



Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Request For Proposals (RFP)

Grand Challenges India

Funding Opportunity On

**Accelerating Innovation in Vaginal Formulations in Support
of Women's Health**

Jointly funded by
Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)
Government of India
&
Gates Foundation (GF)

Grand Challenges India Call on Accelerating Innovation in Vaginal Formulations in Support of Women's Health

About Grand Challenges India (GCI)

In 2012, the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and the Gates Foundation (formerly known as Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), where both parties agreed to collaborate on scientific and technological research to alleviate some of the world's most critical global health and development issues, for the benefit of the people of India and other developing countries.

The partnership seeks to identify opportunities to initiate and support research and innovation initiatives and strengthening India's scientific translation research capacity, promoting research and developing scientific and technical solutions. For implementation of the activities under GCI, a Program Management Unit (PMU) was formed at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (PMU-BIRAC). The GCI PMU has supported a wide-ranging portfolio of projects over the past 12 years, in the form of thematic open calls and targeted programs, in areas such as maternal and child health, agriculture and nutrition, sanitation, infectious diseases, data science, vaccines, and capacity-building initiatives. These efforts align with key priorities of the Government of India, including the National Health Mission, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, National Nutrition Mission, Make in India, and Skill India.

GCI currently manages 47 programs, ranging from basic science research to proof-of-concept and scale-up innovations across these thematic areas.

Grand Challenges initiatives follow these core principles:

- Strategic and well-articulated grand challenges serve both to focus research efforts and capture the imagination and engage the world's best researchers.
- Programs/Projects are selected based on national and societal needs and transparent calls for proposals seeking the best ideas.
- Funders, investigators, and other stakeholders actively collaborate to accelerate progress and integrate advances to ensure these advanced technologies reach the developing countries' masses.
- Projects are selected not only for scientific excellence, but also for their likelihood to achieve the desired impact, and they are milestone-driven and actively managed to that end.
- Projects and investigators will have to follow global access commitments to ensure the fruits of their research are available to those most in need.

Here GCI-BIRAC announce an open call on '*Accelerating Innovation in Vaginal Formulations in Support of Women's Health*,' a program directed at addressing challenges that limit effective local drug delivery for women's health, particularly in managing reproductive tract infections (RTIs) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

This initiative seeks to **catalyze the development of context-driven innovative technologies and approaches that can safely and effectively deliver a wide range of vaginal products**. By promoting discovery research informed by **high-quality end-user input**, the call emphasizes the importance of coupling scientific innovation with women's preferences, cultural contexts, and lived experiences.

Background

Local vaginal drug delivery remains an underexplored and underutilized approach for the prevention and treatment of female-specific conditions, despite its clear potential advantages, including discreetness, potent local efficacy, large surface area for drug absorption, potential for lower API doses, and fewer systemic side effects as well as providing autonomy and empowerment of women. Progress in this area has been limited by a lack of mechanistic understanding of the vaginal milieu, especially in high-burden, low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and by persistent misconceptions regarding the acceptability of vaginally administered products among women and their partners.

Vaginal formulations hold significant promise for the management of reproductive tract infections (RTIs), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), contraceptive innovation, and maintenance of a healthy vaginal microbiome. Emerging scientific and translational opportunities make this an opportune time to reposition vaginal products as both public health tools and user-preferred interventions, for immediate, on-demand use. Evidence suggests that women's interests often extend beyond primary therapeutic or preventive functions to include secondary benefits such as odor control, sexual enhancement, and privacy of use.

While there has been meaningful progress in delivery systems such as gels, films, and intravaginal rings, major gaps remain in acceptability, scalability, affordability, and integration into routine care in LMICs (Das Neves et al., 2021; Hussain et al., 2022). Addressing these gaps will require the development of innovative, scientifically rigorous formulations that integrate end-user perspectives and are adaptable to diverse settings.

