

# Frequently Asked Questions

INVESTMENTS TO REDUCE THE CONSUMPTION OF WOOD ENERGY IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Questions	Answers
1. Can the requested amount be less than USD 50,000?	No, USD 50,000 is the minimum funding amount of the fund.
2. Is it possible to receive funding of more than USD 150,000?	No, USD 150,000 is the maximum amount you can access
3. Which companies are concerned by the call for applications?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Financial services such as a digital financing service</li> <li>-Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) looking to develop tailor-made loan products for existing customers of cooking solutions</li> <li>-The Cooperatives of Savings and Credit (COOPEC) seeking to develop networks of agents for the distribution of clean cooking solutions</li> <li>-Companies in the energy sector seeking to improve the sale, distribution and marketing of improved cookstoves;</li> <li>-Companies in the energy sector or other private sector companies wishing to develop a new innovation in clean cooking in the DRC;</li> <li>- Companies in the energy sector or the private sector (retailers or distributors);</li> <li>-Companies working in agribusiness or other fields (productive use) wishing to switch to cleaner technology or fuel.</li> </ul>
4. What types of solutions does this financing target?	This funding concerns energy solutions aimed at reducing the consumption of wood as energy and innovations and financial solutions facilitating access to clean cooking solutions.
5. What does it mean “productive use activities”?	<p>These are companies that use traditional cooking fuels to generate revenue. These are for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bakeries,</li> <li>- palm oil production units,</li> <li>- rice parboiling units,</li> <li>- milk pasteurization and cheese production units,</li> <li>- smoking, salting and fish preservation units (including cooling),</li> <li>- the Producers of Chikwangue,</li> <li>- coffee processing and roasting units,</li> <li>- cocoa drying and processing units...</li> </ul>
6. Which areas are targeted by the funding?	- The regions of Kinshasa, Bukavu, Goma, Lubumbashi, Kisangani, Kasai, Kongo Centrale.
7. How can I get more information about the call for proposals?	For any information, you will have to send an email to <a href="mailto:DRC.RFA@uncdf.org">DRC.RFA@uncdf.org</a> . Specifying in subject: Call for proposals for grants

8. Can the funding be used for the payment of salaries?	Yes, but for a maximum of 10% of the amount of funding sought or received
9. Is the promotion/development of energy solutions for productive uses eligible for the Fund? How can one be assisted by the fund?	Yes, promoters of solutions for productive uses can access technical assistance and/or financial assistance. In addition to promoters of solutions for productive uses, private sector companies working in agro-industry or other income-generating fields that wish to switch to cleaner technology or fuel are also eligible.
10. Does the Fund target energy solutions for households and businesses/commercial users?	Yes, all clean cooking solutions (domestic and/or institutional) that benefit households, micro and small enterprises, women's groups and young people
11. Are financial institutions eligible??	Yes, financial services such as a digital financing services, microfinance institutions, savings and credit cooperatives seeking to reduce transaction costs, develop networks of agents for distribution and/or new financial products to facilitate the acquisition of cooking solutions.
12. Can I receive the funding without technical assistance?	Yes, but UNCDF reserves the right to offer technical assistance to funding recipients as required
13. Can I receive technical assistance without funding?	Yes, the fund offers a range of technical assistance possibilities through incubators or dedicated consultants
14. Can an NGO submit a request?	No, unless it is a commercial enterprise that generates profit within an NGO
15. Can UNCDF put us in touch with credible partners?	UNCDF can share with you the list of participants of the information sessions. But UNCDF can't facilitate partnerships right now
16. Could funding include funding for research and development?	No, the fund aims to support projects that offer proven solutions.
17. Is it possible to submit a pilot project?	No, the fund aims to accelerate the deployment of proven/mature energy solutions.
18. We have operations in another African country, but we have just started in the DRC; can we submit a project?	Yes, if you are at least a year of operation in DRC.
19. Is it possible to combine multiple projects into a single submission package?	It is possible to submit several projects. But each project must have its own form.
20. Can one receive a combination of loans and grants?	Yes. Other combinations are also possible. But for the loan, the file is processed outside this call for grants. It is handled by another UNCDF financing mechanism, the LDCIP (Investment

