

**Grand Challenges India funding opportunity on  
Ki Data challenge  
Data Science Approaches to Improve Maternal and Child Health in India**

**Rules & Guidelines  
Proposals due by August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 02:00 P.M. Indian Standard Time**

**1. Overview**

Launched in 2012, the Grand Challenges India is a flagship program under partnership of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 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 Program Management Unit at BIRAC (PMU-BIRAC) was set up under this partnership to bring together global funders with national stakeholders to a single platform. PMU-BIRAC is responsible for executing, managing, and providing technical and financial oversight of collaboratively funded projects and initiatives.

The 6th call under Grand Challenges India program, titled “*ki Data challenge in Maternal and Child Health*” aims to diversify the scope of data analytics which can be explored to improve the lives of mother and child.

Key features of this new GCI call are:

- This Request for Proposals (RFP) is specific to Indian researchers only.
- A two-page application in English
- Rapid turnaround time. We select projects within approximately five months of the proposal submission.
- Champion-based review process. Reviewers with a track record in identifying innovative ideas and deep domain expertise, select the proposals they find most pioneering.
- Awards of up to \$100,000 USD will be made.

- The awards will be co-funded by the partners: Bill & Melinda Gates foundation and the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.
- We encourage partnerships with researchers and data scientists in other parts of the country, especially where the opportunity exists to build on established collaborations.

### **Tips for Applicants**

- Your proposal must demonstrate an innovative approach that complies with all restrictions and guidelines.
- In addition to subject matter experts, your proposal will be reviewed by a panel with broad expertise and a track record in identifying innovations – these reviewers may not be deep domain experts in your field. You must describe your idea in clear language without the use of jargon unique to your field.
- The work proposed in your application must include a clear set of key experiments or activities that test your idea in a way that could provide sufficient evidence to warrant funding. Proposals with vague descriptions or vague testing methodologies will not be funded.

## **2. Program Structure**

### **Funding pattern**

Proposal for developing data analytics approaches (12-18 months): Funded at up to \$100,000 USD per project and are meant to provide an opportunity to test particularly bold ideas, including applying approaches from outside the field or that bridge fields.

### **Collaboration**

GCI encourages collaborations based on the belief that synergies between experts across diverse disciplines are important for the challenges that we seek to address.

Should you apply as a collaboration, please ensure the following questions are sufficiently answered in your proposal.

Are the applicants, including all sub-contractors, willing to collaborate and share experimental methods, data, and resources among the other independently funded members of the program consortium?

### 3. Application instructions

#### a) *Schedule*: Key dates and deadlines

Key date	Event
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018	Call launch and Application process opens
17th August 2018, 02:00 P.M. IST	Application closing deadline
December 2018	Selection completed and Awards announcement

#### b) *How to Apply*

- The entire application process is strictly online through the BIRAC portal **and no other mode of submission will be entertained.**
- Please visit the BIRAC website at [www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in) and follow the link to the registration and submission portal.
- 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 start filling the application. Please take this into account while applying.
- The online form needs to be filled completely and incomplete proposals will be rejected in the triage round.
- Please also ensure that the Application is filled and submitted as per the format and instructions provided with the application form.
- **Proposals must be submitted prior to the submission deadline of 2:00 P.M. Indian Standard Time, on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018.**

#### c) *Eligibility criteria*

This RFP is exclusively India-led and the call is open to Indian academics, research institutions, companies, society, trusts and foundations.

Project cost will be sanctioned to researchers and innovators who are Indian individuals or Indian entities, we also encourage partnerships with researchers of national/international expertise, subject to the call guidelines.

*Note:* Please read the following carefully to understand the category you will be applying under and the documentation\* that may be requested, if your proposal is selected for next stage and further financial due diligence. This call is open to:

- i) In case of the applicant being an Indian academic scientist, researchers and Ph.D students (citizen of India) who must be willing to incubate at a recognized incubator submit a letter of intent for same.
- ii) **Companies**
  - Companies incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 2013 having a minimum of 51% Indian ownership.
- iii) **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 Indian citizens.
- iv) **Indian institution/ universities/ public research organization**
  - Academic institutions established in India and having NAAC/ UGC/ AICTE or any equivalent recognition certificate or any other Public/Government supported organization
- v) **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.

Experts of the relevant discipline as mentors or collaborators should be a part of the proposal such as clinical researchers, data analytics experts, m-health specialists, management experts, logistics experts and statisticians among others.

*\* Note: The legal eligibility check shall be based on the status of documents as on the closing date of the call.*

Through national and international collaborations, we expect that sharing experimental methods, data, and resources will ultimately improve the data analytics approach and help developing tools that can have impact at a greater scale.

#### ***d) Application Review Process***

The review of proposals is a critical element of the GCI program and its goal is to filter and harness creative ideas. For each grant program, we advertise a set of challenges (as described in the call RFP) carefully identified to elicit innovative responses to barriers in global health and development.

Due to the large number of proposals anticipated, applicants with proposals that are not selected for awards will receive an email of decline with specific feedback.

The review process is executed in following steps:

1. The first step consists of screening/triage of submissions to evaluate whether proposals address the key needs and are as per the mandate described in the **call RFP** (Please read the call RFP carefully). Applicants with proposals removed from consideration during the screening process will be notified that their proposals were declined, after review is complete
2. In the second step, responsive proposals are evaluated by reviewers (Area Review Panel experts) selected from the world's leading innovative minds and would comprise experts in the topic area. Each proposal is reviewed by 3 separate reviewers who are completely blinded and later their scores are normalised to obtain the final scoring.

