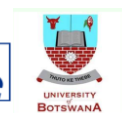




Eastern and South African Regional Hub for Research and Policy on Climate Change and Health.





REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RfP)

FOR

**EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL HUB FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE
AND HEALTH 2025- 2028**

EOI NO. AMREF/19/09/2025/020

**AMREF HEALTH AFRICA IN KENYA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA, KPMG
ADVISORY SERVICES AND AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

September 2025.



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1.0 Background and Rationale.

Africa is at the forefront of the global climate crisis, facing an unprecedented wave of extreme weather that is claiming lives and devastating communities. The continent has seen and continues to see an increase in extreme weather events, leading to thousands of deaths and widespread displacement. This includes severe droughts and famine in East and Southern Africa and deadly storms in Madagascar, Mozambique, and Kenya. This escalating crisis is not merely an environmental problem; it is a profound threat to public health. Climate change amplifies morbidities, mortalities, and displacement through both direct and indirect channels. The increase in extreme weather and heat is directly linked to a rise in both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Moreover, the psychological toll is immense, with exposure to these events causing severe trauma, especially for the most vulnerable populations—including pregnant women, new mothers, children, and the elderly—and deepening existing gender inequalities. Climate change has also become a "threat multiplier," compromising the health of millions. Climate-related displacement disrupts essential healthcare, leading to inadequate prenatal care, poor nutrition, and a lack of support for mothers and newborns. An alarming consequence is the documented rise in gender-based domestic violence during climate-induced humanitarian crises and periods of high temperatures. Furthermore, the capacity of healthcare systems is being challenged, as health workers often lack the training and knowledge to address these new, climate-related health issues.

Across the continent, the response has been insufficient. A critical lack of research, coupled with limited and reactive policies and inadequate funding, leaves a significant gap in our ability to address this harm. There is an urgent need for more robust, transdisciplinary research that is informed by a justice and gender-based rights approach. We need targeted, disaggregated data—from epidemiology to behavioral science and health systems analysis—to create effective interventions for the most at-risk populations in East and Southern Africa, enabling them to prepare, respond, and remain resilient. The current research landscape is fragmented, with limited collaboration between institutions, slow data sharing with policymakers, and a lack of mentorship for emerging researchers.

To overcome these barriers, the Eastern and South African Regional Hub for Research and Policy on Climate Change and Health has been established. It forms part of the five regional hubs of the Advancing Research for Climate and Health (ARCH) initiative, a five-year partnership between the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and IDRC to address critical knowledge gaps at the intersection of climate change and health. This hub serves as a beacon for transformative research and action on climate change and health. By fostering collaboration, streamlining data sharing, and establishing robust mentorship programs, the Hub provides a platform towards improving public health outcomes and building a more resilient and just future for African communities.

The Eastern and Southern Africa hub for Advancing Research for Climate and Health (ESA ARCH) is led by Amref Health Africa in Kenya, working with KPMG Advisory Services Limited, the University of Botswana, and the Africa International University (AIU). These four partners have, for several years, focused on Global Change and Health through international, multi-country, and multi-continent research programs. The universities have contributed to increased focus, knowledge, and development of academic activity related climate and health. Contributing significantly to the understanding of how climate impacts on health. The hub is dedicated to strengthening the resilience of health systems to climate change in Eastern and Southern Africa.



The overall objective of the regional hub is to lead gender-responsive research and action on climate change and health, with the vision of improving public health outcomes and fostering resilient communities through transdisciplinary research, policy advocacy, and community engagement.

2.0 Objectives of the call

The specific objectives of the Project are:

- 1.1 To generate intersectional, disaggregated climate-health data for integrated program design in East and Southern Africa.
- 1.2 To equip policymakers at subnational, national, regional, and global levels with newly available climate-health data that is disaggregated, gender-responsive, and intersectional, enabling them to design evidence-based policies and programs that deliver sustained impact.
- 1.3 To strengthen capacities of individuals, organizations and networks in assessing, designing, informing and implementing climate-resilient health systems approaches.
- 1.4 To enhance health systems' surge capacity and prepare health systems' workforces to respond to climate-induced health risks and shocks in community and primary healthcare settings.

