



**Rules for the call for projects
« Sport for women's empowerment »**

ARTICLE 1 – OBJECT

Through the “**Sport for women's empowerment**” program, the GIZ and FIFA are joining forces to combat gender inequalities and gender-based violence and promote and facilitate women's access to leadership, professional integration, entrepreneurship, life skills, governance, access to healthcare etc. using sport as a development tool.

Funding initiatives ranging from **€18,000 to €22,000**, the "**Sport for women's empowerment**" program is open to all organizations – as defined in Article 3 of these rules – located in the countries listed below:

- Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo, Tunisia
- Latin America: Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru
- Asia: India, Indonesia, Pakistan
- Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia
- Middle East: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon

The focus will be on women's empowerment. Projects will run for a **minimum of 9 months and a maximum of 11 months starting from March 2024**. The time constraint will particularly favor projects involving duplication, the development/strengthening of a component within a larger program, capacity-building of human resources, and the implementation of specific actions in favor of women's empowerment. All sports are eligible for this call for projects. Projects involving football will however be prioritized when carried out by a FIFA member association.

The association La Guilde will implement and oversee the program through its project submission platform called "Portail Solidaire." The selection process will follow a single project submission phase which will take place from **November 2 to December 14**. Application and monitoring forms will be available in both English and French.

Applications will undergo a thorough review by teams from La Guilde, FIFA, and GIZ, as well as external experts and program managers for "Sport for Women's Empowerment". The selection

process will pay particular attention to project quality as well as to geographical diversity in order to help reduce regional disparities. The dates for the selection process and the announcement of winning projects are detailed in Article 6 of these rules.

ARTICLE 2 – SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Project applications must be submitted exclusively online through the “Portail Solidaire” platform: <https://www.portailsolidaire.org/projets/login>.

The selection process for the "Sport for Women's Empowerment" program will take place after a single open application phase from **November 2 to December 14**.

Each candidate structure can only submit one initiative request and a single funding request. Submission of a project implies mandatory acceptance of these rules.

The list of selected projects (around 16 awardees) will be announced **mid-February 2024**.

ARTICLE 3 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE STRUCTURES

Organizations recognized to be of public utility (associations, foundations, local authorities, sports clubs, sports federations, economic interest groups, cooperatives, government bodies) are eligible to register and submit their funding requests.

These structures must meet the following criteria:

- Be recognized to be of public utility and have been registered in the project's host country for at least 2 years (with proof of registration);
- Have annual resources equal to or less than **€500,000**, based on the latest approved annual financial statements. **This criterion does not apply to FIFA member associations, for which there is no annual resource limit;**
- Be legally independent and autonomous and not have been convicted of practices prohibited by local authorities or of acts of corruption;
- Have an accounting system in compliance with the national accounting standards of the relevant country. The accounting system should allow an external expert to have an overview of the entity's business transactions and financial position within a reasonable timeframe;
- Have properly prepared financial statements, for example, by an external auditing body;
- Comply with national procurement standards;
- Demonstrate a long-term strategy and vision and have a monitoring and evaluation system in place.

Non-FIFA member football federations will not be eligible.

ARTICLE 4 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF PROJECTS

The project must:

- Take place in one of the eligible countries mentioned in Article 1 of these rules. Areas classified in red by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs are eligible (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/>);
- Prioritize women and girls while recognizing the importance of men and boys in women's empowerment. Special attention will be given to projects that specifically, directly, or indirectly target vulnerable women who are victims of intersecting discrimination;
- Use sport as a women's empowerment tool. All sports are eligible. For projects involving football, those supported by a FIFA member association will be given preference. For other sports, there are no specific priority rules;
- Ensure that the total expenses do not exceed **€150,000** (excluding valuations);
- Take place between March 2024, after the signing of the financing agreement, and conclude no later than February 2025, with a minimum implementation duration of 9 months and a maximum duration of 11 months.

The following projects are not eligible:

- Microfinance, microcredit, microsavings, and cascade financing projects;
- Relating only to the transport of equipment (local purchasing and the development of local trade are given priority, unless this is not possible);
- Relating only to field evaluations;
- Whose main activity is solely the organization of an event;
- For purely sporting purposes.

Projects should use sports as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with a specific focus on using it as a critical lever to address the vulnerabilities identified and faced by women and young girls.

Projects must integrate the traditional criteria of development aid:

- Project alignment with its social, environmental, and institutional context and relevance to public policies, plans, and national, regional, or local development directions;
- Consistency with existing public and private mechanisms;
- Agreement from local or national authorities required;
- Project sustainability: the ability to manage and achieve economic balance in the long term (covering operating and maintenance costs) once the investment phase is completed;
- Involvement of beneficiaries: participation of beneficiaries in project design and management and local community ownership of results;

- Project impact indicators: explanation of project impacts regarding the aforementioned development themes;
- Result indicators: the ability to measure short- and long-term project impacts;
- The innovative or replicable aspect of the project (in terms of appropriate technologies, local private sector involvement, beneficiary participation, risk management, etc.) will be points of attention.

