SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) focus area(s)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

23rd August 2021

BACKGROUND

The goal of the [Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX)](#) is to **strengthen national education systems** and **accelerate educational progress** in the Global South by filling knowledge gaps**, increasing access to evidence**, and strengthening systems to support the generation and uptake of evidence and innovations in Global Partnership for Education (GPE) member countries. KIX does this by facilitating direct knowledge-sharing across countries through four [regional hubs](#) and by funding projects at global and regional levels to build and mobilize knowledge to address shared priorities in education. This call is part of the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange, and is a joint endeavour between GPE and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), with support from the LEGO Foundation.

The IDRC, GPE, and the LEGO Foundation invite proposals from individual African organizations or consortia of organizations **led by an African organization** for projects to generate and mobilize knowledge so national education systems in developing countries can address challenges associated with the **achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 4.1**, to "ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes" and **4.2**, to "ensure that all boys and girls have access to early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education". Specifically, this call will address the following challenge: **to generate and mobilize evidence on how to adapt and scale approaches that strengthen quality early learning for all children, based on how they learn best, and support smooth transitions between pre-primary and the early grades of primary education.**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- This call prioritizes funding to **African organizations**. Proposals should demonstrate that the organization applying for the grant is working in and has **relationships with relevant education stakeholders** in the target countries.
- Eligible organizations may include, but are not limited to, **civil society organizations, research institutions, universities, think tanks, network secretariats and associations, non-profits, or private sector organizations, with independent legal registration in an African country** (Organizations with offices on multiple continents, to be eligible for this call, their headquarters should be in an African country).
- Proposals may be submitted by individual organizations or by consortia that include up to **three** organizations working together.
- Consortia may have up to three organizations. One of the three organizations must be named as the lead, and they must have the **capacity to coordinate and subgrant to the other organizations**.
- Other consortium members may include organizations from Africa; **national, regional or international offices of multi-lateral organizations or international NGOs**; or other organizations from outside Africa.
- An applicant organization/lead organization or any other organization that will enter into a grant agreement with IDRC as part of a consortium must have **legal corporate registration and capacity to administer foreign funds**.
- Proposals from or that include private sector partners are welcome. Such applications should demonstrate how **private sector resources** (financial or technical know-how) will **contribute to the project, in partnership with others**.
- The following are not eligible:
  -Individuals

-Government ministries and agencies are not eligible for funding but can be involved in projects
-For-profit providers of core education services

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

- The objectives of this regional call for proposals are to:
  -**Build knowledge** about innovative solutions to **shared policy challenges** related to **quality early learning**, including the transition between pre-primary and early grades of primary school and how the positive impacts of these innovations can be scaled
  -Support the use of that knowledge in and across education systems for **policy, practice and technological development and implementation**
  -Strengthen capacities to generate and use knowledge and innovation for early learning
- KIX will allocate **CA$5 million** through this call, with individual projects receiving funding between **CA$700,000** and **CA$1 million**. Projects can be up to **22 months** in duration.
- Proposals deemed high quality but not approved for funding may be retained for an additional **12 months**, based on applicant permissions, in the event that **additional funds become available.**
- All projects funded must be **gender sensitive, gender responsive, or gender transformative**. Proposals that are gender blind will not be considered.
- The projects funded out of this call will be expected to meet the quality standards expressed in IDRC's Research Quality Plus (RQ+) framework.
- Proposals received after the deadline or incomplete proposals will **not** be considered.
- One webinar, hosted in English and French, will take place on **June 28, 2021 (7:30 a.m. EDT)** to answer questions about this call for proposals. Questions must be submitted in advance; the question submission deadline for the webinar is **June 21, 2021** (on **kixcalls@idrc.ca**).

HOW TO APPLY

- All applications should be submitted online in **French** or **English**.
- The online application will ask applicants to provide: the **project title, countries of focus, project duration, project summary in plain language, contact information of the project leader and co-applicants** (if applicable), **the rationale for the consortium** (if applicable).
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek out resources to appropriately address **gender equality, equity**, and **inclusion** in the project proposal, for instance this Guide to integrating gender in your proposal.
- In addition to the proposal, applicants are expected to submit:
  1. Contact information of the lead applicant and members of the consortium if applicable.
  2. Institutional Profile Questionnaire (IPQ) to be completed by the lead applicant, along with a copy of the organization's **legal registration**.
  3. **Estimated budget**, with a cost breakdown by categories using the IDRC budget template. Complete all the tabs except the Summary tab, which will be generated automatically. Save the completed and duly-signed budget as a PDF document and attach this to your application. For a list of eligible expenses, please refer to the IDRC Guidelines for Acceptable Project Expenditures. For general information, refer to the General IDRC Funding Guidelines. Please add information on any matched funding, or additional leveraged resources, that are relevant to this proposal under the "Donor contributions" and "Local contributions" tabs.
  4. **Two-page CVs** of the lead applicant with relevant experience and key contact individuals from other organizations in the case of consortia.

Application details can be found here and on the attached document.
Please send a complete copy with all supporting documents, that you have submitted online to the Faculty Research Office – natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za.

Please note that if funding is awarded for contract research (excluding scholarships), a 15% UP recovery is applicable and should be budgeted for by the applicant.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

23rd August 2021

CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

Faculty contact person: **Mrs Natasha Jeftha on 012 319 2378** (Natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za)

KIX contact person: kixcalls@idrc.ca

Any inquiries that affect all applicants will be posted anonymously online on the KIX regional call FAQ site.