
March 14, 2019

Special Call for Proposals for Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries
GAFSP Public Sector Window

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) invites eligible countries to submit a proposal for grant funding by September 10, 2019, consistent with the *Country Guidelines for the Public Sector Window Proposals: Special Call for Proposals for Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries* (version: March 1, 2019), available on the GAFSP “Call for Proposals” web page: <https://www.gafspfund.org/apply-funding>. Eligibility for this call is limited to countries that are fragile and conflict-affected as determined by the World Bank Group¹ that are also IDA-only² and not in non-accrual status. The targeting to countries in fragile and conflict affected situations is to address the underfunding of such countries to date. Future GAFSP Calls for Proposals are expected to revert to GAFSP’s usual practice of extending eligibility to all IDA-only countries not in non-accrual status, as stated in the GAFSP Framework Document.

Through the first four Calls for Proposals, the GAFSP Public Sector Window has allocated US\$1.2 billion in recipient-executed funding to 31 low-income countries in Africa; Central, East, and South Asia; and Latin America and the Caribbean. GAFSP resources are being used to help finance strategic programs in these low-income countries to alleviate poverty, improve rural incomes, and improve food and nutrition security. GAFSP projects focus on country-led investments in one or more of the five GAFSP components: raising agricultural productivity, linking farmers to markets, reducing risk and vulnerability, improving non-farm rural livelihoods, and technical assistance, institution-building, and capacity strengthening. More detailed scope of the program is reflected in the Framework Document, which can be accessed at:

https://www.gafspfund.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/GAFSP%20Framework%20Document%20FINAL%20%28external%29_0%20%282%29.pdf

In this Special Call that is limited to fragile and conflict affected countries, GAFSP will be looking for proposals that clearly justify the proposed public sector investment, and that also consider opportunities for complementary private sector engagement. A new dedicated Advisory Services program within the existing GAFSP Private Sector Window led by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), funded by additional resources provided by the United Kingdom, will be available to support eligible private sector entities and projects located in countries with successful proposal submissions. GAFSP encourages submissions with evidence of stakeholder participation, including by Producer Organizations (POs) and relevant Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), from project design to implementation and in monitoring and evaluation. The Steering Committee³ would like to emphasize that there is no preference for any of the five components. Technically sound proposals that reduce risk and vulnerability, particularly in contexts of fragility, and increase the impact of agricultural interventions through emphasis on themes such as nutrition (direct nutrition interventions or nutrition-sensitive agricultural activities), gender equality and women’s empowerment, strengthening climate resilience, and rural youth employment are encouraged and fully

¹ For a list of current fragile and conflicted affected countries as of 2019, see <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/892921532529834051/FCSList-FY19-Final.pdf>. Do note that eligibility for this Special Call for Proposals with regards to classification as fragile and conflict affected will be made with reference to [this FY19 list only](#).

² Countries that are eligible to receive concessional funding through the World Bank from the International Development Association (IDA), but do not have access to lending from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

³ The Steering Committee is the governing body of GAFSP, responsible *inter alia* for allocation decisions.

eligible for GAFSP funding, as are public-private partnerships. The Steering Committee looks forward to receiving a broad range of proposals.

The GAFSP was established in April 2010, following financing commitment by G8 leaders at the L'Aquila Summit in July 2009, and reaffirmed by the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh in September 2009. Donors to GAFSP, in alphabetical order, are Australia, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.⁴

Currently available non-committed resources in the Public Sector Window of GAFSP are approximately US\$100 million, likely to be allocated to roughly the four to six highest-ranked proposals.⁵ The total amount is tentative and may change depending on further donor commitments received between now and the time of allocation. There is no guarantee that all deserving proposals will be funded given the limited availability of funds.

Proposals submitted to GAFSP are reviewed by an independent external Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that provides technical recommendations to the GAFSP Steering Committee. TAC assesses proposals in line with the criteria laid out in the *Country Guidelines* (version: March 1, 2019), i.e., country readiness and the technical quality of the proposal (proposal readiness).

Fragile and conflict affected countries that have submitted unsuccessful proposals to GAFSP in the past are strongly encouraged to apply again, although no special preference will be granted to these proposals, which will compete with new proposals for available funds. Please note that the proposal requirements and guidelines have been updated from previous Calls for Proposals. When resubmitting a previously unsuccessful proposal, countries are requested to review and revise proposals in line with the updated *Country Guidelines* (version: March 1, 2019). Fragile and conflict affected countries that have submitted successful proposals to GAFSP in the past may also reapply.

For this Special Call, GAFSP is making available limited assistance to support countries wishing to avail of additional assistance in their proposal preparation process. This technical assistance is to be furnished through either of GAFSP's two partner Supervising Entities that provide technical assistance only: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or the World Food Programme (WFP). Such assistance is fully optional and will be organized in response to demand, with application details provided in the updated *Country Guidelines* (version: March 1, 2019). Proposal preparation remains fully the responsibility of applicant countries.

The Steering Committee intends to make allocation decisions by the beginning of December 2019. Proposals must be submitted electronically by 11:59 pm, September 10, 2019 (Washington, D.C. time) to the GAFSP Coordination Unit, using the following email address: gafsp-info@gafspfund.org. All submitted documents should be in either Microsoft Word, Excel, or in PDF format.

Submission documents must meet the requirements laid out in the *Country Guidelines* including a document checklist clearly identifying which submitted file relates to each of the specified required document. To ensure a level playing field, no exceptions will be made on deadlines or document formats. We strongly encourage countries to submit a few days earlier than the deadline in case of any technical problems in the submission process. Countries are responsible for ensuring that proposals are complete and in the due format specified in the *Country Guidelines* (version: March 1, 2019).

⁴ Japan and the Netherlands have contributed only to the Private Sector Window.

⁵ This number is indicative and based on an estimated range of grant sizes from US\$10 to 30 million. Final awards will be based on relevant country and submission conditions, including the amount requested, quality of the proposal, demonstrated capacity to implement, etc.

Questions on administrative matters related to the submissions may be directed to the GAFSP Coordination Unit (gafsp-info@gafspfund.org). The Coordination Unit cannot provide any insights on what is required for a successful proposal beyond what is posted on the website (<http://www.gafspfund.org>). In fairness to all, any clarifications that become necessary in the course of countries preparing and submitting proposals will be posted on the website as soon as possible for the benefit of all potential applicant countries.

We very much look forward to receiving country proposals for consideration by the GAFSP Steering Committee.

Sincerely,



Stefan Schmitz
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German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation (BMZ)
Commissioner, One World – No Hunger
Chair of the GAFSP Steering Committee