The ***Evaluation Criteria*** considered in these reviews are:

- i. Novelty and Innovation: Does the proposal capture enough novelty to address the discussed challenges.
- ii. Approach and methodology: Is the hypothesis and rationale given for the project scientifically robust? Is there clarity in the objectives and work plan? Are the proposed timelines and milestones appropriate, feasible, and technically sound? Is there a high likelihood of the objectives being completed in the given timeframe?
- iii. Future Deliverable/Translational Feasibility: Relevance and clarity of anticipated outcomes. Does the proposal have the capability to be developed at a later stage into a useable product or technology in a larger context?

- iv. Sustainability and adaptability of System: Does it have applicability to wider or different settings? Does the proposed solution take into account the complexity of the proposed geographical setting?
- v. Organizational and investigator capability: Is the team composition covering key scientific or domain areas that this challenge is seeking to address? Is the research and development team appropriately trained, experienced, and positioned to carry out this work? Are collaborative arrangements in place? Is there evidence of an infrastructure for data collection, transfer, and sharing?
- vi. Best value: Is the cost of the proposed effort reasonable relative to the complexity of the proposed work and the degree of risk and advancement proposed?

3. The third step involves the legal eligibility check of selected applicants.
4. In the fourth step, applicants will be invited to present their proposals in detail to TAG (Technical Advisory Group) committee. Pending financial and technical due diligence, the final awardees will be selected by the TAG. Investigators will be contacted as part of the due diligence review. Once Due Diligence is successfully completed, award certificates will be awarded to the selected GCI applicants.
5. PMU- BIRAC will then enter into separate funding agreements with successful GCI cost recipient(s) to govern the project terms and conditions and fund disbursement modalities.

\* We will not be able to provide individual feedback to applicants those who are not selected for further rounds.

*e) Inquiries*

Please direct all questions about this initiative, selection criteria, or application instructions by e-mail to the following addresses: **[mdpmubmgf.birac@nic.in](mailto:mdpmubmgf.birac@nic.in)**

#### 4. Allowable Costs/Budget

Usually the allowable cost will include:

	<b><i>Heads</i></b>	<b><i>Allowable costs</i></b>
<b><i>Recurring Budget</i></b>	<b><i>Manpower</i></b>	Up to 32% of proposed cost
	<b><i>Research Contingency/Overheads</i></b> (combined costs of Primary & Collaborating Partners together)	Up to 10% of the total Recurring Cost
	<b><i>*Consumables</i></b>	Up to 20% of proposed cost
	<b><i>Travel</i></b> (Inclusive of International travel, in case of International Collaborations)	Up to 10% of total
	<b><i>Outsourcing</i></b> (In case any activity to be outsourced)	Up to 10% of proposed cost
<b><i>Non-Recurring Budget</i></b>	<b><i>**Equipment and Accessories</i></b>	Up to 20% of proposed cost

*\*The total of Consumables, Travel and Outsourcing should not exceed up to 40% of the total proposed cost, but a slight adjustment among these is possible within the range of 40%.*

*\*\* List of equipment's, if required and justification in relevance to the project activities (Quotations supporting proposed equipment and accessories, may be asked at a later stage)*

Note: Justifications to be provided for roles of each aspect of manpower involved, consumables proposed, travel (Local and International in case if any), research contingency and trainings.

Budget heads without cap will be considered on case-to-case basis and based on call specifics by Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

## 5. Appendix

### **a) 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 etc.

### **b) 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 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation signed on July 18, 2012 and as such must consistent with the commitment 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 limited to, the ability to license any technology developed under this agreement to 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 GCI 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 GCI cost recipient(s), or other collaborating organizations or institutions as agreed with the cost recipient, subject to any applicable local policies and the collaborative process described above, including arrangements between the cost recipient and other individuals or institutions.

GCI cost recipient(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 developing country.



Establishing suitable Global Access agreements among the GCI cost recipients will be a condition of receiving funding.

During the term of this Agreement and for 5 years after, you will submit upon request annual intellectual property reports related to the Funded Developments, Background Technology, and any related agreements using the PMU-BIRAC's templates or forms, which the we may modify from time to time.

**c) Confidentiality**

During the tenure of the Project, 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.

**d) Research Assurances**

***Data access principles***

BIRAC has the right to the technical data generated during the project for all the GCI funded projects.

The fund recipient shall permit BIRAC through its authorized representative access to the premises, during regular business hours, where the Project is being/shall be carried out and provide all information and produce or make available the concerned records for inspection and monitoring of the Project activity, required by BIRAC or the concerned committee under the RFP. BIRAC will as needed share this data with a Technical Advisory Group or with the funding partners.

***Indemnification***

GCI applicants shall, at all times, indemnify and keep indemnified the Funding Agency/ BIRAC against any claims or suits in respect of any losses, damages or compensation payable in consequences of any accident, death or injury sustained by the employees of

the Company or by any other third party resulting from or by any act, omission or operation conducted by or on its behalf. Further GCI applicants shall, at all times, indemnify and keep indemnified PMU or Funding Agency/ BIRAC against all claims/damages etc. by any infringement of any Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) while carrying out its responsibilities/work under the Project and this Agreement.

GCI applicants shall share the health information which develops through observational studies, surveys for the validation of the proposed solution into the programme setting and the like (the "Data") that would be beneficial to furthering the research goals with funders and global partners.

In the event of data sharing, there shall be separate governing terms.

### ***Research Ethics and Regulatory Approvals***

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

- e) **The fund disbursement and project implementation** shall be governed by the specific funding agreement that will be duly executed.

### **f) 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 International Center for Alternate Dispute Resolution (ICADR), 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 arbitrator(s) shall be the ICADR. The Arbitration under this Clause and provision of administrative services by ICADR shall be in accordance with the ICADR Arbitration Rules, 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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