



Terms of Reference: Just Rural Transition in Colombia

Grant value:

Up to £500,000 per project per financial year

Project duration:

From 12 to 33 months. All projects are expected to start around July 2024, and can end no later than March 2027. The projects must have a clear indication of the outputs to be achieved in the first year

Deadline for submission of applications:

16 February 2024, 18:00 COT/ 23:00 UTC

Apply through Country Programmes web page:

www.ukpact.co.uk/country-programme/colombia

What is the UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) programme?

UK PACT is funded by the UK Government through its International Climate Finance (ICF) portfolio. We work in partnership with official development assistance (ODA) eligible countries with high emissions reduction potential to support low-carbon development and clean growth transitions. UK PACT Country Programmes responds directly to priorities identified by partner governments and provide grants for capacity-building projects in priority areas.

The **Colombia-UK PACT Country Programme** is looking to extend its support under the renewed UK-Colombia Partnership for Sustainable Growth which aims to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable, low-carbon and nature-positive development, while also continuing to explore areas where Colombia and the UK can collaborate on climate resilience, reducing emissions and promoting low-carbon development.

Since 2018 the programme has funded numerous projects in Colombia, in sectors such as sustainable livelihoods, energy, green finance, climate policy and sustainable mobility.

Between 2024 and 2027, UK PACT Colombia will fund projects in three main strategic areas of intervention: Just Rural Transition, Just Energy Transition and Green & Nature Finance. **This call for proposals is the first of these three areas and is exclusively dedicated to Just Rural Transition.**



Why are we looking for proposals focused on Just Rural Transition?

- The agriculture and livestock sector in Colombia contributes between 6% and 8% to the national GDP and represents 14.4% of the country's employment [1]. However, unsustainable agricultural and cattle practices are expanding the agricultural frontier, causing land use changes and high rates of deforestation.
- 59% of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Colombia come from the agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sector[2]. In 2022, 123,517 hectares of forests in Colombia were lost to deforestation, and whilst this figure is 29.1% less than that in 2021, Colombia's wider AFOLU emission trends have not registered significant changes over the past decade, and the mitigation potential of the sector is still far from being achieved.
- Climate change impacts are expected to pose significant, long-term effects on fragile and unique ecosystems and communities, accelerate the pace of land degradation, impact water quality and accessibility, and hamper agricultural production. Additionally, land degradation reduces agricultural yields and incomes, increases the vulnerability of rural populations and fuels involuntary migration, social and political marginalisation, and conflict.
- The updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for Colombia establishes that by 2030 the gross deforestation rate should not exceed 50,000 hectares per year, aiming to reduce net deforestation to zero. It also prioritises strengthening the capacity of the agricultural sector to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while enhancing efficient use of natural resources.
- The Government of Colombia (GoC) has recognised and prioritised in the 2022-2026 National Development Plan –“Colombia, Potencia Mundial de la Vida”- moving towards a clean, just and equitable productive economy through reindustrialisation and bioeconomy. This vision includes transitioning from conventional agriculture to agroecological production that increases soil productivity, reduces environmental degradation, and enhances climate change resilience. Similarly, through the Reindustrialisation Policy, led by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, the government aims to shift from an extractive to a knowledge-based, inclusive and sustainable economy.

[1] Finagro, 2023. Crecimiento del sector agropecuario

[2] IDEAM, 2021. Colombia's third Biennial Update Report (BUR-3).

