

The Facility « Investing for Employment » (the Facility) Call for Proposal Morocco

Call Information	Dates / Information
Call for Proposals ID Number	IFE/04
Call for Proposals launch Morocco	01 March 2021, 17h00 CET
Deadline for submission of questions	24 March 2021, 17h00 CET
Submission deadline for Concept Notes	31 March 2021, 17h00 CET
Webinars	04 March 2021, 10h00 CET (French) 04 March 2021, 16h00 CET (German) 16 March 2021, 10h00 CET (French)

Economic reforms and improved competitiveness have brought forth new, dynamic growth markets in many parts of Africa. African countries increasingly offer attractive prospects for companies and investors: a young population, growing availability of workers and skilled labour, rising purchasing power, new markets and integration in global value chains. The Facility is an investment mechanism created by KfW Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as an integral part of the “Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation” helping to meet this growing need for new long-term jobs on the continent.

Invest for Jobs: The German Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) established the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation to create long-term, full time jobs, offer quality based training and education, and to improve working conditions in the partner countries. There are currently programs in eight partner countries: Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia, and Morocco.

The purpose of the Facility « Investing for Employment » is to support the creation of decent employment opportunities in Africa (jobs as defined in the Guidelines for applicants). It does so by offering co-financing grants for new investment projects with a high job creation impact. The selection of projects is based on a competitive application process. The Facility looks for an optimal allocation of available funding to projects with the highest plausibility of success and expected return in terms of the number and quality of new jobs created.

Determined by the type of project and type of applicant – the proposed project falls within one of the Facility’s four categories – if eligible for funding:

The four categories of eligible projects:

Category 1 - Public Infrastructure for job creation (not for profit)	
Lead applicant profile	Professional associations (local and regional authorities); organisations managing industrial zones; NGOs; national ministries and public entities Investment agencies; Infrastructure service providers
Project description	- Public Infrastructure projects enabling direct and indirect job creation - May generate revenue but without a profit-seeking purpose
Project examples	- Construction of an access road for an industrial cluster - Renewable energy generation or waste treatment facilities
Facility grant	Up to 90% of the total project cost
Applicant’s contribution	At least 10% of the total project cost

Category 2 - Common service for job creation (not for profit)	
Lead applicant profile	National and international chambers of commerce, of industry, of agriculture or other; industry associations NGOs; investment agencies employment agencies
Project description	Projects that develop public or private services enabling primarily indirect job creation May generate revenue but without a profit-seeking purpose
Project examples	Equipment for organizations promoting investments and job creation in new high-skills sectors Training equipment for an academy providing vocational training to trainees to be employed by various enterprises in a new high-skills industrial area
Facility grant	Up to 75% of the total investment cost of the project
Applicant's contribution	At least 25% of the total investment cost of the project
Category 3 - For-profit Projects with broader job creation impact beyond the applicant's entity	
Lead applicant profile	Companies; industry/commerce/agriculture/other associations; organisations managing industrial zones
Project description	For-profit projects which create jobs within the applicant's entity and encourages other entities to also create jobs
Project examples	Construction of a cooling warehouse that offers its services to a wider range of an agricultural value chain. <i>Result: (i) the warehouse entity employs new staff, and (ii) the value chain entities can expand their business and equally employ new staff</i>
Facility grant	Up to 50% of the total investment cost of the project
Applicant's contribution	At least 50% of the total investment cost of the project
Category 4 – For-profit Projects for job creation	
Lead applicant profile	Companies
Project Description	For-profit projects which focus on creating direct jobs for the applicant
Project examples	The applicant <u>expands his existing</u> entity by introducing a new business line in addition to his other business lines. The applicant establishes <u>a new entity</u> for his project, which capitalizes on the strength and competence of the applicant (no start-up)
Facility Grant amount	Up to 25% of the total investment cost of the project
Applicant's contribution	At least 75% of the total investment cost of the project

Applicant eligibility

The applicant can be either an **Individual** entity or a **Consortium** of several entities. applicants **must** fulfil the following conditions to be eligible:

When applying as an individual entity	An individual applicant must be a separate legal entity registered in Morocco. The exact type of legal form must be disclosed in the application form.
	An Individual applicant must be duly registered and operating under all licenses required for a given line of business in Morocco.
	An Individual applicant must have been operating for a minimum of 3 years (since April 2018).

When applying as a Consortium of several entities	<p>The Consortium must nominate one lead applicant amongst its entities. The responsibilities of the Lead applicant are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the quality and truthfulness of information provided via the Concept Note In case of a successful application, the lead applicant will be the one signing the Grant Agreement with Facility. Hence the lead applicant must be the main stakeholder, who will implement the project and be responsible for the full execution of the project
	<p>All applicants of the consortium must each be a separate legal entity registered in Morocco, in Africa or EU/EFTA. The exact type of legal form must be disclosed in the application form. Entities registered outside of Morocco, EU/EFTA or Africa are not eligible.</p>
	<p>At least one member of the applying Consortium must be duly registered and operating under all licenses required for the given line of business in Morocco.</p>

What can the Grant be used for?

The grant applies only to items related to the investment phase of a project. The Facility grants can mainly be used for construction (but no real estate projects) or fixed assets (machinery or equipment), with limited support to other activities. Furthermore, applicants must demonstrate that the investment phase of their proposed project, e.g. start of construction, can be initiated at the very latest 12 months after signing the Grant Agreement. The Facility reserves the right to cancel a committed financing contribution if this condition is not fulfilled.

Grant Amount

Facility grants range from 1 million EUR to 10 million EUR. As stated in boxes 1 - 4 above, the applicant is obliged to contribute own funds to complete the project finance.

Application and selection process

The Facility selects projects through a competitive, objective and transparent two-stage application process. Stage one invites applicants to submit Concept Notes. After an eligibility verification, Concept Notes will be scored and the most promising will be shortlisted based on both qualitative evaluation criteria and key performance indicators (KPIs), related to the number of decent jobs created. Stage two: Only shortlisted applicants will be informed to develop a detailed Full Project Proposal.

Further information

For more details about the applicants' own contribution and eligible costs, visit <https://invest-for-jobs.com/fr/ife-appel-a-propositions-maroc> and download the Application Guide for further instructions.

If you have any questions, please consult our **FAQ section**: <https://invest-for-jobs.com/en/ife-faq>. If you can't find the information you need, please send us an email to cfp-ife.maroc@invest-for-jobs.com until 24 March 2021 17h00 CET.

The first webinar will take place on **4 March 2021 at 10h00 CET** on the ZOOM platform. We will inform about the submission process and conditions of eligibility. To receive the link send us an email at cfp-ife.maroc@invest-for-jobs.com.

Submission is online **ONLY** through the platform SmartME: <https://smartme.adalia.fi/login/IFE>