



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT OFFICE

UI-RESEARCH NEWS



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OUR MOTTO

Advancing translational research output and uptake to meet societal needs

OUR VISION

To support researchers with information on funding opportunities, encourage collaboration and provide adequate training/services for the acquisition of knowledge and skills in grantsmanship that will enable carrying out of cutting-edge research

OUR MISSION

To be the flagship of innovative research administration and management in Sub-Saharan Africa, a catalyst for doing and up taking cutting edge research in the society

WHAT WE DO?

Pre-grant application services

- Funding opportunities: disseminate research funding opportunities
- Confirm eligibility of researchers according to sponsor guidelines
- Liaise with funding agencies on behalf of the university
- Interpret sponsor guidelines & regulations
- Register & assist with agency submission websites

Proposal Writing

- Review Request for Applications (RFAs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs)
- Proposal development
- Ensure compliance with submission guidelines
- Institutional support documentation for grants application
- Edit and format grants applications for readability
- Review and sign research proposals on behalf of the University or as a delegate of the University

Budgeting

- Budget templates
- Cost sharing
- Routing and approval

Training

- Provide training opportunities relating to grantsmanship for early career researchers.

Award Services Communication

- Identify and communicate proactively and effectively award parameters and sponsor terms and conditions to researchers and other administrative staff.
- Network with researchers to share and obtain information for effective scientific communication.

Project management

- Provide assistance to researchers and staff on post-award administrative processes
- Liaise with sponsors to ensure compliance with guidelines and to resolve conflicts and concerns (where applicable)
- Initiate and manage partnership agreements, sub-awards and sub-contracts with external collaborators

Fiscal Stewardship

- Provide support to researchers to facilitate the management of research funds and ensure financial management and control on behalf of external Sponsors.
- Ensure the preparation and submission of financial reports to sponsors according to set deadlines
- Coordinate and respond to audits and monitoring visits requested by sponsors in collaboration with other units such as bursary, procurement services and the researcher.

IN THE NEWS

- COVID-19 Emergency Response and Research Committee
- Certification Of Department Of Virology Laboratory For Diagnosis Of Covid-19
- Oyo State partners UI on COVID 19
- COVID 19 – UI produces, distributes 2000 face masks

The Economics of COVID-19 and Research in Sub Saharan Africa



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COVID-19 pandemic, which originated from Wuhan in China, with global spread does not only constitute public health challenge but has degenerated to global economic concerns. The pandemic that has globally infected (confirmed cases) over 3.3 million people, with more than 233,000 fatalities, and more than a million recovery, as at end of April does not exempt Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries, which accounts for over 25,700 confirmed cases, with over 990 deaths, and less than 9,200 recovered. In the absence of any potent vaccine or proven therapy protocol for treating COVID-19, the pandemic constitutes the widest morbidity and mortality incidence across the globe, despite great advances in diagnostic testing and control measures (lockdown, social/physical distancing). Though the incidence of COVID-19 is far less than that of Malaria cases (over 213 million) and deaths (405,000) in Africa, the economic consequences far outweigh malaria's. The search for a permanent solution currently eludes the world, despite researchers' efforts, which is limited to development of a variety of testing kits and ventilators. There appears a ray of hope of using existing drug to treat COVID-19 patients. This is still being experimented and there are 102 ongoing vaccine trials.

While the economic impact appears to be more severe on SSA, the perspective of research efforts in SSA may herald a potentially different dimension. SSA countries basically face a dilemma of choosing between curbing the spread of coronavirus and preventing hunger from slaughtering the dominantly poor population. This write up presents an economic dissection of COVID-19 pandemic and research efforts in SSA.

The outbreaks of COVID-19 in SSA has inflicted great economic damages and costs to African society, in form of direct costs of testing, isolating, and treating the disease; reduction in the supply of labour due to sick/dying workforce, as well as disruption of education, social interactions, and economic activities arising from partial/total lockdown. The economics of COVID-19 is best dissected by examining the benefits, costs, and effectiveness of underlying policy measures around the pandemic, the associated damages, and who bears the economic burdens. Africa economy is generally dominated by the informal sector, in which more than two-thirds of the workforce relies on returns from daily economic activities to survive. In addition, the social safety net is weak, while many lives in poverty. The majority lives in constant fear and threat of losing their lives to hunger, as daily economic earning is barely sufficient to meet daily basic needs. This implies daily survival is dependent on daily economic activities. With COVID-19 emerging, and the resultant adoption of policy measures

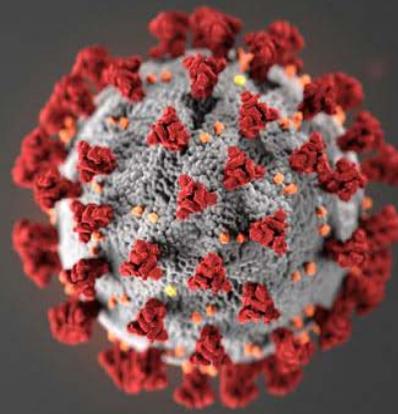
(physical distancing and lockdowns, with minimal palliatives), the implication on the economic life of the society evolves.

The treatment of patients requires first diagnostic test to confirm cases and then commencement of treatment to save life. On the preventive side, lockdown is imposed along with social/physical distancing to curb the spread of the virus. While the social/physical distancing measure is a disruption of the communal nature of Africans living, the lockdown throws up the dilemma of having to choose between surviving hunger and avoiding being infected. The truth is that hunger is more real to the people than the threat of the coronavirus. With the struggle and reluctance to give up economic life for avoiding COVID-19 infection, Africans are increasingly getting stocked in a dilemma of how best to guarantee survival. While Western countries may be able to survive an extended lockdown period, this is a grave challenge to Africans given the poor state of social welfare.

