

EOL – Operational Component 3

Most asked questions



OXFAM
IBIS

This document is subject to revisions and updates based on new

questions posed by prospective applicants. Check

<https://educationoutloud.org/grants/open-now-open-call-concept-notes-component-3>

for the most recent version

Questions of common interest received from applicants and other stakeholders are addressed and answered under the following main headings:

Indhold

Eligibility issues.....	2
What can be funded – Assessment of focus	4
Coverage, geographical and organizational	5
Year Zero (including budget issues).....	7
Budget and finance.....	8
Other/General	9

Eligibility issues

Q 1: Can an organization receive funding more than once?

A 1: Organizations can only receive funding from one OC. Thus, an organization receiving funds for activities from one OC will not be able to receive additional funding from another OC. However, organizations participating as strategic collaborating partners in one OC, will still be eligible for another OC.

Q 2: Can the lead applicant be changed after submitting the concept note?

A 1: Since the constellation of the core alliance, specifically the lead applicant, is an important part of the assessment process, the lead applicant cannot be changed after submitting the concept note.

Q 3: Can organizations, which will be participating in EOL activities under OC3, also participate in activities under OC2?

A 3: OC3 applicants receiving financial support through an EOL grant cannot receive additional funding from other EOL budget lines, e.g. OC2. However, individual organizations may still join an alliance as a strategic partner offering additional leverage to the alliance without benefitting from financial support.

Q 4: Can members of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) that have been financed under OC1 participate as part of an alliance outside of GCE in OC3 if it is demonstrated how this help leverage the funding already received under EOL OC1?

A 4: OC1 Grantees can only participate in an alliance in OC3 (open call) as national partners for strategic collaboration, while it should be demonstrated how this will leverage funding received. E.g. a national coalition can be a strategic in-country partner of an OC3 applicant to leverage its access to policy spaces to ensure that the regional/global advocacy is rooted in national evidence and has strong links with national education sector plans.

Q 5: Are there limitations on how many concept notes/alliances an organization can join?

A 5: An organization can be part of more than one concept note/alliance, but in subsequent applications this can only be as a strategic collaborating partner without receiving any funding. If an organization is submitting two proposals as full fund receiving alliance member, only one proposal will be considered for approval.

Q 6: Can a private company qualify as a civil society actor and participate in an alliance?

A 6: The alliances in OC3 must be made up of civil society organizations. Private companies are not eligible for EOL funding.

Q 7: Can strategic partners be participants in the activities outlined without receiving funding?

A 7: Yes, partners for strategic collaboration will support broader outreach of the project and can very well participate in activities without receiving funding.

Q 8: Is it possible for an organization to apply as lead applicant of several alliances?

A 8: If an organization submits more than one proposal as lead applicant, only one will be eligible for funding. An organization can only be eligible for funding for one proposal as lead but can participate in other proposals as partner for strategic collaboration without receiving financial support.

Q 9: Is it possible to submit a concept note for OC3 while year zero for another OC is still in progress?

A 9: Yes, as year zero doesn't automatically lead to approval, a concept note for another OC being launched during the year zero period can be submitted. However, all eligibility terms for each OC are still fully applicable, which might lead to not being eligible for one OC application if/when the other proposal is approved.

Q 10: Can an organization which is under consideration for another OC apply for this OC? If yes, can the organization still function as strategic partners on the OC3 project in case the organization is approved for funding in the first OC?

A 10: Yes, an organization under consideration for another OC can still apply for this OC. For example: an organization is under consideration for OC2 and applies again as an alliance member for OC3. If the organization then receives funding in OC2, the organization can be a strategic partner in OC3 without receiving any funding. An organization can only receive funding from the EOL fund once. Be aware that the lead applicant of a proposal cannot be changed after submission of the proposal. Do keep in mind though that the lead applicant of an alliance applying for funding in OC3 cannot be changed after submitting the concept note.

Q 11: Is an organization in an alliance considered a grantee if they are not the lead organization?

A 11: Any organization which has received funding from the EOL fund is considered a grantee. If you are already a grantee you cannot receive additional funding.

Q 12: Can the lead applicant of an alliance be based in a non-GPE partner country?

A 12: Yes. Be aware though that Education Out Loud prioritizes evidence from GPE eligible countries. Project activities should therefore be focused on, although not necessarily limited to, GPE eligible countries.

What can be funded – Assessment of focus

Q 1: Do all partners in the alliance need to be identified at the concept note stage, or could they be identified later?

A 1: The alliance and the proposed core alliance partners must, as a central part of the proposal strategy, be presented in the concept note. However, identification of additional or other partners, for instance as part of new insights/understanding of a contextualized theory of change, could be part of the year zero process and thus included in the final proposal.

