
Leave No Girl Behind FAQs

Issue 6: 22 December 2016

The FAQ document will be updated regularly based on queries received from applicants. Any new information within the latest version of the FAQ document will be **highlighted in red text**.

NOTE: If your query has not been included in this iteration of the document, please do not worry as the query is currently being discussed with DFID and will be responded to in subsequent versions of this document.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR LNGB Concept Notes has been extended by a week to 5.00 PM (GMT) on Tuesday 27 December 2016. We will be unable to respond to any clarification questions submitted after 19 December 2016 – please send any outstanding queries before 19 December 2016.

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Eligible countries

Which countries are eligible for funding through the LNGB window?

Projects can be implemented in any country where DFID has a presence. If you are unsure as to whether your selected country is an eligible country, please refer in the first instance to the DFID website for up to date information

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about>).

In addition, here is an updated list of eligibility status for countries that were queried through the clarification query form:

NOTE: We are still in the process of getting confirmation for other countries in question and will continue to update this list.

Please note that Lebanon is not an eligible country for LNGB purposes. Apologies for the former guidance which indicated that this was the case.

Country in question	Eligibility status
Afghanistan	Yes
Angola	No
Bangladesh	Yes
Benin	No
Bolivia	No
Botswana	No
Burkina Faso	No
Burundi	No
Cambodia	No
Cameroon	No
Central African Republic	No
Chad	No
China	No
Democratic Republic of Congo	Yes

Dominican Republic	No
Eritrea	Yes
Fiji	No
Guatemala	No
Guinea	No
Guyana	No
Haiti	No
Honduras	No
India	Yes – however LNGB projects should align with the UK Government’s strategies on skills.
Iran	No
Iraq	Yes
Jamaica	No
Jordan	Yes
Laos	No
Lebanon	No
Lesotho	No
Libya	Yes
Madagascar	No
Mali	No
Mauritania	No
Myanmar	Yes
Nicaragua	No
Niger	No
Pakistan	Yes
Palestine (Occupied Palestinian Territories)	Yes
Somalia	Yes
South Africa	Yes

South Sudan	Yes
Sri Lanka	No
Sudan	Yes
Syria	Yes
Timor Leste	No
Turkey	No
Uganda	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Zambia	Yes
Zimbabwe	Yes

General

Can we build partnerships across regions and sub-regions?

Partnerships can be built across regions and/or sub-regions where appropriate. Applicants will need to clearly articulate how these partners will work together to deliver the objectives of the LNGB programme.

For question 7b) - selection of one out of the three options for literacy, numeracy and life-skills - do we pick our primary focus?

Apologies for the difficulty with selecting multiple options for the question around this question (7b) and impact (7a).

Please select your primary focus for each and embed the additional skills and impact relevant to your project in your longer answers, or use the last question box that asks for any information you think may be relevant that hasn't been included.

At a recent LNGB workshop, it was advised that business as usual ideas such as construction/ renovation of classrooms, teacher training and/ or providing school materials should not be the 'go to' solutions. However, the previous GEC projects have generated a lot of evidence about approaches that have been proven to work. Are projects expected to strike a balance between interventions that have been proven to work, and interventions which are new and innovative?

Yes, for this funding window we need to understand why these target beneficiaries are not in school and/or have been left behind and address these barriers. This could include, using a proven intervention where applicants will need to address why the intervention has not been successful in reaching target beneficiaries before and how the project proposes

to reach them. It could also include using innovative new solutions for these target beneficiaries.

What is the agreement mechanism for the LNGB funding window? Will this be a grant or a contract?

The standard mechanism will be an Accountable Grant Agreement (AGA).

Point 8 from the Guidance for applicants specifies that the organisations will be appointed as grantees. Under the same point (different bullet) but also under few other points in the document the applicants are made aware that will be required to accept DFID standard T&Cs (the only ones published on DFID website are for contract for services). Can the Fund Manager clarify which T&Cs and what type of agreement successful applicants will sign with DFID?

This is still being finalised but the agreement mechanism will be an Accountable Grant Agreement (AGA) which contains standard DFID contractual arrangements and terms.

Page 12 of the Guidance Document, it is noted under technical criteria, proposed project team tracked record & capacity section that applicants should showcase strong and relevant experience of the proposed team and organisation. Could you please elaborate on the project team to be addressed in that matter? Does the team refer to a team of experts to be recruited for the implementation of the Project?

The project team refers to the individuals within the organisation or consortium that will be implementing the proposed project. These individuals could already be in-house or will be recruited as part of the proposal.

Do we need a MoU with government at Concept Note stage?

No - not specifically at the Concept Note stage however organisations are encouraged to demonstrate that national government partners been consulted at this stage. We encourage projects to be aligned with existing in-country activities (government or other donor activities) and government engagement would be assessed as part of the Full Proposal stage.

Can you provide the guidance documents in any other languages and projects complete the application form in their mother-tongue?

Unfortunately, we cannot provide the guidance notes in any language other than English at this stage. We will also only be reviewing application forms that are completed in English. If you envisage serious difficulties with this, please get in touch through the GEC mailbox ahead of submitting your application: girlseducationchallenge@uk.pwc.com

Will you be providing any guidance on how to answer the Concept Note application form questions?

There are no specific guidelines on how to write an answer to each question, but there are guidelines as to the nature of the LNGB window, our key terminology and expectations of projects. These can be found on the application portal itself and on the DFID webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/girls-education-challenge>.

With regards to previous DFID experience, how many examples should be provided, and going back how far? Should this include current projects?

