CGIAR Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) Platform

Methods Module Innovation Grants

RESEARCH GRANTS TO DEVELOP AND/OR VALIDATE INNOVATIVE METHODS AND TOOLS FOR GENDER RESEARCH

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated: 10 March 2021
(*revisions/updates are in red font)

Applicant Eligibility

Are non-CGIAR organizations eligible for funding?

Applications must be led by CGIAR Research Centers. However, other non-CGIAR organizations or individuals can be involved in projects as collaborators.

Are there restrictions in terms of the number of concept notes and proposals a center or an individual can submit? Can a Center lead more than one proposal?

There is no limit to the number of proposals in which a center or an individual may submit or be involved. However, only one proposal will be selected per lead Center.

Is an individual participating in one of the Methods Module working groups eligible to submit proposals?

Yes, members of the Methods Module working groups can submit proposals. However, core members of the Methods Module Project Management Unit (PMU) are ineligible for this funding, as are any individuals affiliated with the Gender Platform PMU or Module leadership.

Do all proposals need to include partners based in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)?

Yes, this is an eligibility requirement. Partners can be either local or international organizations operating in LMICs.

What makes a Center qualify as "lead"?

The "lead Center" is the Center responsible for ensuring overall project performance, coordination with partners, timely delivery of outputs, and grant reporting.

Can the Centers that are not joining One CGIAR (e.g. CIFOR-ICRAF, ICRISAT) lead proposals?

Those Centers not joining One CGIAR may receive funding from the GENDER Platform until the end of 2021. However, it is still not entirely clear how this would change in 2022. For this reason, these Centers will **not** be eligible to lead proposals, but are eligible to be partners on proposals. The GENDER Platform is taking the approach that the Centers will still be a partner in the future regardless of what happens at the One CGIAR level. Should the situation change, we will inform you as soon as possible.

Can a proposal be submitted to both the innovation call and the WEAI/nutrition learning call if it meets the eligibility requirements for both?

Yes, as long as it meets the eligibility requirements stated in the Call for Applications under both grants, you can submit the same proposal to both calls.

If a Center has already received a grant from another platform module (e.g. Evidence), would that have implications for eligibility on this call?

It does not disqualify you from being selected for funding under this call if you have received funding from another platform module. In fact, we are looking for good synergies across the GENDER Platform and One CGIAR as indicated in the Call for Applications, which means that this could make your proposal stronger if you well articulate this synergy component in your proposal i.e. what the value added of your proposal would be to our portfolio as well as to other activities undertaken by the Platform and across CG.

Is collaboration with NARS a requirement?

We require partnerships with institutions based in LMICs. Although we encourage collaboration with NARS, it is not a requirement.

Application Requirements and Rules

Is there a specific time by when submissions must be submitted?

Both concept notes and proposals must be submitted by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the deadline dates. Please see the Call for Applications for more details about the timelines.

We have missed the March 1st deadline for a concept note. Are we still able to submit a concept note or can I submit a full proposal without submitting a concept note?

No, you must submit your concept note(s) by 11:59 PM Eastern Time, Monday, 1 March 2021 to be considered for an invitation to submit Full Proposals. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Is there a template that we are required to use for the submission of concept notes and full proposals?

Yes, you are required to complete the template provided by us, which can be accessed here. All of the call documentation can be found here as well.

Is there a limit to the length of a concept note?

Please abide by the word limits indicated in the template (roughly 4-5 pages in length, excluding cover page, appendices and references but including foot and endnotes).

Are appendices accepted with the concept note?

CVs and letters of support should be included as appendices to the concept note document. Figures and tables may also be included as appendices. For consistency and to facilitate the review process, we are asking all applicants to follow the concept note template. Submissions that do not use the concept note template will not be accepted.

Will feedback be provided to the concept notes and proposals that are not successful?

We will provide brief feedback to all applicants at both the concept note and proposal stages.

Would it be possible for us to modify project components in the full proposal after the concept note was selected? I was wondering, during development of our proposal, if and to what extent we can divert from the original idea expressed during application.

You will be expected to incorporate the comments on the concept note in the full proposal. However, if you wish to make other substantive changes not raised in the concept note comments (for example, *changes in the scope or methodology of the research activity*), you should discuss the changes with the Methods Module PMU before proceeding.

What do you mean by "General endorsements should not be included." in Appendix 2 in the concept note template?

What we are asking for is a statement of support that is tailored to and directly relevant to the proposed project and its fit for our portfolio, rather than an endorsement for the centers/researchers or their work in general.

For the review of literature/citations, can we add them as footnotes so it will not add to the number of words?

Yes, it is fine to cite references as footnotes, endnotes, or in a separate reference list at the end of the document. Regardless, it will not be counted against the word limits.

Is there a template for proposals available?

Not at the moment, but the full proposal template will be posted on the website in due course.

While there is a deadline for the platform to use funding, the COVID-19 situation may make methods testing complicated in the field. How will this be taken into consideration given that all projects should start on July 1?

In the full proposal template, you will be asked to articulate the potential risks

associated with COVID-19 and your plan to address them, which we will take into consideration in the selection process. We will also closely monitor how the pandemic progresses, and if necessary, will adjust the procedures and timelines at the platform level.

Budgeting Rules

What is the upper limit of the individual grant applications?

The budget is up to $250,000 per grant. The Methods Module Innovation Grant as a whole will award up to $1 million of competitive research grants.

Does the $250,000 exclude indirect costs?

No, the $250,000 grant limit is the total amount that can be allocated to any one grant, including any indirect costs.

Are there any requirements for co-financing?

