



Climate Adaptation and Resilience

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Call for Concept Notes: Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE)

Launch date: April 5, 2022

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) are pleased to announce a call for concept notes under the [Climate Adaptation and Resilience \(CLARE\) initiative](#).

The newly released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report on [Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#) underscores how climate change is increasingly and disproportionately affecting the world's most vulnerable. It emphasizes the urgent need for adaptation, and the critical need for solutions that cut across sectors and systems and address social inequities to enable a more climate-resilient future for everyone.

CLARE aims to respond to this challenge. It is an ambitious initiative supporting research to enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience to climate change and natural hazards across Africa and Asia-Pacific. Given the scale and urgency required, in addition to generating research, CLARE will place significant emphasis on getting knowledge and evidence into use. CLARE will deliver strengthened agency in the Global South to do and use research for adaptation action, as well as actionable adaptation solutions to support the most vulnerable.

This call for concept notes seeks to identify transdisciplinary teams motivated to conduct action-oriented research related to one (or more) of CLARE's three research themes:

- **Understand climate risk:** Research to improve our understanding of the risks associated with climate and natural hazards, by addressing gaps in the underpinning science.
- **Risk-informed early action:** research to improve risk-informed anticipatory action to reduce humanitarian and extreme impacts of weather, climate variability and the compounding and cascading interaction of natural hazards.
- **Developing in a changing climate:** Research to inform development in a changing climate; action that builds resilience in the present climate and adapts to future climate.

There are two sizes of funding available for this call. **Smaller projects** for grants up to CAD 1.5 million, and **larger projects** for grants between CAD 6-8 million. Project duration will not exceed 42 months.

Concept notes must be received no later than June 7, 2022 at 23:59 PM EDT.

1. About the funders

CLARE is a Canada-UK partnership to enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience to climate change and natural hazards for people across Africa and Asia-Pacific. Co-funded and co-designed by FCDO and IDRC, CLARE builds on over fifteen years of experience in partnering to support action-oriented climate adaptation research in developing countries.

IDRC is a Crown corporation created in 1970 by the Parliament of Canada. IDRC supports and strengthens the capacity of people and institutions in developing countries to undertake the research that they identify

as most urgent. It works with researchers and research users as they confront contemporary challenges within their own countries and contributes to global advances in their fields.

FCDO's Research and Evidence Division aims to develop and deliver high impact research and new technologies and innovations that can help solve pressing development challenges, test high potential interventions, and support the delivery of UK government objectives, including for prosperity, climate mitigation and resilience.

2. Overview of the call

Background and rationale

Through an integrated design, CLARE seeks to accelerate the development and delivery of cutting-edge interdisciplinary science, knowledge, data, and tools focused on tackling climate change adaptation and resilience problems facing the poorest and most vulnerable people who are least able to adapt. It will drive better action and more effective investments in climate adaptation and resilience. It will support research that aims to go beyond assessing risks and identifying impacts by taking a problem-focused and systems oriented approach while pursuing user-centred solutions with a clear line of sight between research and its application. Furthermore, CLARE aims to inform climate action that advances gender equality and inclusion, and transformational change.

Through a focus on the three research themes below, and cross-cutting priorities of research for impact and capacity strengthening, CLARE aims to ensure that poor and marginalized communities in Africa and Asia-Pacific are more resilient to extreme weather, climate change, and related natural hazards in the near- and longer-term.

Key objectives

CLARE focuses on:

- Maximizing utility and **uptake of existing knowledge** by policymakers and practitioners, through the development of climate services, tools, technology, and innovation
- driving **development of new knowledge** to support adaptation and boost resilience among the most vulnerable
- **strengthening capacity** from research to action for sustainable climate-resilient development
- supporting socially **inclusive, practical action** by addressing evidence gaps and supporting pilot projects related to social, economic, and political trade-offs and barriers to climate adaptation for the most vulnerable.

CLARE addresses the urgent need to scale up research and innovation efforts to catalyze action and provide better information on risks, better decision-making tools, and better adaptation solutions to enable transformational change.

Thematic focus areas

CLARE invites concept notes that focus on the urgent need for action now, while also anticipating future needs. CLARE has three overarching themes:

- **Understand climate risks** - research to improve our understanding of the risks associated with climate and natural hazards, by addressing gaps in the underpinning science. Work under this theme will improve knowledge regarding both the future climate and its interaction with changing societies, ecosystems, and economies. It will generate insights on the evolution of climate risks over time, helping to expand existing adaptation responses and catalyze transformational change. Results under this theme will inform longer-term adaptation, decision making under uncertainty, and provide options on when to act and how to build in flexibility. Among others, potential entry points could, for example include:
 - Improving forecast accuracy, informational value and ease of use (e.g. improving seasonal and decadal projections)
 - Cascading, compound and aggregate climate risks
 - Drivers and processes of physical climate (including observations and data in climate hotspots)
 - Risk in climate sensitive systems such as food, water, energy and biodiversity
 - Advantages and limits of nature-based solutions
- **Risk-informed early action** - research to improve risk-informed anticipatory action to reduce humanitarian and extreme impacts of weather, climate variability and the compounding and cascading interaction of natural hazards. Work under this theme will help to protect people's health, safety, livelihoods, critical infrastructure and services from both sudden extreme and slow-onset events such as storms, flooding, droughts, landslides and heatwaves. Results under this theme will inform multi-hazard contexts and interaction with wider systemic risks, including interventions in fragile or conflict-affected settings. Among others, potential entry points could for example, include:
 - Impact-based forecasting and early warning of extreme events to inform humanitarian action
 - Tools to communicate risk, inform action, and incentivise adaptation behaviour
 - Overcoming barriers to anticipatory action to serve the differential and context-specific needs of vulnerable populations
 - Synergies among climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction
 - Mechanisms to trigger anticipatory finance and tools (e.g. insurance) to serve the most vulnerable
- **Development in a changing climate** - research to inform development in a changing climate; action that builds resilience in the present climate and adapts to future climate. Work under this theme will address the gap in adaptation practice, identify limits to adaptation, help avoid maladaptation, and harness synergies and reduce trade-offs between adaptation and mitigation and interaction with other major development risks to advance sustainable development. Results under this theme will help people and societies pursue climate-resilient development pathways and seize opportunities for transformative change. Among others, potential entry points could, for example include:
 - Assessing adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and resilience actions, including the extent to which they advance gender equality and inclusion
 - Costs and benefits of climate (in)action across society, and implications for security and conflict
 - Designing adaptation to address differential and context-specific needs of vulnerable populations
 - Implications of climate change for human mobility, migration, and displacement
 - Navigating pathways that overshoot 1.5°C global warming level

The specific entry points mentioned above are merely illustrative, and not exhaustive. CLARE welcomes original thinking under these themes and recognizes that there is a broad range of perspectives on research gaps.

CLARE will organize a coordinated, diverse and complimentary portfolio of projects that will fall under and across these themes, and among eligible climate-vulnerable countries. IDRC and FCDO expect to allocate

roughly 30% of available funding to the theme of understanding climate risks, another 30% to the theme of risk-informed early action, and 40% to the theme of development in a changing climate. Moreover, CLARE expects to fund at least one gender equality and inclusion-specific project under each theme (see section 5 “expectations of projects” and ANNEX 1). At least half of available funding will be focused on research activities in Africa.

Research will generally be through multi-country, transdisciplinary, collaborative projects preferably led or co-led by Southern researchers. Collectively, projects will bridge the communities of humanitarian assistance, risk management, physical and socio-economic sciences, sustainable development and adaptation practice. CLARE will seek to realize synergies across these themes and welcomes ideas that identify how they may contribute to more than one theme. Projects will be encouraged to consider how their activities may inform the use of climate finance and strengthen evidence on the economics of adaptation and resilience.

CLARE results are expected to catalyse strengthened agency in African and Asian-Pacific countries to do and use research for adaptation action, as well as generate actionable adaptation strategies to support the most vulnerable. To help achieve this, CLARE will foster links among projects to:

- Learn and collaborate for uptake of evidence into decision making and implementation through cross-cutting knowledge management;
- Enable capacity among practitioners, researchers, and decision makers (including individuals, communities, governments, NGOs, and the private sector) to do and use research for action;
- Support equitable and diverse partnerships with, and leadership by, people, organizations and teams based in Africa and Asia-Pacific.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the global climate challenge, CLARE will encourage innovative approaches to research planning, implementation, monitoring and knowledge sharing that reduce reliance on physical travel and in-person gatherings. Teams will be encouraged to ensure significant leadership among partners at the local, national and/or regional levels, using virtual meetings as well as internet- and phone-based communication to minimise air travel and use of consumables.

3. Funding scope and duration

There will be two sizes of funding available through this call, recognizing that opportunities to contribute to knowledge and action exist in different contexts, at different scales from local to global, and could be led by and involve various combinations of actors.

- a. Smaller projects - for grants of up to CAD 1.5 million for at least 24 months, and up to 42 months, involving one or more climate vulnerable countries in Africa and/or Asia-Pacific. Concept notes must name a single lead organization.
- b. Larger projects - for grants of between CAD 6 - 8 million for up to 42 months, involving two or more climate vulnerable countries in Africa and/or Asia-Pacific. Concept notes may name up to three lead organizations.

CLARE expects to fund roughly eight smaller projects and eight larger projects for a total of up to CAD 56 million (exact number of projects and funding awarded may differ). IDRC reserves the right to fund additional proposals from this call if/when more funding becomes available.