3.0 Geographic Coverage and Eligible Countries.

The Hub is dedicated to strengthening the resilience of health systems to climate change in the highly impacted Eastern and Southern Africa region. In this regard, responses are invited from Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. While countries not listed here will not be directly eligible for funding, they will continue to be engaged through the Hub for knowledge sharing, learning, and contributions to the regional agenda. Applicants are encouraged to work across borders and incorporate comparative, multi-country components wherever feasible. Applicants should also note that while proposals may be submitted for research and implementation activities in any of the eligible countries listed in this Call, certain countries are currently subject to additional due diligence and clearance requirements by IDRC and the UK FCDO. The Hub's approach prioritizes improving data availability, fostering interdisciplinary research, building stakeholder capacity, and facilitating cross-project collaboration, while embedding gender equality and inclusion.

4.0 Priority Areas and Research Questions

In alignment with the hub's overarching objectives and informed by stakeholder consultations as well as a review of existing landscape analyses, we have identified critical research priority areas aimed at enhancing health systems in Eastern and Southern Africa. We are excited to announce a Call for Proposals (CfP) designed to identify and support regional research teams engaged in innovative, gender-responsive research that fosters the development of robust, climate-resilient health systems.

This CfP invites applications from research institutions, universities, and other entities focused on the intersection of climate change and health to contribute to regional knowledge generation and inform policy actions. Proposals should address one or more priority research questions identified through stakeholder consultations organized by the Eastern and Southern Africa Research Hub on Climate Change and Health.



The thematic areas highlighted below represent regional priorities and offer guiding questions to assist applicants in crafting proposals that tackle the most pressing climate-health challenges in the region. Applicants are encouraged to adapt these questions to their specific country or community contexts and are welcome to propose additional questions that align with and further the hub's overarching research agenda.

4.1 Responsive, inclusive, and interoperable Climate-Health Data & information systems

This theme aims to strengthen climate–health data systems to inform evidence-based decision-making and resilient health programming. Proposals should enhance the availability, interoperability, and inclusivity of data, supporting predictive modeling, early warning, and surveillance of climate-sensitive diseases. The ultimate goal is to equip institutions and policymakers with actionable insights for proactive climate and health interventions.

- How can climate–health data systems be designed to provide timely, reliable, and actionable evidence, including early warnings, that inform health policies and interventions?
- How can machine learning, artificial intelligence, and health informatics be leveraged to build interoperable climate–health data platforms that integrate across sectors (health, environment, agriculture, WASH) and strengthen regional responses to climate risks?
- What approaches ensure that climate–health data systems capture disaggregated, intersectional information (by gender, age, geography, and socio-economic status) to support inclusive and equitable policy and program design?
- What strategies can effectively support health systems in communities and primary health care in responding to and recovering from climate-related health emergencies in the region?

4.2 Skilled diverse, fit-for-purpose health workforce for climate resilience

This priority area focuses on strengthening the health workforce to respond to climate-related health risks and shocks. Proposals should build skills, diversity, and surge capacity to support climate-resilient health systems and ensure inclusive, equitable, and timely health service delivery.

- What new skills and competencies are needed to prepare the health workforce for climate-related risks and shocks, and how effectively do current pre-service and in-service training curricula equip health workers for climate resilience?
- How are health workforce planning and deployment models adapting to climate-related migration, displacement, and shifting disease burdens, and what surge capacity mechanisms are most effective for mobilizing health workers during climate-induced emergencies such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves?
- What are the gaps in surge capacity in health systems, particularly in community and primary health care (PHC) settings, to respond to climate-induced health risks, shocks and disasters?
- How are national and regional health workforce policies incorporating climate resilience, what gaps remain, and what financing mechanisms and incentives can sustainably support the training, retention, and deployment of a climate-ready health workforce?
- How do gender, age, geographic location, and professional diversity influence the effectiveness of the health workforce in building climate resilience, and what policies and strategies can ensure equitable recruitment, retention, and career progression of underrepresented groups?



4.3 Equitable inclusive Climate Health Economics, Policy and Systems Research

This priority area addresses the policies, economics and governance of climate–health resilience. Proposals shall examine the costs of climate-sensitive diseases and climate shocks, the economic trade-offs of action versus inaction, and the role of innovative financing in strengthening health system adaptation. Research should also explore governance models that enable cross-sectoral coordination and assess how regional and national bodies can shape effective climate–health policies in Eastern and Southern Africa.

- What are the economic costs of climate-sensitive diseases and climate-induced shocks (such as floods and droughts), including their effects on household health expenditures, productivity losses, and broader impacts on health systems, GDP and labor markets? What is the cost of actions and inactions
- What innovative financing mechanisms can sustainably fund health system adaptation to climate risks, how are these risks reflected in national health budgets and opportunity costs, and what role does economic evidence play in shaping climate-health policy decisions?
- What governance models best support coordination across health, environment, agriculture, and disaster risk reduction sectors, and how can regional and national bodies (e.g., AU, SADC, EAC) influence climate–health policy development and response?

