

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – 3rd Programming Round

This FAQ document should be read in conjunction with the:

- *Fund's Terms of Reference*
- *Fund's Operations Manual*
- *Fund's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework*

available on the EIF Webpage: <https://elsiefund.org/third-programming-round/>.

Where the documents differ, the TOR, Operations Manual and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will take precedence.

What are the types of funding I can apply for?

1. How can the military / police institution in my country access the Elsie Initiative Fund (EIF)?

You can request one or a combination of the types of funding activities below:

- Barrier assessment
- Flexible project funding
- Gender-strong unit (GSU) premium

A barrier assessment report is a requirement for a flexible project funding request, and while it is not necessary for a GSU premium, it is highly recommended.

If you have already undertaken a barrier assessment, you can request flexible project funding for activities that seek to remedy the identified barriers.

Should you have already undertaken a barrier assessment, you can combine a request for flexible project funding and a GSU premium.

You cannot combine a request for a barrier assessment and flexible project funding together – as the results of a barrier assessment will inform the design of proposed activities for any flexible project funding request.

You can combine a request for a barrier assessment and a GSU premium.

2. Can different types of funding be combined?

Should you have already undertaken a barrier assessment, you can combine a request for flexible project funding and a GSU premium.

You can combine a request for a barrier assessment and a GSU premium.

You cannot combine all three types of funding (1) barrier assessment (2) flexible project funding and (3) GSU premium in one request.

3. Can a police / military institution ask for funding for a barrier assessment only?

Yes, a T/PCC can ask for funding for a barrier assessment only.

It is highly recommended that barrier assessments for a military and a police institution are not combined. A barrier assessment is designed to understand the barriers to women in the context of a particular security institution and country context.

4. How can a United Nations organization access the EIF?

A United Nations organization can access the EIF by submitting a request for flexible project funding.

A United Nations organization, in partnership with a T/PCC can also access funds to undergo a barrier assessment.

A United Nations organization is not eligible to request a GSU premium.

The following criteria need to be met for a submission of a proposal for flexible project funding:

- The project is designed to implement and test innovations aimed at enhancing the meaningful participation of uniformed women deployed in United Nations peace operations.
- The project would not otherwise be financed from available budgetary and extra-budgetary resources.
- Further scaling of these projects would be undertaken within existing United Nations resources.

Funding allocated for projects from the United Nations organization should not normally exceed 20% of total available funds.

Funding

5. How much funding can be requested for a project?

For a flexible project funding request, the minimum that can be requested is \$100,000 and the maximum is \$1,500,000.

6. How much funding can be requested for a barrier assessment only?

- The cost to conduct a barrier assessment will depend on the size and geographical spread of the country; its gendarmerie, military, or police institutions; and the requirements of a research institution or partner.
- A barrier assessment methodology developed by DCAF - the [Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance](#) called the [Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations](#) (MOWIP) is available for T/PCCs to use¹. The cost to conduct a MOWIP assessment for one security institution is between US \$180,000 - \$250,000.
- If using the MOWIP assessment methodology with DCAF and Cornell University support, a detailed budget estimate is not required to be provided at the LOI stage; please use the following indicative figures in this section: US \$180,000 - \$250,000.

7. How much funding can be requested for a gender-strong unit (GSU) premium?

The amount of the premium for a gender-strong unit depends on the number of military or police personnel deployed in a contingent.

In the first year of deployment, the premium will be approximately a sum equivalent to 20 percent of the United Nations' troop/police cost reimbursement rate for 20% of the unit's personnel. It is payable at the completion of the specified deployment period.

The EIF will not normally pay the premium for the deployment of a fraction of a deployed unit (i.e., a company or platoon in an infantry battalion). The premium in the second year would represent a 25% increase on the original amount. The premium in the third year would represent a 50% increase on the original amount.

The chart below shows the approximate amount that a military battalion or formed police unit would receive, when deploying a GSU for a period of three consecutive years.

¹ <https://www.dcaf.ch/mowip-methodology>

APPROXIMATE VALUE OF GSU PREMIUM, BASED ON 12-MONTH ROTATIONS	
Military Battalion (approximately 850 personnel)	Formed Police Unit (approximately 160 personnel)
Year 1: \$580,000 USD	Year 1: \$110,000 USD
Year 2 (+25%): \$730,000 USD	Year 2 (+25%): \$137,000 USD
Year 3 (+50%): \$875,000 USD	Year 3 (+50%): \$165,000 USD
TOTAL: \$2.2M USD	TOTAL: \$412,000 USD

Please see the GSU calculator on the EIF website: <https://elsiefund.org/gsu-calculator/>

Who can apply to the Fund?

