

Questions and answers – Addressing Root Causes Fund – first badge, 27 January 2016 – Revised version

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Please be aware that the answers to questions 7, 10 and 28 will lead to revisions in the policy framework and the application form (part II). The revised framework and application form will be published as soon as possible. You'll receive an e-mail once the revised version is available on the website.

Threshold check

D.1

Question	Answer
1. Are UN organisations and/or intergovernmental organisations and/or private sector entities eligible for this fund?	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.1 (page 22-23 of the policy framework): The applicant (or in the case of a consortium: the lead party), together with any co-applicants, must be a Dutch, international or local not-for-profit non-governmental organisation (NGO), which possesses legal personality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'NGO' means: a not-for-profit organisation neither established by a public authority nor connected to a public authority either de facto or under its constitution, which possesses legal personality under civil law in the country where it has its registered office.• 'Dutch NGO' means: an NGO established in the Netherlands, subject to Dutch law and having its registered office in the Netherlands.• 'Local NGO' means: an NGO that has its registered office in the country where the intended activities will be carried out (target country).• 'International NGO' means: an NGO that has its registered office outside the Netherlands and the chosen target country, carries out activities in at least two countries, and has spent at least EUR 500,000 per year outside the country of establishment in the last three years (2013-2015). <p>This means that UN organisations and intergovernmental organisations are not eligible for grants from the ARC Fund - neither as an individual applicant nor as a member of a consortium (lead party or co-applicant).</p> <p>For private sector entities it should be demonstrated that the organisation qualifies as an NGO.</p>

<p>2. If our organisation is applying as a lead party of a consortium is it necessary to submit a partnership agreement that is signed by the other parties? Do we have to contact potential partners for the planned project before we have the confirmation for funding?</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.1 (page 22-23 of the policy framework): Applications by a consortium must include a partnership agreement signed by all consortium members, specifying: (i) how each party will contribute to the activities of the consortium; (ii) how the consortium will make decisions; (iii) how the costs and risks are shared among the parties; and (iv) how the fulfilment of grant-related obligations towards the minister in respect of the grant is guaranteed, including responsibility for joint aggregated reports.</p> <p>When a consortium does not submit a partnership agreement, it does not meet all the requirements as stated in threshold criterion D.1, and thus is not eligible for grants from the ARC Fund.</p>
<p>3. In case our co-applicant is an international NGO, how will carrying out activities in at least two countries, and spending at least EUR 500.000 per year in countries outside the country of establishment (as part of threshold criterion D.1.), be verified? We understand that co-applicants do not have to provide their annual accounts or year reports, is that correct?</p>	<p>The lead party is responsible for making credible that when the co-applicant is an international NGO, it meets the in threshold criterion D.1 (page 22 of the policy framework) provided definition of an International NGO:</p> <p>'International NGO' means: an NGO that has its registered office outside the Netherlands and the chosen target country, carries out activities in at least two countries, and has spent at least EUR 500,000 per year outside the country of establishment in the last three years (2013-2015).</p> <p>One way to meet the requirement is to show that the applicant/lead party and co-applicants (all) meet the definition of an international NGO is to provide the annual accounts and/or annual reports of the co-applicant(s) for the period 2013-2015.</p>
<p>4. Does one INGO and a number of local NGOs formally constitute a consortium application?</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.1. bullet 4 (page 22 of the policy framework) that states:</p> <p>Applications by a consortium must include a partnership agreement signed by all consortium members, specifying: (i) how each party will contribute to the activities of the consortium; (ii) how the consortium will make decisions; (iii) how the costs and risks are shared among the parties; and (iv) how the fulfilment of grant-related obligations towards the minister in respect of the grant is guaranteed, including responsibility for joint aggregated reports.</p> <p>This means that when the INGO and the local NGOs, all meeting the definitions for INGO and local NGO as specified in threshold criterion D.1, include a partnership</p>

	agreement in their application that meets the above mentioned criteria, they constitute as a consortium.
5. Do a group of local NGOs based in one country constitute a consortium?	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.1 bullet 4 (page 22 of the policy framework) that states:</p> <p>Applications by a consortium must include a partnership agreement signed by all consortium members, specifying: (i) how each party will contribute to the activities of the consortium; (ii) how the consortium will make decisions; (iii) how the costs and risks are shared among the parties; and (iv) how the fulfilment of grant-related obligations towards the minister in respect of the grant is guaranteed, including responsibility for joint aggregated reports.</p> <p>This means that when the local NGOs, all meeting the definition for a local NGO as specified in threshold criterion D.1, based in one target country include a partnership agreement in their application that meets the above mentioned criteria, they constitute as a consortium.</p>
6. Do the individual applicant, the lead party and/or the co-applicant(s) have to be registered in the target country for an application to be deemed eligible?	<p>The individual applicant, the lead party and/or the co-applicant(s) do not have to be registered in the target country for an application to be deemed eligible.</p> <p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.1 (page 22-23 of the policy framework): The applicant (or in the case of a consortium: the lead party), together with any co-applicants, must be a Dutch, international or local not-for-profit non-governmental organisation (NGO), which possesses legal personality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Dutch NGO' means: an NGO established in the Netherlands, subject to Dutch law and having its registered office in the Netherlands. • 'Local NGO' means: an NGO that has its registered office in the country where the intended activities will be carried out (target country). • 'International NGO' means: an NGO that has its registered office outside the Netherlands and the chosen target country, carries out activities in at least two countries, and has spent at least EUR 500,000 per year outside the country of establishment in the last three years (2013-2015).
7. For local organizations to be eligible, the requirement is to be officially registered in the target country. We consider applying for Syria, possibly in consortium with	<p>In the case of Syria the MFA will make an exception for local NGOs. Syrian NGOs that have their registered office in Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey and only implement activities inside Syria will qualify as a local NGO and are allowed to submit a proposal as such.</p>

<p>local partners. However, we encounter the difficulty that none of our local partners is registered in Syria, due to the conflict situation in the country. In fact, according to our knowledge, it is impossible to be registered in Syria at this moment.</p> <p>Our question: Is it sufficient for local organizations in Syria, in order to be eligible as applicant or co-applicant, to be registered in another country, considering the fact that it is practically impossible to be registered in Syria, at this moment?</p>	<p>The policy framework and application form will be revised accordingly.</p> <p>The MFA will not make exceptions for any of the other target countries.</p>
<p>8. We have partners who are registered with the Government of Syria (GoS) and others not, we work in both GoS controlled and opposition controlled areas, so far we don't work directly with any Syrian Ministry nor can commit to it given the current circumstances. Is that a problem? Partners do coordinate with local authorities (local and community systems rather than institutions at national level).</p>	<p>The Ministry will have a legal relationship with the applicant/lead party that is awarded a grant and not with the partner organisations of the applicant/lead party/co-applicant(s). The applicant/lead party is responsible for its partner organisations.</p> <p>Therefore, it is not a requirement by the Ministry that local partners are registered (with the government) in the country where they work.</p>
<p>9. On page 17 of the policy framework, it is stated in section 3.2 that for each separate grant application information relating to the threshold check must be submitted. In section 3.3.1 on page 17 it is stated that a part of the threshold check (D.1 to D.6) only needs to be submitted once: Is my assumption correct that the reference in section 3.2 relates to D.7 to D.12 and that D.1 to D.6 indeed only needs to be submitted once?</p>	<p>Yes, that assumption is correct. If an applicant/lead party submits more than one application, the applicant/lead party submits the general information (part I of the application form) + threshold criteria D.1 till D.6 only once.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, applicants that act as lead party in multiple consortium applications are responsible for providing the requested information, regarding criteria D.1 till D.6, of all co-applicants of all the consortia in which the applicant acts a lead party. • However, for D.2 and D.5 the applicant/lead party has to submit the information for all the countries for which the applicant/lead party submits a proposal. For example, if an applicant/lead party submits one proposal for the DRC and another proposal for Afghanistan, it needs to provide the under D.2 and D.5 requested information for both countries in part I of its application form.