Therefore, this initiative seeks to catalyze the development of innovative technologies and approaches that can safely and effectively deliver a wide range of vaginal products with strong user appeal, promoting self-care and other beneficial features that women value, while coupling discovery research with high-quality end-user insights.

The Challenge

GCI-BIRAC are soliciting applications that contribute to development of vaginal formulations that promote optimal drug delivery within the vaginal compartment while positively supporting the vaginal milieu, and that also possess beneficial effects, even if unrelated to the API intended effect, that a user might consider desirable, such as enhancement of sexual pleasure. GCI-BIRAC anticipate identifying product-agnostic features that promote vaginal health and that broadly appeal to women to advance product development and formulations for women's health.

GCI-BIRAC welcome innovations at any stage of development that meet the scope of this call.

Applicants may apply to address one or more of the following objectives of this challenge:

1. **Leverage biology for vaginally administered products:** In this objective, GCI-BIRAC seeks: 1) innovative formulations and delivery approaches that leverage the biology of the vaginal microenvironment to support development of novel delivery technologies and that have high potential for scalable, low-cost manufacturing options; and 2) novel components that could be incorporated into and improve existing formulations (e.g. films, tablets/inserts) that would promote maintenance of or transition to an optimal vaginal microbiome and/or promote other benefit to the vaginal mucosal epithelium. Specifically, GCI-BIRAC seek to assess and de-risk novel approaches to vaginal delivery that can leverage and support features of the vaginal milieu including mucus, host cells and microbes for drug delivery and as such we anticipate proposals including

evaluation of the impact of these novel approaches or components on changes in the microbiome and vaginal host components (cells/cytokines, mucins, glycans, lectins, etc.).

- 2. Define characteristics of an ideal vaginal product:** In this objective, GCI-BIRAC seeks to support qualitative studies aimed at identifying and understanding specific features of a vaginally administered product that would most appeal to women such that many women, especially those of reproductive age in LMICs, would seek to use such a product (for example, ‘what would you hope to achieve when using this product in your vagina?’). GCI-BIRAC is particularly interested in defining ancillary benefits (such as odor control, sexual enhancement, etc.) that could be derived from a vaginally delivered product that would likely not be supported by other routes of administration, as well as identifying major hurdles that may prevent a woman from seeking out or preferring a vaginal product. GCI-BIRAC acknowledges that there may be regional, cultural, demographic or other preference differences, and are seeking to identify desires or barriers that are commonly expressed by women across these demographic differences. Applicants may propose methods to prioritize preferences such that the vaginal product developed can benefit as many women as possible. In sum, it is aimed to gather insights into preferred and achievable characteristics that would transform vaginal products from ‘tolerable’ to ‘desirable’.

Call to Action

India has the opportunity to lead the world in transformative women’s health innovation, being home to over 400 million women of reproductive age. The unique biological, cultural, and healthcare realities of Indian women, spanning diverse geographies from urban metros to rural communities, demand locally relevant, affordable, and acceptable vaginal health solutions.

The initiative aims to bridge the critical gap between cutting-edge vaginal formulation science and ground-level implementation in India. The initiative is calling on innovators, researchers, and product developers to push the boundaries of women’s health by creating context-driven, bold, transformative solutions for vaginal formulations. GCI-BIRAC encourages applications that combine scientific rigor with creativity, integrating both biological insights and the real-world preferences of women.

This is an opportunity to design products that are not only therapeutically effective but also genuinely desirable, products that women will choose to use because they address their needs, enhance their well-being, and fit seamlessly into their lives.

GCI-BIRAC welcome proposals at any stage of development, from early-stage discovery to near-market innovations. Your work could redefine what is possible in vaginal health, uncover new ways to leverage the vaginal microenvironment, and identify product features that resonate across diverse populations. By coupling cutting-edge science with user-centered design, you have the chance to deliver products that are safe, effective, and widely embraced.

Through this initiative, India can demonstrate global leadership in women’s health, catalyze low-cost, high-impact technologies, and inspire the next generation of innovators to think boldly and inclusively.