There is no co-financing requirement for applications.

For concept notes, are we supposed to complete and attach a detailed budget?

No, we only ask for an indicative budget in the main template at the concept note stage.

The Call for Applications suggests that I should budget for attendance at the annual GENDER Platform conference. If we have more than one center involved, does a representative from each center have to attend?

As stated in the Call for Applications, attendance at the annual GENDER Platform conference is mandatory for grant holders and this should be budgeted in your application of your proposed research project for 2022 (the 2021 conference is planned to be virtual). We only require one representative per grant to attend the conference. Of course, you can send more representatives to the conference if you wish.

May we know if there is a tentative location where the 2022 conference will be held? The information will be considered when we estimate the proposed budget.

We have not determined where the 2022 conference will be held. We advise you use your best estimation but go with a higher cost region to be on the safe side. As an example, if the project PI is based in LAC, for the cost estimation, s/he can assume the conference location to be either Asia or Africa.

Is it ok to divert from the budget template you have provided?

The budget template we have provided is indicative and we are willing to allow more flexibility if you could justify how you organized your budget categories. The bottom line is to ensure that we can assess how the funds are allocated. So yes, you can adjust the template to fit your specific needs.

Should we also provide a budget breakdown per line item for non-CG collaborators?

Please try to provide a budget breakdown per line item for all collaborators (CG and non-CG) involved where relevant, and indicate where the costs will be covered by other funding sources. This would allow us to assess whether all partnerships and collaborations will be equitable and backed by adequate resources.

Selection Process and Criteria

Does Methods Module consider qualitative methods, tools and approaches?

Absolutely. We particularly welcome applications proposing the innovative use of qualitative or mixed methods.

How do you define "method" and "tool"?

We will adopt the definitions used by the Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA) programme, which are as follows: *By **methods** we mean the processes and approaches involved in a systematic inquiry of relationships between gender and the key research themes and generally refer to study design (for example, collective action games; GENNOVATE; Gender Action and Learning System (GALS); Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI); Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index (WELI). A **tool** is a vehicle or aid to collect information and data to arrive at indicators or aid decision making (for example, Gender and Inclusion Toolbox; Gender Equality in Research Scale [GEIRS]; GENNOVATE Ladder of Life exercise).*

How would innovation be graded?

Reviewers will grade each criterion on a scale of 1-5. Guiding questions to help with the assessment are presented in the Calls for Applications.

Are there any priority countries for research?

There are no priority countries within the Methods Module. However, your proposed projects must focus on LMIC countries and regions.

How will you assess whether a project offers "value for money"?

We will look for projects that 1) have a greater potential impact of the outputs and outcomes generated by the project compared to its overall cost and 2) are cost-effective i.e. making sensible efforts to reduce expenditure, such as limiting non-essential trips and holding meetings virtually.

Is there a possibility that a project will be matched with another project by the Selection Panel?

There will be no official matchmaking process for this call. However, if we see the potential of a good match between different projects, we will reach out to the applicants.

Is there a preference for cross-country comparative studies, or will a project focused on a single country context be rated equally?

There will be no preference between cross/multi-country vs. single country studies, as long as your application meets all the criteria stated in the Call for Applications and is designed in a way that could adequately address your research goals and questions.

Is a single CG Center project rated equally to a multi CG Center proposal?

The selection criteria will consider broad and meaningful partnerships and collaborations across and beyond CGIAR that reflect interdisciplinary or multi-sectoral expertise, so this is not simply based on how many CG Centers are involved in the project. This should be clearly articulated in your concept notes under the sections on Collaborations as well as Research uptake, capacity strengthening & pathways to impact.

For funding, will you select similar types of multiple projects or each of the final 4 projects will be different?

That will mainly depend on the proposals submitted. Apart from assessing the quality of each proposal, we will aim for portfolio balance across different topics, contexts, geographic regions, etc.

Can projects only either develop or apply or validate methods, but not two or all three? IMMANA calls stipulate one or the other but not both.

We're flexible. You are welcome to submit a proposal that hits multiple boxes if it is feasible given the resources and the justification is clear. Under this call, it is not required to achieve multiple goals e.g. development *and* validation of methods within one project.

Do I understand that the tools/methods are supposed to be aligned with the 7 thematic areas where working groups are already formed?

The projects are required to address at least one of the thematic areas identified.

Is there any scope to take a thematic area on Gender and COVID-19 situation?

For applicability of methods and tools, we believe a broader theme of resilience seems more relevant rather than focusing solely on COVID-19. We understand that there is a call for generating evidence on gendered impact on COVID-19 under the Evidence Module.

Do tools/methods include the testing of innovative analysis methods?

Absolutely.

When talking about research uptake, do you mean uptake of the tools or of the evidence?

It's both. Although this is the call under the Methods Module, we expect that the outcomes of the projects will likely contribute to the broader body of work we are undertaking under the Platform as a whole and across all modules.

How many teams will be asked to develop full proposals?

We haven't set the target number of shortlisted candidates. It will depend on the quality of proposals we receive in the first stage.

Other

What are the required deliverables under this grant?

All required deliverables and outputs are listed in the Call for Applications. In addition, all projects are required to submit an annual project report as well as a financial report.

What are the contractual requirements of the grants?

Funds will be allocated through GENDER Platform Program Participant Agreements (PPAs) with the respective Centers, and adhere to the terms and conditions therein.

Will there be further opportunities for funding from the GENDER Platform Methods Module post-2022?

We are unsure at this stage.

Is the informational webinar presentation available online?

Yes, you can access the webinar recording and presentation slides here.