

CDKN Innovation Fund (Round 2) – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the budget for Round 2 of the CDKN Innovation Fund?

The available amount of funding for Round 2 is **GBP200,000**. This will be divided into **two (2) awards with maximum values of GBP100,000 each**. Subsequently CDKN may provide **implementation awards** of up to **GBP200,000 each** to support the implementation of high-quality results from the innovation processes.

2. When is the deadline?

The deadline for applications is **Friday 31st August at 17:00 GMT (+1)**. Applications and all supporting information must be submitted before the deadline specified. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

3. How are the applications assessed?

The CDKN Innovation Fund uses a set of evaluation criteria against which all applications will be assessed. Each application will be assessed in terms of policy impact; demand; value for money; alignment with CDKN objectives; innovation; focus on African capabilities and learning; design and partnership. Further detail on how these criteria will be used to assess applications can be found in the Applicant Guidelines, available [here](#).

4. What does demand-led mean?

Buy-in from a developing country government, ministry or department, in the form of: involvement in the applicant group, support letters, white papers, relevant scoping studies, national climate change strategy papers, ministerial statements, interviews, donor studies or reports and national assessment reports, etc. These documents should reference specific policies that link with project ideas outlined in the application.

5. What is an innovation process?

An innovation process means running a process (often interactive space/s and workshop/s), which convenes relevant stakeholders to identify innovative, ‘game-changing’¹ and original solutions to specific challenges. These solutions should be articulated in the form of outputs such as project proposals, conceptual frameworks, learning materials, policy briefs, a road map for implementation and/or best practice tool kits. The innovation process **may** want to use tried and tested social innovation and facilitation techniques (e.g. [the U Process](#), [Action Research](#) or [Open Space Technology](#) or [Appreciate Inquiry](#)). It should be designed by people with experience of group facilitation and social innovation processes and incorporate external content expertise, where needed.

An example of a successful innovation process is the [CDKN Action Lab](#). For other examples of CDKN Innovation Fund innovation process projects (called Stage 1 in the previous round) please see our [website](#).

6. I have a research proposal ready to be supported and implemented – can I apply to Round 2 of the CDKN Innovation Fund?

No, Round 2 is focusing on innovation processes only; therefore fully-fledged research proposals will not be acceptable submissions. If you have an innovation process project that incorporates a

¹ Defined as ‘an event, idea, or procedure that effects a significant shift in the current way of doing or thinking about something’ (<http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/game%2Bchanger>)

Research focus, it would be an acceptable submission. Alternatively if your project aligns with other areas of the CDKN programme (i.e. has a Technical Assistance, Knowledge Management or Negotiations Support focus or a combination of these areas) framed under an innovation process, it would also be an acceptable submission. *Please review page 6 of the Applicant Guidelines for further details.*

7. I have a concept that is not yet fully formed, which is highly innovative and could be game changing, has buy-in/support from multiple stakeholders including Government stakeholders and is Africa focused – can I apply for Round 2 of the CDKN Innovation Fund?

Yes, you can apply for support from Round 2 of the CDKN Innovation Fund, but please ensure that your idea is submitted by an applicant group that includes at least two partners, with one or more being an African organisation. The Lead Applicant must be African (and not an international institution based in Africa), with additional African partners in the applicant group. If the applicant group is not led by a government institution you must be able to demonstrate significant government buy-in beyond a letter of demand (i.e. white papers, relevant scoping studies, national climate change strategy papers, ministerial statements, interviews, donor studies or reports, national assessment reports, etc.). *We strongly recommend you review the CDKN priorities for Africa for this year, and the overall CDKN strategic priorities, which can be found on page 9 of the Applicant Guidelines.*

8. I am part of an applicant group with no Southern partners – can I apply to Round 2 of the CDKN Innovation Fund?

No, you cannot apply to Round 2 of the CDKN Innovation Fund unless at least one (1) member of your applicant group is a Southern partner based in Africa. The Lead Applicant must be African (and not an international institution based in Africa), with additional African partners in the applicant group. International and non-African Southern institutions may also be members of the applicant group. The majority of funds must go to African institutions and the project must include activities that support an existing network or community of practice, to ensure buy-in and sustainability.

9. My project idea is not focused on the Africa region – can I apply to Round 2 of the CDKN Innovation Fund?

No, for Round 2 applications need to be focused on Africa related projects and should be a good fit with the CDKN's year 3 strategy for Africa. The Innovation Fund is now being aligned with specific regions and the Africa region has been selected for this round. *Please see page 9 of the Applicant Guidelines for further reference.*