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

Methods Module
WEAI-Nutrition Learning Grants

RESEARCH GRANTS TO INTEGRATE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND NUTRITION METHODS AND TOOLS IN CGIAR 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 (excluding IFPRI). However, other non-CGIAR organizations or individuals can be involved in projects as collaborators.

Why is IFPRI not eligible as lead Center under this call?

The suite of WEAI methods and tools, and gender and nutrition methods and tools were developed under the IFPRI-led CGIAR Research Programs on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM), and Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH). Technical support for the Learning Grants will therefore be provided by IFPRI, which has strong expertise on these methods and tools. The goal of the learning grants is to scale up the use of these methods and tools across the One CGIAR, particularly among Centers with less experience in integrating gender, women's empowerment, and nutrition in their research.

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.

Are there restrictions in terms of the number of 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, members of the Methods Module Project Management Unit (PMU) and the GENDER Platform PMU are ineligible for this funding.

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.

Does the proposed research have to integrate both WEAI *and* nutrition indicators?

Yes, projects should integrate both WEAI and nutrition indicators to explore one of the identified research gaps:

- Explicit attention to assessing impacts on both women's empowerment and nutrition in evaluations of agricultural programs
- Explore how engaging men and boys in development projects can shift the allocation of food, financial resources, and time burdens in more gender-equitable ways
- Explicit attention to unintended consequences of development interventions on women's own nutrition, health, and empowerment, including increased work burdens and related physical activity/energy expenditure (and changes in energy and nutrient needs); and the possibility of backlash from men
- Assessing empowerment and nutrition impacts of development interventions on multiple household members, including adolescent girls and boys

Does the proposed research have to be linked to an existing funded research project?

Yes, the proposed activities should be linked to existing or soon-to-be started projects.

What type of research activities will be supported?

Diagnostic studies that collect and analyze women's empowerment and nutrition data, experimental or quasi-experimental impact assessment, and validation studies are all eligible activities.

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.

Should a project be only a top up grant for already ongoing work, or could it be a project on its own as an empirical study?

As stated in the Call for Applications, your project has to be part of a study that is currently ongoing or about to start. We believe the funding amount under this grant will most likely not be sufficient to conduct a standalone study without additional funding sources.

Can this funding be used to support graduate students (e.g. as tuition and/or student stipends) who have finished coursework and are/will be working on this research project?

Absolutely. Capacity building is part of the criteria for the learning grants, and we do encourage you to engage with partners including universities and early career researchers.

Application Requirements and Rules

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

Proposals must be submitted by **11:59 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday 6 April 2021**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please see the Call for Applications for more details about the timelines.

Is there a template that we are required to use for the submission of 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 proposal?

Please abide by the word limits indicated in the template (roughly ~10 pages in length, excluding cover page, appendices and references).

Are appendices accepted with the proposal?

CVs and statements of support should be included as appendices to the proposal 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 proposal template. Submissions that do not use the provided proposal template will not be accepted.

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

Yes, we will provide brief feedback to all applicants.

What do you mean by "General endorsements should not be included." in Appendix 2 in the proposal 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.

Budgeting Rules

What is the upper limit of the individual grant applications?

The budget is up to $100,000 per grant. The Methods Module WEAI-Nutrition Learning Grant as a whole will award up to $400,000 of competitive research grants.

Does the $100,000 exclude indirect costs?

No, the $100,000 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.

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. As stated in the Call for Applications, we particularly welcome applications proposing the use of qualitative or mixed methods.

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.

WEAI and Nutrition methods/tools

Do we have to use WEAI to measure women's empowerment in the research or can it be any women's empowerment measure? To what extent can we adapt or modify the original WEAI?

One of the objectives of this research grant is to scale up the use of WEAI methods and tools across One CGIAR and wider research ecosystem, therefore WEAI has to be a key starting point in your research under this grant. That said, adaptation of WEAI methodology and tools is certainly possible. For instance, you can only measure particular WEAI domains (or even indicators) that are most relevant to your study context,

Can I contact your team for any technical questions related to WEAI during the proposal development and submission stage?

We are planning to host a WEAI and nutrition training workshop in March 2021 (date and time will be announced on the website in due course). We strongly encourage you to review all WEAI materials in advance and bring your questions to this workshop so that you and other attendees can benefit from the response during our Q&A time.

Where can I find WEAI materials?

All WEAI instruments and guidance documents are available in the WEAI Resource Center. We strongly recommend you to visit the following pages: FAQ, Versions, Guides and Instruments, and Publications.

Where can I email if I have questions about WEAI?

We strongly suggest you attend the WEAI training workshop. If you still have unanswered questions, you can contact us by email at IFPRI-WEAI@cgiar.org. Due to potential high volumes, please allow us 3-4 days to respond to your email.

What are some of the examples of nutrition methods and tools?

Some of the examples of nutrition methods and tools are listed in the Call for Applications and as follows:
- Dietary assessment (e.g. women's dietary diversity indicators, child dietary diversity, or other dietary methods to assess dietary quality)
- Infant and young child feeding indicators
- Anthropometric measurement to assess underweight or overweight/obesity
- Measurement of maternal and/or child anemia (Hb and other biomarkers)

Please refer to Leroy et al. (2020) for more details.

Can the pro-WEAI Health and Nutrition add-on module be included in the proposal as a tool to be used?

Yes, absolutely.

Can WELI be considered part of the WEAI suite of tools for this call?

Yes, we can consider WELI as part of the broader suite of WEAI tools as it is built on the latest version of the pro-WEAI.

Is the do file for the pro-WEAI Health and Nutrition module available?

Yes, please contact us (IFPRI-WEAI@cgiar.org) for the latest version of the do files.

Is there a date for the WEAI and nutrition training workshop?

The WEAI-Nutrition training workshop is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 18th at 8:00-10:00 am ET. Please contact us (IFPRI-WEAI@cgiar.org) if you would like to attend but have not received the invite to the workshop.

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]().