<p>10. In several threshold criteria it is indicated that the applicant/lead party can refer for information to – or should send it as annex – a (draft) annual report of 2015. If the applicant/lead party does not have a concept annual report of 2015 yet, does the latest available annual report suffice (being the one of 2014)?</p>	<p>If a (draft) annual report of 2015 from the applicant/lead party is not yet available at the deadline for submitting applications for the ARC-Fund (4 March 2016 12:00 PM CET), the annual report of 2014 as a substitute of the annual report of 2015 suffices.</p> <p>In addition, when the (draft) annual report of 2015 is not yet available, the applicant/lead party adds the annual report of 2012 to the application (for criteria that require information of the 2013-2015 period) or the annual report of 2010 (for criteria that require information of the 2011-2015 period).</p>
<p>11. What is the status of an organisation that is established outside the Netherlands and chosen target country, and also has an office established in the target country? Such an office remains a branch of the main organisation, which centrally administers finances, but possesses legal personality in the target country and can demonstrate experience of directly implementing programs in the country. In this case, does the definition of local NGO apply? What is the status in the same scenario, where some of the finances of the local office are administered locally?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>➤ We are an INGO registered in a European country and registered in one of the target countries. Could we apply with a proposal from our organisation registered in the target country?</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.1 (page 22-23 of the policy framework): The applicant (or in the case of a consortium: the lead party), together with any co-applicants, must be a Dutch, international or local not-for-profit non-governmental organisation (NGO), which possesses legal personality.</p> <p>There is a legal difference between having its registered office in the country and being registered in a country.</p> <p>‘Having its registered office’ means the location of establishment as mentioned in the Articles of Association or the constitution of the organisation (acting as a full legal entity) concerned. To act as (full) legal entity you have to operate as a distinct and separate entity and as such be able to independently participate in legal dealings with separate capital. Generally, the Articles of Association or the constitution only mention one location where the legal entity constituted is established c.q. has its registered office.</p> <p>‘Being registered’ in a country means that the organisation is registered with the relevant government authorities in the target country. An (I)NGO can have country offices and be registered in more than one country at the same time.</p> <p>The organisation applies from the country where it has its registered office, not where it has a registered country office. The registered office determines whether the NGO is Dutch, international or local.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Dutch NGO’ means: an NGO established in the Netherlands, subject to Dutch law and having its registered office in the Netherlands. • ‘Local NGO’ means: an NGO that has its registered office in the country where the intended activities will be carried out (target country).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'International NGO' means: an NGO that has its registered office outside the Netherlands and the chosen target country, carries out activities in at least two countries, and has spent at least EUR 500,000 per year outside the country of establishment in the last three years (2013-2015). Please be aware of the legal difference between having its registered office in a certain country and being registered and/or established in a certain country.
<p>12. We are lead party of a consortium, do we have to include the constitutions of all our co-applicants in our proposal?</p>	<p>Yes this is correct. Please refer to threshold criterion D.1 (page 22-23 of the policy framework). The applicant/lead party must demonstrate this by adding a copy of the organisation's constitution. In the case of a consortium the constitutions of the co-applicants must be added.</p>
<p>13. Can we apply with an application from our organisation in Jordan but physically submit the application from a European capital?</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.1 (page 22-23) of the policy framework.</p> <p>In order to be eligible as a local NGO (from Jordan) the organisation must meet the definition of local NGO as stated in criterion D.1 (e.g. have its registered office in Denmark).</p> <p>If the applicant/lead party has its registered office in a European capital, not being the Netherlands, it must meet the definition of international NGO as stated in criterion D.1.</p> <p>It does not matter where the application is physically submitted (e.g. where the hard-copy or digital application is sent from). This does not necessarily have to be the country where the applicant/lead party has its registered office.</p>

D.2

Question	Answer
<p>14. Our organisation has experience with implementing a program in the target country of approximately EUR 10 million per year (for 5 years) in a consortium. Our own</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.2. (page 23 of the policy framework): In the last five years (2011-2015), the applicant or lead party must have had at least three years' experience with implementing programmes in the target country with a</p>

<p>annual spending within the consortium however was less than EUR 500,000 per year. Does the organisation meet this threshold criterion?</p>	<p>budget of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the case of a Dutch or international NGO: at least EUR 500,000 per year; • in the case of a local NGO: at least EUR 200,000 per year. <p>If the applicant/lead party does not have experience with implementing programmes in the target country with a budget of at least EUR 500,000 per year if it is a Dutch or international NGO, and EUR 200,000 per year if it is a local NGO, in the last five years (2011-2015), it does not meet this threshold criterion.</p> <p>In this case it does not matter if the applicant/lead party was part of a consortium of which the total spending per year was more than EUR 500,000 (in case of a Dutch or international NGO) or EUR 200,000 (in case of a local NGO). Only the own annual spending of the applicant/lead party counts.</p> <p>When an application does not meet all the threshold criteria, it only qualifies for a grant when it submits a proposal in a consortium with a lead applicant that does meet all the threshold criteria.</p>
<p>15. Our organisation has been implementing a cross-border program. The total budget of this programme is more than 500.000 Euro per year. However, per country this amount is lower than 500.000 Euro, while the budget of the total program is a lot higher than this amount. Does this meet this threshold criterion?</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.2 (page 23 of the policy framework).</p> <p>If the budget of the programme for the target country is lower than EUR 500,000 per year (in case of a Dutch or international NGO) or EUR 200,000 (in case of a local NGO), even if the total amount of a multi-country programme of which the target program is part exceeds this amount, the applicant/lead party does not meet this threshold criterion.</p> <p>It also does not matter if, for example, in year one the spending was, in case of a Dutch or international NGO, EUR 500,000 and year two and three EUR 400,000.</p> <p>It also does not matter if, for example, in year one the spending was, in case of a Dutch or international NGO, 1,100,000 Euro and in year two and year three EUR 400,000.</p> <p>When an application does not meet all the threshold criteria, it only qualifies for a grant when submitting a proposal in a consortium with a lead applicant that does meet all the threshold criteria.</p>