The cost of the COVID-19 to the society cuts across all economic agents. There is the mixture of financial burden on government, having to embark on fresh investment in the health sector to be able to deal with the pandemic, loss of government revenue from shrinking tax-base and dried international trade. For firms, business operations are grounded to a halt, with small and medium scales businesses facing the fear of possible extinction. Also human capital has become greatly redundant, having to contend with productivity loss hindering ability to generate income, weakening consumption, and compounding social welfare problems, and disruption of learning/education. The damages that accompany the pandemic are equally enormous, as domestic economies of countries are faced with possible onset of recession, as well as disruption of the social fabric of the people. Ironically, the households who are dominantly poor disproportionately shoulder the economic burden associated with COVID-19, with firms left to their fortunes, and weak government intervention capacity.

The reality is that COVID-19 has affected virtually every facet of human life, ranging from health to economy, social interaction, and future of human existence. Apart from the fear of continued observance of physical distancing beyond 2022, the possibility of having to live with the virus has been expressed. If COVID-19 is going to enforce a critical turning point in human co-existence, then several windows of research needs and opportunities will have to be undertaken, as the immediate future of our living requires modification. The critical issue here is what will and should be the new perspective of research in SSA in the context of COVID-19? An attempt is currently being made to develop a vaccine and establish proven therapy protocol for the virus, as well as supportive technological appliances. The SSA researchers cannot afford to sit back and wait for solutions from the developed world. There is a need for SSA to step up to the plate of solution to global public health challenges. Drawing on a wealth of experience in dealing with Ebola and infectious diseases, researchers at the Institute Pasteur Laboratory in Dakar, Senegal has been reported to have developed \$1-COVID-19 rapid diagnostic test kit to test for coronavirus, as well as \$60-ventilator to support treatment of patients. Replicating what obtains in many Asian countries, it is high time that Africa gave a prominent shot at her native/traditional medicine, subjecting its potency to scientific authentication. Though not recognized by WHO, Madagascar's Malagasy Institute of Applied Research also recently came up with a COVID-19 remedy. Against all hurdles, these are demonstrations of the fact that Africa can contribute solutions to global public health challenges at even a relatively cheaper cost. The promotion of drugs and treatment protocols from Western World has over the years shifted resources out of the region. This might be a window of opportunity for SSA to make a difference on the global plane. Apart from a sense of fulfillment to humanity, economic benefits are embedded in research discoveries, of which SSA can internalize. Also, academics in SSA have important role to play in designing and contextualizing the way forward: medically, technologically, economically, socially, and politically, that will best suit the region in the post-COVID-19 era. This will, however, require extra and sufficient funding of education and research institutions by government and private organizations in the SSA.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COVID-19



The novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is a new strain of the virus that has not been previously identified in humans. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Federal Ministry of Health, through the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has activated a national Emergency Operations Centre at the highest level and is leading the national response. A National Rapid Response Team has been deployed to support affected State Governments with response activities.

As at 1st of May 2020 there were 18 laboratories in NCDC's molecular laboratory network with the capacity to test for COVID-19 in Nigeria, more are still being added. These laboratories were sufficiently equipped with reagents and supplies for testing.

On the 27th of April, President Muhammadu Buhari announced that there would be a phased and gradual easing of the lockdown in these locations. He added that, however, the following additional preventive measures would be enforced:

- Mandatory use of non-medical face mask/covering for all persons while in public spaces. Use of medical latex hand gloves are prohibited
- Mandatory provision of handwashing facilities/sanitizers and extensive temperature checks in all public spaces. Anyone with temperature above 38 degrees Celsius will not be allowed into public spaces and should be told to return home
- Mandatory temperature checks in public spaces
- Prohibition of interstate travel except for essential travels and services
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons outside of a workplace
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons at a funeral; all infection prevention and control measures and physical distancing of 2 metres must be adhered to
- Controlled access to markets and locations of economic activities
- Physical distancing of 2 metres between people in workplaces and other public spaces

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Members of the University Community should undertake simple measures to prevent the spread of the virus, by following these measures:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap under running water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitiser if water is not available
- Cover your mouth and nose properly with a tissue paper when sneezing and/or coughing. Dispose of the tissue properly immediately after use. You may also cough into your elbow if a tissue is not available
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing repeatedly
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance with other people when in public places
- Wear a non-medical face mask/covering when leaving the house
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Ensure routine cleaning of high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones, light switches etc.
- Consciously distance yourself at least two (2) meters to the next person. Stay 6 feet away, especially if the person around is coughing or sneezing.
- Do not shake hands or hug any person.
- Unnecessary visitors should not be allowed
- An ill person should be asked to stay away from the office
- Offices can practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example tables, desk, light switch, sinks, electronics, door handles, toilets, etc.
- If you have recently returned from a place or area within the last 14 days with widespread of transmission and have a fever, cough, or breathing difficulty, stay at home and call your state hotline or the NCDC on 080097000010.
- Self-isolate if you returned from any place or area within the last 14 days with widespread transmission of COVID-19

ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

COVID-19 appears to cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like fever, cough and difficulty breathing. From current evidence, about 80 persons out of 100 persons with the disease will recover. In about 10- 15% of cases, it will cause severe illness. It appears that death is not a common outcome and occurs mostly in patients with underlying health issues.

