

## Questions and Answers about the Call for Concept Notes under Funding Window I in Nigeria

21/07/2021

This is a compilation of answers to the questions asked via the contact form on the SIFA website at [www.skillsafrica.org/contact](http://www.skillsafrica.org/contact) regarding the Call for Concept Notes under Funding Window 1 in Nigeria, received by 06 July 2021. **Answers to new questions received between 09 and 16 July 2021 have been added in green.**

**APPLICANTS PLEASE NOTE:** If you have questions concerning the Call for Concept Notes in Nigeria, please carefully check the list below as well as the questions and answers from the Online launch available at [https://www.skillsafrica.org/pdf/SIFA\\_FW1\\_Nigeria\\_Online-Launch\\_Questions-Answers.pdf](https://www.skillsafrica.org/pdf/SIFA_FW1_Nigeria_Online-Launch_Questions-Answers.pdf). No further specific questions for Nigeria can be answered before the application submission deadline (26 July 2021). Only the SmartME Support for technical functionality problems will be available continuously in the “Support” section in SmartME.

#	Question	Answer
1.	Please, I would like to ask what the special benefits the Primary Partner would enjoy or benefit from if the Application of which it partners with a Lead is ultimately chosen as the winner of the grant.	The partnership with the Lead Partner will help the training institution to produce employment-ready graduates with skills that the Primary Partner could employ to support its operations. As the Primary Partner will support the Lead Applicant in the design and delivery of market-relevant training curriculum, the graduates will more likely acquire the skills that match the needs of the Primary Partner and other industry players in general. Thus, the Primary Partner will be contributing to minimising skills mismatch and skills gaps or shortages in the national economy.
2.	Good morning, I would like to send you a project proposal document. Can you please provide contact details? Thanks a lot.	Concept Note proposals for SIFA funding can be submitted via our online application system (SmartME) only. To register on SmartME and create your application, please go to the “Sign In” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/signin">www.skillsafrica.org/signin</a> .  For details about the application process, please check the Concept Note Application Guide, available to download from the “Apply” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/apply">www.skillsafrica.org/apply</a> .
3.	Please can an innovation hub without a partner apply for this opportunity or it must be a consortium?	To be eligible for SIFA funding, Applicants must always form a consortium consisting of a Lead Partner and a Primary Partner.  For detailed eligibility criteria, please check the Concept Note Application Guide, available to download from the “Apply” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/apply">www.skillsafrica.org/apply</a> .
4.	How can I apply for help to grow our youth development institution? I just heard of SIFA.	For details about SIFA and the application process, please check the Concept Note Application Guide,