Deliverables

By the end of this program, the initiative aims to generate actionable knowledge and prototype innovations that are regulation-ready, market-viable, and designed for widespread adoption across India’s diverse contexts. The initiative will deliver outcomes across two strategic objectives:

Objective 1: Biology-Driven Formulation Innovation *(Leveraging the Vaginal Microenvironment for Indian Women)*

- **Novel Formulations or Components:** Proof-of-concept mechanisms adapted to Indian environmental and storage conditions, low-cost, locally sourced, with potential for extended or on-demand delivery
- **Biological Characterization:** Impact on vaginal microbiome, epithelial health, pH, mucosal immunity; compatibility with common vaginal conditions; preliminary safety/tolerability
- **Scalability Roadmap:** Cost analysis, manufacturing pathways, stability testing under Indian conditions, regulatory alignment with CDSCO.

Objective 2: User-Centered Design Research (*Defining characteristics of an ideal vaginal products*)

- **Comprehensive User Insights:** Preferences, barriers, ancillary benefits (odor control, sexual wellness, menstrual support), across ≥ 3 demographic segments.
- **Actionable Design Principles:** Prioritized features, regional/cultural mapping, discreet vs. conspicuous formats, preferred delivery formats.
- **Implementation Framework:** Messaging, distribution channels, pricing/willingness-to-pay, community engagement strategies.

GCI-BIRAC is looking for proposals that:

- Focus on vaginally delivery approaches that do not require retrieval and disposal after use and can be adapted for extended- or slow-release of active ingredients.
- Use innovative, rigorous qualitative approaches that improve or deepen our understanding of standard acceptability metrics.
- Generate biological or end-user data from low- and middle-income regions and comply with national regulations on data security, data protection and privacy.
- Propose rigorous scientific approaches to study a clear research question and whose rationale is clearly supported by peer-reviewed literature.
- Demonstrate feasibility with preliminary data in support of the proposed approach; if no preliminary data exists then the proposal should be limited in scope.
- Request the appropriate funds and time to achieve the objectives of the proposed work. Exploratory projects of lower cost but higher risk are strongly encouraged and will be prioritized.

GCI-BIRAC will not fund proposals that:

- Evaluate the impact of currently available vaginally inserted products on the vaginal milieu (e.g. menstrual products, contraceptive devices, over-the-counter probiotics, etc.).
- Focus on approaches that would not be feasible or affordable in India and low- and middle-income countries, including personalized medicine. If these approaches are included, the feasibility of scalable, low-cost development should be explicitly stated.
- Focus on the development of therapeutics or interventions for specific conditions, such as treatment for STIs or contraceptive products. While these types of interventions may be used as a test case within the proposal, the work itself should focus on formulations.
- Are focused solely on basic exploratory scientific research without a clear translational pathway, including potential end-use scenarios, scalability considerations and regulatory or manufacturing implications.
- Center solely on focus groups and interviews. These methods or qualitative approaches are acceptable if embedded within rigorous mixed-methods study designs that generate quantitative, actionable insights beyond anecdotal data or standard acceptability metrics such as affective attitudes.

- Do not consider end user preferences or assume end-user preferences. For the purposes of this RFP, end-users can be defined as women of reproductive age in India and low- and middle-income countries. Proposals may focus on subgroups (e.g., adolescents, post-partum women), but the target group must be explicitly defined and justified.
- Primarily depend on traditional acceptability questionnaires or surveys (e.g., “if x hypothetical product existed, how interested would you be in using it?”).
- Do not directly address one of the core objectives as outlined above.
- Cannot be accomplished within a two-year maximum project duration or within the stipulated budget maximum.
- Support researchers or research teams who are affiliated with the tobacco industry, or who receive (or are applying for) funding from the tobacco industry, which includes manufacturers and distributors of e-cigarettes or vaping products.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Schedule

- Call opens – 28th October 2025 (2.00 PM IST)
- Call closes – 16th December 2025 (2.00 PM IST)
- Shortlisting/finalizing the proposals – February 2026
- Award announcement - May 2026
- Initiation of Grant Making - July 2026

WHO CAN APPLY

Eligibility Criteria

This RFP is India-led; this initiative is open to research institutes, nonprofit organizations (society, trust and foundation), Companies (including start-ups), Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), government agencies and academic institutions, as per the requirements mentioned below.