8. Which organisations can apply to the EIF?

T/PCCs and United Nations organizations (i.e., United Nations funds, agencies, and programmes – also referred to as participating United Nations organizations (PUNO)), can apply to the EIF depending on the type of funding requested.

- T/PCCs (current or potential) are eligible to apply for any of the three funding modalities - barrier assessment, flexible project funding, or a GSU premium.
- United Nations organizations in partnership with a T/PCC, are eligible to apply for a barrier assessment and flexible project funding.
- United Nations organisations can also apply for funding to improve working or/and living conditions of uniformed women peacekeepers *in UN peace operations*.

9. Can a civil society organization apply to the Fund? Can a research institute / university apply to the Fund?

No. Civil society organizations, research or academic institutions cannot apply independently to the Fund. However, they can be subcontracted by T/PCCs or United Nations organizations as implementing partners.

10. Can individuals apply to the EIF, for example as an academic researcher?

No. The EIF will not directly compensate individuals.

Project length and funding duration?

11. How long is the flexible project funding for? What is the duration to implement a project?

A barrier assessment is expected to be completed within 1 year.

Projects are expected to be completed within a 1- to 2-year timeframe; with 2-years the maximum.

Funding for a GSU premium is provided for the duration of the deployment of the unit (usually 12 months) and can be extended for two additional deployment periods (usually 12 months each). A GSU premium can therefore be provided up to three years.

Barrier Assessment

12. Do I need to do a barrier assessment?

It depends on the type of funding requested.

Yes, if you are requesting flexible project funding. A barrier assessment is mandatory request for flexible project funding. You need to submit a summary of the methodology and results of the barrier assessment by completing Annex B of the LOI Form. You are also requested to submit the full report.

No, if you are requesting a GSU premium. A barrier assessment is not mandatory for a GSU premium, however it is strongly recommended.

13. What is a barrier assessment? What is a *credible* national barrier assessment?

A barrier assessment identifies and validates the reasons and impediments that prevent uniformed women from qualifying and being selected and deployed to United Nations peace operations.

Further guidance in relation to the requirements for a credible national barrier assessment is detailed in the EIF TOR (appendix 1 – Barrier Assessment Criteria) available on the EIF Webpage².

14. Why is a barrier assessment required when requesting flexible project funding?

A barrier assessment creates an empirically grounded foundation for the elaboration of T/PCC-specific interventions aimed at increasing the meaningful participation of uniformed women in United Nations peace operations.

A barrier assessment also generates a baseline assessment of existing barriers to the deployment of women peacekeepers against which progress can be evaluated.

15. Can a military / police institution conduct their own barrier assessment?

A T/PCC can conduct their own barrier assessment providing the assessment report fulfils the EIF's minimum criteria as detailed in Appendix 1 of the EIF TOR, and submits that detailed report along with recommendations, to the EIF, in English.

The EIF strongly encourages a T/PCC to use independent analysts (NGO, think tank, academics), or partnering with another Member State or research institution with previous experience conducting a credible barrier assessment.

16. What methodology can a military / police institution use for conducting a barrier assessment?

A T/PCC can choose their own methodology according to their own context providing it meets the EIF's criteria detailed in Appendix 1 of the EIF TOR.³

A T/PCC can also use the MOWIP methodology, which is the preferred methodology. You can download the methodology in English, French and Spanish at <https://www.dcaf.ch/mowip-methodology>, with tools, explainers and additional information available on the MOWIP Toolbox: <https://www.dcaf.ch/mowip>.

Flexible Project Funding

17. What is flexible project funding?

Flexible project funding is a type of funding provided for approved activities and associated budget as articulated through a proposal.

