



Questions and Answers

CLIMAS Regional Call 2025

CLIMAS

Latin America and Caribbean Hub for Climate Change and Health

Centro de Cambio Climático y Salud para Latinoamérica y el Caribe

www.climashub.com

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Questions and Answers CLIMAS Regional Call 2025

- **Who can apply as the main applicant?**
The main applicant institution must be a research center, academic institution, or university.
- **Can the same institution participate in more than one proposal?**
No. An institution may only be part of one funded proposal, either as leader or partner. However, it may participate in more than one Expression of Interest (EoI).
- **Can international institutions participate?**
No. Only institutions located in countries listed as eligible may participate.
- **Can municipal or provincial governments qualify as CBOs?**
No. CBOs are “non-profit entities led by community members... whose legal existence has been recognized... and which hold legal personality.”
- **Is the participation of a CBO mandatory?**
Yes. Each EoI and proposal must include at least one Community-Based Organization (CBO).
- **Does the CBO need to be legally established?**
Yes, according to the definition: “whose legal existence has been recognized by government authorities and which hold legal personality.”
- **What level of involvement is expected from the CBO?**
The CBO must engage in a co-creative process alongside other institutions, with a clearly defined role in the proposal and expected outputs. Priority will be given to CBOs with experience and recognition in their territory, ensuring active involvement in project design, implementation, and monitoring.
- **Can an NGO be the main applicant?**
No. The main applicant must be a research center, academic institution, or university. NGOs may participate as partners.
- **Can there be more than one Principal Investigator?**
No. The forms allow only one “Principal Investigator.” However, co-investigators may be included in the team.
- **Can a proposal address more than one thematic area or modality?**
No. Each proposal must align with only one thematic area and one modality.

- **Must at least one strategic outcome be addressed?**
Yes. “Projects... must align with one thematic area and contribute to one or more expected strategic outcomes.”
- **Where and how should the Expression of Interest (EoI) and the full proposal be submitted?**
The EoI must be submitted “through a web platform hosted on the CLIMAS website: www.climashub.com/” (in Spanish or English). The full proposal will also be submitted through the web platform at www.climashub.com.
- **Is the evaluation blind?**
Yes. “Expressions of interest will be evaluated through a blind process”... and “full proposals... under a blind scheme, ensuring the anonymity of both reviewers and applicant institutions.”
- **Is it mandatory to comply with all the listed outputs?**
No. Appendix 1 provides a guide of specific outputs per thematic area, which proposals may follow partially or fully, or adapt to their scale and context. These are examples and references, not a rigid list.
- **What are the funding ranges and duration?**
 - Small scale: up to 250 million COP.
 - Medium scale: 251–500 million COP.
 - Large scale: 501–900 million COP.

Duration: 12 to 24 months starting March 2026.
- **How many projects will be funded per scale?**
No specific number has been defined.
- **Can a small-scale project request 250 million COP?**
Yes. Up to 250 million COP.
- **Must the budget be equally distributed among all entities?**
No fixed distribution is required. The budget must be consistent with activities, responsibilities, and outputs. The main applicant defines the mechanism of collaboration (e.g., subgrants/agreements) with partner institutions.
- **Can projects include activities with people (e.g., sample collection, surveys)?**
Yes, provided ethical requirements are met. The full proposal must “indicate whether it has approval from a recognized ethics committee or the corresponding exemption.”
- **Is co-funding (counterpart) mandatory?**
No. See section vii. Counterpart in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

