

Participation Requirements

You can apply for funding from Blue Ambition Fund for a programme that is:

- Supporting Small and Growing Businesses to build capacity to increase their productivity, grow their business and create dignified job opportunities.

And/or

- Creating sustainable wage employment opportunities for youth and women through short-term skilling (technical, soft skills and/or coaching) in collaboration with the private sector to guarantee employment.

Criteria for eligible organisations

- Registered as not-for profit organisation in Uganda, Ethiopia or South Africa. International NGO's and for-profit organisations are not eligible for funding under this project
- In case of a social enterprise, official documents must state how the company's profit is reinvested to make social impact
- Be independent and neutral, not affiliated to political parties.
- Have been operating for at least 4 years
- Proven track record on skilling youth and/or business development of high potential small and growing businesses
- Annual budget between 300.000 and 5 million euro

Funding conditions

- Blue Ambition Fund funds programmes for 2 to 3 years with a contribution between 100.000 and 300.000 euro
- An own contribution of at least 5% in the first year, 10% in the second year and 15% in the third year (if applicable) is required. At least part of this contribution must be in cash
- Management costs cannot exceed 10% of the total budget
- Projects can focus on training of women and youth in technical and soft skills and/or SME support
- Micro-credits or investments are not eligible for funding. Supporting entrepreneurs to get access to existing financial services can be part of a programme
- Blue Ambition Fund supports programmes in all regions and sectors across the three focus countries

Assessment criteria

- Demand driven and market oriented
- Focus on low-entry level, short term and practical training of youth or women in collaboration with the private sector to guarantee job opportunities OR on business support for high potential small and growing businesses
- Multi-stakeholder approaches
- Scalability and cost-efficiency

Selection process

- Based on the concept notes, a first selection will be made. These organisations will be requested to submit additional documents including an external financial audit over 2025;
- A video call will be planned with all shortlisted organisations;
- After the introductory calls, a final selection will be done of the organisations that will be invited to submit a full proposal. A due diligence check will be part of this procedure.