



Livelihoods and Food Security Fund



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CfP/LIFT/2019/4/SE

Answers to questions arising from LIFT's Call for Concept Notes: South East Myanmar Programme. The deadline for written questions was on 12 November 2019 and answers are compiled and published on 15 November 2019.

1	<p>Q1 The LIFT call for CN refers. I have noted that there is a specific reference to the INGOs in the call with the instruction that; International organisations with no presence in the target areas, but with relevant and demonstrated expertise in one or more of the programme components and/or type of interventions are encouraged, but not limited, to consider capacity building initiatives and technical backstopping for other partners operating in the field.</p> <p>The University of XXX meets this requirement and thus my question - are universities abroad with suggested and/ or tested models eligible for application?</p> <p>A1 Yes universities abroad are eligible to apply. Please note that the applying organisation and partners should have the appropriate authorisation to carry out the project in the target areas.</p>
2	<p>Q2 XXX – a service provider in conflict, border and mining areas in Myanmar, is considering to enter a partnership to bid on the most timely and appreciated Call for Concept notes of your South East Myanmar Programme - (Ref no: CfP/LIFT/2019/4/SE), we are confident this would bring an unique and meaningful contribution to LIFT's three impact-level outcomes as laid-out in this Call.</p> <p>Could you please clarify:</p> <p>As part of a broader bid, complying to LIFT's southeast programme focus, would a modest intervention in Northern Shan be eligible, which is directed to livelihood security, i.e. farming and a.o. plastic recycling? The intervention would specifically focus on young women, IDPs and youth (with drug dependency issues).</p> <p>A2 Interventions in Northern Shan State will not be eligible under the call Ref. CfP/LIFT/2019/4/SE. The programme target area includes Mon, Kayah, Kayin states and Tanintharyi region in Myanmar only.</p>

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3	<p>Q3 Thank you for this clear and well prepared CfP and Programme Framework. In anticipation of this call we already carried out data collection in the areas we usually work.</p> <p>We were surprised to see the exclusion of East Bago which host more than 22,300 IDPs (see attached from TBC) and is an area that often see clashes between Tatmadaw and KNLA because of the Dam constructions and also saw high numbers of flood affected people in 2019 and particularly in 2018. Kyakkyi and Shwegyin also host an “old” IDP population that is still trying to find some durable solution since they fled decades ago.</p> <p>In order to make the most informed decisions as early as possible, could LIFT clarify whether Kyakkyi and Shwegyin in East Bago could be considered in the CfP?</p> <p>We would appreciate if this could get clarified as early as possible since this will have a bearing on which local partners we would work with under this CfP.</p> <p>We will of course send a comprehensive list of questions to the CfP as part of the usual process, but thought we would flag this population group as early as possible.</p>
	<p>A3 Interventions in East Bago will not be eligible under the call Ref. CfP/LIFT/2019/4/SE. The programme target area includes Mon, Kayah, Kayin States and Tanintharyi region in Myanmar only.</p>
4	<p>Q4 I am writing on behalf of XXX with a quick question regarding the distinction between Components 2 and 3 of the South East Myanmar Programme. As outlined in the CfP, these are identified as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Component 2: Uplands – promoting resilient livelihoods for food and nutrition security<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>“The ‘uplands’ refer to the hilly and mostly forested belt stretching from Kayin along the border with Thailand all the way to Tanintharyi in the southeast.”</i>● Component 3: Lowlands – accelerating inclusive market development for economic growth and poverty reduction<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>“The ‘lowlands’ refers to the intermediate, lowland and coastal plains found in Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi.”</i> <p>Currently, we are developing an intervention that focuses on the three townships of Bawlekehe, Mese and Shadaw, in Kayah State. While the areas immediately</p>

