



NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND

COLLABORATIVE CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS ON CANCER IN KENYA

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

<p>1.</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>The National Research Fund (NRF) is mandated to facilitate research for the advancement of Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) for National Development. The Fund recognizes the key role of demand driven and output-based research in supporting “Big Four Agenda” and in the achievement of the desired socio-economic transformation.</p> <p>Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) represent a significant and increasing burden of ill health and mortality in the country. The most important being cardiovascular disease, cancers, diabetes and psychiatric conditions. Together they represent an estimated 50%-70% of all hospital admissions and up to half of all inpatient mortality. Cancer has become one of the leading public health problems in the country.</p> <p>NRF invites research consortia to submit multi-institutional research proposals addressing diagnosis, treatment, prevention and management of cancer in Kenya as a strategic research need. This Call is a specific response by Government to agencies to collaborate in cancer research.</p> <p>The objective of this Call is to support collaborative Research to provide solutions to the cancer problem.</p>
<p>Call for Collaborative Cancer Research in Kenya</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Specific Challenge</u></p> <p>Kenya is faced with an alarming rate of increase in cancer incidences. Currently, cancer, diagnosis care and treatment does not fully reflect the unique demographic, socio-economic and environmental characteristics of Kenya. In addition, limited research is being conducted on the type of cancers primarily found in African countries and communities. This therefore requires established evidence obtained through high-quality research to adapt cancer control measures that are specific to the country’s population.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Scope</u></p> <p>Proposals must focus on trans-institutional and multidisciplinary research with the view of improving one or more of the following aspects of cancer: establishing sources of increased cases of cancer, early detection, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment.</p> <p>Proposals should address one of or combinations of the following thematic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Novel health care delivery and public health systems supported by modern technologies; (ii) Promotion of healthier lifestyles;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) New technologies to enhance disease surveillance, prevention, diagnosis and treatment; (iv) Alternative medicine; (v) Early diagnosis and efficacy of treatment regimes; (vi) Environmental health-focusing on agricultural practices, water and sanitation, pollution control, occupational health and safety and effect of climate change on health. <p>Specific population age groups, sex and gender aspects, socio-economic, ethnic, cultural, lifestyle and behavioural factors and any other non-health related individual attributes should be taken into consideration where relevant. Due to specific challenge of this topic, in addition to the minimum number of participants set out in the General guidelines, proposals shall include at least two participants from two different health facilities in Kenya.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Expected Impact</u> The proposals should address one of or combinations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify high-risk populations with a view to tailor early detection and diagnosis or to optimize prevention. • Improve early detection and/or diagnosis and/or prognosis of cancer adapted to specific settings. • Provide evidence to national programmes and policies focusing on screening, early detection and/or diagnosis and/or prognosis. • Provide novel opportunities for the development of targeted therapies.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Eligibility and Conditions for application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The proposed research must address one or more of the following aspects of cancer management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishing sources of increased cases of cancer, ○ early detection, ○ diagnosis, ○ prognosis and ○ Treatment. ii. Research collaboration is considered an important means to strengthen research capacity. For research partners to benefit from the collaboration, partnerships should be equal, and collaborators should be able to contribute actively in preparing the proposals. Applications which have not been prepared without the active involvement of collaborators will not be approved by the Fund. Workplan details including fieldworks, publishing and publications, etc must show aspects of equal collaboration. iii. The application must list all collaborating institutions and collaborators.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. The consortium must have at least 3 institutions from public /private universities, research centres/ institutes, tertiary training institutions, departments of R&D and industrial establishments. There Must be at least one public entity involved. v. The consortium should provide a rationale for the formation of the consortium and a description of their respective roles in the project. vi. The Consortium must describe the governance and coordination arrangements they will use to produce quality work and support fair and equitable partnerships. vii. NRF strongly encourages involvement of collaborators from the private sector and international partners. Such collaborators are encouraged to contribute with additional resources for the projects and there should be disclosure of that. viii. The collaborative entities must formally indicate that they are committed to release identified staff involved in the project and must have the facilities to implement the project. ix. There shall be a consortium agreement signed by the collaborating institution specifying each institutions responsibility in the management of the grants and the human resources attached to the grant. An agreement document covering issues of confidentiality, intellectual property rights and publication should be signed by all consortium members at the start of project work and updated at the end of the project; x. The consortium must identify a Principal Investigator (PI). xi. Applications can only be submitted by the Principal Investigator through the institution of affiliate in Kenya which will be responsible for the grant or as detailed out in the Consortium Agreement. xii. At the time of submitting the application, the PI must hold a Master's degree or equivalent qualification, documented clearly in the CV and documented evidence that he/she is affiliated to an institution as specified. xiii. A PI may apply up to two projects, but only one project per PI may be funded for this Call.
--	---