Projects may be led by and/or involve collaboration with organizations such as knowledge brokers, practitioners, civil society groups, etc. All projects are encouraged to involve diverse coalitions of actors with distinct specializations and roles from research to action. The proposed team may build on prior collaborations and partnerships and/or include new collaborative relationships to be fit-for-purpose. IDRC will only negotiate grant agreements with the lead organization(s), which in turn may sub-grant to additional organizations, nationally, regionally or internationally.

Teams are encouraged to consider the central role of the principal and co-investigators from lead organizations, and to ensure they budget for these core team members to dedicate sufficient time to the project. Teams are also strongly encouraged to include a full-time coordinator/convenor position (especially in larger projects) to facilitate collaboration among partners, engagement with downstream partners and within CLARE. Project duration will not exceed 42 months, including all research activities and final reporting.

All grants are subject to sufficient funds being made available to IDRC by the Parliament of Canada or under a donor partnership agreement with FCDO and potential additional external funders. IDRC reserves the right to cancel this call for concept notes at any time without prior notice and/or at its discretion to grant or not the grants under this process.

4. Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria apply:

1. This call is open to projects involving activities in African or Asian-Pacific countries (see ANNEX 2 list of eligible countries below)
2. An organization may participate in more than one concept note, yet an individual principal investigator may only lead on one project.
3. The lead organization(s) must have the capacity to administer and transfer foreign funds. Other collaborating partners may include organizations from within the region; national, regional, or international offices of multilateral organizations or international NGOs; or other organizations from outside the region.
4. United Nations agencies and CGIAR centres are not eligible to be a lead organization.
5. This call is open to projects that are gender and inclusion-sensitive, gender and inclusion-responsive or gender and inclusion-transformative. Proposals that are gender and inclusion-blind will not be considered eligible (see section below).

Lead organizations must have independent legal status (or “legal personality”) and be capable of contracting in their own right and name, receiving and administering funds, and have authority to direct proposed project activities. Lead organizations must be able to demonstrate legal status through written documentation. Legal status will only be reviewed if and when applicants are selected following evaluation.

Only proposals that meet the eligibility criteria above will be considered.

5. Expectations of projects

The following dimensions are core to the CLARE initiative, and should be integrated into the design and implementation of any research project funded through CLARE. The four considerations described in this section are reflected in the format for concept note submission and the evaluation criteria outlined below. Projects will also be expected to contribute to, and participate in, initiative-wide efforts to track, share and learn (see section 10).

Research for impact

CLARE endorses the Adaptation Research Alliance principles of [Research for Impact](#). Applicants are expected to demonstrate how their proposed approach reflects these principles. Research for Impact requires ensuring that research is needs-driven and solutions-oriented, that both research questions and results are co-produced with potential users, and that the capacity of actors is strengthened in the long term. Research for Impact also requires investment in learning to enable research teams to evolve their approaches over time to respond to new contexts and new opportunities for impact. Some examples include activities that improve access and use of information for vulnerable communities, that supports decision-making, and methods of co-design of research and co-production of knowledge with societal actors. Collectively, CLARE aspires to advance understanding on how to move knowledge into action, to engage with the drivers in decision making and to amplify the voices of local people.

Gender equality and inclusion

CLARE considers that gender equality and inclusion are integral to just and sustainable climate action. Moreover, transformative research and knowledge that addresses the differential barriers experienced by the most vulnerable is critical for increasing resilience to climate-related risks. CLARE seeks proposals that demonstrate how gender equality and inclusion will be promoted and integrated using an intersectional approach, with respect to the design and implementation of the proposed research. Gender, diversity and inclusion within the research team will be examined under the criteria of team composition.

CLARE welcomes research proposals that either **integrate** gender equality and inclusion dimensions OR proposals with a **specific and central focus** on gender equality and inclusion outcomes. All projects funded must be gender and inclusion-sensitive, gender and inclusion-responsive or gender and inclusion-transformative. Proposals that are gender and inclusion-blind will not be considered. Applicants should refer to ANNEX 1 for further guidance.

Diverse coalitions and equitable partnerships

CLARE will support teams that convene diverse coalitions of actors and organizations that link research to action. Teams may include universities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, private sector and knowledge brokering organizations. CLARE seeks effective and equitable partnerships that include shared participation and responsibility in research design, implementation, and research uptake; and ensure mutual accountability among participants for progress, outputs and outcomes. CLARE recognizes that Southern-led research and knowledge is more likely to have an impact on adaptation policy and practice in Africa and Asia-Pacific. CLARE encourages projects that demonstrate and enable

Southern leadership. The evaluation criteria include consideration of how the team proposes to foster equitable partnerships among those involved in the research. The individuals and organizations involved will be examined under the criteria of team composition.