Q 2: Must a project proposed necessarily address all levels, local, subnational, national and transnational, or can a project focus on one or two levels?

A 2: OC3 aims at opening up transnational policy debates to citizen voices and to engage more civic representatives and hereby broaden and include important local realities in transnational education policy and debate arenas. Thus, this vertical involvement focuses on connecting actions and activities across levels from local to transnational and support changes in global, regional or national policies and/or practices and strengthen social accountability mechanisms. Given their respective thematic focus applicants should argue what are the relevant levels of intervention; it is not a requirement to engage at all the mentioned levels.

Q 3: Are civil society organizations that have prior capacity building needs prioritized in this call for proposals?

A 3: No that is not specifically prioritized. What will be assessed is the ability of each applicant alliance to thoroughly describe a learning approach and present an assessment of relevant learning needs for the alliance and alliance development. As noted in the guidelines it will be considered favorable if the Alliance: includes actors not traditionally working in education but that have education as a cross-sectoral priority; includes actors not traditionally working in education but that have skills and

tools which are relevant and/or scalable in education; reflects a diversity of approaches to advocacy which are complementary and will strengthen the wider education movement

Q 4: Must the proposed project contribute to all 5 OC3 outcomes or can applicants focus on only some?

A 4: The proposals for projects in OC3 should align as much as possible to the OC3 outcomes, however it is not a requirement that all 5 OC3 outcomes are addressed. It should be made clear which outcomes the project is planned to produce results in, and why the proposed strategy has been chosen.

Q 5: Can the alliance be made of national organizations only?

A 5: Applicants must demonstrate that their interventions will address issues that are most effectively dealt with by choosing a transnational multi-level approach. It is not expected that alliances will confine themselves to activities at the national level only.

Q 6: Is it possible to work on several SDG 4 targets?

A 6: Yes.

Q 7: Can an alliance seek expertise from e.g. a consulting agency for a specific element of the interventions?

Yes. But a private consulting agency cannot be part of the alliance.

Coverage, geographical and organizational

Q 1: How many regions and GPE countries listed in Annex 1 need to be represented in the alliance applying?

A 1: At least one organization in the alliance should be established in a current GPE partner country. However, the proposal should also address a problem which affects several – more than one - GPE countries.

Q 2: Is there a minimum number of countries for an engagement to be considered transnational?

A 2: There is no minimum number of countries for an engagement to be considered transnational, however, what is important is that the proposal convincingly present a strategy for meeting the aims and objectives of OC3.

Q 3: Can organizations from countries which are not GPE partners apply as part of an alliance?

A 3: Such organizations can be part of the proposed alliance, but at least one organization should be established in a current GPE partner country and the proposed strategy/solution should address problems existing in multiple GPE partner countries.

Q 4: What does the term "vertically integrated" civil society alliance mean? What is meant by "vertical integration" and "constituency-based networks"?

A 4: "Vertical integration" is understood to be inclusive alliances allowing for elevation of traditionally local/national voices into transnational policy arenas, and the coordination of citizen action across local, subnational, national and transnational levels. Vertically integrated memberships and issue- or constituency-based networks, can for example be teachers' or youth networks with membership spanning from the grassroots to international.

Q 5: How will geographical and thematic coverage be assessed in the approval process?

A 5: There are no region-specific fixed funding pots/envelopes. Global balancing will be part of the criteria for first round of assessments and will feed into learnings used for planning of a second round of assessments.

Q 6: Does 'regions' mean continents or sub-regions within a continent?

A 6: In the context of OC3, regions can be taken to mean 'sub-regions', e.g. West Africa or Central America – or it can mean 'Latin America or Sub-Saharan Africa. Applicants should explain their own use of the terminology in their respective proposals.

Q 7: Can all the alliance organizations come from the same country?

A 7: Yes – the alliance organizations can be based in the same country. Do keep in mind though that OC3 aims at supporting transnational alliances carrying out multi-country advocacy. If all alliance organizations are based in the same country is it hence important that they work transnationally and have activities regarding multiple countries.

Year Zero (including budget issues)

Q 1: Is the budget for year zero additional to the 3-year project budget, or is year zero and the project implementation budget together amounting to a maximum of USD 1.2 million?

A 1: The year zero cost will be covered under the OC3 grant budget which amounts to a maximum of USD 1.2 million/project.

Q 2: Is the timeframe of 3 years for the project with or without the year zero period?

A 2: The year zero period is not included in the project timeframe of 3 years.

Q 3: Is there any amount fixed or a percentage of the overall submitted budget for the modest funding in the year zero period?

A 3: There is no pre-established or fixed amount or percentage for the year zero costs. Applicants should consider the overall cost-effectiveness of their proposal and be mindful of the fact that proposed expenditures to be invested on Year Zero will count as part of the budget for the full proposals.