<p>16. Does the budget of at least EUR 500,000 per annum apply for three years, or for five years?</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.2 (page 23 of the policy framework).</p> <p>The amounts of EUR 500,000 (in case of a Dutch or international NGO) and EUR 200,000 (in case of a local NGO) must be spent per year for at least three years, within the period 2011-2015.</p>
<p>17. At threshold criterion D.2, whose budget needs to be demonstrated, the Dutch NGO or the international NGO? We operate in an international network and have strong bilateral arrangements with some international NGO's. This is in some cases formalised in a corporate agreement. However we are still separate legal personalities with separate annual accounts. If our organisation in the Netherlands has a lower budget than EUR 500,000 in a targeted country, but our counterpart organisation in Europe has a budget of at least EUR 500,000 in the targeted country, could we as Dutch NGO still be the applying organisation/lead organisation? Or should we in this case become the co-applicant, and the international NGO the applying one?</p>	<p>For threshold criterion D.2 the budget of the applicant or lead party needs to be demonstrated.</p> <p>In this case the Dutch NGO does not qualify as a lead party.</p> <p>When an application does not meet all the threshold criteria, it only qualifies for a grant when it submits a proposal in a consortium with a lead applicant that does meet all the threshold criteria.</p>
<p>18. Should the expenditures in the target country be EUR 500,000 per year on average or EUR 500,000 as a minimum per year, for both the track record case as well as for the required experience for the threshold criterion? Or should it be as described (EUR 500,000 as a minimum for the required experience but EUR 500,000 as an average for the track record case?)</p>	<p>The amounts mentioned in threshold criterion D.2 refer to a minimum amount per year.</p> <p>The amounts mentioned in the track record refer to an average amount for the track record case.</p>
<p>19. Does the EUR 500,000 annual budget threshold in the case of an INGO, and EUR 200,000 in the case of a local NGO per country only apply to the lead applicant, or to all consortium members?</p>	<p>The budget thresholds mentioned in threshold criterion D.2 only applies to individual applicants or, in case of a consortium, the lead party.</p>
<p>20. As an international NGO, our project was designed to spend at least EUR 500,000 a year over the course of three and a half years as part of the Dutch</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.2. When the annual actual spending of the applicant/lead party in the target country was less than the budget threshold of EUR EUR 500,000 per year in case of a Dutch or international NGO or EUR 200,000 per year</p>

<p>Reconstruction 2016-2020 funding. However, due to the Netherlands government discontinuing support for activities involving the government and military of this particular country, a portion of the project had to shift its focus, and activities (and funds) which were to have involved these actors were replaced with additional activities in other countries. In light of this, would our project be eligible under the threshold criteria D2 regarding the target country?</p>	<p>in case of a local NGO, than the applicant/lead party does not meet this criterion and is not eligible for funding.</p> <p>It does not matter if the initial budget was above the budget thresholds mentioned, but for external reasons the budgets were adjusted downwards below the budget threshold.</p>
<p>21. One of the eligibility requirements is that the lead organisation should have a minimum turnover of EUR 500,000 in the last three years. If the applicant/lead party was established less than three years ago, does this mean that the organizations is ineligible to submit a proposal as individual applicant or lead party of a consortium?</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.2 (page 23 of the policy framework): In the last five years (2011-2015), the applicant or the lead party must have had at least three years' experience with implementing programmes in the target country with a budget of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the case of a Dutch or international NGO: at least EUR 500,000 per year; • in the case of a local NGO: at least EUR 200,000 per year. <p>The applicant or the lead party needs to be established at least three years ago, in order to be able to have the required experience of at least three years. Therefore, if an organisation was established less than three years ago (for example mid-2013), it will not meet this criterion.</p> <p>When an application does not meet all the threshold criteria, it can only be eligible for a grant if it submits a proposal in a consortium with a lead applicant that does meet all the threshold criteria.</p>
<p>22. In section D.2 of the threshold criteria, the applicant must demonstrate at least three years' experience with implementing programmes in the target country. Do the finances need to demonstrate expenditure in the target country, or on the target country (for example, training sessions, workshops, advocacy mission conducted outside the country on issues specific to the country).</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.2 Applicants must have at least three years' experience with implementing programmes in the target country.</p> <p>When an application does not meet all the threshold criteria, it only qualifies for a grant when it submits a proposal in a consortium with a lead applicant that does meet all the threshold criteria.</p>
<p>23. With regards to threshold criterion D.2, would it be accepted if the applicant/lead party demonstrates that the combined amount of several smaller programmes</p>	<p>It is accepted to combine several programmes implemented by the applicant/lead party in the target country in the last five years (2011-2015) to meet the minimum amount and duration threshold with regards to threshold criterion D.2.</p>

is above the minimum amount threshold?	
24. As evidence for threshold criterion D.2, for international NGOs, is it accepted to use organisation wide reports and accounts and point to relevant country sections of information in there?	Yes this is allowed, as long as the applicant clearly refers to the relevant pages where the required information can be found.

D.3

Question	Answer
25. Is our assumption correct that the plausibility relating to criterion D.3 is based on the average percentage (of at least 25%) over the entire period 2012-2014 and not over the indicated years separately? In other words, do we assume correctly that if one of the indicated years of this percentage is below 25% it does not mean that the application will be automatically disqualified?	<p>Please refer to criterion D.3 on page 23 of the policy framework.</p> <p>No, that assumption is incorrect. Criterion D.3 is not based on the average percentage of the 2012-2014 period, but over the years 2012-2014 separately. Thus, in each of those years, the applicant must demonstrate that at least 25% for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 of the annual income was derived from other grants/contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including embassies).</p> <p>In the case of a consortium, this criterion applies to the whole consortium. Consequently if one organisation derives less than 25% of its annual income in the 2012-2014 period from sources other than the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this should be offset by another party in the consortium.</p>

D.5

Question	Answer
26. We understand that, in case the lead applicant or alliance partners do not have an own office, it is sufficient to get access to local offices through offices of our local cooperation partners in the programme. Is this correct?	This is correct.
27. According to criterion D.5, the applicant needs to have	The applicant/lead party must have access to an office in the country for which

<p>access to an office in the target country for which a grant has been requested – whether or not via partner organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Could you elaborate what is precisely meant with partner organisations? ➤ Can this involve an office of local partners who are not formally part of the applying consortium, but who do play a role in carrying out the programme? 	<p>the grant is being requested.</p> <p>In case of an individual applicant, this can be (1) the (country) office of the individual applicant or (2) the office(s) of one or more local partner organisation(s) with which the applicant has a formal relationship.</p> <p>In case of a consortium, this can be (1) the (country) office of the lead party and/or (2) the (country) office(s) of one or more co-applicant(s) and/or (3) the office(s) of one or more local partner organisation(s) with which the applicant has a formal relationship.</p>
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D.6

Question	Answer
<p>28. For the Strategic Partnership Protracted Crisis the ECHO framework partnership agreement (FPA) was enough, if you have a contract with Ministry of Foreign Affairs as strategic partner under this fund, do you need to fill in the COCA?</p>	<p>The ECHO framework partnership agreement (FPA) may substitute a positively assessed organisational check, COCA or PARTOS ISO 9001 certification and is thus sufficient.</p> <p>When the applicant/lead party makes use of a FPA to substitute a positively assessed organisations check, COCA or PARTOS ISO 9001 certification, it must be valid at the start of program activities.</p> <p>Please refer to the clarification of threshold criteria D.6 in the revised policy framework + the application form and threshold check.</p>
<p>29. If an applicant received a positively assessed organisational check in a previous application (e.g. Strategic Partnerships Chronic Crises in 2013, the Reconstruction Tender or SRHR in 2012) that referred in part to a positively assessed organisational check of an application older than four years (e.g. MFSII in 2010), is this sufficient to pass the criterion?</p>	<p>Please refer to component d) of the clarification of threshold criteria D.6 in the application form and threshold check (page 5):</p> <p>If the applicant already has a grant relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but the positively assessed organisational check or the COCA that has been executed on behalf of the minister in the context of a grant application, is older than four years, the simplified organisational check form can be used (annexe 4). The applicant can indicate the grant relation by referring to the activity number of the grant that has been obtained.</p>