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	<p>surrounding Loikaw do fit within the 'lowland' definition, these three townships – in mountainous, heavily forested and rather isolated areas – better reflect that of the 'uplands'. Moreover, we believe that the developmental challenges and needs exhibited in these townships also better reflect those defined in Component 2 as opposed to Component 3.</p> <p>As such, any further clarifications you could provide regarding these components and their geographic targeting would be most appreciated. Specifically, is there any flexibility in the selection of components via target areas (provided sound justifications can be put forth), or are these components 'locked' into those locations pre-defined in the Cfp? Is there opportunity to select elements of both?</p> <p>A4 There is no strict demarcation between upland and lowland areas. Applicants can apply to respond to a whole component, a part of a component or one or more elements that cut across multiple components.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Q5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does LIFT intend to award multiple grants through this call, or is the preference for one consortium on an integrated package encompassing all the 4 components? Do we need to submit formalized MoU partnership documents (with CSOs, government, INGOs etc) during the concept note stage itself? What would be the tentative component budgets for each of the components. For example for Component 2 or 3 ? <p>A5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> LIFT has no preference for either consortium or for multiple grants. There is no need to submit formalised MoU partnership documents at concept note stage. Please note that applying organisations and partners should have the appropriate authorisation to carry out the project in the target areas. There is no tentative budget allocation per component at this stage. The budget allocation per component will depend on the quality and scope of the proposals received.
<p>6</p>	<p>Q6 Can one organization submit more than one concept note?</p>

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	<p>A6 One organisation can submit only one concept note as lead applicant, but can be a sub-partner for multiple concept notes.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Q7 Regarding with LIFT announcement on a call for concept notes for the South East Myanmar Programm, XXX sending the following inquiries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For component 2, can we include border uplands of Kayah State? 2. Can we partner with NGOs who are working on both sides of the border, however, they are registered in Thailand? 3. KNPP is not yet a signatory to NCA. Can we include them as a partner? 4. Can we propose MCCT type approach for EAO controlled areas nutrition intervention? <p>A7</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For component 2, the border upland of Kayah State can be included. 2. Applicants can partner with NGOs who are working on both sides of the border and are registered in Thailand. LIFT resources however should be focused on Myanmar. 3. LIFT will only work with EAOs that are signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) (page 7 of the CfCN). In light of the on-going negotiations between the Myanmar Government and EAOs, and in line with LIFT's intent to be conflict-sensitive and support not undermine peace processes, LIFT will consider and review concept notes that include engagement with an EAO that is actively negotiating with the Government of Myanmar to sign the NCA. Final decision will be made by the LIFT Fund Board before approval and will be based on whether the EAO is a signatory to the NCA. 4. The MCCT support should be within the DSW programme framework and includes outreach in EAO-controlled areas (see component 1 of the Cfp).
<p>8</p>	<p>Q8</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your understanding on Interim arrangement? 2. What / Who are ethnic service providers in your Call? 3. What about the conflict affected areas of east Bago? Are they eligible for the intervention under this Call?

