

Agriculture for Improved Nutrition Research Program: Request for Applications

*Application Deadline: June 1, 2017*

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| Overview |
| Introduction |
| The UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the foundation) are seeking applications to address a broad set of robust and large-scale research priorities to guide global program and policy efforts in sustainable, nutritious food systems. |
| Background |
| Undernutrition remains one of the world’s greatest human and economic development challenges. Undernutrition comes in many forms, and is not always visible. One in four children under 5 years of age suffers from stunting, or chronic undernutrition, which is caused by diets of insufficient quality and quantity, inappropriate care and feeding practices in early life, and high rates of infectious disease. Wasting, or acute undernutrition, can be the result of seasonal changes in diets or infectious diseases. And micronutrient deficiencies are associated with a multitude of poor health and development outcomes.  Improving nutrition requires a multi-sectoral approach that brings together the health, agriculture, education, environment, water, sanitation and hygiene and social protection sectors. Food systems, defined as the production, marketing, transformation, and purchase of food, and the consumer practices, resources, and institutions involved in these processes (Global Panel 2015), can play an integral role in multiple nutritional outcomes. A functioning, healthy food system should deliver equitable consumption of a safe, affordable, diverse diet year-round. It should do so sustainably, with respect to both environmental considerations and food systems viability over the long-term, especially in the face of changing environments and the demand for foods from increasingly urban populations. These food systems, which interface with both rural and urban populations, and producers and consumers alike, provide key opportunities for improving nutritional outcomes.  There is a clear potential for the agriculture sector to play a critical role in enhancing nutrition and health especially for women and children. A well-developed agriculture and fishery sector can deliver increased and diversified farm outputs (crops, livestock, fish, non-food products) that may enhance food and nutrition security directly through increased access to and consumption of diverse foods, or indirectly through greater incomes to farmers and increased national wealth. Indeed, agriculture is a significant source of livelihoods in many poor countries and, in these settings, is also a major employer of women. Furthermore, the links between agriculture and nutrition work in both directions in that better nutrition and health of farmers can increase their agricultural and economic productivity. However, agriculture also carries risks to nutrition and health outcomes, for example, through zoonotic and other agriculture-related diseases, through the impact of agriculture on women’s workload and time for child care and feeding, and through the impact of agriculture on major environmental determinants of health including climate, groundwater availability, air quality and biodiversity.  There is some evidence that certain agricultural interventions can enhance dietary intakes and improve nutrition and health outcomes (for example summarized in: Carletto *et al.*, 2015; Masset *et al.*, 2012; Ruel *et al.*, 2013; Webb Girard *et al.*, 2012). Currently however, the evidence base for the potential of agricultural strategies to improve the nutrition and health of women and children is mixed, based on a relatively small number of heterogeneous studies, and generally constrained by methodological limitations. There is a need for a broader set of robust and large-scale evidence to guide global program and policy efforts in nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Here, we report on the findings of a brief literature review and a consultation process with experts to identify critical gaps in the evidence base linking agriculture with nutrition. We present this as a discussion paper to solicit feedback from researchers, program managers, and policy makers, and to frame an upcoming request for applications on these topics.  This program complements support currently provided by DFID and the foundation to deliver high-quality evidence on the links between agriculture, nutrition and health to multiple initiatives including: the Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA) research program consortium, HarvestPlus, Advancing Research on Nutrition and Agriculture (ARENA), Innovative Metrics and Methods for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA), Technical Assistance and Research in Nutrition and Agriculture in India (TARINA), and more. The program will be expected to contribute significantly to ongoing international efforts to increase the quality of evidence linking agriculture, nutrition and health, such as those underway under the CGIAR Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), and the Strengthening Impact Assessment in the CGIAR (SIAC) project from the CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA).  **Please review the white paper, “Agriculture for Improved Nutrition: A future research agenda” for additional background.** |
| Goal |
| The goal of this program is to deliver high-quality large-scale evidence linking agriculture, nutrition and health through systems-level approaches. The outcome will be a portfolio of multiple research investments that help fill the gaps in evidence outlined in the “Scope and Approach” section. |
