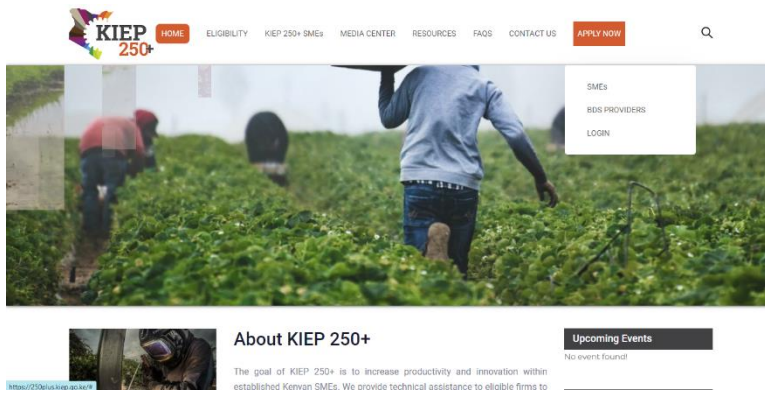


COHORT 2 APPLICATION WINDOW – REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION

#	Question	Response
1	In the application link, BDS Providers’ portal is unavailable.	<p>The BDS providers’ portal is https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/bds-providers-r/. Please refer to the application guide.</p> <p>If you have registered under this program in the past, you do not need to register again. Please use your login credentials.</p> <p>If you have forgotten your password, reset your password.</p>
2	In the SmartME system, I am unable to locate this open call account.	<p>The BDS providers’ portal is https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/bds-providers-r/ Please refer to the application guide and register.</p> <p>In case you are an SME, the application portal is https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/smes-r/ Please refer to the application guide and register.</p>
3	The BDS Application option is not available on signing-in the SmartME portal.	The link is https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/bds-providers-r/ and it is publicly available.
4	The 'Apply Now' button doesn't seem to work when I click.	<p>Refresh the website page and click the ‘Apply Now’ button – see below. If BDS, click BDS. If SMEs, click SMEs etc.</p>  <p>The screenshot shows the KIEP 250+ website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ELIGIBILITY, KIEP 250+ SMEs, MEDIA CENTER, RESOURCES, FAQs, CONTACT US, and APPLY NOW. Below the navigation bar is a large image of people working in a field. A dropdown menu is open over the 'APPLY NOW' button, showing three options: SMEs, BDS PROVIDERS, and LOGIN. Below the image, there is a section titled 'About KIEP 250+' with a sub-section 'Upcoming Events' that says 'No event found!'.</p>

#	Question	Response
		<p>Click login if you have an account and use your account credentials.</p> <p>If you had registered before and you are having challenges to either login or apply, please refer to Response No. 1.</p>
5	Can I send my application as a PDF to KIEP?	Applications are only being accepted through the system.
6	We wish to register and apply for the above-mentioned window as BDS Providers. However, we seem to encounter problems in the SmartME site, where as per the guidelines it is supposed to appear under my applications, but it is not in our portal.	Please refer to Response No. 1
7	When is the deadline of SME Applications	Please refer to the portal https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/projects/
8	Do BDS Providers need to reapply to be considered? (BDS Providers from 2021)	A fresh registration is not required.
9	I am here to inform you that I have received bank statements, but I am yet to obtain audited financial statements. What can I do if I have already submitted application but my answer for application is no.	<p>Among other requirements, financial statements is a mandatory requirement under the application eligibility criteria for SMEs.</p> <p>If you had applied under Cohort 1 and you were unsuccessful, you may still submit another application under Cohort 2 in line with the requirements under the eligibility criteria</p>
10	We are a fresh produce consortium, we wrote an email indicating our application but we are yet to obtain response. Can we go ahead and continue with the application?	<p>Please continue with your application in line with the eligibility criteria under the application guide and form published here https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/smes-r/</p> <p>You may refer to response No. 1</p>
11	Hello, I have a college registered with TVET with students undertaking various courses and a sample farm of 15 acres with cattle, chicken-layers and other farming activities. It has borehole for water and a water pan.	The eligibility criteria is applicable to each registered entity.

