

Fairtrade Inclusive Energy Fund: Funding Round 2



Key Technical Details for Prospective Funders

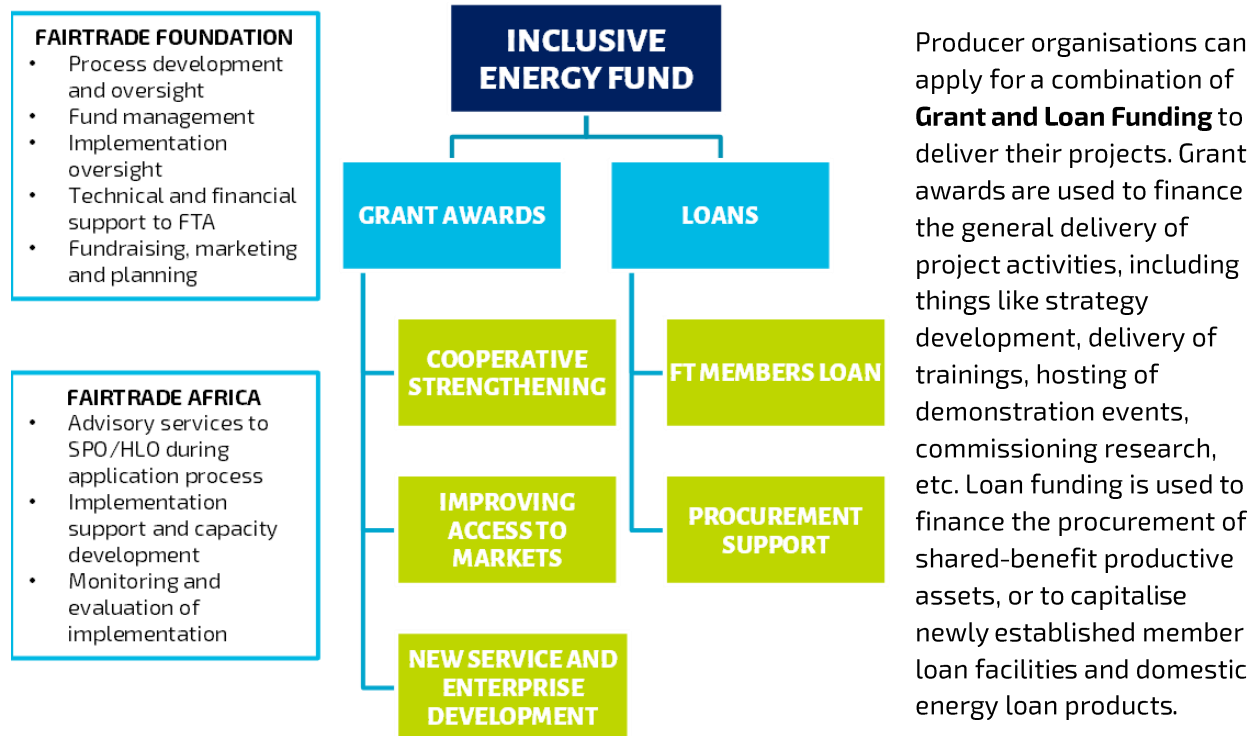
1. Overview

The Fairtrade Foundation (FTF), in partnership with Fairtrade Africa (FTA), established the Fairtrade Inclusive Energy Fund (IEF) to support Fairtrade certified producer organisations (POs) to:

- A) Increase Fairtrade farmers' and workers' access to clean and green energy technologies.
- B) Expand use of clean and green off-grid energy technologies at cooperative and household level.

Learnings from projects implemented by Fairtrade have indicated that a significant number of producer and worker members in the Fairtrade network remain cut-off from reliable and affordable electricity and are, by consequence, vulnerable to a range of related negative health, environmental, educational, economic and livelihood impacts.

The IEF is a challenge fund that supports Fairtrade-certified POs to design, implement and monitor projects that accelerate and expand access to clean and green off-grid energy technologies and services for their membership bases and communities.



We are seeking funding from commercial and donor Funders to launch the second round of the IEF. Any investment made will be pooled and used to fund a portfolio of PO projects aligned to the overall objectives of the IEF. These projects will be chosen for funding on a competitive basis. For reporting purposes, key narrative, financial and impact data will be reported to Funders at Kick-off, Mid-line and End-line stages. Funders in the Gold and Platinum Contribution tiers will have access to additional information and reporting, such as case studies and project-specific impact and communications materials. See below for more information.

