



**UK Prosperity Fund – Skills for Prosperity Programme  
Call for Bids**

**Egypt Skills for Prosperity– S4P: striving for equitable access to higher  
education, skills and the labour market**

**May 2020**

**Background:**

1. In 2015, the UK Government announced a £1.2bn cross-government Prosperity Fund which will run through March 2023. The primary purpose of this fund is to promote the economic reform and development needed for growth in partner countries, in accordance with Official Development Assistance (ODA) rules, the International Development Act (2002) and the Gender Equality Act (2014). The fund will primarily contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and as a secondary objective, open up opportunities for UK industry to contribute to global poverty reduction.
2. Within the Prosperity Fund, the Global Skills for Prosperity Programme (S4P) was announced in August 2018, which was proposed to operate across nine middle income countries, including Egypt, to tackle youth unemployment by improving the equity, quality, relevance, and cost effectiveness of higher education and technical and vocational education and training.

Following a series of scoping studies and engaging in consultations with key stakeholders from government, private sector, other donors and academia, the Egypt component of S4P further developed to fit the Egyptian context. This consultation process identified three core development issues in Egypt that S4P could help to address through the following three strands of interventions outlined below:

Strand 1- Equity: Promote equitable access to higher education, particularly for low-income youth, young people with disabilities and young women from poor communities, who wish to pursue further studies at public universities in underrepresented subjects such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

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Strand 2 – Quality: Improve the soft skills ecosystem within public universities by equipping undergraduates and post-graduates with in-demand and employability skills.

Strand 3 – Relevance: Work with UK and Egyptian industry to improve the pathways of transition from higher education to employment, particularly in STEM careers, for the target groups outlined above

3. The proposed impact of S4P Egypt is ***increased capacity for inclusive economic growth due to improved employability skills, employment opportunities, labour market access and productivity of priority target beneficiaries.***
4. The planned outcomes of S4P Egypt are interlinked to support ***equitable supply and access to higher education, improved skills set for target beneficiaries, and improved pathways of transition from higher education to employment*** corresponding to the three identified issues of equity, quality and relevance.
5. S4P Egypt Programme is designed to collaborate with both the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and British and Egyptian private sector industry, to capitalise on their active role in addressing youth unemployment and the skills deficit. Hence, forging networks and a skills platform that bring together key actors from private sector, government and development field is crucial to programme delivery and sustainability.
6. This call for bids is to deliver the S4P Egypt Programme, with its three strands of work as part of a consortium of partners with relevant expertise to deliver planned outcomes as clearly set in this document. All organisations with relevant expertise are welcome to bid or form part of a bidding consortium. In particular, we encourage non-profit organisations and multilateral agencies to consider leading or joining a consortium. All lead organisations will need to set out all the partner organisations within their consortium in the bid.

### Scope and Context

7. Youth unemployment, skills deficit, and transition from education to employment are amongst the most significant issues facing Egypt. These problems could lead to low productivity and socio-economic implications and exclusion for disadvantaged groups including young women, low-income youth and young people with disabilities. Addressing these issues contributes in increasing youth employability, bridging the gap between supply (skilled and talented young calibres) and demand (modern needs of the economy and labour market).

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8. S4P Egypt Programme is developed to address these issues. It is aligned with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt's Vision 2030 and its Sustainable Development Strategy. In particular, S4P Egypt outcomes will help to support the Arab Republic of Egypt in progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on Quality Education, SDG 5 on Gender Equality and SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth.
9. The purpose of this programme is to **promote equitable access to higher education** in poor areas, targeting low-income youth and young women in underrepresented courses, mainly STEM, **support quality of learning outputs** through creating a skills ecosystem inside public universities to equip undergraduates and post-graduates with in-demand and employability skills, and **support effective transition from higher education to employment**.
10. S4P Egypt Programme should:
  - a. Bring together a delivery consortium that encompasses organisations with the capacity to operate within the Egyptian context and with relevant expertise in higher education provision, skills development and gender equality and access. Engagement with government and private sector is an important part of the programme;
  - b. Incorporate a comprehensive methodology of *Gender and Social Inclusion* with clear work approaches, targets, social inclusion indicators, and monitoring indicators disaggregated by gender to measure progress throughout programme cycle;
  - c. Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of *secondary benefits* i.e. identifying and enabling opportunities for international businesses, including UK businesses, to provide services in education and skills sectors in Egypt. Hence, demonstrate an ability to engage with private sector;
  - d. Assess the impact of current/previous programmes with similar objectives to S4P Egypt Programme to fill in gaps and complement the work of other successful initiatives;
  - e. Support innovative initiatives to enable a wider access to HE, build sustainable capacities and skills development within universities based on UK and international best practices, and offer pre-and-post graduation training and career placement for priority target groups;
  - f. Integrate sustainable 'Training the Trainers' schemes to develop skills of teaching staff within universities to pass on to undergraduates and to enhance their teaching and learning approaches based on UK and international best practice;