| Scope and Approach |
| This partnership between DFID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has been designed to select and support multiple research studies through an RFA announced annually. This is the third RFA announcement.  **Research questions and topics**  The proposed future research agenda on nutritious food systems is one that moves away from the traditional focus on household-level interventions and single value chains towards a more holistic exploration of systems interventions at the market level. Research, grounded in how people engage with markets, and focusing on the food purchased by rural and urban producers and consumers, will be particularly important. As agriculture transforms in developing countries, there will be shifts towards commercialization, urbanization, and improved infrastructure: these trends have the potential to affect nutrition both positively and negatively. A deep focus on both programmatic and environmental sustainability is also needed to ensure lasting impact.  Based on the review of evidence and researcher consultations, the following research questions have been prioritized:   * Agricultural research has typically focused on improving the productivity of staples such as maize, rice and wheat. Other diverse nutrient-rich commodities like fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy and meat are more perishable than staples, and system-wide interventions in fresh food supply value chains could potentially improve their access and affordability, and thereby increase their consumption. Evening out the strong seasonal fluctuations of food availability may be a major contributor to prevent acute undernutrition. *How can market interventions in the fresh food supply chain reach the places where the poor are purchasing their food? How do these interventions affect the seasonal availability, consumption and safety of perishable foods? Do these interventions differ in urban, peri-urban, and rural populations?* * Access or proximity to markets has proven to be one of the greatest modifiers of agriculture’s impact on nutrition, and today the majority of smallholder farmers are net purchasers of food. Yet typically, agriculture-nutrition research has focused on what is being grown by smallholders, and has prioritized direct pathways from smallholder production to consumption. A shift in research focus is needed that more fully recognizes the role markets are playing in consumer’s lives and consumption decisions. *How do market infrastructures, food processors, agro-industries, traders, and food retailers influence consumption decisions of food buyers? Can supportive market infrastructure (such as roads, storage, etc.) or finance mechanisms enhance access to nutritious diets and help smooth seasonal food consumption patterns?* * Many agriculture-nutrition service delivery programs rely heavily on behavior change communication to increase knowledge of nutrition and nudge household consumption behaviors towards more nutritious diets. But many behavior change interventions in agriculture for nutrition are not backed by rigorous formative work, and consequently program implementation and impact suffers. In addition, some of the proven behavior change approaches that have worked in the health sector for nutrition have not translated with success in agriculture. The application of state-of-the-art work on behavioral science, combined with rigorous formative and implementation science research, could set these programs up to achieve better success. *What behavior change interventions within agriculture programs are most impactful and most cost-effective to change dietary practices at scale? What drives consumer choices about what they eat?* * Transforming agriculture and food systems is not a short-term endeavor. A future research agenda therefore needs to have a long-term view, and be informed by historical trends, programs, and policies. Analyses are needed that explore multiple dimensions of sustainability, including temporal, institutional and environmental. Retrospective studies are needed to identify places or platforms where program impacts have been sustained over the long-term. *How can research inform program and policy makers about which interventions or programs can be sustained over time? What approaches are the most cost-effective? What are the environmental issues that must be considered when designing nutritious food systems for of the future?*   **Research methods**  Experimental designs, such as randomized controlled trials, may work well to assess the impact of single interventions, but more complex market-level interventions can be difficult to randomize with a clean control group, and furthermore it can be particularly hard to identify net impacts. It is also likely that experimental designs may be unable to address many of the research questions, and therefore the field must be innovative in the types of methods used to advance the proposed future research agenda.  In order to address the prioritized research questions and to measure relevant outcomes, we need the ability to: explore outcomes across countries with a standardized approach that allows for attribution and comparison; retrospectively explore existing data and mine it for crucial information on trends that may not have been previously explored with a food systems or nutrition lens; learn lessons from systems research in other sectors, such as health; take contextual and mediating factors into account; and engage multi-disciplinary researchers across sectors.  