

# Challenge Fund for Youth Employment

An overview of application and selection processes



Interactive

*This is an interactive brochure. If you are not able to view it with full links, or if some displays are not properly visible, [CLICK HERE](#) to view a standard downloadable version.*

A fund from



Government of the Netherlands

Managed by



CHALLENGE  
FUND  
FOR  
YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT

# What is CFYE?



The Challenge Fund for Youth Employment (CFYE) is a 6-year program funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CFYE aims to create a prosperous future for young women and men in the Middle East, North Africa, Sahel & West Africa and Horn of Africa by supporting youth employment initiatives in these regions. These initiatives address specific challenges that inhibit private sector entities' ability to create scalable solutions for more and better jobs for youth. CFYE supports those initiatives that are aligned with aspirations of young women and men in the countries of operation.

CFYE provides financial and technical support to primarily private sector enterprises that work in collaboration with other development and local organisations. The financial support is in form of co-investment in the initiatives, which can be up to 50% of the total investment needed to deliver the initiative.

Technical Assistance is tailored based on the demand of the delivery partners and an assessment of support needed to deliver the initiatives effectively and efficiently. This support is provided for those initiatives that address specific youth employment challenges identified by CFYE, and which offer solutions to match, create and improve jobs for young women and men.



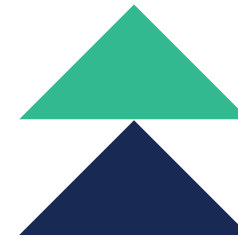
CFYE targets integrated approaches designed to bridge the mismatch between the demand for high quality jobs and the supply of skilled labour, through matching, creating or improving jobs.  
Any combination of the below employment outcomes is acceptable.



**Matching Jobs**



**Creating Jobs**



**Improving Jobs**

# CYFE Principles



## Actively Support Women

CFYE strives to support equal opportunities for young women in the job market; our ambition is to ensure that at least 50% of the youth reached in target countries are young women, and that women-led businesses are actively supported to apply for CFYE.



## Maximize Additionality

We will only support solutions and initiatives that would not be delivered within the same timelines, at the same scale, or delivering the same impact level, without support from CFYE.



## Clear Pathways to Employment

CFYE identifies and supports initiatives that present a clear pathway to creating, matching and improving jobs. We look for solutions that present a deeper analysis of youth employment challenges and present a sustainable solution that will lead to sustainable business growth and employment outcomes.



## Collaboration with the Private Sector

CFYE actively targets private sector entities or consortia involving a private sector entity. While we welcome ideas from any organisation, we are looking for market-based solutions, tailored to the context of every country. We prioritize initiatives that are led by or actively engage private sector. These entities can be local or international.



## Youth Engagement

Actively involving youth, and especially young women, is a prerequisite for being considered as a CFYE partner. Interventions should demonstrate how youth were involved in developing the proposed solution and how these solutions are likely to contribute to the goals and aspirations of young people.



## Sustainability

As part of the design of a project/investment, prospective Implementing Partners will be required to demonstrate how their initiatives will become independent of external funding as part of their business case. It is of importance that projects have the necessary means to sustain their job outcomes beyond CFYE's funding.

## Who can apply?

**CFYE takes a tailored approach to identifying the entities that have the highest potential to address the youth employment challenges in each country.**

Each country and challenge call defines a specific eligibility criteria, that is accessible on our website.

Proposed initiatives and solutions to employment challenges should ideally be led by private sector entities.

These entities can form a consortium of two or more organisation with other local and international organisations considered critical to delivering the initiative.

All concept notes and business cases will be assessed based on an objective criteria with a clear preference for those entities and consortia that have the ability to deliver sustainable, business-model driven solutions.



*Please refer to your country-specific page on the website [www.fundforyouthemployment.nl](http://www.fundforyouthemployment.nl) for eligibility criteria*

## What are we looking for?

**CFYE takes a holistic approach to assessing the concept notes and business cases received. We evaluate the proposals based on a detailed criteria that considers the technical design, delivery feasibility and associated commercial proposal. Key elements of our evaluation and selection criteria are given below:**

**Additionality:** Will your project be able to reach the same goals, within the same timeframe and with the same quality without CFYE's funding?

**Business Model:** Can your idea demonstrate commercial viability in a competitive market environment, to create the highest value of returns to its stakeholders?

**Targets & Impact:** Are you proposing ambitious and realistic job targets which are clearly aligned with CFYE employment outcomes?

**Scope & Pathways to Employment:** Is your project able to layout a defensible and logical theory of change addressing the key challenges identified and leads to employment outcomes?

**Social Impact Aspects:** To what extent do you understand and center your initiative around the true needs, challenges and aspirations of the young women and men you intend to work with?

**Sustainability, Scale & Resilience:** Is your project likely to create scalable positive impact beyond CFYE's contribution?

**Value for Money:** Are you proposing reasonable and justifiable cost drivers and cost per job?

**Leverage:** To what extent are Third Party Contributions exhibiting credible value addition to the proposed project delivery?

# How to apply?

CFYE will open a call for solutions whereby applicants are invited to submit their ideas for projects responding to a challenge in a specific country or region. The call for solutions will be published on the website and through social media channels. Once submitted, ideas will be assessed by a selection committee.

Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full business case.



CHALLENGE  
FUND  
FOR  
YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT

# CFYE's Journey


From Selection to Delivery.

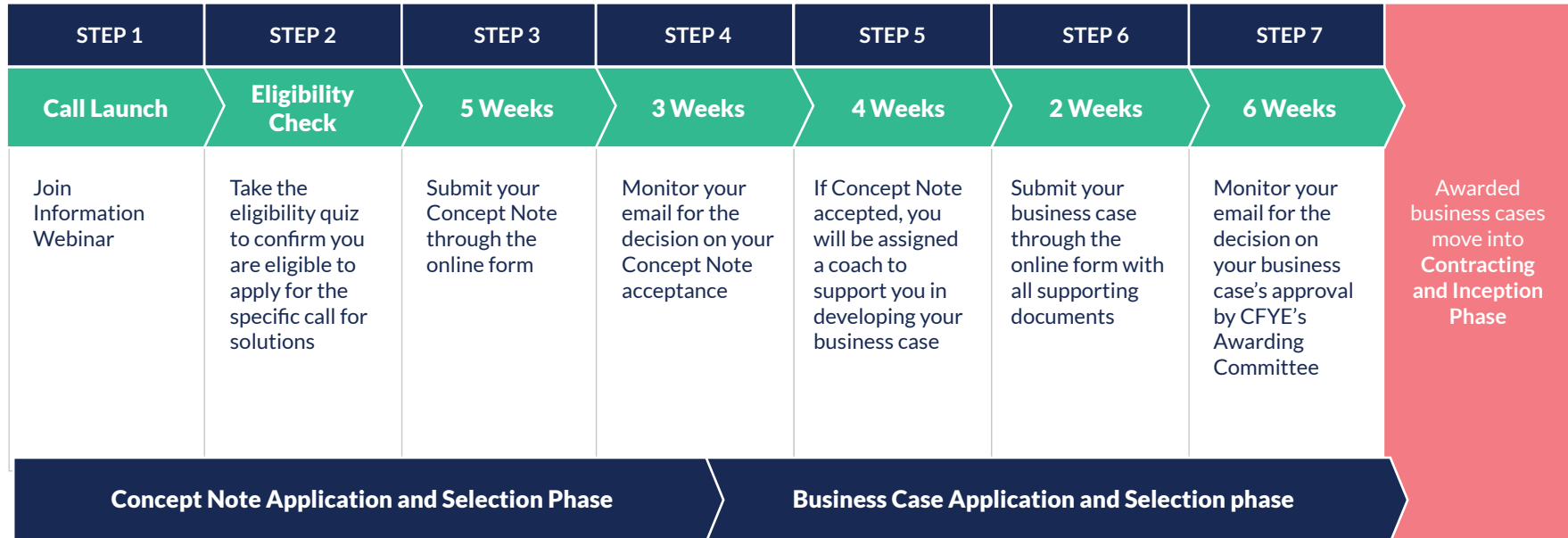
 Click on below icons for more info

Launch of the Call for Solutions	Development and Submission of Business Cases	Evaluation of Business Cases by CFYE's Selection Committee	Due Diligence, Contracting and Final Award	Project Delivery and Implementation	Project Close Out
<p><b>1.5 months</b></p> <p>You have 5 to 6 weeks to develop and submit a Concept Note after CFYE opens the call for solutions.</p> <p><i>Please refer to your country-specific page on the website <a href="http://www.fund-foryouthemployment.nl">www.fund-foryouthemployment.nl</a> for eligibility criteria</i></p>	<p><b>1.5 months</b></p> <p>Eligible applicants will be invited to submit a detailed Business Case. You will be assigned an expert CFYE coach for guidance. You will have 6 weeks to develop and submit a business case. Coaching sessions will be organized over 4 weeks within this development window.</p>	<p><b>2 months</b></p> <p>CFYE will evaluate the Business Cases. You will be informed of the conditional selection decision 6 to 8 weeks after the Business Case submission deadline.</p>	<p><b>1.5 months</b></p> <p>Conditionally selected entities will undergo extensive due diligence. Once this process is successfully concluded, contract negotiations and milestone development will be initiated taking 6-8 weeks, and leading to final contract award.</p>	<p><b>Up to 36 months</b></p> <p>Delivering project activities and on-going monitoring spanning between 2 and 3 years.</p>	<p><b>3 months</b></p> <p>This constitutes as the final step of CFYE's funding journey with the Implementing Partners</p>

# Interested in applying?

Follow the steps below.

 Click on below icon for more info





# Access your Application Pack

- Concept Note template
- Guidance for the Concept Note
- Business Case template
- Guidance for the Business Case
- [FAQs](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

*Refer to the Country-Specific page on the website.*

CHALLENGE  
FUND  
FOR  
YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT

For more information related to a specific Call for Solutions,  
please visit the country-specific page on our website  
[www.fundforyouthemployment.nl](http://www.fundforyouthemployment.nl)

You can contact us through the email address visible on the  
country-specific website page.



CHALLENGE  
FUND  
FOR  
YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT