

Accelerating Climate Action: Social Equity and Empowerment of Women and Girls

Call for Proposals
March 2018

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

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About the Call

The degree to which people contribute to climate change, how they experience its impacts, and are able to cope with and adapt to these impacts is determined largely by variables such as gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability. These variables establish people's access to and control over resources, power, and knowledge. In particular, socially constructed differences between men and women that determine responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, and decision-making opportunities contribute to the different ways in which men and women experience and respond to climate change, which can exacerbate gender inequality.

The aim of this call is to select a portfolio of research projects that produce knowledge which facilitates the scaling and financing of socially-transformative climate action.¹ With this, we can strengthen the climate-resilience and enhance livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities in the developing world. IPCC, in its Fourth Assessment Report, recognizes the growing research that demonstrates the ways in which adaptive capacity is differentiated by age, class, gender, health and social status.² Moreover, in its Fifth Assessment Report, the IPCC stated that the planning and implementation of adaptation options are constrained by multiple factors which do not act in isolation, but interact with each other.³ Thus, a thorough understanding of the interrelated climatic, environmental, social, cultural, economic, institutional and political factors that aggravate differentiated climate change impacts are called for, as well as a better understanding of how interventions affect or support social equity and the empowerment of women, men, girls and boys. Through this call, we aim to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement through effective and long-term climate action that reduces social inequality.

¹ We use the term "climate action" (SDG 13) to refer to activities that target climate mitigation or adaptation, or both.

² Adger, W.N., S. Agrawala, M.M.Q. Mirza, C. Conde, K. O'Brien, J. Pulhin, R. Pulwarty, B. Smit and K. Takahashi, 2007: Assessment of adaptation practices, options, constraints and capacity. *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, M.L. Parry, O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden and C.E. Hanson, Eds., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 717-743.

³ Klein, R.J.T., G.F. Midgley, B.L. Preston, M. Alam, F.G.H. Berkhout, K. Dow, and M.R. Shaw, 2014: Adaptation opportunities, constraints, and limits. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 899-943.

The focus of the call will be on the following three themes which together can fill in some of the existing knowledge gaps in climate research that contributes to social equity and empowerment of women and girls:

- (i) Climate and disaster resilience: Research projects that contribute to socially equitable development planning and action that enhances the ability of people, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability, to mitigate and adapt to impacts of climate-related hazards;
- (ii) Energy security: Research projects that explore socially equitable access to innovative, clean and renewable energy services and to energy-based technologies;
- (iii) Migration: Research projects that produce knowledge to contribute to using migration as a proactive adaptation strategy that contributes to equitable access to economic, health, educational and employment services.

The call will be open on Thursday, 8 March and close on Monday, 23 April 2018 at 11:59pm EST (Ottawa-Canada time). The total budget for this call is expected to be \$4 million Canadian dollars and we expect to fund up to 8 projects. Projects should not exceed **36 months** in duration.

Research Themes

IDRC's Climate Change program will support high quality, demand-driven, policy-relevant action research that identifies opportunities for, addresses and removes barriers to, uptake of adaptation and/or mitigation strategies and technologies. Such research should be based on an analysis of the interrelated factors that affect communities and their vulnerability to climate change impacts, and be participatory in order to effectively address the differentiated needs and priorities of people (i.e., based on their gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age and physical ability). Furthermore, the demand for research, in particular from decision makers or other stakeholders, should be clearly demonstrated. Research outcomes should result in innovations in climate policies, institutions, technologies and strategies that can be applied in order to promote resilience of communities. Ultimately, such research should result in long-term socially transformative outcomes.⁴ The focus will be on developing countries where climatic pressures and environmental stresses are particularly acute.