- The GoC with the support of the Tropical Forest Alliance, has led the “Zero Deforestation Agreements” strategy, which aims to eliminate the deforestation footprint of their supply chains, prevent agricultural raw materials from contributing to deforestation and allow consumers to identify zero-deforestation products in the market. Currently, there are seven agreements in place: cocoa, beef, dairy, avocado, timber, coffee, and palm oil.
- Colombia aims to become a food powerhouse and increase the production of its prioritised agricultural value chains by 10.38% by 2026. If fostered, and with the right policies and programmes for a Just Rural Transition, agriculture, bioeconomy, and agroindustry could provide 152,753 jobs and offer several climate-smart alternatives for workers in fossil fuel sectors in the next decade [1].
- Additionally, the Colombian government aims to generate 10% of its GDP by 2030 through the strengthening of the bioeconomy sector in comparison to 0.9% in 2022, create 2.5 million jobs, have more than 500 bio-products in pre-commercialisation and commercialisation phases, and increase their participation in international markets [2].
- As identified with relevant stakeholders, there are still several challenges in realising a Just Rural Transition, despite efforts by actors at the national, subnational, and local level to promote this. Key challenges identified include:
 - Limited access to markets and inequality in the integration to productive and commercial systems which prevents taking advantage of opportunities in agricultural markets;
 - Low productivity, competitiveness, and lack of added value in the different agriculture supply chains;
 - Limited access of producers to timely, low-cost financial products and services well adapted to their needs and businesses; and
 - Low social inclusion of vulnerable communities and marginalised groups in rural areas, which results in the lack of organisation of producers, high inequality, and poverty.
- This call for proposals aims to contribute to achieving a Just Rural Transition by consolidating zero-deforestation and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) value chains through improved agroecology adoption, climate smart agriculture, capacity for traceability, inclusive access to markets, and more competitive products, while strengthening reconversion and restoration models.
- UK PACT’s interventions are expected to deliver triple benefits in rural areas, integrating climate, nature, and people as the main elements of sustainable and resilient systems, providing increased prosperity for communities, and meeting their nutritional needs, whilst reducing and reversing levels of deforestation, land degradation and GHG emissions.

[1] Portafolio, 2023. [Llegar a economía baja en carbono dejaría unos 362.000 desempleados](#)

[2] [Bioeconomía para un Colombia Potencia viva y diversa: Hacia una sociedad impulsada por el Conocimiento. 2020.](#)



Funding priorities for Just Rural Transition in this Call for Proposals:

We are looking to award grant funding for projects that can contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) and bioeconomy sectors in Colombia to enhance the reach and effectiveness of a Just Rural Transition in Colombia. The main purpose is to support an equitable and inclusive transition of the agricultural and bioeconomy sectors toward a sustainable and resilient system of practices, providing increased prosperity for rural communities, whilst reducing and reversing the current levels of deforestation, land degradation and GHG emissions driven by these sectors.

Following bespoke engagement with GoC counterparts, non-government organisations (NGOs), civil society, and the private sector it is expected that projects under UK PACT contribute to the Just Rural Transition in four areas of intervention:

1. Consolidate best agroecology and agroforestry practices for productive land reconversion and restoration with a sustainable market approach.
2. Develop effective traceability systems for no deforestation and land degradation in existing value chains under zero-deforestation agreements and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).
3. Enable more applied research and bioeconomy products development for sustainable production, use, commercialisation, and conservation of biological resources.
4. Improve the design and implementation of financial instruments for rural nature-based solutions, involving local communities.





The programme proposes to apply a multi-scale approach, awarding funding for a combination of projects that will operate at the national, subnational and/or local areas. When projects complement by working at multiple scales, greater potential for transformational change can be achieved.

Applicants may prioritise specific geographies for some intervention areas. In those cases, applicants are encouraged to target geographies of historical expansion of the agricultural frontier and priority ecosystems to accelerate GHG emission reduction. Applicants should present a clear rationale for the selected prioritised geographies.

Projects are expected to work with key counterparts and stakeholders which could include:

- Local organised farmers
- Community-based/ grass-root organisations
- Market players such as private companies
- Academia, applied research institutions, think tanks
- Local, regional, and national public entities

More detail and expectations for each intervention area are outlined in the tables below, as well as illustrative activities that may be suited to achieve the desired outcomes. Applicants should consider these activities and outcomes when developing their proposal but can be re-designed and complemented by specific methodologies for implementation. Additional activities that fit objectives of intervention areas are also welcomed.

Key suggested counterparts given in the tables below are an indicative list of stakeholders that projects would be expected to engage with to effectively coordinate interventions and to adopt projects' outputs.

To be eligible for funding, all projects must respond to at least one of the four specific intervention areas, include a clear plan to support the counterpart's strategy for implementation, and provide a clear long-term sustainability strategy.

