

Maritime Safety Week 2021

The Department for Transport is delighted to announce that annual Maritime Safety Week is taking place from 5 to 9 July 2021.

This year's Maritime Safety Week will be an opportunity for all key organisations – including HM Coastguard, charities and port authorities – to share best safety practices and knowledge, and challenge each other to enhance their already rigorous standards.

To mark the beginning of the fourth annual Maritime Safety Week, Maritime Minister Robert Courts will visit the Port of London Authority (PLA) to see first-hand its maritime pilot training space and meet some of the pilots trained to board commercial vessels to ensure safe passage. The PLA manages 95 miles of the Thames and is the UK's busiest waterway.

With lockdown restrictions lifting and more people holidaying in the UK this summer, exploring our exceptional coastline, lakes and waterways, this year, Maritime Safety Week has a particular focus on public safety with a drowning prevention roundtable and a visit to London Docklands Sailing and Watersports Centre.

Maritime Minister Robert Courts said:

The UK has always been at the forefront of international maritime safety and, with more people than ever expected to be visiting our coastline and waterways this summer, it's important that everyone knows how to stay safe and keep afloat.

This is why, this year, we will be working with key maritime safety partners to boost funding for maritime safety campaign activity and keep the public safe.

First launched in 2018, Maritime Safety Week takes place every July, highlighting the excellent work of the maritime sector to keep people safe on and around the water. By sharing best practice and driving continuous improvement, we can reinforce the UK's position as a leader in maritime safety.

Throughout the week, sector bodies will be highlighting the dangers of the maritime environment, helping to reduce preventable maritime accidents and taking stock of the fantastic and innovative work that is already being delivered.

The Minister will also be visiting a Royal Yachting Association training centre, promoting the availability of training courses in anticipation of a recreational watersports boom this year, and joining Trinity House on its inspection visit to see the vital role the General Lighthouse Authorities play in keeping the coasts safe.

Colombia Index-Based Cocoa Insurance Pilot (CIBCIP): call for bids

The results should contribute and build strong partnerships with national authorities as an integral part of the [360 degrees strategy](#) and the cocoa sector growth and [employment generation pact](#).

The pilot will complement and build on the climate risk activities that the PP has led in Colombia to address the challenge of insuring vulnerable smallholder farmers, allowing them to better manage climate risk, enabling investment and growth in the agricultural sector.

The deadline for completion of all work is 30 March 2022 and the budget must not exceed £400,000.

The deadline to submit bids is 23 July 2021 at 18:00 BST (24:00 Colombia time). Please submit bids using template attached to lesly.pinzon@fcdo.gov.uk

Background

The UK-Colombia Prosperity Programme (PP) is worth £25.5 million over 5 years (2018 to 2022). It aims to achieve inclusive growth, poverty reduction and gender equality in Colombia, while creating commercial opportunities for international businesses, including UK companies. The Programme seeks to benefit more than three million people, with a special focus on women and girls in vulnerable and post-conflict affected regions of the country.

The PP supports activities that foster and consolidate the broad-based and inclusive growth needed for poverty reduction, to make development sustainable in line with the International Development Act (2002), the International Development (Gender Equality) Act (2014) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UK has expertise in a range of sectors that countries will need to reform as they develop, including education, healthcare, finance and infrastructure. Helping partner countries develop these sectors and improve their business environment will give firms and people greater opportunities to work in a stronger, more productive economy.

The PP also seeks to improve trade links between Colombia and the rest of the world, including the UK. Higher growth in Colombia offers greater trade opportunities for international and UK business.

The PP in Colombia works in 3 strands: agriculture, infrastructure and institutional strengthening, all underpinned by a strong gender focus. The agriculture strand has two core activities, the first one is looking to increase productivity of smallholder farmers through adoption of agri-

technologies.

The second activity, implemented by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), is developing a modern agri-information and monitoring system; as well as technologies and education programmes to stimulate demand for agricultural insurance, and knowledge of agricultural risks and risk management.

Colombia has 12.8 million hectares suitable for production of cocoa crops. Growing and processing cocoa provides development opportunities for 52,000 rural families. It involves small and medium producers and creates approximately 165,000 direct and indirect jobs in over 400 municipalities and 27 departments in Colombia. In 2020, the country produced over 63,416 tons of cacao beans from which 11,145 tons were exported, ranking it the world's 10th largest producer.