4.4 Climate-sensitive Diseases and Health Outcomes

This theme focuses on strengthening climate–health data systems to support evidence-based decision-making and resilient health programming. Proposals should enhance data availability, interoperability, disaggregation, and security, enabling predictive modeling, early warning, and surveillance of climate-sensitive diseases. The goal is to equip public institutions with the capacity to use data effectively for proactive and inclusive climate–health action.

- How is climate variability and change influencing the distribution, transmission dynamics, and seasonality of climate-sensitive diseases such as malaria, dengue, cholera, and other vector- and water-borne infections?
- What are the short- and long-term health outcomes of climate-sensitive diseases, and how do these impacts vary across vulnerable populations such as women, children, and marginalized communities?
- Which interventions are most effective in preventing, detecting, and managing climate-sensitive diseases, and how can health systems adapt to minimize their burden under different climate scenarios?

4.5 Gender, Equity, and Vulnerable Populations

This theme emphasizes strengthening health systems through research on policy and service delivery for evidence-based design, with gender and women’s health at the center of climate resilience. Proposals should generate evidence that integrates economic, political, and social factors to inform equitable, gender-responsive health policies and services. A particular focus is on advancing women’s access to primary health care, ensuring that policies and service delivery models address the disproportionate climate impacts on women and vulnerable populations, and fostering inclusive, climate-resilient health systems.



- How does climate change induced heat exposure affect maternal-born health outcomes, and what are the ripple effects on girls' education, women's workforce participation, and broader socio-economic development?
- How does climate change drive gender-based violence in the context of health vulnerabilities, migration, and displacement, and what protective measures can health and social systems implement to reduce these risks?

5.0 Eligibility Criteria of the research teams

This Call for Proposals welcomes applications from research entities and multi-stakeholder consortia positioned to contribute high-quality, impactful research on the climate-health nexus within Eastern and Southern Africa region. Applicants must be based in or have active collaborations within the countries indicated under the eligible countries above.

Eligible entities include:

- Research Institutions and universities actively conducting climate-health related research.
- Multi-stakeholder research teams from research entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations and private sector partners.
- Regional networks and coalitions working on climate change and health
- Multi-country applications are allowed but the research team must ensure the scope is clear and adequately budgeted.

This initiative will not fund individuals. It focuses on supporting research teams and established institutions to ensure the sustainability, knowledge translation and use for climate climate-resilient health system. As such, this CfP seeks to leverage the resources of these institutions for impact. The research teams should demonstrate diverse expertise and gender balance, comprising senior and upcoming researchers to foster capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange.

To ensure principles of excellence, equity, contextual relevance and capacity strengthening tailored to the call's thematic focus and regional scope, applicants are required to demonstrate the following capacities and attributes:

The applicants should demonstrate the following;

1. The Lead organization (where the principal Investigator is aligned with) should demonstrate Compliance with the legal requirements of registration in the Country of operation.
2. Entities should show evidence of strong organizational management, governance, and oversight structures.
3. Demonstrated track record leading and supporting high-quality research through a strong publication record.
4. Demonstrated knowledge of regional priorities in Climate and Health is a must.
5. Proven track record of leading and supporting high-quality research reflected by peer-reviewed publications and demonstrated expertise in climate and health research.
6. Proven high capacity to support networks or partners, including demonstrated experience fostering knowledge exchange and learning opportunities, both virtually and in person.



7. Demonstrated experience through a record of publications in conducting gender analysis and ensuring the integration of gender, equity, and inclusion considerations in all project activities.
8. Demonstrate how gender equality and inclusion will be promoted and adopted both in team composition and the design and implementation of the proposed research.
9. Proven administrative capacities, including demonstrated expertise in managing research projects.

In addition, applicants must commit to:

1. Engage stakeholders and decision-makers throughout the project.
2. Share data and results in accordance with data and knowledge-sharing policies
3. Adhere to IDRC and UK FCDO principles, including safeguarding, ethics, and value for money.
4. Partnerships with regional and international collaborators are encouraged, but the lead applicant's primary affiliation must be in an eligible African institution headquartered in the countries listed in Section 3.0 above.