<p>Intervention area 1</p>	<p>Consolidate best agroecology and agroforestry practices for productive land reconversion and restoration with a sustainable market approach</p>
<p>Key suggested counterparts and stakeholders</p>	<p>Main counterparts: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), Rural Development Agency (ADR), Agrosavia and Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA).</p> <p>Other key stakeholders: organised farmers (existing associations and cooperatives), local and regional secretariats of agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and large off takers (agri-food companies and others), universities, SENA, zero-deforestation value chains (technical committees), as well as agriculture sector guilds and associations, etc.</p>
<p>Main objectives</p>	<p>Articulate, strengthen, and scale/replicate best agroecology[1] and agroforestry practices into strategic zero-deforestation value chains and non-timber forest products.</p>
<p>Illustrative scope of activities (non-exhaustive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) associations, existing farmer associations, agri-food and NTFPs small and medium enterprises, large companies (off-takers), and other value chains actors, to improve sustainable production, restoration, and conservation strategies, incorporating frontier technologies when relevant and feasible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Preferably working with the National Sub-system of Agricultural Extension within the National System for Agricultural Innovation (SNIA). ◦ Preferably working towards scaling-up processes that have been previously demonstrated. ◦ Through relevant specific strategies for sustainable agricultural technical assistance and mentoring such as training of trainers for cascade capacity building; e.g. “Promotion” schemes or Promotorias for rural extension work. • Foster public-private partnerships with local, regional, national private sector. • Effective design and implementation of integration models that allow farmers to work under sustainable market mechanisms.

[1] Agroecology practices can be implemented both in food systems and wider ecosystems as a combination of measures to use available natural resources enhancing biological processes. For example, practices such as mixed cropping and intercropping, agroforestry, use of the locally adapted seeds, biological pest control and management, green manure, among others. These practices target, soil structure, the regulation of water balance, and soil as well as plant health.

<p>Illustrative scope of activities (non-exhaustive)</p>	<p>Build and promote agreements with agri-food enterprises to purchase, adopt and scale-up production coming from agroecology and agroforestry practices, improving ecological production planning, sustainable supply, and market access.</p>
<p>Illustrative outcomes (non-exhaustive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective and scalable models for best agroecological/agroforestry practices implemented.• Established agreements for value chain integration between producers and off-takers.

<p>Intervention area 2</p>	<p>Develop effective traceability systems for no deforestation and land degradation in existing value chains under zero-deforestation agreements and non-timber forest products</p>
<p>Key suggested counterparts and stakeholders</p>	<p>Main counterparts: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCTI), Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA).</p> <p>Other key stakeholders: organised farmers (under associations or cooperatives); agriculture and agri-food companies (including large companies and SMEs as off takers); agriculture sector guilds (Fedecacao, Fedegan, among others); national, regional, and local authorities involved in technical assistance, certification, MRV systems and quality assurance; FINAGRO and public and private financial institutions (agriculture finance); private sector enterprises, including technology developers.</p>
<p>Main objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and integrate existing traceability systems under market systems approach (e.g Kas Co platform for Amazon cocoa from Rainforest Alliance, within Cocoa for Life initiative under Zero-Deforestation Agreement). • Enhance the design and implementation of traceability systems and related practices such as governance, accountability and transparency, cost-effectiveness, and management.
<p>Illustrative scope of activities (non-exhaustive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of traceability systems for prioritised agriculture products in the existing zero deforestation agreements under sustainable market systems approach. This work is to be conducted considering already existing initiatives such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ GANABOSQUES Platform (under development by MADR). ◦ Traceability Design in Cocoa Production (European Forest Institute for Cocoa, Forests, and Peace Agreement). ◦ Relevant and available principles and parameters under the European Union Deforestation-Free Regulation (EUDR) for non-deforestation products traceability, established since mid-2023 and the UK legislation introduced through the <u>Environment Act</u> which was announced by the Environment Secretary Steve Barclay at COP28.

<p>Illustrative scope of activities (non-exhaustive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and adoption of traceability systems, addressing specific areas such as: informality in commercial transactions, transparency, technical capacities of human resources and frontier technologies based on automation, digital and remote systems. • Provide recommendations and technical assistance to develop and integrate traceability systems under development, including inter-institutional models and partnerships for the GoC and private sector to establish national systems. • Enable Colombian agri-businesses to fully comply with the deforestation and degradation legislation and due diligence standards approved by the EUDR and upcoming UK regulation.
<p>Illustrative outcomes (non-exhaustive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater number of agriculture and NTFP products are traceable for zero deforestation and land degradation. • More Colombian agricultural products positioned to access national and international markets under zero deforestation standards and regulations.

