



## UNITLIFE NIGER PILOT GRANT

### Frequently asked questions

#### *Process*

#### **What does pilot grant mean?**

Pilot simply means this will be the first project funded by UNITLIFE and lessons-learned from the project management cycle will allow UNITLIFE to refine its process for future calls for proposals. The pilot project will be prominently featured in UNITLIFE communications and fundraising efforts to demonstrate what UNITLIFE stands for, providing visibility for the implementing organization.

#### **If my proposal is selected for the pilot grant, can I still apply for future UNITLIFE call for proposals?**

Yes, the partner selected for the pilot grant can apply for future UNITLIFE call for proposals.

#### **How do I submit a proposal and is there a template?**

To submit a proposal, register on the online platform at <https://apply.uncdf.org/prog/unitlife/> and complete the eligibility survey. If your organization meets the eligibility requirements, you will be prompted to complete an online proposal. We recommend downloading the proposal questions, working offline on the proposal and copy-pasting your responses and uploading supporting documents on the platform once ready.

#### **How many proposals can I submit?**

Each organization can submit one proposal.

#### **Is there a template for the logical framework, workplan and budget?**

Yes, the excel template for the logical framework, workplan and budget can be downloaded directly in the platform at the relevant question.

#### **How will the winning proposal be selected?**

Proposals received will be initially screened by the UNITLIFE Secretariat, who will identify the top 5 proposals that best respond to UNITLIFE Strategy. These proposals will then be reviewed by an independent Technical Review Committee (TRC) composed of food security and nutrition experts, who will score each proposal against a pre-defined scorecard to ensure fairness of the process.

**How will funding be disbursed?**

The funding will be disbursed in two tranches.

*Proposal scope***Should the proposal cover all parts of the food value chain?**

No, proposals can focus on a specific part of the food value chain.

**Should the proposal integrate all cross-cutting priorities?**

Yes, proposals should integrate all three cross-cutting priorities: include an innovative component, a sustainable approach and target communities benefiting from other interventions addressing other determinants of chronic malnutrition (for example health, WASH). These complementary interventions can be implemented by the applying organization or by other stakeholders (government, UN, NGOs, etc.). Please refer to the investment strategy for details on each priority.

**Can interventions outside of food systems be included in the proposal?**

Interventions should primarily focus on improving food systems and promoting improved nutrition. However, small complementary components in other sectors will be considered.

**Is there a specific region targeted by UNITLIFE?**

Proposals can target communities in any part of Niger. However, the location choice should be justified by a description of nutrition needs. Locations with high nutrition needs will be prioritized.

**Are there specific activities that are eligible?**

The investment strategy provided examples of eligible activities for illustrative purposes. However, these examples are by no means limiting and partners are encouraged to propose any relevant activity based on context.

**Can the project be implemented in an urban area?**

Yes, the project can target rural or urban areas, provided nutritional needs justify the location.

*Implementation modalities***Can I have a sub-implementing partner?**

Yes, the role of the sub-implementing partner(s) should be explained in the proposal and estimated budget breakdown provided if the sub-IP receives US\$100,000 or more.

*Accountability framework***What will be the monitoring, reporting, communication requirements on the winning project?**

The following requirements will be applicable:

- Two narrative progress and financial reports (tbc)
- One final narrative and financial report
- One monitoring field visit
- Regular 1-2 sentence updates with picture for the UNITLIFE app.

## *Budget*

### **Is co-funding required?**

Co-funding is not required per se. However, UNITLIFE will prioritize a project that builds upon an already existing program to reduce start-up time and costs. For this reason, applicants will be asked if the proposal is part of a larger program and to provide information on that program including donors.

### **How much indirect program support cost can I request?**

PSC is set at a maximum of 7 percent (to be inserted by the applicant in the last section of the budget template) and is included in the total grant amount of US\$500,000.

### **What aspects of the budget will the review committee look at?**

Projects that demonstrate value for money will be prioritized.

*If you do not find the answer to your questions, please contact [kristina.ptitsyna@uncdf.org](mailto:kristina.ptitsyna@uncdf.org) with a copy to [anna.kourula@uncdf.org](mailto:anna.kourula@uncdf.org)*