apply to the Fund by:

11.59pm GMT+1
16 October 2020

Independent Fund panel selects est. 8-12 Grants

Reach over **1 million** citizens with life enhancing products and services by 2023



Gsma.com/ATInnovationFund

Deadline - 16 Oct 2020. **Good Luck!**

Resources:

- **Terms and Conditions** sets out all eligibility
- **Assistance** or request for **accessibility features** (GSMAIF@gsma.com)
- **Innovation Fund [Video](#)**
- **Downloadable Pitch** stage questions (see website)
- **[Frequently Asked Questions](#)** (FAQs)
- **Demo:** Application Portal (see website)
- **Webcast sessions:**
 - **[Wednesday 16th September 9.30](#) GMT+1 (UK time)**
 - **[Thursday 17th September 16.30](#) GMT+1 (UK time)**



This initiative is currently funded by the **UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)**, and supported by the GSMA and its members.