

**Call for Research proposals addressing COVID -19 in LMICs Supported
by NIHR and UKRI**

A specific health-focused call : Global efforts on COVID-19(GECO) Health Research , launched by the UK's National Institute for Health Research(NIHR) and UKRI is open now .

This call focuses on epidemiology, clinical management, infection prevention and control, health system responses.

Grants upto to £1m over 18 months are available and there are 3 deadlines: 22 June, 10 August and 28 September. India-based applicants can be co-investigators on this call with bidding for up to 30% of the full economic costs of the project.

For further information regarding identified research areas, application deadline kindly visit: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/global-effort-on-covid-19-geco-health-research-call-specification/24832>

For any queries, contact: india@ukri.org and geco@nihr.ac.uk

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Frequently asked questions FAQs:

1. Quantum of funding for Indian PIs (full or part requirement in a particular country)

There is no specific budget for this call, nor any caps on project scale or size, as long as proposals can demonstrate they will deliver impact during the lifetime of the project.

Indian applicants are eligible to apply as co-investigators, not principal investigators. This is because, as per the recent agreement between the UK and Indian science ministers on our partnership approach delivering global development impact, this call categorises Indian applicants in the same way as those from the US or Europe – they will be able to apply as Co-Investigators, bidding for up to 30% of the full economic costs of the project, and will be expected to make a significant contribution to their own research costs.

In practice this means, that the full costs for an Indian research team can be bid for, as long as these costs do not exceed 30% of the full economic costs of the proposal. If there are other Cols from China, the US or Europe, then the sum of all India/China/non-DAC costs should fit within the 30% cap. Overheads cannot be included in these submissions.

2. **Deadline** for submission of proposals and related guidelines.

There are 3 deadlines: 22 June, 10 August and 28 September 2020. Also require awardees to commit to starting their grants within 4 weeks of being awarded funding. inviting projects for up to 18 months of duration. Complete guidelines can be found here: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ukri-qcrf-newton-fund-agile-response-call-to-address-covid-19/>

3. **As it is proposed for multinational collaboration, then what is the minimum / maximum requirement of countries to partner with a common protocol and any suggested/ preferred list of countries or partners to work with?**

This call does not focus only on multinational collaboration- proposals could be bilateral between the UK and another country, or multi-lateral between the UK and other countries. Some examples are provided below:

- *If a project is led by a UK PI, then it must have a minimum of one LMIC Co-Investigator and where possible we would expect involvement of Co-Investigators from the country/ countries in which the study is situated.*
- *If a project is led by an LMIC PI who is based at an organisation that has held a grant as lead organisation from UKRI before and has gone through UKRI's due diligence process, then there are no other requirements.*
- *A project cannot be led by an Indian/US/European PI – any project with Indian/US/European Co-Is will fall under one of the two categories above.*

There is no list of preferred countries- it is expected that proposals which demonstrate the highest potential for impact for an LMICs affected by the Covid19 crisis will have a competitive advantage. Due to the urgent nature of the call we anticipate that many proposals will come from international teams that are already in touch and/or working together. We hope to see several UK-India teams applying under this call due to the long-standing relationship and successes of our partnership.