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	<p>A8</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MIARP (Myanmar Interim Arrangement Research Project), funded by Joint Peace Fund, adopted the following working definition of Interim Arrangements: "Service delivery and governance in conflict affected areas, including the relationship between EAOs and government system, during the period between initial ceasefire and a comprehensive political settlement". 2. Page 2 of the CfCN defines Ethnic Service Providers as "... organisations that are closely affiliated with Ethnic Armed Organisations and that are mandated to play a service delivery role in areas under their jurisdiction". 3. Interventions in East Bago will not be eligible under the call Ref. CfP/LIFT/2019/4/SE. The programme target area includes Mon, Kayah, Kayin States and Tanintharyi Region in Myanmar only.
<p>9</p>	<p>Q9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can applicants respond to only one component, or is it possible to respond to multiple components in the same Concept Note? 2. Can applicants form a consortium and respond to all 4 Components in the same Concept Note? 3. How does LIFT expect the Concept Note to include allocation of the proposed budgets to each of the four different program components? If a CN addresses all four, do we allocate 25% of the total budget to each component? 4. Will the 20% of the budget that is meant for local NGO's and ESP's be awarded directly by LIFT, or will this have to be included in the budgets of the Applicants? 5. Should our Concept Note include a recommendation on which local organizations we feel LIFT should be targeting for the 20% funding? 6. Research and Development Organizations have a higher indirect rate that usually exceeds 15%. Does LIFT Intend to limit Indirect Costs at 6%? If so, can offerors include costs related to administrative and technical support as direct costs? 7. Can an applicant submit 2 independent Concept Note for 2 different components? <p>A9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants can respond to a whole component, a part of a component or one or more elements that cut across multiple components.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. LIFT has no preference for either consortium or for multiple grants. 3. There is no tentative budget allocation per component at this stage. The budget allocation per component will depend on the quality and scope of the proposals received. 4. LIFT aims, as far as possible, to award 20 per cent of the total budget of this call in direct funding to local organisations. 5. Applicants should refer to the local partners with whom they will work, whether directly or indirectly. Applicants do not need to recommend local partners for LIFT to fund. 6. Indirect costs cannot exceed 6 per cent of the total direct costs. Direct and indirect costs are defined on page 10 of LIFT's Operational Guidelines. 7. One organisation can submit only one concept note as lead applicant, but can be a sub-partner for multiple concept notes.
<p>10</p>	<p>Q10</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the project include activities that spill over into East Bago Region, if they are closely related to those carried out in Thandaunggyi Township of Kayin State? The reason is that Htantabin Township is covered by KNU Brigade 2 along with Thandaunggyi, and many of the markets for inputs and outputs of Thandaunggyi agriculture are located in Taungoo. 2. LIFT only works with EOAs that are NCA signatories; does that exclude the Karenni National Progressive Party, which has a bilateral ceasefire agreement but is not a NCA signatory? What would be the limits on relationships with the KNPP? 3. Is there a maximum grant amount for a single submission? <p>A10</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interventions in East Bago will not be eligible under the call Ref. CfP/LIFT/2019/4/SE. The programme target area includes Mon, Kayah, Kayin States and Tanintharyi region in Myanmar only. 2. LIFT will only work with EOAs that are signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) (page 7 of the CfCN). In light of the on-going negotiations between the Myanmar Government and EOAs, and in line with LIFT's intent to be conflict-sensitive and support not undermine

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	<p>peace processes, LIFT will consider and review concept notes that include engagement with an EAO that is actively negotiating with the Government of Myanmar to sign the NCA. Final decision will be made by the LIFT Fund Board before approval and will be based on whether the EAO is a signatory to the NCA.</p> <p>3. There is no maximum grant amount for a single submission.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Q11</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the budget ceiling for consortia and for single applicants? 2. What is your adopted definition of Ethnic Service Provider? 3. Is the 20% LIFT priority funding to local organisation meaning that, in consortia, the budget allocated to local partners should be proportional to 20%? <p>A11</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no budget ceiling for consortia or for single applicants. 2. Page 2 of the CfCN defines Ethnic Service Providers as "... organisations that are closely affiliated with Ethnic Armed Organisations and that are mandated to play a service delivery role in areas under their jurisdiction". 3. LIFT aims, as far as possible, to award 20 per cent of the total budget in direct funding to local organisations.
<p>12</p>	<p>Q12</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can an agency participate in more than one consortium applying under this call for concept notes? 2. Could LIFT please provide more information on the advisory/consultation group comprising government and EAO actors? Will they be national level actors or from the states/regions in South East Myanmar as well? Will LIFT share the full concept notes or a summary with them for review? 3. Does LIFT have any envisioned breakdown of funding allocated for each component? 4. Does the breakdown of costs at the sub-heading level need to be provided within the one page space for 'estimated budget and VFM' in the concept note or separately in the LIFT budget format in Excel?