- **Documents/signatures in the EoI?**
The EoI is completed in the online form; no commitment letters are required. A short institutional eligibility and capacity declaration is made through a checkbox and digital signature on the platform. Letters/agreements are required only with the full proposal.
- **Will selected projects receive support?**
Yes. Selected projects will receive technical and administrative support from CLIMAS during implementation.
- **Are proposals accepted in English?**
Yes. Both the EoI and the full proposal “may be submitted in Spanish or English.”
- **Who cannot apply?**
“Individuals, for-profit entities, or entities with conflicts of interest.”
- **Can specialized services be subcontracted?**
Yes, under the consultants’ category. Please review the annex on financial and administrative aspects.
- **Can institutions from non-eligible countries be included?**
Not with CLIMAS funding. “No funds will be allocated to entities outside the list of eligible countries.”
- **Does the restriction of “one proposal per institution” apply to the entire call or per thematic area/modality?**
It applies to the entire call. The ToR state: “The same institution may only participate in one proposal, either as leader or partner,” without distinction by modality or thematic area.
- **Where is Annex 2 available?**
Annex 2 is available on the official CLIMAS website (www.climashub.com), along with all other annexes and forms in Spanish and English.
- **Can additional institutions be included beyond the 3 allowed in the consortium?**
No. The ToR specify that each proposal must consist of “a minimum of two and a maximum of three eligible entities.” Other institutions may only join as technical partners without funding.
- **Is Harvard University eligible?**
No. Only entities from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries listed as eligible may participate. “No funds will be allocated to entities outside the eligible countries list.”

- **Can the IRD (a French institution with an office in Bolivia) be a main applicant?**
No. The main applicant must be “a research center, academic institution, or university legally established in a LAC country.” Since IRD’s headquarters are outside the region, it cannot be the main applicant.
- **Is ethics approval required for the Expression of Interest?**
No. Ethics approval is required only for the full proposal, and only if the project involves humans or animals.
- **Can Regional International Cooperation Organizations participate?**
Yes, but only as partners, not as main applicants, and only if legally established in an eligible country.
- **Can multilateral organizations apply?**
The ToR do not include multilateral organizations as main applicants. They may participate as technical or financial partners, with clearly defined roles.
- **Will proposals be evaluated by scale?**
Yes.
- **Is the EoI form/platform already available?**
No. It will be available before September 12 on the CLIMAS website.
- **Can a national project be considered medium scale?**
Yes, if its budget falls within 251–500 million COP.
- **Can topics such as nutrition, environmental care, and healthy consumption be included?**
Yes. The ToR indicate that thematic areas may be addressed through approaches including human, animal, and environmental health, as well as social and environmental determinants.
- **Must the CBO be registered locally?**
Yes. The ToR define CBOs as entities “whose legal existence has been recognized by government authorities and which hold legal personality.”
- **Must the Principal Investigator have a permanent affiliation with the main applicant institution?**
Yes. The Principal Investigator must be formally affiliated with the lead institution.
- **Can universities with multiple faculties submit several proposals?**
They may submit multiple EoIs through their different research groups, but only one proposal per institution may be funded.

- **What type of bank account is required?**
An institutional savings account dedicated exclusively to the project.
- **Can proposals include institutions from non-eligible countries (e.g., UK, Canada)?**
No. “No funds will be allocated to entities outside the eligible countries list.”
- **Can the administration of funds be delegated to an NGO partner?**
No. The main applicant institution is directly responsible for fund management. It may establish subgrants with partners but cannot transfer overall administrative responsibility.
- **Must proposals include more than one country?**
No, it is not mandatory.
- **Is it sufficient to meet at least one strategic outcome per thematic area?**
Yes. At least one strategic outcome must be considered.
- **What does regional scope mean? Can it be national (e.g., several provinces in one country) or must it be transnational?**
Regional scope refers to the LAC region. Proposals may also have national or subnational scope.
- **If several groups from the same university (e.g., Pontificia Universidad Javeriana) wish to apply, how will this be managed?**
Different groups may submit separate EoIs. However, only one proposal per institution will be funded.
- **Can a project limited to a province/department in one country be considered medium scale?**
Yes, if its budget falls within 251–500 million COP and its duration is 12–24 months.
- **Are indirect costs (overhead) allowed? Is there a limit?**
Yes. Indirect costs are allowed up to 8% of the total project budget.
- **Do municipalities qualify as CBOs?**
No. According to the ToR, CBOs are “non-profit entities led by community members, whose legal existence has been recognized by government authorities and which hold legal personality.” Municipalities and government entities do not qualify.
- **Can a CBO be a local Health Secretariat, or must it be community-based?**
No. A Health Secretariat is a government entity and does not qualify as a CBO. The ToR specify that CBOs must be community-based, non-profit organizations with legal personality.

