



**Livelihoods and Food Security Fund**



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CfP/LIFT/2019/2/Chin

**Questions arising from LIFT’s Call for Proposals: Chin Programme 2019 – 2023: Transforming Chin State through agriculture development, improved nutrition and health, and the creation of decent work**

**The deadline for written questions is on 28 June 2019. Answers are compiled and published on 5 July 2019.**

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Q1:</b> Component 2 has observed that transforming shifting cultivation under the agricultural extension is not mentioned specifically despite the fact that it was actively discussed in the Chin Consultation Workshop in the context of sustainable and climate-smart agriculture. It is only mentioned briefly that the production of rice and paddy significantly contribute to the food security of HHS in the community.</p> <p>Is it possible to phase out the agriculture extension programme as we have now, where a lot of contribution can be done to the community in terms of SRI (Sustainable Rice Intensification, Slash Mulch etc.) if we think of sustainable agriculture in Chin context? These technologies contribute to the intensive production of crops/vegetable and rice to improve the food security and nutrition of HHs in the community.</p> <p><b>A1:</b> The crops highlighted in the narrative are indicative and should be seen as such. Other crops/horticulture/fruit and vegetables can be included as well as their associated value chains. As mentioned in the narrative, climate smart/resilience approaches in the production and value chain are critical to ensure sustainability and functionality. For example, a slash and mulch approach for the production of a commodity has significant climate-smart attributes and this may thus be part of an intervention.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Q2:</b> For the proposal, is it still possible for us to have the agricultural extension programme, which we find has much potential for rural communities, in terms of introducing the holistic approach of SRI, Paddy Seed Production, and soil fertility management for paddy production and MAFF( Management Advice for Family Farm ) that can contribute to the intensive production of cash crops and vegetables as well?</p> <p><b>A2:</b> There is nothing precluding such programmes in the submission as long as they are contributing to the overall focus of the intervention.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Q3:</b> Are there any eligibility requirements that the bidders need to pass?</p> <p><b>A3:</b> The applying organisation and partners should have the appropriate authority to carry out</p>

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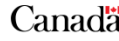
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	the project in Myanmar. The organisation must also not be on a UN sanctions list.
4	<p><b>Q4:</b> As a private firm, can we bid on this in partnership with another private (international) firm?</p> <p><b>A4:</b> Private sector entities are welcome to bid on the call.</p>
5	<p><b>Q5:</b> Does LIFT just look at proposals from local NGOs/ NPOs?</p> <p><b>A5:</b> This is an open call and it is not confined to NGOs and NPOs. We encourage all entities, including CSOs, research institutes, UN and private sector, to participate in the call</p>
	<p><b>Q 6:</b> Can international or Myanmar firms bid for this?</p> <p><b>A 6:</b> This is an open call and there are no restrictions on international or Myanmar firms bidding on this call.</p>
	<p><b>Q 7:</b> Is there any financial capacity requirement that the bidder needs to satisfy (e.g. the current ratio equal to or larger than one)?</p> <p><b>A 7:</b> As per the CfP, it must be clearly demonstrated that the proposing organisation or consortium of organizations has the experience, capacity, and commitment to implement the proposed project(s) successfully (p.16). Further information can be found in our Operational Guidelines <a href="http://www.lift-fund.org/guidelines">www.lift-fund.org/guidelines</a> .</p>
	<p><b>Q 8:</b> Does the organisation need to be registered as a special type of organisation as NGO or MNGO?</p> <p><b>A 8:</b> As per the CfP, the applying organisation and partners should have the appropriate authority to carry out the project in Myanmar.</p>
	<p><b>Q 9:</b> Is there any necessary steps to take before submitting a proposal, such as writing a letter of interest?</p> <p><b>A 9:</b> No expression of interest (EOI) or letter of intention is required prior to submission of the proposal.</p>
	<p><b>Q 10:</b> 2.3 Target groups and geographical distribution  <b>The proposed actions can be located across the State however, they should be targeted.</b>  Proposals are particularly encouraged that target women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and other groups facing discrimination. In presenting the scope for proposed interventions, the potential for scaling up and replication of results must be discussed and based on solid assumptions. This should also include a robust exit strategy that would support the aforementioned.</p> <p>The phrase highlighted in bold is not clear. Can you specify what it means?</p>
	<p><b>A 10:</b> The call is not restricted to a specific geographical area of Chin but is a call that invites submissions from across the State.</p>
	<p><b>Q 11:</b> How many awards does LIFT expect to make under this Call for Proposals?</p>

