

# Scaling and Supporting Innovative Finance for Resilience in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

*Guidelines for applicants*

### THE CHALLENGE

Building resilience in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions is imperative to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). People living in these regions are currently facing a triple threat as the impacts of COVID-19 and extreme weather caused by climate change amplify food and water security challenges, disasters and geopolitical instability and conflict.

Sustainably recovering from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and building resilience to the challenges of climate change, disasters and food and water security in conflict prone and fragile regions requires innovation and leadership from a wide group of stakeholders including the private sector. There is a strong case for supporting the private sector to build resilience because of its ability to:

- surface innovative solutions to crises;
- create jobs and support livelihoods;
- and build and rebuild trust and cross-scale collaborations through trading relationships and the creation of value chains.

Despite investment opportunities, the challenges private sector actors face in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions are often too many to overcome on their own. This project will identify, support and scale financial mechanisms for private sector resilience solutions targeting the most vulnerable people and places in the least developed countries with high vulnerability to crises and fragility. We seek to create a mutually reinforcing cycle in which the private sector and local communities build resilience together. By harnessing private sector innovation, finance and capacity, strides may be made that will have an immediate and lasting impact on the most vulnerable people and places.

### RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE

To meet the challenge and build resilience in the regions that need it most, the [Global Resilience Partnership \(GRP\)](#) is working with the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) supported by GEF's Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation. **GRP is announcing a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to identify and nurture a pipeline of novel, viable and fundable financial mechanisms in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions.** We are requesting EOIs from organisations managing or supporting innovative finance mechanisms operating in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions that wish to increase the scale and effectiveness of their financial mechanisms.

Novel financing mechanisms can include revolving funds as well as blended finance (grants, soft loans, matching funding), and must show a viable pathway to a sustainable revenue model. The aim is to address gaps in local finance for adaptation needs and bring in innovation that will drive adaptation entrepreneurship, incubation of new business models and scaling up of their existing investments and initiatives.

Financial mechanisms will be selected for support based on their current effectiveness to address resilience or their potential to shift to a resilience focus, and their potential to improve the scale and impact of their fund and investments for resilience. It is envisioned that a grant will be provided to selected organizations and a multidisciplinary mentoring and knowledge sharing facility will be developed to enable cross scale learning, and support with grant implementation. The facility will be comprised of experts in the fields of finance, development, peace and stability, and resilience. The facility will engage directly with the selected finance mechanisms to identify the support needed to develop and implement business plans for optimising scaling efforts and improving the effectiveness of these funds. It will further seek to address impact potential and sustainable financial return of the innovative finance mechanisms and support a focus on building resilience at the intersection of water and food security, peace and stability and disaster risk reduction.

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The open call for Expressions of Interest is to be announced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. Applicants should submit a maximum 600-word statement on how their organisation is eligible, addressing the eligibility requirements outlined below. The statement should explicitly state the size (in USD) of the innovative finance mechanism that is seeking support. Submissions should be sent to [info@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:info@globalresiliencepartnership.org) by **11.59pm [GMT] on 21 December 2020**.

In addition to the response outlining eligibility, the submission should also include the name and contact details of a primary point of contact as well as the name and website of the organisation. The contact and organisation information is not included in the 600-word limit.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Call is open to any organization that:

- 1) Is either implementing or directly supporting innovative finance mechanisms that are investing in private sector initiatives in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions.
- 2) Wishes to scale up and increase the effectiveness of these innovative finance mechanisms at building resilience in these regions.
- 3) Wishes to benefit from targeted investment support, technical support, and networking opportunities aimed at amplifying and increasing the effectiveness of these funds.

Eligible organisations include those:

- 1) That are currently running or directly supporting at least one innovative finance mechanism that is currently, or has the potential to, build resilience in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions through private sector investments.
- 2) That are able to demonstrate the potential for these innovative finance mechanisms to increase their scale and effectiveness at building resilience in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions.
- 3) That can demonstrate how the investments from these innovative finance mechanisms benefit the resilience of vulnerable communities, or have the potential to do so with support and investment.
- 4) That can demonstrate links to the intersection of building peace and stability, food and water security, disaster risk reduction, gender equity and climate adaptation.
- 5) With a mechanism that is based in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Least Developed Countries (see list of countries below).
- 6) With a finance mechanism that presents a sustainable revenue model or the pathway to a sustainable revenue model.
- 7) That offers a solution that does no harm (i.e. has no negative impacts on communities or ecosystems).

More details on eligibility requirements, benefits for selected submissions, and the Expression of Interest process and timelines can be found in our FAQs (see Annex).