Cocoa is viewed as a vital 'Peace Crop' by offering a viable alternative for generating income among smallholder farmers, approximately 14% of cocoa grown in Colombia is where formerly illegal crops were located. However, the cacao sector remains underdeveloped. Very low levels of technology, extension services and investment hinder the potential of the sector to become a source of income and development for rural communities. Furthermore, climate change has large implications for cocoa production as increased temperature and rainfall variability affects productivity.

Smallholder farmers are exposed to wide range of climate risks that, when not properly managed, are a major cause of low yields and financial shocks. These risks are hugely important for farmers with greater vulnerability to climate effects, including climate change, as they depend directly on agriculture for income and subsistence.

In Colombia, insurance coverage for agriculture is subsidised. In 2021 more than £7.5m were secured to cover up to 85% of the cost of the premium for smallholder farmers. Yet, the uptake of insurance products remains low. Finagro estimates that annually less than 3% of total cultivated area uses insurance coverage to protect production against the impact of unexpected climate events.

For cocoa production, the insurance uptake rate is even lower with less than 1.5% of total area covered. Low awareness and knowledge of insurance, and unaffordable premium costs, have restricted farmers' uptake. (Finagro is the development entity that provides resources to financial intermediaries, to provide loans to farmers. It is a mixed economy company, organized as a banking institution, with a special regime, linked to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and supervised by the Financial Superintendence of Colombia. It acts as a second-tier banking, that is, it grants resources under boosting conditions to financial entities, so that these in turn give loans to productive projects)

Index-based weather solutions are a novel type of insurance that could enhance access to formal insurance for cocoa smallholder farmers, through implementation of technological, contractual, and institutional innovations to reduce agricultural risks and farmer's vulnerability. The index-based

solution leads to pay-outs based on triggers rather than on-farm visits, this tackles some of the challenges of traditional insurance models, including overcoming high operational costs, the cost of premiums, and simplified claim processes.

Objectives

The Colombia Index-Based Cocoa Insurance Pilot (CIBCIP) will help to design a scalable and replicable farmer-driven index insurance product for a defined climate risk. The pilot must be part of a holistic risk management solution to reduce vulnerability of cocoa smallholder farmers to climate risks. It should explicitly target obstacles to help improve farmer income and use insurance as a tool to help increase productivity.

The insurance pilot will be a farmer-driven design; it will also use robust scientific output and include international technologies and knowhow as drivers of innovation. It will also consider existing gaps among different groups of climate-vulnerable smallholder farmers- for example, female smallholders, those belonging to ethnic groups or young smallholders, and it will make an effort to adapt solutions that promote inclusion of these groups.

The CIBCIP will build a robust weather-index correlating a specific climate risk with a negative income shock to design a comprehensive insurance ready for market uptake, highlighting features and finding mechanisms to reduce risk of low demand from insurance providers.

The CIBCIP will enhance the capacity of vulnerable cocoa smallholder farmers and strategic cocoa supply chain actors to better manage climate risk, enabling investment and growth in the agricultural sector, aligned with the agri insurance Theory of Change (ToC) for the PP.

The CIBCIP will build capacity of smallholder farmers and key supply chain actors to ensure that all partners understand, endorse and feed into the design of the pilot. It will also build trust to increase demand of index insurance in the cocoa sector. The pilot will need to demonstrate that it satisfies demand, that it solves the problem of managing risks in the cocoa sector, that it is operational in Colombia and that it has potential for success in the finance sector, allowing sustainability and scalability of the pilot.

The CIBCIP will help to open the market to international companies with agri-tech and financial products and services. It will support companies to develop, or reinforce, their commercial foothold in Colombia, enabling public and private sector partnerships, and creating or facilitating access from companies to commercial opportunities.

Project approach guidance

To achieve these objectives, the implementer will review international experiences to identify positive and negative experiences, draw lessons,

suggest alternatives, and consider options towards scaling up. Implementer will engage and build strong partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), Finagro, relevant cacao supply chain actors and relevant insurance-market actors to agree on: the covered risk, action plan, insurance policy and design, (please refer to [Figaro's manual](#) for insurance incentives) additional partners, targeted population and CIBCIP governance.

The implementer will select a commercial partner using a competitive process, to build a weather-based index robustly designed so that it protects cocoa farmers against the targeted risk. The index design should be farmer-driven and should use science-based data and evidence to be representative, measurable and correlatable to a financial loss. The implementer should explore opportunities in exploiting new, remote sensing technologies. Effects of climate change on weather phenomena should be considered.

The implementer will design an education component to increase the capacity of smallholder farmers, relevant cocoa supply chain actors and relevant insurance-market actors to better manage climate risk and use the insurance as a tool to reduce their vulnerability and to increase productivity.

