Terms of Reference: Clean Energy Transition

Nigeria-UK PACT

Grant value:
Project budget could range from £400,000-£1,500,000 with up to £500,000 per project per financial year (Apr – Mar). Higher project budgets may be considered on an exceptional basis depending on proposed activities and value for money against expected outcomes.

Project duration:
12 – 18 months. All projects are assumed to have a start date in June 2025. The projects must have a clear indication of the outputs and outcomes expected to be achieved in the first year, as well as in each subsequent year of implementation.

Deadline for submission of applications:
4 April 2025, 17:00 (WAT)/ 16:00 (UTC)

Apply through Call for Proposals web page:
https://www.ukpact.co.uk/nigeria-country-fund-cleanenergytransition-call-for-proposals-1

The UK and Nigeria have committed to work together to accelerate action on climate change while creating green jobs, and supporting equitable, just transitions that contribute to poverty reduction. To support this partnership, the UK Government is looking to extend its UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) programme in Nigeria with technical assistance and capacity-building projects supporting the clean energy sector.

This Call for Proposals aims to support activities which are strategically aligned to national priorities on climate change mitigation and key policy areas identified through consultations with government counterparts.

What is Nigeria-UK PACT?

UK PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions) is a unique capacity-building programme. Jointly governed and funded by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) through the UK's International Climate Finance, it works in partnership with countries with high emissions reduction potential to support them to implement and increase their ambitions for tackling climate change.

In Nigeria, UK PACT builds on the strong and longstanding relationship between the UK and Nigeria, emphasising mutual prosperity, economic resilience, and shared commitments to climate action. By complementing government-led efforts and collaborating with multilateral institutions, private sector stakeholders, and civil society, UK PACT ensures impactful, scalable, and inclusive climate solutions that drive green jobs, enhance energy security, and contribute to Nigeria's low-carbon economic resilience.

What has UK PACT already funded?

UK PACT has been partnering with Nigeria since September 2021 to support the acceleration of the clean energy transition and low-carbon economic development. Previous and ongoing UK PACT projects in Nigeria include:

Previous and ongoing UK PACT projects in Nigeria include:

- Electricity supply outage reduction via smart sensors and interconnected mini-grids in Nigeria
- Unlocking Renewable Embedded Generation in Nigeria
- Capacity building workshops for Nigeria's energy sector stakeholders on approaches to energy dispatch, and energy system planning and future modelling
- Technical Assistance to Develop an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the Power Sector
- Harnessing benefits for climate change mitigation through irrigation-free indigenous tree establishment: sharing knowledge and building capacity
- Assuring forest-positive commodity exports from Nigeria: A regional demonstration
- Pilot and roll out of Reduced Methane Rice Cultivation (using SRI) in Northern Nigeria
- Exploring sustainable fibre alternatives for cotton: Making a case for Kenaf and Hemp production in Northern Nigeria
- Supporting Development of a Regenerative Agriculture Platform for improved Organic Crop Production and Carbon Trading in Northern Nigeria
- Support in drafting Nigeria's Climate Change Bill and sharing the UK's experience of the Climate Change Act
- Greening the Budget (Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility)
- Alignment of Nigeria's Sustainable Banking Principles
- Promoting and developing the use of Lagos' inland waterways

Further information on previous and ongoing projects can be found on the **Nigeria-UK PACT web page**.

Why are we looking for proposals related to Clean Energy Transition

Nigeria faces critical challenges in achieving reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy access for its rapidly growing population. Despite having over 13 GW of installed power generation capacity, actual output rarely exceeds 5 GW, leaving over 85 million people without access to electricity. This energy access gap disproportionately affects rural and underserved communities, driving reliance on expensive and polluting diesel and petrol generators. Nigeria's dependence on fossil fuels not only exacerbates greenhouse gas emissions but also locks the country into a high-carbon development pathway, undermining its climate commitments and economic potential.

The energy sector's challenges are compounded by Nigeria's financing landscape, which struggles to attract and sustain investment in renewable energy. However, the country has immense renewable energy potential, with abundant solar, hydro, wind, and biomass resources. Recognizing this potential, the government has set ambitious targets under Vision 30:30:30, which aims to achieve 30 GW of electricity by 2030, with 30% derived from renewable energy. Additionally, the Energy Transition Plan (ETP) outlines strategies to decarbonise the energy sector, including deploying 13.8 GW of off-grid solar PV and expanding access to decentralised renewable energy solutions.

Achieving these goals requires overcoming significant barriers, including limited institutional capacity, inadequate technical expertise, and insufficient policy implementation. Expanding decentralised energy systems, such as mini-grids and solar home systems, is crucial to bridging the energy access gap and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Furthermore, Nigeria's clean energy transition depends on innovative financing solutions to scale up investment in renewable energy infrastructure and technologies.

Addressing energy poverty and fostering inclusive energy access are equally critical. Vulnerable populations, particularly in rural and underserved areas, face significant disparities in accessing electricity and clean cooking solutions. These disparities disproportionately affect women, girls, and marginalised communities, who encounter barriers such as affordability constraints, limited representation in decision-making, and lack of tailored energy solutions. By addressing these challenges, Nigeria can ensure that its clean energy transition is equitable, inclusive, and sustainable.

The clean energy transition in Nigeria presents an opportunity to unlock economic growth, create green jobs, enhance energy security, and position the country as a regional leader in climate action. By focusing on renewable energy deployment and inclusive development, Nigeria can achieve its climate commitments while fostering resilience and sustainable prosperity for its people.

Funding priorities for this call

As a demand-led programme, the Nigeria-UK PACT Country Fund aims to align its support with the Government of Nigeria's existing plans and policies. Through consultation with the Government of Nigeria, and sector stakeholders, UK PACT has identified key opportunities in clean energy. We are looking to award grant funding for projects aimed at providing technical assistance and capacity-building to support this.

The main purpose is to support an equitable and inclusive transition of Nigeria's energy sector toward sustainable and clean energy systems, providing increased access to reliable and affordable power for all communities, whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution currently driven by fossil fuels and traditional biomass use. This transition aims to enhance energy security, create green economic opportunities, improve public health outcomes through clean cooking solutions, and help Nigeria achieve its climate commitments while ensuring no community is left behind in the shift to clean energy.

The following opportunities have been identified for funding within this call for proposals. These distinct projects have been identified as the targeted interventions for the receipt of funding. Each of these projects has several specific expected outputs and interventions. We welcome creativity, expansion and additional suggestions from the market, but ask that applicants ensure that their applications cover the stated interventions as a minimum to ensure eligibility of their proposals.