We encourage applicants to provide details of most relevant DFID experience (including current experience) and would encourage applicants to review the evaluation criteria when answering the question.

In terms of previous education projects involving adolescent girls, does this question refer only to DFID-funded projects? Could current projects also be included here?

We encourage applicants to provide details of most relevant experience (including non-DFID experience) and would encourage applicants to review the evaluation criteria when answering the question.

Can you provide the guidance documents in any other languages and projects complete the application form in their mother-tongue?

Unfortunately, we cannot provide the guidance notes in any language other than English, we will also only be reviewing application forms that are completed in English.

Will the Do No Harm policy be shared with applicants?

The key messages pertaining to applicants from the Do No Harm Policy have been included in the concept note guidance document. The full policy is on the DFID website (please click [here](#)).

Will the slides from the workshops be made available to applicants?

At the latest, the slides will be available on 5th December but we will confirm with our procurement advisors if we can make available to applicants beforehand.

For how many countries (highest number) one organisation can apply for?

We have not specified a limit but we would encourage organisations to submit high quality applications and consolidate approaches where possible.

Could organisations that have not had DFID money before, apply? Is there additional processes that these new organisations have to go through?

Yes - we welcome all applicants (whether new to DFID, GEC or not). There are no additional processes at this stage. However, if successful at Concept Note stage, there may be additional processes at Full Proposal stage (for example, relating to due diligence).

If you have a project with a similar concept but slightly different methods of implementation per country, do you do complete separate concept notes for each country?

We encourage applicants to consolidate ideas where possible (eg. similar concept across multiple countries) as each concept note will be scored purely on that application. Be as clear as you can in answering each question specifically, referencing any differences amongst your project proposals.

Will there be a cross-cutting theme of Child Protection?

The LNGB Window expects that projects will be able to demonstrate that they have strong child protection policies in place, building these into the projects' initial designs, as well as their commitment to Do No Harm principles. While projects do not necessarily need to include explicit violence prevention and response interventions, all projects must have adequate child protection capacity in place from the outset. This includes the capacity to conduct child protection and do no harm assessments in order to ensure the safety of children in project activities and to mitigate any potential emerging child protection issues.

Projects should be able to demonstrate that their interventions conform to existing GEC policies on Child Protection and Do No Harm principles. In anticipation of Full Proposal development, projects should note that specific Minimum Standards (set out in the guidance accompanying the Concept Note template) will apply and consider how they can best demonstrate fulfilment of these standards.

For more information, please see the guidance accompanying the Concept Note template.

Would you happen to know if a UK based charity would be able to apply with a proposal planning to sub-grant the money to various partners working in the countries where DFID has a presence?

UK based charities may apply for both individual and consortium projects at the same time. For all proposed partnerships, the roles of each partner and their contribution to the delivery of the project must be clearly defined. The lead organisation must be clearly specified, with the lead organisation being prepared to enter into a contractual relationship with DFID.

Applicant type

What is the definition for a “consortium” in the DFID context? If an organisation is the contract holder and contract local NGO organisations as implementing partners, will this be considered a consortium?

Yes this would be considered a consortium under our terms.

Can a lead organisation form collaborate with a government institution to implement the project?

All applicants are expected to demonstrate that their activities are aligned with national education strategies. Collaboration with government partners is also strongly advised. However, only non-state organisations (whether as an individual organisation or in a consortium) are eligible to apply for LNGB funding may form part of a formal GEC consortium

Are community based organisations eligible for funding?

Yes – as long as the organisation is a non-state organisation with an average annual turnover (averaged over the last 3 years) that exceeds the size of the annual funding request by at least 50%.

Are inter-governmental organisations, eligible for funding?

Only non-state organisations, including both not-for-profit and for-profit organisations, may apply. Not-for-profit organisations do not have to be registered charities.

*We will **not** consider applications from governmental organisations. We will accept applications from organisations such as UN agencies, although as with all applications, these organisations will need to comply with GEC contracting requirements if successful.*

If an applicant's organisation (e.g. a school) is not registered, will they be eligible for funding?

Yes - as long as the organisation is a legally constituted entity, non-state organisation with an average annual turnover (averaged over the last 3 years) which exceeds the size of the annual funding request by at least 50%.

Are government departments eligible for funding as part of a consortia?

Government departments are ineligible for LNGB funding as an individual or consortia application.

If an applicant is currently funded on another DFID project, will this impact the applicant's eligibility for this funding window?

No - this will not impact the organisations eligibility for this funding window.

Can I apply as an Individual?

Individuals are not eligible for funding.

Will the following organisations be eligible to receive funding as part of the LNGB funding window?

We will accept applications from non-state organisations, although as with all applicants, organisations will need to comply with GEC contracting requirements if successful. Please refer to the guidance document for more information ([here](#))

Organisation	Eligibility status
UN organisations	Eligible
Fund Managers of other funds	Eligible (although further consideration may depend on the Fund Manager's role in the overall application)
Organisations in non-recipient countries (e.g. organisations based in USA applying for funding in Malawi)	Eligible
Public universities	Eligible

Do you need to define all your partners at concept note stage?

We ask you to complete the application form from the perspective of the lead organisation in a partnership and include all prospective partners in the form.

What specific institutions fall within the private sector category (do Research, Monitoring and Evaluation firms fall within this category)?

If you are registered as private company and/ or are profit making, please register in the private sector category.

Are there any kinds of organisations which are ineligible to receive funding? For example, non-state actors, for-profit companies, etc.

We are not able to give funding to state organisations or organisations that encourage activities which may lead to civil unrest; linked to any terrorist organisations; discriminates against any groups or individuals on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation, political opinions or religion; and/or participates in or

encourages activities involving modern slavery, exploitation or compulsory labour (including in respect of children).