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- g. Develop skills training tailored to cultivate in-demand, mandatory employability skills in addition to in-demand soft skills (including leadership, communication, critical thinking, presentation and team work) based on needs assessment in selected universities;
  - h. Establish sustainable networks within public universities including women networks, mentoring networks, training and career placement networks;
  - i. Establish public-private partnerships (PPP) and support private sector initiatives including summer training, career placement schemes to promote on-the-job learning, job shadowing and leadership training. Additionally promote collaborations between government and industries to develop curricula that integrate modern needs of the economy and employability skills;
  - j. Establish a sustainable skills and training platform, network or forum bringing together key stakeholders from government, academia, university alumni, and private sector to discuss policy issues, training schemes and provide accurate data that support effective implementation of planned activities on ground;
  - k. Create a robust link between industries and universities to help bridge the gap between supply (unskilled university graduates) and demand (in-demand skills, employers needs and labour market needs), and supporting curricula development by providing thorough information about in-demand skills and modern economy needs.
  - l. Report on a Quarterly basis (technical and financial) on programme progress and attend regular monthly progress meetings with the in-country programme lead.
  - m. Incorporate a methodology of *Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation, and Learning (MREL)* with clear initial indicators and mechanisms;
11. Budget: S4P Egypt Programme has been allocated up to £8 million pounds sterling. Budgets sent by implementers should not exceed the set amount and to enclose an activity based budget (ABB) to show clear budget allocations across the three strands of work. Co-funding schemes can be enclosed showing funding/donor entity.
- Inception: Bidders can plan an inception period of three months to set up programme strategy, staffing, create a network of key stakeholders, conduct relevant baseline work and a baseline study if needed, commence pilot projects/activities to select state

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universities where they will implement activities in, and conduct a needs-assessment plan. By the end of the inception phase, deliverables will need to be submitted for approval, including:

- Year 1 work plan (and any pivots due to COVID19 pandemic);
- Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan;
- Risk analysis and Mitigation Plan;
- Theory of Change and Results Framework;
- Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation and Learning (MREL) Plan;
- Inception Phase Final Report;
- Stakeholder and Private Sector Engagement Plan;
- Communications Plan;
- Secondary Benefits Approach;
- Delivery Chain Map;
- Financial report and forecast;
- Exit strategy and sustainability plan.

12. Duration: Programme is expected to run to March 2023 including end-line evaluation to complete programme delivery.

13. **Responding to this call for bids, bidders should include:**

- a. Rationale: a narrative that include relevant context analysis, risk assessment, impact and outputs assessment and how they align with programme objectives;
- b. Programme Strategy: Including objectives, milestones, planned impact and outcomes, planned activities over a year's time, and reporting schedule;
- c. Consortium Lead: Lead institution of the consortium to provide a track record of effective management of donor funds, including any experience managing UK Aid funds if available, and effective management of previous consortia to deliver programmes. Additionally, provide evidence on capacity to effectively navigate the Egyptian operating environment, advise Egyptian government officials and establish relationship with state institutions.
- d. Consortium Team: Provide evidence on capacity to deliver programme as a consortium, presenting a clear division of roles and responsibilities

between consortium partners. Include an organogram outlining each partner's role within the consortium. CVs/bios for all programme team members should be provided (maximum of two-page for each team member and technical advisors). These should highlight, in particular, any relevant expertise in the HE and skills development fields in general and the three set strands of work specifically, geographic location, and availability for travel across Egypt;

- e. Organisational Capacity: Present a summary of relevant current and/or previous projects by the lead of the consortium, describing the impact, and providing support evidence, if available. Additionally, present organisational resources that will be allocated to programme, including team members, devised tools and materials, and evidence on efficient and effective management;
- f. Sustainability Plan: A plan of sustaining impact after completion of programme, which includes an exit strategy, co-funding schemes, evidence of institutionalisation of programme activities to be embedded in the system, engagement plan with government, and any proposals to attract investments from private sector;
- g. Budget: An activity based budget using enclosed template and guidance document;
- h. Legal Documents: Registration documents, and/or articles of association (if applicable) and tax clearance certificate (if applicable);
- i. Reporting Mechanism: Present clear reporting methodology and present evidence on timely management of reporting.
- j. Risk Register: Present an analysis about potential risks (high, medium, low) and mitigation approach.
- k. MREL Framework: Present any "Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation and Learning" models, internal strategies and tools that will be used during Programme cycle.

