

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Innovation Challenges – Call for Proposals

### May 2026

This document supplements the Guidelines for Applicants. It consolidates questions from the webinar for potential applicants (13 May 2026) and other inquiries received by the GRP secretariat. For questions not addressed here, please contact: [challenge@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:challenge@globalresiliencepartnership.org)

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## ELIGIBILITY

### Who can apply?

The Challenge is open to both non-profit and for-profit legally registered organisations, including NGOs, social enterprises, companies, cooperatives, universities, research institutions, public entities, multilateral organisations and consortiums. Both experienced implementers and emerging entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. We do not accept proposals from individuals or unregistered groups.

### What are the geographic eligibility rules?

Projects must be implemented in countries eligible for [Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#) as defined by the OECD-DAC. Eligibility is determined by where the project is implemented, not where the organisation is registered.

Certain challenges have earmarked funding for specific regions (East Africa for RAIN) or a special interest in regions (Southeast Asia for TECH4Nature; Hindu Kush Himalaya countries for RAIN for-profit solutions), but this does not limit eligibility from other countries.

Exclusions apply for entities and individuals on international sanctions lists, including those of the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), and the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

### Can an organisation submit more than one proposal?

No. Each organisation may submit only one proposal as lead applicant, but may participate as a partner in other proposals.

### Are partnerships or consortiums allowed?

Yes. Partnerships and consortiums are permitted. They are not specifically prioritised in scoring, but may strengthen a proposal's credibility and implementation capacity.

### Can newly registered or early-stage grassroots organisations apply?

Yes. Newly registered organisations and emerging grassroots organisations are eligible, provided they are legally registered. Prior grant history is not required. We are looking for teams that either already have proven implementation experience or demonstrate strong potential to implement resilience solutions.

### Can an organisation submit more than one proposal?

No. Each organisation may submit only one proposal as lead applicant, but may participate as a partner in other proposals.

### Must the project be women- or youth-led?

Any eligible organisation may apply regardless of the gender or age of its leadership. The requirement is that the solution prioritises the resilience of women and youth. More than 50% of people supported should be women or youth. Projects should incorporate meaningful gender, equity, and human rights considerations.

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## APPLYING

### How do I apply, and is there a template?

Applications must be submitted in English through the Submittable platform, linked [here](#). The online form is the template. No separate concept note, budget spreadsheet, or workplan document is required. We do not accept emailed applications.

### What should the budget and workplan cover?

The workplan and budget should focus specifically on activities and costs covered by the Innovation Challenge: the 12-month implementation period from January to December 2027. Project start/end dates and beneficiary targets (Core 1: people supported; Core 2: investment mobilised, see indicator guidance [here](#)) should all refer to this grant-funded period only.

### What is the 'Minimum Viable Amount'?

This is the minimum grant amount below which no meaningful outcomes can be achieved. Requesting less than the maximum of US\$50,000 does not disadvantage your proposal, evaluation is based on quality, impact and value for money, not grant size.

### Can I apply to continue an existing project, or one still being built?

Yes to both. You may propose to continue, adapt, or expand an existing initiative, or propose a solution still under development, provided the proposal demonstrates a credible pathway to results during the 12-month grant period. The innovation does not need to be entirely new to the world, it may be new to the sector in the country or new to the proposed context.

### Can a proposal address more than one thematic challenge?

Yes. There is one consolidated form for all three challenges. A single proposal may indicate alignment with more than one thematic challenge where genuinely relevant.

### Can I use AI tools to write my application?

Yes, but overly generic AI-generated applications will be filtered out at screening. AI should enhance your authentic voice, not replace it. Using AI for structure or clarity is entirely acceptable; the issue is with generic content. Please be specific and concise in describing your solution, your thematic fit, your unique value proposition, and its value for money.

### Does the application need to be in English?

Yes. We are only accepting applications submitted in English via the Submittable platform. We are not able to accept applications in other languages at this stage due to capacity constraints.

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## FUNDING AND SUPPORT

### What do winners receive?

Winners receive: (i) grant funding up to US\$50,000 for 12 months of implementation (January–December 2027); (ii) tailored mentoring, communications, and MEL support; and (iii) connections to funders and partners through GRP networks, including opportunities to participate in Investor Forums linked to events such as COP31 and Climate Weeks.

### Is co-funding required? Is there a cap on indirect costs?

Co-funding is not required. There is no fixed cap on indirect rates, though all costs should be reasonable and proportionate. Proposals demonstrating a clear path to sustainability and additional resource mobilisation will score more strongly on the Profitability and Sustainability criteria.

### How much budget flexibility is there during implementation?

This will be agreed in the grant contracting process. GRP recognises that local circumstances may require adaptation, and mentoring and MEL support are specifically designed to help winners adjust during implementation.

### What support do finalists and winners receive?

Finalists (~30–40) receive tailored mentoring, communications and MEL support, and participation in the virtual Leadership Academy (6–9 July 2026). Winners (~20) additionally receive grant funding, an in-person induction workshop in Q1 2027, and opportunities to participate in Investor Forums. Mentoring and MEL support continue throughout the 2027 implementation period.

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## SELECTION AND EVALUATION

### How does the review process work?

All applications are first screened for eligibility and rapid quality assessment; overly generic or AI-generated applications are filtered out at this stage. Approximately 200 shortlisted applications then proceed to in-depth review by two people: one GRP staff member and one GRP mentor. Former and current GRP grantees and partners are automatically shortlisted. From these, up to 30–40 finalists are selected, and ultimately approximately 20 winners.

### What are the evaluation criteria?

Applications are scored out of 100 across seven criteria: Innovativeness (0–15), Potential for Impact (0–15), Equity (0–15), Scalability (0–15), Profitability and Sustainability (0–15), Team Composition (0–15), and Risk (0–10). Full scoring guidance is in the Guidelines for Applicants.

### Are former or current GRP grantees and GRP partners eligible?

Former and current GRP grantees and GRP partners are automatically shortlisted for in-depth review and are encouraged to apply. This is the only way GRP grantees can receive continued funding. All applications are assessed against the same evaluation criteria and .

### Can pre- or post-submission feedback on a concept be requested?

The GRP secretariat is not able to provide direct feedback on individual submissions due to the volume of applications received. We encourage you to review the guidelines, evaluation criteria, and FAQ carefully before submitting.

## KEY DATES

- Submission deadline: 22 May 2026, 23:59 GMT (no extensions)
- Applicants notified: End of June 2026
- Virtual Leadership Academy: 6–9 July 2026 (save the date!)
- Winners announced: COP31, November 2026
- Implementation period: January–December 2027
- In-person induction workshop: Q1 2027

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For questions not addressed in this FAQ or in the Guidelines for Applicants, please contact the GRP secretariat at [challenge@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:challenge@globalresiliencepartnership.org). Full guidelines [here](#).