

Answers to Questions on the FSTP Call for Proposals

1. Is it possible to apply with two organisations or to share the role of the “third party” between two NGOs?

The Call does not provide for joint applicants or for two organisations to share the formal role of the third party. One organisation must submit the application and, if selected, sign the Third-Party Agreement. This organisation will be fully responsible for implementation, financial management and reporting.

Other organisations may support project implementation and may receive funding through the applicant's approved project budget. However, these cooperation partners must not be beneficiaries, co-beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associates or contractors under the main Action, and they must not have received separate financial support under this Call. Double funding of the same activities or costs is not permitted.

2. How should cooperation between two organisations be presented in the proposal and budget?

The applying organisation must be clearly identified as the applicant and responsible third party. The proposal should describe the roles, responsibilities, activities and added value of each cooperation partner.

The budget must transparently identify the costs associated with each partner and link them to the relevant activities and outputs. The applicant remains responsible for the entire approved budget, including expenditure incurred by cooperation partners.

Any cooperation partner receiving project funds must not be a beneficiary, co-beneficiary, affiliated entity, associate or contractor under the main Action and must not have received separate financial support under this Call.

3. Who is the responsible contact person at MAP Foundation in Chiang Mai?

Coordination and alignment with MAP are mandatory for activities implemented in Thailand under Lot 1. Applicants requiring contact details or support in establishing contact with MAP should contact Brahm Press via the general email address fstp-call@ci-romero.de, using the subject line “Brahm – MAP.”

4. Can an NGO from Niger apply?

An organisation from Niger cannot apply under Lot 1 or Lot 2, as these Lots are limited to specific countries:

- Lot 1: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand;
- Lot 2: Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

An eligible non-profit organisation from Niger may apply under the global Lot 3 or Lot 4 if it meets the relevant organisational, thematic, methodological or technical eligibility requirements. Each organisation may submit only one application and may apply under only one Lot.

5. Must a project under the Global Lot be implemented in more than one country?

The Call does not establish a minimum number of countries in which a project under a global Lot must be physically implemented.

However, Lot 3 has a global scope and aims to develop, refine and scale worker-led monitoring methodologies across different country contexts. Activities should support the adaptation of WLMS methodologies to different countries and labour-rights contexts.

A project implemented primarily in one country would therefore need to demonstrate clear global relevance, transferability, comparative learning and benefits for other country contexts.

6. What is the duration of the project?

The maximum project duration is not specified in the Call. It will be defined in the Third-Party Agreement. Activities may start from 1 October 2026, subject to completion of the evaluation, award decision and signature of the Third-Party Agreement. All activities must be completed within the overall implementation period of the Action.

7. Can an NGO from Sri Lanka partner with a trade union organisation under Lot 2?

Yes. Civil society organisations and labour-rights organisations are eligible to apply under Lot 2, provided that the proposed action is worker-centred, non-commercial, safeguarding-sensitive and implemented in coordination with trade unions, worker organisations or civil society organisations active in labour rights.

For projects implemented in Sri Lanka under Lot 2, coordination and alignment with the consortium partner FTZ is mandatory. A trade union or another eligible organisation may support implementation and receive funding through the applicant's budget. However, it must not be a beneficiary, co-beneficiary, affiliated entity, associate or contractor under the main Action, and it must not have received separate financial support under this Call.

One organisation must remain the formal applicant and responsible third party.

8. What is the expected duration of a project under Lot 3?

The Call does not specify a separate duration for projects under Lot 3.

The maximum project duration will be defined in the Third-Party Agreement. Activities may start from 1 October 2026 and must be completed within the overall implementation period of

the Action. Applicants should propose a realistic work plan and timeline based on the activities, outputs and resources included in their proposal.

9. Are there specific timelines within the overall 2025–2028 project period?

The Call provides the following indicative timeline:

- Publication of the Call: 15 July 2026;
- Deadline for questions: 31 July 2026;
- Publication of answers and Q&A: 7 August 2026;
- Application deadline: 31 August 2026 at 23:59 CEST;
- Notification of results: 15 September 2026;
- Possible start of activities: from 1 October 2026.

The maximum project duration and final completion date will be specified in the Third-Party Agreement. Activities must be completed within the overall implementation period of the Action latest May 2028.

10. Does Lot 3 focus on a specific tier of the garment supply chain?

No specific supply-chain tier is prescribed under Lot 3.

The Call covers workers in formal and informal garment supply chains. Proposals may therefore address different tiers, including lower-tier suppliers, subcontractors, raw-material or accessory production and home-based workers, provided that the proposed activities contribute to the objectives and expected results of Lot 3.

Applicants should explain why the selected supply-chain level is relevant to worker-led monitoring and the identification, documentation and prevention of forced-labour risks.

11. Can pilot projects be proposed under Lot 3?

Yes. Support for pilot implementation and learning is explicitly eligible under Lot 3.

Applicants may propose work in selected pilot contexts, including:

- testing and refining WLMS methodologies;
- documenting lessons learned;
- comparing experiences across countries;
- adapting methodologies to different worker-reporting pathways;
- developing recommendations for improving WLMS implementation.

The pilot activities should contribute to broader methodological development and learning rather than operate as isolated country projects.

12. Is there an existing pilot plan for Lot 3?

The Call does not prescribe a fixed pilot plan, a required number of pilots or a final list of pilot locations. It identifies workers in Brazil, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Türkiye and India as particularly relevant target groups for Lot 3. Applicants may propose suitable pilot contexts and approaches.

