

## RISE grants challenge call for proposals 2024

### Frequently Asked Questions

The call for proposals is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

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SMAApply / Application
<b>When is the expression of interest due?</b>
Expressions of interest are due by 7 June 2024 at 11:59 PM EST. Late submissions will not be considered.
<b>Which documents are applicants required to upload at the expression of interest stage?</b>
Applicants must upload the signed RISE declaration form and the lead applicant and partner(s) registration documents.
<b>Can an organisation submit multiple applications and be awarded more than one grant?</b>
Organisations can submit multiple applications but can only be selected for one award.
<b>Can an organisation with many offices worldwide submit more than one proposal?</b>
Yes, but an organisation can only be awarded once.
<b>Does only the lead applicant need to be legally registered in the country of implementation?</b>
The registration documents of all partner organisations must be submitted with the expression of interest application. See requirements for local presence in <b>section 4.4</b> in the call for proposals.
<b>What is an expression of interest?</b>
An expression of interest (EOI) is the first step to introducing your project and organisation(s). This is done through the EOI package, consisting of an application, proof of registration, and RISE grants challenge declaration.
<b>How do I submit an application?</b>
Applications must be submitted through the <a href="#">linked online application platform</a> by 7 June.

<b>Organisation's eligibility</b>
<b>Can an organisation that has already been a RISE implementer in the past apply?</b>
Yes, previous RISE implementers can apply. Please note that past award winners must specifically articulate how another grant builds on the learnings and results of the first grant.
<b>Can organisations outside the eligible countries apply with a non-area-based global policy-focused project?</b>
Yes, however, please note that non-area-based projects must be non-area-based and focused on global policy – this category is not a stand-in for ineligible countries.
<b>Can profit-making institutions apply?</b>
Yes, for-profit organisations must demonstrate that the proposed project pursues strictly non-profit objectives and does not generate income. See the full list in <b>section 4.2</b> in the call for proposals.
<b>Can public universities apply? What about individual researchers?</b>
Public universities and individual researchers are not eligible to apply to the RISE grants challenge. See <b>section 4.2</b> for a full list of eligible applicants and <b>section 4.8</b> for a list of ineligible applicants in the call for proposals.
<b>Can UN Agencies apply?</b>
Yes.
<b>If I am currently a grantee of a different Norad or USAID project, am I still eligible to apply?</b>
Yes, you are eligible to apply if you are awarded by USAID or Norad under a different mechanism/project
<b>Must the applicant organisation be registered with SAM?</b>
No, this is not a requirement
<b>Must the lead applicant be a women-led organisation?</b>
No, you can find all eligible applicants in <b>section 4.2</b> and partnership requirements in <b>section 4.3</b> in the call for proposals.
<b>What is considered 'local presence' in a country?</b>
The applicant must already have a presence in the country where the activities are proposed, OR be a local organisation, OR have a duly registered local partner that meets the requirements for consortia and partnerships. See <b>section 4.4</b> in the call for proposals.
<b>Partnerships</b>
<b>Can a local NGO partner with an organisation based in another country?</b>

Yes, as long as all partnered organisations meet the eligibility requirements outlined in section 4 of the call for proposals.

**Can a grassroots organisation with the capacity to implement be a lead applicant in the RISE grant?**

Yes, grassroots organisations can apply as the lead applicant or as a partner. Please note all partnered applicants must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in **section 4** of the call for proposals.

**Do we include the partnerships in the initial expression of interest?**

Partnerships are a requirement and partners must be clearly identified in the expression of interest application.

**Are existing consortiums and partnerships allowed to apply?**

Existing consortiums can apply for the RISE grants challenge, but they must meet the following requirements:

- One organisation must be identified as the lead organisation, responsible for the project, and the sole signatory of a potential grant agreement.
- At least one of the member organisations must have a local presence in the proposed country of implementation. (Please see **section 4.4**)
- At least one of the member organisations must have GBV expertise and/or all organisations must commit to hiring a GBV expert as staff or fully integrated consultants.
- The integration of a consortium or partnership must favour the technical and operational implementation of the project. Therefore, the applicant must include a narrative describing each partner, the specific role, relevant past experience and added value in its proposal.
- The collaboration or partnership must be supported by documents confirming and describing the collaboration, which will need to be signed after acceptance of the grant and which will be required by IUCN to confirm the partnership.

**Can several local organisations partner to apply for RISE?**

Yes, as long as all organisations meet the eligibility requirements outlined in **section 4** of the call for proposals.

