

FAIR DIGITAL FINANCE ACCELERATOR GRANT APPLICATION FORM

To be submitted to Consumers International by 25 April 2023

In 2022, Consumers International launched the [Fair Digital Finance Accelerator](#), 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 safe, 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 and accelerate solutions to risks and challenges experienced by consumers of digital finance within their countries.

The grants will support innovative activities and unique insights aimed at solving consumer challenges in digital finance. 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.

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, 2023](#)', and structured global and Network member insights on key challenges facing digital financial services consumers. Based on these, the themes for the grant are:

1. Activities related to unique research and insights generation, innovative data collection tools, and monitoring of consumer complaints in Digital Financial Services

2. Advocacy activities to enhance or enact regulations and policies targeting marginalised groups; or developing business products for marginalised groups (women, youth, people with disabilities and migrants/refugees)
3. Country-level dialogue establishment with regulators on ongoing local policy discussions and finance challenges facing consumers in line with the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator focus areas (clearly stating the digital finance policy issue that you'll be focusing on and the expected outcomes).

These themes correspond to the core focus areas identified by the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator Baseline survey, which are;

- a. Safety (i.e., risks of scams and fraud)
- b. Data Protection and Privacy
- c. Availability of effective consumer dispute, complaints resolutions and redress systems
- d. Inclusivity and protection of disadvantaged consumers

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](#)) 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 three self-paced 2022 online training modules by 25 April 2023. Member attendance of the Fair Digital Finance Accelerator quarterly meetings, events and general responsiveness will also be 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 target 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 aumar@consint.org copying FDFA@consint.org

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)

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

2. 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.

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

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.

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

Describe how you intend to evaluate and report the project's results.

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

*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*

5. Budget:

The budget for the grant will be up to a maximum of \$20,000. 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
<i>E.g. Radio broadcast, hire of venue, printing, etc.</i>	<i>E.g. Per day, per event</i>	<i>In local currency</i>	<i>E.g. 5 (days)</i>		
TOTAL COST					

Submission process

Please submit the application to FDFA@consint.org (and CC aumar@consint.org) by **25 April 2023**. 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 by **9 May 2023**. 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 run over a four-month period from the date of funds disbursement. One month will be available after the four-month period of activity implementation to design and share a 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).