Thematic area: Energy access

- Project 1: Developing a structured approach for healthcare electrification
- Project 2: Advancing community-led renewable energy frameworks
- Project 3: Run-of-River Small Hydropower (SHP) project preparation for community energy access

Thematic area: Market enabling environment

- Project 4: Pilot projects and proof of concept for decentralised renewable energy and grid integration technologies

Thematic area: Renewable energy skills

- Project 5: Technical engineering skills for electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos) and Distributed Energy Resource (DER) developers: enabling renewable energy integration

Terms of Reference for Project 1

Project 1: Developing a structured approach for healthcare electrification

Government counterpart: Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), Sub-national Governments

This project seeks to support the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Healthcare Electrification Working Group instituted by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and sub-national governments.

The project will be funded by UK PACT in support of the Government of Nigeria's technical assistance requirements.

The British High Commission Abuja is leading government engagement for this Call for Proposals. The proposed project is the result of intensive consultation with the Government of Nigeria. To avoid confusion with government counterparts, we therefore do not encourage applicants to have direct engagement with government on this project during the application process or prior to receiving an award.

Thematic area:

Energy access

Project description

Background

Access to reliable electricity in healthcare facilities is critical for effective medical services, including vaccine storage, surgical procedures, and emergency care. In Nigeria, 60% of healthcare facilities lack reliable electricity, relying on costly and unsustainable diesel generators or having no power at all. This energy deficit disproportionately impacts rural and underserved areas, limiting their access to critical health services.

The Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP), implemented by the REA, and supported by the World Bank and African Development Bank, has achieved significant milestones in improving energy access across Nigeria. Through its initiatives, the NEP has successfully electrified over 500 primary healthcare centres (PHCs) and schools, providing reliable, renewable energy solutions to underserved communities. These efforts have enhanced healthcare service delivery, including improved vaccine storage and emergency care capabilities. Building on NEP's successes, the Nigeria Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up (DARES) project, also funded by the World Bank and implemented by the REA, represents the next phase of scaling renewable energy solutions. DARES aims to further expand decentralised energy access, including initiatives that prioritise healthcare electrification, thereby ensuring critical facilities have reliable, clean power.

The emerging e-H.E.A.R.T. (Energising Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, Rural Communities and Transportation via e-mobility) initiative seeks to build on these achievements by introducing a more structured and scalable approach to addressing energy access gaps in healthcare and educational facilities nationwide.

Following the COVID-19 crisis, international partners like GIZ, USAID Power Africa HETA, and the European Union committed significant funding to address healthcare electrification gaps, including electrification of Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) and Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITCs).

Building on this progress, the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare has established a working group, including the REA, to develop a sustainable, scalable approach to healthcare facility electrification. This project aims to fill critical gaps by developing actionable strategies, building technical capacity within the Government of Nigeria, and ensuring alignment with national health and energy goals, thus creating a roadmap for sustainable healthcare electrification in Nigeria.

Aims and objectives

This project aims to address existing gaps in healthcare electrification by developing a structured national roadmap, enhancing the sustainability of current and future projects, building technical capacity within the Government of Nigeria, and attracting the required investments to scale up healthcare energy solutions. By deploying renewable energy systems, the project will displace reliance on fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting Nigeria's climate commitments.

The project will adopt an explicitly inclusive approach, ensuring women, youth, and marginalised groups are integrated into its outcomes; this promotes equitable development, strengthens community resilience, and contributes to emission reductions through clean energy deployment.

Key activities:

1. **Develop a structured approach for healthcare electrification,** including detailed plans and frameworks to guide implementation and scalability, including a project monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan, and a replication and knowledge dissemination plan. Ensure the MEL framework meets the internal M&E requirements of government counterparts, supports their long-term monitoring needs, and aligns with UK PACT's reporting expectations for the duration of the project.
2. **Conduct detailed site assessments and feasibility studies** for selected healthcare facilities to provide baseline data necessary for informed decision-making and investment prioritisation with embedded GEDSI considerations.
3. **Perform sustainability assessments** to evaluate existing electrification methods, identify best practices, and propose improvements for long-term reliability and impact.
4. **Develop strategies to enhance sustainability**, focusing on healthcare value chains and maximising development outcomes through innovative energy solutions.
5. **Mobilise Investment for Scaling healthcare electrification,** by identifying funding opportunities and preparing investment-ready proposals to attract public, private and international financing
6. **Build partnerships with key stakeholders and funders** to secure resources and align efforts for scaling successful healthcare electrification solutions.
7. **Provide technical assistance** to REA and the Healthcare Electrification Working Group for strategic project planning, execution, and capacity building to ensure effective implementation and scalability.

Key outputs:

The activities are expected to yield the following key outputs:

1. **National Framework for Healthcare Electrification,** providing a clear roadmap for scaling healthcare facility electrification nationwide
2. **Detailed site assessments and feasibility study reports** for selected healthcare facilities, offering baseline data to inform decision-making and investment prioritisation.
3. **Comprehensive sustainability assessment reports,** evaluating current electrification methods, identifying best practices and outlining actionable strategies to enhance the long-term viability of electrification solutions.
4. **Investment Mobilisation Report,** documenting identified funding opportunities, partnership frameworks and investment commitments for scaling electrification solutions
5. **Partnerships established with stakeholders and funders,** creating a collaborative network to support healthcare electrification initiatives.
6. **Capacity-Building Outcome Report,** documenting outcomes of technical assistance for the REA and Healthcare Electrification Working Group, demonstrating enhanced institutional capacity for planning, executing and scaling healthcare electrification projects
7. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework** that assesses project progress, evaluates outcomes and captures lessons learned to guide iterative improvements and informing evidence-based decision-making for scalability.
8. **Replication and Knowledge Dissemination Toolkit** that includes practical guides, policy briefs, and advocacy resources to promote stakeholder engagement and enable replication of the healthcare electrification model(s).

Envisaged outcomes and impact:

This project will help enhance the resilience and reliability of healthcare facilities in selected target locations across Nigeria by providing sustainable energy access through renewable energy solutions. These efforts will support improved healthcare delivery, enabling critical services such as vaccine storage, maternal health care, and emergency response, particularly in underserved and rural areas.

The implementation of clean energy systems will lead to sustainable and reliable energy sources which minimise emissions and improve access to essential life-saving healthcare services, in line with Nigeria's COP26 health commitments. The project's focus on investment mobilisation will unlock further funding opportunities, ensuring the financial sustainability of electrification initiatives and enabling the large-scale rollout of proven solutions nationwide.

The development of feasibility studies, sustainability frameworks and investment-ready proposals will establish a scalable and replicable model, guiding coordinated national efforts to expand healthcare electrification. By prioritising inclusivity, the initiative will deliver targeted benefits to marginalised groups, women, and the elderly, addressing energy inequalities while fostering community resilience.

In the long term, this project will create a strong foundation for achieving Nigeria's sustainable development goals, enhancing public health outcomes, reducing emissions, and stimulating economic growth through green job creation and community empowerment.

Recognising the ambitious envisaged outcomes and impact of this project, we welcome proposals that are realistic in scope with a clear rationale (for example, focussing on a subset of healthcare delivery rather than the whole sector).