	Thus, if your organisational quality was positively assessed less than four years ago but the COCA or organisational check was executed more than four years ago at the date of the submission of your application for the ARC Fund , you will have to update the COCA (annexe 4).
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D.7

Questions	Answers
30. Is there any budget ceiling which needs to be considered in deciding the scope and size of the project?	Yes, there is. Please refer to threshold criteria D.7. (page 24 of the policy framework): For all applications, the maximum grant application is EUR 10 million per country for a five-year duration of activities (2016-2021). If the application concerns a shorter period, the maximum grant application is EUR 6 million for a three-year duration and EUR 8 million for a four-year duration.
31. Is the minimum project duration 36 months/ 3 years as stated on page 22 of the policy framework: "the requested duration (minimum 36 and maximum 60 months), the requested starting date (not before 1 September 2016 and no later than 1 January 2017)"? So are shorter projects of 18 months not eligible for funding?	That is correct, programmes shorter than 36 months are thus not eligible for funding. Please refer to threshold criterion D.7. (page 24 of the policy framework) which states that 'the minimum grant period is three years (36 months) and the maximum five years (60 months).'

D.9

Questions	Answers
32. Can you please confirm that an organisation can receive more than one award for separate applications in separate countries?	<p>There is no maximum amount of countries for which an applicant/lead party may submit a (separate) proposal; one may submit one proposal regarding each of the twelve countries. The maximum amount of grants an organisation can win is therefore twelve (one for every target country of the ARC Fund).</p> <p>The applicant may submit only one grant application for a chosen target country; and can only receive a grant for one application per chosen target country. This may be an individual application or an application as part of a consortium, in which case no distinction is made between lead parties and co-applicants. If an applicant submits more than one application for a target country, or participates in multiple applications for the same target country, either as a lead</p>

	party or co-applicant, all these applications will be rejected (refer to D.9).
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D.11

Questions	Answers
33. If we receive funding from another Dutch ministry than the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – whether it be core funding or grants earmarked for specific activities – are we still eligible for grants from the Addressing Root Causes Fund?	Yes, if the organisation receives core funding and/or grants from other Dutch ministries than the Ministry of Foreign Affairs it is still eligible for funding under threshold criterion D.11. Organisations that receive core funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the period to which the application for the ARC-fund relates cannot apply for the fund.
34. Referring to threshold criterion D.11 can we fund new activities by local civil society organisations that – as an organisation – receive funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget for different activities?	Yes, this is possible as long as the grant is being requested to fund new activities by local civil society organisations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not fund the same activities twice.

D.12

Questions	Answers
35. Our organisation is working in a cross border area of two countries whereby one country is a target country of the ARC Fund and one country is not. If we apply for the target country of the ARC-fund, can we also include the cross border area of the non-ARC target country in our application?	Please refer to threshold criterion D.12. (page 24 of the policy framework): The grant application must relate to activities that will be carried out in one of the following target countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Therefore it is not possible to include (areas of) other countries than ARC target countries in your application – irrespective whether it is as a cross-border area. Applications aimed at activities in countries other than the twelve ARC Fund target countries (e.g. Kenya, Nepal, Uganda, Iran, etc.) will be rejected.
36. Are we eligible to apply for a grant aimed at activities supporting refugees originating from one of the twelve target countries of the ARC Fund but residing in countries that are not a target country of	Please refer to threshold criterion D.12 (page 24 of the policy framework): The grant application must relate to activities that will be carried out in one of the following target countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the

<p>the ARC Fund? For example, Afghan refugees residing in Iran or South Sudanese refugees residing in Uganda.</p>	<p>Congo.</p> <p>Applications aimed at activities focused on groups of people (for example refugees) originating from an ARC Fund target country, but residing in a non-ARC Fund target country are not eligible for grants from the ARC Fund and thus will be rejected.</p>
<p>37. For Syria one of the objectives is 5.3 in situations of protracted crisis, national and international actors support vulnerable groups (including refugees, displaced persons and host communities) to enhance their resilience and build sustainable livelihoods. Could the programme for this objective also be focused on vulnerable groups of Syrian people outside the country, e.g. on groups of Syrian refugees in Lebanon?</p>	<p>Please refer to threshold criterion D.12 (page 24 of the policy framework): The grant application must relate to activities that will be carried out in one of the following target countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.</p> <p>The country specific goals are related to applications for programmes that will be implemented in the respective countries. Applications focussing on vulnerable groups of Syrian people in Lebanon should therefore focus on one of the country specific goals for Lebanon, as provided on page 10 of annexe 1 to the policy framework.</p>

Track record

Budget

Questions	Answers
<p>38. Is it possible to pick a case where a programme was implemented for 24 months or more but with support from multiple donors (for example, a program in which the first year was funded by one source and second-year funding was secured from a different funding source)?</p>	<p>The ministry does not make a distinction between programmes funded by a single donor and programmes funded by multiple donors.</p>
<p>39. The two statements below concerning track record are contradictory. Kindly confirm if the applicant is funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 whether the burden is on the applicant to provide another case with a minimum budget of EUR 500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO):</p> <p>Page 18 of the policy framework states: If the applicant/lead party has received funding in the period 2011-2015 for a programme from the</p>	<p>At least one of the programmes selected as a case, excluding proposals that include cases of programmes that are funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, must have a minimum budget of EUR 500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or a minimum of EUR 200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO), with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24 months).</p> <p>If the applicant/lead party presents a programme that was funded from the Reconstruction Tender or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises, the second presented case does not need to have a minimum budget of EUR 500,000 per year</p>

<p>Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 and/or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 in the chosen target country for which this grant is being requested, then it is mandatory to use this programme as a case. If the applicant/lead party did not receive funding from either of these funds in the last five years, the applicant/lead party is required to select at least one case with a minimum budget of on average EUR 500,000 per year (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or on average EUR 200,000 per year (in the case of a local NGO), with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24months); but preferably longer.</p> <p>Page 4 of Mandatory Annex 1 states: At least one of the programmes selected as a case, excluding programmes that are funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, must have a minimum budget of EUR 500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or a minimum of EUR 200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO), with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24 months).</p>	<p>on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or a minimum of EUR 200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO).</p>
<p>40. For our multi-country grant, would we be required to demonstrate expenditures in the country being applied for separately or is it enough to provide overall programme expenditures as per project audit when country break-down is not indicated in the multi-country programme budget or reporting.</p>	<p>At least one of the programmes selected as a case, excluding proposals that include cases of programmes that are funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, must have a minimum budget of EUR 500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or a minimum of EUR 200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO), with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24 months).</p> <p>If a multi-country programme is presented as a case, this minimum budget refers to the budget for the target country alone (please refer to page 17-18 of the policy framework).</p>