<p>Intervention area 3</p>	<p>Enable more applied research and bioeconomy products development for sustainable production, use, commercialisation, and conservation of biological resources [1]</p>
<p>Key suggested counterparts and stakeholders</p>	<p>Main counterparts: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MINCTI), Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism (MINCIT), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), Innpulsa.</p> <p>Other key stakeholders: applied public and private research centres, universities, organised farmers (existing associations and cooperatives), SENA, local and regional Secretariats of Agriculture, entrepreneurs, SMEs, and large companies (food, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical companies among others), chambers of commerce, and sub-national bioeconomy clusters, among others.</p>
<p>Main objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacities of national and subnational governments for incubation and acceleration of competitive bioeconomy products and solutions[2] • Enhance applied research and development under existent commercial agreements or pre-agreements to comply with quality and sustainable production standards from clients.
<p>Illustrative scope of activities (non-exhaustive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs, companies, project/solutions developers and national and subnational governments to strengthen bioeconomy value chains to comply with off-takers and buyers in terms of quality and/or volumes. Prioritising NTFPs and biodiversity products that give value to standing forests. • Better promotion of existing networks and foster partnerships with the private sector, academia and GoC institutes to develop bioeconomy solutions/products in late stages of development (advanced TRLs). • Strengthen partnerships between forest communities and the public and private sector to foster enhanced coordination and mutual benefits, which improves social and economic well-being of the communities, guarantees profitability and long-term sustainability of the business model while conserving the standing forests.
<p>Illustrative outcomes (non-exhaustive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of competitive and high-quality bioeconomy products and solutions ready to access high-value markets.

[1] Products and solutions for agrifood, natural ingredients, cosmetic, health and bioinputs for sustainable agriculture will be prioritised

[2] Bioeconomy products and solutions may include biofertilisers, natural ingredients for diverse industries including food and cosmetics, health, or cleaning products from local vegetal species like Sapindus, Ceje, Jagua, among others other.

<p>Intervention area 4</p>	<p>Improve the design and implementation of financial instruments for rural nature-based solutions, involving local communities</p>
<p>Key suggested counterparts and stakeholders</p>	<p>Main counterparts: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), Department for National Planning (DNP), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), and national financial institutions.</p> <p>Other key stakeholders: organised rural communities, including IPLCs, farmers (existing associations and cooperatives), project developers, FinTechs, national and regional governments, public and private financial institutions to leverage funding.</p>
<p>Main objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build tools for the private sector, associations, communities, and other interested stakeholders to be able to access green finance from diverse sources, with a focus on nature-based solutions, restoration, regeneration, conservation, and improved management of farmlands. • Develop a set of financial mechanisms that consider/include local communities in its design, management, and profits (financial proceeds) with focus on nature-based solutions.
<p>Illustrative scope of activities (non-exhaustive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the design and adoption of finance mechanisms for nature-based solutions geared towards land regeneration, reconversion, and conservation: REDD+, biodiversity finance through vehicles such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Habitat banks and biodiversity credits, ◦ Payment for ecosystems services: with additional revenue streams such as Bioeconomy and Tourism when relevant and feasible. ◦ Bundled or aggregated portfolios of projects, ◦ Innovative sustainable and climate-smart agriculture finance instruments. • Excluding financial products and services in bulk (or retail finance) such as credit lines, which will be an area of intervention under a subsequent call for proposals in Green and Nature Finance later in 2024. • Strengthen governance, risk management, information systems and other best required practices within existing nature-based financial instruments (see examples above in the previous bullet points) for its effective implementation.

Illustrative outcomes
(non-exhaustive)

- Increased number of tailored financial instruments for nature-based solutions (land restoration, regeneration, and conservation).
- Increased access and participation of local communities in the design, operation and revenue sharing of such instruments.