Capacity strengthening

The purpose of capacity strengthening in the CLARE initiative is to enable researchers, practitioners, and decision makers to drive adaptation action and build a more resilient future for those most impacted by climate change. CLARE refers to capacity *strengthening* (rather than capacity *building*) to recognize existing capacity and ongoing systemic barriers to the expression of that capacity, especially for individuals and institutions in climate vulnerable countries in Africa and Asia-Pacific. CLARE therefore seeks research projects that include specific objectives, activities, and processes to support capacity strengthening (a) within the project team and (b) for relevant stakeholders to do and use action-oriented research and evidence.

Examples of capacity strengthening activities for research teams might include opportunities to learn or enhance research-related skills (e.g. through training on tools, methodologies or approaches, mentoring, networking, opportunities for exchanges, etc.) and/or opportunities to enhance research management, coordination, administration or communication (e.g. through training, mentoring, coaching, etc.). Capacity strengthening activities for relevant stakeholders may respond directly to pre-identified gaps and interests or may be co-developed in response to emerging needs of, or requests from, stakeholders.

Applicants are encouraged to include sufficient budget and relevant expertise, partnerships and/ or consultants within the proposed team to lead and deliver on capacity strengthening objectives. For example, it may be relevant to include expertise on stakeholder engagement, co-production methods, development of on-line learning tools, expertise on use of interactive learning approaches, etc. Projects that have a mix of experienced and early-career researchers are also encouraged. CLARE will support a flexible, adaptive, and responsive approach to capacity strengthening through its projects and support South-South, South-North and North-South opportunities for capacity strengthening.

In addition to supporting capacity strengthening via research projects supported through this call, CLARE envisions establishing a capacity strengthening hub to act as a resource and to convene learning and peer-exchange on capacity strengthening approaches across the CLARE initiative.

6. Submission process

Eligible applicants are invited to submit Concept notes electronically through IDRC's grant application submission system for this call before the deadline.

1. Applications must be received by no later than June 7, 2022 at 23:59, Eastern Daylight Time or EDT. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
 - Access the application for smaller grants here: https://idrc-crdi.smapply.io/prog/clare_smaller_grants
 - Access the application for larger grants here: https://idrc-crdi.smapply.io/prog/clare_larger_grants
2. Applications can be submitted in either English or French.

An acknowledgement of receipt of your submission will be sent to all applicants whose application was received before the deadline.

7. Format and requirements for Concept notes

The application form for this call for concept notes includes several fields that applicants will need to complete. Fields that are included in the application process include:

Section	Word Count
Description of proposed project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rationale based on knowledge/implementation gaps in climate adaptation and resilience • research question and methods • data collection and analytical frameworks • proposed activities and expected outputs and outcomes 	200 150 250 400
Gender and inclusion dimensions of the proposed research (see Annex I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific knowledge/implementation gaps related to equitable and inclusive action • research design • stakeholder engagement, beneficiaries, expected outcomes 	300
How the proposed project... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is original, why it is needed, and how it aligns with CLARE research themes • is needs-driven and solutions-oriented, co-producing knowledge with users, and facilitates learning • strengthens capacity of individuals, communities and/or organizations to advance, share and apply knowledge towards inclusive climate-resilient development 	200 400 250
How individuals and organizations involved in the project team... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • combine complementary and relevant expertise and experience • are committed to transdisciplinary approaches, southern leadership, and gender equality and inclusion • foster equitable partnerships among those involved 	200 200 200
Preliminary budget with justification for the requested funding	Table, 100

IDRC reserves the right to rescind its selection of a project if it is deemed that the information provided in the Concept note is false or misleading.

8. Evaluation criteria

Concept notes will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

High-quality research*	70%
<i>Scientific rigour</i>	25%
<i>Gender equality and inclusion**</i>	10%
<i>Originality and relevance of proposed research</i>	10%
<i>Research for impact</i>	15%
<i>Capacity strengthening</i>	10%
Team composition and equitable partnerships	20%
Overall coherence and justification of resources	10%
<i>Total</i>	100%

*Described here in relation to the CLARE initiative, the criteria are consistent with the IDRC's [Research Quality Plus \(RQ+\) framework](#)

**Considers the research idea and its potential outcomes. Team composition includes consideration of related gender equality and inclusion expertise within the team, as well as the team's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

9. Selection process

Responding to this call is the first step in the process for potentially securing funding for your proposal.

Concept notes will first be screened for eligibility using the criteria outlined above.

Eligible Concept notes will be reviewed and short-listed by a committee comprised of external reviewers from different relevant disciplines, including with expertise in climate change, risk assessment, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, gender, diversity and inclusion, research for impact and/or knowledge users. CLARE will endeavour to achieve sufficient representation and balance on the committee among gender, expertise, and geographical regions. The committee will assess the Concept notes according to the evaluation criteria.

The committee's assessment will be shared with IDRC and FCDO, which will identify a short-list of concepts based on the evaluation and considering a balanced portfolio (see overview). Short-listed teams will be asked to submit full research proposals in September 2022 for review and funding consideration.