There is no specific treatment yet for COVID-19. However, many of the symptoms can be treated. Treatment is based on the patient's clinical condition, but supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

The above are precautionary measures to guide and protect us as individuals and entire system at large. Therefore, we are encouraged to kindly observe the prevention measures conscientiously.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE



The novel coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Emergency Response Research Committee was convened by the University Management earlier in March 2020 in response to the global novel SARS-CoV-2 infection. The Committee's terms of reference were to provide action towards mitigation and research on COVID-19. The Committee has the following sub-teams

- a. Information, communication and education
 - b. Environmental sanitation, biosafety and biosecurity
 - c. Data management and analysis (modelling)
 - d. Behavioural studies and community engagement
 - e. Case tracking and management
 - f. Economic implication of covid-19
 - g. Research;
 - Surveillance
 - Laboratory/Diagnosis
 - Applied studies
 - Ecology of Corona virus
- The case tracking and management sub-team is represented in the Oyo State Government COVID-19 task force to ensure we have correct and up to date data on COVID-19 in Oyo State.
 - The Environmental sanitation, biosafety and biosecurity team members who are technical experts from the Departments of Environmental Health and Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Ibadan are members of the Oyo State COVID-19 containment team, ably lead by Prof. Olanike K. Adeyemo, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships), University of Ibadan. This team has commenced providing technical support for the decontamination of identified high-risk areas which started with the Oyo State Secretariat, Oyo Government house and annexes. The University of Ibadan, students served as volunteers for this exercise.
 - The Information, Education and Communication subcommittee has been publicising the activities of the University of Ibadan with reference to COVID-19 in the form of news stories. This sub-team has published four such stories dealing with the production of hand sanitisers, closure of two of four gates of the University, the need to go beyond social to physical distancing, and the designation of the UI virology laboratory as a test centre for Covid-19. Many online news outlets have picked these stories and published them on their sites. The plans to produce jingles, interviews etc are on hold pending budget approval.
 - The Data management and analysis committee collects data for weekly surveillance, mapping, modelling, situational assessment and future projections on COVID-19.
 - The research sub-teams (Information, Education and Communication, Environmental sanitation, biosafety and biosecurity, Data management and analysis (modelling), Behavioural studies and community engagement, Case tracking and management, Economic implication of COVID-19, Research [Surveillance, Laboratory/Diagnosis, Applied studies], Ecology of the SARS-CoV-2) have developed short-term research proposals towards containment of COVID-19. These proposals are currently being processed.

CERTIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VIROLOGY LABORATORY FOR DIAGNOSIS OF COVID-19

A severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), was reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019. The WHO officially named the disease caused by a novel virus "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" on February 12, 2020. The infection has since spread across other countries, now a pandemic with about three million confirmed cases and over 200,000 deaths globally as at 27 of April 2020. In Nigeria, the first case of COVID-19 was reported on the 27th of February from Lagos in an Italian who came to the country from Italy two days before. Since then, the virus has been reported in 32 of the 36 states of the Federation and FCT



Prof. Georgina Odaibo
HOD, Virology

The Department of Virology established a Virus Research Laboratory with a mandate for virus surveillance, isolation and characterization from different part of the country has always played a major role in the investigation of outbreaks of various virus infections in Nigeria including influenza in 1968-72, yellow fever of 1986/87 and 1992/94, avian flu of 2006, swine flu of 2009, Ebola of 2014, just to mention a few.

The Department, therefore, has capacity in terms of the state of the art facilities and staff with the necessary skills for modern laboratory techniques required for diagnosis of viral infections. In addition, the Department has international accreditation (ISO 15189) for serology and molecular Virology.



The Department has been part of the NCDC network of public health laboratories since the inception of NCDC. With confirmation of spread of the SARS-CoV-2 in Nigeria, the NCDC expanded testing centres for the virus in the country in addition to the initial Lagos, Abuja and Iruua. Thus, from 23rd to 25th of March 2020, the NCDC protocol for COVID-19 diagnosis was optimised for application in the Department of Virology Laboratory and approved as one of the COVID19 testing centres in the country with the mandate to analyse samples from Oyo, Ogun and Kwara States.

Testing for COVID-19 in the Department started officially on the 1st of April with samples from Kwara, Ogun and Oyo States. As of the time of this report, the laboratory had received and tested well over one thousand samples. The Laboratory currently has capacity to analyse over 200 specimens with plans to ramp up testing with time to about 500 samples per day.

The Director-General of NCDC had a tour of the laboratory on 21 April 2020 as part of his one-day working visit to Oyo state during which he reiterated support of

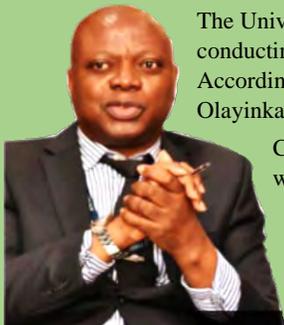




NCDC to the laboratory which is one of the first laboratories in the NCDC Lab Network.

The laboratory has also been enjoying tremendous support of Oyo state government. Certification of the Department for diagnosis of COVID-19 will provide additional research opportunities on COVID-19 at the University of Ibadan and international collaboration on this important disease.

GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

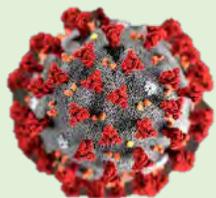


The University of Ibadan has released a guideline for conducting research during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka, in his forward to the document, "the global COVID-19 pandemic has taken the entire world unaware.