Proposed duration:

12 - 18 months (assumed start in June 2025)

Useful resources:

- Powering Healthcare – Nigeria Market Assessment and Roadmap
- Nigeria Plans to Electrify Over 3,700 Healthcare Centres with Renewable Energy Support

Terms of Reference for Project 2

Project 2: Advancing community-led renewable energy frameworks

Government counterparts: Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and sub-national governments

This project seeks to support the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and sub-national governments.

The project will be funded by UK PACT in support of the Government of Nigeria's technical assistance requirements.

The British High Commission Abuja is leading government engagement for this Call for Proposals. The proposed project is the result of intensive consultation with the Government of Nigeria. To avoid confusion with government counterparts, we therefore do not encourage applicants to have direct engagement with government on this project during the application process or prior to receiving an award.

Thematic area:

Energy access

Project description

Background

Nigeria faces significant energy access challenges, with approximately 85 million people lacking electricity, predominantly in rural areas. While electrification projects are primarily developed by private companies or through government-funded Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracts, there is growing recognition of the critical role community cooperatives can play in advancing sustainable rural energy access.

The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) has been instrumental in mobilising and sensitising rural communities across Nigeria to form Rural Electricity Users Cooperative Societies (REUCS), aiming to achieve sustainability of electrification projects. As of recent reports, an appreciable number of 895 communities have been sensitised, and a total of 142 REUCS have been formed and registered under various projects, including REA's Capital Projects and the Nigeria Electrification Project (World Bank and African Development Bank).

In developer-owned or managed projects, REUCS act as a key intermediary, safeguarding community interests by ensuring fair pricing, operational sustainability, and strong accountability between developers and end-users. This role is vital in bridging the gap between the technical and commercial objectives of private developers and the socio-economic needs of local communities.

Beyond protecting community interests, REUCS also hold significant potential to lead or co-develop renewable energy projects. They can actively participate in project development within communities, markets, economic clusters, and other informal settings, fostering local ownership and driving the sustainability of electrification initiatives. Globally, cooperatives have successfully complemented private-sector-led models, ensuring equitable access and stronger local engagement.

Policy frameworks such as the Electricity Act 2023, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP), and the Rural Electrification Strategy and Implementation Plan (RESIP) acknowledge the role of communities and cooperatives in improving energy access. However, in Nigeria, community-led projects remain limited, and there is a need to strengthen REUCS to unlock their potential for effective participation in energy initiatives.

Aims and objectives

This project aims to empower Rural Electricity Users Cooperative Societies (REUCS) to protect community interests in developer-led projects and actively participate in renewable energy project development. By strengthening their technical and governance capacity, the project seeks to establish sustainable models that integrate community leadership and participation while promoting equitable and long-term access to clean energy.

Through tailored tools, knowledge transfer, and capacity-building efforts, REUCS will be equipped to effectively engage in the planning, implementation, and oversight of renewable energy projects. This will ensure that clean energy solutions meet the specific needs of rural communities and economic clusters while fostering local ownership and resilience.

The initiative aligns with Nigeria's goals for universal energy access and a low-carbon economy by strengthening community participation and integrating Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles. This inclusive approach will ensure equitable benefits and representation for women, youth, and marginalised groups in renewable energy governance, promoting sustainable development and social equity.

Key activities:

1. **Develop operational frameworks** for REUCS, emphasising their dual role in protecting community interests in developer or contractor-managed projects and actively participating in project development.
2. **Build technical and governance capacity** for REUCS members, focusing on financial management, stakeholder engagement, and operational sustainability of mini-grids and other renewable energy assets.
3. **Pilot REUCS-led and co-managed renewable energy projects** in rural communities, markets, and economic clusters to test and refine their operational models with prioritisation of women and marginalised groups.
4. **Design and implement a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework** to track project effectiveness, measure progress, and provide data-driven recommendations for scaling; and ensure the framework meets the internal M&E requirements of government counterparts, supports their long-term monitoring needs, and aligns with UK PACT's reporting expectations for the duration of the project.

5. **Design and implement a Demand Stimulation Plan**, incorporating business models and engineering designs for Productive Use of Electricity (PUE) to enhance local economic development and empowerment of women and marginalised groups.
6. **Develop partnerships** between REUCS, developers, and funders to facilitate collaboration and resource mobilisation.
7. **Provide technical assistance** to REA's REUCS Unit to strengthen its capacity in monitoring and supporting cooperative-led initiatives.
8. **Document lessons learned** from pilot projects, providing policy recommendations to scale REUCS models nationwide.

Key outputs:

The activities are expected to yield the following key outputs:

1. **Operational frameworks for REUCS,** clearly defining their roles in protecting community interests in developer-led projects and leading renewable energy project development.
2. **Comprehensive training manuals and documented outcomes from capacity-building workshops** tailored for REUCS staff and community members, focusing on governance, financial management, and operational sustainability.
3. **Successfully piloted REUCS-led and co-managed renewable energy projects** in rural communities, markets, or economic clusters, accompanied by case studies and documented best practices.
4. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Reports,** tracking project performance, identifying lessons learned, and providing recommendations for scaling REUCS-led models.
5. **A comprehensive Demand Stimulation Plan,** including business models and engineering designs for Productive Use of Electricity (PUE), aimed at enhancing local economic development and livelihood opportunities.
6. **Stakeholder partnerships established** between REUCS, developers, and funders, fostering collaboration, resource mobilisation, and scaling of successful models.
7. **Detailed reports with policy recommendations,** highlighting lessons learned and strategies for scaling REUCS models nationwide and integrating them into Nigeria's energy strategy.

Envisaged outcomes and impact:

The outputs are expected to lead to the adoption of sustainable models for Rural Electricity Users Cooperative Societies (REUCS) that emerge from the test/pilot schemes. These models will enhance the role of REUCS in protecting community interests, ensuring fair pricing, and fostering stronger relationships with developers, while also enabling them to actively participate in renewable energy project development.

The long-term impact envisioned is equitable electricity access for households, public institutions, and economic clusters, driven by inclusive and community-led energy models. By focusing on women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised groups, the project aims to empower communities, reduce energy inequalities, and promote socio-economic development.

In the broader context, the project will contribute to the creation of a resilient, inclusive energy ecosystem that supports Nigeria's climate and sustainable development goals, improves electricity access, and delivers socio-economic benefits to rural and underserved communities.

Proposed duration:

12 - 18 months (assumed start in June 2025)

Useful resources:

- An act to repeal the electric power sector act No. 6, 2005 and enact the electricity act 2023
- The Electricity Act 2023

Terms of Reference for Project 3

Project 3: Run-of-River Small Hydropower (SHP) project preparation for community energy access

Government counterparts: Federal Ministry of Power (FMoP), Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and sub-national governments

This project seeks to support the Federal Ministry of Power (FMoP), Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and sub-national governments.

The project will be funded by UK PACT in support of the Government of Nigeria's technical assistance requirements.

