

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Request for Applications Women Enterprise Impact Investment Fund: Partnering to Unlock Investment Capital for Women Enterprises Deadline to submit applications: **4 October 2019, 23:59 ICT**

Question: I am a private sector institution, am I eligible to submit an application?

Answer: This application requests for the lead partner (meaning the institution in which ESCAP would sign the grant agreement), to be a not-for-profit institution, UN agency, government or multilateral institution. This is due to ESCAP's partnership rules and procedures. However, if a for-profit institution would like to partner with a not-for-profit institution who is applying as the lead applicant, **this is acceptable**. Therefore, private sector institutions who are interested in this project, are encouraged to seek partnership with not-for-profit institution which are applying as the lead institution in the application.

Question: I am interested in setting up an Impact Fund in countries other than Fiji, Samoa, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia or Viet Nam, am I still eligible to apply?

Answer: As mentioned on page 4 (Section 4.4) of the [Guidance Note](#), the priority target countries are: Fiji, Samoa, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia and Viet Nam. These countries are prioritized in the evaluation scoring criteria of the applications. However, additional countries which can be considered include: Vanuatu, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Lao PDR and Myanmar. Though not preferred, the applicants can also suggest other countries as part of their investment coverage, apart from the above countries mentioned, but limited to the Asia-Pacific region. The applicant must provide a clear rationale for the countries selected.

Question: My organization is an NGO which support women enterprises in building their livelihoods by offering training and other support services, is my institution eligible?

Answer: ESCAP's objective of this Request for Applications is to partner with Impact Funds who will provide investment capital (equity, loan or guarantee financing) to women enterprises. It is expected that the partner will be able to provide or raise the investment capital required, while the grant funds under this project will support operational development/expansion costs, legal fees, identification/building an investor network, market research, identification of investable women enterprises, portfolio management, capacity building, and monitoring of impact.

Therefore, based on the organization description, the organization and its objectives **do not** match the criteria set out in the Request for Applications.