

Better Cotton GIF Budget and Funding Guidelines 2026-2027

Introduction

This document provides applicants to Better Cotton GIF guidelines to complete the budget associated with their proposal to the GIF Small Farm Fund.

Budget guidelines Small Farm Fund

Budget completion

- All applicants must use the official budget template provided in the online application form. The first tab of the Excel file contains detailed instructions on how to complete each section, please review it carefully.
- For season 2026-27 GIF will only grant funding for **one** year. **Please note that a cap has been introduced in the budget: budgets may only increase by a maximum of 5% compared to the 25-26 budget. This applies to all GIF funded projects under Small Farm Fund.**
- Programme Partners must adhere to the following salary guidelines:
 - Programme Partners must comply with the relevant national/regional laws in relation to paying minimum wages for each position funded by the project. Projects which pay staff above the minimum wage will be looked upon favorably.
 - Salaries must cover social charges, taxes and related benefits, such as health and life insurance.
 - Salaries should not include work-related expenses (fuel, transport costs, etc.). The latter must be budgeted separately.
 - Ensure equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, or other characteristics.
 - Senior management and management salaries who indirectly support the project are factored in overhead and must not be added to the staff tab, unless paid by the Partner's own contribution.
- Partners applying for funding are strongly encouraged to contribute from their own sources or through third-party donors.
- The budget should reflect the full cost of the project, including these contributions.
- In the case of commercial Programme Partners, we will expect a significant level of co-funding, please refer to the main GIF funding guidelines for applicable funding caps.

Currency and Exchange Rate

- The budget should be prepared in local currency. The excel template will generate an equivalent Euro budget using GIF specified rates.
- The Fund will contract all funded Partners in Euro.
- The exchange rate is provided by GIF and the amount in Euro is auto-calculated in the provided tab.

Capital costs

- Capital costs are considered on a case-by-case basis. GIF will not usually fund building costs, the purchase of vehicles, land or heavy equipment. In the case when capital costs are approved by GIF, please refer to the GIF Procurement policy and procedures for Programme Partners

Overheads

- Overhead costs are limited to 10% of the overall budget

Ineligible costs include

- Activities that may lead to civil unrest.
- Activities that discriminate against any group based on age, gender reassignment, disability, race, colour, ethnicity, sex and sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief.
- Statutory fines, criminal fines, penalties and associated legal costs.
- Payments for works or activities that are fully funded by other sources whether in cash or in-kind, for example, if premises are provided free of charge.
- Activities in breach of legislation.
- Bad debts to related parties.
- Payments for unfair dismissal and associated legal costs.
- Replacement or refund of any funds lost to fraud, corruption, bribery, theft, terrorist financing or another misuse of funds.
- Costs incurred before the project start date, including those associated with preparing the application.