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	<p>We retrain for one year young graduates from Nigeria university to make them market ready and train them in Leadership and Enterprise skills.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>available to download from the “Apply” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/apply">www.skillsafrica.org/apply</a>, and the “FAQ” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/faq">www.skillsafrica.org/faq</a>.</p> <p>In Nigeria, the Call for proposals under SIFA Funding Window I is currently open for applications, and the deadline for submission of Concept Notes is 12 July 2021.</p> <p>For Nigeria, we recommend in particular to also check the questions &amp; answers from the Online Launch in Nigeria, which have been published in the FAQ section of the website and can be accessed directly via the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://www.skillsafrica.org/pdf/SIFA_FW1_Nigeria_Online-Launch_Questions-Answers.pdf">https://www.skillsafrica.org/pdf/SIFA_FW1_Nigeria_Online-Launch_Questions-Answers.pdf</a></p>
5.	<p>Greetings, I am the Regional Vice President East and West Africa for the International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA). IVETA promotes and improves the quality of TVET globally. I am interested in working with SIFA in the implementation of its programs in Africa and Nigeria in particular.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>	<p>SIFA is currently receiving Concept Note proposals from eligible entities in Nigeria for funding of skills development projects. The application deadline for submission of proposals is 12 July 2021.</p> <p>For details about the eligibility criteria and the application process, please check the Concept Note Application Guide, available to download from the “Apply” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/apply">www.skillsafrica.org/apply</a>, and the “FAQ” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/faq">www.skillsafrica.org/faq</a>.</p> <p>SIFA is not recruiting staff to support the implementation of its programmes.</p>
6.	<p>Re: Window 1 Nigeria call:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Must the primary partner be legally registered in Nigeria or may it be registered in one of the other SIFA countries?</li> <li>2. Would an online skills development and employability solution be eligible under no. 2 (Construction, rehabilitation or expansion of learning infrastructure)?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Primary Partner must be a domestic entity, i.e., registered in Nigeria if you are applying for the call for proposals from Nigeria.</li> <li>2. SIFA can fund 5 technical and didactic interventions, which must include construction activities and/or procurement of training equipment.</li> </ol> <p>If your online solution consists of software and IT equipment, then this would fall under “Procurement of training equipment” rather than “Construction of learning infrastructure”. Construction activities are meant in the sense of physical buildings.</p> <p>For details about the eligible criteria and the application process, please check the Concept Note Application Guide, available to download from the “Apply” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/apply">www.skillsafrica.org/apply</a>, and the “FAQ” section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/faq">www.skillsafrica.org/faq</a>.</p>
7.	<p>What is the maximum number of partners required by a Lead Partner</p>	<p>It is mandatory for the Lead Partner to have one Primary Partner, and in addition you can optionally have one Secondary Partner.</p>

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8.	<p>In Nigeria cost associated with power generation from running diesel generators is perhaps the largest recurrent expenditure which businesses have to incur. Please advise if recurrent expenditure associated with power generation can be listed as part of counterpart contribution.</p> <p>We recently had a pro bono training for the country to support policy on installation in power sector. Can we add the cost of the program as part of counterpart contribution in our application?</p>	<p>Power consumption directly and specifically linked to implementation of the project may count as counterpart contribution. However, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that the power so consumed is solely for the project. This will be verified at the Due Diligence stage of the application process.</p> <p>Any activity undertaken or cost incurred prior to submission of the application cannot count as counterpart contribution.</p>
9.	<p>Hello.</p> <p>We are a not-for-profit employment accelerator based in Lagos Nigeria. We would like to make enquiries on your funding opportunities.</p> <p>Looking forward to a response from you.</p>	<p><i>Please see question 4 above.</i></p>
10.	<p>We do not have our 2020 audited account ready. Can we submit our end of the year statement for 2020?</p>	<p>Yes, this is possible. In the application form under Section 1.3 (for the Lead) and 2.2 (for the Primary Partner) respectively, you may upload your end of year statement for 2020 under the field "Upload: Current Management Accounts", and add a justification in the field "Explanation of Current Management Accounts".</p> <p>Please note that shortlisted Applicants may be required to have such Management Accounts audited during a later stage of the application process.</p>
11.	<p>Can the Primary partner submit a cover note explaining their account instead of the financials?</p>	<p><i>Please see question 10 above.</i></p>
12.	<p>Can partners, private and public work together as PPP, and NGO, how many primary and secondary partner, can it be 5.</p>	<p><i>Please see question 7 above.</i></p>
13.	<p>Due federal financial policy all government institutions in Nigeria do not run an individual account but single Treasury account domiciled at the central bank. Therefore unavailability of institution financial statements. What can we do in this situation.</p>	<p>Government TVET institutions can provide audited financial statements of the institution for the last 3 available years in lieu of bank statements.</p>
14.	<p>Dear Helpdesk,</p> <p>We have specialization in various trades and skills, we saw potential in collaborating with other partners for other different trades. Can we as lead partner submit multiple applications with different partners but for differing trades or skills training?</p>	<p>Yes, Lead Applicants can submit multiple applications, if they are for different projects and with different Primary Partners. In every case, the eligibility criteria for applicants and projects will apply. Each application will be treated as a separate submission and evaluated as such.</p> <p>If we notice that a Lead Applicant submits two applications for the same project, we will only evaluate one of them (the one that appears to be more complete</p>