Good communication with farmers is fundamental so that they understand the covered risk and the insurance product. Building links between insurance companies, reinsurers, commercial partners and the farmers will be a core element of the CIBCIP. The implementer should address the problem of introducing a relatively complex insurance product in an environment where farmers have low education and financial literacy in insurance take-up. Farmers must be able to understand insurance contracts; trust is inherently at the core of the process.

The implementer will identify an insurance provider registered in Colombia and agree on the insurance policy that should consider: an accessible premium cost, reliable payment trigger, clear basis risk, simple claim process and other terms, always giving farmers a voice to design the product. These parameters should consider elements of Value for Money and demonstrate usability and sustainability so that uptake is attractive to the market, and it becomes a widely-used insurance tool in Colombia.

A technical concept note must be prepared describing the insurance policy. The CIBCIP should provide sufficient incentives for the insurance provider to commit to register the index insurance product based on the technical concept note (Only insurance companies with a registered agricultural strand can subscribe index insurances with Superintendencia Financiera de Colombia).

Notice that all the described activities must be delivered by 30 March 2022.

Funding exceptions

Funding cannot be used to finance the following:

- purchase or maintenance of IT or capital equipment
- Insurance premium, insurance policy.

Additional information

The grant recipient will be expected to provide interim products to the PP and Finagro for its review and guidance. Bidders are encouraged to include a timeline in their proposal that includes regular opportunities for feedback on draft reports and a phased approach to delivery.

All work must be completed by 30 March, 2022. Bidders should include a realistic timeline in their proposals demonstrating ability to deliver against the Project's objectives within this timeframe.

Bidding process

Bidders will be responsible for proposing precisely how to achieve the objectives set out above. Proposals must be submitted in English using the templates provided below including:

If the bidder is a consortium, the following information must be provided: Full details of the consortium; the role of each member of the consortium in delivering against the project's objectives; and a primary bidder, who will be the principal point of contact with the project board. Only Non-for-profit organisations are allowed in the consortium and must complete the Grant Eligibility (Due diligence) template. All implementer partner must comply with section 5.

Proposals will be assessed using the attached evaluation criteria. Bidders may be asked for additional information to support their initial proposals.

Questions and enquiries can be submitted to lesly.pinzo@fcdo.gov.uk by midnight Wednesday 14 July. Additional questions will be addressed during the briefing session scheduled for Friday 16 July 8am Col time. Please refer to key dates below for registration information.

All proposals must be received by midnight on Friday 23 July (Colombian time). Late proposals will not be considered. Proposals must be submitted to Lesly.pinzon@fcdo.gov.uk with the subject line "Organisation name – Project Title" and include a point of contact in the body of the email.

Successful bidders will be notified by 28 July 2021

Key dates

Dates (COL time)

14 July 2021 (midnight)	Deadline to request additional information and questions.
15 July (noon)	Deadline registration to briefing session.
16 July 2021 (8:00AM-9:AM)	Briefing session via Teams.
23 July 2021 (midnight)	Deadline to receipt of project proposals.
28 July 2021	Implementers informed of bidding round outcome.

Dates (COL time)

30 March 2022

Projects to complete all activities, achieve 100% spend and submit project completion report.

Send your requests and questions to lesly.pinzon@fcdo.gov.uk

8. Additional information and documentation

Use the following templates to submit the project proposal:

All implementers will be expected to sign a standard FCDO grant agreement with the Embassy (below). Use the following document for reference:

[The George Cross awarded to the National Health Services of the United Kingdom](#)

Press release

The National Health Services of the United Kingdom have been awarded the George Cross by Her Majesty The Queen.



The National Health Services of the United Kingdom have been awarded the George Cross by Her Majesty The Queen. The award comes in recognition of 73 years of dedicated service, including for the courageous efforts of healthcare workers across the country battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

The George Cross – the highest civilian gallantry award, equivalent to the Victoria Cross – has only been bestowed collectively twice before, and today marks the second time it has been awarded collectively by Queen Elizabeth II.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

“We wouldn’t be where we are today without our health services. NHS staff have cared for us and our friends and family on the frontline of a pandemic for over a year, and I have witnessed their courage first-hand.

“Thanks to their devotion and duty our NHS has saved countless lives, and the George Cross is a symbol of the nation’s gratitude. I know the whole of the UK is behind me in paying tribute and giving thanks for everything the NHS has done for us not only in the last year, but since its inception.”