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	<b>A 11:</b> There is no limitation on the number of awards that will be made.
	<b>Q 12:</b> Locations – does LIFT have any specific regions of focus in Chin? Is there any guidance on how many villages/townships a proposal should reach?
	<b>A 12:</b> There is no specificity with respect to geographic region, and the number of villages and townships that should be considered in the call.
	<b>Q 13:</b> Is there a minimum or maximum amount per grant?
	<b>A 13:</b> There is no minimum amount per grant. The overall grant size cannot exceed the anticipated quantum of funding being made, namely, USD 9 Million.
	<b>Q 14:</b> Can bidders propose alternative interventions under a particular component?
	<b>A 14:</b> Yes, as long as it addresses the overall focus of the call.
	<b>Q 15:</b> Given the total population of Chin is less than 500,000 and some are in hard-to-reach areas, what is an acceptable beneficiary number/reach to LIFT under this programme (as a whole or per component)?
	<b>A 15:</b> No predetermined number of beneficiaries has been set.
	<b>Q 16:</b> The instructions for proposal submissions (page 11) state only e-mail submission. However, page 14 states 'Submissions must be made both electronically and in hard copy'. Please clarify whether the submission of hard copy is also required.
	<b>A 16:</b> This is an error; submissions should be made electronically. It is <b>not</b> necessary to submit proposals in hard copy.
	<b>Q 17:</b> What is the budget limit for each project?
	<b>A 17:</b> The indicative budget set aside for each of the three components is set out in the table on page 11 of the CfP.
	<b>Q 18:</b> Can an implementing partner (National NGO) be part of two different proposal applications if it does not act as a lead partner? And if that is the case, would this lower the probability of both proposals being awarded?
	<b>A 18:</b> There are no restrictions on an entity being on more than one proposal and it will not influence the awarding of grants.
	<b>Q 19:</b> Given the success of the MCCTP so far and the plans for expansion, does LIFT give priority to possible interventions related to the MCCT mentioned on page 9 over other interventions under the nutrition component?
	<b>A 19:</b> As per the CfP, LIFT wishes to build on the evidence and previous investments in the MCCT. The call supports all interventions under nutrition components and as linked to other components in order to achieve good nutrition outcomes in Chin State.

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	<p><b>Q 20:</b> On page 9 of the CfP document, LIFT mentions that “predefined farmer group based technical training approaches have shown some potential but also serious limitations for ensuring meaningful adoption of innovation.” And then in the next paragraph that “Farmer groups based on common production systems and commercial interests have shown better initiative and ownership than those based on project training curriculum.” Could LIFT provide an example to illustrate what those two different approaches mean and what underpinned those findings?</p>
	<p><b>A 20:</b> There is evidence from project reviews, and while there have been group based training approaches, there have been limitations in the degree of adoption associated with these initiatives. However, there is evidence to show that farmer groups that are based around a specific commodity of interest along with a clear commercial pathway have a greater degree of adoption. Examples of this are grape cultivation, elephant foot yam etc.</p>
	<p><b>Q 21:</b> Is the initial overall approach/framework (please find the attached file for your reference) in line with LIFT’s understanding of the needs and preferences for the approach?</p>
	<p><b>A 21:</b> LIFT FMO cannot comment on approaches and frameworks of possible interventions during the preparation phase of proposals.</p>
	<p><b>Q 22:</b> In the diagram we list ‘potential’ markets to explore. - Are these appropriate for Chin? - Would you recommend narrowing this down earlier?</p>
	<p><b>A 22:</b> LIFT FMO cannot comment on this.</p>
	<p><b>Q 23:</b> We have some private industry NGO contacts but would it be possible for you to assist in connecting with NGOs (especially behavioural change NGOs) in Chin state or NGOs able to work in Chin state?</p>
	<p><b>A 23:</b> FMO cannot recommend partners. Information may be available on MIMU, the INGO Forum or LRC.</p>
	<p><b>Q 24:</b> Do you have the full application for this Call for Proposals?</p>
	<p><b>A 24:</b> The format for proposals is set out in the CfP.</p>
	<p><b>Q 25:</b> The first paragraph of page 9 in the CfP mentioned that <b>a minimum allocation of 20% of the budget</b> should target gender-specific actions, whereas Question 4 in Annex 3 says that the proposals must <b>commit 20% of the programme costs</b> to GE/WE. A few questions here:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should it be 20% of the entire budget, or 20% of programme costs?</li> <li>How is this calculated? Are only direct spending on gender-specific activities that</li> </ol>