Please note that all applicants will be expected to comply with the Global Access clause. GCI-BIRAC encourage groups to build upon existing and/or complimentary projects/studies/trials and to collaborate with other institutions. GCI-BIRAC also encourage partnerships with researchers of national/international expertise. GCI-BIRAC particularly encourage applications from projects led by women and/or researchers at institutions and/or involving collaboration with women-led organizations.

Note: Please read the following carefully to understand the category you will be applying and the documentation that may be requested, should your proposal be selected for further financial due diligence.

Project cost will be sanctioned to researchers and innovators who are Indian individuals or Indian entities, having Indian Nationality. Only individuals who are applying through a legally recognized corporate entity are eligible.

This call is open to:

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1. **Companies:** Companies incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 2013/ 1956, having a minimum of 51% of equity shareholding held by Indians having Indian Nationality.
To establish the eligibility, the company shall submit a copy of the Incorporation Certificate, MoA & AoA, and the latest Share Holding Pattern as per BIRAC format.
2. **Limited Liability Partnership:** Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 having a minimum half of the persons who subscribed their names to the LLP document as its Partners should be Indians having Indian Nationality.
To establish the eligibility, the LLP shall submit a copy of the Incorporation Certificate, Partnership Deed, and the latest Share Holding Pattern as per BIRAC format.
3. **Indian Institutions/ Universities/ Public Research Organizations:** Academic institutions established in India and having UGC/ AICTE or any equivalent recognition

certificate or any other Public/Government supported organization. Universities, academic institutions, and S&T institutions with any industry partner will be preferred. To establish the eligibility, the applicant shall submit their respective Registration Certificate with their regulatory bodies such as UGC/ AICTE etc., or Gazette notification/ Act in case of Govt. entities, and in case the applicant is established under any Society or Trust, the applicant shall submit the same documents as required for Society and Trust.

4. **Society/ Trust/ NGO/ Foundation/ Association:** Society/ Trust/ NGO/ Foundation/ Association established in India under the relevant Indian Law having at least half of the stakeholders (partners/ trustees/ members/ associates etc.) as Indians having Indian Nationality. Industry partnership will be preferred. To establish the eligibility, the applicant shall submit a copy of their Registration Certificate, Deeds/ Bye-Laws, and the latest Share Holding Pattern as per the BIRAC format

Collaboration

GCI encourages collaborations based on the belief that synergies between experts across diverse disciplines are important for the challenges that GCI-BIRAC seek to address. The project needs to be led by investigators in India. **Global partners may be included, but proposals must demonstrate that 100% of the funding is going to an Indian organization as mentioned above.**

Should you wish to apply as a collaboration, please ensure that **lead investigators involved** should be Indian nationals working within the country in established institutes/organization as per eligibility criteria and are willing to collaborate and share experimental methods data, and resources amongst each other augmenting the abilities to compare and validate local research findings and/or develop interventions/solutions that can have impact at a greater scale. The grant will be released in INR to only Indian organizations and entities.

***Note:** *Experts of the relevant discipline as mentors should be a part of the proposal such as bioformulation, behavior science, microbiome experts, data analytics experts, management experts, M&E experts among others. The evaluation of eligibility shall be based on the status of documents as on the closing date of the call. Overall support will be provided for mentoring throughout the innovation lifecycle as well as monitoring and evaluation of the grant.*

Funding Level

To enable meaningful innovation and real-world deployment, the Challenge will consider proposals for awards of up to a maximum requested budget of **INR 2,20,00,000.00** /- (\$250,000 USD), for each project, provided to the organization, with a term of up to 24 months (two years).