Cases

Questions	Answers
41. Regarding the two cases for the track record, is the correct understanding that preferably we should present two type A cases? Would type A track record be favoured over other permitted case study combinations or would each case be scored on its own technical merit against the assessment criteria?	It is correct that the ministry prefers that the applicant/lead party specifies its experience in the chosen target country on the country-specific goal(s) (type A) via two cases of programmes carried out in the last five years (2011-2015). The quality of the track record as a whole will be assessed using criteria T.1-T.8 (page 24-25 of the policy framework)
42. We are an INGO with a current Reconstruction grant. This is a multi-country programme that includes the country we want to apply for. Is it correct to understand that this multi-country Reconstruction grant must be used as our case 1 and would be considered type A?	<p>This is correct. Because both the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 and the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 stimulate a regional approach and if the applicant/lead party has received funding in the period 2011-2015 for a programme from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 and/or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 in the chosen target country for which this grant is being requested, then it is mandatory to use this programme as a case, multi-country programmes that include the target country will be considered a type A case (please refer to page 17-18 of the policy framework).</p> <p>If a multi-country programme is presented as a case, this minimum budget refers to the budget for the target country alone (please refer to page 17-18 of the policy framework).</p>
43. When our case 1 –Reconstruction grant is a multi-country programme, should we reference the overall programme but give more details on the country we apply for?	This is correct. When a multi-country programme that received funding in the period 2011-2015 for a programme from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 and/or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 in the chosen target country for which this grant is being requested, is used as a case in the track record. Reference to the overall programme may be made, but the case should mainly present the part of that was implemented in the target country for which the applicant/lead party applies for a grant from the ARC Fund (please refer to page 17-18 of the policy framework).
44. For our case 2, would it require that its financial value is above the threshold indicated, even if case 1 – Reconstruction (a multi-country grant) was above the threshold?	<p>No, at least one of the programmes selected as a case, excluding proposals that include cases of programmes that are funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, must have a minimum budget of €500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or a minimum of €200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO), with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24 months).</p> <p>When one of the cases is a programme funded by the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, irrespective whether or not this programme meets the required amount, the second case does not have meet this requirement.</p>

<p>45. We are an INGO and have a case in the specific country, but its financial value is less than EUR 500,000 per year. Are the guidelines to be understood as favouring A-A case combinations, or would it be better to pick a B1 case as our second case if this demonstrate higher financial value and complexity and speaks to the evaluation criteria?</p>	<p>At least one of the programmes selected as a case, excluding proposals that include cases of programmes that are funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, must have a minimum budget of €500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or a minimum of €200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO), with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24 months) (please refer to page 17-18 of the policy framework).</p> <p>If the financial value of the A-case is below the requested €500,000 per year, or not a programme funded by the Reconstruction Tender or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises, the second case should meet the financial threshold.</p>
<p>46. Is it accepted to use a multi-country programme in the track record case study? Will it be considered type A, if one of the countries it was implemented in is the country being applied for?</p>	<p>It is accepted to use a multi-country programme for the track record, if the case mainly presents the part of the program that was implemented in the target country for which the applicant/lead party applies for a grant from the ARC Fund. In this case it will be considered to be a type A-case. If a multi-country programme is presented as a case, this minimum budget refers to the budget for the target country alone (please refer to page 17-18 of the policy framework).</p>
<p>47. In the situation where programmes are multi-country, can we use one case for more than one country application when the case demonstrates effective programming in both countries, for example, Syria and Lebanon?</p>	<p>Yes this is possible. It is accepted to use a multi-country programme for the track record, if the case mainly presents the part of the program that was implemented in the target country for which the applicant/lead party applies for a grant from the ARC Fund.</p> <p>At least one of the programmes selected as a case, excluding proposals that include cases of programmes that are funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, must have a minimum budget of €500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or a minimum of €200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO), with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24 months).</p> <p>If a multi-country programme is presented as a case, this minimum budget refers to the budget for the target country alone (please refer to page 17-18 of the policy framework).</p>
<p>48. Concerning track record cases: Is it allowed to use, as part of our track record case for Syria, our experience and work with Syrian refugees in Lebanon?</p>	<p>In the track record, the applicant/lead party must specify its experience in the chosen target country on the country-specific goal(s) (type A) via two cases of programmes carried out in the last five years (2011-2015).</p> <p>If the applicant/lead party does not have the preferred combination of experience in the target country on the chosen country-specific goal(s) in the last five years, then</p>

	<p>the applicant/lead party must select a programme as case which indicates the experience of the applicant/lead party in the last five years with carrying out programmes (type B – consisting of B1 and B2):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the chosen target country on the policy goals of the spearhead Security and Rule of Law, not including the chosen country-specific goal(s) and; 2. In another fragile state , or Jordan or Lebanon than the chosen target country, focused on the chosen country-specific goal(s). <p>Including a case where the experience and work with Syrian Refugees in Lebanon is described for a proposal in Syria (B2) is allowed <i>in combination</i> with an A-type or B1-type case.</p> <p>Please refer to the table provided in chapter 3.3.2 of the policy framework (page 17) for more information on what kind of experience may be used as part of the track record.</p>
<p>49. In the Track Record Format, the term “intensity of experience” is used. Could you explain what exactly is meant by this term and how it will be measured or weighed in the assessment of the track record cases?</p>	<p>The intensity of experience refers to the experience the organisation has in the chosen target country on country-specific goal(s).</p> <p>Please refer to the Track Record criteria T.1 to T.8 (page 24-25 of the policy framework) for the criteria on which the quality of the track record will be assessed.</p>

Co-applicant

Questions	Answers
<p>50. On page 18 of the policy framework and in the application form, it is stated that in the case of a consortium a programme by a co-applicant can be used as case, next to at least one program carried out by the lead party:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Is my assumption correct that no more than two cases can be submitted, thus implying that not every co-applicant needs to submit a case?</p>	<p>This assumption is correct. No more than two cases may be submitted. It is not necessary to provide a case for each of the co-applicants.</p>
<p>51. On page 19 of the policy framework and in the application form, it is stated that at least one of the by the applicant/lead party submitted programs (as track record) must contain a budget of on average a</p>	<p>At least one of the programmes selected as a case, excluding proposals that include cases of programmes that are funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, must have a minimum budget of EUR 500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international</p>

<p>minimum of EUR 500,000 per year (Dutch or international NGO) or on average a minimum of EUR 200,000 per year (local NGO):</p> <p>Does this also count for the case of a co-applicant?</p>	<p>NGO) or a minimum of EUR 200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO), with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24 months). This can be a programme implemented by the lead party or by a co-applicant.</p>
<p>52. On page 19 of the policy framework and in the application form, it is stated that if the applicant/lead party received funding from the Reconstruction Tender or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises, this programme must be included as one of the two cases:</p> <p>53. Is my assumption correct that these requirements indeed only count for the lead applicant and not for a co-applicant?</p>	<p>This assumption is correct. If the applicant/lead party has received funding in the period 2011-2015 for a programme from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 and/or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 in the chosen target country for which this grant is being requested, it is mandatory to use this programme as a case. If the applicant/lead party receives funding from both funds, it may choose which programme to use as a case in the track record; including both is also allowed. If a co-applicant receives funds from either the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 it is not mandatory to include this case.</p>
<p>54. In case of a consortium, can track records be provided by co-applicants as well? If yes, does the total number of track record cases to be provided remain two, or does it increase?</p>	<p>In case of a consortium, for a maximum of one of the two cases presented it is allowed to make use of the experience of one of the co-applicants. The total number of track record cases to be provided is two.</p>
<p>55. Can a chapter of the same International NGO, which is located in the chosen country of the application be a co-applicant (given the fact that all chapters from the international NGO are legal entities)?</p> <p>b. And if so, would a track record case of this (local) chapter of the same international NGO be eligible (either on the chosen country specific goal or on other policy goals of the spearhead Security and Rule of Law)?</p> <p>c. And if so, does this track record case of the local co-applicant (but also a chapter of the same international NGO as the lead applicant) than need to have budget of 200.000 a year or 500.000 a year?</p>	<p>Yes. If the chapter meets threshold criterion D.1. (page 22 of the policy framework):</p> <p>The applicant (or in the case of a consortium: the lead party), together with any co-applicants, must be a Dutch, international or local not-for-profit non-governmental organisation (NGO), which possesses legal personality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'NGO' means: a not-for-profit organisation neither established by a public authority nor connected to a public authority either de facto or under its constitution, which possesses legal personality under civil law in the country where it has its registered office. • 'Dutch NGO' means: an NGO established in the Netherlands, subject to Dutch law and having its registered office in the Netherlands. • 'Local NGO' means: an NGO that has its registered office in the country where the intended activities will be carried out (target country). • 'International NGO' means: an NGO that has its registered office outside the Netherlands and the chosen target country, carries out activities in at least two countries, and has spent at least €500,000 per year outside the country of establishment in the last three years (2013-2015).