As such, this RFA is not limited to experimental trials, and is open to methods that address the complexities of food systems. These methods include:   * Secondary data analysis, that would utilize existing data to investigate linkages or leakages in the agriculture-nutrition pathways * Comparative analysis, that would compare multiple country experiences to identify successes, failures, and entry points for a food system that promotes healthy diets * Intergenerational longitudinal panel studies, that would enable a long-term perspective on sustainability and trends * Quasi-experimental approaches, that would investigate the impact of real-world policies or programs and be more conducive to measuring market-level interventions. * Experimental approaches, including RCTs, where appropriate, feasible, and cost-effective * Formative research that explains the interests, behaviors, and needs of target populations and is critical for developing effective interventions * Alternative methods that borrow from effective systems-level approaches in other disciplines, such as health systems and econometrics   **Research outcomes**  A lack of validated metrics and common approaches to measurement has been a challenge for researchers working in agriculture for nutrition. The agriculture-nutrition community largely agrees that high-level impact measures of nutritional status, such as the prevalence of stunting, may not be appropriate metrics of the impact of agriculture programs on nutrition. It has been a struggle to find common ground on other possible metrics given the typically public-health focus of nutritionists, and the more economics and markets focus of agriculturalists.  In recent years, there have been significant efforts to define better metrics to assess food systems, and there is also extensive work underway to develop indicators and collect data at a population-level on linkages between agriculture and nutrition. Some currently prioritized SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely) indicators are:  Individual-level   * Women’s diet quality and diversity, including the new Minimum Diet Diversity-Women indicator * Micronutrient intakes, especially iron, zinc, and vitamin A * Women’s anemia, both as an outcome for women’s nutritional status and as an input for agricultural labor * Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index   Market-level   * Cost of a nutritious diet or the price of nutrient-rich foods * Seasonal availability of nutrient-rich foods * Prevalence of contaminated food, including but not limited to mycotoxin contamination   Much progress has been made, but major gaps and challenges remain. For example, as we take a system-level view, we require metrics that assess the net impact and costs of programs and policies. We also need a better understanding of the role of one food or commodity vis a vis others, i.e. if consumption of one nutrient-rich food increases does that result in a net improvement in nutrition? More research is needed using other indicators of the food environment including proximity and access to markets and prices. For anthropometry, the prevalence of stunting may not be a sufficiently sensitive indicator, but alternative measures including absolute linear growth from age 6 to 23 months might be more suitable for longer-term programs and policies. Whether it is possible to cluster diverse anthropometric outcomes related to growth and whether it is feasible to collect these data in agriculture programs also requires research. Lastly, the lack of a cumulative outcome indicator to capture the multiple possible impacts (positive and negative) of agriculture and food systems interventions has been a consistent challenge. The global community and particularly policy makers need measures of cost-effectiveness in order to know which interventions to prioritize, but without a cumulative outcome indicator it is difficult to tackle this important question. |

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| Rules & Guidelines |
| Eligibility |
| Funding Criteria |
| Proposals are expected from an organization or consortia that can demonstrate specific competencies relevant to this program. In particular, they must demonstrate:   * Excellent past performance in the delivery of high-quality systems-level research in agriculture, nutrition, or food security * Multidisciplinary expertise across relevant sectors * A first-class track record of publication of research findings in international peer-reviewed academic journals * Significant experience of conducting research in developing country settings * Evidence of successful capacity strengthening of developing country research institutions * An ability to transfer research findings to policy and program dialogue for evidence-based decision making and action   Applicants may include academic institutions, research institutions, civil society organizations, and/or commercial organizations. |
| Exclusion Criteria |
| We will NOT consider funding for:   * Organizations unable to demonstrate proven success in implementing large-scale, rigorous research studies * Studies that do not sufficiently demonstrate expertise in, and relevance of, proposed interventions for both agriculture and nutrition/health * Study designs that will result in findings unlikely to fill a gap in the existing research evidence base * Applicants that do not include a partnership or activity associated with capacity strengthening of developing country research institutions * Study designs that are not methodologically robust and adequately powered for primary outcomes * Proposals from individuals * Studies that take place in countries other than those specific in the FAQ section * Submissions that exceed the page limit |
