Sino-German Center for Sustainable Development

Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia

Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia

A Triangular Cooperation Program of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany

Handbook
Call for Proposals for Triangular Cooperation Pilots

Sino-German Center for Sustainable Development

Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia

1 Call for proposals for pilot 2

1.1 Objectives of the calls 2

1.2 Eligibility criteria 3

1.2.1 Who can propose TrC pilots? 3

1.2.2 Contributions from all partners 3

1.2.3 Technical cooperation nature 3

1.2.4 Government stakeholders 3

1.2.5 SDG focus 4

1.2.6 Cross-cutting development aspects 4

1.2.7 Pilot implementation and duration 4

1.2.8 Project budget 4

1.3 Evaluation criteria 4

1.3.1 Parity of contributions 4

1.3.2 Joint planning and goal-oriented implementation 5

1.3.3 Quality of personnel, organisations and resources 5

1.3.4 Alignment with development priorities of all partners 5

1.3.5 Monitoring & evaluation 5

1.4 Overview of eligibility and evaluation criteria 5

1.5 Process of submission, evaluation and implementation 6

1.5.1 Country calls 6

1.5.2 Deadlines and proposal form 7

1.5.3 Evaluation process 7

1.6 Completion & potential for scaling-up 7

1 Call for proposals for pilot

In order to test the viability of concepts for **Triangular Cooperation (TrC)**, the Fund is looking for ideas and proposals for TrC pilots. By supporting the most promising **TrC pilot** approaches, the Fund aims to act as an incubator for larger-scale TrC projects.

For operational reasons, the Fund will hold separate **country calls** for specific Asian countries, particularly those countries, which are providing significant South-South Cooperation to other countries. Interested organisations from these Asian countries should assume the roles of Pivotal Partner in TrC pilot proposals submitted to the Fund.

The following sections clarify the objectives and principles that TrC pilot proposals should align with, and criteria that proposals must (eligibility criteria) or should (evaluation criteria) meet.

1.1 Objectives of the calls

The Fund wants to build partnerships for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as set out in the 2030 Agenda – through the TrC modality. In responding to regular calls for proposals, an organisation can propose to implement pilots, within which German development cooperation usually serves as a Facilitating Partner. Proposals can be submitted by either a Pivotal Partner (an organisation involved in South-South cooperation by an Asian country) or a Beneficiary Partner, under the condition that both, a Pivotal Partner and a Beneficiary Partner have explicitly expressed their wills to collaborate with the Facilitating Partner (Germany) to implement the proposed pilot.

The Fund will select TrC pilots for implementation in any sector; however, proposals need to pursue objectives **within the SDG framework**. The proposal should clarify the different roles and tasks of the partners involved. Concretely, it needs to show in which ways the Pivotal Partner can bring in experience to address challenges faced by the Beneficiary Partner and how the German partner may facilitate this through technical contribution.

Moreover, any proposal needs to specify the overall budget, each partner's contributions, and potential future opportunities to upscale the project. Pilots that are successfully implemented with promising scalability, might be considered for additional support through the Fund to be set up as a larger TrC project.

All TrC pilots embrace the following basic principles:

- Three roles are clearly assigned, but dynamically adapted during implementation.
- The Beneficiary Partner explicitly demands and has ownership of the TrC.
- All partners contribute, all partners learn, all partners benefit.
- All partners are committed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.
- All partners share responsibility for managing the resources.
- All partners commit to equitable triangular consultation, decision-making and implementation processes.
- Safeguards are put in place to identify and mitigate risks.

1.2 Eligibility criteria

In order to ensure a transparent evaluation process, the Fund has developed eligibility and evaluation criteria for proposals. Eligibility criteria are requirements that any proposal must meet in order to be accepted.

1.2.1 Who can propose TrC pilots?

Proposals can be submitted to the Fund either by a Pivotal Partner or a Beneficiary Partner. It is a condition, however, that **both partners** endorse the proposal and express their will to collaborate for the proposed TrC pilot. This expression of will may be expressed e.g., by quoting/forwarding a conversation between the partners.

In accordance with the Fund's regional scope, Pivotal Partners stem from an Asian country (provider of South-South cooperation), while Beneficiary Partners stem from DAC-listed recipient country, preferably being a partner country of German development cooperation (may refer to BMZ website for more information).

Organisations from either civil society, the business sector, academia, and the public sector are invited to submit proposals.

To ensure the qualification of participating organisations and a fair evaluation, the Fund may conduct commercial or legal eligibility checks of individual organisations for some proposals.

1.2.2 Contributions from all partners

Proposals must specify the interests and contributions of each partner.

