Pilot Assessment Process

ID2020 supports pilots that are either submitted through its portal or developed in partnership with existing alliance members. Regardless of intake method, all pilot proposals must meet the same rigorous standards to receive organisational support.

Portal Proposal

This section outlines the processes by which a pilot proposal submitted through the portal is received, reviewed and approved for implementation.

(A) Pilot Submission

A pilot proposal is submitted for consideration through the online portal by individuals, organisations or partnerships. Any supplemental materials sent through alternative means should be added to the application. At this point, projects may or may not be already known to the Secretariat.

(B) First Round Review

The Secretariat conducts an internal review of the proposal using a set of standardized criteria. Each reviewer first performs an independent assessment of the application. Any corresponding scores and comments are recorded and consolidated in the portal. This internal evaluation phase primarily concerns the conceptual strength of the proposal including technical product, needs assessment, potential impact and resource requirements.

At the next review meeting, the Programs team discusses the proposal with all individual assessments viewable. The conversation focuses on those areas with major score differences. For promising and viable proposals, the team schedules an initial call with the applicant to seek clarification and further information on any aspect of the pilot. If appropriate, the Programs team recommends changes to the proposal during these sessions.

The Secretariat then determines if the proposal is:

I. Advanced to Second Round Application

A proposal is advanced to the secondary application round if it provides sufficient detailed and a comprehensive summary of a pilot which is feasible, impactful and aligned with the values of the Alliance.
II. Recommend for Engagement

A proposal requires further engagement with and detail from the applicant if (A) it is missing or has provided insufficient core pilot design information, or (B) it is unclear whether the pilot intervention would adhere to ID2020’s organisational values. The Programs team may suggest changes to the pilot design.

III. Rejected with Ecosystem Action (See Appendix A)

A proposal is transferred to ecosystem engagement if it contains (A) a useful technology, (B) interesting use case, or (C) extensive organisational operations. At this point, the pilot proposal is rejected.

IV. Rejected with No Further Action

A proposal is rejected if it is clearly (A) impractical to implement, (B) missing significant core components, or (C) incompatible with the values and mission of the organisation.

Review meetings are convened every two weeks with an expedited schedule for time-sensitive pilots.

(C) Second Round Review

Qualified proposals then receive a secondary application with more detailed questions focused on the readiness for implementation of the pilot project.

Again, the Secretariat conducts an internal review that follows the same format as the first round assessment. An important difference is that the process at this stage requires meeting with all project partners to finalize the pilot design and implementation details. The discussions focus on understanding the various roles and resource contributions of the various entities. The Programs team recommends any appropriate changes or additions to the pilot at this stage. Pilot proposals are then:

I. Advanced to Working Group Review
II. Recommended for Engagement
III. Rejected with Ecosystem Action (see appendix A)

Proposals that reach the second round of the application are automatically considered for ecosystem participation even in the event of rejection. Second round review meetings are held at the same time each week as those of the first rounds. A secondary application is mandatory for consideration by the Pilot Evaluation Working Group.
(D) Due Diligence

Concurrently, the Programs team conducts due diligence for the pilot including a systematic risk assessment. This process consists of performing background checks, interviewing project partners and reviewing previous projects. Any major red flags halt the proposal evaluation process, and trigger an in-depth review of the raised issue. The Programs team brings unresolved concerns about the pilot to the attention of the executive management of ID2020 - who make a decision on the proposal.

All findings from due diligence are then shared in the complete application with the Pilot Evaluation Working Group.

(E) Advisory Committee Review

Select pilot proposals are forwarded to each of ID2020’s external Advisory Committees (Program Delivery, Ethics and Risks, Ecosystem and Advocacy, and Technical) for assessment based on all available application information. The comments and scores from the internal reviews are not viewable to reduce potential bias in the evaluation. Members of the advisory committees are encouraged to reach out to members of the Programs team to seek clarification or address concerns.

The advisory committees must unanimously approve the pilot to proceed to the final pilot approval by the ID2020 Board. At this point, the Secretariat must formally notify the Alliance Board. The advisory committees are strongly encouraged to make known any concerns, qualifications or recommendations.