- **Can a consortium be formed by a government teacher training school, a CBO, and a Canadian NGO?**
No. Consortia must include 2–3 eligible entities legally established in LAC countries. A Canadian NGO is not eligible.
- **Are there country quotas in the call?**
No. The call is competitive at the regional level, and proposals will be selected based on score and relevance, not country of origin.
- **If a consortium includes 3 eligible institutions plus international research groups, how should this be reflected in the budget?**
Only 2–3 eligible entities from LAC can be consortium members. Other institutions may join as technical partners without direct funding. In that case, the lead institution may subcontract specific services (e.g., data access, joint analysis, training), provided costs are justified under eligible budget categories.
- **Can activities and budget be distributed across countries in percentages (e.g., 70% Colombia, 20% Argentina, 10% Peru)?**
Yes. No fixed percentages are required. Resources must match responsibilities and outputs, and the consortium must not exceed 3 eligible LAC institutions.
- **Can a high school student organization be considered a CBO?**
No. A CBO must be a legally recognized, non-profit, community-based organization with legal personality.
- **Can a non-profit (e.g., Caritas, church organizations) be the main applicant?**
No. The main applicant must be a university, academic institution, or research center. Non-profits may participate only as partners.
- **Does the 25% cap on salaries apply only to permanent staff of the main institution or to all project staff?**
It applies to all human resources in the project (salaries and fees).
- **Can ORAS-CONHU (Andean Health Organization) be an eligible entity, CBO, or partner?**
ORAS-CONHU is an intergovernmental regional organization and does not qualify as a CBO or eligible applicant.
- **If a proposal covers two countries, can each have its own institution and CBO?**
No. Proposals may include only 2–3 eligible institutions in total. Additional actors may only participate as technical partners without funding.

- **Can the lead institution transfer funds to partner institutions in other eligible countries?**
Yes. The lead institution is responsible for overall administration and may establish subgrants with partners.
- **Can Mexican institutions participate? Can a technology device be developed? Must there be 3 institutions? Can UK institutions join?**
Yes. Mexican institutions are eligible. Yes, device development is possible if aligned with thematic areas and strategic outcomes. No, 3 institutions are not mandatory (2–3 required). UK institutions are not eligible but may act as unfunded advisors.
- **Can a high school research club be considered a CBO?**
No. A CBO must be a legally recognized, non-profit, community-based organization with legal personality.
- **Can a university delegate financial management to a foundation or NGO?**
No. The lead institution must directly manage funds.
- **Can a UN agency apply as the main applicant?**
No. The main applicant must be a university, academic institution, or research center legally established in LAC.
- **Can CELAC be considered a CBO for regional co-design?**
No. CELAC is an intergovernmental organization and does not qualify as a CBO.
- **If universities normally retain 20–25% overhead but the ToR cap is 8%, how should this be handled?**
The overhead limit is 8%. Institutional policies exceeding this must be adjusted, as no higher percentage will be funded.
- **Can OWSD Honduras apply as main applicant or manage funds with a university?**
No. Only universities, research centers, or academic institutions may be main applicants. The university must be the applicant and fund manager.
- **Is there a limit to the number of people in “personnel”?**
No maximum number. The limit is budgetary: up to 25% of the total for human resources.
- **Are alliances with one national institution and others international prioritized?**
No. What matters is having 2–3 eligible LAC institutions, at least one CBO, and coherence between roles and budget.

- **In the EoI, what does validation of the digital signature mean? Must the legal representative sign a form?**
The EoI includes an electronic declaration (checkbox/digital signature). No signed letters are required at this stage. Supporting documents are required with the full proposal.
- **Are projects on health impacts of wildfires eligible?**
Yes, if the link with climate change (e.g., drought/heatwaves) and health impacts (e.g., respiratory effects of particulate matter) is explicit.
- **Can there be two main applicants?**
No. Each proposal may have only one Main Applicant Institution.

Notes

- This FAQ summarizes, in plain language, the provisions of the ToR. In case of doubt, the ToR text prevails.
- For operational details (forms, annexes, glossary, and output guide per thematic area), see the Annexes and Appendix 1 of the ToR at www.climashub.com.

