

Impact Fund: Pilot Phase

Cohort 2 (September 2025)

FCDO Research Commissioning Centre (RCC)

September 2025



About the impact fund

Strategic Goals

- Bridge the gap between research insights and real-world change
- Provide additional support to **promising FCDO-funded research**
- Focus on **clear potential for impact or demonstrated success**
- Maximize **impact of research**

Pilot phase

- Approximately £200,000 allocated to the Impact Fund pilot (phase 2); ~7-9 awards. 6 proposals were commissioned from phase 1.
- Working directly with FCDO Research and Evidence Directorate (RED) to identify eligible programmes.
- Targeted outreach to potential applicants from closed or live programmes nominated by FCDO RED teams. All research must be completed to be eligible for funding.
- Testing various aspects of fund design and operations. The pilot evaluation will inform the future scale of the Fund.

What you said from Phase 1 and our updates for Phase 2

Applicant feedback from Phase 1	Updates in response to feedback
Budget template too complex	Simplified budget template and clarified instructions
Word counts too low for some questions in the application; unable to upload more documents	Increased word counts in the application; increased document upload options
Unclear messaging about proposals for conference attendance	Clarified that conference attendance is eligible with justification for impact potential
Accessible and easy to follow Impact Fund guidance would be valuable	Updated FAQ guidance and sharing Impact Fund materials with applicants Enhanced guidance within the proposal form for each question
Slippages with communicated timelines	Advance planning for key meetings/secured time from reviewers so that we stick to communicated timelines for decisions
RCC team was responsive to queries	Maintain FAQ sessions and continue to monitor Impact Fund inbox

What we fund: build future impact (1)

Build future impact

- **Research Translation**
 - User-friendly tools
 - Policy briefs
 - Practical applications
- **Sustainable Impacts**
 - Local capacity building
 - Knowledge platforms
 - Long-term partnerships
- **Engagement and Communication**
 - Knowledge-sharing events
 - Targeted communication
 - Building networks
- **Conference participation**
 - Prioritise LMIC participation and/or early career researchers
 - Strong justification required

What we fund: show existing impact (2)

Show existing impact

- Theory-based evaluations
 - Retrospective evaluation
 - Using approaches such as process tracing, contribution analysis, etc.
 - Document impact pathways
 - Understand success factors