Can you apply as part of a consortium and also as an individual organisation?

Yes - there is no limit to the amount of applications you can submit and you are not restricted to only apply as an individual organisation or consortium.

Can an organisation go 'non-exclusive' with two different firms?

Yes that is fine, there is no limit to the number of concept note applications that an organisation can be a part of.

Interventions

Do all projects need to have equal emphasis on numeracy and literacy in their design?

All projects are required to report on both literacy and numeracy learning outcomes (the emphasis on both skills should be decided by the project), therefore should demonstrate how their interventions will support student progress in both areas of learning.

If a project wanted to work with highly marginalised Burmese girls at the Burma/China border, will the project be eligible for funding given that Burma is an eligible country?

The ethnic controlled Burma/China border areas lack schools and teachers, however the only way many of them can get an education is to go to schools in China where they are disadvantaged and face multiple challenges to learning. These girls would have no access to an education in Burma.

Interventions for the LNGB window aimed at target beneficiaries will need to be implemented in an eligible country.

Can you provide further guidance on intermediate outcomes and how they would fit in the context of the standard DFID log frame? We view them as sequential stepping stones to delivering the fuller outcome but wonder how these are different to milestones.

Also DFID normally suggest only one outcome and a best practice of 6 outputs up to a max of 10. Could you please clarify if the LNGB guidance suggests multiple outcomes?

Intermediate outcomes can be considered as sequential stepping stones but they are different to milestones as they are outcomes in themselves. The current standard DFID log frame is currently being updated to accommodate intermediate outcomes.

For Concept Note stage, we will not require specifications of the log frame and will provide further guidance at Full Proposal stage (please refer to the Concept Note guidance document for example outcomes).

Are projects expected to achieve all three outcomes listed in the guidance document or can projects focus on one outcome?

Projects are required to work to all three outcomes listed in the guidance document.

On page 14 of the Guidance for Applicants, you state that all projects will contribute to the expected outcomes. Are all project required to contribute to the intermediate outcomes? Can organisations develop their own intermediate outcomes?

Yes projects can develop their own intermediate outcomes, subject to agreement and discussion with the Fund Manager. It is considered good practice to have intermediate outcomes for a programme as complex as LNGB. The standard DFID log frame is currently being updated to accommodate intermediate outcomes. This will only need to be developed at Full Proposal stage where further guidance will be provided.

Can we adapt adult education class for adolescent girls' education for those who will not be willing to go back to the conventional schools?

Yes - we welcome interventions that consider formal or informal routes of education for highly marginalised girls.

How will LNGB view enrolment in resource classes or special needs schools? Some girls have been in these kinds of programs for years with little hope of returning to mainstream classes.

Yes, if these girls are currently out of school, this window could provide opportunities for these beneficiaries to enrol in resource classes or special needs school (where supporting the ToC). If girls are already enrolled in such mediums, the project will not be eligible for funding as the LNGB programme aims to target out of school highly marginalised girls.

India is listed as an eligible country however, LNGB projects will need to align with the UK Government's strategies on skills. What does this mean?

As with all submissions, we expect them to align with National and DFID strategy by country. For applications for India – we would encourage a focus on vocational and other skills.

What is functional literacy? Can we achieve this using local language vernacular?

Functional (meaningful levels of) literacy and numeracy should be defined by each project based on what would be appropriate for the targeted girls and the contexts in which they live. Local language vernacular can be used to achieve functional levels of literacy and numeracy.

Is a concept note that focusses on life skills over literacy and numeracy likely to be less successful than one that addresses all three?

Within LNGB, all projects should aim to provide opportunity for the development of literacy and any additional life skills should be in addition to literacy and numeracy. Literacy and numeracy skills will be measured across all projects and are expected to feature in each Concept Note.

Can a project be scalable - would there be negotiation in relation to scale?

The Fund Manager may open negotiations around the proposed size/ scale of your project between Concept Note and Full Proposal stage. Applicants are welcomed to outline where possible how their project would be scalable.

Could projects focusing on preventing girls from dropping out of school be considered?

The aim of the LNGB funding window is to support interventions for highly marginalised, adolescent girls who are out of school (either because they have never attended school or have dropped out without gaining a basic education). As such, interventions focusing on girls already in school will not be considered.

The guidance document mentions catch-up clubs as a possible activity to address the needs of out of school girls. Will Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALPs) be accepted as possible interventions for girls that have never attended or dropped out of school?

The guidance document provides some example activities and yes, Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALPs) will be accepted as possible interventions.

Can the project allow a control group to become a treatment group receiving support in later year of the project?

Yes, this approach of having a 'staggered' control group (e.g. having a control group for the first year later becoming a treatment group) would potentially be acceptable for LNGB. The specifics of how this would work would need to be made clear, and this would need to be expanded upon (if successful) for the Full Proposal.

How specific should the interventions we propose be? We might want to test validity of the assumptions inherent in the intervention through baseline?

Concept Notes should be as specific as possible in outlining their interventions and the assumptions underpinning them. We expect applicants to have a good understanding of the context and evidence base to base these assumptions on.

However, we also expect projects to maintain a flexible and adaptable approach throughout their interventions. The baseline should definitely be used to test assumptions, and any relevant changes to better reflect the actual conditions on the ground should be made post-baseline.

How long should the intervention be?

Applicants should propose decide the length of time of their interventions. Project concepts should cover a duration that is reasonable and necessary to achieve the objective supporting your specific beneficiaries to transition into education, employment or gain skills to improve the quality of life. Projects may work with each specific cohort of girls for a short time and add new cohorts or work with one cohort for a longer period.

