



CIFSRF Questions & Answers

2013 Call for Concept Notes

Eligibility

Can IDRC provide help in identifying potential Canadian institution partners?

- Unfortunately not. For ethical reasons in a competitive call, IDRC cannot assist applicant organizations and/or companies in identifying partners. We can, however, suggest some umbrella organizations that may provide helpful information.
- The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (<http://www.aucc.ca/>) offers information on Canadian academic institutions, including a listing of its Canadian member universities.
- The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (<http://www.accc.ca/>) represents Canadian colleges and institutes and offers a listing of its members.
- In addition, The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) web site (<http://www.ccic.ca/>) provides a listing of its members, which are all voluntary sector organizations working globally to achieve sustainable human development.
- In Quebec, L'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (<http://www.aqoci.qc.ca/>) also offers a member list of Quebec-based organizations working in international development.

Which kinds of organizations are eligible for funding?

- The Fund is open to project teams from Canadian and developing country organizations, including academic institutions, private sector organizations, civil society organizations, and other research-based organizations. Applicant organizations and/or companies will require considerable research experience to be able to lead a project of this nature.
- UN organizations, the CGIAR, and Canadian federal government agencies may not apply as primary recipients, but may be included in applications by others, as third-party participants.
- Concept notes must demonstrate that research will be user driven, that potential research-users are identified, and that they will be engaged in project development and implementation. Potential research-users include a wide variety of private sector and non-academic entities (e.g., large and small businesses, producer groups, business associations, developing country governments, international organizations, private foundations and institutes, non-government organizations, and scientific professional bodies, etc.), all of whom can adopt, adapt, and bring to scale the research results or innovations.

Are international organizations eligible for funding?

- International organizations (excepting United Nations organizations and members of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research [CGIAR centres]) are eligible to apply as Southern collaborators in this call, provided that they have regional chapters or offices with appropriate legal status to operate and manage funds in the eligible countries where the research will take place.



Are recipients of existing IDRC or CIDA funding projects eligible for funding?

- Yes, as long as they meet all the eligibility criteria and the researchers have time available to commit to additional research.

Is there a limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted by a given institution?

- Although this is not explicitly encouraged, the same organization can submit multiple proposals, as long as they are with different partners. For example, a university may have several different research groups, each of which may work in partnership with an outside organization. Any of these partnerships would be eligible to apply. Each partnership can apply with only one proposal.

Can the same researcher be on more than one application?

- Individual researchers are eligible to be included on a maximum of two concept notes in the 2013 Call— a researcher can apply as PI on one project and be on the research team of one additional project. Or a researcher can be on the research team of two projects. Researchers are not eligible to be the PI on two projects. Any researcher who is currently a PI (or a co-PI) on a funded project from the previous 2010 or 2011 Calls for Concept Notes is not eligible to be a PI on an application in the current call, but s/he may be included on the research team of one application in the current call.

Why has the list of eligible countries changed from past CIFSRR calls?

- Decisions on the eligible countries were taken by senior managers from both CIDA and IDRC. Many factors are taken into account such as meeting Canadian priorities and international commitments, ensuring the efficient and effective use of available funds, and meeting key food security challenges. Not every need can be addressed by CIFSRR and it was decided that Phase 2 should continue to work in those countries where CIFSRR is already supporting research and to increase support for Africa.

Can you tell me more about the eligible country list?

- Please review the footnotes in the Eligible Country List and section 12 of the Call document. Some countries pose high risks to researchers and staff if they travel to them. These risks may change over time. As such, the decision to submit an application in a country (or a region of a country) currently listed as high-risk is up to each applicant. However, applicants should understand that research proposals in high-risk areas may not be accepted if travel bans are in force at the time decisions are taken.

For certain eligible countries, proposals/concept notes are expected to address a research problem of regional relevance. How is "regional relevance" defined in this context?

- Regional relevance means that the research should demonstrate potential impact and replicability beyond the specific country where it takes place. Some middle income countries have strong research capacity that may not be found elsewhere in the region, and it is important that the benefits of the research reach the poorest and most food insecure.

Can we submit a proposal or concept note that includes many countries?

- Yes. A multi-country approach is one of the options that could be covered by the call. Activities supported by the Fund must take place in an eligible country or in eligible countries. If the project includes activities taking place in non-eligible countries, it will be important to show that the project is covering those expenses through external, **non-CIFSRR** funding.



The call states that developing country applicants must be based in an eligible country. What does it mean to be “based in an eligible country”?

- An applicant organization and/or company from one of the eligible countries must be a legal entity in that country. The organization’s legal corporate registration must show that the jurisdiction of registration is the eligible country (or is within it, such as in the case of provincial registration).

What constitutes an eligible Canadian organization?

- An eligible Canadian organization must be a legal entity, registered in Canada or a province or territory of Canada. Examples include registered Canadian non-profit and non-governmental organizations, Canadian universities, and Canadian businesses.

Does my organization have to make a cash contribution? Do we need to have other funding for the project already secured?

- No, there is no requirement that the applicant organizations and/or companies make a cash contribution or have funding from other donors or contributors in order to be considered for funding under this call. If an organization *does* have such funding, this should be made clear where requested in the appropriate budget documents in the application.

What does CIDA’s amalgamation into the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade mean for CIFS RF and, in particular, for organizations that would like to apply for funding?

- We do not anticipate any immediate changes to CIFS RF or any effect on applicants. On April 5, 2013, the Government of Canada announced an additional \$62.5 million in funding for CIFS RF. This announcement and the 2013 call for concept notes is proof of the government’s commitment to CIFS RF.
- It is worth noting that IDRC already reports annually to Parliament through the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade. As a result, IDRC is well positioned to work effectively with the new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development

Preparing a Concept Note

What should be the distribution of budget between partners?

- As stated in the call, effective partnerships are reflected by “equitable sharing of budget.” The division of the budget should reflect the collaboration and partnership between applicant partners.

What should be the distribution of budget to third-party organizations?

- A recommended maximum of 20% of the total project budget may be sub-granted to third-party organizations. The exact amount should depend on the nature and cost of the work done by any third-party organization. The overall balance of budget should clearly show that the applicant organizations are the primary actors in the research. Applications with more than 20% of the total project budget sub-granted to a third party or third parties will be considered equally with other applications, but if recommended for funding would require special authorization from the Governance Committee of the Fund, which would assess such applications on a case-by-case basis. The Governance Committee could then award special permission to sub-grant more than 20%, or it could request a new budget in which 20% is not exceeded.