While researchers will continue to carry out their researches others will be on the verge of embarking on new studies relevant to solving the challenges of pandemic. It is,

therefore, incumbent on the University of Ibadan to provide guideline for engaging in research responsibly during this period of public health emergency in line with national and international standards". The Vice Chancellor was of the view that with the guideline researchers in the university will be properly guided and the frontiers of knowledge in research will be further promoted during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

COVID 19 Activities



Oyo State Government Partners UI on COVID 19

The Oyo State Government partners with the University of Ibadan on Containment and Decontamination Project as part of its activities to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor on Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, Professor Olanike Adeyemo led the committee to discharge this responsibility. In her address, she requested religious organisations, owners of businesses and corporate organisations in the state to embark on fumigation of their premises to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The activity was carried out successfully with many members of staff and student of the University participating.

COVID 19 – UI PRODUCES, DISTRIBUTES 2000 FACE MASKS

The University of Ibadan through its COVID-19 Response Committee produced and distributed over 2000 face masks to members of the university committee and neighbouring communities on Tuesday, 28 April 2020. Speaking at the flag-off of the distribution of the masks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships), Prof. Olanike K. Adeyemo said that the University was aware of the huge number of people for whom buying a good face mask might be a difficult financial burden. These were the targeted beneficiaries of the UI donation. [Read More...](#)

HONOURS AND DISTINCTIONS



Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole, the immediate past Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan and former Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was conferred one of the Japanese's highest national awards by the monarch of Japan, His Majesty Emperor Naruhito. The news of this honour was made known by the Ambassador of Japan to Nigeria, Mr. Kikuta Yutaka, indicating that this year's foreign recipient of the 2020 Spring Imperial Decorations is Professor Adewole. According to the Ambassador, Professor Adewole will receive The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, one of the highest order awarded in the name of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, in recognition of his contributions towards strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and Nigeria, inter Alia, in the health sector. The University of Ibadan Research community rejoices with our indefatigable immediate past Vice Chancellor of this great University on the occasion of this lofty achievement.

GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

Research Net

This funding opportunity is part of Government of Canada's [continued rapid response](#) to address the health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will enable rapid and timely research responsive to the current phase of COVID-19 pandemic in Canada and around the globe, which is focused on slowing and stopping the spread of SARS-CoV-2, including but not limited to:

- understanding the underlying pathophysiology and immunological response;
- developing and testing therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics;
- providing evidence for best care strategies to those who are suffering from severe disease;
- creating evidence-based policies to support health workers and health systems as well as those designated as essential services, in coping with the significant burden posed by COVID-19; and
- ongoing, adaptive social and public health responses.

Given the absence of vaccines and effective therapies, the current focus in Canada is reducing transmission of COVID-19 through individual and population-level measures, including personal hygiene, physical distancing, testing, isolating and tracking contacts and travel restrictions. The sharp increase in infections and hospitalizations observed elsewhere, including in low- and middle-income countries, indicate that there is also need for support of health systems and health workers to prevent the system(s) from being overwhelmed.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic and international organizations (e.g., Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada, United States National Institutes of Health, and World Health Organization) have played critical roles in providing guidance, sharing data and coordinating the global response. The WHO R&D Blueprint has served as a guiding framework for international coordination, including the preparation of a coordinated [Global Research Roadmap](#). The Government of Canada's research investments have additionally been informed by its participation in the [Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness \(GloPID-R\)](#), an international organization composed of 28 members that coordinates closely with WHO.

Canada has a rich history of relevant expertise in health research to find solutions to the issues raised by COVID-19, especially through intervention research, health outcomes research and clinical trials. Moreover, research is a critical component of the response to COVID-19 as it informs the evidence base underpinning the effective deployment of these actions.

A broad portfolio of research is needed to effectively mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19 and minimize its direct and indirect impacts on individuals and communities within and across jurisdictions in Canada and globally. Mitigation strategies require a coherent and integrated response from all Canadians, and especially from health care workers, researchers, public health authorities, industry, policymakers, and the health system. As such, research projects funded through this call are encouraged to amplify existing national and international networks, including in low- and middle- income countries, infrastructures and relationships with partners in order to leverage efforts and increase timeliness, efficiency, and impact of response.

Competition	202005CVR
Application Deadline	2020-05-11
Anticipated Notice of Decision	2020-06-02
Funding Start Date	2020-05-01

[Click here for more information](#)

Covid-19 and the Social Sciences

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC), as part of its [Covid-19 Initiative](#), seeks proposals from across the social sciences and related fields that address the social, economic, cultural, psychological, and political impact of Covid-19 in the United States and globally, as well as responses to the pandemic's wide-ranging effects.

Applications are due June 1, 2020. Apply online at apply.ssrc.org.

Overview:

As the Covid-19 pandemic has unfolded across the globe, virtually no dimension of social life has been untouched—from individual decisions about safety to governmental decisions on public health and economic policy; from households to the workplace; and from technology-mediated human interaction under conditions of “social distancing” to the circulation, uses, and impact of information and disinformation. While essential public health and economic research in measuring and modeling Covid-19 and its effects is underway, the full range of the social sciences—its questions, analytical frameworks, and methods—needs to be drawn upon to understand the pandemic as a social phenomenon, and

be drawn upon to understand the pandemic as a social phenomenon, and to inform responses based on knowledge of human interactions and institutions.

While new knowledge is urgently needed, in the present moment many social science research methodologies are either not possible or require adaptation in order to protect the health and safety of both researchers and research subjects. The SSRC's Covid-19 Rapid-Response Grants thus support innovative research projects that deploy remote research methods to shed light on both the short- and potential long-term effects of Covid-19 across a range of issues. These include:

- “Social distancing” and virtual social interaction
- Governance and democracy
- Public trust and (dis)information
- Social inequality and the pandemic's disproportionate effects by race and ethnicity
- The lessons of past disasters, and responses to them, for the present
- The role of religious ideas, practices, and institutions in responding to the pandemic
- The workplace and labor markets
- Technology, surveillance, and ethics
- The uses of, and the limits to, modeling in responses to the pandemic's effects and in scenario planning

These topics are illustrative. Applicants are welcome to propose others. Projects focused on groups most affected by the pandemic are especially encouraged, as are those that can constructively inform responses across communities, public actors and institutions, and others.