We expect that projects will commence activities in the second half of 2017.

Sometimes the problem is no schools, should we build some?

Projects should aim to achieve the overall objective of the LNGB funding window, supporting highly marginalised adolescent girls, aged between 10 and 19, that have dropped out of school without gaining a basic education or never attended school, into education, employment or to gain skills relevant to improving the quality of their life. If inadequate school supply is a key barrier in the region that the project plans to operate in, then infrastructure proposals could be very convincing as part of the Theory of Change. Please note however that proposals involving infrastructure will be subject to strong scrutiny with regards to value for money and alignment with government approaches.

Sometimes the problem is that the government is not doing its job, can we focus on policy advocacy?

The LNGB funding window is designed to target highly marginalised, adolescent girls directly through interventions that are contextualised. Policy advocacy works effectively when accompanied by results. Given the rigorous M&E approach of the GEC, we hope that projects can leverage results from their interventions to shape local and national education policies. Policy advocacy would need to occur in parallel with targeted interventions.

What about jobs? Can we engage in job creation?

One expected outcome of the LNGB funding window is to provide highly marginalised, adolescent girls with improved vocational and life skills (in addition to literacy and numeracy skills). This may improve their ability to transition into employment. In addition, organisations can work with companies and other employers to explore apprenticeships or tailored literacy and numeracy interventions that meet specific employers' needs. For project interventions to be effective, there may need to be a deepening of engagement and partnership with the private sector sustaining and scaling up cost effective GEC innovations beyond the lifetime of the programme.

Could funds go towards grant giving to girls (conditional cash transfers, grants for entrepreneurship)?

Projects should design their interventions to meet the needs of the particular beneficiaries they are targeting. If the proposed target group faces economic barriers that are preventing them from enrolling in and staying in school, then interventions such as scholarships, bursaries or (conditional) cash transfers could help alleviate these barriers. Projects should specify the barriers they are aiming to eliminate through their activities in their Theory of Change.

Funding

The lead organisation's average annual turnover (averaged over the last 3 years) should exceed the size of the annual funding request by at least 50%. Does this refer to the lead organisation's overall income (for all countries) or the organisation's turnover for the country (ies) for which a proposal is being submitted for?

This calculation refers to the lead organisation's overall annual income.

For UN organisations interested in applying, would the contractual agreement be based on the DFID agreed framework arrangements with UN agencies?

For UN organisations, the contractual agreement will be an Accountable Grant Agreement (AGA) or an agreement that is strongly linked to the key terms of an AGA. DFID and the FM are considering the final form of these agreements, but recommend that UN agencies review the terms contained in the AGA template that has been provided by the FM, and continue to apply on that basis.

Will newly formed organisations be eligible for funding?

Yes – however please refer to the guidance document on the eligibility criteria around financial support.

In the recent FAQs an estimate of 10% for management cost was provided. What is excluded from management cost and what indirect cost proportion will be allowed under the funding window?

The 10% management cost should include all indirect project costs. Due to the variety of projects and project activities it is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of eligible and ineligible costs.

However as a guide applicants should refer to the following overarching criteria.

Eligible management costs are those costs ***wholly, exclusively and necessary for the purposes of the project*** i.e.

Central Administration and Overheads – All eligible costs that are indirectly related to the delivery and evaluation of the project.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate to DFID and the Fund Manager as required how their costs meet this criteria.

Ineligible management costs are those costs not wholly, exclusively and necessary for the purposes of the project.

Examples of these include:-

- *Any travel expenses above economy class travel*
- *Fines, penalties and interest costs*
- *Recoverable duties and taxes*

Is there an international overhead and/or administration costs cap?

Yes. We would expect international overhead and/or administration costs not to exceed 10% of overall project cost. M&E costs will be separate from this 10% cost.

International overhead and/or administrative costs should reflect the central activity and related costs required to properly support the project e.g. corporate governance, financial management, human resource management, procurement, internal and external audit.

It is understood that the funding limitation of 50% of annual income (over last 3 years) applies to all proposals on a collective basis. However, we would like to know when exactly this guideline will be checked (Concept Note Stage or Full Proposal Stage)?

This will be checked at Concept Note stage.

Will ‘post-hoc payment’ on a quarterly basis (payment upon meeting quarterly deliverables) be the payment mechanism for LNGB?

It is likely that all projects will be funded in arrears in the Leave No Girl Behind Window, although the Fund Manager is considering all mechanism at this point. If you still think that this will not be workable please let us know, and include full details of the reasons for this, and so that we can consider the position

Can we use funds from other DfID projects be used as match funding for the LNGB fund?

No – this will not constitute as match funding for LNGB.

Can existing projects be eligible for LNGB funding and use existing funding as match funding?

Yes existing GEC projects will be eligible for LNGB funding. However, any existing GEC funding will not be considered as match funding for this window.

Any existing projects from other funds can be applicable for funding, with existing funding applicable for match funding (proportionate to the lifetime of the Fund). Further funding details will be needed at full proposal.

Do we need to budget for an external audit?

Yes, this is our expectation that applicants meet nominal statutory audit standards and such costs should be included as part of administration costs.

What is the budget format and relevant guidance the FM is planning to request for this specific funding opportunity?

At Concept Note stage, detailed budget information is not required. Applicants that pass the Concept Note stage will receive further guidance and a budget format as part of the Full Proposal stage.

Is there any guidance on match funding? If so, what level of match funding do you expect? Will projects with match funding from the applicant's own funds be prioritised?