• Applications by a consortium must include a partnership agreement signed by all consortium members, specifying: (i) how each party will contribute to the activities of the consortium; (ii) how the consortium will make decisions; (iii) how the costs and risks are shared among the parties; and (iv) how the fulfilment of grant-related obligations towards the minister in respect of the grant is guaranteed, including responsibility for joint aggregated reports.

b) In case of a consortium, for a maximum of one of the two cases presented it is allowed to make use of the experience of one of the co-applicants.

Programmes that may be submitted as case:

- If the applicant/lead party (and any co-applicant) is the parent organisation, the programmes carried out by the entire own organisation may be used as case.
- If the applicant/lead party (and any co-applicant) is a chapter of an international NGO, only programmes relevant to the applicant/lead party (and any co-applicant), completely in its own management, and implemented by (a combination of) own staff, the local branch of the parent organisation and/or a local partner organisation may be used as case.
- If the applicant/lead party (and any co-applicant) is a chapter of an international NGO, programmes wherein the applicant/lead party (and any co-applicant) that functions as lead party of the implementing consortium is responsible for the results.

Programmes that may not be used as case:

- If the applicant/lead party (and any co-applicant) is a chapter of an international NGO, the programmes that the applicant manages together with another chapter of the international NGO may not be used as a case.
- If the applicant/lead party (and any co-applicant) is a chapter of an international NGO or is part of a network of organisations, the programmes that are implemented by other chapters, or by members of the network, may not be used as a case.
- If the applicant/lead party (and any co-applicant) has raised funding for programmes, without taking responsibility for the results, these programmes may not be used as a case.

c) At least one of the programmes selected as a case, excluding proposals that include cases of programmes that are funded from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016, must have a minimum budget of EUR 500,000 per year on average (in the case of a Dutch or international NGO) or a minimum of **EUR 200,000 per year on average (in the case of a local NGO)**, with a minimum uninterrupted implementation period of two years (24 months). This can be a programme implemented by the lead party or by a

co-applicant.

Evaluation

Questions	Answers
<p>Cases: in the clarification it is stated that "If the applicant/lead party has received funding in the 2011-2015 period for a programme from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 and/or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 in the chosen target country for which this grant is being requested, then it is mandatory to use this programme as a case." In addition the condition is posed that "At least one of both cases needs to be substantiated with an (mid-term) evaluation (carried out internally or externally) of the programme and the logical framework or the theory of change."</p> <p>56. Question: Does this mean that for an application in a country for which a grant has been received from the Strategic Partnership Protracted Crises 2014-2016, for which (because of the recent starting date of the programme) an (mid-term) evaluation has not yet been carried out, it is still mandatory to include this programme as case? Does this thus imply that in this specific case the other case is required to be supported by an evaluation?</p>	<p>This assumption is correct, at least one of the two cases presented in the track record must be substantiated by an (internally or externally carried out) (mid-term) evaluation and the logical framework or theory of change of the programme. If there is no (internally or externally carried out) (mid-term) evaluation of the programme that has received funding in the period 2011-2015 for a programme from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 and/or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 in the chosen target country for which this grant is being requested that is used as a case, then the applicant/lead party should substantiate the other presented case by an (internally or externally carried out) (mid-term) evaluation and the logical framework or theory of change of the programme. It is, however, still mandatory to include this case in the proposal.</p>
<p>57. In support of a case study, can we use the evaluation of an approach (i.e. Community Based Child Protection) which cuts across our programming, or does it have to be of one specific project?</p>	<p>The evaluation can be a programme evaluation focused on one or more countries, wherein at least the target country is included. It is also allowed to submit an evaluation of an approach that is at least focused on the target country.</p>
<p>58. How does the Minister define independent research as used in criterion T.1 under section 4.2 track record criteria? And also: how does this compare with the text on the bottom of page 13 (internal/external evaluation)?</p>	<p>With 'independent research' the ministry refers in criterion T.1 regarding the track record (page 24 of the policy framework) to an official (mid-term) evaluation carried out internally or externally.</p>

<p>59. Within the track record two cases have to be submitted, whereby the SPPC programme has to be included as one of the cases, because that is mandatory. However, it is stated "At least one of both cases needs to be substantiated with an (mid-term) evaluation (carried out internally or externally) of the programme". If we want to submit the SPPC programme, we have, however, not an official external evaluation yet, because this SPPC evaluation will be carried out in the second half of 2016. Is it possible to use just the internal data of the progress reports and/or case studies over 2014+2015, as being an 'internal evaluation' of the SPPC programme?</p>	<p>As stated on page 18 of the policy framework, 'if the applicant/lead party has received funding in the period 2011-2015 for a programme from the Reconstruction Tender 2012-2016 and/or the Strategic Partnerships Protracted Crises 2014-2016 in the chosen target country for which this grant is being requested, then it is mandatory to use this programme as a case.'</p> <p>If there is no (mid-term) (internal or external) evaluation of this programme available, the applicant must substantiate the other case that it provides with an (mid-term) evaluation (carried out either internally or externally).</p> <p>It is not sufficient to submit a progress report or case studies as an evaluation.</p>
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Concept Note

Question	Answer
<p>60. With regard to the DRC country goals, can a High Intensity Labour Approach (HIMO: haute intensity de la main d'oeuvre) in works be considered as contributing to goal 5. Equal access to employment and basic services; resilience?</p>	<p>The ministry cannot advise on the content of the application other than that the application must be aimed at the overarching goal of the ARC-fund (see page 8 of the policy framework) and one or more country-specific sub goals as provided in annex 1 of the policy framework.</p>
<p>61. Are proposals for Mali and Democratic Republic of Congo restricted to the geographical priorities mentioned in the policy framework annexe 1: Countries?</p>	<p>For a number of target countries one or several priority regions have been selected. If in annexe 1 of the policy framework priority regions within countries are indicated and the proposal focuses on other regions than the priority regions within the target country, then proposals focusing on priority regions will be given priority. This does not mean that proposals are not allowed to choose other regions than the priority regions.</p> <p>For Mali the northern part of the country has been indicated as most unstable and thus important for interventions, but it has not been officially indicated as</p>

