



**CLARIFICATIONS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR ACIF LARGE GRANTS WINDOW – MAY 2025**

<b>QUESTIONS FROM APPLICANTS</b>	<b>CORRESPONDING CLARIFICATION / RESPONCES</b>
1. Are companies registered outside Malawi eligible to apply for ACIF Grants.	ACIF Grants under the Large window are awarded to legal entities in the Malawian Jurisdiction. Entities registered outside Malawi, with a formal legal recognition under the Malawian framework may be considered.
2. Is there a standard number of EPAs (minimum / maximum) that an applicant is expected to work with in their project?	The focus is on TRADE targeted EPAs and value-chains. Number of EPAs may depend on the capacity of the applicant to manage the proposed project.
3. From the presentation, it appears TRADE Programme is not working in Ntcheu. When does the Programme expect to extend its operations to Ntcheu?	Currently, the Programme is working in the eleven districts; Chitipa, Karonga, Rumphi, Nkhatabay, Kasungu, Mchinji, Ntchisi, Lilongwe Rural, Dedza, Blantyre Rural and Thyolo. All applications for the current call must ensure they are targeting these districts and the EPA-Value chain combinations indicated in relevant supporting documentation. The general public will be informed in case of any Programme expansion in future.
4. What Value-chains is TRADE Programme promoting in Mwanza district?	As stated in the commentary for section 3 above, TRADE Programme does not currently have footprints in Mwanza.
5. The presentation touched on the sustainability of the proposed projects beyond the lifespan of TRADE Programme. One other way	For the ACIF Grants facility, the Programme is specific on value-chains to be supported. There are currently no grants for onward lending to grantees under TRADE

<p>to ensure sustainability is to ensure there is source of financing. Worthnet Finance offers various financial products to businesses. Can we participate in this window specifically to get finance for onward lending?</p>	<p>Programme. Interested parties in that space may check with sister Projects like FARMSE.</p>
<p>6. Is information on Small grants available for access by applicants of Large Grants window?</p>	<p>The information is available. Interested parties may need to make special requests from through the National Programme Coordinator.</p>
<p>7. There are seven (7) Value-chains which TRADE Programme is supporting; is there a minimum / maximum number of value-chains allowable for an applicant?</p>	<p>The purpose of the Grants facility is for the applicants to produce agreed results. These results are easily tracked / attributed when applicants are specific on a value-chain. It is therefore advised that applicants pick a value-chain, although the results / benefits of the grant are bound to spill-over to other value-chains.</p>
<p>8. How does the Programme disburse grants under the ACIF facility?</p>	<p>ACIF Grants are mainly for the acquisition of productive assets / fixed assets. TRADE contribution is directly paid to a supplier upon fulfilment of procurement processes and delivery of the agreed project items.</p>
<p>9. Are joint ventures allowed to apply for AIF Grants?</p>	<p>As in one (1) above, legal recognition of the entity being awarded is key.</p>
<p>10. How many Grants in total is TRADE targeting in this call?</p>	<p>The Programme has earmarked some funds for these grants. The number of grants will be determined by the amounts requested in relation to the total budget.</p>
<p>11. There is a requirement for a Company to be active for three (3) years, is there any consideration for those with fewer years but have potential to produce results?</p>	<p>This is one of the requirements currently and one of the checks under the eligibility review.</p>
<p>12. Some groups applied for the ACIF Small Grants window but the results are not known yet. Can they try their luck with the Large Grants window to increase their chances?</p>	<p>The qualification measures differ between the Small and Large Grants windows. As such, it is very unlikely that those that applied for the Small grants window can also apply for the Large Grants window.</p>

<p>13. What is the turnaround time, from the time of the advert to the conclusion / signing of these grant contracts?</p>	<p>Normally, it takes between three (3) to four (4) months for all the processes to be completed. Unless otherwise, applicants should expect results within those timelines.</p>
<p>14. Is there room for one to apply for a grant, targeting a different value-chain from the ones stated as TRADE Programme Value-chains?</p>	<p>No. TRADE Programme is specific on Districts, EPAs and Value-chain.</p>
<p>15. Is the cash contribution paid at once? Are applicants allowed to pay as and when funds are available in the course of project implementation?</p>	<p>The cash contribution is paid at once, unless where procurement is done in phases, due to the nature of the project items requested.</p>