No specific sources or levels for match funding have been set at this stage. However, the level of match funding in conjunction with project income generated will be reviewed under the VFM criteria. During the Full Proposal stage, there will be an opportunity for applicants to provide further details regarding the level, source and status of their match funding figure i.e. pending or confirmed. This will be reviewed again as part of the assessment process.

Could you provide insight on overall DFID funding limits and how gross income is calculated? This is as previously, DFID have applied a 40% funding ceiling on some grants.

Gross income will typically be based on total turnover (profit organisation) or total incoming resources (not-for-profit organisation). Please note that the lead organisation's average annual turnover (averaged over the last 3 years) should exceed the size of the annual funding request by at least 50%.

Can funds be used indirectly to build capacity in government organisations (e.g. training for government staff, government staff receiving GEC funded hospitality)?

We will not be funding governments directly, either individually or as part of a consortia. We welcome projects which collaborate closely with government partners and, project funds may be used to indirectly support teacher training for government staff and similar activities (where appropriate). This will need to be considered on a project-by-project basis.

What is the single budget range for this call per project?

There is no budget per project. We ask you to propose a budget that will allow you to deliver the project you propose to the target group within the outlined timeframe. Please note that budget for each project will be subject to negotiation.

When providing the annual breakdown of requested funds, is there flexibility to make adjustments during the full proposal stage, is successful at concept note stage?

The extent of financial support requested should be of a reasonable amount given the project context and activities. Figures provided at the Concept Note stage will be used as an indicator of the size of the project, target beneficiaries and project plan. During the Full Proposal stage there will be an opportunity for successful applicants to review and update these figures accordingly as a more detailed plan is developed.

If an organisation requests for £1,000,000 in annual funding, does the lead organisation have to have an average turnover of at least £1,500,000? In case that the lead organisation is successful with more than one concept note, does the above limitation apply to each of the proposals individually or collectively?

Yes - the lead organisation's average annual turnover (over 3 years) should exceed the size of the annual funding request by at least 50%. The limitation applies to all proposals on a collective basis.

Are construction costs to be included in the costings?

We encourage you to budget for what you will need to be able to deliver your project. This may include construction costing.

As a lead organisation of a consortium, the lead organisation's annual funding over the last three years does not exceed the annual funding request by at least 50%. However as a consortium, average turnover will exceed annual funding by the required amount.

As outlined in the guidance document, the lead organisation's average annual turnover will need to exceed the annual funding request by at least 50%. The minimum financial support available per project is £100,000.

How much total funding is actually available for Myanmar, and how much funding per grant application?

No amount has been identified for Myanmar specifically (or for any specific country). This is a global call for proposals and the best proposals will be selected from around the world. For each project, there is a minimum funding request of £100,000, but no maximum stipulated.

Is there a minimum for match-funding?

No match-funding minimum has been outlined.

Are there any restrictions to the budget? (E.g. no vehicle purchase)

There are no budget restrictions linked to types of purchase. We encourage you to budget for what you will need to be able to deliver your project. However, we encourage organisations to demonstrate good VfM by leveraging existing resources for LNGB project implementation.

What funding is available for projects?

Applications should be for a minimum of £100,000 in financial support. There is no maximum to the amount of financial support that can be requested. However, applicants should request an amount that is reasonable, given their project context and activities. The lead organisation's average annual turnover/income (averaged over the last 3 years) should exceed the size of the annual funding request by at least 50%. Different funding brackets are specified in the Concept Note form, and projects are asked to select the bracket they fall within.

What is the total size of the fund?

The total amount of funding will be confirmed in due course.

Is PwC able to confirm a timetable for when additional funding may be confirmed from DFID or other sources?

At the moment, we cannot confirm when additional funding may be confirmed.

What is the minimum and maximum funding available?

Applications should be for a minimum of £100,000 in financial support. There is no maximum to the amount of financial support that can be requested. However, applicants should request an amount that is reasonable, given their project context and activities. The lead organisation's average annual turnover/income (averaged over the last 3 years) should exceed the size of the annual funding request by at least 50%. Different funding brackets are

specified in the Concept Note form, and projects are asked to select the bracket they fall within.

What is the average grant size DFID will be considering for LNGB?

Please see above, for guidance on minimum and maximum grant thresholds. At this stage, DFID and the Fund Manager are not able to provide information on average grant sizes, as this will depend on country context and the interventions proposed.

What is the maximum and minimum project duration DFID will be considering for LNGB?

Project concepts should cover a duration that is reasonable and necessary to achieve the objective supporting your specific beneficiaries to transition into education, employment or gain skills relevant to improving the quality of their life. We expect that projects will commence activities in the second half of 2017.

Is the preference to fund a smaller number of larger contracts i.e. through consortia?

At this stage, there is no preference to fund a smaller number of larger contracts. Organisations may apply for both individual and consortium projects at the same time.

How many contracts do you envisage awarding with this round?

At this stage, we cannot specify the number of contracts that DFID will fund. This will largely depend on the quality, number and size of funding requested by successful applicants, as well as on other factors.

Will this funding follow the same three strands as before i.e. Step Change, Innovation or Strategic Partnerships?

No. The LNGB is a new funding window and is a single funding stream. All projects applying under the LNGB window will be subject to the same eligibility and evaluation criteria.

We do, however, anticipate that there will be two funding rounds for the LNGB window. The second funding window is estimated to open in the second half of 2017. The eligibility and selection criteria for the second funding round may be different to this funding round. Applicants from the first funding round will be eligible to apply for the second funding round.

Will the programme pay costs in advance?