	<p>priority region (refer to page 12 of annexe 1 of the policy framework). The ARC Fund would like to grant applications that focus on the northern region and/or link up to existing programs funded by the Dutch embassy in that region. However, root causes of armed conflict, instability and irregular migration are not limited to the North.</p> <p>For the DRC the following I4S stabilisation zones have been indicated as priority regions (refer to page 4 of the annexe of the policy framework):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masisi-Rubaya-Katoyi-Luke • Hauts Plateaux de Kalehe (Noord Kalehe)
<p>62. Will applications that address all the goals indicated for a country be favoured, e.g. for Burundi both goal 1 and 2? Do all country goals of a policy goal need to be addressed? For example in Burundi, if an organisation chooses goal 1, does it need to address both country goals 1.1 and 1.3?</p>	<p>The quality of the concept note will be assessed on the basis of criteria C.1 – C.22 (page 25-26 of the policy framework). Unless indicated otherwise in the context analysis and goals provided per country in annexe 1 of the policy framework, applications that address <i>all</i> the country specific (sub-)goals are not given priority over applications that focus on a single country-specific (sub)goal for that specific country.</p> <p>However, where in annexe 1 identifies both priority goals and secondary goals have been formulated for the target country, applications focusing on one or more priority goals for the target country will be given priority over applications focusing on secondary goals (refer to page 14 of the policy framework).</p>
<p>63. For Burundi, is the correct understanding that there are no priority regions and that goal 1 and 2 will be given equal weight? Will more weight be given to one goal? If so, which one? Will priority be given to a region, if so which one and why?</p>	<p>There are no priority regions or priority goals identified for Burundi (please refer to page 3 of annexe 1 of the policy framework). The quality of the concept note will be assessed on the basis of criteria C.1 - C.22 (page 25-26 of the policy framework).</p>
<p>64. We struggle with the Burundi requirement on not working with the government. We have worked with government on local level, based on recent advice from the embassy. Are we to reframe from working with all government institutions at all levels?</p>	<p>Programmes implemented by NGOs and international organisations are often in contact with, and provide technical support to, the Government of Burundi, both at the central and local level. These interactions may be unavoidable for the sound implementation of the concerned programmes. If it's in the interest of the ultimate beneficiaries of these programmes such unavoidable contacts may be allowed. The Ministry strongly advises to address this issue in the concept note (please refer to criterion C.6.).</p>

<p>65. We are working in Somalia and we would like to know whether you regard fisheries as eligible for agriculture.</p>	<p>The ministry cannot advise on the content of the intervention other than that the application must be aimed at one or more country-specific sub goals as provided in annexe 1 of the policy framework and meet all the threshold criteria. Only then will the quality of the track record and concept note be assessed.</p> <p>However, fisheries in Somalia are not regarded as a priority sector of which a large part of the Somalian population is dependent on (refer to page 15 of annexe 1 of the policy framework).</p>
<p>66. Can some parts of Somalia like Puntland and Somaliland be considered as safe for work and travel by foreigners from the Netherlands or other countries, despite the red classification (indicating unsafe to travel to) of the whole Somalia on the website of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs?</p>	<p>The travel advice by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is considered as leading. If the classification is set at 'unsafe', then working in this country is also considered unsafe.</p> <p>Organisations deciding to work in countries or regions classified as unsafe by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are responsible for their choices, safety regulations and the safety of their employees.</p>
<p>67. Could you please be more specific about the preferred areas in Somalia? In annexe 1 of the policy framework is stated that the liberated areas of Central and Southern Somalia are considered priority. Would you consider Puntland as Central Somalia? And what do you mean with liberated: free from Al-Shabaab activities?</p>	<p>Puntland is not considered as part of Central Somalia. Everything south of the central city of Gaalkacyo is regarded as Central Somalia, with a focus on the southern regions where Al-Shabaab has been expelled. Thus, liberated areas are areas liberated from Al-Shabaab rule.</p>
<p>68. Recently, two different financial instruments – the ARC Fund and the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) Horn of Africa – have been announced. In some of the countries where both the ARC Fund and RDPP Horn of Africa are active (e.g. Ethiopia), there seems to be a slight thematic overlap in priorities. How should an applicant/consortium, interested in applying for both the ARC and RDPP, deal with a potential thematic overlap in their applications?</p>	<p>Applicants/consortia can apply and potentially receive a grant from both the ARC Fund and in due time from the RDPP Horn of Africa. While the ARC fund aims to address root causes of migration, the RDPP Horn of Africa is specifically aimed at regions of protracted displacement and secondary movement, targeted at refugees and host communities. However, overlap between the two programs can exist and here synergies will be created. The RDPP Horn of Africa is still in its exploratory phase and formal procedures are not yet in place. The Ministry strongly suggests applicants/consortia that are interested for both ARC and RDPP, to include in their concept note how their application for the ARC Fund is connected to their possible or desired engagement in the RDPP.</p>

General

Financial

Question	Answer
69. Do grants provided by the Addressing Root Causes Fund have any self-financing requirements or can they be used to cover 100 % of project costs?	<p>There are no self-financing requirements for grants provided from the Addressing Root Causes Fund. Grants may be used to cover 100% of project costs.</p> <p>However, please refer to threshold criterion D.3. The applicant must demonstrate that at least 25% of its annual income derives from sources other than grants and/or contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including embassies). Grants received from the ARC Fund will not exceed 75% of the organisation's annual income.</p>
70. What will be the maximum percentage allowed for Indirect Cost Recovery (AKV)?	<p>The Ministry does not use a maximum percentage allowed for Indirect Cost Recovery (AKV). When organisations selected for phase II submit a budget, including the requested % Indirect Cost Recovery, as part of their programme document. The Ministry will assess whether the requested % is acceptable.</p>
71. Could you please specify the dates for eligibility of expenses? Do they correspond with the start date of the project or can eligibility be requested prior to the project start date?	<p>The eligibility of expenses corresponds with the date the application was submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Expenses made by the applicant/consortium before the application was submitted are not eligible. Thus, eligibility of expenses made prior to the start of the project (but after the date of the submission of the proposal) can be requested. However, this is only possible for applicants/consortia that were awarded a grant at the end of phase II.</p> <p>Expenses of activities that have started before the date of the submission of the application, but continue till after the date of the submission of the application are not eligible.</p>

72. To what extent does the Minister allow sub-contracting of local NGOs?	Sub-contracting of local NGOs is allowed in the Addressing Root Causes Fund.
73. Which mode of application submission will be more preferable (i.e. online, through embassy, or email)? Please indicate the address.	<p>Please refer to chapter 3 of the policy framework (page 15-22) for more information on the application and submission requirements.</p> <p>Grant applications need to be submitted, using the application formats made available by the minister concerning the threshold check, with the formats concerning the track record and concept note added as mandatory annexes, no later than Friday 4 March 2016 at 12:00 PM at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Applications must be submitted by e-mail as Adobe PDF files via DSH-ARCFUND@minbuza.nl or by mail to Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, t.a.v. DSH ARC Fund, Postbus 20061 EB Den Haag, Nederland. If the application is submitted by mail, the documents must be provided digitally on USB stick as well.</p> <p>The Ministry has no preference as to whether applications are submitted by e-mail or post.</p>
74. Which documents need to be attached with the application?	Please refer to chapter 3 (page 15-22) of the policy framework + the application form and threshold check for more information on the required documents and on the application and the submission requirements.
75. Do you have limitations for the daily fee paid to experts in the project? If so, what is this limit?	No, elaborated budget is requested in this phase of the selection process. The Ministry does not have limitations for the daily fee paid to experts. However, fees paid need to be necessary and within reasonable limits. Refer to article 14 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs grant decree.
76. Is there any requirement at this stage to obtain the No Objection Certificate from the administration of the proposed region in Pakistan?	At this stage of the selection process it is not (yet) required to obtain a No Objection Certificate from the administration of the proposed region in Pakistan.
77. When it comes to consortia, what is your policy? Do you have any preference between a single application and/or a consortium?	The ministry encourages NGOs to submit applications as a consortium. These applications will, in case of equal quality, be given priority over applications of individual applicants (refer to page 11 of the policy framework).

