

FAIR DIGITAL FINANCE ACCELERATOR GRANT

APPLICATION FORM

**To be submitted to Consumers International by 26 April 2024**

In 2022, Consumers International launched the [Fair Digital Finance Accelerator](https://www.consumersinternational.org/what-we-do/fair-finance/), a major global initiative with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and support from the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) and leading experts worldwide.

The Fair Digital Finance Accelerator is building a digital financial services marketplace where consumers are protected, empowered, and experience positive financial well-being and sustainability outcomes. Bringing together a proactive and committed network of consumer associations in 40+ low- and middle-income countries worldwide, the Accelerator works with consumer organisations to build relationships with and effectively influence digital finance regulators and providers.

Through the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator, Consumers International provides a platform for collaborative action and collective influence, a bespoke training programme for all Members, unique and compelling insights and thought leadership that champions consumer protection and empowerment in digital financial services.

**Objective of the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator Grant**

The grant programme will support consumer associations to create or strengthen channels of engagement with regulators and digital financial services providers to find solutions to risks and challenges experienced by consumers of digital finance within their countries.

The grants will support innovative activities and leverage unique insights aimed at solving consumer challenges in digital finance per the themes outlined in the focus areas of the grant. The topics of focus for the grants have been chosen based on the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator baseline survey that identified the key challenges faced by consumers of digital financial services in low- and middle-income countries. Additional topics have been selected based on feedback from consumer advocates on urgent emerging digital finance consumer issues.

**Focus of the Grant**

The Fair Digital Finance Accelerator grant will focus on supporting activities within the themes stated below. These themes have been chosen based on key digital finance thematic issues informed by Member insights from the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator baseline survey, our latest report ‘Digital Finance: The consumer experience, 2024’, and structured global and Network member insights on key challenges facing digital financial services consumers.

The Fair Digital Finance Accelerator grant shall focus on supporting activities within the themes of frauds and scams, transparency in digital finance payments and credit, complaints and redress systems and policy and business solutions for vulnerable consumers.

These themes have been chosen based on key digital finance thematic issues informed by member insights from the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator baseline survey, the Fair Finance Index, and structured global and Network member insights on key challenges facing digital financial services consumers.

The grant will welcome proposals and support initiatives for the following activities:

* Activities that will utilise consumer insights to advocate for the design, enhancement or implementation of policies and regulations that protect consumers from harm in digital finance in the areas of scams and fraud, transparency, and provision of independent complaints and redress systems for consumers.
* Interventions showcasing novel tools, cutting-edge research, and innovative solutions aimed enhancing consumer protection in digital finance.
* Country level dialogue establishment with regulators on ongoing local policy discussions and on finance challenges facing consumers per the focus areas (clearly stating the digital finance policy issue that will be focused on and the expected outcomes).
* Country level dialogue and establishment with digital finance services providers to design and/or enhance solutions in digital finance per the thematic areas
* Advocacy activities to enhance or enact regulations and policies targeting marginalised groups; or developing of business products for marginalised groups (women, youth, people with disabilities and migrants/refugees).

Grant activities will be designed in a way that will aim to answer the following learning questions:

* What are the most effective ways to bring the consumer voice to regulators to enable agile and effective regulation and change in digital financial services?
* Can consumer insights from consumer advocates make digital financial services regulation more effective and more timely?
* What learning topics are a priority for consumer associations to effectively work with regulators and business services providers?
* To what extent are we able to see an improvement in consumer protection for women and vulnerable consumers as a result of the project's interventions?
* Which interventions most build political will and how far reaching is this influence?

**Application Eligibility and criteria for funding**

**Eligibility**

The Fair Digital Finance Accelerator Grant is open to all Full and Affiliate Consumers International Member organisations in developing countries (see the OECD [DAC-list)](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf) that are part of the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator. Consumers International Supporters, including Government Supporters are not eligible. Membership fees should be fully paid up to the current year by the time of proposal submission.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals that do not meet all the evaluation criteria may be disqualified.