The British High Commission Abuja is leading government engagement for this Call for Proposals. The proposed project is the result of intensive consultation with the Government of Nigeria. To avoid confusion with government counterparts, we therefore do not encourage applicants to have direct engagement with government on this project during the application process or prior to receiving an award.

Thematic area:

Energy access

Project description

Background

Nigeria has a vast hydropower potential estimated at over 14,000 MW, with numerous small hydropower sites identified across the country. While large-scale hydropower plants like Kainji, Jebba, and Shiroro contribute significantly to the national grid, decentralised small-scale hydropower solutions, particularly run-of-river systems, remain underutilised. These systems provide low-impact, environmentally friendly energy solutions ideal for rural and off-grid communities, aligning with Nigeria's objectives to expand energy access and achieve sustainable development.

Run-of-the-river hydropower systems harvest the kinetic energy from flowing water in rivers and streams to generate electricity without the need for large dams and reservoirs. This technology offers a low-impact alternative to traditional hydropower by maintain the natural flow of water, although some installations may require small diversion weirs or dams for optimal performance. Their sizes and capacities can be classified as Micro (0 – 100 kW), Mini (100 kW – 1 MW), and Small (1 – 50 MW). The focus of this project is on run-of-river hydropower systems within the Micro (0–100 kW) and Mini (100 kW–1 MW) capacity ranges. These systems are designed for small-scale, localised applications, providing reliable and sustainable energy solutions to power rural communities, public facilities (such as schools and healthcare centres), and productive uses (such as agro-processing and small industries).

Several initiatives have showcased the country's small-scale hydropower potential. For example, the UNIDO Small Hydropower Programme has identified and mapped over 280 viable sites, while the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) have conducted resource assessments and launched pilot projects to explore the feasibility of small-scale hydropower systems. Surveys using innovative tools such as GIS mapping have supported site identification by analysing flow rates, gradients, and other critical factors, providing valuable data for SHP project development.

Despite this progress, significant challenges hinder the scaling of small-scale hydropower projects. These include limited technical capacity, insufficient feasibility studies, and a lack of investment frameworks. International case studies, such as successful SHP projects in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Nepal, demonstrate that these systems can effectively provide off-grid electricity while fostering socio-economic development. Nigeria's Electricity Act 2023 and Energy Transition Plan provide a regulatory framework conducive to decentralised renewable energy projects, positioning SHP as a key component of the country's energy transition efforts.

This project will leverage these policy advancements and existing assessments to address the barriers to small-scale hydropower development with a particular focus on run-of-river technologies, enabling the deployment of sustainable, scalable, and inclusive energy solutions for underserved communities.

Aims and objectives

This project aims to advance the deployment of run-of-river hydropower systems as a sustainable and inclusive energy solution for Nigeria's rural and underserved areas. By focusing on micro (0–100 kW) and mini (100 kW–1 MW) hydropower systems, the initiative seeks to address localised energy needs, including powering rural communities, public facilities, and productive enterprises. These systems will enhance access to reliable, clean energy, supporting the broader goals of decentralised energy access and economic development.

The project will focus on preparing comprehensive feasibility studies to assess the technical, financial, and environmental viability of potential hydropower sites. In addition, it aims to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of stakeholders, including developers, policymakers, and community representatives, to plan, implement, and manage hydropower projects effectively. By developing standardised tools and frameworks, the project will establish replicable models for run-of-river hydropower deployment, enabling scalable solutions that align with Nigeria's energy transition priorities.

Furthermore, the initiative seeks to address regulatory and policy barriers by fostering alignment with national and subnational frameworks. It will ensure that small hydropower systems contribute to achieving Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) while displacing reliance on fossil fuels. Through targeted capacity-building and active engagement with communities, the project will also integrate Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles, ensuring that renewable energy solutions are inclusive and equitably benefit women, youth, and marginalised groups.

Key activities:

1. Stakeholder Engagement and Data Consolidation

- Engage relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, sector programmes, academia, and the private sector to gather data and insights on prior studies.
- Facilitate targeted consultations and workshops to document ongoing or completed SHP-related projects and lessons learned.
- Consolidate existing data into a centralised repository to inform feasibility studies and avoid duplication of effort.
- Conduct gap analysis to identify missing information that requires further study.

2. Feasibility and Site Assessments

- Use GIS tools to map potential sites and assess energy generation capacity.
- Conduct hydrological, geological, and socio-economic assessments to determine site viability.
- Prepare technical and financial feasibility reports for priority SHP sites, including CAPEX and OPEX estimates.

3. Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement

- Deliver training workshops for REA staff, sub-national governments, and community representatives on run-of-river SHP operations, maintenance, and governance.
- Develop training materials and manuals to build technical and management capacity with GEDSI considerations.
- Establish community-led committees to oversee pilot projects and promote local ownership.
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement meetings to align project goals and build partnerships.

4. Policy and Regulatory Support

- Align SHP initiatives with the Electricity Act 2023 and other relevant policies.
- Develop a regulatory compliance checklist for run-of-river SHP licensing and permitting.
- Propose policy incentives to attract private-sector investment and promote SHP adoption.

5. Technical Design and Implementation Planning

- Develop preliminary designs and technical specifications for run-of-river SHP systems.
- Create implementation plans with clear timelines, milestones, and resource allocation.

6. Financial Modelling and Investment Facilitation

- Develop financial models showcasing CAPEX, OPEX, ROI, and cost-benefit analyses for SHP projects.
- Identify and engage potential funding sources, including grants, private investors, and public-private partnerships (PPPs).
- Organise investment forums and prepare materials for funding mobilization.
- Develop risk mitigation strategies to increase investor confidence in run-of-river SHP projects.

7. Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA)

- Conduct stakeholder consultations in target communities to understand social and environmental concerns.
- Perform environmental assessments, including biodiversity, water quality, and resource impact studies.
- Prepare social impact assessments, focusing on employment, GEDSI, and potential community displacement.
- Submit ESIA reports to regulatory agencies for approval and ensure compliance with environmental standards.

8. Knowledge Dissemination and Advocacy

- Draft monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) frameworks to track progress, measure project outcomes, and draw out key lessons learnt.
- Ensure the framework meets the internal M&E requirements of government counterparts, supports their long-term monitoring needs, and aligns with UK PACT's reporting expectations for the duration of the project.
- Document case studies and lessons learned from feasibility studies and pilot projects.
- Publish advocacy materials, including success stories, policy recommendations, and infographics promoting run-of-river SHP solutions.
- Host stakeholder forums and workshops to share project outcomes and encourage knowledge exchange.

9. Project Execution Toolkits

- Develop standardised toolkits for feasibility studies, ESIA, and run-of-river SHP project preparation.
- Create step-by-step guides for run-of-river SHP deployment, covering site selection, regulatory compliance, and project execution.

