

Application Process

1. Where can I get the application forms?

The application must be submitted via the Accelerator APP – the link is provided on the GBE website.

Organisational Eligibility

2. Which countries are eligible?

Applications are open to projects in Sub-saharan African countries and will be assessed on the administrative complexity of handling a project within the GIZ energy sector. A division is made into three tiers:

- **Tier 1 "GBE Focal Countries"**: First and foremost the focal countries of the GBE initiative are prioritised. These are [Ethiopia](#), [Benin](#), [Ghana](#), [Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Mozambique](#), [Namibia](#), [Senegal](#), [Uganda](#), and [Zambia](#).
- **Tier 2 "GIZ Energy Access Projects"**: Projects can also be funded in countries with a GIZ energy programme and country office, but with a lower priority and subject to a separate check. This includes Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Togo.
- **Tier 3 "Other"**: There is also the possibility to apply from a country in Sub-saharan Africa that is not mentioned above. The project and the organisation will be checked according to a diverse range of factors such as political factors, (security) risks in implementation and others. If there are reasons that a project can not be approved in a Tier 3 country, the project will have to be rejected.

3. Can individuals apply?

Only NGOs with a registered legal personality or SME based in the country of implementation with no structural links to industrial nations. Natural persons are not eligible.

4. Can my greenfield company be eligible to apply for the Challenge Call?

Start-ups are eligible if the legal entity exists at least for 3 years (since July 2018).

5. What does the requirement of “no commercial ties to industrial nations” mean?

This eligibility criteria should be read as “structural links”.

A structural link exists if the local subsidiary has a capital link or other comparable equity with its parent company in an industrialized country, which is the partial or sole shareholder and/or managers from a company from an industrialized country hold managing positions in the subsidiary. In that case the applicant is not eligible.

“commercial ties” means that the SME is selling or purchasing products or services from/to a company in an industrialized country without having structural links. In this case the applicant is eligible.

6. Is an independent local SME from a Sub-Saharan country that makes some regular business with an European company (for example it sells its products locally), eligible to participate in the Call?

A SME is eligible if its relations to a company of an industrialized country are limited to purchasing or selling goods or services from and to that company.

7. How shall we demonstrate the following two criteria: Does the entity have an internal control mechanism in place? Does the entity have an external control mechanism in place?

An internal control mechanism may be demonstrated by an internal procedures manual and organizational structure.

An external control mechanism may be demonstrated with an audit report.

Project Eligibility

8. Can we apply for both challenges?

The applicant can apply for both challenges separately, but only once per challenge.

9. We are interested in applying for the ongoing Small Project Fund. Are we allowed to apply for that *and* the Challenge Call? Or can you only apply to one?

An application for the ongoing Call of the Small Project Fund is possible independently from the Challenge Call. However, the applicant shall carefully decide which call fits better the purpose of the project idea. The application will be given higher priority if it is submitted under the challenge call.

10. Can we submit our ongoing project?

Ongoing projects and past expenditures are not eligible. Your project should be new but may build on the success of past projects.

Financial Topics

11. What is the funding limit?

GIZ Contributions can cover up to 80% of the total project costs and at a maximum of EUR 125.000. At least 20% of the total project costs will have to be covered by the applicant as an own contribution, in-kind contributions are accepted.

12. What size of a proposal is this request looking to fund?

There is no limit to the value of the project itself, however, the maximum contribution of GIZ is 125.000 EUR or 80% of the project cost.

13. What contributions of an applicant are eligible as “own contribution”?

Minimum 20% of the project cost have to be covered by the applicant. This could be cash or comparable liquid contributions. In-kind contributions such as land, office or production facilities and work force are accepted but need to be quantified at their real cost and must be related to the purpose of the project. Eligibility of other contributions is assessed during the project proposal evaluation.

14. How to prove “real cost“ of the contribution?

Real cost could be proven by providing renting, sales or employment contracts or by demonstrating that the cost are on the usual level of local cost.

15. What types of expenditures are eligible for financing?

Typical expenditure types include consultancy services, workshops costs, travel and working time. Capital expenditure such as equipment can also be eligible.

Contract Details

16. What will the contract look like? How is the money disbursed?

GIZ plans to fund selected projects through Grant Agreements. More information this type of financing can be found here: <https://www.giz.de/en/workingwithgiz/34529.html>