	<p>xiv. The Principal Investigator will assume responsibility for ensuring that the project activities are appropriately coordinated and implemented, and will coordinate any necessary communication between the team and the NRF;</p> <p>xv. Application must be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officers of the applying institutions.</p> <p>xvi. Proposals on research areas requiring ethical clearance must obtain it prior to release of funds.</p>
6.	<p>Project Budget, duration and eligible expenditures</p> <p>The funding is conditional on approval by the NRF of both the technical and financial aspects of the proposal. Projects will be considered for grants of up to Kes. 50 Million.</p> <p>The expected duration of the projects is a maximum of 36 months. Funding on an individual proposal will depend on the nature and duration of proposed activities and must be justified in term of resources needed to achieve the objectives of the project.</p> <p>Consortium applying for this grant may request for funds for the following categories of expenditure:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Direct cost for undertaking research, which shall include but not limited to research equipment; consumables; essential infrastructure/upgrading systems development. ii. Research output trials and technology transfer costs. iii. Mobility costs (travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses) for project activities for professional and non-professional personnel not exceeding 20%; iv. Research management costs must not exceed 7.5% v. Costs related to organizing seminars and workshops within the project; vi. Capacity building, Knowledge Sharing and Research Uptake and dissemination;
7.	<p>Structure & Contents of the Proposal</p> <p>The proposal must be structured according to the Official Application Form. The form can be downloaded from http://www.researchfund.go.ke.</p> <p>All headings should appear in their stated order as outlined in the application form. Information must be provided for all the headings and no additional heading shall be added.</p>

It is essential that the application is clear and focused. Although there are no requirements regarding the length of each section, the project description as a whole must not exceed 10 pages (25,000 characters, including spacing).

8.

How to apply

The application for this call will be done in two phases. Phase 1 is the first step of a process in which applicants submit project concept notes leading to prequalification. Phase 2 is the submission of a full application by those selected. The deadline for submission of Phase 1 applications is 28th May, 2020.

Applications can only be on official NRF application form. All applications must be accompanied by letters of support from the respective CEOs of participating institutions included in the proposal.

Submission of applications in the official form must be in electronic and 3 hard copies. Applications must be labelled ‘**Collaborative Research on Cancer in Kenya**’

Duly filled electronic copy of the application forms to be submitted to the following email CancerRes2020@researchfund.go.ke and hard copies to be submitted to:-

Chief Executive Officer;
National Research Fund;
Utalii House, 9th Floor,
P.O. Box 26036-00100;
NAIROBI

Roadmap of Processing the Proposals

<i>Phase 1 - 2020</i>	<i>April/ May 2020</i>	<i>Deadline for submission of concept notes 28th May,, 2020</i>	
	<i>June/ July, 2020</i>	<i>NRF screening for eligibility Specialist review of relevance Hearing of concept notes, if and when required</i>	
	<i>August 2020</i>	<i>Prequalification, approval of concept notes and Invitation for full proposal</i>	
<i>Phase 2 - 2020</i>	<i>September, 2020</i>	<i>Deadline for submission for full proposals 30th Septemberr,2020</i>	
	<i>October, 2020</i>	<i>NRF screening and Specialist peer reviewing and hearing when required</i>	<i>and</i>
	<i>November, 2020</i>	<i>Selection Preliminary approval and rejection</i>	
	<i>December,2020</i>	<i>Contracting</i>	
	<i>January, 2021</i>	<i>Granted projects start work</i>	