The programme will not normally pay costs in advance. The default position will be that projects will be paid in arrears i.e. Funds will be disbursed once they have been incurred, once the first phase of project implementation commences in the second half of 2017. Successful applicants can discuss with the Fund Manager additional arrangements that may be necessary to alleviate cash-flow difficulties.

Application process

For the CN deadline is it possible to not specify the specific partner and have more time for assessment of local partners?

Yes that is possible, however an applicant should clearly state the skills and expertise that they would envisage a partner to bring. If successful at Concept Note stage, the applicant will have to be in a position to confirm partners as part of Full Proposal.

Will you be providing any guidance on how to answer the Concept Note application form questions?

There are no specific guidelines on how to write an answer to each question, but there are guidelines as to the nature of the LNGB window, our key terminology and expectations of projects. These can be found on the DFID webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/girls-education-challenge>

Is there a preference for concepts that are single country versus multi-country, or regional?

No, each Concept Note will be scored based on information solely in that form. We encourage applicants to consider consolidating similar ideas into a single concept note (e.g. implementing a similar intervention across several countries).

Will those evaluating the concepts / proposals be specialists in a country's context?

Yes, country context specialists will be involved in reviewing the proposals.

Is LNGB open to GEC projects?

Yes, the LNGB is open to all GEC projects; however, existing GEC projects will not be given any preferential treatment over any other applicants.

Will LNGB accept unusual or riskier projects?

There will be a balanced approach to programmatic risk appetite, with some high-risk projects balanced with low-risk projects. DFID also views risk in a variety of ways (including innovation risk, delivery risk etc.), so please consider these various types of risk when submitting your Concept Note.

Is there a limit to the number of applications an organisation can submit?

No. There is no limit to the number of applications an organisation can submit (either as a lead organisation or as a consortium partner). However, we encourage applicants to consolidate interventions into a single application, where this makes sense. Distinct applications should be reserved for situations where the interventions and context are significantly different.

Do you prefer applications that will include both non-profit and for-profit partners? Are there any preferred partners we should ensure we partner with on our concept or include in our concept?

The Leave No Girl Behind window is open to only non-state organisations, including both not-for-profit and for-profit organisations. Partnerships are encouraged, wherever possible and/or appropriate. A key focus of the LNGB window is to test and develop sustainable solutions (including new partnerships, for example with private sector, local organisations, and government departments) that will last beyond DFID funding.

Can one organisation submit more than one Application as either a Lead or Sub? At CN stage, will teams need to be fully formed?

Organisations may apply for both individual and consortium projects at the same time. For all proposed partnerships, the roles of each partner and their contribution to the delivery of the project must be clearly defined. The lead organisation must be clearly specified, with the lead organisation being prepared to enter into a contractual relationship with DFID.

Can local organisations apply alone?

Local organisations may apply alone, provided that they reach the targeted group of beneficiaries for the Leave No Girl Behind window. This funding window is open to organisations who can develop new and innovative solutions, and to those who wish to scale up and adopt successful existing interventions to deliver quality education and skills to highly marginalised adolescent girls in the target countries outlined in the concept note guidance document.

Beneficiaries

Can Yemeni Refugees be eligible target beneficiaries if they are in a DFID for example Somalia?

Yes displaced populations (for example refugees) can be target beneficiaries if they are in a country with DFID presence or listed above on the list of eligible countries.

Will girls that are at the risk of entering correctional facilities be categorised as highly marginalised girls and eligible for LNGB funding?

*The target beneficiaries for LNGB funding are adolescent girls between the ages 10 - 19 that are currently **out of school** (either because they have never attended or have dropped out without gaining a basic education). If these girls are at risk of entering correctional facilities they will be considered as part of the LNGB funding window, as long as they are out of school.*

Can you provide more guidance on the inclusion of boys in the project as target beneficiaries? Is there any limit or proportionality alongside target OOS girls? I.E. can boys be a primary target group for numeracy, literacy and life skills activities alongside OOS girls or only be included in broader activities that aim to increase their support and aspiration for OOS girls?

The primary target group for LNGB should be highly marginalised out of school adolescent girls. Boys could benefit from the same way as these girls if it is in the best interest and best way to achieve outcomes for these girls.

There are no limits in terms of proportionality alongside target OOS girls, however they should be classified as a separate group. This can be discussed in more detail at Full Proposal stage.

A possible intervention to address the financial barriers of access to education is the establishment of low cost private education in the target area. Would the establishment of private low cost schools aligned with this call be considered?

Yes, the establishment of private low cost schools can be considered as part of this window, with appropriate consideration given to the target beneficiary group. Further guidance will be provided at the full proposal stage.

Please define intellectual disability. Does this fall under the level 3 highly marginalisation category?

For the purpose of the Concept Note stage of the LNGB funding window, anyone with a disability is categorised within the highly marginalised category. Further guidance could be provided at full proposal stage.

Does late enrolment for girls count as 'out-of-school' girls?

Out-of-school girls are classified as girls that have never attended or dropped out of school without gaining a basic education.

Could target groups include displaced populations in non-DFID priority countries? For example, Syrian refugees in Europe (France, Turkey)?

Please refer to the updated list of eligible countries on page 2. In addition, here is an updated list of beneficiaries and eligibility status for specific queries:

Beneficiaries and country in question	Eligibility status
Syrian refugees in Lebanon	No
Syrian refugees in Jordan	Yes
Afghan refugees in Iran	No
Syrian refugees in Greece	No

Is there any guidance on the number of beneficiaries that interventions should reach?

There is no overall minimum or maximum number of beneficiaries that should be targeted for any one project. Different beneficiary number brackets are specified in the Concept Note form, and projects are asked to select the bracket they fall within.