Exploratory projects with shorter durations/lower budgets that focus on high-risk, innovative areas are strongly encouraged and will be given priority.

The fund will support:

- Techno-commercial and techno-managerial support
- Funding for research and development of potential solutions
- Funding for prototyping, testing, piloting, and working model

Grantees will receive milestone-based grants and technical assistance tailored to their stage of development, ensuring that promising technologies not only reach the field, but are positioned for commercialization, replication, and long-term impact.

Application budgets should be commensurate with the scope of work proposed.

Allowable Costs

- **Indirect Cost/Non-Recurring Budget:** Equipment and Accessories (Upto 20% of proposed cost) list of equipment's, if required and justification in relevance to the project activities
- **Direct Costs/Recurring Budget (Realistic figures):** up to 70% of proposed cost inclusive of Human Resource, Travel, Consumables, Outsourcing (Sub-Contracts), Research Contingency (In case any activity to be outsourced)
- **Project/Institute Overhead:** Up to 10 % of recurring cost

***Note:** *Justifications to be provided for roles of each aspect of human resource involved, consumables proposed, travel (Local and International in case if any), consultancy, outsourcing, research contingency and trainings and how costs relate to planned activities and target outcomes. Budget heads without cap will be considered on case-to-case basis and based on call specifics by the Technical Expert Committee (TEC).*

Application Process and Instructions

1. Proposals in the correct format should be submitted through online application portal on the BIRAC's website <https://www.birac.nic.in> and follow the link to the registration and submission portal.
2. To begin your application, please click on the 'Call for Proposal' section and then 'Current Calls' tab in order to view the call detailed description.
3. Click on the active call under subject-line '**VF Initiative**' to submit your proposal.
4. If you are applying to a BIRAC/GCI scheme for the first time, please note that you will have to register on the portal. **The verification and activation of your new account may take up to 24 hours before you can apply for the scheme.** Please take this into account while applying.
5. If you are already a registered user, then kindly enter your login credential at the below link in order to submit proposal: <https://birac.nic.in/login.php>
6. Once you register, you will receive an auto-generated link on the registered email id entered at the time of registration.
7. Once logged in, begin your application by filling in the applicant profile and proceed to proposal submission.
8. Any queries related to application process may be sent to pmubmgf1.birac@nic.in.
9. Please also ensure that the Proposal Summary document is uploaded based on the format provided. Incomplete proposals will be rejected in the triage round.
10. Prior to initiating the process of application submission, applicant should prepare the following:
 - **Executive summary:** A brief summary of the proposal that includes background, a concise **problem statement** that proposal will address, **primary objective** and **proposed approach** to achieve, and **impact of the solution**. *Indicate in one or two sentences in bold the essence of your idea for a solution (1-2 sentences).*
 - **Proposal information:** The proposal clearly defining the clear hypothesis, idea, scope of work, novelty of innovation, current stage of development (to achieve proof of concept for your idea, including limited field testing/validation), rationale, methodology and implementation plan, deliverables and expected outcomes. Path to impact (1/2 page):
 - **Path to Impact:** A description of how the proposed work will have an impact in advancing the field.
 - **Description of Scalability** in Indian market, global relevance.
 - **Organizational Capacity:** feasibility and available infrastructure and resources needed to execute the proposed work

Application/Proposal Review and Evaluation Process

All proposals will be evaluated on a balanced scorecard approach: Scientific excellence and innovation (40%), including rigor, novelty, and feasibility of the approach; Impact potential (30%), covering alignment with women's health needs, scalability, and global access; Team and execution capacity (20%), including expertise, partnerships, and milestone planning; and Budget and ethics (10%), assessing cost-effectiveness, justification of resources, and attention to ethical use of technology and data. Proposals that demonstrate cross-disciplinary collaboration, women-led leadership, and LMIC relevance will be given additional weight. GCI-BIRAC may also share information you provide to us (either orally or in writing) with third parties, including external reviewers, consultants, contingent workers, key partners and co-funders.