The Facilitating Partner will be undertaken by the Fund or any specialised German organisation responsible for the thematic area addressed by a given pilot for technical contribution. Submitted proposal should clearly describe the envisaged technical contribution from the German side.

The Pivotal Partner should have relevant domestic experience of addressing the issue in a context similar to that of the Beneficiary Country and shares its resources, knowledge and expertise.

The Beneficiary Partner should have requested support to tackle a specific development challenge through TrC and provide their expertise and infrastructure for the successful implementation of a TrC pilot.

1.2.3 Technical cooperation nature

Pilots must include a technical and/or methodological contribution from the German side. Proposals that only include a financial contribution for non-technical input from the German side may not be considered.

1.2.4 Government stakeholders

Whereas the Fund will take care of the communication with BMZ, all partners will inform the relevant government stakeholders in the pivotal partner and beneficiary partner countries (e.g., those in charge of international cooperation) at appropriate levels.

A TrC pilot may establish a Steering Committee which can provide strategic guidance, promote mutual learning as well as strengthen the ownership of the partners.

1.2.5 SDG focus

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs. TrC pilots are supposed to find solutions that address these SDGs. Any pilot should contribute to **at least one SDG**.

With regard to China, proposals focused on the protection and provision of global public goods will be evaluated preferentially.

1.2.6 Cross-cutting development aspects

Proposals have to indicate how the following cross-cutting aspects are considered during the implementation of the TrC pilot, in order to avoid any harm related to these aspects:

- **Environment and Climate** (e.g., the unintended negative impact of the pilot on climate; biological diversity; soil, water and air),
- **Conflict and Context Sensitivity** (e.g., the unintended negative impact of the pilot on conflicts, fragility, violence and acute crises that affect beneficiary country; freedom, equality and dignity of local community and preservation of cultural good),
- **Gender Equality** (the unintended negative impact of the pilot on current gender relations and roles, gender-specific interests, needs, potentials, discrimination, disadvantages and risks of people in the beneficiary country).

1.2.7 Pilot implementation and duration

TrC pilot proposals need to demonstrate how the project can be completed, and how output can be delivered, within **9 months** after a positive funding decision has been communicated.

1.2.8 Project budget

Proposals need to display how objectives are met within a given total budget. Technical contributions from each partner can be made as provision of funding or in-kind services. For any proposal, it must include a rough estimation in monetary measurement of overall expenditure to implement the pilot and indicate Pivotal Partner's envisaged ratio of contribution among all partners.

1.3 Evaluation criteria

The eligible proposals collected through the Call for Proposals will be further evaluated with the evaluation criteria. The following evaluation criteria will be used for ranking proposals. Each time, the more convincing the criterium is reflected in the proposal, the better the proposal will be evaluated.

1.3.1 Parity of contributions

In the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, no country is too poor to give, and no country is too rich to learn. The Fund aims at developing effective ownership and horizontal partnerships and therefore seeks to support TrC pilots in which **all partners** contribute to the resources needed for implementing the TrC.

While parity of contributions from **the Pivotal Partner (South-South cooperation provider from Asia) and the Facilitating Partner (Germany)** is **not strictly** required for TrC pilots, those proposals that are **approximating parity of contributions**, from the onset are preferentially evaluated. TrC pilots should be **designed with the consideration** to achieve parity – if not immediately, then with the potential to do so in the future.

1.3.2 Joint planning and goal-oriented implementation

Joint planning and management of TrC pilots will encourage all partners to take responsibility for the outcomes and the development impact.

Therefore, proposals for TrC pilots will be evaluated preferentially,

- if they reflect a joint planning and management process, for example, by explaining each parties' roles and decision-making processes
- if they display a clear **shared** goal of the TrC and a set of **shared** indicators, against which the attainment of the goal may be measured.

1.3.3 Quality of personnel, organisations and resources

Proposals should describe the functions, number and qualifications of the staff to be involved from either partner. This includes the steering and management team.

Proposals should involve people and organisations whose practical experience will help to identify and target the challenges that may be tackled with the help of TrC. Partners should therefore demonstrate how they can mobilize the support and leverage the contribution of resources, so that a pilot can be run successfully.

1.3.4 Alignment with development priorities of all partners

The proposal shall explain to which policies and strategies of the involved partner countries the pilot is expected to contribute. This may take the form of an orientation towards

- Beneficiary Partner country policies,
- core topics of German development cooperation in the Beneficiary Country (may refer to BMZ website), and/or
- core topics of the pivotal partners' South-South Cooperation with the beneficiary country.

