FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR GRANT AGENT FOR THE GPE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION EXCHANGE – MARCH 2026

Eligibility and KIX funding

Q1: Are organizations working on teacher professional development for non-government schoolteachers in a single country eligible for this funding?

A: The Request for Expression of Interest is to be considered as grant agent for the next phase of KIX. An organization with a singular focus in a single country would not meet the eligibility criteria to be the grant agent for KIX (see here). For organizations interested in receiving funds from KIX to support in-country work, eligibility requirements will be published in July 2027 when the new phase is expected to start.

Q2: Are private sector organizations eligible under a consortium/partner model with the lead organization being INGO/multi-bilateral?

A: A for-profit firm cannot serve as a GPE grant agent but can be an implementing partner working with an accredited GPE grant agent. A for-profit firm can also be part of a consortium but may only receive funds from the grant agent. Organizations, for profit and not for profit, within a consortium must operate under the oversight of a grant agent. The consortium lead would be the grant agent and would sign the Financial Procedures Agreement with the World Bank Trustee, receive grant funding, and will be fully responsible for the program and the work of any of the grant agent's implementing partners.

Q3: Does the eligibility criteria for NFPOs refer to Appendix 3 of the Guidelines Selection Process for Grant Agents, or separate criteria?

A: It is important to distinguish between eligibility criteria for GPE grant agent accreditation and eligibility to serve as a KIX grant agent. GPE's accreditation process systematically assesses whether an organization has the capacities, policies and procedures needed to provide due oversight of GPE Trust Fund resources. However, eligibility to serve as a KIX grant agent is determined by a separate and additional review tied to the thematic and operational requirements of KIX. Thus, while international not-for-profits may qualify as GPE grant agents, their suitability for KIX depends on the considerations specified in the EOI selection process.

Q4: Would acting as KIX Grant Agent have implications for eligibility to continue receiving funding under other GPE instruments (e.g., SCG, STG, TAI, EOL)?

A: Being selected as the KIX grant agent would not compromise eligibility to receive GPE funding through other instruments (including SCG, STG, GEA, MLT, TAI or EOL) or to act as a grant agent for other GPE grants.

Q5: If an organization is a KIX Grant Agent, can it (or its affiliated entities) apply for KIX research funding or apply to coordinate Regional Hubs?
and
Q6: In the webinar, it was stated that the Grant Agent will not be eligible for research funds. In a consortium model, will a sub-partner (not the lead partner) be eligible for research funds?
and
Q7: Is the KIX Grant Agent or a member of a consortium led by the grant agent eligible for research funds and to participate as part of a Regional Hub?
A: The KIX grant agent (single applicant or consortium lead) is not eligible for KIX research funds or able to implement a Regional Hub. Subcontracted implementing partners of a Single Applicant grant agent, and subpartners of consortium applications (i.e., not the lead) are eligible for both research funds and to implement Regional Hubs.

Q8: What safeguards does GPE require to mitigate conflicts of interest?
A: In addition to the grant agent's own risk mitigation and due diligence processes for the awarding of KIX funding and identifying grantees, GPE requires: public, competitive Expressions of Interest processes; use of Independent Assessment Panels; awarding criteria that balance project type, applicant diversity, and geographic and thematic coverage; the GPE Secretariat's review of political considerations and alignment with country priorities and GPE grants; and final sign off by the GPE Secretariat.

Q9: Can a grant agent receive KIX research funds or implement a Regional Hub if there is an institutional separation between the management and implementation teams?
A: No. The KIX grant agent (single or consortium lead) is not eligible for KIX Evidence and Research Fund or to lead a/the Regional Hubs.

Q10: Please clarify the requirement that applicants must have "Demonstrated experience managing bilateral, or multilateral donor-funded projects in excess of US$10 million in a country and across more than one country".
A: Grant agent applicants (either single organizations or the lead of a consortium) are expected to demonstrate experience managing large donor-funded (multilateral, bilateral **or philanthropic**) projects in more than one country. The threshold of US$10

million applies to a single donor-funded project, rather than several different projects. This experience does **not** need to have been in the role of a grant agent.

Program costs

Q11: Beyond the 7% indirect cost recovery cap, is there flexibility to include supervision, coordination, or programme management staff costs as direct programme budget lines? If so, is there any cap or benchmark for such allocations?

A: Reasonable direct program management costs are expected to be part of the program budget, which will be subject to value for money review.

Q12: Is the indirect cost cap of 7% also applicable to subs?