The importance of considering Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in your application:

All projects are required to mainstream GESI within proposed activities, outputs, and outcomes. Proposals must consider GESI aspects of the Just Rural Transition sector as a key action area in enhancing the influence of and benefits for women, indigenous people, local communities, and other marginalised groups. Having GESI-centred interventions through UK PACT will contribute to the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and fairer socio-economic development based on social and gender equity goals.

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

- Consider how an inclusive rural transition can support adaptation and resilience to the negative impacts of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and ecosystems, and facilitate participation of low-income households, small businesses, and vulnerable groups in a green and low-carbon economy.
- Consider how projects contribute to the development and/or enhancement of tailored financial products for small businesses, women, and marginalised groups.
- Ensure that projects' tools, mechanisms, and policies align with national and regional financial policies and promote equal access to and use of financial services and products.
- Include GESI-specific indicators in the monitoring framework, from activities to outcomes.
- Reflect FCDO's commitment to the localisation of delivery.

Applicants are encouraged to review UK PACT's [GESI Guidance](#) when developing their proposals.



Key counterparts and stakeholders

Each proposal must specify who the key stakeholder(s) for each project are, as main recipients of the project's outputs. Key counterparts should be amongst those listed in the tables above, depending on the specific intervention area. Other counterparts and key stakeholders can be included as deemed relevant and should be well justified in the proposal.

Applicants are highly encouraged to secure engagement from key suggested counterparts prior to projects launching, though this is not a mandatory requirement.

Proposals should clearly articulate how outputs are expected to be adopted and utilised by the stakeholders and set out plans for engaging key counterparts during delivery and indicate any engagement that was carried out to prepare the project proposal. Strength of plans for counterpart and stakeholders' engagement during delivery and an approach to ensuring the uptake of project results will be assessed as part of the selection process.



Budget and funding availability

Applicants can apply in one or more intervention area but cannot apply more than once to the same intervention area. Each proposal will be assessed independently. We will support projects with grants valued at no more than £500,000 per year up to 31 March 2027 (UK financial year, 1st April – 31st March), subject to annual budget availability. We encourage proposals that leverage co-financing from other institutions, organisations, or donors to amplify the scope of the project's impact, but UK PACT funding must be clearly separately accounted for. Match-funding from the implementing partners is also welcomed in the proposals but is not a requirement.



Duration of Projects

Applicants should propose projects of 12 to 33 months in duration as relevant to the intervention. All projects are expected to have a start date in July 2024, and can end no later than March 2027.

All proposals must have a clear indication of outputs to be achieved in the first year and must be able to demonstrate how they would achieve impact within one year (even those which could be continued for 2 and 3 years).

For projects beyond 12 months, applicants should set out how they could build on the first year of their project, whilst remaining flexible and adaptive. Subject to a performance evaluation every 12 months, project continuity will be determined.

UK PACT reserves the right to ask clarification questions or to ask for amendments after the initial proposals have been reviewed. In some cases, UK PACT might also suggest that applicants work closely together or form consortia where projects are working to achieve similar objectives and/or where consolidation into a larger programme approach would be beneficial over a longer period, and applicants should be prepared to respond to and discuss these requests.

For more information on what is eligible for funding, please refer to the Applicant Handbook (see Relevant documents section).



Important things to consider in your application

Clear rationale:

It is expected from each applicant to establish a strong rationale to justify each intervention. Each rationale must present a clear and concise analysis of the context and demonstrate how it fits within the strategic alignment and funding priorities for this call for proposals, as well as the wider objectives of the [UK PACT programme](#) and [United Kingdom White Paper on International Development](#). In addition, state of the art solutions to problems/barriers should be outlined and then clearly explained through the proposal description and annexes.

Distinctive and realistic pathways for impact:

Applicants must use the Theory of Change form, as well as the proposal format as best as possible, to connect in a clear and concise manner the expected activities and outputs to outcomes and impact. Realistic and concrete pathways to achieve outcomes and impacts must be clearly identified.

Interventions should achieve desired outcomes by addressing gaps and challenges through a targeted menu of expected outputs, namely, but not exclusively, to capacity building, adoption of recommendations, network establishment or strengthening, knowledge products, communication products and applications or tools to access funds.

Applicants must also propose a set of indicators to measure results at all levels to demonstrate impact, as well as setting targets for each indicator per year.



