

Powerbank Experimentations Q&A

Updated 25.10.2021

Introduction

Fingo Powerbank aims to strengthen the culture of experimentation, learning, and sharing within the NGO community and partners. New approaches, tools, methods, technologies, and partnerships can be valuable for development organizations but often require practical testing to find out their potential. Regardless of thriving or failing (or something between), we consider experimentations successful if new understanding, learnings, and insights are produced and shared.

Fingo Powerbank will release a new call for experimentations focusing on participatory design and co-creation processes at the community level. In practice, the aim is to support Fingo's member organizations and their local partners to embed an experimental component into their existing projects in East Africa. Instead of defining the solution in the concept phase, the experiment should allow genuine engagement and co-creation with the selected community.

Interested organizations can submit their offer using the provided template according to the timeline explained below in detail. The budget in the offer can range from €5,000 - €10 000. We recommend that the experimentation will be an additional component and budget line in an existing project. This will help your organization to adopt and experiment with new approaches and tools in your programs rather than creating an isolated pilot.

The expected results from using these funds are sharable learnings and experiences that will benefit other organizations and communities. We will keep the implementation plan and reporting concise not to burden the already busy organizations unnecessarily.

The guidelines:

- Geographical focus: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Somaliland, Rwanda, Eritrea, Mozambik, Zambia, Malawi.
- In the concept phase, the NGOs should describe the participatory design process which would take place in the selected community. A separate template will be provided.
- During this round, Fingo is partnering with a social design company Butterfly Works. Participating NGOs and their local partners will be taken through orientation and training to facilitate community-led design processes in their projects. Butterfly Works provide support in formulating solid community experimentation concepts to be submitted to Fingo
- Start of the experiments: see the timeline
- Funds should be used by the end of the year 2022.
- Reporting: documentation and learning by the end of the experiment. Sharing experiences

- in a webinar during the implementation.
- Proposal concept max. 2 pages, a template will be provided (* see key questions below).

Questions and answers regarding the 3rd round of outsourced experimentations

1. Who can respond to the call for the experimentation from Fingo Power bank?

All Fingo member NGOs which have projects in the selected countries.

2. Are there particular topics for community experimentation that would be of interest to Fingo Power bank?

The experimentation focuses on supporting participating NGOs to embed an experimental component into their existing projects. The experimentation includes a participatory design and co-creation process at the community level. The aim is to create better solutions for the communities and learn as much as possible.

We emphasize integrating gender equality into the concept. Disability inclusion and climate change are other suggested cross-cutting issues.

The thematic areas (e.g., education, health, livelihoods, child protection etc.) are not restricted but rather depend on each organization and its currently running projects.

3. Can NGOs who were conducting experiments with Powerbank in 2020 and 2021 apply again in the third round? Is it possible to use the third round to scale-up earlier experiment?

Yes, all Fingo member organizations can submit an offer. However, the offers should contain new propositions, not scale-up of an already tested model.

4. Is it possible to work as a consortium (e.g., several NGOs and partners together)?

Yes, it is. That is even preferable. Please describe the share of roles, responsibilities and budget between the different stakeholders in the funding application. For example, with multiple Fingo member organizations, the total budget in the offer can exceed €10 000 (although not per organization).

5. Are we supposed to develop innovations through experimentations? If yes, what does innovation mean?

Yes, do aim at having an innovation as a result (you may succeed or fail in doing so). You can watch this video to learn more what Fingo Powerbank means by innovation: <https://www.fingo.fi/powerbank/video-what-innovation-means-development-ngos>

6. What is the timeline for the process?

- Launch and Q &A: 25th October 2021
- Orientation, guidance and training on community-led design processes: October/November 2021. Training sessions: Wed 10th 13-15, Tue 16th 13-14, Thu 18th 13-14.
- Formulation draft concept papers & feedback from Butterfly Works between 20th Nov to 10th December.
- Submit final concept offer using provided application form by 15th December 2021
- Receive final decision from Fingo by 20th December 2022
- Forming and signing contracts: by 15th January 2022
- Sharing lessons learned in a webinar: October-November 2022
- Submitting the final report: December 2022

7. Is Powerbank funding member organizations?

No. Fingo will not give funding to member organizations. However, Fingo will outsource experimentation work based on the offers submitted by selected NGOs. Fingo will then purchase (i.e., outsource) the experimentation work, including the lessons learned report & presentation, from the member organization. This is like consultancy services: ToR / call for offers is released, and interested consultants respond. If the offer is accepted, a contract will be signed, and the work can start. Eventually, agreed deliverables should be produced, after which the consultant can invoice the purchaser of services.

8. Does our organization need to audit the invoiced money?

No. Since Fingo is not funding any organization, but rather purchasing services, we do not need to audit the funds.

Since this experimentation is regarded as a purchased service (and not a grant), as a consultancy service, there is no need for financial reporting. Just as a consultant would not be required to do financial reporting, similarly, the NGOs implementing these outsourced experimentations would not be required to do so.

The essential component is conducting the agreed work/tasks and deliverables, as documented in the contract (including the two annexes)

The invoices for payment can be sent according to these instructions: <https://www.fingo.fi/yhteystiedot/laskutusosoitteet> .

9. Do we need to conduct competitive bidding when purchasing e.g., devices with the Powerbank funds?

It is up to your organization to decide if and how you procure products and services. Note that any devices purchased with the invoiced money may be considered as a property of Fingo. However, Fingo does not want to take any devices back from any organization but rather leave them in their original place (e.g., indefinite borrowing).

10. How do we need to report?

Fingo will purchase the outsourced experimentation as well as a peer learning presentation and short report from your organization if the offer is accepted. The template for the presentation and the report will be provided by the start of the work. Work should be concluded and invoiced by the end of the 2022.

11. The outsourced experiments are relatively small in scale (€5000 - €10000). Where could we apply for more funding?

This Powerbank outsourcing is like an “experimentation voucher” to integrate into an already existing project. In this way, your organization is also co-implementing the Powerbank and increasing the understanding and use of new tools, methods and approaches with the peer NGO network.

For further funding and scaling-up, please contact Fingo for further information (e.g., Finnpartnership, MFA, EU, corporate collaboration etc.)

12. Should we engage with companies for/during the experimentation?

It is not a requirement but indeed a recommended possibility if beneficial for the experiment.

13. What if the experimentation fails?

It is OK to try, possibly fail and learn from it. We will be happy as long as you have tried your best and shared the experiences, lessons learned, and recommendations with other NGOs.

14. What is there are, for example, 10 organizations all submitting the offer with €10 000 budget? As there is max. €80 000 in total in Fingos budget, what happens then?

Based on the offers, each accepted NGO/consortium will eventually receive an amount between €5000 - €10 000, but it may be lower than initially budgeted.

15. Will there be a call for offers?

Yes, an invitation to tender document will be provided together with the application form