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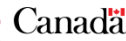


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	<p>engage/empower women calculated in this? Or could an intervention targeting men, for instance to improve the enabling environment, be included in this 20%?</p> <p>c. Page 9 states the budget must explicitly target gender-specific actions, where Annex 3 discusses gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of gender-sensitivity. Does LIFT have different definitions of these that we should consider in the design, and if so, which should we use to ensure 20% spending on this criterion?</p>
	<p><b>A 25:</b> The Gender budget should <b>be minimum 20% of entire budget</b>; including both programme costs and operational costs.</p> <p>Costs related to interventions/actions that aim to reduce gender inequality (to achieve gender equality) will be calculated as part of the gender budget. Both specific actions that target empowering women and interventions that engage with men or power holders (within the communities) to create more equitable environments for both women and men will be calculated as part of gender budget.</p> <p>Annex 3 summarises our approach to gender sensitivity. We do not have definitions that applicants should consider in the design or for the budget. We will look to the rationale in the proposal and we will use the gender sensitivity component of the evaluation criteria in Annex 2.</p>
	<p><b>Q 26:</b> Can an organisation apply as lead applicant if it does not have an MoU with the Government of Myanmar at the time of application?</p>
	<p><b>A 26:</b> As per the CfP, the applying organisation and partners should have the appropriate authority to carry out the project(s) in Myanmar. (p.16)</p>
	<p><b>Q 27:</b> Can an organisation apply as co-applicant if it does not have an MoU with the Government of Myanmar at the time of application?</p>
	<p><b>A 27:</b> See A 26.</p>
	<p><b>Q 28:</b> What evidence of eligibility to operate in Chin State must be provided by organisations (lead, sub-partner) with the proposal submission?</p>
	<p><b>A 28:</b> There is no pre-requirement of eligibility to operate in Chin State.</p>
	<p><b>Q 29:</b> Are microfinance institutions eligible to apply to this call?</p>
	<p><b>A 29:</b> There is no restriction on any entity applying in the call.</p>



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	<p><b>Q 30:</b> Since organisations can apply for a specific component mentioned in the CfP, are the allocated funds of 3 million for Component 1, 4 million for Component 2, and 2 million for Component 3 applicable to one organisation or multiple organisations? Will there be a single award or multiple awards for each component?</p>
	<p><b>A 30:</b> There is no preconceived number of awards that will be made.</p>
	<p><b>Q 31:</b> Are there restrictions or preferences for the budget and timeline (i.e., minimum timeline, minimum/maximum budget)?</p>
	<p><b>A 31:</b> The indicative budgets associated with each component are highlighted in the Table on page 11 of the CfP. Submissions should not exceed the indicative budget of USD 9 Million.</p>
	<p><b>Q 32:</b> Are the 20% for gender-specific interventions only programmable costs or do they also include operational costs?</p>
	<p><b>A 32:</b> Please see the response to Q25</p>
	<p><b>Q 33:</b> What are the reporting requirements to be referenced in the work plan (annual, semi-annual, quarterly &amp; financial, narrative, M&amp;E)?</p>
	<p><b>A 33:</b> The reporting requirements for LIFT FMO are semi-annual and annual reports. These included narratives on progress, finances, and M&amp;E.</p>
	<p><b>Q 34:</b> For the private sector participation and co-investment mentioned in Component 2, how much detail for the co-investment is required (agreement, budget, and activities)?</p>
	<p><b>A 34:</b> We are seeking co-investment from the private sector in building sustainable and functional value chains. A commitment to co-invest with an indicative value and in what areas would be welcome in the submission.</p>
	<p><b>Q 35:</b> The following link from the CfP document is not working. Is there an updated MEAL guideline referencing the new LIFT strategy? The only version to be found on the LIFT website was updated in January 2018. <a href="http://www.lift-fund.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-learning-and-accountability-meal-guidelines-ips-upcoming-proposals">www.lift-fund.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-learning-and-accountability-meal-guidelines-ips-upcoming-proposals</a></p>
	<p><b>A 35:</b> <a href="https://www.lift-fund.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-learning-and-accountability-meal-guidelines-ips-upcoming-proposals-and-0">https://www.lift-fund.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-learning-and-accountability-meal-guidelines-ips-upcoming-proposals-and-0</a></p>
	<p><b>Q 36:</b> Are there any requirements for government partnerships or agreements for implementing activities that should be obtained prior to the proposal submission?</p>
	<p><b>A 36:</b> Engagement with the government is encouraged. As per the CfP (pg. 14), the applicant should explain how the project aligns with the development plans/priorities of the Government of Myanmar (if not, why not). There is no requirement for an agreement.</p>