Eligibility and Criteria:

The Covid-19 Rapid-Response Grants invites proposals from researchers who hold a PhD in any social science disciplines or related interdisciplinary fields. The grants offer research support for up to six months toward research-related expenses. These include, but are not limited to, access to data sets, archives and relevant publications, costs related to conducting online research of various kinds, and research assistance. Applications are welcome from any country around the world. Awards will range from USD\$2,000 to \$5,000, with the possibility of slightly more support for collaborative projects of two or more researchers.

Proposals will be evaluated by a multidisciplinary review committee based on their relevance to the topic, quality and intellectual merit, potential for innovation, the fit between their research question and research design, and feasibility under current constraints on research. Applicants should describe in some detail how they intend to address these constraints in the methods they propose, as well as the ethical dimensions of their research plans and methods. Applicants should specify their intended outputs for the project and the audience(s) for those outputs. Successful applicants will be expected to participate in an online workshop with other grantees and are required to contribute at least one brief essay to SSRC's digital forum *Items: Insights from the Social Sciences*.

To Apply

Applications must be submitted through the SSRC's [online application system](#) by 11:59 p.m. EST, June 1, 2020. Applications will consist of a five-page research proposal, an application form, budget, and a curriculum vitae. Awards will be announced in July 2020.

Get funding for ideas that address COVID-19

Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. Researchers holding existing UKRI standard grants should in the first instance consider whether they could repurpose that funding to address the objectives of this call. You can [apply to switch your existing funding here](#).

- **Project length:** Up to 18 months
- **Closing date:** none - apply at any time
- **Funding:** 80% of the full economic cost (fEC) for Research Council funding. For Innovate UK funding, State Aid rules apply. Please see guidance [here](#).
- **Award range:** There is no specific budget for this call. We are interested in funding research of any scale that can demonstrate it will deliver impact in the project length.

Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. UKRI will support excellent proposals up to 18 months duration which meet at least one of the following:

- new research or innovation with a clear impact pathway that has the potential (within the period of the grant) to deliver a significant contribution to the understanding of, and response to, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts.
- supports the manufacture and/or wide scale adoption of an intervention with significant potential
- gathers critical data and resources quickly for future research use

If a grant is awarded, we will provide funding at 80% of the fEC or in line with Innovate UK's Funding Rules.

See our regularly updated list of [research and innovation projects and other awards supported by UKRI](#)

EDCTP 2020 calls for proposals

Six EDCTP 2020 calls for proposals will open 10 April 2020 with various deadlines in July and August 2020, allowing ample time to prepare proposals.

Ethics and regulatory capacities (CSA2020ERC)

Call budget: €2.5 million

Expected number of grants: 6-8

Open date: 10 April 2020

Deadline: 16 July 2020

This call for proposals aims to support sub-Saharan African countries to establish and/or develop robust national medicines regulatory systems and capacities for ethical review of clinical research and use of medicinal products and technologies in humans, as well as national and international collaboration in compliance with established, internationally acceptable good practices. This scheme targets projects with active involvement of National Ethics Committees (NECs) and/or National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) from countries with both weak and strong ethics and regulatory capacities in SSA.

[Read more](#)

EDCTP Regional Networks (CSA2020NoE)

Call budget: €18 million

Expected number of grants: 4

Open date: 10 April 2020

Deadline: 23 July 2020

EDCTP has funded four regional networks, defined geographically as Southern, Eastern, Western, and Central Africa. These were established following a call for proposals in the EDCTP 2015 work plan. The specific objectives of these EDCTP Regional Networks included: strengthening clinical research capacity in order to be able to conduct multi-country clinical trials to ICH-GCP standards; enhancing collaboration and optimising the use of resources and infrastructures within the network; offering training and mentorship aimed at promoting professional development and scientific leadership in clinical trials; strengthening South-South and North-South collaborations between researchers and institutions; encouraging and promoting networking and dialogue between researchers, communities and policy makers to maximise the impact of clinical research in Africa.

The purpose of this Call for Proposals is to provide continued funding to EDCTP Regional Networks that have demonstrated significant progress towards achieving the pre-defined deliverables set out in the 2015 call.

[Read more](#)

Capacity development for disease outbreak and epidemic response in sub-Saharan Africa, in collaboration with Africa CDC (CSA2020E)

Call budget: €5 million

Expected number of grants: 7-10 grants

Opening date: 10 April 2020

Deadline: 30 July 2020

This call for proposals aims to establish an African cohort of epidemiologists. Support will be given to institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe that provide master's training in epidemiology and biostatistics, as part of the Africa CDC's framework for public health work force development. Master's courses with practical field research experience are the preferable level of training. They are of relatively short duration and likely to deliver the required number of high-quality staff that is urgently needed in epidemic zones of sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more](#)

Career Development Fellowships in poverty-related diseases and child and adolescent health (TMA2020CDF)

Call budget: €3.75 million

Expected number of grants: 16-25

Open date: 10 April 2020

Deadline: 05 August 2020

The purpose of this call for proposals is to support early- to mid-career researchers ("fellows") by providing them with opportunities to train and develop their clinical research skills. The objectives are 1) to promote retention of postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate medical researchers in the clinical or field research of sub-Saharan Africa; and 2) equip the fellows to establish themselves as independent researchers with ability to establish their own research teams at host institutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more](#)