Priority will be given to research projects that (1) involve a wide range of stakeholders throughout the design and implementation of the project (such as public authorities, communities, civil society and the private sector, paying attention particularly to stakeholders who are usually marginalized in such processes), and especially engage decision-makers from the beginning; (2) offer practical and applicable solutions at well-defined, appropriate scales; and (3) identify options

⁴ We expect socially transformative outcomes to contribute to profound or structural societal changes through social inclusion and innovation.

to bring tested solutions to scale through private and public financing and appropriate policies that lead to social equity

We do not aim to support cursory social vulnerability studies that “reinvent the wheel”; proposals should build on the large body of existing work, and clearly demonstrate how the proposed work differs from, and addresses gaps in, other similar or related work. Only research that goes beyond pilot projects and leads to significant, veritable change will be supported. We seek proposals that complement and add value, provide in-depth and evidence-based analysis of factors that render communities vulnerable and result in social inequality.

Research proposals with research outcomes and topics under the following three themes will be considered:

- (i) **Climate and disaster resilience:** Research projects that contribute to socially equitable development planning and action that enhances the ability of people, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability, to mitigate and adapt to impacts of slow-onset climatic changes and climate-related hazards, without compromising long- and short-term prospects for development. Research under this theme should focus on one or more of the following topics:
- exploration of how resilience to climate change impacts and climate-related disasters can be integrated into socially equitable development planning, including the maximization of the synergies between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts;
 - promotion of climate adaptation innovation through community-based disaster risk planning that reduce social and gender inequalities;
 - socially equitable linking of communities to climate information and services that increase disaster resilience.

Research that focuses only on technological aspects of disaster risk reduction, or examines only the geophysical circumstances, meteorological conditions and hazard reduction and mitigation measures will not be considered.

Outcomes: Projects funded under this theme are expected to:

- contribute to policies and actions that reduce social inequality, build or strengthen the adaptive capacities of vulnerable groups, and increase their resilience to climate change and climate-related hazards;
- lead to on-the-ground changes that enable women, ethnic minorities, indigenous people or youth to contribute to increased climate and disaster resilience, and become positive agents of transformation.

- (ii) **Energy security:** Research projects that explore socially equitable access to innovative, clean and renewable energy services and to energy-based technologies, as well as how livelihood benefits can be brought about. Projects that target both climate mitigation and adaptation in the energy field will be prioritized. Research under this theme should focus on one or more of the following topics:
- improvement of energy or climate change mitigation and adaptation projects based on analyses of the complex and interrelated social, cultural, economic, institutional and political factors, with a view to better integrating gender and social equity considerations in them;
 - analyses of the social norms, attitudes, behaviours and/or socio-economic, cultural and institutional frameworks that can support equitable access to alternative energy services and technologies to all people, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability;
 - socially-transformative ways to implement adaptation strategies that also include mitigation co-benefits (such as emission reduction through improved land use, land and soil restoration, energy efficiency and cleaner industrial or other sectoral processes);

Research that focuses only on energy technologies, and supply of renewable energy services, will not be considered.

Outcomes: Projects funded under these themes are expected to:

- contribute to policies and plans that improve energy security for the most vulnerable groups;
 - lead to on-the-ground changes that enable women, ethnic minorities, indigenous people or youth to contribute to increased energy security.
- (iii) **Migration:** Research projects that examine the two-way linkages between (i) impacts of environmental and climate change and social inequality on migration patterns, and (ii) migration as a proactive adaptation strategy that can contribute to equitable access to economic, health, educational and employment services. Such projects should inform social and environmental policies, as well as provide opportunities related to migration as a socially equitable coping or adaptation strategy to climate and environmental change. Research under this theme should focus on one or more of the following topics:
- analyses of power dynamics and structures that reinforce social inequalities in policies and practices concerning migration as a climate change response, and how they can be changed;
 - examination of how climate change puts additional pressures on or provides additional avenues for existing human mobility patterns, impacting social and gender dimensions, and the implications thereof for internal and international policy, the job market and trade;

- the gender or social equity dimension of resettlement dynamics from climate change, including access to social support networks in both sending and receiving areas, as well as equality in access to and use of remittances;
- examination of how social protection and economic empowerment can be improved among migrants and sending communities in climate “hotspots”;
- identification of socio-economic, political, and institutional conditions of socially equitable migration in the context of climate change and exploration of strategic policy interventions that have an immediate development impact as well as benefits to people, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability.

Research that does not address the complexity of issues pertaining to migration, that uses a narrowly defined view on climate refugees or that focuses only on short-term disaster-induced displacements will not be considered.