## BENEFITS FOR SELECTED FINANCE MECHANISMS

All successful organisations will:

- 1) Benefit from targeted investment support against a business plan to improve the effectiveness of finance mechanisms
- 2) Be supported to develop a clear business plan of how they plan to increase the scale, effectiveness, and impact of these finance mechanisms
- 3) Receive technical assistance from a multi-disciplinary team comprised of experts in the fields of resilience programming, climate adaptation, peace & stability, and micro-finance
- 4) Benefit from peer-to-peer learning with other organisations running and supporting innovative finance mechanisms in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Regions
- 5) Benefit from networking opportunities with UNDP, GRP and with potential donors, investors, and other UN agencies wishing to increase their footprint in resilience building activities in these regions

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Activity	Dates
<b>1. Call for Expressions of Interest</b>	
Call opened for submissions	2 Dec – 21 Dec 2020
Submission window closes	21 January 2021
<b>2. Selection</b>	
Screening, assessment and selection	January 2021
<b>3. Implementation</b>	
Support	Mid-2021 onwards

## ANNEX: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### 1. How do I apply?

Provide a 600-word statement on how you are eligible, based on the eligibility requirements, including operating in an eligible country, The statement should explicitly state the size (in USD) of the innovative finance mechanism that is seeking support. Submissions should be sent to [info@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:info@globalresiliencepartnership.org) by **11.59pm [GMT] on 21 December 2020**. Make sure you address all the eligibility requirements to your best ability.

### 2. What are the timelines?

- ✓ The call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) opens on 2 December 2020.
- ✓ The deadline for submissions is **21 December 2020 23:59hrs (GMT)**. The call will close at this time.

### 3. Who can apply?

Any type of organisation that meets the eligibility criteria can apply.

### 4. What are the eligibility requirements?

To be eligible an organization must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Currently running or directly supporting at least one innovative finance mechanism that is currently, or has the potential to, build resilience in Fragile and Conflict-Prone areas through private sector investments
- ✓ Able to demonstrate the potential for these innovative finance mechanisms to increase their scale and effectiveness at building resilience in Fragile and Conflict Prone regions
- ✓ Demonstrate how the investments from these innovative finance mechanisms benefit resilience of vulnerable communities, or have the potential to do so with support and investment
- ✓ Demonstrate links to building peace and stability, food and water security, disaster risk reduction, gender equity and climate adaptation.
- ✓ The mechanism should be based in Fragile and Conflict-Prone Least Developed Countries.
- ✓ The finance mechanism should offer a sustainable revenue model or a pathway towards one. The solution does no harm (i.e. has no negative impacts on communities or ecosystems).

### 5. What are eligible countries?

Eligible countries include [Least Developed Countries](#) (LDCs) and are included in the box below.

<a href="#">Afghanistan</a>	<a href="#">Guinea</a>	<a href="#">Sao Tome and Principe</a>
<a href="#">Angola</a>	<a href="#">Guinea-Bissau</a>	<a href="#">Senegal</a>
<a href="#">Bangladesh</a>	<a href="#">Haiti</a>	<a href="#">Sierra Leone</a>
<a href="#">Benin</a>	<a href="#">Kiribati</a>	<a href="#">Solomon Islands</a>
<a href="#">Bhutan</a>	<a href="#">Lao People's Dem. Republic</a>	<a href="#">Somalia</a>
<a href="#">Burkina Faso</a>	<a href="#">Lesotho</a>	<a href="#">South Sudan</a>
<a href="#">Burundi</a>	<a href="#">Liberia</a>	<a href="#">Sudan</a>
<a href="#">Cambodia</a>	<a href="#">Madagascar</a>	<a href="#">Timor-Leste</a>
<a href="#">Central African Republic</a>	<a href="#">Malawi</a>	<a href="#">Togo</a>

<a href="#">Chad</a>	<a href="#">Mali</a>	<a href="#">Tuvalu</a>
<a href="#">Comoros</a>	<a href="#">Mauritania</a>	<a href="#">Uganda</a>
<a href="#">Democratic Republic of the Congo</a>	<a href="#">Mozambique</a>	<a href="#">Tanzania</a>
<a href="#">Djibouti</a>	<a href="#">Myanmar</a>	<a href="#">Vanuatu</a>
<a href="#">Eritrea</a>	<a href="#">Nepal</a>	<a href="#">Yemen</a>
<a href="#">Ethiopia</a>	<a href="#">Niger</a>	<a href="#">Zambia</a>
<a href="#">Gambia</a>	<a href="#">Rwanda</a>	

Source: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/ldcs-at-a-glance.html>

## 6. How does the selection process work?

First, all submissions are screened for eligibility. Those that do not meet the eligibility requirements are automatically removed. All eligible submissions are then reviewed and assessed by the selection committee comprised of GRP Secretariat staff.

### Who do I contact for more information?

If you have further questions then please contact us at: [info@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:info@globalresiliencepartnership.org) - we will do our best to respond to all inquiries within three working days.