	Platform for Least Developed Countries).
21. Why does the fund also offer guarantees? And how it can be useful for us?	UNCDF guarantees help attract local funding. The guarantee is very useful when dealing with financial institutions
22. As a start-up, can we bid?	Start-ups are encouraged to bid. They will be able to benefit from technical assistance first and also from funding according to their degree of performance or eligibility
23. Can market or feasibility studies be financed by the fund?	No, the fund aims to support projects that can offer solutions to consumers/end users by December 2023.
24. Are proposals with solar energy eligible?	Yes, if it integrates clean cooking solutions into the business model. For example, selling cooking stoves through the Pay-As-You-Go platform used to sell solar kits. If it is for lighting only, solar energy proposals are not eligible
25. Is butane gas eligible?	Yes, of course for cooking
26. If the applicant cannot realize the percentage of contribution, what will happen or if he only has the materials?	The applicant is required to have the percentage of contribution to ensure that he makes efforts for its development. If the challenge fund comes to support and the client cannot realize the percentage of his contribution, its application is not eligible
27. Will there be training on Business Plans and Marketing Support as well as financial support to improve our service?	Yes, this is planned.
28. Is it possible that a consortium of two companies located in two different countries (Cameroon and Togo for example) other than the DRC could submit their proposal?	Yes, this is possible provided that they partner with a company registered in the DRC and that has its project and solution implemented in the DRC. Any foreign applicant interested in the call for grants must partner with an authorized institution in the DRC to provide the solution.
29. Is the long and complicated challenge fund process aimed at solving the problem of access to energy?	Yes, this challenge fund can help to largely solve the problem of access to energy It is not a complicated process, but like any challenge fund, this process is competitive to select the best proposals while remaining transparent.
30. Is the credit interest rate more attractive than that of the local banks?	Yes, the interest rate is subsidized.
31. What is the maximum amount of loans and/or guarantees?	The maximum loan amount is USD 2,500,000. UNCDF guarantees help attract local funding.
32. Will support be available this year and until when will it be extended?	Support will be available during the life of the project so as soon as the funds are made available and will last till December 2023.

33. Can companies that have not been contacted during the preparatory phase by UNCDF be able to apply?	Yes. Absolutely. All actors who meet the criteria are invited to apply.
34. Should the contribution of project leaders be at least 50% of the Total Budget of the project? what does it mean concretely ?	No, the personal contribution must be at least 20%. But a project with a greater applicant's own contribution will be more likely to be selected.
35. How many projects will be funded per region targeted by the program?	Projects will be funded on the basis of their quality and not on their location. But 4 to 8 projects in total will be funded.
36. Can a company submit two bids with different technologies?	Yes, using different forms and different email addresses. Both applications can be supported. They will have to be complementary and the funding of one will not be allocated to the other.
37. What is the acceptable own contribution amount/ratio?	The own contribution must be at least 20%.
38. How to submit an application?	You can submit your application through the following link: <a href="#">220712 - DRC: Investissements visant à réduire de manière quantifiable la consommation de bois énergie en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) - UNCDF Plug-and-Play e-investment platform</a> , by clicking on the "Apply" tab
39. Are projects for the production and extension of ecological briquettes made from biomass financed?	Yes
40. What should be the content of the technical offer? Does it apply to all candidates?	Yes, it applies to all candidates. Details on the content of the technical offer are given in the submission form.
41. Can we bid for the grant and for the credit or guarantee at the same time, as for technical assistance?	This submission is for grant and technical assistance only. But you can bid also for loan and guarantee by following the link below : <a href="https://www.uncdf.org/article/7849/eoi-catalytic-loans-and-guarantees-for-clean-energy-sustainable-agriculture-forestry-solutions-drc">https://www.uncdf.org/article/7849/eoi-catalytic-loans-and-guarantees-for-clean-energy-sustainable-agriculture-forestry-solutions-drc</a>
42. We are a platform of associations ASBL of Goma, can we apply as a platform?	No, this call for grants only concerns registered private sector entities (commercial enterprise) with at least one year of operation. NGOs and non-profit organizations are not eligible for this call for grants.
43. In terms of improving the technicality of a company, does UNCDF have technicians to	Yes, UNCDF provides stakeholders with technicians for individualized technical