**Eligible countries**

**Is my country eligible?**

See **Annex 1** in the call for proposals for a complete list of eligible countries. All listed countries in Annex 1 are eligible.

**Why is my country not eligible?**

The geographic scope of the RISE grants challenge changes every year. If the specific country is not eligible this year, we encourage you to register for the [GBV-ENV Linkages Center mailing list](#) to stay updated on future opportunities.

**Can proposals include more than one country of implementation?**

<p>You can include more than one country of implementation as long as all countries are eligible for this round of the RISE grants challenge. See <b>Annex 1</b> in the call for proposals for a complete list of eligible countries.</p>
<p><b>Is there a preference for implementing a project in more than one eligible country?</b></p>
<p>There is no preference.</p>
<p><b>Could an eligible country NGO be the lead applicant and partner with a non-eligible country NGO to implement activities in the non-eligible country?</b></p>
<p>No, expressions of interest focusing on non-eligible countries will be deemed ineligible. For a full list of eligible countries, see <b>Annex 1</b> in the call for proposals.</p>
<p><b>Are regional activities that cover multiple countries allowed to apply as long as they are all in the eligible countries under RISE?</b></p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Implementation timelines</b></p>
<p><b>What is the implementation timeline of the grant?</b></p>
<p>The implementation period for RISE grants challenge projects is between 18 - 24 months.</p>
<p><b>Thematic scope</b></p>
<p><b>Is addressing GBV in the fisheries sector a required component?</b></p>
<p>The RISE grants challenge will accept applications addressing gender-based violence across diverse biodiversity and climate sectors and contexts. This year, there is also a specific earmark for at least several projects to specifically address gender-based violence in fisheries sectors. However, there is no requirement for your expression of interest to focus on addressing GBV in the fisheries sector.</p>
<p><b>Does fisheries refer only to the marine sector or does it include the inland freshwater fisheries sector?</b></p>
<p>Fisheries refers to both marine and freshwater fisheries sectors.</p>
<p><b>Does the RISE grants challenge allow for specific research?</b></p>
<p>Research is allowed, but RISE will not fund strictly research-focused projects. See <b>section 4.7</b> in the Call for Proposals.</p>
<p><b>Can you clarify what having a "project focused on global level policy" means?</b></p>
<p>If you submit a non-area-based application, the proposed idea must address gender-based violence and environment linkages through global-level policy - for example, building capacities and technical support to environment decision-makers.</p>
<p><b>What will RISE not fund?</b></p>

Please refer to **section 4.7** in the call for proposal document for a list of what RISE will not fund.

**Would the RISE grants challenge fund x approach in x context?**

We cannot give guidance on whether a thematic approach, methodology, or specific context is possible. A reminder that RISE funds work addressing GBV and environment links. We recommend that you review the [RISE website](#) and [call for proposals](#) documents, **section 3** covers the scope, purpose and objectives, **section 4.7** covers what RISE will not fund, and **section 4.5.1** thematic responsiveness.

**Award and budgets**

**What is the ceiling for the RISE grants challenge?**

In 2024, the RISE grants challenge has planned up to USD 1,800,000 to award, seeking to support up to six projects of USD 100,000-400,000 each, implemented over an 18-24-month Timeline. See **section 6** in the call for proposals for more information.

**Does the RISE grant require the applicant organisation to match funds?**

The RISE grants challenge does not require cost-share.

**How do private companies demonstrate proof that their intervention will not generate profit.**

Each applicant that is invited to the technical application stage must submit a full proposal that includes additional information on the proposed project, including the submission of an activity plan, budget, and logframe. This will be used to determine the scope and results of the project, such as demonstrating that no profit will be earned directly from the project or any activities carried out under the project.

**Are taxes considered an eligible cost?**

Grantees are responsible for the payment of all taxes, as required by law, which may arise from or in connection with their project. Only taxes incurred for the performance of project implementation that cannot be reclaimed by grantees will be accepted as eligible costs.

**Is the requirement the same for project proposals with different budgetary requirements? e.g. do 100K and 400K projects go through similar requirements?**

Yes, requirements are the same for all applicants, no matter the budget requested.

**Are there restrictions on sub-granting to partners?**

As RISE requires partnerships, partnered organisations must receive a portion of the funds. The expression of interest application does not require a budget. Should your expression of interest be selected to develop a full proposal, you will be required to develop a budget, including partner budgets. You can read more in **Annex 3** of the call for proposals.

**Webinar**

**Is there a recording available on the informational session discussing How to Apply to the RISE grants challenge?**

You can find the recording [linked here](#) and on [our website](#) in the section titled RISE webinar on why and how to apply.