Otherwise, the advisory committees can either (I) outright reject the proposal, or (II) request amendments or additions to the proposal. Any required changes would be subject to a second round internal review before being presented again to the advisory committees.

(F) Board Approval

All pilots proposals are then submitted for approval by the Alliance Board. Board members are given sufficient notice to raise any concerns with or ask any questions of the pilot project. After the review meeting, the Alliance Board decides to:

I. Approve the Pilot

The pilot is approved for launch provided it meets all remaining standard project requirements - including reporting obligations, legal agreements, or partner commitments.
II. **Conditionally Approve the Pilot**

In addition to the above requirements, the pilot is approved if and when it meets the conditions stipulated by the Board. These criteria can concern intervention design, partner participation, or monitoring and evaluation operations. However, the Board may also make approval conditional on internal funding, project timelines, or other pilot results.

III. **Reject the Pilot**

The pilot is considered ineligible to receive official organisational support. Project partners may still receive informal assistance on pilot design, monitoring and evaluation, or technical standards development.
Development Proposal

In some cases, pilot proposals are developed in partnership with alliance members and their relevant project partners. This process is flexible to enable partners to efficiently engage stakeholders, select the digital identity technologies, design the intervention, and determine evaluation protocols.

As a facilitator, the Secretariat is expected to not be directly involved in every aspect of developing the pilot project. However, all developed pilot proposals are subject to the following modified assessment procedures to ensure that they meet organisational standards.

(A) Development Milestones

The pilot partner(s) should provide a written update of major decisions on pilot design within a reasonable timeframe. Specifically, the Secretariat requires information on the following areas:

- Pilot Location & Target Population
- Digital Identity Technologies (Verification, Data Storage)
- Intervention Design (Entry Point, Social Services)
- New Partnerships

(B) Second Round Application & Review

Once conceptually complete, the developed pilots are inserted into the second round application. The ‘developed’ pilot proposals are treated the same as the portal proposals at this point. See Section C in ‘Portal Proposal’ for greater detail on the assessment processes and criteria.

The Secretariat may continue to assist all pilots through advising on implementation and evaluation protocols.

(C) Working Group Review

All pilots are then forwarded to an external working group for assessment as described in the previous section. This working group is instructed to treat all pilots equally regardless of the intake mechanism. Any member of the working group which is affiliated with any of the project partners will be excused from this review session.

See Section C in “Portal Proposal” for additional details on the working group assessment
(D) **Board Approval**

This process is identical to that for pilots through the portal - which can be found in Section (E) of 'Portal Proposal.'
Pilot Workshop

Working Group

Review

Second Round Application

Review

Rejected

Board Approval

Pilot Development

MS1
MS2
MS3
MS4

Clarification

M = Milestone of the Development Process

Pilot Process: Development Proposal
Appendix A: Pilot Engagement Pathways

ID2020 rejects pilot project proposals that do not meet our evaluation criteria or do not adhere to our mission and values. However, in certain situations, ID2020 may identify the potential for further engagement with the organization. This engagement may take several forms, as outlined below.

(A) Applicable Technology

Some proposals do not provide a comprehensive or viable pilot project, but offer a specific technical solution or component that could be applicable to future pilot projects. In these situations, ID2020’s internal pilot evaluation team notifies the applicant of their application status and connects them to ID2020’s Chief Architect to initiate an evaluation of potential technical involvement in a future project.

(B) Complementary with Existing Pilot

Some proposals do not provide a comprehensive or viable pilot project, but offer a specific component that is directly applicable or fills a specific need for a pilot project in development. For example, a proposal may offer an applicable technical solution, unique expertise about a particular target population or location, etc. In these situations, ID2020’s internal pilot evaluation team notifies the applicant of their application status and initiates the conversation for potential involvement in an ongoing pilot.

(C) Potential Alliance Member

Select applicant organizations may be identified as desirable ID2020 Alliance members. In these situations, ID2020’s internal pilot evaluation team notifies the applicant of their application status and connects them to ID2020’s Ecosystem Manager to initiate the conversation to become an ID2020 member.

(D) Other

Other forms of engagement may materialize throughout the pilot solicitation process and will be strategized by ID2020’s internal pilot evaluation team as they arise.