9.	<p>Engagement with industry The NRF is committed in promoting collaboration between government, research and industry. Applying consortia are encouraged to engage with industry to maximize the translational potential of the research. This could be in collaboration or partnership, either as research participants or as prospective end users of the results.</p>				
10.	<p>Reporting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The funded consortium will report implementation progress on annual basis. ii. At the completion of the project, a final report using a template to be provided by the NRF will be used to submit the report. The report must be endorsed by the Head of Institution before submission by the Principal Investigator to NRF. iii. Consortium are expected to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals of international repute. iv. The publications and/or patents shall be submitted as part of the Final Report/ Completion Report. v. National Research Fund shall be acknowledged in all the publications arising from funded projects. vi. A full account of all expenses made for a research project shall be due within 30 days of the termination of the grant. vii. Unexpended funds remaining at the end of the grant must be returned to NRF. viii. Policy briefs are expected at every reporting period. 				
11.	<p>Evaluation process and criteria</p> <p>NRF will engage subject specialist to evaluate the proposals submitted against the following criteria</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 1447 1477 2002"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="363 1447 1394 1518">Evaluation Criteria</th> <th data-bbox="1394 1447 1477 1518">%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 1518 1394 2002"> <p>Relevance and likelihood of impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal provides a clear description of how the proposed research project is aimed at dressing cancer issues in Kenya. • The proposal aligns with one or more of themes identified in section 3 of this guidelines. • The proposal clearly describes the potential effectiveness and clinical benefit of the research project. • The proposal focuses on viable translational research findings that are achievable in the period of the grant. • Aligned with expected impact. • Enhancing integration of new knowledge. </td> <td data-bbox="1394 1518 1477 2002">45</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Evaluation Criteria	%	<p>Relevance and likelihood of impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal provides a clear description of how the proposed research project is aimed at dressing cancer issues in Kenya. • The proposal aligns with one or more of themes identified in section 3 of this guidelines. • The proposal clearly describes the potential effectiveness and clinical benefit of the research project. • The proposal focuses on viable translational research findings that are achievable in the period of the grant. • Aligned with expected impact. • Enhancing integration of new knowledge. 	45
Evaluation Criteria	%				
<p>Relevance and likelihood of impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal provides a clear description of how the proposed research project is aimed at dressing cancer issues in Kenya. • The proposal aligns with one or more of themes identified in section 3 of this guidelines. • The proposal clearly describes the potential effectiveness and clinical benefit of the research project. • The proposal focuses on viable translational research findings that are achievable in the period of the grant. • Aligned with expected impact. • Enhancing integration of new knowledge. 	45				

	<p>Research design and methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has a clear purpose, research question(s), a conceptual or theoretical framework, appropriate methodology and design to address research question(s) attending to the specifics of political, economic, social, and cultural contexts of Kenya • The proposal articulates the ways in which local stakeholders will be involved in different stages of the project, ranging from planning to analysis, so they can act on findings and recommendations. • The proposal includes a plan that describes how the expected results will be achieved within the (maximum) 36-month funding period and the allocated budget. • The proposal includes clear strategies for mitigating risks related to achieving objectives. • The proposal identifies key ethical issues and ways of addressing them. • Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (Including management of IPR), to communicate the project and manage research data where relevant. • Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources. • Complementarity of the consortium partners • Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures (communication flows, assignment of responsibilities, quality controls, conflict resolution strategy etc) including risk management 	25
	<p><i>Gender, equity, and inclusion considerations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender, equity, and inclusion are considered at all stages of the project, including design, data collection, and analysis, interpretation, and knowledge mobilization processes. • The proposal clearly explains how the project will contribute to addressing issues of inequity, gender inequality, and exclusion within chosen thematic area(s) and context(s). 	5
	<p><i>Team capacity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team demonstrates a strong track record that is suitable to the task proposed. • The team demonstrates coherence and effectiveness of the work plan including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources • The proposal includes organizations, individual team member and demonstrates how it will take to ensure fair and equitable research partnerships. • <i>The consortium has a qualified Principal Investigator</i> 	15

	<p><i>Monitoring, evaluation and learning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal includes a results framework with outputs, outcomes, and intended impact. • The proposal includes a monitoring and evaluation strategy to help the team monitor progress, adapt, achieve results, and report. • The proposal explains the ways through which project stakeholders will participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the project activities. 	10
	<i>Total</i>	100
	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact details: Chief Executive Officer; National Research Fund; Utalii House, 9th Floor P.O. Box 26036-00100; <u>NAIROBI.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Telephone:</u> Tel: 020-4403386</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.researchfund.go.ke CancerRes2020@researchfund.go.ke</p>	

DISCLAIMER

This document is prepared by National Research Fund to provide guidance to applicants, the Fund is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.