A: The 7% figure refers specifically to the indirect cost recovery rate allowed for accredited GPE grant agents as part of the broader administrative costs associated with implementing a GPE grant. Direct costs, by contrast, are included in the application budget, vary by organization, and have no fixed cap, though they are reviewed for appropriateness. When it comes to subgrantees or subcontracted partners within a consortium, GPE policy does not impose the 7% cap; these organizations may apply their own indirect cost recovery rates. However, the determining factor becomes overall value for money in the proposal rather than adherence to a specific ceiling. In short, the 7% cap applies only to the primary accredited grant agent, while subawardees are assessed on cost effectiveness rather than a mandated indirect cost limit.

Consortium participation and partnership arrangements

Q13: Can an organization be a part of multiple consortium proposals?

A: Yes, an organization may be part of more than one consortium proposal. Applicants will be informed directly about whether they have been selected or not. No information will be made public by GPE on which organizations or consortia applied.

Q14: For a single applicant with a subcontracting agreement, should Annex E (Subcontracting Plan) be completed, and would you advise providing evidence of the agreement through a Letter of Commitment (Annex F) outlining the scope of work and governance structure?

A: Single organization applicants do not need to submit the supplementary annexes listed in Section C of the template. However, if a Single applicant plans to subcontract an implementation partner, and a subcontracted organization is to be named in the application, the applicant should explain how and why that approach differs from a consortia application. (Please note: this amends advice during the webinar that

indicated subcontracted implementation partners of a single applicant should submit additional annexes. This is clarified further in the answer to Question 15).

Q15: During the webinar, you mentioned that applicants with potential sub-grantees are expected to explain how this arrangement differs from a consortium and to submit the six annexes listed under Section E of the Request for Expression of Interest (EoI). Could you please confirm whether these six annexes are required only for consortia, as indicated in the request for EoI, or whether they are also required for applicants proposing sub-grantees?

A: The six annexes listed in Section E of the EoI are required only for consortium applications. The EoI states that 'for consortia, additional documents listed in Section E are required,' and these include Annexes A–F, such as the consortium roles and responsibilities matrix, governance plan, cost sharing arrangements, and partnership agreements. Applicants applying as a single organization, including those proposing to work with subcontracted partners for implementing elements of the KIX program, do not need to submit these six annexes. However, they are expected to clearly explain how their subcontracting arrangements differ from a consortium model, as noted during the webinar, and to describe the management and oversight approach they would apply.

Q16: If additional partners are identified at a later stage, what would be the process for including them?

A: If the inclusion of additional partners changes the program implementation arrangements or crosses financial revision thresholds, a grant revision process may be required.

Q17: It's highly likely that organizations interested in becoming a grant agent already work in research and do research themselves. To what extent will the selected grant agent be able to provide technical direction/influence priorities if at all?

A: Relevant experience in research and knowledge mobilization, the political economy of evidence at country level, and the broad thematic areas KIX supports are core assessment criteria for being considered as the KIX grant agent. This means the grant agent would naturally contribute to shaping the focus of KIX work, while not controlling it outright, noting the centrality of country demand and integration with GPE 2030. The role of the grant agent is to bring informed perspective and operational experience without determining the agenda independently.

Q18: What is the distinction between (1) the role of the Global KIX Grant Agent (managing both components: Regional Hubs and Research Funds), and (2) the role of an organization acting as a Regional Hub coordinator (as per https://www.gpekix.org/regional-hubs).

A: In short, the KIX grant agent is the fiduciary and administrative lead for the entire KIX program. It manages the full KIX portfolio, covering research, capacity strengthening, and knowledge mobilization grants. It provides fiduciary oversight, ensures compliance with GPE requirements, develops the overall KIX program proposal, and implements both the Research Funds and Regional Hubs. It also supports learning, communication, and coordination across all partner countries.

Regional Learning Partners implement the Regional KIX Hubs and function as regional knowledge brokering units. They facilitate cross-country exchange, produce and share evidence, and support demand-driven learning among policymakers. They also conduct system reviews, develop digital exchange platforms, and build capacity to use evidence. In short, Regional Hub implementing organizations run regional learning and evidence mobilization platforms but do not hold fiduciary responsibility for the overall KIX program.

Q19: What is the functional and contractual difference between (1) Managing funds allocated to Regional Hubs as Global Grant Agent, and (2) Coordinating or leading a Regional Hub as an implementing partner?

A: The KIX grant agent signs a Financial Procedures Act with the World Bank (in their capacity as the Trustee for GPE Trust Funds). This is the only legal document that grant agents sign. The KIX grant agent may then subcontract to other organizations, whether Regional Learning Partners that run Regional KIX Hubs, or grantees to conduct KIX research. The grant agent is accountable for both the performance and finances of Regional Learning Partners and grantees. Note that the agreement with Regional Learning Partners and other grantees will be with the KIX grant agent, not the World Bank Trustee or GPE.