Full proposals will then be reviewed by an external review committee, according to the evaluation criteria, which will be provided to the short-listed teams.

10. Requirements in subsequent stage

Those teams that are subsequently invited to submit full proposals will be requested to elaborate on their concept note. Guidance on the format for full proposals will be provided upon notification. The format and

level of detail required for full proposals will be proportionate to project size (i.e. smaller projects will involve more concise proposals). Among the content of full proposals will be the following:

Opportunities for collaboration

The CLARE initiative has an ambitious agenda and vision. Projects will be expected to contribute to and participate in initiative-wide efforts to track, share and learn. Successful teams can also expect to collaborate across the CLARE portfolio for the purposes of capitalising on the diverse expertise involved in CLARE, promoting ongoing learning and networking, identifying and seizing emerging opportunities and achieving maximum impact beyond the scale of individual projects.

Opportunities may include, for example:

- Contributing to collaborative and adaptive management of CLARE directions;
- Co-developing and participating in yearly **learning reviews** to explore lessons and areas of synergy across the initiative;
- CLARE **working groups** on capacity strengthening, gender and inclusion, knowledge management, research for impact, and/or monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) to advance learning, innovation and impact

Data management and open access

Projects funded through CLARE will be expected to comply with IDRC's [Open Data Statement of Principles](#). Teams that are invited to prepare full proposals will elaborate and submit a [data management plan](#). CLARE also promotes Open Access of scientific publications. Projects funded through CLARE will comply with IDRC's [Open Access Policy](#) and will be expected to budget accordingly.

Research ethics and safeguarding

Research work must be carried out in accordance with high ethical standards, in keeping with IDRC [Principles on Research Ethics](#) and FCDO's [Ethical Guidance for Research](#). The [Grant Agreement](#) further outlines applicable standards related to research ethics and safeguarding.

Prior to commencing research, applicants may 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 how they plan on setting up an ethics committee for the project.

After approval of the project by IDRC, successful organizations are expected to submit the ethics and security protocols to IDRC, and to monitor and report on ethical and security risks and their management as the research is implemented.

11. Post selection requirements

For teams whose full proposal is recommended for funding:

Proposal finalization – Prior to finalizing a Grant Agreement, IDRC reserves the right to request any revisions to the submitted proposal and budget. A revised proposal with the necessary revisions must be returned in a timely manner to IDRC. Projects may require lead organizations to convene and coordinate

among participants, and to administer and transfer funds across multiple countries. This capacity will be thoroughly assessed at the full proposal review stage. An institutional assessment of an applicant's organization will be performed for which additional documentation may be required, as outlined in ANNEX 3. After this assessment, IDRC may identify operational or financial weaknesses that could pose some administrative risks to the proposed project. In such cases, IDRC reserves the right to request the applicant's organization to partner with another institution as a condition of receiving the grant.

Grant Agreement - The technical selection of a proposal does not constitute a formal commitment by IDRC to fund the project. IDRC will have no obligation to issue any funds prior to the applicant returning an executed grant agreement issued to them by IDRC. Any selected proponents must sign IDRC's standard Grant Agreement to receive funds. Please refer to the CLARE [Grant Agreement](#). The grant agreement will provide a schedule for submitting interim and final technical and financial reports. Although there is no limit on the number of co-applicants in one application, IDRC will only negotiate Grant Agreements with the lead organization(s).

Country clearance requirements - Grantees must follow the prevailing approval procedure as required by the government authority. This is often administered by a coordinating or nodal agency of the government and varies by jurisdiction. A grant agreement will only be issued if and once country clearance(s) is/are obtained. IDRC reserves the right to not pursue the funding of a selected project if the country approval is not secured within six months after IDRC officially announces approval of the project, as this would jeopardize the timely completion of the initiative. In cases where the recipient will manage sub-grantees, the country requirements that apply to sub-grantees are also documented in the grant agreement. It becomes the responsibility of the IDRC grantee to ensure that sub-grantees meet these requirements.

Country risk - IDRC funds research in locations that respond to the corporate and programmatic plans and objectives approved by IDRC's Board of Governors. Project proposals may need to be revised where project activities may be affected by legal restrictions to the transfer of funds or other resources to specific entities; due to physical remoteness, physical risks to IDRC employees in particular regions, or other inaccessibility factors that prevent IDRC from properly monitoring and supporting the project; or applicable laws and regulations that prevent institutions from accessing funds. Similarly, FCDO may have restrictions on funding research in particular locations or contexts.

12. Timeline and communication of results

Submission process

Call launch: April 5, 2022

Deadline for submitting concept notes; receipt of concept notes acknowledged: June 7, 2022.

Selection process

Applicants whose concept notes have been short-listed will be informed they have been selected to submit a full proposal in July 2022.

Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified at this time.

