

# Building Economic Inclusion via the BIUE Economy (BELUU)

## INNOVATION GRANT

### Request for Applications & Submission Guidelines

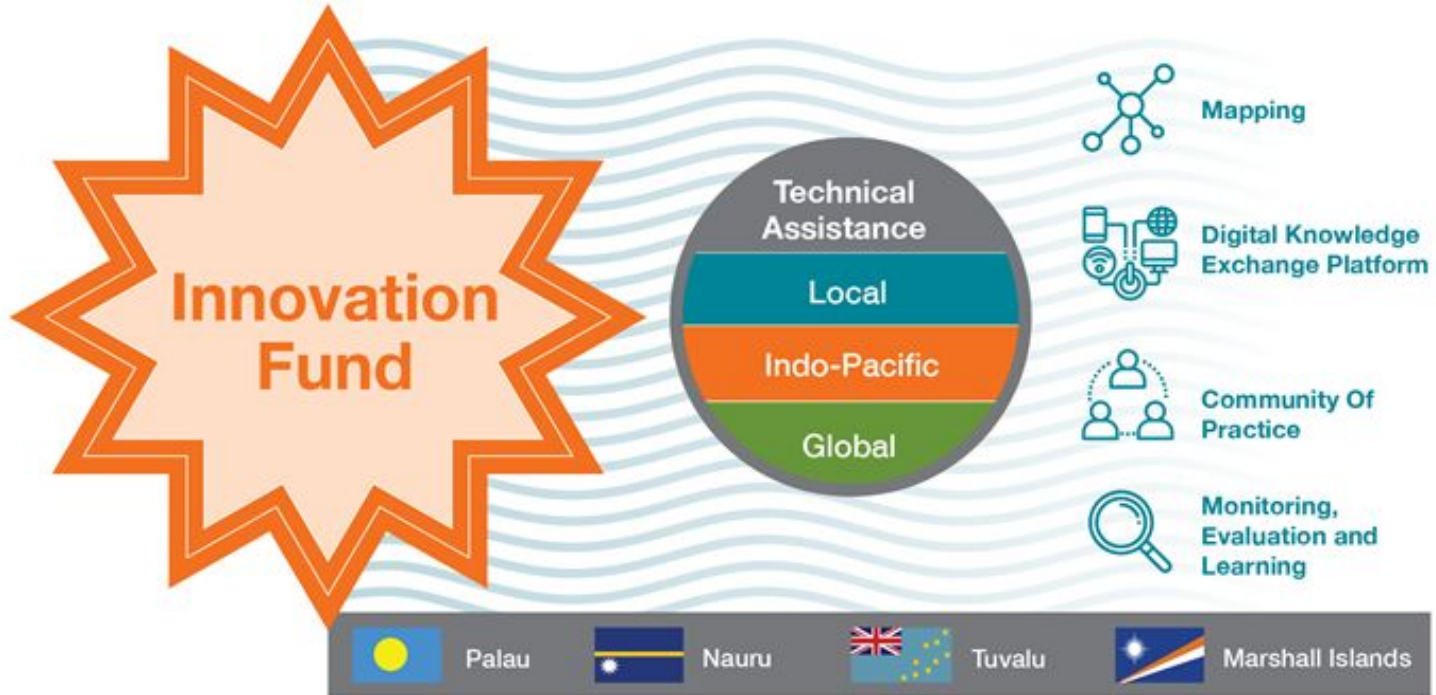


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# BELUU

Building Economic Inclusion  
via the BIUE Economy



BELUU focuses on the power of the blue and green economies to deepen the market participation of women entrepreneurs in Palau, Nauru, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands.

We will work at two levels:

1. **Contribute to the building of an enabling environment:** At least 100 male and female leaders and staff of CSOs and PSEs will directly receive support through the **CoP and DEEPR**.
2. **Support women to succeed in their local economy:** CSO/PSEs will use **Innovation Grants** to reach at least 6,131 female entrepreneurs and their households through WEE projects. 30% of participants will be youth (ages 15-24), and at least 40% will be rural.