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	<p>A12</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One organisation can submit only one concept note as lead applicant, but can be a sub-partner for multiple concept notes. 2. The multi-stakeholder consultative group is composed of Government, EAOs, ESPs and CSO partners mainly from, but not limited to, the state level. LIFT has already begun consultation with several of these actors during the design phase of this call. LIFT will continue to engage with them periodically to provide strategic inputs into the South East Programme. 3. There is no tentative budget allocation per component at this stage. The budget allocation per component will depend on the quality and scope of the proposals received. 4. A detailed budget is not required at this stage. As noted in the call for concept notes (page 17-18), submissions should include “best estimates and provide a provisional breakdown of costs at sub-heading level.” The sub-headings of the LIFT budget template should be used.
<p>13</p>	<p>Q13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could LIFT clarify whether Kyaukkyi and Shwegyin in East Bago (hosting more than 22,300 IDPs) could be considered in the CfP? • Are organisations not submitting as a lead agency eligible to participate in more than one call for proposal? • The call describes being able to apply for “one or more elements that cut across multiple components” – does this refer to those elements that feature in more than one component only, or does the call for proposal allow for applicants to ‘pick and choose’ which of any of the elements from each component they wish to address in a project design? • The call for proposal references “WASH infrastructure development through innovative financing models and leveraging resources from public and private sources” – does LIFT welcome WASH infrastructure to be included in proposals responding to the call in general, or is it only welcomed when it is involving innovative financing? • The call for proposal references “ensuring access to responsible and affordable finance for vulnerable groups” – can LIFT clarify whether this includes community-level interventions such as Village Savings and Loans

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	<p>Associations (VSLAs) and other revolving funds, or is the expectation that such interventions only include finance through formal financial institutions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the budget, the call for proposal refers to sub-headings from the standard budget template for LIFT proposals. Can LIFT confirm that applicants can submit their own budget presentations as long as the sub-headings listed therein are in accordance with the LIFT budget template? Alternatively, please clarify if applicants are expected to use the standard LIFT full proposal budget template for the concept note stage. <p>A13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions in East Bago will not be eligible under the call Ref. CfP/LIFT/2019/4/SE. The programme target area includes Mon, Kayah, Kayin States and Tanintharyi region in Myanmar only. • One organisation can submit only one concept note as lead applicant, but can be a sub-partner for multiple concept notes. • Applicants can apply to respond to a whole component, a part of a component or one or more elements that cut across multiple components. • LIFT welcomes WASH infrastructure where relevant and encourages testing sustainable solutions. • There are no restrictions on the type of interventions that can be proposed provided they are relevant and appropriate to the context • A detailed budget is not required at this stage. As noted in the call for concept notes (page 17-18), submissions should include “best estimates and provide a provisional breakdown of costs at sub-heading level.” The sub-headings of the LIFT budget template should be used.
<p>14</p>	<p>Q14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many projects is LIFT planning to/expecting to fund? • IS there is a min/max grant level per project? • Does LIFT have an earmarked budget per target state/region? Or are you looking for an even spread of projects in each target region?

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	<p>A14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no expected number of projects to be funded. • There is no minimum or maximum grant level per project. • There is no earmarked budget per target state/region. The final decisions will be made during the formation of the programme.
<p>15</p>	<p>Q15</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is indicated that component 3 is for lowlands. Almost all the intended target area is within the definition of uplands, where the need for inclusive market development is high. Does that imply that no activities indicated in component 3 can be done in the intended target area? 2. The call mentioned on page 11 'Facilitate WASH infrastructure development through innovative financing models and leveraging resources from public and private sources'. [...] Though the call indicates the use of financing models and leveraging other resources, can part of the budget be allocated to water infrastructures and is co-financing/community contribution a must for all infrastructures? This in order to remove important barriers for achieving nutrition (including home-garden), health and agriculture outcomes. 3. The Southeast Framework (page 35) refers to small scale rural infrastructure as critical and encourages mobilization of resources available through other actors or initiatives. Can part of the budget be allocated to small scale motorbike path construction and is co-financing/community contribution required? 4. The Southeast Framework acknowledges the limited/lack of health and nutrition services in several areas. This applies among others to Thandaunggyi. To what extent can a LIFT project initiatives include interventions focusing on treatment of malnourished and stunted children in addition to nutrition activities. <p>A15</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no strict demarcation between upland and lowland areas. 2. Co-financing and community contribution is not a requirement for all WASH infrastructure. However, LIFT evaluates positively co-financing,