Key outputs:

The activities are expected to yield the following key outputs:

1. Stakeholder Engagement and Data Consolidation Report

- Consolidated repository of existing SHP-related data and studies, including lessons learned from stakeholders.
- Comprehensive report detailing stakeholder consultations, identified gaps, and opportunities for leveraging existing efforts.
- Recommendations for integrating stakeholder insights into feasibility studies and other project components

2. Feasibility Studies and Technical Reports

- GIS-based maps illustrating energy generation potential and priority areas for run-of-river SHP development.
- Comprehensive hydrological, geological, and socio-economic assessments for priority SHP sites.
- Detailed technical and financial feasibility reports, including CAPEX, OPEX, and ROI analyses for selected sites.

3. Capacity Building Materials and Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes

- Training manuals and materials to support capacity building for REA staff, local governments, and communities integrating GEDSI considerations.
- Documented outcomes of workshops and training sessions, highlighting enhanced technical and governance expertise.
- Established community-led committees and stakeholder collaboration frameworks to promote local ownership and sustainable operations.

4. Technical Designs and Implementation Frameworks

- Preliminary technical designs and grid integration plans for run-of-river SHP systems.
- Comprehensive implementation plans, including timelines, resource allocation, and milestones.
- Standardised toolkits for run-of-river SHP project preparation, covering feasibility studies, environmental assessments, and technical specifications.

5. Policy and Regulatory Guidelines

- Compliance checklists for SHP licensing and permitting processes.
- Policy briefs proposing incentives and regulatory updates to attract private-sector investment and facilitate run-of-river SHP adoption.
- Regulatory alignment strategies ensuring projects comply with the Electricity Act 2023 and other frameworks

6. Financial Models and Investment Materials

- Bankable financial models demonstrating project viability and showcasing CAPEX, OPEX, and ROI for run-of-river SHP projects.
- Investment facilitation materials, including cost-benefit analyses and risk mitigation strategies, to attract funders and stakeholders.
- Stakeholder engagement materials for investment forums and funding mobilization.

7. Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA)

- Detailed ESIA reports for pilot sites, including mitigation plans for identified environmental and social risks.
- Stakeholder consultation reports documenting community engagement and consent.
- Regulatory submissions ensuring compliance with environmental standards.
- Standardised ESIA templates for use in future projects, including sections for baseline data collection, risk identification, stakeholder engagement, and mitigation planning.

8. Knowledge Dissemination Tools

- Comprehensive MEL documentation tracking progress, assessing impact, and drawing lessons learned for future SHP projects.
- Actionable recommendations based on MEL findings to inform policy, investment strategies, and programmatic interventions in SHP development.
- Published case studies documenting lessons learned from pilot projects and replicable models for run-of-river SHP scaling.
- Advocacy materials, including success stories, infographics, and policy recommendations promoting run-of-river SHP solutions.
- Stakeholder workshop summaries and best-practice toolkits to support the scaling of run-of-river SHP projects nationwide.

Envisaged outcomes and impact:

This project will catalyse the transformation of Nigeria's small-scale hydropower sector by enabling the deployment of run-of-river systems that provide clean, reliable electricity to underserved communities. By addressing key technical, regulatory, social, environmental and financial barriers, it will establish scalable, sustainable models for off-grid electrification, replacing diesel and kerosene with renewable energy and advancing Nigeria's energy transition.

The project will foster local economic development by enhancing energy access for productive use applications such as agricultural processing, small-scale industries, and community services. By empowering women, youth, and marginalised groups through capacity building and active participation, the initiative will address energy inequalities and strengthen social cohesion and resilience in rural communities.

In the long term, the project will contribute to a more resilient and inclusive energy system, aligning with Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By delivering replicable frameworks and disseminating best practices, the initiative will position small-scale hydropower as a key component of Nigeria's decentralised renewable energy strategy, laying the foundation for its broader adoption nationwide.

Proposed duration:

12 - 18 months (assumed start in June 2025)

Useful resources:

- National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP)
- Electricity Act 2023:
- Nigeria Energy Transition Plan
- UNIDO Small Hydropower Programme Reports
- GIS-based mapping tools (e.g., ISMO)

Terms of Reference for Project 4

Project 4: Pilot projects and proof of concept for Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) and grid integration technologies

Government counterparts: Federal Ministry of Power (FMoP), Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI)

This project seeks to support the Federal Ministry of Power (FMoP), Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI).

The project will be funded by UK PACT in support of the Government of Nigeria's technical assistance requirements.

The British High Commission Abuja is leading government engagement for this Call for Proposals. The proposed project is the result of intensive consultation with the Government of Nigeria. To avoid confusion with government counterparts, we therefore do not encourage applicants to have direct engagement with government on this project during the application process or prior to receiving an award.

Thematic area:

Market enabling environment

Project description

Background

As Nigeria seeks to achieve universal energy access and a sustainable energy future, diversifying its energy mix and modernising grid infrastructure are pivotal steps. While solar photovoltaic (PV) systems dominate the country's renewable energy landscape, a broader range of Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) technologies, such as biomass, small-scale concentrated solar power (CSP), hydrogen, and hybrid systems integrating solar PV with other technologies, remain significantly underutilised. These technologies offer immense potential to complement solar systems, improve energy security, and drive local economic development through innovative energy solutions.

The Nigeria Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up (DARES) project, funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), exemplifies Nigeria's commitment to expanding access to distributed renewable energy. Complementing this effort, the Research and Innovation (R&I) Hub at REA is fostering innovative approaches to advance renewable energy technologies and address access gaps.

With increased investment in solar home systems and mini-grids, the need for advanced grid integration models has become evident. Advanced grid integration technologies and models —including smart grids, swarm electrification, and virtual power plants (VPPs)—can enhance grid reliability, optimise distributed energy resources, and enable seamless integration of diverse renewable energy sources. Such models are particularly critical for addressing Nigeria's unique challenges, including limited grid coverage in rural areas, intermittency of renewable energy, and the need for equitable access to affordable energy.

Nigeria's enabling policy environment, including the 2023 Electricity Act, the Energy Transition Plan, and frameworks championed by the Federal Ministry of Power, provides a strong foundation for advancing DRE technologies and grid modernization. These policies prioritise universal energy access while promoting sustainability, affordability, and collaboration among key stakeholders, including DisCos, state governments, and private sector entities.

To realise the full potential of DRE technologies and advanced grid solutions, piloting and validating these innovations through proof-of-concept initiatives are essential. By addressing technical, regulatory, and operational barriers, these pilots will pave the way for the deployment of sustainable energy systems that enhance energy access, grid performance, and Nigeria's energy transition objectives.

Aims and objectives

This project aims to pilot innovative Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) technologies and advanced grid integration models to expand Nigeria's energy options, improve grid performance, and support the country's clean energy transition. The initiative focuses on developing and testing solutions that integrate DRE technologies such as biomass, small-scale CSP, hydrogen, and hybrid systems with solar PV, alongside advanced grid solutions including smart grids, swarm electrification, and virtual power plants (VPPs).