# Key Activities and Program Participation

## Objective 1: Building an enabling environment for WEE

- Conduct mapping and inception research to deepen the initial landscaping and gender analysis
- Fostering the growth of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Private Sector Entities (PSE) via a **Community of Practice (CoP)**.
- A digital knowledge exchange platform called DEEPR will provide the CoP members (CSO and PSE staff) with technical resources relevant to the project themes.



# Key Activities and Program Participation

**Objective 2: Support women to succeed in their local economy by facilitating their access to training, finance, mentorship, resilience and business skills**

- Establish an **Innovation Fund** and manage a competitive process to award organizations with Innovation Grants for WEE projects.
- BELUU's **Technical Assistance (TA) Facility** will match Innovators with local, regional and global experts, including executive volunteers from Grameen's Bankers without Borders™ (BwB) network.
- BELUU will conduct robust **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning** (MEL) activities. Learnings will be documented and disseminated via the CoP and other networks, and will be publicly communicated across a range of channels.



# Focus on Blue and Green Economic Sectors

1. **Fisheries:** Coastal fishing activities provide subsistence livelihoods for many households.
2. **Climate-smart agriculture:** *Coconut production and processing* provides significant economic, health and cultural value to households in the target countries, while coconut oil is a key export. Enterprise opportunities for women abound through processing and value addition activities in both rural and urban areas. *Backyard gardens* in Palau, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu contribute importantly to women's activities and household nutrition.
3. **Green businesses and the circular economy:** Enterprises focused on alternative energy, recycling/reuse/return of waste into production are emerging.
4. **Ecotourism:** Offers enterprise opportunities for women include in handicrafts, restaurants and vending (especially in Palau)



## What is the BELUU Innovation Grant?

The **BELUU Innovation Grant** is an award and funding facility providing financial and technical assistance in Tuvalu, Nauru, Marshall Islands, and Palau.

- ❖ Each country shall have at least 1 Innovation Grant recipient.
- ❖ Total of **17-19 innovation grants** will be awarded.
- ❖ Open to any project that serves, supports, or led by women or youth.
- ❖ Innovation projects may last from 6 to 18 months.



# Who are eligible to apply?

Any locally active or registered CSO, PSE, and business entrepreneurs in Tuvalu, Nauru, Marshall Islands, and Palau providing projects, advocacy work, and services to women and youth. These include:

- ❖ Entrepreneurs (Could be individuals or Groups)
- ❖ Development non-profit organizations
- ❖ People's Organizations
- ❖ Farmers' Associations
- ❖ Cooperatives
- ❖ Microfinance Institutions
- ❖ Financial service providers (FSPs)
- ❖ Technology service providers
- ❖ Social Welfare Organizations
- ❖ Civic Clubs or Professional Organizations
- ❖ Civil Society Organizations
- ❖ Academic institutions (ex. Colleges, Universities)
- ❖ Established Traditional Organizations

We also encourage **Partnerships or Consortiums** of 2 or more organizations.





# What are Partnerships?

Engagement of 2 or more organizations to provide a joint solution to a problem or an issue.

Lead applicant for the Innovation Grant must meet eligibility requirements and take responsibility for overall **coordination, monitoring the budget, and compliance of the grant reporting and evaluation needs.**



## Examples of strategic engagements:

- Organizations and Financial Intermediaries
- Technology providers and CSOs
- Financial institutions and membership organizations with a built-in customer base

# Examples of Potential Projects



- Strengthening women's enterprises in the form of training, financing, networking, or mentoring.
- Traditional and life skill projects.
- Educate and link savings groups to microinsurance providers, including parametric index insurance to reduce exposure to climate change.
- Train women in savings groups to mobilize resources for coastal restoration efforts.
- Support upscaling, professionalization, or digitization of CSO-led microfinance schemes.
- Conduct boys education and/or household gender dialogues with men about how women's entrepreneurship improves overall household economic security and resilience.
- Improve and ensure data collection, monitoring, and advocacy about the impacts of national laws and policies affecting women's enterprise.