6.0 Funding amount and Project Duration.

The Hub will fund high-quality research projects through sub-grants selected by an independent Decision-Making Committee (DMC). Depending on the scope and scale of the research, funding support will range from:

- **Small grants** of up to **USD 50,000**, designed to support focused or pilot studies with clear potential for impact and scalability.
- **Large grants** of up to **USD 250,000** enabling comprehensive, multidisciplinary projects with robust methodological designs and wider regional relevance.

Funded research projects are expected to be implemented over a period ranging from **12 to 24 months**, allowing for enough time for rigorous data collection, analysis, stakeholder engagement, dissemination of findings, knowledge translation and cross hub sharing and learning.

Funding support shall cover costs that are reasonable, necessary and directly linked to the successful implementation of the research project. Eligible costs include;

- Professional fees and salaries which are clearly justified remuneration for project personnel, including researchers and support staff directly engaged in project activities. Salaries should reflect regional standards and comply with the country Labour Laws.
- Fieldwork and research activities costs associated with data collection, surveys, community engagement and other essential field operations.
- Workshop and training expenses for capacity-building initiatives, raining sessions and stakeholders' workshops aligned with the projects' objectives.
- Travel and per diem travel costs for project team members, strictly limited to activities necessary for project execution as guided by the organization's travel policies.
- Equipment, specialized services and data management covering procurement or rental of necessary equipment and specialized essential to the research.
- No more than 13% on overhead costs



Budget line items and distribution to the various research activities should be guided by the research design and ensure resource optimization, and fiscal accountability. Applicants are responsible for covering bank fees, taxes, or any other financial charges as these are not eligible expenses under this funding.

All budgets must be prepared and submitted in US Dollars (USD). Where financial planning is conducted in local currency, applicants must convert amounts to USD using a recognized International Exchange Rate source. The exchange rate used should be clearly indicated in the proposal.

7.0 Application Process

This is a two-stage application process starting with an Expression of Interest, followed by an invitation to submit a full proposal.

7.1 Submission of Expressions of Interest.

Interested applicants must submit their Expression of Interest to Amref Health Africa via email at Climate.Research@Amref.org by **15th October 2025**. Please clearly label the subject line as EOI NO. AMREF/19/09/2025/020.

This stage is **mandatory**. You will be unable to proceed to the next stage of this funding opportunity if you do not submit an Expression of Interest. All applications are to be completed in English.

All information and supporting documents submitted will be reviewed internally by the ESA Hub. Only applicants who successfully demonstrate that they have met all the eligibility criteria will then be invited to submit full technical proposals. The technical proposals however, will be reviewed by an independent Decision-Making Committee (DMC).

Applications **lacking any of the documents** below will be considered non-responsive and therefore will NOT be invited to proceed to the full proposal stage.

No.	Mandatory requirements for the Lead Organization	Yes/No
1.	Copy of valid organization's certificate of incorporation/ registration certificate (for organizations that require annual renewal, evidence of up-to-date renewal should be provided)	
2.	Organization MUST be registered / headquartered in any of the ten (10) eligible countries	
3.	Copy of valid Tax Compliance certificate or exemption certificate where applicable	
4.	Copies of two audited financial reports (2022-2023) and each must be signed and dated by the auditors, firms/organization Directors. (Both reports must have unqualified/unmodified auditors' opinion) and or approved financial reports for CBOs by the department of social services or other relevant government agency.	
5.	Organizational governance and management structure (organogram)	
6.	Copy of certified governing documents e.g. constitution/Articles of association	



7.	Finance policy/procurement manual (if separate documents, provide both)	
8.	Curriculum Vitae (CVs) and short biography for key research teams/staff: - 1. Principal Investigators (PI) 2. Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs)	
<i>Any applicant who does not provide ANY of the above documents will not proceed to the next stage.</i>		

Along with the above mandatory requirements, applicants must provide a short narrative with the following key sections and those who score 60% will be invited for full proposal development.