The IEF combines several design elements to promote the development of highly targeted PO-designed projects, that are accurately targeted to each local intervention context:

- **Competitive:** funding is allocated competitively and used effectively
- **Outcomes-based:** the IEF is focused on outcomes not content
- **Community-led design:** one-size-fits-all solutions do not exist
- **Local ownership:** capacity development built into each project
- **Innovative support model:** combined technical and financial support
- **High degree of sustainability:** aiming for permanent change

2. Timelines

The following key dates apply to **IEF 2.0**.

- Publication of IEF 2.0 Call for Funding: **17 February 2025**.
- Confirmation of funding contribution by **31 May 2025**.
- The call for project applications will be announced **1 July 2025**, with applications submitted by **1 September 2025**. Applicant producer organisations to design and submit projects to be delivered with IEF financial and technical support over a maximum duration of **18 months**.
- Assessment, Selection and Due Diligence processes will take place between **1 September and 15 November 2025**, with successful PO applicants notified within a week of this date.
- Contracting and MEL planning processes will follow acceptance and, once concluded, individual PO projects are anticipated to kick-off on **1 January 2026** and conclude by **30 June 2027**.
- All project funding support will be disbursed to POs in 2 tranches. The first tranche will be disbursed one week before project start dates (**December 2025**), and the second tranche will be dispersed 9 months into delivery (**September/October 2026**).
- All awarded loan funding will be disbursed as part of the second tranche – tranche 2 - after 9 months (**September/October 2026**).
- PO repayments of IEF loans will be returned to the IEF loan account custodied by Fairtrade Africa (FTA), with all loan agreements to be fully repaid and arrangements settled **24-30 months** following IEF project launch.

3. PO Project-Level Reporting (PO progress reporting to the IEF)

Project-Level Reporting Timeline	
Application Phase	From launch of call to application deadline Applicants are supported to develop tools and measures to demonstrate progress
Implementation Phase	From contract signature, includes inception and launch Organisations will complete and submit short monthly reports Templates will reflect the tools/measures developed during application phase IEF Management Team baseline IEF Kick-off Reports prepared and submitted to IEF Funders
Midline	PO Progress Report submitted 9 months after contract signature Loan funding and tranche 2 of grant funding disbursed after review IEF Management Team midline IEF Midline and Project Pulse Updates prepared and submitted to IEF Funders
Endline	PO Endline Report submitted after 18 months IEF Management Team endline IEF Final Reports prepared and submitted to IEF Funders

4.1 Funding Tiers

Funding Options	Standard Contributor (£50k - £99k)	Gold Contributor (£100k - £199k)	Platinum Contributor (£200k +)
Reference IEF contribution on website and in comms	✓	✓	✓
Company logo included on IEF landing page and comms	✓	✓	✓
IEF Kickoff Report	✓	✓	✓
Midline Report	✓	✓	✓
Final report	✓	✓	✓
Case Studies		✓	✓
Project-Specific Communications Materials			✓

4.2 Progress and Impact Reporting

Funders will be provided with a Kick-off Report at the start of the implementation phase, outlining the portfolio of projects funded by the IEF.

They will then receive a Midline and Project Pulse Update 10 months into implementation, and following the mid-term review and disbursement of Tranche 2. This will provide portfolio level updates, with some detail on specific projects.

Funders will receive a Final Report at the end of the 18-month implementation period, and following the endline review and conclusion of IEF project support. This will provide portfolio-level data and insights and a comprehensive narrative of the IEF programme and its participants.

IEF Kick-off Reports, Midline and Project Pulse Updates and Final Reports will be standardised and not tailored to individual Funders. All Funders will receive these standardised IEF reports irrespective of the amount contributed. Commercial and donor Funders whose IEF contribution is between £50k and £99k are considered **Standard Contributors** and will receive these three reports only.

4.3. Additional Reporting: Gold and Platinum Contributors

Commercial and donor Funders whose IEF contribution exceeds the £99k threshold are considered **Gold Contributors** and will have access to IEF Project-specific Case Studies in addition to standardised IEF reporting at inception, mid-term and endline stages.

Commercial and donor Funders whose IEF contribution also exceeds **Threshold B** of the £199k threshold are considered **Platinum Contributors** and will receive additional and tailored communications and impact materials related to specific IEF PO Projects. The additional customised communication materials will feature both Fairtrade and funder branding. These ready-to-use assets will support the funder's impact and external communications requirements.