

## FAQs for SheSustains Accelerator Program

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### What is the SheSustains Program?

SheSustains is an accelerator program that seeks to increase access to climate finance for gender-responsive, women-led, and women-benefiting organizations. The program seeks to uplift and empower women-owned enterprises operating across various sectors related to climate change. Providing support for these enterprises to accelerate their growth, sustainability, and scalability, ultimately aiming to transform them into profitable and sustainable ventures. The program also focuses on stimulating job creation on the African continent through the development of women-led initiatives. The SheSustains program is administered in partnership with organizations including 2X Global, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Amazon, Reckitt, Visa Foundation, and the UPS Foundation to achieve its objectives.

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### What are Women-Owned Enterprises?

In its simplest form, women-owned enterprises are programs, projects, organizations, or businesses that are owned by at least one woman. It refers to a business entity that is at least 51% owned by, controlled, operated, and managed on a daily basis by a woman or women. If the entity is a nonprofit, 51% of its leadership must be women.

These enterprises often focus on addressing issues that particularly affect women or aim to empower and support women in various fields.

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### What are Climate-based Solutions?

Climate-based solutions refer to enterprises focussed on mitigating the impacts of climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These solutions can be implemented across various sectors, including renewable energy, energy finance, Energy for Agriculture, sustainable transportation, afforestation and reforestation,

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sustainable agriculture, waste reduction and management, green infrastructure, carbon capture, storage (CCS), sustainable land management, health, climate adaptation measures.

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### **What benefits will I get from the program?**

Participants may receive financial support and will benefit from training in capacity building, environmental and social governance (ESG), marketing, fundraising, pitching, and product development.

Activities in these areas include intensive collaborative sessions with mentors during training workshops. You will also have access to Facilitators who will guide you through your entrepreneurship journey.

The training phase of the SheSustains program will be conducted entirely online, allowing participants to engage through virtual modules and webinars from any location. An award ceremony will be held in-person in Abuja, where participants will have the opportunity to network and celebrate program achievements. Clean Technology Hub will offer logistical or accommodation support for this in-person event as deemed appropriate.

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### **What is the expected commitment?**

A full-time commitment is expected of all participants in the SheSustains program. This means that you **MUST** attend all the classes in order to obtain certification and gain an opportunity to pitch your business to the judges/investors.

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### **Are there any geographical restrictions on who can apply?**

This program is designed to support women entrepreneurs in Nigeria working in the climate action space.

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### Who is eligible to apply for the SheSustains program?

The program is open to climate and gender-smart enterprises, with a strong preference for women-led enterprises that provide Climate Solutions.

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### How can I apply for the SheSustains program?

You may apply through the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd\\_dPCxTYEPnpDCcodWDqIh02j\\_n4wPxCiokcumGj2AtnY4ZA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_dPCxTYEPnpDCcodWDqIh02j_n4wPxCiokcumGj2AtnY4ZA/viewform)

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### Is my startup eligible to apply if it has been operating for less than three years?

Yes. However, the SheSustains program is designed to support businesses that are scalable and not in the incubator stage.

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### What documents should I have ready when applying?

Applicants should prepare documents verifying business registration, a pitch deck, and a business logo.

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### What does the selection process look like?

After the application period closes, the selection team evaluates applications based on criteria such as business scalability, alignment with climate action goals, and overall impact potential.

**Note:** It may take up to 2 weeks for applicants to receive feedback after the application period. Successful applicants will receive emails informing them of their selection into the SheSustains Accelerator Program.

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### How are prizes awarded in the SheSustains accelerator program?

The SheSustains program will award a total of **\$200,000** in grant funding across 56 selected businesses from three cohorts. Funding amounts will vary based on the ranking and demonstrated impact of each selected business.

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### **What is the timeline for the SheSustains program, and what are the key milestones?**

The 6-week program includes initial training sessions, followed by mentorship, pitch preparation, and culminates in a Demo Day where participants present to investors. Participants must attend the mandatory information session on 13th January, 2025, and selected participants will be announced on 31st January, 2025.

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### **Applicants Information Session 13th January, 2025.**

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### **When is the application deadline?**

The deadline for application is 24th January, 2025 at 11:59 pm. Late applications will not be considered.

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### **When will successful applicants be announced?**

Successful Applicants will be announced on 31st January, 2025

For further inquiries, kindly reach out to us via email at: If you didn't find what you were looking for get in touch with us at [edp@cleantechnologyhub.org](mailto:edp@cleantechnologyhub.org)