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		and more responsive to the proposal assessment criteria).
15.	Please I am wondering if university offering engineering program in Mechanical, Mechatronic, electrical, electronics whose program are accredited qualified to apply. I saw where accreditation certificate is required to be uploaded and wondering if the NUC program accreditation is fit for this.	Yes, a training institution offering accredited training programs can apply as Lead Partner.
16.	I am in the process of writing a concept note kindly help me with the email address for sending thanks	<i>Please see question 2 above.</i>
17.	Please I want to know more about the partners list of what importance is it to me while filling my concept note and how do I get in contact with them seeing there are some documents involved and might not be willing to give.	<p>The List of Partners “Meet Your Partner” is an <u>optional</u> service offered by SIFA to facilitate partnership building. It is not mandatory to use this tool, and applicants are free to build partnerships on their own.</p> <p>Organisations/companies wishing to be included in the list could register via a registration form on the SIFA website until 09 July 2021 and provide basic information on their entity, activities/sector and contact details. Entities who are still looking for a partner can contact entities on the list to jointly apply for SIFA funding. However, if an entity appears on the list this is no guarantee for a partnership, which is to be negotiated between the involved parties.</p> <p>You can download the list under the following link: <a href="https://www.skillsafrica.org/pdf/SIFA_FW1_Nigeria_Meet-Your-Partner_List.pdf">https://www.skillsafrica.org/pdf/SIFA_FW1_Nigeria_Meet-Your-Partner_List.pdf</a> (updated 12 July 2021). The information will be published for the duration of the call for proposals only.</p> <p>Registration has closed two weeks in advance to the Concept Note submission deadline (26 July 2021) because SIFA considers partnership building to be one of the first steps for preparing a proposal, thus in the last two weeks applicants are expected to have finalised partnerships and focus on completing their applications. Registering entities were requested to ensure they fulfil the Eligibility Criteria to apply for SIFA funding. The Eligibility Criteria are presented in the "Apply" section of the website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/apply">www.skillsafrica.org/apply</a>, where you can also download the full Concept Note Application Guide. SIFA has checked each entry before publication and reserves the right to shorten or adjust the content. However, SIFA does not take responsibility for the eligibility of listed partners, correctness of partners' information or completeness of the list.</p>
18.	I am a Chairman coordinating development of concept note for Audu Bako College of	The Partners List is an optional service provided by SIFA, and registration is voluntary for the listed partners, thus

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	Agriculture Dambatta, Kano. We tried to contact one of the registered primary partners in Nassarawa State but we couldn't get any response from him.	there is no guarantee for a partnership or willingness of listed entities to cooperate. <i>Please also see question 17 above.</i>
19.	Dear Sir/madam, Please, could you let me know what this list of potential partners is all about? I'm deeply shocked to hear about this at this point. It looks like I missed something very important. Please, help me. Regards [...]	<i>Please see question 17 above.</i>
20.	submitted his concept note . want to be added in partner list but couldn't see the information earlier about the submission time line , and his region no person as partner is in the list but he wants to cover his region. can't he be considered	<i>Please see question 17 above.</i>
21.	Hi there, as a primary partner must I provide audited financial statements for the last three years in order to be eligible? Is it possible to provide the balance sheet and income statement for FY2020 as we are restating our financials ?	<i>Please see question 10 above.</i>
22.	Can a national e-learning skills development project approved for implementation in higher institutions including TVET by a private company apply as Lead Partner? Approvals have been granted for over 60 institutions.	The Lead Partner must be an accredited training institution or training provider while the Primary Partner must be a private sector entity or enterprise. For further information, please refer to the Concept Note Application Guide which is available for download from the SIFA website at <a href="http://www.skillsafrica.org/apply">www.skillsafrica.org/apply</a>