

UNAIDS Solidarity Fund for Key Populations Social Entrepreneurship | Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Solidarity Fund for Key Populations Social Entrepreneurship?

UNAIDS announced the launch of the Solidarity Fund for Key Populations Social Entrepreneurship end 2020 (referred to as the Solidarity Fund in this document). The Solidarity Fund will support social entrepreneurs led by people living with HIV, young women from key affected communities or members of key populations, including sex workers, transgender people, people who use drugs and gay men and other men who have sex with men facing special hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Solidarity Fund aims to support communities to tide over the direct impact of COVID-19 and support the creation and scaling of more sustainable revenue mechanisms while also enhancing access to local community services.

The Solidarity Fund Pilot Phase for Social Entrepreneurship (January-September 2021) will cover 5 countries, namely **Brazil, Ghana, India, Madagascar and Uganda**. The pilot phase aims to test models for building key populations led social enterprises that can be scaled post 2021 based on lessons learnt.

Who is eligible to apply for social entrepreneurship grants in the pilot phase of the Solidarity Fund?

Groups, networks and organizations or partnerships between networks or organizations of people living with HIV, young women from key affected communities or members of key populations, including sex workers, transgender people, people who use drugs and gay men and other men who have sex with men of the pilot countries Brazil, Ghana, India, Madagascar and Uganda are eligible to apply for grants in accordance with the [online application format specifications](#).

Applicants are encouraged to join forces across networks to work collectively in the country.

How are key populations defined in the context of the Solidarity Fund eligibility?

The Solidarity Fund broadly defines a “network” as an open-membership organization that engages its network members in democratic governance and representation of their constituencies, observes accountability to the network membership, and facilitates regular collaboration and communication among members working towards common goals.

What does the Solidarity Fund understand by Social Enterprise?

Social Enterprise in this context is defined as 1) a company whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than generate profit for its owners or partners 2) operates in the market by providing goods and services in an entrepreneurial manner and uses its surpluses (earnings) mainly for social purposes; 3) is subject to responsible and transparent management, including by involving its employees, customers and stakeholders involved in its economic activities.

Timelines and important dates

Call for Proposal Pilot Phase opens	15 th January 2021
Call for Proposal Pilot Phase closes	30 th January 2021
Scanning of proposals to ensure compliance with eligibility criteria (UNAIDS Secretariat)	1st week February 2021
Proposals are reviewed by Review Committee Solidarity Fund	Starting 2 nd week February 2021
Additional information and documentation may be requested from applicants for clarification (UNAIDS Secretariat)	
Final decision and contracting	4 th week February 2021 onwards
Documentation of process & Mid-term reporting	Ongoing July

These dates are provided as a guideline.

How to apply to for social enterprise grants?

Applications can be submitted on a rolling basis via the [online application format](#) or through a 5-minute video submission* for a maximum of US \$20,000 in financing to cover their costs or towards expanding their ongoing social enterprise activities. It is expected that the majority of proposals will range between US\$ 3000-7.500 and to be successful, applicants should provide justification for the funding levels requested.

The final deadline for proposal submissions of the pilot phase is 30th January 2021.

* Specific requirements for video submission

If you choose to submit your application via video support, please note that the video duration should be limited to 5 minutes and must contain the same information as the online format. Details on how to submit a video proposal can be found in the [online application format](#).

What minimum eligibility criteria must the grant application proposal fulfil to be eligible?

UNAIDS and partners welcome a variety of social ventures that have a potential to support key affected communities to tide over the current COVID-19 impact.

Proposals from qualified applications will assessed on their ability to meet the overarching criteria:

- 1. Enhancing social entrepreneurship and community services:** The solution should focus to improve the live and wellbeing of communities, through sustaining or amplifying services or economic empowerment, particularly of people living with HIV, young women of key affected communities or members of key populations.

2. **Sustainability:** The proposal should clearly outline the proposed social enterprise business idea and articulate how the social enterprise plans to be sustained beyond the grant.
3. **Values:** The solution should align to UNAIDS values and in particular promote the realization of freedom from stigma and discrimination, gender equality and other human rights norms and principles in its design and intended impact.

Concept Notes that are not well aligned to our criteria will not be taken further.

What is the process for the pilot phase proposal review?

Following the closing date for receiving applications for the pilot phase on 30th January 2021, the received proposals will be screened to ensure eligibility compliance. Subsequently, the proposals will be reviewed and selected by the “Solidarity Fund Review Committee” (referred to as the Committee in this document) against the above criteria.

The Committee will be comprised of representatives of UNAIDS and partners, including community representatives as well as in country, public and private sector partners.

The Committee may set up specific calls with applicants to review information submitted and may seek formal referrals from relevant networks in country or globally prior to approval of grants.

When can I expect communication on the outcome of the application?

The submitted grant applications for the pilot phase will be reviewed by the Review Committee starting the 2nd week of February 2021. Final decision and start of contracting is expected by the 4th week of February onwards. Applicants for the pilot phase will be informed within one week of the final decision making.

There is no mechanism of appeal foreseen for pilot phase applicants.