NRF (National Research Foundation) | COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) focus area(s)

<table>
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<th>3</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</td>
<td>GENDER EQUALITY</td>
<td>REDUCED INEQUALITIES</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</td>
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APPLICATION DEADLINE

UP internal deadline for researchers: 10th June 2020
NRF deadline for research office submissions: 17th June 2020

BACKGROUND

South Africa’s National Research Foundation (NRF) in partnership with the Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI), South Africa’s Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Newton Fund, and SGCI participating councils across 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa are pleased to announce the COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund. The Rapid Grant Fund seeks to contribute to the African regional and continental response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This call covers three strands:

i) research,
ii) science engagement: call to science and health journalists and communicators, and
iii) science engagement: call to science advisers.

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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Researchers and science engagement practitioners from the following countries are eligible to apply: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and in the context of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Nigeria and South Africa.

- For the Research Strand (1) and applicable only to Nigeria and South Africa, ONLY ARUA member universities will be eligible to participate as Principal Investigators (PI’s). Non-ARUA universities from South Africa and Nigeria may collaborate with ARUA members, and any other universities across the countries abovementioned to participate in this call. In the context of implementing the SGCI and to build on existing continental networks, this call is focused on ARUA universities who, through the ARUA Centres of Excellence Initiative and additional collaborative research initiatives, have collectively been working together with counterparts in the ARUA network to respond to COVID-19. The ARUA member Universities eligible for this call are specified on the table below.

### African Research Universities Alliance Member Universities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Science Granting Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>University of Lagos</td>
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<td>University of Ibadan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>University of Cape Town</td>
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</table>
• Applications from women applicants, people living with disabilities and first responders to COVID-19, as principal investigators are encouraged. In addition, diversity, including sex and gender differences, exist across all COVID-19 dimensions. Research and science engagement proposals must demonstrate considerations of diversity, including sex as a biological variable and gender as a socio-cultural factor in research projects and in science engagement approaches.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund must be submitted on the NRF Online Submission System: https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za.

Applications should be submitted in English or French.

Incomplete applications and applications received after the closing date (Wednesday, 17 June 2020, 24:00 Central Africa Time (CAT) will not be considered for reviews and evaluation, therefore failure to meet the internal deadline of 10 June 2020 will result in applications NOT being processed.

There is no Designated Authority (DA) process for this call. Applications will be submitted directly to the NRF for Review.

The framework and application guidelines, application templates, and additional call documents are attached and also available on the following pages:

English: https://www.nrf.ac.za/division/funding/covid-19-africa-rapid-grant-fund

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

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NRF deadline for research office submissions: 17th June 2020

CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

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