1. The member must be an active member of the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator. An active member is considered to have completed (or have a staff member that completed) the six self-paced Accelerator online training modules by April 26 2024.. Member attendance of the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator quarterly meetings, events and general responsiveness is also considered. (Please reach out to Bob Oganga - boganga@consint.org in case of any issues accessing the training).
2. The proposed activities should have a clear monitoring and evaluation framework, with plans to have gender-disaggregated data on project indicators where applicable.
3. The proposed activities should have a clear overall goal and project objective that is attainable in the project period.
4. The grant will run for a duration of four months.
5. The grant will have a provision of one month for a case study arising from the impact of the grant activities. This will be shared as learnings with other consumer associations on effective strategies to strengthen channels with regulators to help shape other country initiatives.
6. A budget that is detailed, realistic, and clearly linked to the grant activity.
7. The proposal should clearly outline how it will incorporate gender and impact vulnerable groups, particularly women, youth and people with disabilities.
8. Where feasible, more than one eligible consumer association may partner to apply for the grant with another consumer organisation along the thematic areas or for regional collaboration on solving consumer challenges and policy enhancement in digital finance.

**APPLICATION FORM**

For guidance, tips, and opportunities to ask questions about how to successfully complete this application form, please reach out to scharak@consint.org copying FDFA@consint.org

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| **Main contact person name** |  |
| **Alternative contact person name**  |  |
| **Main contact person Email** |  |
| **Alternative person email** |  |
| **Telephone** |  |
| **Organisation** |  |
| **Country** |  |

**Project title:**

1. **Project summary: (no more than 200 words)**

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| *Please give a brief summary of your proposed activity. Explain how your activity is linked to the grant thematic areas*

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1. **Problem statement: (no more than 200 words)**

*Please describe the problem you will address and the background context. Also describe if you have previous experience from similar projects.*

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1. **Impact and objectives: (no more than 300 words)**

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| *Describe the specific objectives of the project, as well as the overall impact that the project will have by achieving its objective(s). Please also describe how you intend to evaluate the project’s results.*

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| 1. **Gender and Vulnerable groups: (no more than 300 words)**

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| *Describe how you intend to incorporate gender and impact vulnerable groups (particularly women, youth and people with disabilities) within your grant activities*

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| 1. **Regulatory and business engagement: (no more than 300 words)**

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| *Which regulators and/or businesses will you work with and how do you intend to strengthen your collaboration / influence them through your work?*

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1. **What regulatory policy, change or activity will be impacted by your work and how? What impact will that in turn have for consumers? (no more than 300 words)**

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1. **Why is your organisation unique and relevant to carry out this work? (no more than 300 words)**

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1. **Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation: (no more than 300 words)**

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| *Describe how you intend to evaluate and report the project’s results.*

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| 1. **Activities, output, work plan (for a four-month period): (no more than 300 words)**

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| *Describe the activities to be undertaken and the expected result of your activity. Please also provide a work plan (timeframe) and incorporate a* ***case study*** *arising from the grant activity implementation*

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1. **Budget:**

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| The grant is allocated within a range of USD 2,000 to a maximum budget of USD 20,000. Exceptional proposals demonstrating outstanding quality and merit may be considered if they exceed this amount.Please outline below the costs for this activity (including costs related to the case study), broken down into relevant budget lines over the four-month grant period. *One month will be availed after the four-month period of activity implementation to design and share a case study demonstrating learnings from the grant activities.**Please break down as much as possible and add additional lines where necessary.* *Exchange rate used: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* |  |
| **Item** | **Unit** | **Cost per unit** | **Number of units** | **Total cost in local currency** | **Total cost in USD** |
| *E.g. Radio broadcast, hire of venue, printing, etc.* | *E.g. Per day, per event* | *In local currency* | *E.g. 5 (days)* |  |  |
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| **TOTAL COST** |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Submission process**Please submit the application to FDFA@consint.org (and CC SCharak@consint.org) by **26 April** **2024**. Please ensure that you clearly label your application in the subject line of the email ‘Application to the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator grant’. Timeline: Successful applicants will be notified by Consumers International via email. A grant agreement will then need to be agreed upon and signed between parties, and the grant payments will be disbursed shortly afterwards. Activities are expected to be completed over a four-month period from May 2024 to September 2024, with a clear case study demonstrating learnings from the grant activities.Successful organisations must use the template provided for the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator reporting purposes. The report must contain information about activities undertaken and impact achieved and financial details (including receipts). |

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