Would there be any preference for multi-country proposals over single country bids?

There is no preference for multi-country proposals over single country bids.

Should organisations collaborate with one eligible country (from the DFID list) or should the project span a range of countries?

Projects can be implemented in any country where DFID has a presence or in countries where DFID is supporting activities but may not necessarily have a presence (refer to the above website link and the updated list of eligible countries). Proposals may be for single-country or multi-country projects. There is no limit on the number of countries that a project should be implemented in, although applicants should consider the feasibility of implementation and management for multi-country projects.

Are there any ineligible countries? If none, are there priority or preferred countries to fund programmes?

We will be accepting applications for projects in any of the countries where DFID has a presence or in countries where DFID is supporting activities but may not necessarily have a presence (refer to the above website link and the updated list of eligible countries). If the country you are considering is not on this list, you can submit a specific clarification query through the LNGB Concept Note Application Form ([here](#)).

Could projects focusing on out of school girls between 16 and 19 year olds be considered, if there are girls are over 19 years at the end of the project?

The LNGB funding window targets adolescent girls (aged between 10 and 19 years old). Projects can work with girls when they are 19 years old. However it is envisaged that only light-touch support would be provided to girls who are older than 19 years of age – this age group should not be the focus of the intervention.

Can you clarify what you mean by family life?

Please interpret this term in the broadest possible sense, relating to a beneficiary's home or domestic situation. When interpreting the term please focus on the improvement of the beneficiary's quality of life and if easier, disregard the word family for interpretation purposes.

Is there a preference for focussing on specific marginalised groups exclusively or is it for 'mainstreaming' e.g. disabled girls with other marginalised girls?

There is no preference. We ask that you target your intervention around the specific needs of the marginalised girls in your context, whether that is an exclusive group or a collective group of different types or levels of marginalisation.

What do you mean by basic education? Is it linked to certificates?

Basic education does not mean 'primary education'. It is a basic level of education as defined by the context in which you propose to implement your project in.

Is having high numbers important or successful interventions? It takes a lot more time and effort to reach the most marginalised.

We advise quality over quantity. There is no minimum number of beneficiaries for a project to reach. The focus of this funding window is reaching highly marginalised girls and having a sustainable impact.

What level of education could beneficiaries have? What about high school dropouts?

Interventions should support highly marginalised, adolescent girls who are out of school (either because they have never attended school, or have already dropped out of school) to gain a basic education and skills relevant to their lives. The interventions should be focused on supporting these girls to ((re-) enrol in school, or to access training or employment (including self-employment) or gain skills which would improve their quality of life.

Basic education and skills are those skills that enable a child to read simple texts (e.g. decode print and understand) or to perform simple mathematical reasoning and arithmetic (e.g. knowing counting routines, additive reasoning (+, -)). Skills to improve girls' quality of life include the development of both cognitive and non-cognitive skills; personal and inter-personal skills.

Are there any specific target groups within marginalised groups to be prioritised (for example, disabled groups or refugees?)

There are no specific target groups for LNGB but the focus is expected to be on girls who face multiple layers of social and economic exclusion which act together to marginalise them from education (see the guidance note, and further details in the following question). This could include refugee girls.

What is the agreed definition of marginalised girls? Do marginalised groups include refugees, or internally displaced persons (IDPs)?

The LNGB window targets girls age 10-19 who have dropped out of school without gaining a basic education and those who have never been to school. These can be described under the GEC’s marginalisation categories 2 and 3 as follows:

GEC marginalisation category	Profile and context of LNGB girls	Needs
<p>Level 2: marginalised – harder to reach</p>	<p>Girls age 10-19 who have dropped out of school and have insufficient functional literacy and numeracy skills to enable them to transition to secondary school, TVET, work or adulthood. Girls in this category may have had limited or intermittent access to school because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● they are from pastoralist communities ● they have been affected by conflict, ● they may have significant responsibilities at home because they are the head of household or have to help parents with domestic chores, ● they are pregnant or have become young mothers, or ● they may have been subject to child, early or forced marriage 	<p>Activities and services that support the inclusion of groups of children with less complex access or learning needs into mainstream education.</p>
<p>Level 3: extremely marginalised – hardest to reach</p>	<p>Girls age 10-19 who have never accessed formal education or who do not have basic literacy and numeracy skills. Their lack of education hampers their ability to lead healthy, productive lives. Girls in this category may have never accessed formal education because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● there is no school within reach ● they are homeless ● they live in IDP or refugee camps ● they are engaged in child labour ● they have a significant disability or are affected by a long-term illness ● they are married, or pregnant/ young mothers under age 18 	<p>Activities and services which support children with more complex access and learning needs, which may involve individualised support or significant adaptation of mainstream educational provision.</p>

What is the FM’s definition of ‘adolescence’?

The LNGB window defines adolescent girls as those aged between 10 and 19.

Can we target both levels 2 and 3 marginalisation?

Yes, the Fund Manager encourages projects to target the hardest to reach girls (level 3 marginalisation) as well as supporting harder to reach girls (level 2 marginalisation).

Learning outcomes

Which learning outcomes will be measured? Will the learning outcomes be the same as GEC-I?

All LNGB projects will ensure that out-of-school (OOS) girls aged 10-19 gain literacy, numeracy, vocational and life skills. The LNGB window will have a strong focus on accelerating girls' learning outcomes so that marginalised girls who have been left behind can catch up and acquire relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for life and work. Similar to GEC-1, the LNGB window will focus on literacy and numeracy as key indicative measures of learning.