The proposal should explain how the selected pilots will contribute to comparative learning, methodological development and the adaptation of WLMS approaches across different contexts.

13. Does Lot 3 include the development of a digital tool?

Lot 3 may include methodological and user-centred support for adapting Uwazi, Tella or similar tools to different countries, user needs, worker-reporting pathways and organisational capacities. However, substantial technical development and digital scaling fall under Lot 4. Lot 3 should focus primarily on methodology, workflows, participation, safe reporting, documentation, verification, informed consent, feedback mechanisms and Do No Harm principles.

14. Would a digital tool be piloted during the project?

Pilot implementation and methodological learning are eligible under Lot 3. Technical testing, pilot testing, user-feedback processes, security testing, troubleshooting and technical refinement are specifically eligible under Lot 4.

Any digital pilot must comply with the Call's requirements concerning open-source development, safeguarding, confidentiality, data protection, worker protection and compatibility with CIR's infrastructure and governance arrangements.

15. Are applicants expected to develop the digital tool independently?

No new standalone platform may be developed under the Call.

Technical work must be based on Uwazi and Tella, or similar open-source tools where appropriate and agreed with CIR. All technical developments must:

- remain open-source and non-proprietary;
- be compatible with CIR's hosting infrastructure;
- comply with CIR's governance and maintenance arrangements;
- meet data-protection, safeguarding and confidentiality requirements;
- be suitable for future maintenance by CIR or authorised actors.

CIR will manage the hosting, URL and central digital infrastructure. The selected organisation must coordinate its technical work closely with CIR.

16. Is a Case Management System, wireframe or working prototype an expected output under Lot 3?

The development of a new standalone Case Management System is not an eligible or expected output under Lot 3.

Lot 3 may produce methodological and user-centred workflow recommendations for adapting Uwazi, Tella or similar tools. Possible Lot 3 outputs include:

- methodological toolkits;
- guidance on case documentation and verification;
- informed-consent and feedback procedures;
- safeguarding and data-protection guidance;
- validation and escalation protocols;
- user-centred workflow recommendations;
- pilot learning notes.

Technical development or upgrading of a case-management architecture belongs primarily under Lot 4.

17. Can a Lot 3 proposal be submitted in collaboration with partner organisations?

Collaboration with other organisations is possible, but the Call does not establish a formal co-applicant structure. One organisation must submit the application and act as the responsible third party.

The proposal should clearly explain:

- the role and expertise of each cooperation partner;
- the activities to be implemented by each partner;
- coordination and decision-making arrangements;
- the allocation of costs;
- how the collaboration strengthens the global and participatory character of the project.

Cooperation partners receiving funding through the project budget must not be beneficiaries, co-beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associates or contractors under the main Action. They must also not have received separate financial support under this Call. Double funding of the same organisation, activities or costs is not permitted.

The applying organisation remains fully responsible for implementation, expenditure, reporting and compliance.

18. Are organisations from Yemen eligible?

Organisations from Yemen are not eligible under the country-specific Lots 1 and 2.

An eligible non-profit organisation from Yemen may apply under the global Lot 3 or Lot 4 if it meets the relevant requirements concerning:

- organisational status;
- thematic, methodological or technical expertise;
- administrative and financial capacity;
- worker-centred and participatory approaches;
- safeguarding and Do No Harm;
- gender equality;
- data protection and confidentiality.

Each organisation may submit only one application and apply under only one Lot.

19. What is the application process and are partnerships possible?

Each organisation may submit only one application and apply under only one Lot.

Applications must be submitted in English and include:

- a project proposal of no more than 10 pages, using the provided template;
- a project budget using the provided template;
- a signed Declaration by the third party.

The complete application must be submitted electronically to fstp-call@ci-romero.de no later than 31 August 2026 at 23:59 CEST.

The subject line must read: “Application FSTP – Lot [number] – [Name of Applicant]”

Cooperation with other organisations is possible, but one organisation must act as the formal applicant and responsible third party.

Any cooperation partner receiving funding through the proposed budget must not be a beneficiary, co-beneficiary, affiliated entity, associate or contractor under the main Action and must not have received separate financial support under this Call. The proposal and budget must clearly describe the partner’s responsibilities, activities and allocated costs.

20. How can an organisation contribute to the initiative?

An organisation can contribute through the Lot that corresponds to its geographic scope, experience and expertise:

- Lot 1: Migrant-worker organising, women worker leadership and empowerment in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka or Thailand;
- Lot 2: Trade-union engagement, advocacy and strategic communication in Bangladesh or Sri Lanka;
- Lot 3: Global WLMS methodology, mapping, pilot approaches, comparative learning, toolkits and dissemination;
- Lot 4: Technical development and digital scaling based on Uwazi, Tella or similar open-source tools.

All proposals should demonstrate:

- meaningful worker participation;

- gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches;
- safeguarding and Do No Harm;
- secure handling of worker-reported information;
- data protection and confidentiality;
- sustainability and scalability;
- sufficient administrative and financial capacity;
- a realistic and cost-effective budget;
- compliance with the prohibition of double funding.

Where cooperation partners support implementation and receive project funding, they must meet the applicable eligibility conditions. They must not be beneficiaries, co-beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associates or contractors under the main Action and must not have received separate financial support under this Call.