## Category 1: Small to Medium 10,000 to 15,000 USD

- For Applicants who are in the pilot or transition stage.
- Provide evidence of promising ideas and capable resource teams or experience for individuals.
- Present strategy to track impact and cost effectiveness.
- Team must have a clear plan and/or linkage with partners, team members, and other requirements to bring the innovation to a larger scale.
- **Minimum funding request is at 10,000 USD and a maximum of 15,000 USD**
- Period of implementation is from **6 to 10 months**

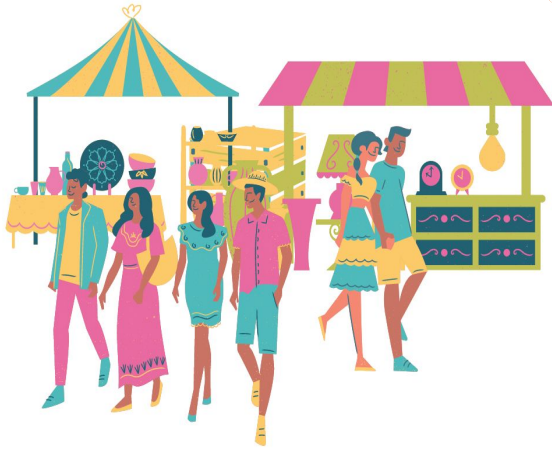


## Category 2: Large 40,000 to 55,000 USD

- For applicants at scaling-up stage or organizations experienced in managing larger grants that wish to explore an new innovative project.
- Evidence of prior grant management and potential is a plus.
- Present clear steps to build management and operational capacity.
- Has commitment to continued monitoring of social outcomes and implementation costs to ensure ongoing learning and improvement.
- **Minimum funding or budget request is at 40,000 USD and maximum of 55,000 USD.**
- Period of implementation is from **12 to 18 months.**



# General Guidelines For Innovation Grant Applicants



## Proposals should present the following:

- ❖ Clearly state *what the problem is, **how it affects poor or vulnerable groups, and how the proposed innovation provides a solution.***
- ❖ Discuss the viability and sustainability of innovation. How will outcomes result in positive changes for the target beneficiaries?
- ❖ Present team's relevant expertise and capacity to achieve success.
- ❖ Proposals must be gender sensitive and gender responsive following safeguarding protocols.

*Applicants will be assessed based on competence; experience on working with women and youth groups; resource, compliance, and good governance conditions.*



# Criteria for Judging Applications:

The BELUU Innovations Grant Selection Committee will apply a grading point system for each application.



<b>Technical Approach:</b> Overall impact, scalability and sustainability of the Project Design	<b>70 Points</b>
<b>Individual/Organization Capacity:</b> Team's resources, expertise and combined management of resources	<b>30 Points</b>
<b>Cost Evaluation:</b> Demonstrates value for money, costs for activities are reasonable based on general market rates	<b>Pass/Fail</b>



# The Applicant's Journey:

## **Step 1: Fully Complete Initial Application for BELUU Innovations Grant via Google Forms.**

- ❖ Budget Estimate + Narrative on Use of Funds
- ❖ What is the problem your project is trying to solve?
- ❖ Short Description of Project (Goals, Approach, Expected Output and Outcomes)
- ❖ Expected Impact
- ❖ Individual/Organization Advocacy
- ❖ Attachments (List of Board of Directors & Registration Documents, Optional: 3-5 minute Video)

Deadline for Initial Application: **NOVEMBER 30, 2022**



**Step 2: Shortlisted Applicants will be notified via email. They will be asked to submit a Full Application Form via Grameen Grants Portal. Templates will be provided.**

- ❖ Have an official representative of your organization sign Submission Letter.
- ❖ Complete Concept Note
- ❖ Provide a basic workplan and budget for activities
- ❖ Provide Additional supporting documents