The project seeks to:

1. Demonstrate Feasibility and Scalability: Through well-designed pilot projects, validate the technical and economic viability of diverse DRE technologies and grid integration solutions tailored to Nigeria's energy challenges.
2. Support Evidence-Based Decision Making: Generate robust data and recommendations to guide policy development, investment strategies, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring the scalability of successful models.
3. Enhance System Resilience and Reliability: Address critical gaps in grid infrastructure by deploying and testing advanced integration models to improve energy delivery, reduce inefficiencies, and maximise the utility of distributed renewable energy resources.
4. Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Energy Access: Focus on solutions that benefit underserved communities and economic clusters, aligning with Nigeria's broader goals of equitable and sustainable development.

By fostering innovation and collaboration among public and private sector stakeholders, the project will contribute to building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable energy system that supports Nigeria's energy transition, economic growth, and climate action commitments.

Key activities:

1. Feasibility and Design

- Conduct feasibility studies and site assessments to evaluate the technical and financial viability of DRE technologies and/or advanced grid integration models including GEDSI aspects such as needs of women and marginalised groups from low-income communities to understand their energy needs and affordability when designing projects.
- Develop technical designs for systems, including renewable energy deployment and grid optimisation solutions, tailored to local contexts with embedded GEDSI considerations.

2. Pilot Implementation

- Implement pilot projects to test selected DRE technologies and/or grid integration models, including biomass, CSP, hydrogen, smart grids, VPPs, or swarm electrification.
- Monitor and evaluate the performance of pilot projects to validate their scalability and impact.

3. Capacity Building

- Organise training workshops to build the technical capacity of REA staff, local engineers, and other stakeholders on DRE technologies and/or grid integration models with a target of at least 30% female staff participation.
- Develop and distribute training materials to support ongoing learning and sustainability of the implemented technologies.

4. Knowledge Dissemination and Advocacy

- Draft monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) frameworks to track progress, measure project outcomes, and draw out key lessons learnt.
- Ensure the framework meets the internal M&E requirements of government counterparts, supports their long-term monitoring needs, and aligns with UK PACT's reporting expectations for the duration of the project.
- Document lessons learned from pilot projects and case studies highlighting best practices and replicable solutions for DRE technologies and/or grid integration models.
- Host stakeholder engagement forums to share findings, promote collaboration, and encourage adoption of successful models.

5. Policy and Investment Facilitation

- Develop policy briefs to recommend regulatory updates and incentives that promote the adoption of DRE technologies and/or advanced grid integration models.
- Create investment frameworks and materials to attract funding from private sector stakeholders and development partners.

Key outputs:

The activities are expected to yield the following key outputs:

1. **Feasibility Studies and Technical Reports**

- Comprehensive feasibility studies for selected DRE technologies and/or advanced grid integration models, covering technical, financial, and socio-economic aspects.
- Detailed technical designs for proposed systems, including deployment and integration strategies tailored to local contexts.

2. Pilot Project Documentation

- Implementation reports detailing outcomes from pilot projects focused on DRE technologies and/or advanced grid integration models.
- Case studies highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and replicable models for scaling successful solutions.

3. Capacity Building Materials

- Training manuals and resources to support the technical capacity-building of REA staff, local engineers, and other stakeholders in DRE technologies and/or grid integration models.
- Documentation of enhanced technical and governance capacity among project participants.

4. Policy and Investment Materials

- Policy briefs recommending regulatory updates and incentives to promote DRE technologies and/or advanced grid integration models.
- Investment frameworks and materials, including financial models and risk mitigation strategies, to attract private sector and development partner funding.

5. Knowledge Dissemination Tools

- Comprehensive MEL documentation tracking project progress, assessing impact, and capturing lessons learned for future DRE and grid integration initiatives.
- Actionable recommendations based on MEL findings to inform policy development, investment strategies, and programmatic interventions.
- Published case studies, advocacy materials, and success stories highlighting the role of DRE technologies and/or grid integration models in enhancing energy access and sustainability.
- Stakeholder engagement summaries and best-practice toolkits to support the replication and scaling of successful project models.

Envisaged outcomes and impact:

This project will catalyse the adoption of Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) technologies —such as biomass, small-scale CSP, hydrogen, and hybrid configurations—and advanced grid integration models including smart grids, swarm electrification, and virtual power plants (VPPs). By piloting and validating these innovations, the initiative will enhance sustainable energy access across underserved communities, improve grid performance, and reduce Nigeria's reliance on fossil fuels.

The project will foster technical expertise and build institutional capacity, enabling stakeholders to implement cutting-edge energy solutions. This enhanced capacity will drive productive use applications, such as powering local industries, agricultural processing, and public services, thereby stimulating local economic development. It will also encourage collaboration among key stakeholders, creating pathways for private sector investment and public-private partnerships in renewable energy.

The long-term impact includes broader adoption of DER solutions, improved grid interconnection, and the establishment of a robust and equitable renewable energy sector. By integrating principles of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), the project will create meaningful opportunities for women, persons with disabilities, and underserved communities to participate in and benefit from the energy transition. This initiative will contribute to Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and advance the country's energy transition agenda, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Proposed duration:

12 - 18 months (assumed start in June 2025)

Useful resources:

- Nigeria DARES Project
- R&I Hub
- Electricity Act 2023
- Nigeria Energy Transition Plan

Terms of Reference for Project 5

Project 5: Technical engineering skills for DisCos and DER developers: enabling renewable energy integration

Government counterparts: Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC)

This project seeks to support the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos) and DER Developers.

The project will be funded by UK PACT in support of the Government of Nigeria's technical assistance requirements.

The British High Commission Abuja is leading government engagement for this Call for Proposals. The proposed project is the result of intensive consultation with the Government of Nigeria. To avoid confusion with government counterparts, we therefore do not encourage applicants to have direct engagement with government on this project during the application process or prior to receiving an award.

Thematic area:

Renewable energy skills

Project description

Background

As Nigeria transitions toward a decentralised energy system, the integration of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) into the central grid is essential for enhancing energy access, improving grid reliability, and ensuring sustainability. Electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos) and DER developers play pivotal roles in this transition by driving the adoption of renewable energy solutions. Despite their importance, the sector faces a significant shortage of technical engineering skills, which impedes the effective deployment, integration, and management of DERs. This skills gap poses a major barrier to scaling Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) systems and achieving Nigeria's clean energy ambitions.

Addressing these challenges is critical for realising the goals outlined in Nigeria's 2023 Electricity Act, Energy Transition Plan, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These frameworks underscore the need for a skilled workforce to support the country's energy transition and achieve universal energy access. Capacity-building programs targeted at DisCos and DER developers will provide the technical and operational expertise required to integrate renewable energy projects effectively into the grid, driving innovation and supporting the long-term sustainability of DRE systems.