Outcomes: Projects funded under these themes are expected to:

- contribute to socially-equitable policies and plans concerning climate-related migration.

Eligibility

The proposed research must take place in one or more countries included in the list of eligible countries, which can be found in the FAQ. Cross-regional collaboration and comparative studies that generate local, regional and international good practices are encouraged.

- The proposed research must be led by a research-oriented organization from the academia, the private or public sector, and be based in a country in the list of eligible countries.
- Applications from a group of organizations should identify one organization as the Applicant Organization. All applications should name a Principal Investigator.
- Co-funding and formal partnerships with additional organizations are encouraged. The proposed research may include up to four Co-applicant Organization(s), in addition to the Applicant Organization. Each Co-applicant Organization will need to provide a letter of commitment.
- United Nations agencies and CGIAR research centres are not eligible as Applicant Organizations for the proposed research. However they can be included as Co-applicant Organization(s) provided their budget share does not exceed 20%.

Note: IDRC has scientific and technical cooperation agreements with a number of governments of recipient countries, establishing cooperation frameworks and defining the rights and obligations of both IDRC and those governments. Any applicant institution selected to receive funding may be required to obtain country approval to undertake the research in accordance with these agreements prior to receiving funding from IDRC. In particular, all applicants from India require clearance through the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). Please note that

applicants submitting proposals for research work in India will need to provide a copy of the FCRA approval at the time of submitting the application. The FCRA approval must also be attached for any other Co-applicant Organizations receiving IDRC funds based in India.

Proposal Review Criteria

Research proposals will be reviewed and evaluated against the following criteria (scored out of 100 points):

Research Problem and Justification (10 points)

- Demonstrates a strong and clear analysis of the problem; outlines identified gaps in knowledge with reference to literature and key documents; and defines the climate change, gender/social equity, and development problem in the local context(s) based on consideration of the interrelated factors that affect communities and their vulnerability to climate change impacts; and how the project will address these challenges.

Scientific and Technical Merit and Innovativeness (25 points)

- Proposes original and applicable options with the intent of guiding sub-national/national/regional governments and key stakeholders to identify opportunities for, addresses and removes barriers to, uptake of adaptation and/or mitigation strategies and technologies;
- Identifies options to bring tested solutions to scale through private and public financing and appropriate policies that lead to social equity;
- Demonstrates research results can lead to innovation in climate policies, institutions, technologies and strategies that can be applied;
- Based on sound and appropriate methodology;
- For research under the theme on energy security, targets both climate mitigation and adaptation in the energy field.

Relevance and Potential Impact (25 points)

- Offers potential for positive influence on the livelihoods and the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities, with long-term outcomes;
- Demonstrates demand for research with clearly defined beneficiaries and scale of impact of practical solutions, including appropriate quantitative and qualitative evaluation criteria;
- Describes how the proposed work differs from, and addresses gaps in, other similar or related work;
- Explains how the research can inform practical improvements in gender and social equity in climate action, and facilitates the uptake of research results in order to realize impact at scale;
- Identifies opportunities to mainstream gender and social equity considerations into climate policy, planning and financing.

Academic/Professional Background of Research Team (10 points)

- Proposes a team with demonstrated strong academic and/or professional qualifications and work experience appropriate to meeting the objectives and the focus of the research (transdisciplinary, well qualified, scientifically strong multi-stakeholder team);
- Presents a strong record of research achievements to date (including a list of recent relevant publications, including experience in research on social equity and gender).

Leadership, Collaboration, Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building (20 points)

- Presents a clear vision of how the research will engage the target population, governments/public agencies, and other key stakeholders throughout the design and implementation of the project, paying attention particularly to stakeholders who are usually marginalized in such processes; and responds to the needs of those groups (identification of knowledge and research gaps, co-design, co-knowledge generation, mainstreaming policy options, co-learning and training, among others);
- Proposes effective strategies for sharing and communicating knowledge to inform and influence decision-makers and other potential users of research findings;
- Clear plan for building and retaining the capacity of junior researchers, communities, local governments, and the private sector to embrace gender-transformative approaches to address climate change, as well as inspiring leadership across these sectors;
- Demonstrates how this grant will reinforce the capacity of the Applicant and Co-applicant Organization(s) to play leading roles in their countries to inform gender-responsive decision-making on adaptation to climate change based on scientific evidence;
- Generates local, regional and international good practices through cross-regional collaboration and comparative studies.