1. Abstract (300 words) – 5 marks
2. Methodological synopsis (350 words) – 20 marks
3. Thematic area of focus and geographical scope (50 words) – 5 marks
4. Duration (in Months) – 5 marks
5. Research Team composition (summary of the complementarity of the team) (250 words) – 10 marks

7.2 Submission of Full Proposals.

This stage is by invitation only to applicants who have successfully submitted an Expression of Interest and demonstrated full compliance with the eligibility criteria and scored 60% on the narrative. Proposals will be assessed by an independent Decision-Making Committee (DMC) in accordance with the evaluation criteria outlined herein. Provide contact information for your organization in the table below:

Section 1

1.	Full name of the Lead organization	
2.	Acronym (Where applicable)	
3.	Postal address	
4.	Telephone Number	
5.	Name of key contact person	
6.	E-mail Address	
7.	Position of key contact person	
8.	Organization Registration Number	
9.	Year of registration	
10.	Physical location of head office	Town:



		Building:
		Street:
		Nearest Landmark/street:
11.	Physical location of branch offices (if any) Office 1	Town:
		Building:
		Street:
		Building:
12	Collaborating Organizations (Name of Organization and the CO-PI)	Organization 1 – Co-PI Organization 2 – Co-PI <i>Add as necessary</i>

Section 2. Abstract (300 words)

Please provide a short abstract of the project, providing a summary of the proposed research topic and activities, and encompassing the vision and objectives of the research. Describe the Climate and health research gap/challenged and expected results in the form of outputs and outcomes. It should be written clearly for a non-technical audience. Avoid acronyms and technical jargon.

In the abstract, Describe the research problem, the purpose/objective of the project and expected results in the form of project outputs and outcomes.

Section 3. Research justification (1500 words)

The section should state why the research problem matters, highlight the magnitude, urgency or consequences of the issues being studied. It should also show what is currently missing in the evidence base, policy or practice, in addition to mentioning limitations in previous studies or lack of context specific data.

Explain how your study will fill the identified gaps- whether by generating new data, testing hypotheses, evaluating and intervention or informing policy and practice.

Briefly indicate the anticipated value or application of your findings

This section describes the scope of and the justification for the proposed research program, including the knowledge areas it seeks to advance. Priority research questions are to be presented and discussed in the



context of existing research gaps. It should also provide a brief overview of the body of research related to the challenges or gaps identified and indicate the gaps that the network proposes to fill.

To show the significance of the research gaps, this section should provide detailed insight into the regional dynamics and context indicated above and should discuss how the proposed research plans to address these.

Section 4. Research Questions and Objectives (300 words)

This short section should specify the main research question and specific research questions followed by the provision of both the overall/broad and specific objectives of the study and related research questions the study seeks to address.

Section 5. Methodology (5000 words)

This section of the research concept should clearly explain how the study will be conducted to ensure it is replicable, valid and appropriate for answering the research questions. Below are essential components to include:

1. Study design: Specify the type of study, e.g cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, randomized controlled trial, qualitative, mixed-methods, etc, with a brief justification of the choice
2. Study site and population: Clearly describe the study location and target population, including the eligibility (inclusion/exclusion) criteria
3. Sample size and sampling procedure: State the sample size and how it was calculated. Explain the sampling technique i.e random, purposive, stratified
4. Data collection methods: Specify what data will be collected and how, e.g interviews, observation, extraction of secondary data. Mention the tools to be used for data collection and whether these will be developed for the study or standardized/existing
5. Data analysis plan: describe how data will be processed and analysed
6. Ethical considerations: mention whether the study will be submitted to an institution review board for ethical review and approval. Mention whether this will be done. Mention the informed consenting process, how study confidentiality will be maintained and risks minimized.

You must be clear about what activities are envisaged and how they will contribute to achieve each objective and define the budget in terms of these activities.

This section should list key research questions the research seeks to address and show how they will be answered in the most rigorous possible way. You must be clear about what activities are envisaged and how they will contribute to achieving each objective.

Provide a robust background outlining the identification of knowledge gaps to be addressed through the proposed research. The methodology should clearly address how your proposed research will address the research hub's objectives as well as the objectives of this specific CfP as outlined above. It should demonstrate how research activities are linked to thematic and regional priorities.

Discuss the set of activities that will be taken to develop and support a research network across countries in the region of focus. This should reflect the structure and governance of the research team and the



monitoring, evaluation and learning activities that are envisioned. This section should also include intended outcomes, theory of change and the proposed activities the research team will undertake including gender equality and inclusion considerations. Indicate how gender equality and inclusion considerations will be integrated into the project and how the network design will address intersectional issues that women and other marginalized groups experience.

Include ethical considerations in this research. Prior to commencing research, applicants will need to obtain approval from an official institutional or national research ethics body. In contexts where there is no official institutional or national research ethics body, the applications will need to propose an alternative ethics approval body.

