

Frequently asked questions

Informing humanitarian response through research, learning and innovation, 2025

What is an international humanitarian organisation?

A humanitarian organisation that has active initiatives in more than one country.

What is the geographical focus of the open call?

The focus of the call is limited to the [OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients](#) in the following geographies: sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, South Asia, and Ukraine. For the categories *Lower Middle Income Countries*, the applicant must describe how the project will specifically focus on people in vulnerable situations or affected by crisis from one or more of these geographies. The full list of countries is available in item 1.2 of the guidelines for the open call.

Do, however, note that the main applicant must adhere to Novo Nordisk Foundation's [Partner Code of Conduct](#). This includes following all applicable laws on sanctions, export control, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism and when appropriate, perform due diligence to ensure partners and any other third-parties don't knowingly or unwittingly support financial crime or unauthorised knowledge transfer. This might render specific countries ineligible for funding at the time of application, even though they appear on the list of countries in item 1.2 of the guidelines for the open call.

What are cardiometabolic diseases?

Cardiometabolic diseases include cardiovascular diseases, such as heart failure and stroke, and metabolic diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension.

How do you define "food security"?

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Projects can focus on the accessibility, availability, affordability and/or utilization of healthy foods.

Water cannot be a primary entry point for food security applications. Water is seen, instead, as an enabler.

In terms of nutrition, projects focusing on ready-to-use therapeutic foods, micronutrient supplements or other similar interventions will not be considered. Projects that focus primarily on breastfeeding will not be considered.

What is a "seperate legal personality"

NNF only allows one application for each separate legal entity. A separate legal entity is an entity with separate legal personality. This means that the entity has its own legal identity, distinct from any other entity, and is capable of owning property, enter into contracts, sue, and be sued independently of any other entity. We urge sub-offices and sub-entities of the same organisation to coordinate with their HQ or their Nordic Office (if they have one), such that only one application is submitted.

Does the Novo Nordisk Foundation take inequity in health into consideration?

The Novo Nordisk Foundation has an ambition to reduce inequity in health. For this reason, applications are asked to state possible areas/populations, where the project is at risk of unintendedly inducing inequity in health in society and how this may be mitigated. And in contrast, areas/populations where the project can potentially reduce inequity in health.

You write that preference will be given to organisations containing approaches to nexus, localisation, gender mainstreaming and overcoming barriers to inclusion. How do you define these approaches?

Nexus:

The concept of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus is used to capture the interlinkages between the humanitarian, development and peace-building sectors. Specifically, it refers to attempts in these fields to work together more coherently in order to more effectively meet peoples’ needs, mitigate vulnerabilities and move towards sustainable peace and conflict solutions and thus, shifting from delivering humanitarian assistance to enhancing resilience.

Localisation:

Localisation means shifting agency to the countries and communities where humanitarian projects are implemented.

Gender mainstreaming:

Gender mainstreaming broadly refers to a strategy for promoting gender equality by making the experiences of all genders an integral part of problem understanding, design, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programmes. A key tool that supports engagement with the concept is the gender equality continuum that maps a project’s contribution from being gender sensitive to gender transformative.

Gender equality continuum

