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: 9 February 2021
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?

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.

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 at: (link). 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.