

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): consultation with LMIC research funders on equity in funder-level partnerships for development research

1. Q: Who are the “Low- and Middle- Income Country (LMIC) research funding institutions” that the suppliers will conduct consultations with? Do you mean funders based in High-Income countries (HICs) that work with LMICs, or funders from LMICs?

A: UKCDR is interested in hearing from funding institutions based in/from LMICs.

The term ‘funding institutions’ is defined broadly and can include institutions whose role is sometimes described as “delivery partners”. We acknowledge that when two (or more) funding institutions decide to work together, they might take on different roles in the context of a partnership. These nuances will be reflected in analysis.

2. Q: Is UKCDR only interested in UK and LMIC relationships, or broader than this?

A: This project is interested in LMIC based funders’ partnership experiences with HIC and other LMIC funders, we do not want to just look at relationships with the UK.

3. Q: What type of funders should be included in these consultations? Should applicants focus on a specific type of partnership?

A: UKCDR is interested in funding institutions from the private, public, and philanthropic sectors. UKCDR will provide the successful supplier with an initial mapping of LMIC-based funding institutions that have already been identified as suitable for the consultations, which will be complemented with the supplier’s own network of contacts. As specified in the RFP, UKCDR “*will prioritise suppliers with existing networks to draw upon*” (p. 3).

We are not only interested in partnerships of a financial nature. The project is also looking at partnerships between funders for networking purposes, strategic alignment, knowledge sharing, etc.

4. Q: Does UKCDR know who the 12 organisations they want to be engaged with are?

A: The minimum number of funding institutions listed in the RFP (12) is a guideline to manage the scope of the work (an estimated 15 days of work). We expect these institutions to be a combination of funding organisations UKCDR can connect the supplier with, and the supplier’s own networks.

There is no maximum number of organisations we want to engage with, and applicants are welcome to propose the approach they see fit, based on the number of days of work (15).

5. Q: Are there any specific regions/countries that UKCDR is more interested in engaging with during the consultation?

A: We are not prioritising specific regions/countries. We would like to see a range of funding organisations represented in the consultation and in particular welcome proposals from suppliers who are able to provide connections beyond those that UKCDR already has.

6. Q: Is there any specific disciplinary area (i.e., health, climate) whose funders UKCDR is more interested in engaging with during the consultation?

A: We would like to focus on funding institutions that are active in the international development research space. The project does not focus on a narrower disciplinary sector.

7. Q: Can applicants propose a data collection approach that focuses on further aspects in addition to those mentioned in the RFP, aimed to provide context and nuance to the piece of work?

A: Applicants can propose the methodological approach that they consider best to conduct this piece of work. The technical specifications of the methodological approach will be evaluated as part of the decision-making process to select the successful supplier. As the RFP states, time has been accounted for to refine the methodological approach after the successful supplier has been appointed. This is to ensure alignment between consultations with LMIC funders conducted by the supplier, and consultations with HIC funders conducted by UKCDR.

8. Q: Does UKCDR expect to keep in contact with the supplier during the data collection process, before the delivery of the first draft of the report? If so, how often?

A: Yes, we expect to be in contact with the supplier during the data collection process, to exchange updates and make sure the supplier and UKCDR are on the same page. In their proposal, applicants should indicate a *“Clear work plan with timelines outlined, including details of regular updates to UKCDR on progress, and any risks associated with the timelines set out.”* (p. 4 of RFP)

9. Q: Will UKCDR pay the supplier's suppliers (e.g., third party entities supplying some of the equipment to conduct the work), or only pay the main supplier?

A: We will only pay the main supplier the sum agreed ('Charges for the Deliverables') as confirmed in the contract ('Order for the procurement of deliverables'). This will be finalised on the basis of the budget presented in the proposal. It is the supplier's responsibility to ensure the budget presented in the proposal covers all the costs associated with carrying out the work.

10. Q: What is the budget range that UKCDR has in mind?

A: We have not provided a budget range because we expect to receive applications from a wide variety of suppliers (research institutions, think tanks, consulting firms, individual consultants) with different daily rates and based in different countries. It is therefore difficult to estimate the budget we're likely to be spending, without excluding anyone who is interested in applying. Applicants should detail the costs to conduct the work they are proposing, in the form of a daily rate for an estimated 15 days of work, as well as a breakdown of any other costs that may be foreseen. UKCDR will not appoint the successful supplier based solely on the budget proposed but will look at value for money more broadly, including the strength of network and methodological approach.

11. Q: Whose intellectual property will the final output be?

A: The final report will be owned by UKCDR, but co-authorship will be discussed during the contract negotiation process. If the appointed supplier wishes to do so, it will also be possible to discuss their involvement after the consultation report write-up. Since there is no budget allocated for this, there is no expectation from UKCDR of further involvement beyond the consultation report write-up.

12. Q: What happens if timelines shift, for example due to additional time needed to complete the data collection (i.e., liaising with funding institutions takes longer than expected)?

A: UKCDR will allow a degree of flexibility around timelines, if delays are depending on factors outside of the control of the supplier (i.e., funding institutions being slow to respond). As stated above, the supplier should maintain regular communications with UKCDR, and advise at the earliest possible point of any delays.

13. Q: Who is the final report's intended audience? Does UKCDR plan on engaging LMIC funding institutions to discuss the research results, or is it mostly for HIC funding institutions?

A: The main audience for the report is funders of international development research at the international level, for example through the [International Research Development Funders Forum \(IRDFF\)](#). UKCDR's work on this project is guided by an expert group of research funders from HICs and LMICs. Dissemination and engagement activities will therefore include the LMIC and HIC funding institutions that sit on the expert group, and those that will take part in the consultation process.

14. Q: Can an organisation apply if it is based in a HIC but with an international network of LMIC associates/consultants?

A: We recognise that some organisations have more complex structures, with offices and staff across HICs and LMICs. What we are looking for is evidence of strong networks and connections within LMICs, and expertise and knowledge of LMIC research funding contexts.

15. Q: Does UKCDR want access to the raw data behind the deliverables?

A: Yes. The report provided by the supplier will be combined with a UKCDR led consultation with HIC funding organisations to produce a final learning report. Access to the raw data will be necessary to confirm meaning and ensure accurate representation of information.

16. Q: How do the two tracks of consultation (UKCDR's work with HIC funders and the supplier's work with LMIC funders) work alongside each other?

A: The supplier led work will take place ahead of the UKCDR led consultation to ensure alignment on methodology and approach.

UKCDR is seeking a supplier to support the LMIC consultation based on advice from the project's expert group. UKCDR is sometimes perceived as a funding organisation itself, especially in LMIC contexts, which the expert group felt would limit the ability of UKCDR to accurately understand challenges with equity from LMIC stakeholders.