REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)-INNOVATIONS IN COVID-19 ANTIGEN RDT ROLLOUT IN UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Answers

What will be the duration of the contract?

The implementation period of the projects proposed should generally be up to a 5-month duration (August - December 2021), and applicants should be ready to implement within four weeks of being notified of an award.

How should the proposals be prepared?

As indicated through pages 5-8 section 5 of the RFP, applicants must send proposals only via email to training.grant@ird.global. All documents, except the budget, should be in **PDF** format only. Email subject lines must include the reference: 'Ag-RDT innovation grant:'.

IRD will send an email to each applicant acknowledging the receipt of their application. Any applicant who does not receive an email acknowledgment within 48 hours of the final response deadline should email training.grant@ird.global to confirm receipt.

Applicants should limit the proposal to a maximum of seven pages, standard spacing with font size not less than ten points. The proposals should clearly elaborate relevant information about the applicant, relevant experience, project proposal covering project rationale, in-country context, proposed methodology to execute the scope of work, description of M&E framework and methodology that the applicant can rapidly implement, project risk and mitigation strategies.

The Financial proposal (budget) should be submitted only in Excel/XLS file format using the template distributed with the RFP.

Will staff resumes, the budget, and/or the detailed information on prior projects be excluded from the 7-page limit?

Yes, the CVs, Budget and other relevant information provided as appendices to the proposal will be excluded from the maximum page limit.

Would the Cover Page and Table of Contents be counted towards the 7-page limit?

The Cover Page and Table of Contents are excluded from the 7 page limit.

Is there a budget ceiling for the project?

The applicants can submit a budget of up to a maximum amount of US$ 75,000.

The total amount available for the awards through this RFP is up to USD 1 million to be awarded to up to 15 grantees.

In the project budget can applicants also include the cost of purchase of antigen tests for COVID, for use in training and testing?

The antigen rapid diagnostic test kits required for the project will be provided or arranged by FIND. The applicants do not have to budget for purchasing them in their proposed budget.

In the budget template there are some pre-entered amounts. Are these indicative or do they represent the ceiling applicants must respect in each budget line?

The amounts pre-entered in the budget template are indicative amounts. Please modify and include the costs as per your proposal requirements. Only the rate of indirect costs is fixed at 12% of the direct budgeted costs.

Once the test is done and any person is identified positive, what is the next step expected as part of the RFP? Is there anything expected or the process ends there by recommending the patient to seek medical care.

For this particular RFP, the scope or work for grantees does not include providing treatment or establishing formal referral linkages to treatment sites. However, the applicants are encouraged to include in their proposal other aspects such as counselling and guidance for positive patients for home isolation and/or quarantine, seeking medical guidance, treatment sites, prevention.

Assumption is that rapid antigen test kits will be provided by FIND/IRD? Are these pre-approved (regulatory) for use?

The rapid antigen test kits will be provided or arranged by FIND. The following two tests approved by WHO for emergency use are required to be used under the project:

- *Panbio COVID-19 Ag Rapid Test Device (NASOPHARYNGEAL) - Manufacturer Abbott Rapid Diagnostics Jena Gmbh*

- *STANDARD Q COVID-19 Ag Test - Manufacturer SD Biosensor, Inc*

The applicants should check and indicate in their proposals if either of the two rapid tests are approved by the country regulatory authority and if these are available in the country.

If these tests are not available in the Country or are not approved by regulatory authority, the applicants may suggest other rapid tests which are approved and available in their Country. FIND will determine if these can be used as alternate products.

In section 4, the RFP refers to KPIs. Will these be set in collaboration with the grantees? If these are already set, can they be shared before hand.

Please refer to Annexure C of the RFP which lists down key indicators which applicants are expected to report on. The applicant should consider these at the proposal stage and recommend any additions or modifications in accordance with their proposed methodology. The final list of indicators will be agreed before project award after due discussions with the applicants.

The RFP refers to a digital tool that applicants will be asked to use for collection and reporting M&E data? How will this be made available to grantees?

FIND has hired the services of a third-party technology solutions provider for developing an application that will be used for collection & reporting of M&E data for the project. The application will be made available to the grantees and the testers trained by the grantees through mobile devices and web-based platforms. The users will be provided training on the use and deployment of the application.

The applicants should indicate in their proposals how they plan to deploy the application in their proposed training and testing settings for collection of data, monitoring & reporting. The applicants should also highlight any expected operational challenges in application deployment.

What is the independent proposal review committee referred in the RFP?

The independent proposal review committee (IPRC) is a committee comprising of independent, impartial technical experts from FIND and IRD, and collaborators. The IPRC will review all eligible proposals in accordance with the criteria from the global request for proposals (RFP) conducted by IRD Global, that have been shortlisted for a final selection of 10-15 awards.

How will the applicant be informed if their proposal has been shortlisted?

The list of shortlisted applicants will be announced through IRD website. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed via email about the results of their proposal evaluation.