| Evaluation Criteria |
| Proposals will be selected for funding in a two-phase process of short concept memos followed by longer full proposals.  We are expecting the following outputs to be delivered:   1. High quality evidence structured to address the research questions, methods, and outcomes outlined above 2. Publications in international peer-reviewed journals on the impact of agriculture and food systems on nutrition and diet-related outcomes 3. Increased capacity of researchers, evaluators, and practitioners working on agriculture, nutrition and health linkages, particularly those based in African and South Asian countries   Submissions received after the deadline will not be reviewed. Submissions received by the deadline will be evaluated on the following criteria:   * Alignment with the goals of this RFA and with DFID and the foundation’s strategies in agriculture and nutrition * Potential to fill, or contribute to filling, a major gap in global or country evidence on linking agriculture, food systems, and nutrition, including continued relevance of the research question over time * Capability, initiative, commitment of the lead principal investigator (PI), the lead institution, and the strength of partnerships in the country or countries of work * Excellence and rigor of the research design and implementation plan * Articulation of the final outcome of the program following the conclusion of the research study, including dissemination and research uptake plan and link with key policy makers * A commitment to the translation of research findings into use, and the proactive sharing of open data to make information about agriculture and nutrition more widely accessible. Please refer to the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition ([www.godan.info](http://www.godan.info)) for more information on global efforts to make relevant data available * Complementarity with existing or ongoing research studies on food systems globally and within the DFID and Gates Foundation Food Systems Research Program * Overall value for money |
| Activities & Timeline |
| May 1, 2017: RFA released  June 1, 2017: Concept memos due  June 30, 2017: Invitations for proposals  August-September, 2017: Final proposals due |

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| How to Apply |
| Response Requirements |
| To apply, please submit a concept note in the required format of up to 9 pages, including references and the budget, that includes the following:  Study Design, Scope, and Approach   * Clear articulation of the primary and secondary research questions * Description of the proposed research study, including study design, methods, and indicators to be measured * Summary of environmental and gender considerations that are relevant to the study design and their potential implications   Relevance and Uptake   * Description of the gap in knowledge in agriculture, nutrition and health that the proposed study will fill and how the findings will still be relevant at the end of the proposed study timeline * Description of how and where the findings from the research study would be applicable at a program and/or policy level * Brief communications plan that describes the approach for publication, research uptake and policy linkage   Organizational Fit   * Summary of the lead PI’s and applicant organization’s previous experience and expertise that is relevant to this call * Description of any potential collaborative partners (letters of support are not expected at this stage)   Budget   * Justification of overall value for money * If the method is selected is to layer on an existing research study, a description of the specific added value of requested funds on top of existing funding * Summary budget for the proposed activities in format provided (see template in concept memo)   **Submissions that exceed 9 pages total will not be reviewed.**  If the concept memo is selected to move forward, we will request a full proposal of up to 30 pages that includes details on the above components plus the following:   * A project implementation plan with timeline * A full monitoring and evaluation plan * Summary of partners with whom the lead organization will work and their corresponding roles * Biographical information for the PI and key project staff * Signed Global Access Policy documents * Detailed budget as an annex |
| Submission Instructions |
| 1. Fill out the concept note form. 2. Once you have finished filling out the concept note form, attach it to an email addressed to [AgNutritionRFP\_ImpactEval@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:AgNutritionRFP_ImpactEval@gatesfoundation.org) 3. In the subject line, please include the name of the applicant organization.   **Submissions are due no later than midnight (Pacific Standard Time) on June 1, 2017.** |
| More Information |
| Reference |
