Q: Is a community interest company eligible to apply for an SCCF grant?
A: Yes, a community interest company is eligible to apply. The Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF) is open to UK registered charities or not for profit organisations, of all registration types, with an average annual income of less than £250,000 a year.

Q: Is there a minimum turnover/income threshold required to be eligible to apply for SCCF?
A: There is no minimum income threshold to apply; however, to be eligible, applicants must have an annual income of less than £250,000. This is calculated as an average over the last three years using the organisation’s annual accounts.

Q: When do the three years of accounts begin from - is it April?
A: The accounts submitted should cover the last three full financial years of your organisation. If your organisation has been established for less than three years, accounts should cover all applicable financial years. Draft or management accounts should be submitted in the absence of examined or audited accounts.

Q: As a UK based organisation can we apply to work in partnership with a charity operating in an eligible country?
A: Yes. UK based organisation must be the lead grant holder responsible for management of the grant. You can, however, partner with in-country organisations to deliver the project, which is encouraged.

Q: What is the minimum and the maximum grant amount?
A: The maximum grant is £50,000, over a maximum of two years. There is no minimum grant. It is important to note that the organisation’s ability to manage the grant funds is taken into consideration during the assessment process.
Q: Are there any specific Global Goals that you are expecting projects to work towards during this funding round?
A: For this funding round we will be prioritising applications that can demonstrate that they are responding to the longer-term impacts of COVID-19, which includes the wide range of Global Goals. We will expect all applicants to be able to explain how their project will address anticipated longer term impacts of the virus and outline how the risks of COVID-19 to project delivery could be mitigated as part of their application.

Q: What is the success rate for SCCF applicants?
A: It varies for each SCCF funding round but is typically 15-20%.

Q: What countries are eligible for SCCF funding?
A: Yes. You can find the full list of eligible countries here: https://www.ukaiddirect.org/about/eligible-countries/

Q: Is it possible to submit multiple applications for the same round?
A: Yes. However, a maximum of two SCCF grants per organisation can be granted during a single round and a maximum of two live SCCF grants can be held at any one time. A live grant is a project with more than nine months left to run from the start date of the UK Aid Direct call for proposals.

Q: Do international operations have to be officially registered in the country of implementation?
A: Either the UK based grant holder organisation or the implementing partners must be registered in the proposed country of implementation.

Q: We are a new organisation, are we eligible?
A: Yes. Note that the organisation’s ability to manage the grant funds is taken into consideration during the assessment process.
Q: Are there any case studies available of successful applicants?
A: There is an example application available on the website. If successful, you will be invited to an induction workshop, where you will have the opportunity to speak to a current grant holder.

Q: Should I be concerned about the due diligence process? It appears very onerous for a small charity run by volunteers.
A: The financial management assessment is an important part of the application process and is required to be completed before any final FCDO funding decision is made. It is designed to be supportive for applicants and the process used on this fund has been adapted to cater to the needs of small UK based charities. You can find more detail of the due diligence process in the application guidance document and the grant holder guidance section of the website, under due diligence.

Q: Are there any rules around the proportion of the budget that the lead (UK) organisation and partner (overseas) organisation can hold?
A: There are no restrictions around the proportion of funding between the lead and partner organisation. However, all costs must be reasonable, justifiable and represent value for money. Any contributions towards organisational overheads must be calculated using the NPAC methodology. Detailed budget guidance is available.

Q: How should political power change/potential power change be discussed in the application? For example, upcoming elections could cause instability in the country of operation.
A: It is important to ensure key risks, such as elections, are highlighted in the risk section of the application form, providing detailed mitigation approaches. It is also important to consider the political economy context throughout your application; for instance, when conducting stakeholder consultation and considering appropriate sustainability plans.

Q: When can applications be submitted for the next round of funding?
A: Applications can be submitted at any time for SCCF. All applications submitted before 25 March 17:00 (UK time) will be included in the next review round.
Q: Our charity comprises a small team of volunteers, we have not got the resource to be hands-on with the partner NGO currently. Would we be able to budget for this in country resource? Alternatively, could we include a country-based evaluator in the project budget?
A: Yes. You can include monitoring and evaluation costs in the budget, including monitoring visits to the project from the UK. Equally, a country-based evaluator could be included – it is important that you consider the most appropriate approach delivering best value for money. **Detailed budget guidance is available.**

Q: Could we repair a roof and carry out decoration work as part of the project?
A: Major capital expenditure – for example, the construction or purchase of buildings, cars or land - is not eligible for SCCF funding. Any aspect of capital expenditure or construction included in the proposal must be justified as contributing to a sustainable improvement in people’s lives.

Q: What if the partner charity in Africa is new and does not yet have the required financial documents and evidence of previous service provided?
A: In the application form you should explain why you have chosen your implementing partners. Whilst they might be newly registered as an organisation they may, for example, have a project team with strong knowledge and experience delivering similar projects within the target community. It is important to explain why you have chosen these partners and what value they add to the project.