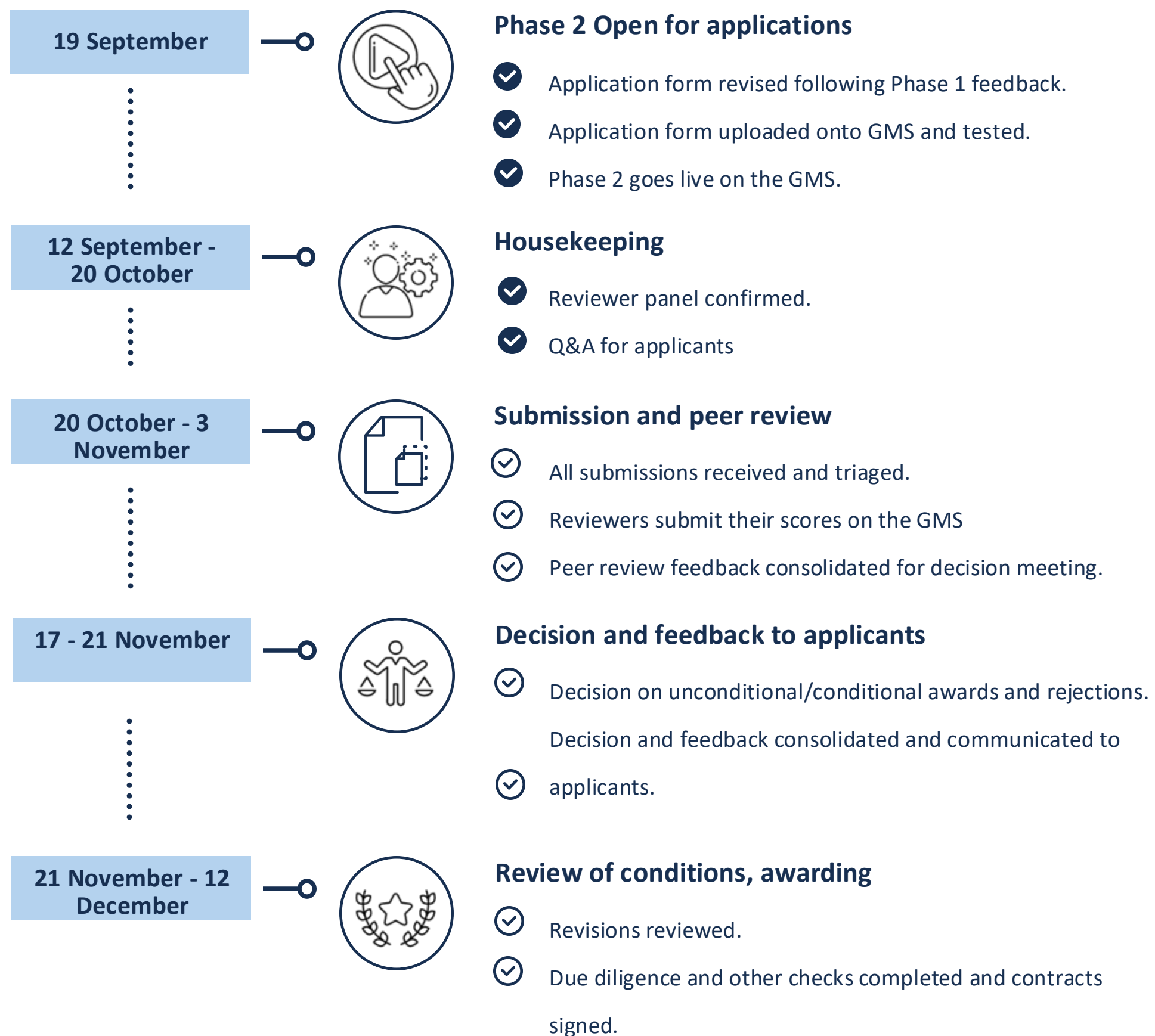
Eligibility criteria

- **Connection to FCDO:** The proposal must be linked to research funded by FCDO's Research and Evidence Directorate (RED). Research with partial FCDO-funding is eligible.
- **Additionality:** Not duplicating existing funding with the same purpose.
- **Impact Potential:** High likelihood of significant real-world impact.
- **Timeframe:** Activities must be completed by February 2027.
- **Budget:** Funding requests up to £30,000. We particularly welcome smaller applications with shorter timelines.

Assessment Criteria

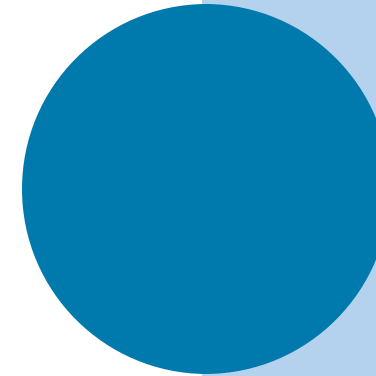
- **Impact Potential (35%):** Clarity and significance of expected outcomes, clear pathways to potential impact articulated.
- **Feasibility (25%):** Practical and robust implementation plans.
- **Additionality (20%):** Creating new value beyond existing work.
- **Equity and Partnerships (10%):** Proposals carefully consider equity and inclusion in the substance of the work and in team structures and delivery.
- **Budget and Value for Money (10%):** Efficient use of resources to maximise impact per pound invested.

Timelines



Next steps for potential applicants

- You can contact us at: impactfund@3ieimpact.org - once you confirm your intention to submit an application, we will share an invite to our Grant Management System SmartSimple
- Additional Q&A session to be scheduled
- Please submit any queries to the dedicated mailbox for the Impact Fund



Thank You.



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