| Please reference the following for further information:  [Current and planned research on agriculture for improved nutrition: A mapping and gap analysis](http://www.lidc.org.uk/_assets/DfID%20report%20(LCIRAH%20mapping%20and%20gap%20analysis)%2001%20Aug%202012.pdf)  [The Lancet Nutrition Series 2013](http://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-child-nutrition)  [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Food Systems strategy](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do/Global-Development/Nutrition)  [Scaling up Nutrition: The UK Position paper on undernutrition](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scaling-up-nutrition-the-uk-s-position-paper-on-undernutrition)  [Nutrition for Growth: The Compact and Final Commitments from the high level meeting on global nutrition and growth](http://nutrition4growth.org/)  [Can Agriculture Interventions Promote Nutrition?](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/can-agriculture-interventions-promote-nutrition)  [Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition](http://www.godan.info/)  [Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA)](http://immana.lcirah.ac.uk/)  [Agriculture for Nutrition and Health Academy](http://anh-academy.org/) |
| FAQ |
| **Who can participate?** This is an open solicitation. We welcome submissions from organizations in all sectors (private, NGO, government, academic, and UN). Submissions cannot come from individuals without organizational affiliation.  **When are responses due?** Responses are June 1, 2017  **When will applications be selected?** Finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal by **June 30, 2017**  **Will I receive any compensation for submitting?** You will not receive any compensation for your submission even if it is used by the foundation or third parties in any way.  **What will the foundation do with my submission?** The foundation will review all submissions. We may also share your submission, or ideas contained within it, with the public or partners to ensure that good ideas and new innovations are broadly disseminated and available for use. With this in mind, please ensure that any materials you provide under this solicitation are your own, and understand that they foundation and others will have a right to use your submission freely, upon delivery, for noncommercial purposes.  **What are the focus countries for this RFA?** The focus countries are based on the countries with the highest burden of stunting and on Gates Foundation and DFID priority countries. They are: Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DR Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen, and Zambia.  **What is the length of a grant that will be considered?** We will consider research studies that propose a rational timeline from inception to research completion that do not exceed 4 years.  **What is the budget that will be considered?** We will consider research studies that propose appropriate costs for the study length, outcomes, and methods, and that propose strong value for money.  **Where can I ask more questions?** Please visit the Agriculture for Nutrition and Health Academy’s website ([www.anh-academy.org](http://www.anh-academy.org)) for an open forum where you can post questions and receive a response. |
| Privacy Notice To help the Gates Foundation staff in their evaluation and analysis of projects, all proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted to the Gates Foundation (collectively, “Submission Materials”) will become the property of the Gates Foundation and may be subject to external review by independent subject matter experts and co-funders in addition to analysis by the Gates Foundation staff. Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you have any doubts about the wisdom of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information, the Gates Foundation recommends you consult with your legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your intellectual property. You may wish to consider whether such information is critical for evaluating the submission, and whether more general, non-confidential information may be adequate as an alternative for these purposes.  We respect confidential information we receive. Nonetheless, notwithstanding your characterization of any information as being confidential, the Gates Foundation may publicly disclose all information contained in Submission Materials to the extent as may be required by law and as is necessary for co-funders and external reviewers, such as government entities, to evaluate them and the manner and scope of potential funding consistent with appropriate regulations and their internal guidelines and policies. Warranty By providing any Submission Materials, the sender warrants the Gates Foundation that they have the right to provide the information submitted. Applicants with questions concerning the contents of their Submission Materials may contact the Gates Foundation at: [Info@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:Info@gatesfoundation.org) Intellectual Property Since the output of this program may lead to innovative technologies and/or products that could result in improved diagnostics or interventions (‘products’, intellectual or otherwise, which may include, but are not exclusively defined as: devices, drug or formulations, biologics, or patentable processes or approaches) for those that need of them most in the developing world, the successful development of these high priority products may require substantial involvement and support of private sector industries as sub-contractors, and may also involve collaborations with multiple organizations, including academic and/or non-profit research institutions. It is the intent of this program to support the formation of appropriate public-private partnerships that are essential to meet these urgent global health needs. Intellectual property (IP) rights and the management of IP rights are likely to play an important role in achieving the ultimate goals of this initiative. To this end, the Gates Foundation requires that, even at the Concept Memo stage, all applicants seriously consider their willingness to submit a full proposal in compliance with the Gates Foundation’s proposal guidelines, a portion of which asks for certain information and intentions regarding intellectual property and global access concerns. Specifically, the Gates Foundation requires that you agree to use good faith efforts to conduct and manage the research, technologies, information and innovations involved in the Project in a manner that enables (a) the knowledge gained during the Project to be promptly and broadly disseminated, and (b) the intended product(s) to be made available and accessible at reasonable cost to the developing countries of the world. The Gates Foundation refers to this as “Global Access.”  