Why test literacy and numeracy?

The LNGB window will focus on literacy and numeracy as key indicative measures of learning. GEC experience to date and wider research has shown that the foundational literacy and numeracy skills necessary to build more complex skills are often lacking or weak in out-of-school adolescent girls, even if they attended school when they were younger. However, we also encourage applicants to specify the other types of skills (e.g. vocational skills, life skills) that are central to project design and that you propose to measure, as part of your Concept Note.

M&E / PbR

The GEC thematic paper “Understanding and addressing educational marginalisation” recommends a focus on ethics and monitoring for unintended consequences. Considering that the LNGB window aims to target highly marginalised girls, is there flexibility to choose not to use an RCT in these circumstances? Please confirm the specific criteria that evaluations must meet before they can be considered as highly rigorous?

At Concept Note stage, this level of M&E detail is not needed. Guidance on this will be provided at Full Proposal stage to applicants who pass the Concept Note stage.

It is important to note however that experimental methods for M&E will be highly preferred using comparison groups, and ideally randomised control trial (RCT) methodology.

Although exceptions may be made depending on the specific circumstances in which a project works.

Are there any pre-set PbR indicators? Will PbR conditions be able to be negotiated and agreed on a contract by contract basis?

Details on PbR for LNGB will be discussed with applicants and provided at the Full Proposal stage.

With reference to Section 4 “Evaluation Criteria” in the Concept Note Guidance; under VfM (25%) the Fund Manager will perform an initial assessment of VFM based on the level of funding requested, the level of impact; the proposed number of beneficiaries and the level of marginalization. In the actual application it asked for total funding as well as amounts of potential match or other income. Should the total amount of funding include the estimated amount of the external rigorous evaluation (baseline, midline and endline)? We are concerned that including the cost of such rigorous evaluation will impact the overall funding amount and ultimately how the Fund Manager assesses VfM.

The proposed level of funding should include all costs relating to the project, including costs for M&E and the rigorous approach to evaluation that is required for the GEC. M&E costs will not undermine a project's VfM. Detailed budgets at Full Proposal stage will need to separate out all of these costs, and a review at that stage will be undertaken to ensure that the allocated funding to evaluation is sufficient.

Projects are expected to use experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation approach i.e. making use of well-matched treatment and control groups. How do DFID and the FM propose learning to be measured given that the target groups of the LNGB window are the most marginalised (harder and hardest to reach) including out-of-school, and therefore, control groups would pose a problem, both ethically and logistically?

All projects funded under GEC are expected to have an experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation utilising control groups. Recipients will be expected to appoint an independent evaluation firm to carry out this evaluation, and this should be included in the overall financial support requested for a project. At Concept Note stage, we will not expect you to have identified your independent evaluator.

When seeking an independent evaluation firm, you should seek to identify and appoint an evaluation firm who would have the skills and expertise to design and run such an evaluation. Whilst the use of control groups can be challenging in such a context, our experience from the first phase of GEC is that it is definitely possible - including for out-of-school girls. We would also give consideration to the use of more novel approaches to control groups - such as staggered control groups, where early stage control schools become treatment schools in later years, for example.

Is there anything you have pre-set as PBR indicators? Will PBR conditions be able to be agreed and negotiated on a contract by contract basis?

The PbR element for this funding window is still in midst discussion. Further guidance will be provided at Full Proposal stage.

Please can you explain what the funding mechanism will be for this call? Will this be Payment by Results or Payment by Outputs? Is the applicant able to choose the percentage of the project budget that is tied to PbR/PbO?

The default funding mechanism will be paid in arrears. We will provide more clarity on PbR arrangements for the LNGB window to applicants who pass the Concept Note stage and are invited to submit a Full Proposal.

The GEC discussion paper: “Understanding and addressing educational marginalisation” mentions that the FM has modified the PbR methodology to take into account the concerns on PbR discouraging the reaching of the most vulnerable. How has PbR methodology been modified?

Further guidance on the new approach to PbR will be provided at Full Proposal stage to applicants that are invited to submit a Full Proposal.

Question 5 of the concept note asks 'what will be the indicators of success for your project?' As we are not asked to provide a detailed M&E plan, I am not clear if this is a question about the actual indicators we are proposing to measure the project's progress, or if it is a more general question about what we consider a successful project will look like.

The question is intended to be more general and relates to what a successful project will look like and intended results. Please refer to the results chain and guidance on outcomes in the LNGB guidance document. You do not need to provide specific, detailed indicators or targets in response to this question.

The guidance mentions that DfID wants an external evaluation - does this mean that a separate evaluation partner will be contracted, or that proposals should include robust evaluation?

Proposals (particularly at the Full Proposal stage) should include plans for a robust evaluation. External evaluators are expected to be procured and contracted by successful applicants, on a project-by-project basis.

Can you explain Payment by Result further and when this will be required or not?

We anticipate being able to provide more clarity on PbR arrangements for the LNGB window to applicants who pass the Concept Note stage and are invited to submit a Full Proposal.

Will funding be given on a PbR basis? What is the rationale behind Payment by Results?

We do expect that there will be PbR mechanism as part of the LNGB window. The FM is currently considering the exact PbR model for the LNGB window and whether this will remain the same as it was at GEC1, or if it will be modified. Further detail will be released on this in due course.

Will monitoring processes be consistent with the rest of the GEC?

The technical guidance for M&E, PbR and monitoring will be consistent across the GEC extension windows with some flexibility in approach e.g. where interventions are short term or where girls with learning difficulties are being targeted, an adapted approach may be applied to the measurement of learning gains.

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