Strategic actions to maximise the impact of research on reducing disease burden, in collaboration with development cooperation initiatives (RIA2020S)

Call budget: €23.4 million

Expected number of grants: 5-15

Open date: 10 April 2020

Deadline: 13 August 2020

The purpose of this call for proposals is to support distinct strategic actions which are part of a large-scale programme of development cooperation actions. Projects should focus on research to maximise the uptake of products and health interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. This may include actions to: enhance the uptake of research findings or products and interventions; provide evidence to translate findings into policy guidelines and clinical practice; improve implementation, delivery and roll-out of interventions to increase population coverage, acceptability and adherence; improve the monitoring of product safety post-marketing and surveillance; pragmatic clinical trials evaluating interventions under real-world clinical care settings. The projects should be implemented in conjunction with development cooperation initiatives

that are supported by national and/or international development cooperation initiatives and/or other funders, including relevant WHO initiatives where appropriate.

[Read more](#)

EDCTP 2020 work plan

The 2020 calls for proposals may also be found in the EDCTP Annual Work Plan 2020, which was approved by the European Commission on 24 March 2020 and by the EDCTP Board on behalf of the General Assembly on 27 March 2020.

Moreover, the work plan contains other EU-funded EDCTP activities to be commenced in 2020 (such as work shops and stakeholder meetings) and a description of the Participating States' Initiated Activities (PSIAs). PSIAs are research activities funded and managed by EDCTP member countries themselves which are nonetheless considered to be part of the EDCTP programme and count as financial contributions by the member countries. PSIA's contribute to achieving the overall objectives of the EDCTP2 programme.

[EDCTP Work Plan 2020](#) (PDF)

Capacity building interventions

The Fund will look for applications specifically linked to tackling COVID-19 in relation to the following six UN Sustainable Development Goals:

The categories of application are:

- New Ideas with Proof of Concept, Funding Opportunity: Grants ranging from US\$ 50,000-100,000
- Capacity Building in Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Opportunity: Grants ranging from US\$ 100,000-150,000
- Scaling up of Innovative Projects, Funding Opportunity: Equity Participation up to US\$ 300,000
- Commercialization of Technology Funding Opportunity: Equity Participation up to US\$ 1,000,000

Through Transform, innovative ideas will be translated into real development solutions that will address development challenges and empower the communities and youth in particular to realize their full potential.

Linked to the [Engage](#) hub, Transform will accelerate science, technology and innovation led solutions that drive economic and social progress in the developing world.

For eligibility criteria and other operational matters, candidates may be assisted by referring to Operational [Guidelines for the Application](#) for Transform Fund.

Innovative approaches to enhance poverty-related diseases research (RIA2020I)

Call budget: €23.4 million

Expected number of grants: 5-15

Open date: 10 April 2020

Deadline: 13 August 2020

This call for proposals aims to fund a number of small- to medium-scale clinical trials and/or clinical research studies that can deliver proof-of-concept or validation of smart, highly innovative technologies or concepts to prevent, treat or diagnose PRDs in sub-Saharan Africa. The call is strictly aimed at supporting novel innovations, and therefore excludes concepts and technologies that have previously been commercialised, rolled out, tested in large trials, or are already in routine use in healthcare settings.

[Read more](#)

Islamic Development Bank / June 01, 2020

Call for Innovation via Transform Fund 2020

Enhancing Member Countries Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

The IsDB Group is coordinating a wide-ranging response to the impact of **COVID-19**. It has set up a Strategic Preparedness and Response Facility which will oversee a response package. The facility will focus on emergency preparedness to curb the spread of the COVID-19, minimizing the socio-economic impact of the pandemic especially on poor communities, and building the resilience of our Member Countries in responding to outbreaks and pandemics.

We recognise our Member Countries need the necessary tools to be more resilient to epidemics and pandemics as well the ability to quickly recovery economically. These tools and interventions will have long-term benefits beyond a specific pandemic event.

One of the many issues this pandemic has shown us, is that our survival depends on how much we keep investing in science, technology and innovation.

The IsDB has a longstanding commitment to harnessing the powers of STI as a means to unlocking global development challenges. Our US \$500 million **Transform Fund**, launched in 2018, invests in early stage innovative ideas and the scaling of innovations by providing seed money for innovators, entrepreneurs, startups, SMEs and institutions that need initial funding and growth capital to develop their ideas.

We are pleased to announce the **Transform Fund Call for Innovation 2020** will focus entirely on supporting our Member Countries long-term preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This Call will operate in addition to the IsDB Group's other wide-ranging initiatives coordinated by our Strategic Preparedness and Response Facility.

Open from 1 April 2020, the Call for Innovation will identify, encourage and reward innovative proposals that will benefit local communities focused on the following:

[The application of advanced technology](#)

[Innovative health supply chain management systems](#)

[Development of Low-cost rapid tests and screening methods](#)

AHRC Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Urgency Grants pilot

Recognising the fast-moving nature of many of the challenges facing low or middle income countries (LMICs), the AHRC has launched this scheme to provide an accelerated funding outlet for urgent arts and humanities research priorities.

Funded as a part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), it is an open, responsive mechanism through which arts and humanities researchers (working with other disciplines where appropriate) can respond to unanticipated **urgent** research needs, including (but not limited to) disasters, humanitarian emergencies, rapid radical political or economic change, changes to conflicts, major displacements of populations etc., or unanticipated time-limited opportunities for research to contribute to international development policy or practice.

