Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I join the IFC ScaleX Investor Coalition and ScaleX Community?
   Accelerators may use the Coalition Nomination Form to sign up for the IFC ScaleX Community and nominate eligible women-led startups for the Investor Coalition. ScaleX will contact nominated women-led startups asking them to complete a sign-up form to validate their eligibility. Eligible startups are then invited to complete their registration on the online platform where the coalition is housed. Accelerators who do not have women-led startups in their network that meet the program’s criteria may still use the same Coalition Nomination Form to sign up for the IFC ScaleX Community to participate in a series of workshops and training on incorporating a gender lens in your operations, and to collaborate and learn from a global network of peers.

   Women-led startups may self-nominate their ventures for the ScaleX Investor Coalition using the Coalition Pre-screening Questionnaire. Eligible startups will be invited to complete their registration on the online platform where the coalition is housed.

   Investors who wish to join the IFC ScaleX Community and/or the Investor Coalition may email scalex@ifc.org to request more information and express their interest.

2. What kind of startups are eligible for the IFC ScaleX Investor Coalition?
   To qualify, startups must:
   a. Have at least one woman on the founding team or C-suite
   b. Operate in an emerging market(s)
   c. Have generated revenue for at least six months
   d. Have received at least US $100,000 in external funding
   e. Be raising Seed or Series A+ funding

   These eligibility requirements may be changed at IFC’s discretion.

3. How do you define a woman-led startup?
   IFC ScaleX defines a “woman-led startup” as an early-stage company with a woman founder, co-founder, or woman in C-level leadership position. (C-level leadership position refers to executive-level positions within a company.)

4. How do you define an accelerator?
   An accelerator is a business program that supports early-stage growth-driven companies through financing, education, mentorship, office space and supply chain resources. Accelerators enroll startups for a fixed period of time and as part of a cohort of companies. Their goal is to help startup companies scale by helping them define and build their initial products, identify promising customer segments, and/or secure resources, including capital and employees. Companies that offer individual business coaching and/or consulting do not qualify as an accelerator for IFC ScaleX.
5. **Who are the Investors that are participating in the Coalition?**
   IFC is currently onboarding Seed and Series A+ investors from around the world who are interested in engaging with and investing in high-growth women-led startups in emerging markets. Investor participation is through invitation-only. However, investors who are interested to learn more about the Coalition and broader ScaleX community, including training to be offered, can email scalex@ifc.org to request more information and express their interest.

   Investors that will participate in the Coalition will be announced when the platform officially launches around May-June 2023.

6. **When is the IFC ScaleX Coalition taking place?**
   ScaleX is already accepting nominations for women-led startups to join the Coalition and is onboarding investors. We are targeting the official launch of the Coalition in May-June 2023. The Coalition will run until the end of 2023 and may be extended at the discretion of IFC.

7. **How will I be informed about workshops taking place in the IFC ScaleX Community?**
   IFC ScaleX will email investors and accelerators who sign up for the Community to notify them of upcoming workshops (topics, timing, etc.).

8. **Can I still apply for the awards program?**
   The ScaleX award application period has closed. We received applications from over 170 accelerators from around the world. Through a competitive selection process five accelerators were selected to receive an award to recognize the great work they are doing to support women-led startups in emerging markets access equity financing post acceleration. The winners of the award program will be announced shortly. There will not be further open calls for applications under the award program.