As part of the Gates Foundation’s review and evaluation of each full proposal, due diligence will be conducted with respect to each participant’s ability and commitment to manage intellectual property in a manner consistent with the stated scientific and charitable goals of the Gates Foundation. Due diligence activities may include inquiry into an applicant’s:  1) Freedom to operate (FTO) and ability to freely use and acquire needed background technology;  2) Commitment to promote the utilization, commercialization and availability of inventions for public benefit in developing countries  In order to facilitate this due diligence process applicants are encouraged to provide information with respect to the items above in their submission materials. Applicants should consider whether the protection through IP (in particular through patents) new pathways or mechanisms that will directly inform the development of interventions would best further the goals of this project to improve the health and development of children in the developing world. To be clear, the goal is not to develop a position for or against such IP, but to articulate the role that IP would play in furthering the specific goals of this project.  Applicants will be required to prepare a Global Access Strategy reflecting how they will achieve the Global Access requirements described above.  Applicants are also expected to make new information and materials known to the research and medical communities in a timely manner through publications, web announcements, progress reports to the Gates Foundation, and other appropriate mechanisms. These concepts may be discussed at some length with the applicants invited to submit full proposals, and will be addressed (to the extent appropriate) within each final grant agreement. The Global Access Strategy will also include provisions defining these concepts. Data Access Principles In accordance with its charitable mission, the Gates Foundation is committed to optimizing the use of health-related data to translate knowledge into life-saving interventions. To this end, it is essential that data are made widely and rapidly available to the broader global health community through good data access practices. We are committed to ensuring that data collected is made open access in alignment with the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN). For more information on GODAN, please click [here](http://www.godan.info/index.html).  Data access is intended to promote:   * *Innovation,* by encouraging diversity of analysis and opinion, facilitating evaluation of alternative hypotheses, permitting meta-analysis, and facilitating synthesis of results from individual projects into a larger whole, thereby promoting potentially lifesaving new insights. * *Collaboration,* between teams and institutions, and among diverse disciplines, resulting in greater productivity and creativity. * *Efficiency,* by preventing unnecessary duplication of effort, enabling secondary analyses of existing data, and enabling the redirection of resources to the most promising research endeavors, thereby maximizing the potential impact of investments. * *Accountability,* by encouraging independent verification and analysis, thereby improving data quality * *Capacity Strengthening,* by facilitating the education of new researchers and evaluators and enabling broader access to data for secondary analysis, which is of particular importance to investigators in developing countries.  Research Assurances While not necessary for the Concept Memo, as applicable to the individual project, the Gates Foundation will require that for each venue in which any part of the project is conducted (either by your organization or a subgrantee or subcontractor) all legal and regulatory approvals for the activities being conducted will be obtained in advance of commencing the regulated activity. The Gates Foundation will further require you to agree that no funds will be expended to enroll human subjects until the necessary regulatory and ethical bodies’ approvals are obtained.   Research Involving Human Subjects You agree that no funds will be expended to enroll human subjects in any research project subject to Institution Review Board (IRB) or independent ethics committee (IEC) approval until such approval has been obtained for each site (see below sections for more information). Provision of Care for Human Subjects Research In keeping with “Good Clinical Practice” standards, you will disclose to subjects and the IRBs what care and/or referrals will be available through participation in the study. Institutional policies regarding what care will be provided to personnel who are injured as a result of their work on the Project should similarly be developed, approved and implemented with notice to the employees. Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval You agree to obtain the review and approval of all final protocols by the appropriate IRBs and ethical committees prior to enrollment of the first human subject and when using human material. A similar provision applies to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval of studies involving animals, and Institutional Biosafety Committee for biohazards and recombinant DNA. You agree to provide prompt notice to the Gates Foundation if the facts and circumstances change regarding the approval status of the IRBs or ethical committees for any final protocol(s). Indemnification For all clinical trials, the Gates Foundation requires that you agree to indemnify, defend and hold the Gates Foundation harmless from and against any and all liability, loss, and expense (including reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses) or claims for injury or damages arising out of or resulting from, or that are alleged to arise out of or result from, the actions or omissions by you or of any of your officers, agents, employees, subgrantees, contractors or subcontractors with respect to the grant. You agree that any activities by the Gates Foundation in connection with the Project, such as its review or proposal of suggested modifications to the Project, will not modify or waive the Gates Foundation's rights under this paragraph. Coverage for all Sites You agree that for each venue in which any part of the Project is conducted (either by your organization or a subgrantee or subcontractor) all legal and regulatory approvals for the activities being conducted will be obtained in advance of commencing the regulated activity. You further specifically agree that no funds will be expended to enroll human subjects until the necessary regulatory and ethical bodies’ approvals are obtained. Regulated Activities The coverage requirements set forth in the preceding paragraphs include but are not limited to regulations relating to: research involving human subjects; clinical trials, including management of data confidentiality; research involving animals; research using substances or organisms classified as Select Agents by the U.S. Government; use or release of genetically modified organisms; research use of recombinant DNA; and/or use of any organism, substance or material considered to be a biohazard, including adherence to all applicable standards for transport of specimens, both locally and internationally, as appropriate. As applicable, regulated activities and their documentation are to be conducted under the applicable international, national, and local standards. Documentation of research results should be consistent with regulations and the need to establish corroborated dates of invention and reduction to practice with respect to inventions where this is relevant.  **ALLOWABLE COSTS**  Grant funds may be used for the following costs. Please provide budget estimates according to these categories: personnel; travel; sub-grants; consultants; capital equipment; and other direct costs, including non-capital equipment, supplies, and other costs directly attributable to the project. Indirect costs: The Gates Foundation provides limited indirect cost in accordance with its policy. Please review the foundation’s [indirect cost policy](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/grantseeker/Documents/Indirect_Cost_Policy.pdf). |
| About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation |
| Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. We work with partner organizations worldwide to tackle critical problems in four program areas. Our Global Development Division works to help the world’s poorest people lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. Our Global Health Division aims to harness advances in science and technology to save lives in developing countries. Our United States Division works to improve U.S. high school and postsecondary education and support vulnerable children and families in Washington State. And our Global Policy & Advocacy Division seeks to build strategic relationships and promote policies that will help advance our work. Our approach to grantmaking emphasizes collaboration, innovation, risk-taking, and, most importantly, results.  To learn more about the foundation's work, visit [www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org). |
| **About the UK Department for International Development** |
| The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK’s work to end extreme poverty, deliver the Global Goals, and tackle global challenges in line with the government’s [UK Aid Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-aid-tackling-global-challenges-in-the-national-interest). We are tackling the global challenges of our time including poverty and disease, mass migration, insecurity and conflict. Our work is building a safer, healthier, more prosperous world for people in developing countries and in the UK too.  DFID’s Research and Evidence Division (RED) helps DFID to deliver results at scale by supporting the development of new technologies and innovations, helping to find better and more cost-effective ways of delivering development, and improving understanding of key development questions and data to support policy choices and to shape design of investments.  DFID is a ministerial department, supported by [2 agencies and public bodies](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations#department-for-international-development). Read more about what DFID does: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about> |