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	As per the CFP, the lead applicant should submit, in annex to the proposal, a letter signed by the proposed partners stating that they have contributed to the project design, are willing to collaborate with the applicant and that they agree to enter into an agreement if the proposal is successful. (pg. 17).
	<b>Q 37:</b> Is it required to ensure agreements/MoU with all concerned ministries, especially if working in multiple components?
	<b>A 37:</b> This is not a requirement for the submission.
	<b>Q 38:</b> There are instructions for email submissions (page 11) as well as the statement that “submissions must be made both electronically and in hard copy” (page 14). Could you please clarify if this is email only or if applicants should also prepare a hard copy submission? Should the hard copy be sent in person?
	<b>A 38:</b> Submissions should be made electronically. It is <b>not</b> necessary to submit proposals in hard copy.
	<b>Q 39:</b> Would LIFT consider interventions that give initial seed grants instead of loans to the most vulnerable persons, in order to give them access to capital and provide necessary financial training that might enable them to receive loans in the future?
	<b>A 39:</b> There is no restrictions on interventions that are proposed.
	<b>Q 40:</b> Can LIFT funds be used for all associated activities other than specific activities mentioned in the call (e.g. asset transfer, awareness raising for the excluded target group)?
	<b>A 40:</b> Yes, but all associated activities must be indicated in the budget and be in line with the project activities.
	<b>Q 41:</b> Can a single proposal request funds from all 3 components?
	<b>A 41:</b> Yes
	<b>Q 42:</b> Can only aquaculture activities be considered under Component 2?
	<b>A 42:</b> No, it is not restricted to aquaculture.
	<b>Q 43:</b> Are there any specific requirements or selection criteria for targeting beneficiaries?
	<b>A 43:</b> No there are no specific requirements or selection criteria for targeting beneficiaries.

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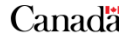
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	<b>Q 44:</b> Will an applicant’s international experience in the areas for this call be considered relevant, or is only local experience considered?
	<b>A 44:</b> There is no restrictions regarding experience in Chin State.
	<b>Q 45:</b> Is there a limit to the number of sub-partners that the lead applicant can include in the consortium for proposal submissions?
	<b>A 45:</b> There are no restrictions.
	<b>Q 46:</b> Can we provide partial grant support to market actors who are part of the value chain?
	<b>A 46:</b> There are no restrictions on partial grants to market actors.
	<b>Q 47:</b> Should proposal address all priority crops as mentioned in the CfP?
	<b>A 47:</b> No they do not have to address all the crops mentioned or for that matter be restricted to those crops. These are indicative.
	<b>Q 48:</b> How much inflation adjustment can be included in the proposed budget for each year of the project?
	<b>A 48:</b> There is no specific recommendation. IPs are advised to submit the proposed budget as per their judgement. Detailed negotiations will follow with successful applicants.
	<b>Q 49:</b> May any one organisation be a part of several organisations as lead/partner, i.e. are multiple submissions allowed?
	<b>A 49:</b> There are no restrictions on an organisation appearing on multiple submissions.
	<b>Q 50:</b> At the time of submission, does LIFT have the endorsement of local authorities to implement the project or is the winning candidate expected to obtain this endorsement?
	<b>A 50:</b> Please refer to answer that are presented under Q26 and Q36.
	<b>Q 51:</b> If submitting different components i.e. different available budgets, do we need to indicate which component the funding should be allocated from? Can the project be funded from different funding windows?
	<b>A 51:</b> There would be a need to explicitly identify the components that the submission is addressing and the quantum of funding from the indicative budgets assigned to each of the components.
	<b>Q 52:</b> While implementation will be in Chin State, our regional office in Hanoi will play a strong role in supporting activities. Can staff time from experts in Hanoi be included in the project and