78. In application form part I (m) we are to indicate grants received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are not sure whether these are only direct grants (when an organisation is the lead applicant) or also indirect grants (co-applicant).	Grants received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as co-applicant of a consortium must also be indicated. Thus, the applicant/lead party indicates all direct and indirect grants it received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including embassies.
79. What is the threshold limit allowed for management cost?	Please refer to threshold criterion D.4 (page 23 of the policy framework).
80. What is the threshold of Value for Money in terms of beneficiaries/ right holders?	At this stage of the selection process there is no threshold criterion on Value for Money in terms of beneficiaries/right holders.

Thematic and country priorities

Question	Answer
81. Should embassies be involved in the development of the concept note?	<p>Embassies can provide information on rules and regulations for NGOs implementing or looking to implement programs in their respective countries.</p> <p>They are however, in this phase of the selection process, not to be involved in the development of an application for the ARC Fund. Questions in response to the policy framework and application format can <u>exclusively</u> be submitted by e-mail to DSH-ARCFUND@minbuza.nl in the following two periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Until Wednesday 20 January 2016, 12:00 PM, after which questions will be answered and published anonymised at the website no later than Wednesday 27 January. - Until Friday 5 February 2016, 17:00 PM, after which questions will be answered and published anonymised at the website no later than Friday 12 February. <p>Only during the kick-off meeting of phase II (consultation and inception phase), will agreements be made about the collaboration between selected organisations and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including the embassies).</p>
82. Are geographical areas prioritized under the Syria Response Plan also prioritised under this tender?	Please refer to annexe 1 of the policy framework for possible prioritized areas within the twelve target countries of the Addressing Root Causes Fund.

	In Syria no areas are prioritized for the ARC Fund.
83. In Syria, our humanitarian response aligns with the commonly identified goals and frameworks of the humanitarian community and not with the priorities of the Government of Syria. Is this an issue?	In the assessment of the concept note using criteria C.1-C.22 (page 25-26 of the policy framework); differences in context between target countries will be taken into account. If the programme outcomes are not consistent with government priorities, an applicant can still receive the maximum amount of points for concept note criterion C.11 if the applicant motivates sufficiently why the outcomes are not consistent with government priorities.
84. Can we also work on regional drivers and root causes of conflict and migration with a separate outcome put in each separate country proposal that is related to the regional (drivers/ root causes of) the conflict (for example, Burundi, DRC)?	<p>The country-specific goals are related to applications for programs that will be implemented in the respective countries. A separate application must be submitted per target country and applications will be assessed on a stand-alone basis. If the applicant/consortium does include a separate program outcome relating to regional root causes of the armed conflict/migration, the application will not necessarily be rejected. Though, the applicant/consortium must demonstrate that all formulated programme outcomes contribute to the overarching goal of the ARC Fund and the country-specific goals.</p> <p>However, when, in this case, the applicant/consortium is awarded a grant for Burundi, but not for the DRC, the applicant/consortium is not allowed to use the grant for working on this particular program outcome in any other country but Burundi.</p>
85. Are emergency activities as contingency measures related to IDP or refugees accepted in this grant?	Grants for the ARC fund may not be used for emergency interventions. Also not as contingency measures.
86. Are advocacy activities related to the national and regional follow-up mechanism of Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region eligible in this grant?	<p>The ministry cannot advise on the content of the intervention other than that the application must be aimed at one or more country-specific goals as provided for the DRC on pages 4-5 of annexe 1 of the policy framework.</p> <p>It is up to the applicant/consortium to elaborate the extent to which the formulated programme outcomes contribute to the overarching goals of the ARC Fund and the country-specific goal(s) in the selected target country and target intervention area(s).</p>

<p>87. The ARC Fund seeks to address the 'root causes of armed conflict'. As such, would it permit proposals that seek to solve the drivers by which children are recruited for conflict such as isolation, hopelessness, displacement and absence of love?</p>	<p>The ministry cannot advise on the content of the intervention other than that the application must be aimed at one or more country-specific goals in annexe 1 of the policy framework.</p> <p>It is up to the applicant/consortium to elaborate the extent to which the formulated programme outcomes contribute to the overarching goals of the ARC Fund and the country-specific goal(s) in the selected target country and target intervention area(s).</p>
<p>88. Do you include food security in your definition of security?</p>	<p>The ministry cannot advise on the content of the intervention other than that the application must be aimed at one or more country-specific goals in annexe 1 of the policy framework. It is up to the applicant/consortium to elaborate the extent to which the formulated programme outcomes contribute to the overarching goals of the ARC Fund and the country-specific goal(s) in the selected target country and target intervention area(s).</p> <p>Please refer to the Dutch policy on security and rule of law: https://www.government.nl/documents/regulations/2015/12/10/theory-of-change-for-the-security-and-rule-of-law-policy-priority-in-fragile-situations.</p> <p>Food security is a separate policy priority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, thus, does not fall within the definition of security and rule of law.</p>
<p>89. What is the gender threshold for this call?</p>	<p>Please refer to criterion T.7 for the track record and criterion C.10 for the concept note (page 25 and 26 of the policy framework) for the assessment criteria related to gender.</p>
<p>90. Can <u>climate-induced migration</u> –internal and external- be classified as irregular migration (based on your definition); moreover can it be the central theme of a proposed intervention and project?</p>	<p>The ministry cannot advise on the content of the intervention other than that the application must be aimed at one or more country-specific goals in annexe 1 of the policy framework. It is up to the applicant/consortium to elaborate the extent to which the formulated programme outcomes contribute to the overarching goals of the ARC Fund and the country-specific goal(s) in the selected target country and target intervention area(s).</p> <p>Please refer to the Dutch policy on Security and Rule of Law: https://www.government.nl/documents/regulations/2015/12/10/theory-of-change-for-the-security-and-rule-of-law-policy-priority-in-fragile-situations. Climate change</p>

	does not fall under the Dutch policy on security and rule of law.
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Language

Question	Answer
91. Do all annexes to the application need to be in English? For example, DRC, Mali or Burundi evaluations, reports, partnership agreements etc. might be annexed in their French original (even though proposal will be submitted in English). Is this OK or we must have those documents translated and annexed in an English version?	Applications must be submitted in English (refer to page 15 of the policy framework). This includes evaluations, reports, partnership agreements etc.
92. Are the application forms and the policy framework for the ARC Fund also available in other languages?	The application forms and the policy framework for the ARC Fund are available in English and Dutch. The English version can be found here: https://www.government.nl/topics/grant-programmes/contents/addressing-root-causes-fund