Applicants submit full proposals: End of September 2022

Award

Approval of proposals: December 2022- April 2023

13. Information session, inquiries and FAQs

Following the launch of the call for concept notes, IDRC will organize an information session to address any queries from potential applicants.

Information session/webinars will be held on:

- April 21, 7:00-8:00am EDT (English);
- April 21, 9:00-10:00am EDT (French)

Information sessions will be recorded and be posted online afterwards.

Any additional inquiries related to the call and application process should be sent by e-mail to **clarecalls@idrc.ca**. All inquiries should be received on or before May 23 at 16:00 Eastern Daylight Time or EDT to receive a response prior to the concept note submission deadline date.

Any inquiries which affect all applicants received on or before the above-mentioned deadline will be added to the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** with IDRC's responses to those inquiries, and without revealing the source of the inquiries.

14. Permission for use and disclosure of information

As a Canadian Crown corporation, IDRC is subject to Canada's Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act. Consequently, any submissions in response to this call for concept notes will be managed by IDRC in a manner consistent with applicable legislation and IDRC's Privacy Policy, including IDRC's obligations to disclose documents requested by members of the public or requests for personal information. More information on how IDRC manages information in accordance with this legislation can be accessed here: <https://www.idrc.ca/en/about-idrc/transparency/access-information-and-privacy>.

All applicants, as part of the application process through SurveyMonkey Apply, are required to sign IDRC's Privacy Statement and Terms of Use as well as any terms and conditions at the time the application is submitted.

By submitting an application under this call, the applicant will consent to the use of the documents and information as well as the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers involved in the selection process, both within IDRC and externally for the purposes of evaluating the proposal for funding by IDRC. To the extent that the application contains personal information, the applicant is responsible for obtaining informed consent from the individuals whose personal information is being shared. The applicant further consents to the disclosure of the name of the applicant, the name of the lead researcher and the name of the proposed project in any announcement of selected proposals.

All personal information collected by IDRC about grant, scholarship and fellowship applicants is used to review applications, to administer and monitor awards, and to promote and support international development research in Canada and in the regions where IDRC operates.

ANNEX 1 - Ensuring research ideas integrate gender equality and inclusion

The following is intended to guide and support applicants to the CLARE call for concept notes in their efforts to identify, integrate, and address gender and inclusion dimensions as they develop their research idea.

Approaches to gender and inclusion in research

In line with IDRC's [equality statement](#), CLARE will support the generation of knowledge — including by individuals from diverse genders, communities, histories, and experiences — that tackles the systems which perpetuate inequalities on the basis of identity. Multiple and intersecting categories of identity, including, but not limited to gender, sexuality, age, class, race, caste, ethnicity, indigeneity, citizenship status, religion, and ability affect how different people experience the risks and impacts of climate change and natural hazards, and benefit (or not) from interventions to enhance climate adaptation and resilience. Taking an intersectional approach recognizes these differences and understands diversity as central to advancing equality in the context of pursuing a more climate-resilient future.

CLARE recognizes the importance of striking a balance between ambition and pragmatism. At the call for concept note stage, applicants will be assessed on the extent to which they have given meaningful and proportionate consideration to gender equality and inclusion (GEI) dimensions within the proposed research and how the proposed research will contribute to advancing GEI. Actions to address gender and other social inequalities require doing the groundwork to interrogate and surface the ultimate root causes of inequalities, while at the same time, changing gendered and unequal structural dynamics takes time, trust, and long-term commitments to policies and practices.

As outlined in the call for concept notes, CLARE welcomes research proposals that are either:

- **GEI-integrated projects** – Projects that effectively integrate gender equality and inclusion considerations in their research design and propose a team that is diverse and includes relevant expertise on gender and inclusion, or
- **GEI-specific projects** – Projects where the central research question and expected outcomes are about gender equality and inclusion. These projects generate evidence and key lessons on gender equality and inclusion and test what approaches work for advancing gender equality and inclusion outcomes. The proposed team for a GEI-specific project should be diverse and include significant expertise on gender and inclusion, and strategic collaborating partners.

All projects funded must be gender and inclusion-sensitive, gender and inclusion-responsive or gender and inclusion-transformative. Proposals that are gender and inclusion-blind¹ will not be considered for funding.

Like other agencies, IDRC uses a **continuum to understand how gender and inclusion dimensions are integrated in research**. The continuum outlines the different strategies applied in project assessment, design, implementation, and evaluation that take gender and inclusion into consideration and address inequalities and social exclusion based on gender and other identity factors.

¹ Gender and inclusion blind project – The research project treats all genders and people the same while ignoring biological sex and historical differences and context across different identity factors. The project fails to recognize the distinct and differential vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities that are driven by specific social, cultural, economic and political contexts, systems and structures. A gender and inclusion-blind approach assumes that research does not have unequal (if unintended) outcomes for different population groups.