1.3.5 Monitoring & evaluation

Proposals should specify how the project is continuously monitoring its results and of how each partner institution participates in this.

1.4 Overview of eligibility and evaluation criteria

Eligibility criteria	
Who can propose TrC Pilots?	Organisations from civil society, business sector, academia, or public sector, as either • the Pivotal Partner, stemming from an Asian country (providing South-South cooperation) or • the Beneficiary Partner, stemming from DAC-listed recipient country, preferably being a partner country of German development cooperation (may refer to BMZ website for more information) Both Pivotal Partner and Beneficiary Partner need to express their will to collaborate for the proposed TrC pilot through written form.

Contributions from all Partners	• The Pivotal Partner should have relevant domestic experience of addressing the issue in a context similar to that of the Beneficiary Country and shares its resources, knowledge and expertise. • The Beneficiary Partner should have requested support to tackle a specific development challenge through TrC and provide their expertise and infrastructure for the successful implementation of a TrC pilot.
Technical Cooperation Nature	• Pilots must include a technical and/or methodological input, not just financial contribution for non-technical inputs, from the German side.
Government Stakeholders	• All partners will inform relevant government stakeholders in their countries at appropriate levels.
SDG Focus	• Any pilot explains its contributions to at least one SDG.
Cross-cutting development aspects	• Aspects of environment and climate, conflict and context sensitivity, and gender equality that are relevant to the TrC pilot are considered.
Duration	• Completion within 9 months
Budget	• Clear display of total budget and ratio of Pivotal Partner's contribution
Evaluation criteria	
Parity of contributions	• Pilots should be designed to achieve parity of contributions between the Facilitating Partner (Germany) and the Pivotal Partner (Asian South-South cooeraption provider countries) – if not immediately, then with the aim of future parity.
Joint Planning and Goal-Oriented Implementation	• joint planning, management, and decision-making • **shared** goals and indicators
Quality of personnel, institutions and resources	• number and qualifications of the staff to be involved from either partner
Alignment with development priorities of all partners	• beneficiary country policies • core topics of German development cooperation in the beneficiary country (may refer to BMZ website) • core topics of the Pivotal Partners' South-South-Cooperation with the beneficiary country.
Monitoring and Evaluation	• Continuous, participatory monitoring involving all partners

1.5 Process of submission, evaluation and implementation

This section explains the procedure of the Call for Proposals, including where to find information about the specific country calls, and the decision-making process from submission deadline to implementation.

1.5.1 Country calls

Regular Call for proposals with a focus on a particular Asian Pivotal Partner country will be announced on the Fund's homepage.

1.5.2 Deadlines and proposal form

Every Call for Proposal will have a submission period of six weeks. The set of proposal documents is available on the Fund's website.

1.5.3 Evaluation process

a) Preparing project proposals

Organisations interested in submitting a proposal fill in the pilot idea template **(English version)** in accordance with eligibility and observation of evaluation criteria. It is recommended to establish early contact with the Fund (tricofundasia@giz.de) to clarify questions.

b) Submitting the proposal

Proposals should be submitted via email to the Fund: tricofundasia@giz.de

Upon receiving a proposal form, the Fund will issue an acknowledgement of receipt.

c) Evaluating the proposal and decision-making

The evaluation of proposals will be undertaken in line with eligibility and evaluation criteria.

On the basis of the evaluation as well as depending on the availability of funding, also consultation with the BMZ, the Fund decides whether or not to contribute to the proposed TrC pilot. The result will usually be finalized within 4 weeks of the submission deadline. Organisation will then directly receive the result from the Fund.

BMZ and political partners from countries of Pivotal Partner and Beneficiary Partner will be informed about the decisions.

d) Implementing the pilot

The implementing organisations will jointly agree on the modalities of implementation and operationalize the pilot measure.

e) Reporting

Progress reports and final reports will be submitted according to agreed formats and deadlines. Reporting is a joint effort of the partners and aligns with the monitoring and evaluation requirements set out in the pilot. Final reports shall include a summary of deliverables and a pilot summary. The summary shall describe the input, any difficulties encountered and the achievement of the project against the goals and indicators. In case financial contributions of the Fund have been made available through GIZ, financial reporting will follow GIZ's requirements.

1.6 Completion & potential for scaling-up

The completion of a TrC pilot requires the submission and acceptance of a final pilot report and any financial reporting needed against overall budget agreements.

The successfully completed pilots may be considered for further support in a scaled-up format – whereby **parity of contributions** from the Facilitating Partner (Germany) and the Pivotal Partner will be required.

Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia

Email: tricofundasia@giz.de
Website: tricofundasia.org

April 2022