Important things to consider in your application

Clear potential for adoption, scalability, replicability:

In line with a clear Theory of Change and a strong rationale, its expected from applicants to prioritise interventions that will result in counterpart uptake (accepting, using, and integrating UKPACT outputs) and with concrete potential to be scaled and replicated at sector and national level.

Project workplan:

All workplans must be clear and realistic with well described activities and outputs both in the proposal and annexes. Applicants are encouraged to include an inception phase of up to three months in the workplan, during which time any additional engagements with key counterparts and stakeholders will be carried out, deliverables confirmed, and theory of change finalised. At the end of this period a revised workplan may be required including any additional requests by the UK PACT team.

Government engagement:

As a demand-led programme, the UK PACT Colombia Country Programme aims to align its support with existing Colombia national and regional plans and policies towards a low-carbon economy. Interventions should answer to GoC priorities, but we are interested in seeing direct implementation and impact at various levels.

Applicants are advised to refer to these policies, which include amongst other:

- [Colombia NDC](#)
- [Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible](#)
- [Plan Integral de Gestión del Cambio Climático del sector Agropecuario 2021](#)
- [Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Colombia potencial mundial de la vida 2022-26](#)
- [Acuerdos de Cero Deforestación existentes \(formalmente constituidos\)](#).
- [CONPES 3124: Política de crecimiento verde](#)
- [Pacto Verde Europeo](#)



What is the timeline for selection?

Stage	Date
1. Terms of Reference (ToR) published	19 Dec 2023
2. Market Engagement Event: for information and Q&A	10 Jan 2024
3. Deadline for submission of clarification questions	10 Jan 2024 at 18.00 COT/ 23.00 UTC
4. Answers to clarification questions published	12 Jan 2024
5. Launch of Call for Proposals	12 Jan 2024
6. Deadline for submission of applications	16 Feb 2024 at 18.00 COT/ 23.00 UTC
7. Applicants notified of project selection	Mid-Apr 2024
8. Due diligence, co-creation and contracting	Apr-Jun 2024
9. Projects start	July 2024



Application guidance

All applications must be made through the Colombia-UK PACT Country Programmes web page. For full instructions on how to apply please refer to our Applicant Handbook

	Eligibility criteria
Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only non-profit organisations can apply. If applying as a consortium, the consortium lead must be a non-profit organisation.• For-profit organisations can participate in the call for proposals as partners within a consortium.• Mixed institutions (with public and private ownership) but under private law/ regulation.• Government, agencies and/or departments (including sub-national governments) are not eligible to apply either as a lead organisation or partner in a consortium.• All consortia must have at least one local partner. The local organisation does not need to be the consortium lead. A local partner is defined as an organisation that operates in Colombia under a National Register of Legal Entities, can be local organisations such as grassroot organisations, community associations, among others.
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposals must respond to the strategic priorities outlined in these terms of reference.• Budgets must not include capital expenditure or tangible assets.• The value of projects must not exceed £500,000 per financial year (April-March), with a maximum of £1,500,000 total budget over 33 months total period of performance.
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications must be coherent and legible.• All relevant sections must be completed.• Applications must be submitted in English.• All applications should be submitted before the deadline, no applications will be considered after this point. <p><i>Organisations or consortium members should not directly contact the British Embassy between the opening of the call for proposals and the application deadline to speak about the call for proposals. Organisations will have time to read the terms of reference and bring all enquiries to the 'Market Engagement Event' or send them by email to colombia@ukpact.co.uk until 10 January 2024.</i></p>

What are the selection criteria?