#	Question	Response
	<p>Besides, I own a one year old construction company registered with National Construction Authority (building category), though what we have done so far is to supply building materials to construction sites. I am writing to request if I qualify for the grant and if the value of the farm will weigh in in arriving at the Kshs 50M requirement.</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>I wanted to ask where on the application form can I upload the following documents, which were listed as part of the supporting documents required?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nomination letter 2. Professional memberships or association certificates 3. Signed letter of commitment from management 4. Reference letters or emails from key buyers or suppliers. <p>I have carefully reviewed Section 6 and the only other place that would allow me to upload the above documents would be with the Directors ID's.</p>	<p>Nomination letter/certificate will <u>not</u> be required during the application process. Applicants that pass the application eligibility criteria shall be required to provide a nomination letter/certificate at that point.</p> <p>Other documents not required under the application form will not be required at this stage.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>I would like to express an interest in applying to take part in the KIEP 250+ second cohort. My business is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Woman owned and woman led 2. Duly registered in Kenya 3. Not insolvent 4. Has audited accounts 	<p>All KIEP 250+ applications will be processed strictly following the published eligibility criteria under the application guide and form published here https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/smes-r/</p>

#	Question	Response
	<p>5. Is tax compliant</p> <p>6. I am eager and committed to participating in the programme</p> <p>However, my business is more of a micro enterprise and has been operational for twenty months. Despite the fact that I do not meet all the criteria, I would like to hope that by meeting six of the eight, my business could be considered.</p>	
14	<p>I recently registered on the KIEP 250+ website but did not find the application as a BDS provider link, just the SME Cohort Application, could you please help me register as a BDS on behalf of our company.</p>	<p>Refer to Response No. 1, 2, and 3.</p> <p>Registration MUST be completed by the applicant</p>
15	<p>I have completed my application, but I cannot see the 'Submit' button.</p>	<p>Under the application form the submit button is found under the first tab 'Application'</p>
16	<p>What happens if the email we used to register as a BDS applicant is no longer in service?</p>	<p>Please write to us through KIEP250@niras.com with the alternative email you want to use to access your previous submission.</p>
17	<p>I have been trying to log in at your website but I have not been able to.</p>	<p>To access the website, click https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/ and to login you may go to https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/smartme-login/ using your login credentials, under "User Name", enter your email addressed used to register</p>
18	<p>Regarding nomination, the information pack says this could be, among others, a Business Association. Does this Association have to be prequalified? There is a promising SME we would want to guide in the application process and were thinking of having SME Founders Association as the nominating partner.</p>	<p>Nomination letter/certificate will <u>not</u> be required during the application process.</p> <p>Applicants who pass the application eligibility criteria shall be required to provide a nomination letter/certificate at that point.</p>
19	<p>What happens if an SME is doing very well on the other metrics (innovation, technology, alignment to BETA focus areas and value</p>	<p>Applications will be processed in line with the eligibility criteria under the application guide and application form published here https://250plus.kiep.go.ke/smes-r/</p>

#	Question	Response
	chains) but is shy of the 2 years by about 6 months? Would a consideration be made for such?	
20	The number of files are limiting – e.g. in the case of the Shareholder Certificate/CR12 certificate question – how can one go about this? Should they only upload one of the two?	You may merge the two documents into one.
21	<p>Am writing an email on behalf of our company concerning the application for KIEP250+. We attended the meeting using a different email as opposed to the one that had received the information about the zoom meeting.</p> <p>Please note we are very much interested in making an application as BDS providers and we wish for your guidance.</p>	Please refer to response 1
22	How is the lead firm to send in their nomination? Do they send a letter directly to you, and what is the key content they should include in the letter that should be captured?	<p>Nomination letter/certificate will <u>not</u> be required during the application process.</p> <p>Applicants that pass the application eligibility criteria shall be required to provide a nomination letter/certificate at that point.</p>
23	I am a Founder for a start-up in the broiler chicken sector. I am interested in the programme but do not meet the KES 50 Million annual revenue requirement. Do I stand a chance for consideration?	Refer to Response No. 14
24	Please advise if you are also onboarding waste management companies and recycling companies in current cohort	If your company meets the eligibility criteria, please apply (refer to Response No. 2)