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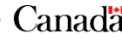
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	include travel costs for in-country work?
	<b>A 52:</b> There are no restrictions regarding experts from outside the country.
	<b>Q 53:</b> What are the rules on subcontracting and utilising consultants for in-country and international expertise?
	<b>A 53:</b> Organisations can follow their own rules for sub-contracting but must follow the minimum rules for procurement and sub-contracts set out in the <a href="#">operational guidelines</a> and the <a href="#">general conditions to the grant agreement</a> found on the LIFT website.
	<b>Q 54:</b> Does LIFT expect a financial contribution from the successful applicant(s) towards the programme?
	<b>A 54:</b> This is not a requirement.
	<b>Q 55:</b> Page 11 of the request for proposals indicates that ‘according to LIFT’s Operational Guidelines, applicants are expected to share indirect costs with their sub-partners’. Page 17 of the RFP indicates that ‘Indirect costs are allowable up to six per cent (6%) of the total direct costs.’ Can LIFT clarify if (i) the 6% indirect rate is applied to / shared across the successful applicant and its partners, or (ii) if the 6% rate can be applied to the successful applicant and also to each partner(s)?
	<b>A 55:</b> 6% of the direct costs can be applied as indirect costs to each partner/sub-partner for their portion of the implemented direct costs.
	<b>Q 56:</b> Are the ‘possible interventions’ specified in the Interventions section considered LIFT’s priorities or preferences, or are they just examples? Would other interventions be given the same weight in evaluation given they meet the objectives of the call?
	<b>A 56:</b> The interventions highlighted in the CfP are the ones preferred by LIFT. It is anticipated that these will form the core focus of submissions.
	<b>Q 57:</b> Under the target groups and geographical distribution section it mentions that the potential for scaling up and replication of results must be discussed. Does this foretell the likelihood of another round of LIFT funding for Chin following this? Or is it referring to the need for the private/public sector to scale or replicate activities following this programme?
	<b>A 57:</b> There is no guarantee of further funding beyond the period of the CfP. Engagement with the private/public sectors would ensure the highest probability of replication and scaling out.
	<b>Q 58:</b> Under the funding allocation section it says this allocation is to support <b>internal migrants</b> . We assume this is a typo, but just want to be sure.

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	<p><b>A 58:</b> This is an error. It should state: The provisional allocation for LIFT’s Chin Programme 2019 – 2023 (<b>Transforming Chin State through agriculture development, improved nutrition and health, and the creation of decent work</b>) is up to USD 9 million. The allocations detailed below are indicative and may change during the formation of the programme.</p>
	<p><b>Q 59:</b> One of the data collection disaggregation requirements is the poverty status. Does LIFT have <b>pre-defined criteria for identifying poverty status among targeted households</b>, so the implementor can collect the data in response to that criteria?</p>
	<p><b>A 59:</b> LIFT plans to change methodology and measure poverty through the Poverty Probability Index (PPI).</p> <p>PPI is Country Specific hence benchmarks poverty based on the National Poverty Line. In the case of Myanmar, the latest NPL will be used as a benchmark. Based on the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017, the NPL for Myanmar has been set at 1590 Kyats per day.</p> <p>PPI uses a survey and scoring system to estimate the likelihood that a household is living below the national and international poverty lines. The tool is based on a set of 10 questions which have been adapted to the Country context. PPI computations based on the responses would be used to determine the rates of poverty among a group of households.</p>
	<p><b>Q 60:</b> Does LIFT recommend a specific percentage of the total budget to be allocated for MEAL?</p>
	<p><b>A 60:</b> There is no requirement or recommended budget allocation for MEAL</p>
	<p><b>Q 61:</b> Eligibility and location: Our organisation is "Sami Fellows Organization" which is registered in Paletwa Town, Chin State, at township level. Its office is in Sami town, Paletwa Township Chin State. We have been working in partnership with ActionAid for some years in humanitarian and development works. Unlike towns and villages in Northern Chin State, not many NGOs reach our town and villages in Paletwa due to many difficulties, but the most remote communities and needy people are here. Our inquiry is if our organisation registered in township level can submit our proposal for villages in Sami town of Paletwa township?</p>
	<p><b>A 61:</b> Submissions are encouraged from across the state and there are no restrictions on the type of organisation.</p>
	<p><b>Q 62:</b> Can we implement only one component out of three or should our proposal include all three components such as nutrition, agriculture and employment? If possible, we would like to focus on only one component- Agriculture (Sustainable and Functional Food System).</p>
	<p><b>A 62:</b> There are no restrictions on whether a submissions focuses on a single component or all three.</p>

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	<b>Q 63:</b> Can we know the possible funding amount to be granted to one organisation? Is there a funding limit? We would like to ask this because we think it will be helpful for us to prepare our proposal.
	<b>A 63:</b> There is no restriction in the amount of funding to an organisation or consortia. The indicative funding ceiling for the Chin Programme is USD 9 Million.

END