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	<p>leveraging of other resources beyond LIFT and testing of sustainable approaches.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Part of the budget can be allocated to small-scale motorbike path construction where relevant and co-financing/community contribution, leveraging of other resources are welcomed; cash-for-work schemes could also be considered. 4. LIFT will consider proposals which will support community engagement with and increased access to Government-led IMAM (integrated management of acute malnutrition) services in order to uptake of the treatment of those with acute malnutrition. This must be part of a comprehensive approach to addressing chronic malnutrition and in collaboration and coordination with Access to Health Fund and other nutrition partners.
<p>16</p>	<p>Q16</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is there a limit in the number of applications an organization can submit as a partner (not main-applicant)? 2) is the geographic area confined to Southeast strictly as defined from the northern border of Kayah State and southwards, or is there some flexibility? Specifically, is it possible to include neighboring townships in Southern Shan State (i.e. Hsihseng)? 3) Is there any restriction in working with organizations close to ethnic parties (such as the KNPP)? <p>A16</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One organisation can submit only one concept note as lead applicant, but can be a sub-partner for multiple concept notes. 2. The programme target area includes Mon, Kayah, Kayin States and Tanintharyi region in Myanmar only. 3. LIFT will only work with EAOs that are signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) (page 7 of the CfCN). In light of the on-going negotiations between the Myanmar Government and EAOs, and in line with LIFT's intent to be conflict-sensitive and support not undermine peace processes, LIFT will consider and review concept notes that include engagement with an EAO that is actively negotiating with the Government of Myanmar to sign the NCA. Final decision will be made by

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	<p>the LIFT Fund Board before approval and will be based on whether the EAO is a signatory to the NCA.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Q17</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Page 3. Section 3 - Partnerships. Are organizations allowed to form part in more than once consortium? 2. Page 4. Section 4 – Budget allocation. Budget Allocation states that part of the 28 million USD will go towards research and policy engagement related initiatives. Can LIFT share an approximate percentage allocation towards this initiative? 3. Page 4. Section 4 – Budget allocation. Does LIFT have a illustrative budget ceilings per component? 4. Page 6. Section 7 – Schedule of Events. Are potential partners invited to the information session in Hpa An and Loikaw (with State Government). If so, what date will this take place? 5. Page 9. Footnote 12. Can LIFT kindly clarify the footnote which states: “...LIFT reserves the right to pursue [component 1] through negotiation” 6. Page 10. Component 2 states: “The ‘uplands’ refers to the hilly and mostly forested belt stretching from Kayin along the border with Thailand all the way to Tanintharyi in the Southeast”. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Does component 2 only cover Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi and not Kayah State? 7. Page 11. Component 1 states: “Ensuring access to responsible and affordable finance for vulnerable groups, particularly graduates of skills development programmes and those seeking to set up their own enterprises.” Can LIFT clarify the preferred modality to ensure access to finance for vulnerable groups? If the preferred modality is MFIs, will LIFT require to have an MFI as part of a consortium? Are there other referred modalities? 8. Page 13. Component 4. Is the geographic target for component 4 restricted to Tanintharyi Region and Mon state? 9. Page 19. Annex 3. LIFT listed 12 selection criteria. Can LIFT also included the weight for each criteria, or should partners assume all criteria’s are weighted equally?