Q20: If an organization is interested in coordinating one or several Regional Hubs, will there be a separate call for proposals for Regional Hub coordinators after the global grant agent is selected, or should Regional Hub leadership already be defined as part of the consortium within the current Expression of Interest?

A: How to organize and run the Hubs should be part of the EOI vision statement and subsequent program proposal, within the parameters set by the KIX Adapted Design Framework. If an organization is only interested in coordinating one or several Regional Hubs, it should be included as a subcontracted implementing partner of a Single Grant

Agent application or as a partner in a Consortium application in response to the current EOI.

Application content and structure

Q21: Given the four page limit for the Vision section (B8), and a very detailed description of the next phase of KIX in the adapted design framework, could you clarify what applicants are expected to articulate in this section, including what is meant by an "operational vision"?

A: In the Vision section of the EOI, applicants should draw on the Adapted Design Framework and describe how they see KIX working in practice, including links between the Regional Hubs and Evidence and Research Funds, connections with the Secretariat, and in-country partners. They should indicate how they would leverage their institutional experience and networks and outline what success looks like. They should also profile what the monitoring and reporting framework would capture in terms of KIX outcomes and impact for their vision of success. 'Operational vision' refers to how the Regional Hubs and Evidence and Research Funds will inform, interact, and work together, and is particularly relevant if more than one organization will be involved in implementing KIX.

Q22: In your assessment of EoIs, what weighting are you giving to different criteria & sub-criteria in Section B?

Criteria	Weight as percentage
Relevant Experience	25
Regional Networks, Geographic and Language capacities	15
Management Capacity	20
Cost Effectiveness Overview	20
Vision Statement	20

Program content and funding focus

Q23: Given limited funding and a long list of research themes in the design framework, what research types are prioritized under the Evidence and Research Funds?

A: The Adapted Design Framework explains that in the next phase of KIX, the Evidence and Research Funds will prioritize types of research that inform or strengthen national priority reforms of GPE partner countries. Priorities will need to align with GPE2030 and be shaped by how the Regional Hubs interact with the Evidence and Research Funds, the volume of funding available from the GPE Trust Fund, and co-financing opportunities and partnerships within scope of KIX.

Q24: The adapted Design Framework indicates a strengthened role for the GPE Secretariat in steering and integrating KIX within GPE 2030. Could you clarify the expected level of operational involvement of the Secretariat—particularly Regional Teams and Thematic Leads—in shaping research priorities, Hub activities, and country-level engagement?

A: The governance arrangements of KIX will include a Regional Learning Partner Advisory Committee, jointly run by the GPE and grant agent, to support regular, strategic engagement with the GPE Secretariat. Below this, the GPE Secretariat will provide clear, consistent support — including through identified KIX focal points within Secretariat Regional Teams who will engage with Hubs and country teams and help link KIX insights to wider GPE country processes. This engagement is not meant to predetermine activities, and the specific ways of working will be co-developed during implementation, allowing arrangements to adapt to context, demand, and opportunity. Applicants are encouraged to indicate what types of Secretariat engagement would be most helpful to strengthen alignment with broader GPE work and to ensure that KIX evidence can more effectively inform national dialogue, planning, and implementation.

Q25: What do Regional Hubs and Research support entail exactly?

A: Please refer to the Adapted Design Framework.

Q26: What type of education evidence will KIX focus on in this next phase?

A: Please refer to the Adapted Design Framework.

Q27: Should applicants assume continuity of existing Regional Learning Partners, or is a full redesign of Regional Hub arrangements expected?

A: How to organize and run the Hubs should be part of the EOI vision and subsequent program proposal, within the parameters set by the Adapted Design Framework. This would be based on the grant agent proposal, and the grant agent/consortium partners working closely with the GPE Secretariat and may lead to alterations and/or adaptations.

Miscellaneous

Q28: Do you plan to share a roster of organizations who have shown interest in this opportunity/webinar to support partnerships?

A: No. To protect applicant confidentiality and ensure a fair and open process, we do not disclose the names of organizations that participate in information sessions,

submit questions or apply. Applicants are welcome to form partnerships on their own, but any such outreach or coordination should be organized independently.

Q29: Are there any public reports and/or evaluations of the current KIX mechanism?

A: Reports are available under publications here:
https://www.globalpartnership.org/how-we-work/knowledge-innovation

and evaluations here (filter by 'knowledge and innovation'):
https://www.globalpartnership.org/library.