The George Cross was first bestowed collectively to the people of Malta on 15 April 1942 by King George VI and was granted to the Royal Ulster Constabulary (the fore-runner of the Police Service of Northern Ireland) on 23 November 1999.

The George Cross is the UK’s highest civilian gallantry award, equivalent to the military Victoria Cross. It sits at the top of the UK’s honours system, jointly with the Victoria Cross. It is given for acts of the greatest heroism or of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger. The George Cross was instituted in 1940.

Notes

- The people of Malta were collectively given this honour in recognition of their continuing and heroic struggle against repeated and continuous attacks during the Second World War, while the RUC’s award was for the collective and sustained bravery of police officers and their families.

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[Civilian Gallantry: George Cross for the National Health Services of the United Kingdom](#)

News story

Her Majesty The Queen is pleased to approve the award of the George Cross to the National Health Services of the United Kingdom, comprising the National Health Services in England, Scotland and Wales and the Northern Ireland Health and Social Care system.



For over 70 years the National Health Services of the United Kingdom have cared for the health and well-being of the population of the UK and in so doing has sought to protect and preserve the lives of all those whom they treat.

In 2020-21, all who work in our healthcare service, throughout every part of the United Kingdom, have risen to the challenge of the greatest public health emergency in the organisation's history: the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Every individual worker has carried out their role in the full knowledge of the highly contagious and deadly nature of the virus. Some have given their lives as a result of contracting the virus whilst carrying out their day to day work.

This award is made to recognise the collective courage and dedication of all of those working in our healthcare systems across the United Kingdom, in all capacities, who have accepted and faced into the danger and stress the pandemic has brought to them and their families.

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[Prime Minister to set out plans ahead of step 4](#)

- Findings from certification and social distancing reviews to be published
- Cases continue to rise but link between hospitalisations and deaths weakened
- Prime Minister expected to reiterate that we must carefully begin to learn to live with this virus

The Prime Minister will host a press conference this afternoon (Monday 5th July) to set out plans for the final step of the Roadmap in England, giving businesses and the public more time to prepare.

The Health and Social Care Secretary will announce the plans to Parliament.

Step 4 is expected to begin on Monday 19th July if the government's "four tests" for easing COVID restrictions have been met. This will be confirmed on Monday 12th July following a review of the latest data.

The latest data and scientific modelling suggest that cases will continue to rise as restrictions are eased, but the link to hospitalisations and deaths has been weakened due to the vaccination programme.

As of 2 July, there were 27,714 new positive cases in England. 331 people were admitted with COVID-19 and there were 1,611 patients in hospital. The latest ONS estimates show that 1 in 260 people have COVID-19 in England.

Next steps on the 1m plus rule, face coverings, and working from home will be set out, alongside the findings of the social distancing and certification review. An update will also be provided on the next steps for care home visits.

The Prime Minister is expected to reiterate that COVID will become a virus that we learn to live with as we already do with flu. This means that hospitalisations, serious illness and deaths from COVID will continue, albeit at a much lower level than before the vaccination programme.

To continue to receive the best possible protection against COVID, all adults are encouraged to get two vaccine doses. As of 4 July, over 78 million vaccine doses have now been administered in the UK, and 63.4% of adults have received two doses.

Step 3 was delayed by up to 4 weeks so every adult could be offered a vaccine, around two thirds of adults could receive a second jab, and more data could be assessed on the new Delta variant which is now dominant in the UK.

Data from Public Health England now shows that COVID vaccines are highly effective against severe illness and hospitalisation from this variant. The analysis suggests the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is 96% effective, and the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine 92% effective against hospitalisation after two doses.

The government is ensuring preparations are in place to offer third "booster" doses to everyone aged over 50 and the most vulnerable to boost their immunity over the winter months, based on interim advice from the JCVI. Final advice is expected in the coming months.

Our red list border control regime, surge testing, community testing and genome sequencing are effective ways of finding and isolating new cases of variants and will continue to be deployed.

The Prime Minister is expected to praise the efforts of the nation in getting this virus under control, while urging for caution while cases continue to rise and more people receive the greatest possible protection from two jabs.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Thanks to the successful rollout of our vaccination programme, we are progressing cautiously through our roadmap. Today we will set out how we can restore people's freedoms when we reach step 4.

But I must stress that the pandemic is not over and that cases will continue to rise over the coming weeks.

As we begin to learn to live with this virus, we must all continue to carefully manage the risks from COVID and exercise judgement when going about our lives.