Soundness of the proposed management of the activities (10 points)

- Presents clearly defined activities, milestones, outputs (including publication of research results in relevant and leading peer-reviewed journals) and expected results that can be achieved within the maximum duration of three years;
- Presents a budget that is realistic in terms of the scope of the planned work and that is well-aligned with the budget notes and explanations;
- Includes a viable work plan aligned to the research design and timeline, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of Applicant and Co-applicant Organization(s) and the Principal Investigator and the research team;
- Proposes a sound plan for monitoring, managing risks, and evaluating progress toward proposed objectives, including concrete milestones to be achieved annually (e.g., through a steering committee).

Notes: IDRC will not cover infrastructure costs.

Key Dates

- Deadline for submitting applications: **Monday, 23 April 2018 at 11.59pm EST (Ottawa-Canada time)**
- Notification to successful applicants: **end of July 2018**

Note: All applicants whose applications were received before the closing date and time will receive automated acknowledgement. Only successful applicants will receive written notification of the evaluation results.

How to Apply

All applications must be completed and submitted online at <https://genderandclimate.fluidreview.com/>. Applications can be submitted in English, French or Spanish.

- All parts of the application form must be completed in order to be considered eligible.
- Supporting document: a one-page signed official letter of support by the Head of submitting institution.

List of Documents to be submitted online

1. The letter of support for the research project from your organization (1 page)
2. The completed application form online
3. The budget
4. A theory of change of the project that clearly outlines inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes
5. CVs of each member of the research team (max 2 pages per team member)
6. Letters of commitment from the Co-applicant Organization(s) involved in the research
7. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) approval (applicable to applicants from India)

NB: Uploaded documents should be submitted in PDF (preferably) or MS Word format upon submission of the application online.

Research Ethics

IDRC-supported research should incorporate the following principles:

- Respect for persons, animals, and the environment. When research involves human participants, it should respect the autonomy of the individual.
- Concern for the welfare of participants or animal subjects: researchers should act to benefit or promote the wellbeing of participants and research animals (beneficence) and should do no harm (non-maleficence).
- Justice: the obligation to treat people fairly, equitably, and with dignity.

Research supported by IDRC should adhere to universal concepts of justice and equity while remaining sensitive to the cultural norms and practices of the localities where the research is carried out.

Enquiries

For all enquiries regarding this call for research proposals, please contact: cc@idrc.ca

About IDRC

Canada's [International Development Research Centre](#) (IDRC) supports research that generates lasting local solutions, bringing choice and change to those who need it most in the developing world. We achieve this by investing in knowledge and innovation, supporting the leaders of the future, and by being a partner of choice for the public and private sectors.

IDRC's Climate Change program generates knowledge and creates capacities to provide vulnerable communities with solutions that contribute to human security and equity, improved livelihoods, and promote climate action and improved governance. Research supported through the Climate Change program is geared to help communities living in urban and rural areas of climate-vulnerable landscapes (hotspots) in developing regions of the world. Through our research, we also seek to identify opportunities and remove barriers to the application, scaling and financing of these solutions. Social equality, in particular empowerment of women and girls, are essential to strengthen the long-term resilience of all communities and achieve effective and cost-efficient climate action, thereby leading to equitable sustainable development.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. The total budget for the call is pending approval of the budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019.
2. Final selection of projects will take into consideration the regional and country balance of projects.

3. IDRC reserves the right to fund research projects according to its corporate priorities. These are outlined on the IDRC website at www.idrc.ca.
4. As a Canadian Crown corporation, IDRC is subject to Canada's *Access to Information Act*. Consequently, any submissions in response to this Call for Research Proposals will be held by IDRC in a manner consistent with the *Access to Information Act*, including IDRC's obligations to disclose documents requested by members of the public.
5. Prior to submitting an application, applicants should review IDRC's [Open Access Policy for IDRC-Funded Project Outputs](#).