Section 6. Gender equity and inclusion

This section should clearly articulate your commitment to gender equality and inclusion, emphasizing that these principles must be integrated into every facet of your project. Gender and inclusion principles must be integrated across all sections of the proposal. A demonstrable track record of conducting gender analysis and incorporating equity and inclusion will be evaluated. The proposal must focus on excluded or underserved groups using an intersectional gender approach as a core principle. There must be clear and measurable gender-sensitive indicators to track the project's impact on gender equality.

Section 7. Policy Relevance and engagement / dissemination strategy (1000 words)

Define the major outputs and outcomes expected from the research by estimating the outputs expected out of your research like # of peer reviewed publications, # of policy briefs, grey literature etc. Describe how the research findings will be disseminated or implemented at an initiative level. Discuss how the research results are likely to be used, what their expected impacts (outcomes) might be and any obstacles to the execution of the research or the eventual use of the results.

Section 8. Research team capacity statement (1200 words)

Give an overview of the research team management, taking into consideration Leadership, administration and previous similar work that makes you best fit for this call. Please provide a summary of the proposed research team composition and attach 2 paged CVs for each. Attest to your organization's ability to manage this grant, including past grant sizes, compliance with donor reporting and legal requirements, and handling foreign funds and disbursements.

Provide a copy of the legal or corporate registration of the organization with whom the main applicant is affiliated.

Section 9. Project schedule, Detailed budget and data management plan

As part of the application process, applicants will also be required to submit the following documents:

- Project schedule in Word - A project schedule or workplan should include a list of key outputs (events or deliverables) and outcomes, proposed timelines linked to items included in the project budget
- Budget in USD to be prepared and submitted based on the budget template.



- Data Management Plan in line with IDRC Open Access Policy (<https://www.idrc.ca/en/open-access-policy-idrc-funded-project-outputs>)

Awarded research teams will be supported to develop detailed research protocols and guided throughout the research period.

7.3 Proposal Evaluation Criteria

An independent Decision-Making Committee (DMC) will evaluate proposals. The DMC will select research teams to be sub-granted, on a competitive basis, which propose innovative and gender-responsive research initiatives to advance skills and quality of future of work. Intersectional gender approaches are expected to be central to the design of regional research networks and the research questions, to center the analysis on excluded or underserved groups. Therefore, proposals should demonstrate how gender equality and inclusion will be promoted and adopted in research team composition and the design and implementation of the proposed research.

Section	Description	Marks
Section 2	Abstract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear description of the research problem, the purpose/objective of the project and expected results in the form of project outputs and outcomes 	5
Section 3	Research justification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly show why the research problem matters, highlight the magnitude, urgency or consequences of the issues being studied. • Show what is currently missing in the evidence base, policy or practice, in addition to mentioning limitations in previous studies or lack of context specific data. 	15
Section 4	Research Questions and Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overarching theme(s) of focus with Clear and concise research question and specific research questions the study seeks to address. 	10
Section 5	Methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly explain how the study will be conducted to ensure it is valid and appropriate for answering the research questions • Clear study design and ethical considerations • How gender equality and inclusion considerations will be integrated into the project and address intersectional issues that marginalized groups 	20
Section 6	Gender equity and inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and inclusion principles must be integrated across all sections of the proposal. • A demonstrable track record of conducting gender analysis and incorporating equity and inclusion will be evaluated. • The proposal must focus on excluded or underserved groups using an intersectional gender approach as a core principle. 	10



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and Measurable gender-sensitive indicators to track the project's impact on gender equality 	
Section 7	<p>Policy Relevance and engagement/dissemination strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate the outputs expected like # of peer-reviewed publications, # of policy briefs etc • Potential impact on the research to inform climate-resilient health systems or policy responses • Clear on how the research findings will be shared and how they are expected to be applied, along with their potential impacts. 	15
Section 8	<p>Research team capacity statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of the research objectives with national/regional/global climate and health priorities. • A diverse research team that enhances knowledge exchange and capacity building. 	10
Section 9	<p>Project schedule, detailed budget, and Data Management Plan (5 Marks each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal should have a clear plan and appropriate budget for the proposed activities. • Data Management Plan in line with IDRC Open Access Policy 	15

Note: Only organizations that score a minimum of 70% under the proposal evaluation will proceed to the capacity assessment stage. Organizations must meet a minimum of 60% in capacity assessment and final ranking will be done based on the capacity assessment scores.

7.4 Open Access and data management plan

- Applicants funded through this program will be expected to comply with IDRC' Open Access Policy and IDRC Open Data Statement of Principles (<https://www.idrc.ca/en/open-access-policy-idrc-funded-project-outputs>). Applicants are to submit a Data Management Plan, and to ensure that the research teams have data management plans in place.