You should assume that nothing will be kept confidential and should not include any information in the proposal, budget, supplemental materials, or reports that you consider proprietary.

The Grand Challenges application review process is executed in four steps:

1. The proposals will be initially screened by the Grand Challenges India (GCI) along with stakeholders' team for mandate responsiveness and address the key needs described in the topic. If the application is found to be incomplete, completely unrelated or specifically excluded description or not complying with the provisions described in the RFP, the application will be considered ineligible. *Applicants with proposals removed from consideration during the screening process will be notified that their proposals were declined but will not receive specific feedback.*

The GCI and stakeholders' team will make assessments and recommend responsive applications for further review and evaluation to the Technical Expert Committee (TEC), comprising of national and international subject matter experts. Technical Expert Committee (TEC) members are selected from the world's leading researchers and comprise both experts in the topic area and experts in complementary areas. Not all reviewers have deep expertise in the topic; please consider this information when drafting your proposal.

2. In the second step, proposals that meet the eligibility criteria will be submitted to TEC for further review and evaluation. The evaluation criteria will be followed to shortlist proposals for further consideration.
3. The third step is the final selection of the proposals to be funded by the **TEC. The TEC will invite the grantees for interaction and/or written clarifications when it is beneficial to ensure that any outstanding questions are resolved before concluding the full review.** The **TEC** may recommend the proposal be funded, subject to specific modifications which will be negotiated as part of the award process. Organizations invited to submit full proposals will be provided additional technical instructions at that time.
4. The fourth and final step is final decision on applications to be funded will be made by the Competent authority based on the recommendations of the

Management of Conflict of Interest

To identify and avoid conflicts of interest among application reviewers, such reviewers will not be permitted to review proposals from organizations with which the reviewer has self-identified conflicts of interest.

TEC followed by the due diligence review and to directly discuss and negotiate any adjustments to the proposed project recommended by the **TEC**. As applicable, investigators will be contacted for the technical and financial due diligence processes (site visits) of the shortlisted applications.

Program Mentoring Mechanism

The selected projects will be monitored and mentored regularly by TEC constituted by GCI. **The fund disbursement and project implementation** shall be governed by the specific funding agreement that will be duly executed.

Each project shall be monitored and mentored regularly by a Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) constituted from TEC two lead discussants, specifically for that project. Mentoring sessions will be virtual where possible to reduce travel burdens, with flexible scheduling.

Periodic Review and Milestone-based Disbursement Process

The project will be subject to periodic reviews aligned with pre-defined milestones in GLA. On Successful completion of each milestone, the applicant will be required to submit a detailed Milestone Completion Report (MCR) as per the prescribed format. The MCR will be technically reviewed by the Project Management Committee (PMC) and/or Technical Expert Committee (TEC). In parallel, the financial reports, including Utilization Certificates (UCs) and Statements of Expenditure (SOEs), will be reviewed for compliance and fund utilization. Based on the successful completion of activities under the milestone and satisfactory technical and financial review, the PMC/TEC will recommend disbursement of the next tranche of funding. Review comments, if any, will be shared for mid-course corrections or refinements to ensure effective project execution.

Warranty

The GCI Applicants shall warranty that the statements and particulars contained in the full proposal and supporting documents are correct. They have to further warrant that they are under no contractual restrictions or legal disqualifications or any other obligations which would prohibit them from undertaking the present Project, entering into any Agreement in this regard.

Project Intellectual Property

The initiative is guided by the Memorandum of Understanding on the collaboration between the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India and the Gates Foundation signed on July 18, 2012. As a part of this MOU fair and transparent processes will be established to ensure that projects and investigators funded under initiatives make global access commitments to ensure the fruits of their research are available to those most in need. This will include, but not be limited to, the ability to license any technology developed under this agreement to Indian manufacturers in India, subject to these global access commitments and to the relevant provisions of the Indian laws including specific requirements on licensing under the Patents Act 1970.