#### **Overview of Grant Terms:**

14. The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) will sign an agreement with the successful bidder that will lead the consortium (an accountable grant or Memorandum of Understanding)

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15. The implementer will be required to submit monthly financial forecasts and quarterly progress reports to update on delivery progress, risks, outcomes/impact, and budget spend.
16. Grant payments will be paid in agreement with successful bidders based on budget allocation, programme strategy, and consortium structure.
17. Successful bidders will be expected to work with MREL (Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation and Learning) partners and can submit a separate M&E strategy that feeds into logframe and theory of change of the programme.

### Evaluation Criteria:

18. British Embassy in Cairo invites organisations to bid as a consortium for **Egypt Skills for Prosperity Programme** to promote equitable supply and access to higher education for low-income disadvantaged youth and young women, develop in-demand skills for priority target groups and support their effective transition from higher education to employment. Bids will be assessed based on the following criteria:
  - a. Demonstrate strong value for money (VFM) by considering *Economy* and cost effectiveness of inputs, *Efficiency*, *Effectiveness*, and *Equity*;
  - b. Alignment with Programme strategic objectives;
  - c. Compliance with OECD criteria for ODA funding;
  - d. Evidence on impact and successful delivery of similar programmes/projects from key stakeholders e.g. government, private sector, donors, development organisations, universities, et al;
  - e. Project viability, including bidders capacity, experts' networks, and track record;
  - f. Project design, including clear and achievable impact, outcomes, outputs and planned interventions/activities;
  - g. Provide evidence on stakeholders' engagement and management. Demonstrate ability of forging strong networks with key beneficiaries;
  - h. Provide evidence on collaborating with government and official entities, and strong demonstration of track record working with higher education institutions;
  - i. Demonstrate understanding of Secondary Benefits and provide evidence on engaging with private sector, in particular international business including UK businesses;
  - j. Provide a comprehensive methodology of *Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI)* with clear indicators, approaches, models and examples;
  - k. Understanding of models of employability within universities and industry-university relationships;
  - l. Ability to establish strong relations with UK and international networks of higher education, skills development and international businesses;

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- m. Track record of effective management of donor funds, preferably if any record in managing DFID/FCO funds, and effective management of previous consortia to deliver programmes.
- n. Risk assessment and management; and
- o. Sustainability Plan

**19. Skills and Competences:** Bidding consortium to demonstrate in their proposal knowledge and/or capacity in:

- a. Leading a consortium effectively and working with consortium partners/team to deliver projects effectively on ground;
- b. Communication and work strategy of the consortium on how it will function to demonstrate clear division of responsibilities amongst consortium team, work approach, expertise relevant to three strands of work, and effective outreach and engagement with stakeholders;
- c. (Lead institution of the consortium) to have credibility and authority to open direct channels of communication and forge strong relationship with state officials;
- d. (Lead institution of the consortium) effective management of consortia team and conflict resolution;
- e. Good management, including strong project management approaches e.g., results-based management, good reporting skills to meet DFID's reporting requirements, responsiveness, accountability, and delivery of value for money;
- f. Working in Egypt's HE sector and demonstrable experience in skills development and initiatives;
- g. Engaging or demonstrating and ability to engage with industries and private sector by creating robust networks and work on CSR initiatives and training initiatives;
- h. Accessing high-quality, politically aware and cost-effective professionals, technical advisors, and experts in addition to efficient and cost-effective project management services ;
- i. Demonstrating appropriate cultural awareness, socio-economic analysis of the Egyptian context, strong teamwork ethics, partnerships and collaboration approach, and adapting concepts and tailoring tools to local needs and local beneficiaries;
- j. Demonstrating political sensitivity, effective knowledge management, influence, and stakeholders' engagement especially political engagement and community-based engagements;
- k. Embedding gender and social inclusion as a main pillar of the programme throughout the three strands of work;
- l. Agility of working with partners and demonstrating proper and agile risk management; and
- m. Demonstrate commitment to enhancing gender and social inclusion



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20. **Indicative timetable and bidding documents:** Proposals to be submitted with a page limit of **maximum 30 pages** (not including annexes and supporting documents) along with the **Activity Based Budget (ABB)** – enclosed with bidding guidance.

Dates	Activities
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Call for bids issued
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Deadline to submit proposals
12 <sup>th</sup> July	British Embassy internal review process
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Consortium selection finalised and due diligence begins
September	Inception phase begins following launch event

Proposals must be submitted to ([P-Naismith@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:P-Naismith@dfid.gov.uk)) by Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020. For enquiries, please [contact \( Mona.Tantawy@fco.gov.uk \)](mailto:Mona.Tantawy@fco.gov.uk)