Key Dates

Key output	Date
Launch call for Proposals	19 th September 2025
Email Questions /clarifications	24 th September 2025
Information session/webinar	29 th September 2025
Expressions of Interest	15 th October 2025
Invitation for submission of full proposal	24 th October 2025
Deadline for proposal submissions	21 st November 2025
Notification of awards	11 th December 2025
Due diligence, contracting	15 th Dec '25 – 27 th February 2026
Expected Project Start Date	March 2026



8.0 Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Management

8.1 Reporting and monitoring

Sub-grantees funded by the ESA ARCH Hub are expected to uphold the highest standards of accountability, transparency and scientific integrity throughout the Project lifecycle. To this end, successful applicants will be required to:

- **Submit regular reports:** Sub-grantees are to provide detailed annual technical and financial reports outlining progress against objectives, challenges encountered, lessons learned, and financial expenditure aligned with the approved budget. These reports will facilitate continuous monitoring of project performance and timely interventions where necessary.
- **Engage in knowledge exchange:** Sub-grantees will participate in ESA ARCH Hub-organized learning events, workshops and peer exchange forums. Such platforms are designed to enhance collaboration, share emerging findings and foster a dynamic regional community.
- **Contribute to Open Knowledge:** Sub-grantees will share research datasets, outputs and publications through the ESA ARCH Hub's digital knowledge-sharing platforms and event databases (open repository and website).
- **Support Policy engagement:** Sub-grantees will contribute actively to Hub-wide synthesis reports, policy briefs and multi-stakeholders' dialogues that translate research evidence into actionable recommendations.

8.2 Open Access and Data Management Plan

Apart from submitting a Data Management Plan (DMP), successful applicants funded through the ESA ARCH Hub are expected to fully comply with the International Development Research Centre's (IDRC) Open Access Policy and Open Data Statement of Principles <https://www.idrc.ca/en/open-access-policy-idrc-funded-project-outputs>. These will ensure effective data stewardship throughout the project lifecycle.

All project Outputs (publications, datasets, software and training materials) should be made openly accessible using licenses that permit free use, adaptation and reproduction for non-commercial purposes. Proper attribution of authorship and acknowledgement of funding by IDRC and ESA ARCH Hub Partner is mandatory.

In line with these principles, all outputs generated within this Program must be submitted to the ESA ARCH Hub's open access digital repository. This repository will facilitate broad dissemination and long-term preservation of the generated knowledge, ensuring equitable access to research findings by the scientific community, policymakers and the public.

The DMP should explicitly address:

- Institutional responsibility for data management.
- Conditions for data access and use, including ethical considerations, especially when involving sensitive or community-based data.
- Selection of secure and recognized data repositories that support FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).
- Protocols for protecting privacy and confidentiality, notably where research includes indigenous people or vulnerable groups.



- Commitment to openly share data and outputs, respecting community validation processes and intellectual property agreements.

9.0 Gender Equity and intersectionality

Aligned to [IDRC's Equality Statement](#), all research projects are mandated to embed Gender Equity and intersectionality approaches in their design, implementation and reporting. This section should clearly articulate your commitment to gender equality and inclusion, emphasizing that these principles must be integrated into every facet of your project. Explicitly state how your research questions will investigate the differing impacts of climate change and health risks on individuals based on gender and other intersecting identities. Highlight how your study will address gaps in evidence, policy, or practice by generating disaggregated data.

The research team must be diverse and gender-balanced, comprising both senior and emerging researchers. Explain how this diversity facilitates a variety of perspectives and promotes capacity building and knowledge exchange.

In the methodology section, as outlined earlier, specify how you will employ an intersectional approach to tackle the unique challenges faced by women and other marginalized groups. This may include aspects such as data collection techniques, study population selection, participatory methods, and ethical considerations to protect vulnerable individuals. Additionally, describe how your dissemination strategy will ensure that research findings and policy briefs reach various stakeholder groups, including those seeking equity and policymakers, to inform fair and equitable policies and services.

10.0 Ethics, Safeguarding, and Environmental Standards

All research projects funded under the ESA ARCH Hub must adhere to internationally recognized ethical standards and principles that prioritize the dignity, safety and well-being of all participants, particularly those from vulnerable and marginalized communities frequently affected by climate change.