² <https://elsiefund.org/resources/elsie-initiative-fund-documents/>

³ <https://elsiefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EIF-TOR-2019-2025-FINAL-EN.pdf>

Eligible projects for flexible project funding include:

- A barrier assessment (see Appendix 1: Barrier Assessment Criteria; see also questions 15 to 21 above)
- One or more coordinated initiatives undertaken under the direction of the applicant that aim(s) to address at least one relevant barrier to the meaningful deployment of uniformed women peacekeepers.
- Projects must contribute to the achievement of at least one of the EIF's four outcomes:
 1. Expanded country-specific knowledge of barriers to deployment of uniformed women peacekeepers to United Nations peace operations
 2. Increased meaningful deployment of uniformed women peacekeepers to United Nations peace operations
 3. Increased pool of uniformed women eligible to deploy as United Nations peacekeepers
 4. Improved working or/and living conditions for uniformed women peacekeepers in United Nations peace operations.

18. What types of activities can be eligible for flexible project funding?

The EIF TOR⁴ (Section 3.5 Financing Modalities) provides examples of eligible activities for flexible project funding.

You may also want to check the EIF website on descriptions of Funded Projects⁵.

Gender-Strong Unit (GSU)

19. What is a gender-strong unit?

A GSU is a military contingent or formed police unit that includes substantial representation of women overall and in positions of authority, has provided gender-equity training to all unit members, and has adequate materiel to ensure parity of deployment conditions for women and men peacekeepers.

20. How can a T/PCC qualify for a GSU Premium?

To qualify for GSU premium a T/PCC will need to deploy a unit with a percentage of women that exceeds the United Nations Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy (UGPS) 2018- 2028 target by 5%.

For example, the UGPS target for military contingent target is 9% in 2022. A military contingent would need to deploy at least 14% women in all roles and functions including operational and command roles to qualify for a GSU premium.

The UGPS target for formed police units (FPU) is 12% in 2022. An FPU would need to deploy at least 17% women in all roles and functions including operational and command roles to qualify for a GSU premium.

Detailed guidance on how to qualify for a GSU premium are contained in the EIF TOR (Section 3.5 Financing Modalities).

21. Does a T/PCC need to conduct a barrier assessment to be able to access the GSU premium?
No, you do not need to undertake a barrier assessment if you are applying for a GSU premium, however it is highly recommended in order to support the T/PCC to understand barriers to women's participation.

22. How is the GSU premium calculated?

See the GSU calculator on the EIF website: <https://elsiefund.org/gsu-calculator/>, and refer to question 8.

⁴ <https://elsiefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EIF-TOR-2019-2025-FINAL-EN.pdf>

⁵ <https://elsiefund.org/funded-projects/>

23. Do military or police personnel deployed in the unit receive the GSU premium?
No, the premium is reimbursed by the EIF to the T/PCCs for reinvestment, it is not directly given to the personnel deployed.

24. Who can apply for a GSU premium?
T/PCCs – military and police institutions can apply for a GSU premium when deploying military contingents or formed police units that meet the GSU criteria.

The GSU premium is not applicable for the deployment of military observers, staff officers and individual police officers.

United Nations organizations are not eligible to apply for a GSU premium.

25. When does a T/PCC receive the GSU premium? Can a T/PCC receive the GSU premium in advance?

A T/PCC receives the GSU premium at the end of the deployment. The T/PCC self-finances all activities in support of the deployment of a GSU. The T/PCC cannot receive the GSU premium in advance.

The results indicators related to the gender-strong unit need to be independently measured and verified before the premium can be granted.

26. Can a T/PCC request for funding to support the deployment of a GSU?
Yes, through a flexible project funding request, providing a barrier assessment study has been conducted.

Criteria For Prioritization

The EIF prioritization criteria used to assess applications is detailed in the EIF TOR (Section 3.6 – Criteria for Prioritization).⁶

Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

27. Will the EIF recipient conduct their own monitoring and evaluation, or will there be external monitoring?

Fund recipients are responsible to develop a detailed project results framework as part of their proposal and project document (PRODOC), in coordination with the EIF Results Framework⁷, with guidance from the EIF Secretariat.

The [EIF Operations Manual](#) (Section 11)⁸ details narrative and financial reporting requirements for EIF recipients.

The EIF will also conduct independent monitoring and evaluation activities in accordance with the [EIF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#)⁹.

⁶ <https://elsiefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EIF-TOR-2019-2025-FINAL-EN.pdf>

⁷ [EIF Monitoring and Reporting Framework](#) – page 16

⁸ <https://elsiefund.org/resources/elsie-initiative-fund-documents/>

⁹ [EIF Monitoring and Reporting Framework](#)