This project recognises the urgency of bridging the engineering skills gap and seeks to develop the technical capacity of key energy sector stakeholders. By doing so, it will enable the successful deployment and integration of renewable energy projects while fostering innovation and advancing Nigeria's energy transition agenda.

Aims and objectives

This project aims to enhance the technical engineering capacity of Electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos) and Distributed Energy Resource (DER) developers to support the integration and management of renewable energy systems. By addressing critical skill gaps, the initiative seeks to equip engineers with the expertise required for effective deployment and optimisation of distributed renewable energy solutions.

The project will also focus on developing scalable tools and frameworks for grid hosting capacity assessments and system optimizations to ensure the seamless integration of DERs into Nigeria's energy infrastructure. Through targeted capacity-building efforts and innovative approaches, the project aims to strengthen institutional and technical capabilities, fostering a robust and sustainable decentralised energy system that aligns with Nigeria's energy transition goals.

Key activities:

1. **Comprehensive Technical Training**
   - Design and deliver training modules on renewable energy technologies, grid integration, and system maintenance
   - Focus on skills for deploying and managing interconnected mini-grids, embedded generation, franchising and other distributed energy systems.
2. **Development of Tools and Methodologies**
   - Create grid hosting capacity assessment tools to evaluate the impact of renewable energy integration.
   - Develop methodologies for optimising grid connections and managing distributed energy resources.
3. **Knowledge Exchange and Peer Learning**
   - Organise peer-learning workshops to share best practices among DisCos, DER developers, and international experts, with a target of at least 30% female participation.
   - Facilitate forums for collaboration on innovative solutions and challenges in renewable energy integration.
4. **Capacity Building for Future Scalability**
   - Train trainers to ensure sustainability and scalability of the capacity-building initiative, with a target of at least 30% female participation.
   - Develop a repository of training materials, case studies, and technical guides.
5. **Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy**
   - Engage policymakers, industry leaders, and academia to align capacity-building efforts with national energy goals.
   - Advocate for the integration of engineering training programs into broader energy transition strategies.
6. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Framework**
   - Develop and implement a robust MEL framework to track project progress, assess training impact, and document lessons learned.
   - Ensure the framework meets the internal M&E requirements of government counterparts, supports their long-term monitoring needs, and aligns with UK PACT's reporting expectations for the duration of the project.
   - Generate evidence-based recommendations from MEL findings to inform future capacity-building programs and policy decisions.

Key outputs:

The activities are expected to yield the following key outputs:

1. **Technical Training Materials and Modules**
   - Comprehensive, scalable training modules on renewable energy technologies and grid integration.
2. **Grid Hosting Capacity Tools**
   - Tools and methodologies for assessing grid readiness and optimizing distributed energy connections.
3. **Workshop Outcomes**
   - Reports summarising knowledge exchange sessions, best practices, and actionable recommendations.
4. **Trained Workforce**
   - A cadre of skilled engineers and technicians equipped to deploy and manage grid-connected renewable energy systems.
5. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Reports**
   - Comprehensive MEL documentation tracking project progress, training effectiveness, and long-term impact.
   - Actionable insights and policy recommendations to enhance future capacity-building efforts in the renewable energy sector.
6. **Policy and Industry Alignment Reports**
   - Policy briefs and recommendations to integrate training initiatives into national energy transition strategies.

Envisaged outcomes and impact:

This project will play a critical role in strengthening Nigeria's technical workforce to support the integration and management of decentralised renewable energy (DRE) systems. By equipping Electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos) and Distributed Energy Resource (DER) developers with essential engineering skills, the project will enhance grid stability, improve energy access, and accelerate the country's transition to a decentralised, renewable energy-based power sector.

Through targeted capacity-building, development of technical tools, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, the project will enable DisCos and DER developers to optimise grid hosting capacity, enhance system efficiency, and facilitate the seamless integration of DRE technologies. The training-of-trainers model will ensure long-term sustainability by embedding technical expertise within institutions and fostering continuous skill development.

In the long term, the strengthened technical capabilities of key energy sector stakeholders will drive increased private sector investment, reduce technical and operational inefficiencies, and support Nigeria's commitment to its Energy Transition Plan and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The project will also contribute to gender equality and social inclusion (GEDSI) by ensuring meaningful participation of women and underrepresented groups in the renewable energy workforce, fostering a more inclusive clean energy transition.

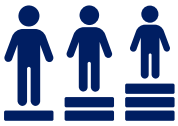
Proposed duration:

12 - 18 months (assumed start in June 2025)

Useful resources:

- Scaling-up DER in Nigeria
- DisCos
- Electricity Act 2023
- Nigeria Energy Transition Plan
- Nigeria's NDCs

Important things to consider in your application:



Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)

All proposals must consider accessibility and inclusivity as a key action area in creating a more democratic, equitable and just transition to reduced emissions. As a result, all projects are required to mainstream GEDSI within the projects stated above and ensure adequate expertise and resources are available throughout delivery to achieve this. Illustrative examples of potential activities include:

- Conducting a GEDSI analysis and systematically taking into account the differentiated needs, knowledge, experiences, and priorities of women, youth, and historically disadvantaged and other marginalised groups in all project activities.
- Contributing to improved evidence and policymaking to tackle energy poverty and increase energy security in Nigeria
- Conducting enhanced needs assessments and meaningfully engaging with civil society groups, including women's rights organisations and organisations of people with disabilities, to better understand energy and employment needs and opportunities.
- Ensuring that the development of a green economy is built on inclusive supply chains, removing barriers faced by small businesses, marginalised groups, and those working in sectors which may shrink over time (e.g., fossil fuels).
- Facilitating increased engagement of women, youth, poor households, people with disabilities, and historically disadvantaged and other marginalised groups in decision-making, public consultation, and participatory planning.
- Increasing the integration of GEDSI-considerations in policies, regulation, and planning processes and/or improved implementation of these.

We will score all projects using GEDSI selection criteria to ensure that projects seek to understand and address the needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups. All proposals are required to:

- Consider the key differences in the ways that local communities, youth, women, lower-income households, marginalised groups, and people with disabilities access and use energy and contribute to the Clean Energy Transition. Key issues may include those of affordability, accessibility, safety, and representation.
- Identify specific outputs that would address some of the issues faced and integrate these activities through the project.
- Ensure that the project's monitoring and results framework explicitly states how GEDSI outcomes will be achieved through the project's outputs.
- To reflect FCDO's commitment to the localisation of delivery, additional consideration will be given to consortia which include local organisations, women-owned entities, and entities owned by people with disabilities.

Applicants are encouraged to review UK PACT's GEDSI Guidance when developing their proposals.

Budget and funding availability

Each proposal will be assessed independently. We will support projects with grants valued up to £500,000 per financial year (UK financial year, April – March). This value increases for projects longer than 12 months (i.e., the grant value for two years would be up to £1,000,000). Higher project budgets may be considered on an exceptional basis depending on proposed activities and value for money against expected outcomes. All projects are assumed to have a start date in June 2025. The projects must have a clear indication of the outputs and outcomes expected to be achieved in the first year, as well as in each subsequent year of implementation.