Proposals involving direct engagement with individuals, vulnerable populations or the use of personal or sensitive data must secure prior approval from a certified ethics and review board or institutional ethics committee compliant with National and international ethical frameworks. In cases where such approval is not mandated, applicants must provide a clear, evidence-based ethical and methodological justification for exemption.

The ESA ARCH Hub enforces a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) consistent with international conventions and IDRC guidelines. All research teams are required to demonstrate integrity, transparency and accountability including disclosure of any conflict of interest. Teams should also be prepared to undertake additional monitoring, audit or compliance reviews at the request of the Regional Hub or funding partner.

For research involving indigenous people, afro-descendant communities, peasant groups or other culturally distinct populations, teams must adhere to protocols for determining origin and where applicable engage in prior and informed consultation processes as stipulated by National Laws and International Agreements ensuring respect for community autonomy and knowledge sovereignty. Applicants are encouraged to embed the Research Quality Plus (RQ+) Framework which extends beyond All research outputs, including publications, presentations and policy briefs, must include appropriate disclaimers and acknowledgements.



11.0 Annexes.

Annex 1: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

1. Can individuals apply for this funding?

The Lead Applicant must be affiliated with a research institution, university, NGOs, private sector, or regional research coalitions based in or partnering with East and Southern African countries specified in the call.

2. Can an organization submit more than one proposal?

Each organization can submit only one application as the Lead Applicant Organization. However, an organization may apply as a Co-Applicant Organization on multiple applications.

3. Can an organization submit a full application directly if they have all the mandatory requirements?

No. Submission of the full proposal is by invitation only. Only applicants whose expressions of interest are successful will be invited to submit a full technical proposal. See the outlined eligibility criteria that will guide the evaluation process.

4. What is the budget and Duration for the research?

Research projects should span 12 to 24 months. Funding ranges from small grants (up to USD 50,000) for focused studies to large grants (up to USD 250,000) for more comprehensive multidisciplinary projects.

5. Can indirect costs /overhead be included in the budget?

Where an organization has a supportable indirect costs recovery policy, the grant will support indirect costs of up to 13%. Note that the indirect cost rate proposed in the budget should not exceed the grantee's organizational rate and should be verifiable.

6. Will successful applicants receive any support from the hub?

Beyond funding, selected teams will gain mentorship from consortium experts, access to regional research networks, training in GESI, quantitative and qualitative research methods, development of knowledge/ advocacy products, linkages to publication journals (negotiated rates) and opportunities for peer learning and cross-project collaboration.



Annex 2: Glossary.

Adaptation: The process of adjusting natural or human systems to minimize harm or exploit beneficial opportunities caused by current or projected climate change.

Climate-sensitive diseases: Diseases whose incidence, spread, or severity is influenced by climate variables, including malaria, dengue, cholera, and zoonotic infections .

Data interoperability: The ability of diverse health and climate data systems to exchange, interpret, and use information seamlessly while maintaining data security and privacy.

Disaggregated Data: Data broken down by categories such as gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, enabling more precise and equitable analysis.

Early Warning Systems (EWS): Mechanisms designed to anticipate and provide timely information on climate-related health risks, such as outbreaks or extreme weather events.

Equity: Fairness in health outcomes and access to services, recognizing and addressing structural inequalities affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Equity-oriented Policy Research: Investigation aimed at informing policies that fairly address disparities and vulnerabilities within populations affected by climate-health risks.

Gender-responsive research: Research that recognizes the different impacts of climate and health risks on people based on gender and applies these insights to design equitable interventions.

Health system resilience: The capacity of health systems to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-induced shocks and stresses while maintaining essential services.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Local systems of knowledge, practices, and beliefs developed by indigenous communities that contribute to sustainable climate adaptation.

Intersectionality: A framework that considers overlapping social identities (e.g., gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status) and their combined effect on vulnerability and health outcomes.

Open access: A publishing and data sharing approach that allows free, unrestricted online access to research outputs with proper attribution, facilitating broad dissemination and reuse.

Participatory research: Collaborative research methodologies that actively engage communities and stakeholders in all phases of the research process for shared knowledge creation.

Social Determinants of Health: Non-medical factors influencing health outcomes including socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood, and access to healthcare.

Surge capacity: The ability of healthcare systems to rapidly expand services and workforce responsiveness to sudden increases in climate-related health emergencies.

Vulnerable populations: Groups disproportionately affected by climate and health risks due to socioeconomic, demographic, or geographic factors, including women, children, indigenous peoples, and informal settlement communities.