To this end, project IP means intellectual property generated during the conduct of the Project by the applicants, but excluding the intellectual property generated before initiation of this Project and any IP generated outside the scope of this Project even during the term of

this Project. The ownership and control of the intellectual property shall remain with the Grantee(s), or other collaborating organizations or institutions as agreed by and between Grantees, subject to any applicable policies and the collaborative process described above, including arrangements between the Grantees and other individuals or institutions.

Global Access

The Grantees(s) agree to conduct and manage the Project and the resulting products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data or other innovations (collectively, “Funded Developments”) and any IP that arises in the manner that ensures “Global Access”. Global Access requires that:

1. The knowledge and information gained from the Project be promptly and broadly disseminated.
2. The Funded Development is made available and accessible at an affordable price to people most in need within the developing country.

Establishing suitable Global Access Agreement(s) among the Grantees will be a condition of receiving funding.

Grantee Commitments

1. For successful tools/technologies that have been supported through clinical testing, the projects under this agreement must apply for regulatory approval in India as well as for international certification to ensure that successful innovations/tools/technologies supported through the GCI are available at affordable costs to those most in need. BIRAC and the Foundation will support successful projects through introductions to third party manufacturers, as well as introductions to relevant technical experts for the next phases. This could include contracts for local manufacturing etc.
2. For projects where novel tools/technologies methods have shown promising results, BIRAC and the Foundation will work with the projects and investigators on a clear development pathway to ensure that the investments made through the GCI are supported for public health benefits.
3. During the term of the Funding Agreement and for 5 years after, the recipient will submit upon request annual intellectual property reports related to the Funded Developments, Background Technology, and any related agreements using the GCI-BIRAC’s templates or forms, which we may modify from time to time.

Confidentiality

During the tenure of the Project, GCI-BIRAC will undertake to maintain strict confidentiality and refrain from disclosure thereof, of all or any part of the information and data exchanged/generated from the Project for any purpose other than purposes in accordance this RFP. Please note that all proposals, documents, communications and associated materials submitted (collectively, “Submission Materials”) will become the property of BIRAC and will be shared with other funding partners or potential funding partners.

Number of applications received and the countries from which they originated will be published. The proposals will be subject to confidential external review by independent

subject matter experts and potential co-funders, in addition to in- house analysis.

Research Ethics and Regulatory Approvals

GCI Grantee(s) shall be responsible to obtain all the necessary requisite approvals including HMSC, IRB and ethics, clearance certificates, permissions and licenses from the Government/local authorities for conducting its activities/ operations in connection with the Project.

Dispute Resolution and Arbitration

In the event of any dispute or difference between the Parties hereto upon or in relation to or in connection with this RFP, such dispute or difference, shall be resolved amicably and in good faith by mutual consultation.

If such resolution is not possible, then the unresolved dispute or difference whatsoever arising between the Parties out of or relation to the construction, meaning, scope, operation or effect of this RFP or the validity the breach thereof or in respect of any defined legal relationship associated therewith or derived therefrom dispute shall be submitted for arbitration to India International Arbitration Center (IIAC), an autonomous organization working under the aegis of the Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, Government of India. The Authority to appoint the sole arbitrator shall be the Chairperson IIAC. The Arbitration under this clause and provision of administrative services by IIAC shall be in accordance with the India International Arbitration Centre (Conduct of Arbitration) Regulations, 2023. read with Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The award made in pursuance thereof shall be binding on the Parties. The venue of arbitration shall be New Delhi and the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in English Language. The provision of this Clause shall not become inoperative notwithstanding the Contract expiring or ceasing to exist or being terminated or foreclosed.

Contact Us

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For Enquiries

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or

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with the **subject line: GCI-VF Call**

or

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