PLEASE NOTE: *The AHRC GCRF Urgency Grants Pilot is still running and is open to applications addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and associated international development challenges and impacts, providing they meet the eligibility requirements for the pilot.*

Eligible projects must be fully compliant with the requirements of Official Development Assistance (ODA), addressing a development need or challenge with the potential to support low or middle income countries meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, applications must demonstrate the case for urgency, explaining why there

is a need for arts and humanities research to be conducted within specified time constraints that cannot be supported through other funding routes.

NB: The primary focus of this scheme is to provide an accelerated route for funding projects where there is a *demonstrably time-limited window of opportunity to conduct research or deliver project impact/outputs*. It is *not* intended to provide a funding route for projects that may address urgent GCRF related problems, but that could reasonably be expected to be funded through existing AHRC/UKRI funding schemes and calls to contribute to international development policy or practice.

PLEASE NOTE: *The AHRC GCRF Urgency Grants Pilot is still running and is open to applications addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and associated international development challenges and impacts, providing they meet the eligibility requirements for the pilot.*

Eligible projects must be fully compliant with the requirements of Official Development Assistance (ODA), addressing a development need or challenge with the potential to support low or middle income countries meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, applications must demonstrate the case for urgency, explaining why there is a need for arts and humanities research to be conducted within specified time constraints that cannot be supported through other funding routes.

NB: The primary focus of this scheme is to provide an accelerated route for funding projects where there is a *demonstrably time-limited window of opportunity to conduct research or deliver project impact/outputs*. It is *not* intended to provide a funding route for projects that may address urgent GCRF related problems, but that could reasonably be expected to be funded through existing AHRC/UKRI funding schemes and calls.

Applications for full economic costs up to **£150,000** for a period of up to **12 months** may be submitted at any time during the period of the pilot scheme. Applicants interested in applying should first submit an expression of interest to the AHRC at the earliest opportunity following the emergence of the urgency need or context. If the expression of interest is considered to fall within the scope of the scheme, applicants will then be invited to submit a full application through Je-S for consideration through an accelerated peer review process.

For full details see Call Guidance document below.

Closing Date: 31/10/2020

This Pilot Scheme will close to new expressions of interest at **1600 hours on 31 October 2020** after which AHRC will review the pilot and consider extending or revising the scheme.

How to make an application

Applicants interested in applying should first submit an expression of interest to the AHRC (see link below) at the earliest opportunity following the emergence of the urgency need. The AHRC will aim to provide eligibility decisions within five working days of receipt.

If the expression of interest is considered to fall within the scope of the scheme, applicants will then be invited to submit a full application via Je-S for consideration through an accelerated peer-review process. Where feasible, AHRC aims to complete the review process and deliver a funding decision within four working weeks from submission of the full proposal in Je-S.

Following the removal of the distinct Pathways to Impact attachment and the Impact Summary, applicants will be expected to show how the research provides impact throughout the application, and especially within the Case for Support.

Given the importance of development impact to ODA research, applicants will still be required to address this impact within their application. Further details will be provided on where development impact should be articulated, but in the interim we would encourage applicants to bear such matters in mind as they develop their proposals.

Key features of this call:

- Fund Limit: up to fEC £150,000
- Project duration: maximum 12 months
- Projects must be fully ODA compliant
- Applications must demonstrate how the project meets the urgency requirements of the scheme

- Full applications will be required to include a gender equality statement
- Proposals must draw significantly on relevant arts and humanities research literature, concepts or approaches and include significant research expertise within the remit of the AHRC
- Please note that this scheme can only provide funding for research projects led by organisations with a recognised research capacity. It cannot fund direct development projects, supplies or equipment

Expression of Interest: [SmartSurvey: GCRF Urgency Call - AHRC Global Challenges Research Fund \(GCRF\) Urgency Grants pilot - Guidance \(PDF, 294KB\)](#)

For more information on the call, contact enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org.

Funding for COVID-19 Research & Development priorities in Africa

In light of the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Africa, the African Academy of Sciences is committed to supporting African researchers to accelerate the development of diagnostics, vaccines and drugs to save as many lives and livelihoods as possible," says Prof Nelson Torto, Executive Director at the African Academy of Sciences (AAS).

The AAS today announced the commitment of at least USD \$3 million in funding to expedite the research and development (R&D) of scientific interventions for COVID-19 in nine major priority areas for Africa. These priorities have been defined in consultation with leading African scientific experts and packaged into the report: Research and Development goals for COVID-19 in Africa: the AAS priority setting exercise. The report validates the World Health Organisation (WHO) global research roadmap on COVID-19 and includes additional important R&D areas for Africa to address to tackle this and future pandemics as informed by the African scientific community.

On 11th March 2020, the WHO declared the outbreak COVID-19, a global pandemic. Today, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and prevention (Africa CDC), more than 50 African countries have reported 37,000+ cases, 1,500+ deaths and 12,000+ recoveries from the pandemic. Governments have taken measures to stop the spread of the disease. However, with large populations living in shared accommodation, relying on day to day income, mitigation measures such as physical distancing may not be easy to implement raising fears that the expected impact may be significant for Africa.

The funding for COVID-19 R&D priorities aims to expedite and accelerate scientific breakthroughs in support to finding local solutions for the global pandemic. The funding has been made possible through the partnership between the AAS, Wellcome and Grand Challenges Africa partners Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation & Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

"The COVID-19 pandemic further highlights the need to build and maintain local research capacity in Africa to address the current crisis and prepare for future pandemics. Pandemics require global cooperation as well as efforts considering local contexts and developing local solutions. Given the multiple dimensions and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, transdisciplinary approaches involving health, natural and social sciences are urgently needed," says AnnaMaria Oltorp, Head of Research Cooperation Unit, Sida.