provide technical assistance to improve the quality of solutions manufactured in the DRC ?	assistance as well as for group technical assistance in the form of a TERA Academy.
44. How the technical and financial offers should be presented?	Both are submitted together and exclusively through the following link : <a href="#">220712 - DRC: Investissements visant à réduire de manière quantifiable la consommation de bois énergie en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) - UNCDF Plug-and-Play e-investment platform</a>
45. Is it possible that a Start-up that has not yet been registered as a business access grants, credits or guarantees?	No, only commercial companies with at least 1 (one) year of operation can submit proposals to this call for grants.
46. What do you expect in the intervention plan? Important elements to consider in the response plan or action plan?	The action plan is the sequence of steps or activities that will allow your business to achieve its goal. The plan provides the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What actions are to be taken</li> <li>2. Who takes care of it</li> <li>3. What is the deadline</li> <li>4. How long it is estimated that it will take <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What resources will be made available</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
47. Apart from the BALANCE SHEET and the INCOME statement, are there any other elements for the financial statements which must also be inserted/ submitted?	You have all the elements to provide in the two Excel files in the appendix: File 1: Work Plan, Budget, Schedule and Planning of Quantitative Deliverables, File 2: Financial Information. Please provide only what it is required.
48. The work plan limits the number of activities. Are we allowed to lengthen them? increase?  In the instructions of the form, it is forbidden to modify it, but by entering the data, sometimes the form distorts or switches in addition, the selection of options is impossible, what to do?	Normally the proposed submission form should be used without change (neither in substance nor in form) Nevertheless, if you have one or a few important sentences that fail to fit into the spaces provided, please put them on a separate card, taking care to indicate where the sentences should go.
49. What is the duration of the project?	The duration of the project is one year and the activities of your workplan will not have to go beyond December 2023.
50. What do you mean by 'Type of business'?	The type of company refers to the legal status of the company as defined by OHADA: example SARL, SA, SAS...
51. Can companies located outside Congo subcontract companies in Congo and submit the project?	Yes, it is possible
52. Do companies operating in the segment	Yes

between production and marketing able to submit a proposal ?	
53. What are the elements that go into the intervention plan if you are a foreign company ?	Your proposal should clearly describe the actions, resources, deployment dates of activities, implementation approaches as well as your experience of intervention in the market for clean cooking solutions elsewhere than the DRC, as well as your local partner. Track the items as requested in the form
54. Can we access the mapping, or the results of your market research to find out who does what, where and when? in order to expect complementarity	Yes, it is possible to have access to the data we have. We will share with all stakeholders
55. Can young people and women from churches or NGOs bid as a group ?	No, only registered companies or structures can submit a tender.
56. What is the deadline (date please) to ask clarification questions?	You can send your questions to DRC.RFA@uncdf.org before 15 <sup>th</sup> august 2022. In case of extension, you will be notified
57. Regarding the percentage of our contribution, do you only consider the cash flow or do you also think about the value of the fixed assets in the total budget of the project ?	In kind contributions are taken into account but calculated just for the project life, i.e. for the intervention period covering September 2022 to December 2023.
58. Company contribution of at least 20%. So we can present a project with a total cost exceeding US\$150,000, apply for a grant of US\$150,000, show our contribution and at the same time apply for a loan for the balance?	Yes, but you can access financing up to US\$150,000. However, you cannot cover your contribution with the loan. The local contribution must come from your own resources.
59. Do you also require a cash component, excluding cash flow and fixed assets?	Not necessarily
60. Can we apply as a platform?	Yes, if the individual entities that make up the platform are eligible (i.e. if the platform is composed of eligible companies).
61. Can we ask for a guarantee to attract a big investor in the business?	Yes, UNCDF guarantees help attract local financing through commercial banks and MFIs at the local level.
62. To guarantee a bank loan, does the bank we work with need to provide a document to include in the application?	No. It is when you are selected for the loan that the UNCDF team asks you for additional documents.
63. Is the application limited to companies that have been visited ?	The submission is not only limited to the companies that have been visited. It is addressed to all actors in the sector who are eligible.
64. Is it allowed to put bullets for quotes in the form?	Yes if it does not change the shape of the document
65. Could we apply if our company is being	No, this call for grants only concerns companies

created	with at least 1 year of operation
66. If you want to receive a combination of loan and grant, do you also have to present two different budgets?	Yes, you must submit two different budgets: <b><i>One for the grant and another for the loan</i></b>
67. Can I apply for grant and loan support for the same proposal?	No, it is either a grant or a loan. Or ask you for two different supports
68. Can the entire contribution be made by the material alone? Or contribution in Nature?	No, your contribution must be a mix of cash (money) and in-kind (material) contributions
69. Can subsidies be used to cover the cost of manufacturing clean stoves?  Can subsidies be used to cover the import costs of clean cooking stoves (including customs and transport costs)?	Yes
70. We are a company producing charcoal briquettes based on industrial, household and agricultural waste, based in Kinshasa, I want to know if we are eligible for this program.	Yes, you are eligible
71. What is the language in which tenders must be submitted?	The eligible language are French and English.
72. Can two or more structures remain in consortium to develop a project and apply for fund?	Yes, but it must have a clearly designated lead with authority to answer on behalf of the consortium