Researcher Diversification Initiative | Exploratory Small Grant Funds for Researchers Based in Africa

FAQ'S

Researchers Diversification Initiative FAQ Guide

1. **What is the Researchers Diversification Initiative (RDS)?**

RDS is a funding opportunity supporting research projects in various thematic areas.

2. **When will the grant begin if the duration is 6 months?**

Specific grant start dates need to be determined between the researcher and the funding organization. That said we anticipate a start date in June, with an end date 6 months later in November.

3. **Who manages the budget for RDS projects?**

Budgets are managed through sub-awards with deliverables, typically overseen by the researcher.

4. **Is it necessary to fill every section of the grant application, including the problem statement and budget sheet?**

Each section serves a specific purpose in conveying the significance, feasibility, and impact of the proposed project. The problem statement provides essential context for the proposed project by outlining the current issues or gaps in knowledge that the project aims to address. It demonstrates the project's relevance and potential impact, helping reviewers understand why the research is needed and

how it aligns with the grant's objectives. Likewise, the budget sheet is vital for demonstrating the project's feasibility and accountability.

5. **Can NGOs apply for RDS funding?**

No, only individual researchers are eligible.

6. **Can proposals under nutrition themes be funded?**

Eligibility depends on the country and the outlined thematic areas in the call.

7. **Are PhD candidates eligible to apply for RDS funding?**

Yes, both PhD candidates and holders are eligible.

8. **How many projects will be funded in the current cycle?**

Typically, 1-2 projects per country are funded.

9. **What types of evaluations are preferred for RDS projects?**

The call is interested in funding projects that explore ideas which can be scaled up to Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) in the future.

10. **Are there specific thematic areas for each country?**

Yes, thematic areas are outlined in the call for proposals.

11. **Can researchers from different institutions collaborate on proposals?**

Yes, collaboration between institutions within the same country is allowed.

12. **What is the maximum number of Principal Investigators (PIs) per proposal?**

There is no specified limit on the number of PIs.

13. **Can the grant fund research focus on women-led cooperatives in Nigeria?**

Eligible thematic areas for Nigeria include Social Protection, Climate, Agriculture, Education, and Health.

14. **What does "exploratory" mean in the context of RDS?**

Exploratory work refers to preliminary research activities aimed at understanding key variables relevant to a specific research question.

15. **Is there a specific page or word limit for proposals?**

Refer to the guidelines provided in the call for details.

16. **Can applicants present multiple applications or appear in more than one proposal?**

Yes, applicants can submit multiple applications.

17. **Can a PhD candidate serve as a PI?**

Yes, PhD candidates can serve as PIs.

18. **How long do RDS projects last?**

Projects should typically run for six months.

19. **Can cross-country team members participate in RDS projects?**

Yes, as long as the application is targeted to a specific IPA focus country.

20. **Are there specific guidelines for the work plan in RDS proposals?**
The work plan for an exploratory grant proposal should demonstrate a systematic and rigorous approach to exploring a research topic or problem, while allowing for flexibility and adaptability in response to emerging findings and insights. It should be realistic, feasible, and aligned with the goals and objectives of the funding opportunity..

21. **Where can applicants find thematic areas for each country?**

Thematic areas are listed in the call for proposals.

22. Is there a specific spacing criterion for documents?

No specific spacing criterion is required.

23. How is the budget handled regarding overhead costs?

A $10,000 inclusive sub-award is granted, covering overhead costs.

24. Can co-funding include in-kind contributions?

Yes, co-funding can include in-kind contributions.

25. Is there support available for preparing the budget?

Clarification on budget preparation support may be needed.

26. Are quasi-experiments accepted for existing interventions?

Further clarification may be needed on this aspect.

27. Can applicants reapply and improve their proposals after submitting them previously?

Yes, applicants can edit and resubmit their proposals.

28. Can applicants include stipends in the budget?

No specific answer is provided.

29. Can researchers from different institutions in a country collaborate on proposals?

Yes, collaboration between institutions within the same country is allowed.

This FAQ guide provides key information about the RDS initiative. For further clarification, please refer to the provided answers or contact the relevant country office