Proposals can be submitted for more than one project. However, separate applications should be prepared for each project.

Government engagement

The British High Commission Abuja is leading government engagement for this call for proposals. The projects stated above are the result of intensive consultation with the Government of Nigeria. To avoid confusion with government counterparts, we therefore do not encourage applicants to have direct engagement with government on these projects during the bidding process or prior to receiving an award.

As a demand-led programme, the Nigeria-UK PACT Country Fund aims to align its support with the Government of Nigeria's existing plans and policies surrounding a clean energy transition. Applicants are advised to refer to these references, which include:

- Electricity Act 2023
- Energy Transition Plan (ETP) 2022
- National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP)
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Update 2021
- Mini-Grid Regulation 2023

What is the timeline for selection?

Stage	Date
1.Terms of Reference (ToR) and application process launched	21 Feb 2024
2. Deadline for receipt of clarification questions	21 Mar 2025
3. Publication of answers to clarification questions will take place twice starting 3 weeks after the CfP is launched. Consolidated clarifications will be published on the Nigeria-UK PACT web page. Kindly note that clarification questions will not be answered by email.	14 Mar 2025 28 Mar 2025
4. Deadline for submission of applications	4 Apr 2025 17:00 WAT/ 16:00 UTC
5. Applicants notified	Apr 2025
6. Due diligence, co-creation and grant signing	May 2025
7. Projects start	June 2025

Application guidance

All applications for this call must be submitted via the Call for Proposals web page by 4 **Apr 2025, at 17:00 WAT/ 16:00 UTC**. Projects will be selected through a one-stage open and competitive Call for Proposals. Applicants should read the Terms of Reference and Applicant Handbook to understand what is required to submit a strong proposal for this call.

Application submission process

Step 1:
Download the application pack

Step 2:
Fill out the application pack

Step 3:
Submit the form linked on the CfP page under the respective project

Step 4:
Upload the completed application pack to the link sent via email (upon the completion of Step 3)

What do you need to submit?
You will submit 4 key documents using the UK PACT templates provided (via the CfP web page). These are:

1. **Project proposal template** — *please ensure that you populate the proposal template as fully as possible, to avoid submitting an incomplete application.*
2. **Budget and workplan template** — *note: all proposals must include an inception phase of one month in the workplan, during which time any necessary engagements with the Government of Nigeria will be carried out, deliverables confirmed and theory of change finalised. At the end of this period a revised workplan may be required.*
3. **Project Theory of Change form**
4. **Project risk and issue register template**

Additional supporting documentation may be submitted, such as CVs of key staff.

What are the eligibility criteria?

	Eligibility criteria
Applicant	• We invite all organisations with relevant experience in delivering technical assistance and capacity-building projects. This could be think-tanks, consultancies, academic institutions, community organisations, NGOs, professional associations, or any similar organisations that have the knowledge, skills and experience to deliver an eligible project. • Proposals from private sector entities are welcomed, noting however that profit cannot be funded through grant funding and projects must be submitted on a not-for-profit basis. Companies are encouraged to refer to the Applicant Handbook and Implementing Partner Handbook for clarity on eligible costs. • Government agencies and Government departments are not eligible to receive UK PACT funding, either as a lead organisation or partner in a consortium. This includes state-owned enterprises. • We encourage consortia to apply.
Project	• Proposals can be submitted for more than one project, but a consortium cannot apply more than once to the same project. • Budgets must not include tangible assets or capital expenditure.
Application	• All applications must be coherent and legible. • All relevant sections must be completed. • Applications must be submitted in English.

What are the selection criteria?

Area	Heading	Criteria description	Weighting
Technical (70%)	Project structure, approach and plan	The applicant presents a clearly articulated project delivery plan covering the project description, logic, methodology, expected results, and workplan. This plan should include monitoring, learning and communications strategies. The project ensures that gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) and poverty alleviation considerations are integrated into delivery. Additionally, robust stakeholder engagement strategies are outlined to ensure the adoption and sustainability of project outputs. The project overall is technically robust, socially responsible, inclusive, and sustainable.	30
	Impact	The project demonstrates strong potential for significant long-term impact, with clear projections for the delivery of UK PACT outcomes at scale. The opportunities for further scaling and/or replication have been thoroughly considered, indicating a high potential for contributing to transformational change, including but not limited to the likelihood of successful implementation in other contexts or regions. The project's approach ensures that all elements are well-coordinated and targeted to maximize impact and promote sustainability.	20
	Knowledge, skills, experience, and team structure	The organisation has strong expertise and experience in the subject area and the proposed project team has the skills in place to deliver the project. If a consortium, the roles and responsibilities of each consortium member is clearly defined. The team structure and composition is reasonable and offers value for money.	20
Project Management (20%)	Project management	The applicant outlines a clear plan for managing the project, to ensure activities stay on track and deliver project results. Experienced project and finance management and reporting resources are included and budgeted efficiently.	5
		The applicant has clearly outlined the key risks associated with delivery with clear plans for mitigating and an understanding of the likelihood and impact of each. This includes risks associated with delivering in changing political contexts and impacts on vulnerable and/or marginalised groups.	10
Financial (15%)	Budget	The budget is clearly linked to the activities and outputs outlined, with appropriate allocation of time and resources and costs that appear reasonable for the activities proposed. Also the proposed budget and expenses offer good VfM.	5

How do we score each criterion?

Score	
5	**Excellent response, significant degree of confidence:** extremely clear response, explicitly addresses the requirements of the call.
4	**Strong response, high degree of confidence:** strong response, addresses the requirements of the call to a good degree.
3	**Good response, good degree of confidence:** fairly strong response, addresses most of the requirements of the call.
2	**Weak response, some degree of confidence:** weak response, Addresses some of the requirements of the call.
1	**Poor response, limited degree of confidence:** doesn't address requirements of the call

What to do if you have questions?

Applicants should read this Terms of Reference together with the Applicant Handbook and other guidance documents for all the details on how to apply. Additional questions about the scope of this Call for Proposals can be sent to: **nigeria@ukpact.co.uk**.

Clarification questions will be accepted until **17:00 (WAT)/ 16:00 (UTC) on 21 March 2025** and answers will be published on the Nigeria-UK PACT Call for Proposals web page.

Relevant documents

- CfP Terms of Reference
- Project proposal template
- Budget and workplan template
- Project Theory of Change form
- Project risk and issue register template
- Applicant handbook
- UK PACT's GEDSI Guidance
- Risk management guide for applicants

These will be available on the Call for Proposals web page when you apply.

UK PACT

UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) is a programme funded by the UK Government. UK PACT supports countries that strive to overcome barriers to clean growth and have high emissions reduction potential to accelerate their climate change mitigation efforts.