**Step 3: Respond to additional inquiries via email or call from the BELUU Innovations Grant Selection Committee.**







## **Step 4: Watch out for Announcement of BELUU Innovation Grant Winners.**

- ❖ First Round: **JANUARY 30, 2023**
- ❖ Second Round: **MARCH 31, 2023**

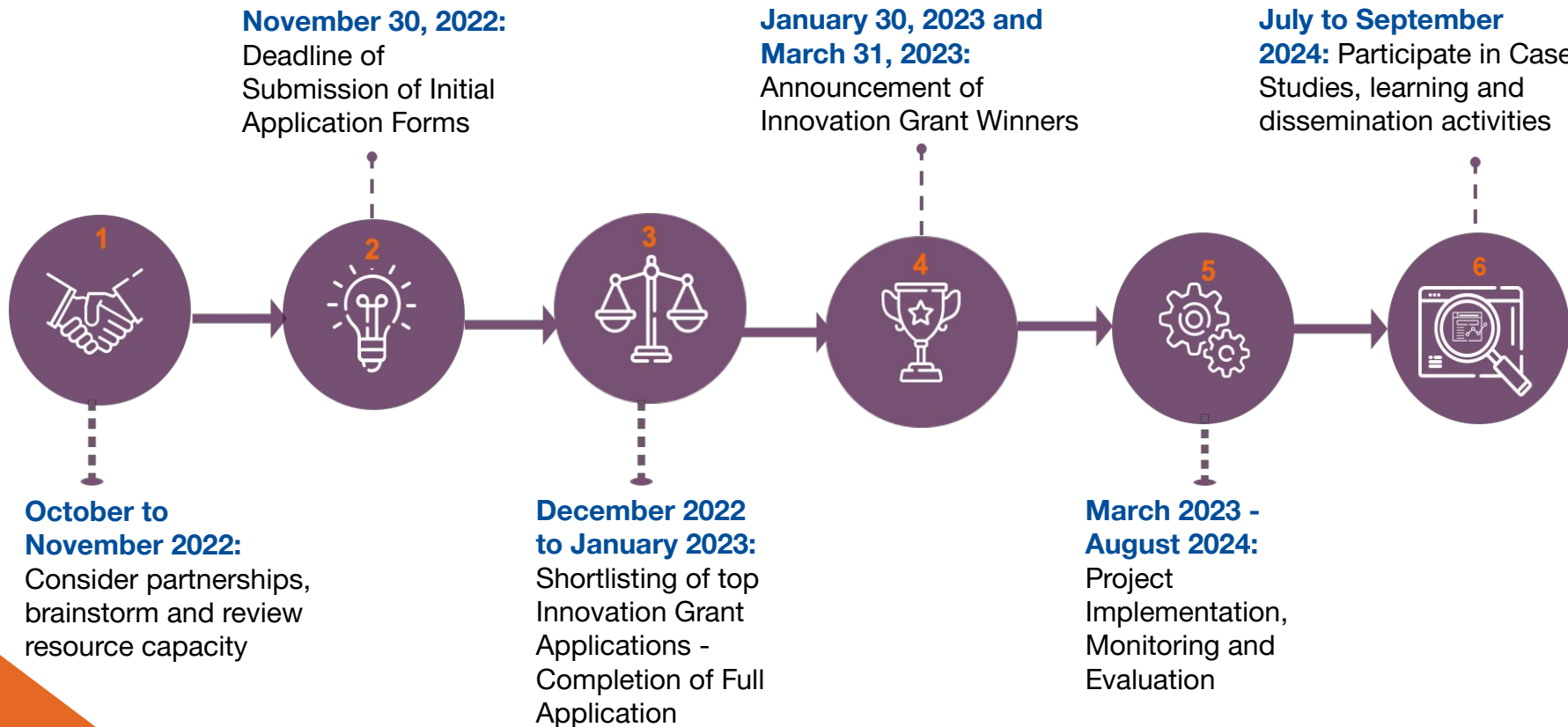
All grant winners will undergo a contracting process with Grameen Foundation.

## **Step 5: Execute your Project Work Plan.**

- ❖ Participate in Knowledge Exchange Sessions.
- ❖ Receive Technical Assistance.
- ❖ Complete monitoring and evaluation reports.



# BELUU Innovation Grant Timeline



For Inquiries, you may contact  
**[BELUU@grameenfoundation.org](mailto:BELUU@grameenfoundation.org)**

with the email subject  
*Inquiry: BELUU Innovation Grant*

Check out our website at  
**[www.grameenfoundation.org](http://www.grameenfoundation.org)**