The following outlines the continuum of **gender and inclusion integration in research**:

	Gender and inclusion sensitive	Gender and inclusion responsive	Gender and inclusion transformative
Description	Gender and inclusion are considered in the research project’s rationale and addressed in the project design and methodology but does not (yet) extend to analysis and action to address social inequalities.	Gender and inclusion are considered in the research project’s rationale, design, and methodology and are rigorously analyzed to inform implementation, communication, and influence strategies.	The research project examines, analyzes, and builds an evidence base to inform long-term practical changes in structural power relations and norms, roles and inequalities that define the differentiated experiences of people. Transformative research aims to lead to sustained change on gender equality and inclusion through action (e.g. partnerships, outreach, and interventions).
Key questions to ask	Does the research design include analysis of the differentiated roles, experiences, and impacts for men, women, girls, boys, non-binary people and/or specific populations?	Does the research use analysis to implement actions and to address, build on, and respond to the results of the analysis?	Does the research go beyond the analysis of differentiated roles, experiences, and perception gaps and explore the underlying structural causes, norms, and power relations that caused these differences? PLUS: does the research implement actions to address these underlying structural causes, norms, and power relations that caused the differences?

In this CLARE call for concept notes, we seek projects that, in particular:

- ✓ Identify and implement approaches that address structural barriers to gender equality and inclusion, such as social norms, unequal power relations, and institutional and policy barriers affecting the adaptation choices and opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- ✓ Adopt an intersectional approach, avoid treating women and men as homogenous groups, and identify what approaches to climate change adaptation and building resilience will be inclusive, equitable and effective for different groups, in different contexts.
- ✓ Propose a diverse and inclusive team that has the necessary expertise to integrate gender equality and inclusion in their research from design to delivery, including approaches for engaging key vulnerable groups that will be identified through a gender/ intersectional analysis.

Please consult the **Glossary of terms** below to see how CLARE understands key concepts related to gender equality and inclusion (GEI).

Resources

Here is a **selection of resources** applicants may wish to consult for further information, guidance and examples:

ASSAR. (n.d.). [Infographic: Gender is one of the many factors that influence how we are impacted by and respond to climate change](#). Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions.

CARE. (n.d.). Gender and Inclusion Toolbox. <https://careclimatechange.org/gender-inclusion-toolbox/>

Chaplin, D., Twigg, J., & Lovell, E. (2019). *Intersectional approaches to vulnerability reduction and resilience-building* (Resilience Intel, Issue 12). BRACED. <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/12651.pdf>

Dupar, M. and P. Velasco. (2021). [Advancing gender equality and climate action: A practical guide to setting targets and monitoring progress](#). Cape Town: Climate and Development Knowledge Network.

Kratzer, S. & Le Masson, V. (n.d.). [10 things to know: Gender equality and climate goals](#). Climate Development Knowledge Network.

Monjurul Kabir, A. H. et al. (2021) [Intersectionality Resource Guide and Toolkit](#). UN Women.

Mullinax, M., Hart, J., & Vargas Garcia, A. (2018). [Using Research for Gender-Transformative Change: Principles and practice](#).

Glossary of terms

Note that the following definitions have been compiled to strive for a shared and consistent use and understanding of key terms related to gender equality and inclusion for the purposes of this call for concept notes. Definitions have been drawn from multiple sources and adapted to reflect the CLARE context and principles. We encourage proponents that prefer to use alternative definitions to those offered below to be explicit about the particular definition they employ.

Diversity* - consists of the conditions, expressions and experiences of different groups identified by age, culture, ethnicity, education, gender, disability, sexual orientation, migration status, geography, language, religious beliefs and other factors.

Gender - refers to the roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men, boys, women, girls and people with diverse gender identities. Gender is socially constructed, learned through socialization processes and plays out through relationships. It is context/ time-specific and changeable. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women, men and people of diverse genders in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is often conceptualized as a binary (girl/woman and boy/man), but there is considerable diversity in how individuals and groups understand, experience and express it, including nongendered, non-binary and transgendered. Gender is one of many factors that influence how people are impacted by climate change and natural hazards.

Gender analysis [^] - is a critical examination of how differences in gender roles, activities, needs, opportunities and rights/entitlements affect men, women, girls, boys and non-binary people in certain situations or contexts. Gender analysis examines the relationships between females, males and non-binary people and their access to and control of resources and the constraints they face relative to each other. Integrating a gender analysis into research helps to ensure that gender-based injustices and inequalities are not exacerbated by interventions, and that where possible, greater equality and justice in gender relations are promoted.

Gender equality [^] - refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men, girls and boys, and non-binary people. Equality does not mean that women, men and non-binary people will become the same, but that people's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of women, men and non-binary people are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups.

Inclusion ^{£ ‡} - refers to the practice of ensuring that all individuals are valued and respected for their contributions and are equally supported. Research into inclusion aims to understand why some people are more at risk to changes in climate, and how their social positions influence their vulnerability and capacity to respond to climate signals in particular contexts. Advancing inclusion has two interrelated dimensions: 1) improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in social, political and economic development processes, and 2) enhancing the agency of those who are excluded on the basis of social positions.

