

UK Aid Connect: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the timeline for the submission of proposals so short?

DFID has listened to concerns about the short timeframe and has extended the deadlines for submission of proposals by 5 weeks. The revised closing dates are as follows:

- *Phase 1: 23:59 on 15th September 2017*
- *Phase 2: 23:59 on 20th October 2017*

2. How do you expect partners to come together in a consortium and submit a programme design within such a tight deadline?

We do not expect consortia to submit proposals with a fully designed programme.

A strong proposal will demonstrate quality ideas that are directly relevant to addressing the development problem set out in the terms of reference and will answer the question of why the problem is best answered by your consortium. It will also articulate how the ideas will bring about lasting change in innovative ways. The ambition of those ideas is more critical to selection than very specific programme detail.

If a consortium is successful, and following the award of a grant, DFID policy teams will work alongside the consortia to further develop the programme design during a six-nine month co-creation phase.

3. What is the proposed level of funding?

We anticipate that grant awards will be for circa £3m per year up to four years. The exception to this is Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, where the funding levels will be circa £9m per year up to four years, following on from a commitment made at the Family Planning Summit on 11 July.

4. Will DFID be running further funding windows?

It is too early to say. This will be subject to the allocation of funds during phases 1 and 2 and the potential availability of funds next year.

5. Are non-UK based organizations eligible to apply to UK Aid Connect?

Yes. The only pre-requisite is that the consortium must nominate one lead organisation who will be the grant-holder to DFID. The consortium lead must be a registered non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation which supports the delivery of poverty reduction.

6. Can my organization lead or be part of one or more consortium?

Yes.

7. Can a UN Agency be nominated to lead a consortium?

No. UK Aid Connect is specifically set up for the award of accountable grants. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) arrangement with the UN or any other multilateral agency would not fall in line with the principles of UK Aid Connect.

However, DFID strongly encourages agencies who fall into this category to join a consortium and put in place a separate arrangement with the consortium-lead.

8. Can a private sector organization be nominated to lead a consortium?

No. UK Aid Connect is specifically set up for the award of accountable grants to non-governmental, not-for-profit organisations. However, DFID strongly encourages private sector partners to join a consortium and put in place a separate arrangement with the consortium-lead.

9. Is it mandatory that my organization needs to be based in the DFID priority countries?

UK Aid Connect grants will be awarded to consortia for work in or for the benefit of people in countries ranked in the bottom 50 countries in the Human Development Index and/or those on DFID's fragile states list. The Consortia do not need to be based there.

10. India was previously on the list of eligible countries but does not appear on the lists featured in the terms of reference. What is this status of India?

India appeared on the eligible countries list on the UK Aid Connect website in error and has been removed from the list. It is not an eligible country.

11. In respect to preparing our budgets, can DFID clarify what core staff costs are eligible?

Eligible staff costs include all costs associated with staff either working directly on the delivery of the intervention or indirectly e.g. a percentage of costs of HQ staff costs (HR, finance etc). It does not cover the costs of staff not involved with supporting or directly delivering the programme

12. What happens if my organisation is unable to attend the thematic dialogue discussions hosted by DFID during the w/c 24 July?

DFID will upload the presentations, summary of the discussions and list of attendees on [UK Aid Connect - GOV.UK](#) after each event.

Your organisation can also send questions or seek clarifications by emailing the UK Aid Connect Team on UKAidConnect@dfid.gov.uk

13. Can I join the thematic dialogue meetings remotely e.g. by dialling in or on a live stream?

DFID is unable to provide this facility for the events. However, the presentations, summary of the discussions and list of attendees will be uploaded on [UK Aid Connect - GOV.UK](#) after each event.

Your organisation can also send questions or seek clarifications by emailing the UK Aid Connect Team on UKAidConnect@dfid.gov.uk