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	<p>A17</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One organisation can submit only one concept note as lead applicant, but can be a sub-partner for multiple concept notes. 2. The allocation for research will be determined by the quality of the concept notes received. 3. There is no tentative budget allocation per component at this stage. The budget allocation per component will depend on the quality and scope of the proposals received. 4. The information sessions in Hpa-An and Loikaw are only between LIFT FMO and State Governments; partners will not be invited. We apologise that this was not initially clear. 5. For component 1 addressing support to DSW MCCT programme, LIFT reserves the right to source appropriate partners outside this call for concept notes, if the concept notes received are not of sufficient quality or do not adequately respond to the needs of this specific programme. This includes direct negotiation with Government/local authorities. 6. There is no strict demarcation between upland and lowland areas. 7. There is no preferred modality for ensuring access to responsible and affordable finance. 8. Component 4 is not limited to Mon State and Tanintharyi region. 9. The individual selection criteria are not weighted. LIFT will make an overall determination of the merit of the proposal based upon a comprehensive appraisal.
<p>18</p>	<p>Q18 In response to the LIFT Call for Concept Notes for Southeastern Myanmar, is there a minimum and maximum project budget for application?</p> <p>A18 There is no minimum or maximum budget for applications.</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>Q19</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it possible for one organization to submit to more than one component ? Two or more (is there a maximum or minimum? (whether research project and/or field project) ? 2. Is it possible to submit a research proposal, focusing on the policy and practice issues across several components ? (for example: lowland and uplands

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	<p>component). As this needs to be analyzed across the areas and is often cross-sectional.</p> <p>A19</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One organisation can submit only one concept note as lead applicant, but can be a sub-partner for multiple concept notes. 2. Research proposals can cut across multiple components.
<p>20</p>	<p>Q20</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The budget for LIFT- South East Programme is up to 28m USD but what is the budget ceiling for this specific call? 2. Is there any preference for allocation of budget as per component or region? 3. How much can be overhead cost? 4. How many awards will be given under this call apart from Local NGOs? 5. It is mentioned that the project period will be 36 months maximum but is it for the overall call or for this specific project? What is the lowest duration period for this project? 6. There are 4 components under this call, the applicant need to cover all the components or they can work on any components? Can One organisation submit more than one concept note on different component in different region? 7. LIFT focus is to give at least 20% budget to local organizations, so is it mandatory to make consortium with local organization or consortium with local organization will it give extra benefits? 8. If we partner with local organisation then should we also allocate 20% for the local NGO partner? 9. What percentage of budget should be allocated for research and policy engagement related initiatives. 10. Should we partner with any university or research institute for conducting research or it can be done by hired external consultant researcher? 11. Can seed money grant be allocated for SHG or Cooperative in the form of revolving fund? 12. Detail should be the budget? <p>A20</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The budget for this specific call for concept notes is USD 28m. 2. There is no preference for allocation of budget by component or region.

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3. The indirect costs are limited to a maximum of 6 per cent of the overall project budget according to the [LIFT operational guidelines](#).
4. There is no set number of awards that will be given under this call.
5. Proposed projects should be no longer than 36 months in duration. There is no minimum project duration.
6. Proposed projects do not need to cover all four components and can respond to a single component within the call for concept notes. One organisation can submit only one concept note as lead applicant but can be sub-partners for multiple concept notes.
7. LIFT aims, as far as possible, to award 20 per cent of the total budget in direct funding to local organisations. It is not mandatory to include local organisations within consortiums. There is no set amount that should be allocated to local NGO partners.
9. There is no set percentage of project budgets that should be allocated for research and policy engagement activities.
10. There is no requirement as to the contracting arrangements for research.
11. There are no restrictions on the type of interventions that can be proposed provided they are relevant and appropriate to the context.
12. A detailed budget is not required. As noted in the call for concept notes (page 17-18), submissions should include “best estimates and provide a provisional breakdown of costs at sub-heading level.” The sub-headings of the [LIFT budget template](#) should be used.

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