

Terms for Collaboration Blue Ambition Fund

The Blue Ambition Fund focuses on creating decent and sustainable employment opportunities for youth and women. The fund has two main strategies;

- Short-term and low-entry level training (technical and soft skills) for women and youth to meet the requirements of the labour market. To enable the participants in the training to secure jobs, collaboration with the private sector is highly valued.
- Building capacity of high-potential small and growing businesses so they can increase their revenue and create jobs.

Criteria for eligible organisations

- Registered as not-for profit organisation in Uganda, Ethiopia, South Africa, India or Bangladesh. International NGO's and for-profit organisations are not eligible for funding under the Blue Ambition Fund
- In case of registration as social enterprise, official documents must state how the company's profit is reinvested to make social impact
- Have an organisational bank account
- 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 euros

Funding conditions

- Blue Ambition Fund funds programmes for 2 to 3 years with a contribution between 100.000 and 300.000 euros
- 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 (financial) 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 focus countries

Programme criteria

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