Q 4: Can costs for institutional and planning activities be covered during year zero? Can year zero support development of administrative structures for the alliance for development of the full application?

A 4: Modest costs for institutional and planning activities can be covered as mentioned listed in the template. Cost for administrative structures are not covered in year zero.

Q 5: Is there a fixed percentage of the proposals/Alliances that are invited to the year zero process that will be awarded final projects?

A 5: As grant agent Oxfam IBIS invites proposals from a wide range of organizations. There is no predetermined ratio between Year Zero grants and full proposals foreseen to be supported by EOL. This will depend on the final assessment of the proposals. As some applicants chosen for Year Zero may eventually not submit a final full proposal, the grant agent expects the number of grantees receiving Year Zero support may somewhat exceed the number of grantees foreseen to be awarded a grant for the eventual full proposal.

Q 6: How detailed a needs assessment should the year zero template present?

A 6: The year zero template is only for indicative information to support section 5 in the concept note template. The assessment will not need to be very detailed but can present ideas for possible activities for year zero.

Q 7: Will costs of the budgeted funds used in year zero be covered even if the applicant's full proposal is not funded?

A 7: Yes, costs of the approved expenses in year zero will be covered even if the applicant's full proposal is not funded.

Budget and finance

Q 1: What are the guidelines for indirect rates for working with partners/sub-grantees?

A 1: Only an overall indicative budget with no specification of indirect rates is to be submitted with the concept note.

Q 2: Are there any guidelines for size of the amounts for budget lines in the overall budget e.g % for administration, % for MEL?

A 2: No, for the concept note there are no specific guidelines for amounts of the budget lines.

Q 3: Is the due diligence process/organizational assessment to be made for all alliance members or only the lead applicant?

A 3: Due diligence assessments focus on the lead applicant and the associated measures required for the alliance as such to offer an effective grant management. The lead applicant will have the fiduciary responsibility for managing and accounting for the total grant received.

Q 4: Is it possible to provide sub grants through this call to alliance members seeking funding for their projects?

A 4: This is possible, though the grant agent would advise that extensive use of sub-granting modalities may imply that outputs accomplished as part of alliance funding may imply less relevance for the intended alliance outcomes. For OC3, contracting between organizations/ members of the alliance is at the discretion of the lead applicant and according to the approved proposal, but there be competitive sub-granting is not anticipated.

Other/General

Q 1: Are the 2-3 CV's of key project responsables that need to be attached to the concept note to be from the lead applicant only? Or should CVs from members of the alliance also be attached?

A 1: The CV's to be attached as part of the submission should be for key individuals in the project and can come from different members of the alliance as is found best. You can submit more CVs if practical and relevant.

Q 2: Is it required to upload any legal or administrative documents of the organizations together with the concept note?

A 2: It is only required to upload the documents listed in the guidelines. No legal or administrative documents of the organizations is obliged to be uploaded with the concept note documents.

Q 3: Is there flexibility in the use of language for the concept note and/or the presentation of the outcomes?

A 3: There is flexibility to use either of the four languages.: English, French, Portuguese or Spanish.

Q 4: How many grants are anticipated under OC3?

A 4: There will be between 15 to 20 grants under OC3 in two rounds of calls for proposals.

Q 5: It is in the guidelines indicated that rejected but still qualified concept notes which are not funded due to limited resources, will be shared with other possible funders. Please clarify why a "qualified" concept note is not being funded?

A 5: There will in OC3 only be funds for 15-20 grants. However, all applications will be assessed, scored and eventually balanced by the GISP. After deciding on the balanced portfolio of 15-20 projects to be funded, there might be projects unfunded due to resource constraints or for the sake of balancing the portfolio. The EOL plans to support these by sharing with possible and interested funders in their wide network, if the applicant agrees to this.

Q 6: Are there any plans for future calls for OC3 applications?

A 6: The EOL programme was planned with two OC3 calls this current call being the second and final.

Q 7: A multi-country proposal might pose a challenge in terms of identifying local partners in a fragile context operating in emergency settings. Are there any compliance/due diligence issues that the lead applicant needs to be aware of when partnering with local partners as part of the alliance?

A 7: Supporting partners working in fragile contexts is a priority for EOL. During Year Zero the grant agent will therefore work with relevant alliances to ensure that relevant measures are put in place to balance 'fragility' with 'effectiveness'.

Q 8: Please specify the sustainability criteria in the Concept template.

A 8: The grant agent acknowledges that OC3 support implies time bound support for project related activities and that alliances awarded an OC3 grant may not continue once the project has been completed. Accordingly, sustainability measures should address indicative plans for the alliance members to incorporate lessons learned and results accomplished in their respective individual organizations.