Intersectionality ^{° ‡} - recognises that people's lives are shaped by their identities, relationships and social factors. These interact to create intersecting forms of privilege and oppression depending on a person's context and existing power structures such as patriarchy, ableism, colonialism, imperialism, homophobia and racism. We use the concept of intersectionality to emphasize that inequalities experienced in relation to climate change and adaptation are seldom the result of a single social category, but result from the intersections of multiple social positions (e.g. gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, age, disability, etc.) and depend on existing systems and structures of power.

Intersectional analysis [°] - looks beyond gender to examine multiple identity factors and root causes that produce vulnerability, oppression and privilege in certain situations or contexts.

Marginalised groups [₹] - those who have been systematically or historically excluded from participation or influence in society and/or who frequently experience exclusion from exercising rights and freedoms.

Sex ^{*} - refers to a person's biological and physiological characteristics. A person's sex is most often designated by a medical assessment at the moment of birth. This is also referred to as birth-assigned sex.

Transformational change [‡] - refers to change that addresses the root causes of social and gender inequality and exclusion. It moves beyond the individual and entails change at the level of structures. It implies using transformative approaches that focus on institutional structures and norms as key barriers to equality and inclusion, as opposed to accommodating approaches that focus on closing gender and social exclusion gaps through improving availability of resources and services within a given institutional context. This also requires a deliberate effort to sustainably increase the life choices of individuals and groups, rather than a temporary increase in opportunities.

References

- ^ UN Women Training Centre. *Gender Equality Glossary*. Retrieved March 24, 2022 from <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36&mode&hook=ALL&sortkey&sortorder&fullsearch=0&page=1>
- ₹ IDRC (2019) *Transforming gender relations: Insights from IDRC research*. Retrieved March 24, 2022 from https://issuu.com/idrc_crdi/docs/wd_13_000_gender_e-file_en.
- ° Monjurul Kabir, A. H. et al. (2021) *Intersectionality Resource Guide and Toolkit*. Retrieved March 24, 2022 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/01/intersectionality-resource-guide-and-toolkit>
- £ Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) *Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research*. Retrieved March 24, 2022 from <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx>
- ‡ van Eerdewijk A, Bråten Y, Danielsen K (2021) *Integration of gender equality and social inclusion considerations into CLARE*. Retrieved March 24, 2022 from <https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/handle/10625/60798>
- * Women and Gender Equality Canada. (April 14, 2021). *Introduction to GBA + - Glossary*. Retrieved March 22, 2022, from https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/gbaplus-course-cours-acplus/eng/global/glossary_glossaire.html

ANNEX 2 – Eligible Countries

This call is open to projects involving activities in the following African or Asian-Pacific countries:

Algeria	Gabon	Nigeria
Angola	Gambia	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Ghana	Papua New Guinea
Benin	Guinea	Philippines
Bhutan	Guinea-Bissau	Rwanda
Botswana	India	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Indonesia	Small island states**
Burundi*	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cambodia	Laos	Somalia
Cameroon*	Lesotho	South Africa
Central African Republic*	Liberia	South Sudan
Chad*	Madagascar	Sri Lanka
Congo (Brazzaville)	Malawi	Sudan
Côte d'Ivoire	Mali*	Tanzania
Djibouti	Mauritania	Thailand
DR Congo*	Morocco	Togo
Egypt	Mozambique	Tunisia
Equatorial Guinea	Myanmar*	Uganda
Eritrea*	Namibia	Vietnam
Eswatini	Nepal	Zambia
Ethiopia*	Niger	Zimbabwe*

* Applications with activities in these countries may be subject to a further stage of approval within IDRC [and in consultation with FCDO].

**Activities in small island states in Africa and Asia-Pacific may be included in concept notes and eligible under this call if ODA-eligible, and as part of a concept note that involves at least one other listed country.

ANNEX 3 – Institutional Assessment Documentation

Teams that are invited to prepare full proposals will eventually be required to provide the documents that allow IDRC to undertake an institutional assessment prior to confirmation of funding:

- **documents of incorporation** to validate their independent legal status

- Most recent audited **financial statements***, including but not limited to:
 - Balance Sheet, Statement of Income and Expenses or Profit and Loss, and Statement of Cash Flow;
 - Notes to the Financial Statements;
 - Audit Report;
 - Any Management or Internal Control Letters, and related follow-up response.

**The latest financial statements duly authorized by a financial officer if audited statement is not available.*

- **Other documents** that could be requested include:
 - Safeguarding policy and protocol
 - Current organizational chart.
 - Human resources manuals.
 - Finance and administration manuals.
 - Policy/procedure for procurement.
 - List of active external donors and their current contributions.
 - Latest annual report