ARTICLE 5 – BUDGET

The "Sports for Women's Empowerment" program can finance between **€18 000 and €22 000** including VAT for each winning projects. Any application submitted outside this range will be considered ineligible.

The estimated budget and project financing plan must be filled in directly [in the Excel file downloadable from the platform](#) and submitted online when submitting the application.

The estimated budget must separate the valuations from the monetary part of the budget. The mobilization of volunteers or donations in kind must therefore be mentioned in the "Valuations" section. Operating costs may be covered by funds from the "Sport for women's empowerment" call for projects if the project plans to cover them in the future.

The expenses presented must be effective from the date of signature of the funding agreement, as the grant from the "Sport for women's empowerment" call for projects is not retroactive. Co-financing acquired and in the process of being acquired must be justified and attached to the funding application (certificate, letter, or e-mail).

ARTICLE 6 – SELECTION OF FILES

Once the application period for projects is concluded, La Guilde will initiate the selection process **starting on December 14, 2023**:

- An internal appraisal phase: **from December 14 to January 18**. During the internal appraisal phase, La Guilde teams will check that the eligibility criteria for the structure and project have been met, as well as the quality and relevance of the project. La Guilde will then conduct a pre-selection during an internal committee meeting.
- An external appraisal phase: **between the pre-selection committee and February 8**. During the external appraisal phase, volunteer experts from La Guilde's network, specialized in the countries, themes related to women's empowerment, and sports, will analyze the projects assigned to them, and provide their opinions.
- Each project will be evaluated by at least one internal evaluator and one external expert.
- A final committee meeting during **the week of February 8, 2024**: this committee will bring together La Guilde, GIZ, FIFA, and available external experts. Around 16 projects will be selected during the final committee meeting and announced **mid-February**.

ARTICLE 7 – RELEASE OF FUNDS

Notification is made by e-mail at the end of the final jury committee and is visible on the online project area of each candidate structure.

A Non-Objection Notice (NOO) issued by a specialised external firm relating to certain legal provisions (fight against money laundering and fight against terrorist financing), is required to release the “Sport for women’s empowerment” funding granted.

The firm has approximately one month from receipt of all the documents requested to issue an NOO for the mandatory signing of a partnership agreement between the winning structure and La Gulde, followed by payment of the grant.

After this due-diligence process, a contract will be signed between La Gulde and each laureate, detailing the commitments and obligations of both parties.

The funding will be disbursed in two installments:

- 2/3 after signing of the funding agreement and upon submission of a funds release request letter (template provided by La Gulde);
- The remaining 1/3 will be disbursed upon project completion, and after approval by La Gulde's internal experts of the final narrative and financial report, including all required documentation.

As a reminder, the project must take place between March 2024, after signing of the funding agreement, and no later than February 2025, **with a minimum implementation duration of 9 months and a maximum duration of 11 months**. The signature of agreements and the funds release request letter submission must adhere to these timeline constraints.

ARTICLE 8 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The winning structure undertakes to use the financial contribution of the “Sport for women’s empowerment” endowments in accordance with the accepted narrative and financial application. Any significant change to the objectives, partners, activities, schedule, or budget of a winning project must be notified to and approved by La Gulde before it is implemented. Failure to comply with this clause or partial or non-implementation of the project may result in the reallocation of the funding granted, or a request for full or partial reimbursement of sums already paid.

ARTICLE 9 – PROJECT MONITORING AND REPORT

Each winning structure must participate in a videoconference training session on administrative and financial control procedures and GIZ compliance. La Guilde will reach out to the structures for scheduling and registration.

A monitoring session will be conducted every three months for each laureate, involving the project leader. The latter commits to presenting and justifying project progress, challenges faced, any potential modifications, and expenses incurred using the monitoring tools provided by La Guilde.

The submission of the final report, based on the available template online, must be submitted at the end of the project. The structure must submit the report online no later than **March 15, 2025**. Any failure to meet this deadline, except in duly justified exceptional cases, will result in the non-disbursement of the last third of the grant from the "Sports for Women's Empowerment" program.

A final steering committee will decide on the disbursement of the last third of the grant after reviewing the final report and ensuring its conformity with the initial narrative and financial application.

ARTICLE 10 – OBLIGATION OF THE WINNERS

The winning structures of the “Sport for women’s empowerment” program authorize the publication and use by La Guilde, GIZ and FIFA of their name, information relating to the funded project, interim and final reports, photos, videos and waive the collection of any right or compensation in this regard.

The winning structures must also facilitate the follow-ups and evaluations by La Guilde of their project in the field by making useful documents and information available.

ARTICLE 11 – INSURANCE OF THE WINNERS

Non-recourse in the event of an accident

The winning structures, who are solely responsible for their project and covered by the necessary insurance, release La Guilde, the funding organizations and partners of the “Sport for women’s empowerment” call for projects from any liability and refrain from taking any action against them.