Area	Heading	Criteria description	Weighting
Technical (70%)	Impact	The applicant clearly articulates how the project will specifically help the counterpart, sector and other stakeholders achieving the expected outcomes and ultimately accelerate a Just Rural Transition scenario in Colombia. The applicant provides a clear impact pathway (Project ToC Application Form) showing how their outputs will lead to the outcomes required for <u>transformational change</u> and identifies opportunities for replication / scaling up of activities.	20
	Project description, approach, and workplan	<p>The applicant clearly articulates how the project will deliver the expected outputs and outcomes and lays out a technically robust methodology, including activities and workplan.</p> <p>The applicant sets up a clear project justification/rationale and sound plan for engaging with key counterparts and stakeholders during delivery to ensure uptake of project outputs.</p> <p>Applicants must detail their intended methodology to address the gaps, and a proposed roadmap and timeline for overcoming them with counterparts and stakeholders.</p>	20
	Gender and social inclusion - GESI	The applicant clearly identifies how the project could - both positively and negatively – socially and economically benefit women, indigenous people, local communities, ex-combatants and other under-represented groups. For example, addressing issues such as accessibility (isolated communities and people with disabilities); access to services (youths, women, discriminated populations); employment opportunities; purchasing power, gender-focused product development etc.	15
	Knowledge, skills, experience, and team structure	<p>The proposed project team has relevant knowledge and experience in the subject area and has the skills in place to deliver the project. This includes knowledge, skills, and experience in the specific area of intervention. The proposal responds to, technical assistance/capacity building, and public-private sectors implementation. The core skills, experience and knowledge required to deliver all elements of the project that have been outlined (including GESI) within the ToR are covered and the team is well structured and available to mobilise quickly.</p> <p>To ensure effective knowledge transfer and capacity building, applicants must demonstrate a strong understanding of Colombia's priorities and delivery context, as well as bringing the relevant expertise required.</p>	15

What are the selection criteria?

Area	Heading	Criteria description	Weighting
Project Management (20%)	Project management	The proposal outlines a clear plan for mobilising the project quickly and effectively. There is a robust project management mechanism to ensure activities stay on track, on budget and deliver project results. This must include collating and submitting evidence of activities, outputs, and reporting project progress to UK PACT. The applicant provides a clear plan for managing consortia where applicable.	15
	Risk management	The applicant has clearly outlined the key risks associated to delivery with clear plans for mitigating these and an understanding of the likelihood and impact of each. This includes risks associated with impacts on marginalised groups and changing political contexts.	5
Financial (10%)	Budget and Value for Money	The budget is clearly linked to activities and outputs, with appropriate allocation of time and resources, and costs that appear reasonable for the activities proposed, including sufficient allocation for project management, reporting and data collection (to allow for close coordination with UK PACT). The application provides confidence that the project will represent good value for money, including FCDO's Four Es (economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity). The Four Es are detailed in the Applicant Handbook.	10

How do we score each criterion?

Score	
5 (Excellent)	The proposal clearly demonstrates added value and potential for impact. The applicant shows expert understanding of the context, problems, and suggested intervention. Relevant, accurate, innovative solutions are clearly explained. The level of detail and quality of information provides the highest degree of confidence in the ability to deliver.
4 (Very Good)	Demonstrates a very good understanding of the topic relating to delivery of the project. Responses are relevantly tailored to the context in most aspects. There is sufficient detail and quality of information to give a strong level of confidence that they will deliver.
3 (Good)	Demonstrates a good understanding of the topic relating to the delivery of the project. Responses are reasonably tailored to the context for many of the aspects. There is a good level of detail and quality to give a good level of confidence that they will deliver.
2 (Satisfactory)	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the topic relating to delivery of the project. Some appetite to tailor to context where required. Provides a limited level of detail and the quality of information provided gives only some level of confidence that they will be able to deliver satisfactorily.
1 (Unsatisfactory)	Demonstrates a poor understanding of the topic relating to delivery of the project. Poor tailoring to the context where this is required. Generally, an unsatisfactory and a low level of quality information and detail, leading to a low level of confidence that they will deliver.
0 (Fail)	Failure to address the material requirements of the project. No tailoring of responses to meet the context. No quality responses providing no confidence that they will deliver.

What to do if you have questions?

Applicants should read these terms of reference in conjunction with the Applicant Handbook for full details of how to apply. Further questions on the scope of this call for proposals can be addressed to: colombia@ukpact.co.uk until 10 January 2024, at 18:00/ 23:00 UTC.

If you have any technical issues with the Colombia-UK PACT Country Programmes web page, please contact: colombia@ukpact.co.uk

Relevant documents

- Applicant Handbook
- UK PACT Country Programmes Proposal Template
- UK PACT Country Programmes Budget and Workplan Template
- Project ToC Form
- UK PACT's GESI Guidance

These will be available on the Country Programme web page when you apply.