

SPF FUNDING: ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

December 2018

SPF MANDATE AND OBJECTIVES

The State and Peacebuilding Fund (SPF) is a fund of *“first response and last resort”* for supporting flexible, innovative, and rapid engagement in regions affected by fragility, conflict and violence (FCV). The SPF has two main objectives:

- **State building** – improving governance and institutional performance in FCV-affected regions to boost resilience to internal and external stresses.
- **Peacebuilding** – developing the socio-economic conditions that foster peaceful, stable, and sustainable development.

This document details the eligibility criteria for SPF funding, provides general guidelines for task teams preparing proposals for SPF consideration, and describes the SPF grant-making process. Please review this information prior to preparing and submitting your proposal.

SPF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Objectives:** Proposals must be aligned with the SPF objectives, results framework, and at least one of the SPF focus areas: Prevention and Recovery; Crisis Response; Forced Displacement; Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus; and Financing Solutions.
- **Geography:** SPF financing is available to all Bank member countries, IBRD and IDA-eligible countries, as well as countries in arrears. Regional and global activities are also eligible for SPF support. SPF can also provide grants to non-member countries on a case-by-case basis.
- **Endorsement:** All proposals must demonstrate evidence of explicit support by the CMU and/or Global Practice, as relevant.
- **Timeline:** Grant activities cannot extend beyond March 31, 2021, the end date for the SPF.

GUIDELINES FOR SPF PROPOSALS

Grant activities

SPF can support the full range of activities including ASA, knowledge generation and dissemination, technical assistance, capacity building, service delivery, preparation and supervision of SPF RE grants, etc. In addition to the SPF objectives and focus areas, activities must be aligned with the relevant country program framework and should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- *Pivoting to prevention:* the proposed grant activities support the prevention approach, such as by tailoring development solutions to FCV causes and consequences, integrating conflict prevention into World Bank operations, or testing approaches to risk mitigation.

- *Highly innovative or experimental*: the proposed grant activities represent an innovative or experimental approach that would create unique technical or operational knowledge for working in FCV settings.
- *Urgent need*: the proposed grant activities respond to a need linked to active conflict, violence, disaster, or other urgent condition.
- *Rare opportunity*: the proposed grant activities respond to a rare window of opportunity created by a significant transformative moment; commitments by partners, governments, or other counterparts; and/or other extraordinary developments in the country or region.

Implementation modalities

SPF can support both Bank Executed and Recipient Executed activities. All activities must follow the operational policies for the corresponding product line.

- **BE grants**¹ must have a clear linkage to an existing Bank operation or demonstrate operational value for Bank engagement in FCS. The implementation period of BE grants cannot exceed 12 months. In exceptional cases, the SPF can consider requests for 18-month implementation based on a solid substantiation in the proposal.
- **RE grants**² can be implemented by third parties including client governments, UN agencies, regional/intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and think tanks. Non-governmental recipients (e.g. NGOs or UN agencies) can implement SPF grants provided there is approval from the recipient government. SPF RE grants typically range from two to three years for implementation. All RE grants must follow the Bank Procedures on Small RETF grants for grants below \$5 million.
- **Bank executed on behalf of recipient** activities are eligible for SPF support on an exceptional basis, in cases where the recipient faces severe capacity constraints, and subject to pre-requisite approvals obtained in accordance with BP/OP 14.40. Such a decision is made by the SPF Technical Advisory Committee.

Funding

All proposals must demonstrate funding contributions from BB or other sources. The SPF cannot substitute for BB funding or other available funding sources (e.g. Trust Funds). **SPF generally does not provide funding for:** project preparation of IBRD/IDA lending; ongoing operations; contingencies; activities involving a call for proposals or other sub-grant governance mechanism; or follow-on funding for activities previously funded by SPF.

¹ Average size of BE grants is \$150,000 – \$450,000.

² Average size of RE grants is \$3,000,000 – \$4,000,000.

SPF GRANT-MAKING PROCESS

The SPF Secretariat accepts proposals on a rolling basis throughout the year. All proposals must use the latest proposal template, available on the [SPF website](#), and must be prepared referring to the SPF theory of change and results framework, which are also posted on the website. Formal submission of proposals to the SPF Secretariat must come from the Country Director or designee (for country-focused activities), the Senior Director or designee (for Global activities) or the Regional Vice President or designee (for regional activities).

The SPF Secretariat reviews proposals based on the SPF objectives, mandate, eligibility criteria, results framework, and readiness for implementation, and may consult with relevant technical experts as needed. The Secretariat determines whether proposals should advance to the SPF Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review. The SPF TAC is comprised of representatives from the GPs, Regions, and corporate units, and makes the final decision about proposal approval.

The SPF grant-making process is displayed below. Lead time for each step does not reflect time for proposal revision(s) that may be requested by the SPF Secretariat or TAC.

Overview of grant-making process

