

## Frequently Asked Questions for ICF-Mexico Technical Assistance Programme

1. Q: Why has the UK Government chosen to support Mexico's TAP?

A: The UK Government is developing a major new Technical Assistance Programme to support middle-income countries in delivering their Paris commitments, meeting demand by utilising international low carbon skills and expertise where appropriate.

We will provide targeted support in line with areas of greatest need, which align with the UK's distinct climate expertise. Research suggests this may include (but not be limited to): legislation, climate policy and governance, energy decarbonisation, green finance, mobility, amongst others.

2. Q: Why does the fund only support one-year projects?

A: The UK's Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, Claire Perry, recently approved funding for early activities in three countries, including Mexico. Subject to evaluation and assessment of these early activities there may then also be scope for longer term activity. We are very excited to commence this programme with the current call for proposals.

3. Q: What are the main criteria to select projects to fund?

A: Bids will be assessed on the following selection criteria: strategic fit; potential for transformational impact; value for money; additionality; and deliverability. Please refer to section 2.2 in the ICF Mexico TAP Call for Proposals Strategy and Guidelines.

4. Q: Are all five criteria weighted equally?

A: No, the first two criteria (strategic fit and potential for transformational impact) will each be weighted 1.5 times each of the other three.

5. Q: How big is the fund? / How many projects will be supported this year?

A: The fund is £2 million. The indicative scale of support for each project will vary depending on its type (multi-year, skill share or early activity project). Please refer to the section 2.1 in the ICF Mexico TAP Call for Proposals Strategy and Guidelines (Scale component) for indicative purposes. We will decide the number of projects according to the proposals received.

6. Q: How much funding is available for next year?

A: Subject to evaluation and assessment of early activities there will be scope for longer term activities and further funding for activities up to 2021.

7. Q: How do you assess the benefits for the UK when assessing bids?

A: We hope to foster two-way exchange and sharing of best practice between Mexican organisations and those from other countries, including the UK, during project implementation.

8. Q: Is co-funding a requirement?

A: No. Demonstrating co-funding could, however, be one way to demonstrate value for money and potential for transformational impact, which are two of the five assessment criteria.

9. Q: Is having an international partner a requirement?

A: No. Technical Assistance projects allow exchange of expertise and best practice among Mexicans and international stakeholders. Strong engagement and support of the host government or other key beneficiaries and stakeholders is essential. The Grant Agreement will only be signed with one implementing partner, which must be nominated as the lead implementer either national or international.

10. Q: When will we know the result of first round applications?

A: Please refer to the different deadlines posted on the official website

11. Q: Will unsuccessful applications also be notified?

A: We will inform all applicants of the result via email. If you have not received notification by the established date (please refer to the different deadlines posted on the official website), get in touch with the Mexico TAP Team.

12. Q: Who will the panel consist of?

A: Full project proposals bid will be assessed by a Programme Board consisting of senior officials from UK Government in Mexico and in London and independent external experts, ensuring no conflict of interest.

13. Q: I have received funding from the Embassy before, will it impact my application?

A: This will not have any direct impact on your application, though each applicant's track record in successful project delivery is likely to be considered under the 'deliverability' assessment criteria.

14. Q: Do projects have to be 12 months long, or can they be shorter?

A: Projects can be shorter than 12 months, and in some cases may offer a better balance of value for money and potential for transformational impact. Please refer to section 2.1 (Scale component) for particular details.

15. Q: Will you consider proposals that include sectors important to the objectives and themes, but which are not currently reflected in the Strategy?

A: Yes. It is important to note that this C4P is not limited to activities that fall under this initial prioritisation of sectors. However, implementers must provide strong evidence to justify the consideration of other sectors.

16. Q: Will the programme only support major participants, or will there be opportunities for smaller participants too?

A: Our call for bids is an open and transparent process and welcomes all organisations for innovative ideas, as long as those ideas suit our strategic priorities and can deliver high impact. When assessing bids we will balance all factors when considering implementers.

17. Q: How is the ICF Mexico TAP Programme different to the Prosperity Fund?

A: The ICF Mexico TAP Programme builds on the success of the low-carbon Prosperity Fund work the UK has already implemented in Mexico in recent years. Given the close strategic alignment between Mexico and the UK, the time is now right to establish a dedicated programme for this topic.

In practical terms there will be some differences in the application and project monitoring processes, though these are unlikely to be significant. Mexico's Prosperity Fund and Technical Assistance Programme will support complementary activities.

18. Q: What are the eligibility criteria for types of organisations? Can any organisation type apply?

A: Any type of organisation can apply, provided it has a legal status.

19. Q: Can an organisation apply more than once?

A: Yes. Each organisation can be the lead implementer in more than one application. However, the organisation must guarantee team capacity delivery for each proposal.

20. What do we understand and expect from early transition activities?

A: Early transition activity projects will be delivered between October 2018 and March 2019 and shall aim to support the new administration's transition period. Like project proposal full bids, early transition activities must comply with eligibility and selection criteria.

21. What do we understand and expect from skills share project?

A: Skill share projects should aim to facilitate skill sharing between Mexican, UK or international experts (public and private) to share technical knowledge and embed good practice in an identified policy area of specific need. Skill sharing could range from short-term deployments, thematic conferences, and long-term secondments depending on need.