Given the urgency of addressing the priority research questions within short-term timelines, this call is targeted to the AAS defined community of research programmes already enlisted as Principal Investigators, institutions and/or already working on COVID-19 agendas.

Funding of up to US\$ 200,000 will be awarded to researchers of the Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science in Africa

(DELTA Africa), Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa), Postdoctoral and Human Heredity and Health for Africa (H3Africa) programmes. The funding will be offered to African scientists to research around the following nine identified scientific priorities: Infection prevention and control, including health care protection, Epidemiological studies, Clinical management, Candidate vaccines, Candidate therapeutics, Ethical considerations for research, Virus natural history, transmission and diagnostics, Social sciences in the outbreak response, Animal and human research on the virus origin and management measures at the human-animal interface.

Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary groups are encouraged to apply for this grant. Collaborations between institutions especially those in different geographical regions in Africa are welcome to apply and will be given favourable consideration. Other groups that will be prioritized are those that have already started work on COVID-19 and require additional funding.

"We will adopt a grant management approach that will guarantee a quick-turnaround process of receiving applications, rigorous review, decisions, and final disbursements, while at the same time mobilising additional resources for this required scientific priorities. We continue to work closely with our GC Africa partners who are providing us with the flexibility needed during this unprecedented time," says Moses Alogo, Co-chair of the AAS COVID-19 response team and Grand Challenges Africa Programme Manager.

"There are many examples from around the world demonstrating that no single country has a monopoly on how to tackle the pandemic. We are supporting this fund to enable the AAS to catalyse African-led solutions, and from which the world can then learn," says Simon Kay, Head International Operations, Wellcome.

Call for proposal details

The application process is simple, rigorous and transparent and will enable the AAS to identify and fund identified research priorities across the continent to get ahead of the rapid spread of COVID-19:

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications through the AAS Ishango Online Grants Management system. The call shall be open for two (2) months with the application deadline on June 30, 2020.

After the call goes live, triage shall be done after two (2) weeks to allow for a substantial number of applications to be submitted. Thereafter, triage will be done on a weekly basis.

Once all applications are submitted, they will be reviewed and evaluated on an ongoing basis by globally recognised scientists and research leaders. The entire rigorous and transparent selection process is anticipated to span five (5) weeks.

The review criteria will include but not limited to responsiveness of the application to research objectives, strength of PIs and Co-PIs, rationale, approach, feasibility of the proposed research, relevance of their research and strategies for identifying and documenting impact.

All shortlisted applicants will who will make recommendations for funding to the AAS guided by set criteria.

Final successful applicants will be selected and receive the awards for implementation of their R&D projects.

*Although the call for proposals is closed to grantees from AAS funded programme: DELTA Africa, GC Africa, Postdoctoral programme and H3Africa, this call will be open to all regions of Africa where these grantees are based.

To apply for the call visit the AAS COVID-19 webpage or go directly to the funding webpage here.

Note to the editor

The African Academy of Sciences

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is a non-aligned, non-political, not-for-profit pan African organisation whose vision is to see transformed lives on the African continent through science. Our tripartite mandate is recognising excellence through the AAS' highly prestigious fellowship and award schemes, providing advisory and think tank functions for shaping Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) strategies and policies and implementing key STI programmes addressing Africa's developmental challenges. The Academy's five strategic focus areas include: Environment and climate change; health and wellbeing; natural sciences; policy and governance; and social sciences and humanities.

Join us on Facebook.com/AASciences and Twitter @AASciences and learn more by visiting www.aasciences.africa

About Grand Challenges Africa

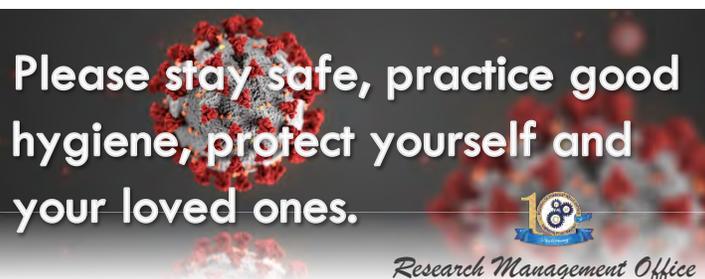
The Grand Challenges family of initiatives seeks to engage innovators from around the world to solve science, technology and innovation, health and developmental challenges. Grand Challenges initiatives are united by their focus on fostering innovation, directing research to where it will have the most impact, and serving those most in need. The Grand Challenges Africa scheme is part of the family and seeks to promote Africa-led scientific innovations to help countries better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by awarding seed and full grants to the continent's most impressive solutions. The AAS through its agenda setting, funding and programme implementation platform, the Alliance for Accelerating Science in Africa (AESA) implements GC Africa in partnership with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Wellcome

Wellcome exists to improve health by helping great ideas to thrive. We support researchers, we take on big health challenges, we campaign for better science, and we help everyone get involved with science and health research. We are a politically and financially independent foundation. www.wellcome.ac.uk

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, is Sweden's government agency for development cooperation. It works on behalf of the Swedish parliament and government with the aim of implementing Swedish development policies. The goal is to enable people living in poverty and oppression to improve their lives. Sida does not implement the aid interventions but works in partnership with other actors. Sida's role is to allocate financial resources and to develop knowledge and competence, while our partners manage and execute the projects. Each country is responsible for its own development, and our local partners always have the best solutions for local problems. The portfolio of the Research Cooperation Unit at Sida is guided by a strategy from the Swedish government that promotes capacity-building for research in low/lower-middle income countries, research of high quality and innovations that are of relevance to poverty reduction and sustainable development in low/lower-middle income countries and regions. www.sida.se/english



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