

Canadian Collaborative for Global Health

Request for Proposals and Submission Details - 2021



CanWaCH

Canadian Partnership for
Women and Children's Health

CanSFE

Partenariat canadien pour la
santé des femmes et des enfants



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Background

Building on the successes and lessons learned of the first **Canadian Collaborative for Global Health** ('the Collaborative'), CanWaCH is excited to announce the second iteration of this exciting initiative.

During the first version of the Collaborative, six unique partnerships (Labs) tackled a range of complex data challenges. The solutions and ideas emerging from these partnerships inspired dialogue, improved practice, and energized an emerging generation of global health and development professionals. You can learn more about the 2018-2020 initiative at www.canwach.ca

It was during this first iteration of the project that the COVID-19 pandemic caused tremendous upheaval around the world. Among its many impacts, COVID-19 highlighted the fragility of existing health information systems and prompted sector actors to re-imagine how data could be collected, managed, and utilized safely and efficiently. Coordination and capacity challenges were exposed, and sector actors were challenged to do more with existing data. As we approach the 2-year milestone since COVID-19 was first discovered, we continue to grapple with questions about what gains have been achieved or lost, and how we will measure and adapt to the magnitude of change we have experienced.

More than ever, COVID-19 has demonstrated how vital it is that sector actors work in partnership and adopt an innovation mindset, where we are prepared to adapt quickly and challenge conventional ways of working. The Collaborative is a unique mechanism through which this orientation can be fostered and encouraged, and we are excited to see what new ideas and solutions this iteration will bring.

CanWaCH contends that through investments in (1) **improved understanding** of barriers affecting data collection, analysis, utilization, and communication; (2) **increased availability** of data solution(s) to inform programing, planning, and learning; and (3) **strengthened partnerships** between diverse actors, led by those communities most affected, we will make significant progress towards achieving our collective global goals in health and rights.

The Collaborative is delivered with support from Global Affairs Canada.

A Multi-Phase Approach

Using a 2-phased approach, this second iteration of the Collaborative will bring together Canadian and global partners to generate solutions to urgent data challenges in global health and rights, and gender equality where (a) Canada has made significant contributions to date; and (b) significant gaps in data capacity, knowledge, or resources remain. This approach is a direct response to the feedback we received from Lab partners in the first iteration of the initiative.

During the **Inception Phase** (April 2022 - March 2023), selected Labs will investigate the underlying barriers to effective data progress in areas of global health, human rights, and gender equality, and work together to co-create potential solutions. Through this first phase, Labs will have an opportunity to determine if their idea merits additional in-depth investigation, make changes to activities, identify and bring in new partners to strengthen their impact, and solidify the relationships needed to make the scaling of their innovations a success.

During the **Exploration Phase** (April 2023 - March 2026), some or all of the Labs will receive increased funding to expand and/or scale their ideas and solutions, as well as to disseminate findings and inspire the next generation of Canadian leaders in these areas.

Through this RFP, CanWaCH is soliciting proposals for the **Inception Phase only**. Labs successful from the Inception Phase will be considered for the Exploration Phase.

The Collaborative Structure & Required Components of Work

CanWaCH invites co-created submissions for 'Labs' to tackle a critical data challenge in global health and gender equality, and propose and pilot a solution to address this challenge. Labs will be independent sites comprised of multi-stakeholder partnerships, leveraging the skills and strengths of all Lab partners.

The following outputs are expected from each Lab during the Inception Phase:

- **Output 1 - Investigative Inquiry:** Undertake rigorous research on the data challenge which the Lab seeks to address, including documenting existing approaches to fully situate, support, and assess the proposed solution.
 - **Questions:** What are the methodology, capacity, and resource gaps that impede achievement of the identified data challenge? How will the proposed solution directly address these gaps, building on existing evidence where applicable?
- **Output 2 - Idea Incubation:** Produce and pilot initial solutions to address the identified data gaps, leveraging interdisciplinary partnerships.
 - **Questions:** What are the advantages and limitations of the proposed solutions? How does the solution perform in different contexts? How can organizations build effective, quality partnerships in these contexts? How do these partnerships enable success?

Please note that solutions do not necessarily have to involve the creation of entirely new approaches. Where applicable, Labs are encouraged to demonstrate how their work will leverage existing resources to demonstrate different or increased utility. Overall, proposals must demonstrate a strong gender equality orientation, and must demonstrate alignment with globally accepted frameworks, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Topics of Interest

CanWaCH has identified several priority topics of interest, and envisions that the selected Labs will address one or more of the following challenges. These are framed in an open-ended way, so as to encourage creative and user-driven approaches:

1. Creating unique, interdisciplinary, or diverse ways of programming, evaluating, and communicating outcomes.
2. Measuring gender transformative and rights-based outcomes and addressing systemic barriers to effective measurement.

3. Developing ethical approaches that work in challenging emerging contexts, addressing the needs and realities of specific communities.
4. Examining strategies for more effective information processes, such as leveraging existing data, digital tools and technologies, and community-specific solutions.
5. Producing engaging, relevant, participatory, and accessible data sharing processes that can be utilized directly by communities to drive change.
6. Fostering positive change at the health systems level, including strengthening information sharing and management mechanisms.

In addition, CanWaCH specifically encourages submissions for Labs which:

- Proposes solutions for work in fragile contexts or humanitarian settings.
- Focuses on topics where Canada has demonstrated expertise and extensive programming, so that the solution(s) can be most widely used (ex: health and rights of women, children, adolescents, and gender-diverse communities; neglected areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights; intersections of climate and health; COVID-19 impacts and response; food security and nutrition; health systems strengthening; etc).

Notwithstanding the above, CanWaCH will also accept submissions on other critical data gaps identified by potential applicants related to gender equality and global health and rights, which reflect global priorities and expertise of communities.

Approach & Values

Through our evaluation of the first iteration of the Collaborative, we identified 4 key orientations that were deemed to be critical to the project's success. These approaches will continue to shape how CanWaCH will operate the initiative over the coming years:

- A. **Shared Learning:** Creating valuable opportunities for exchanging ideas and fostering connections.
- B. **Responsiveness:** Providing opportunities to address relevant and urgent data gaps with an orientation towards 'evidence for action'.
- C. **Flexibility:** Establishing an iterative process with constant communication to enable changes and adaptations.
- D. **Partnerships:** Fostering the foundations of relationships which continue to flourish beyond the scope of the project.

Through the Collaborative, CanWaCH is committed to transformational change, which requires reimagining and reshaping traditional models of research, programming, evaluation, and building capacity. The Collaborative is driven by four key principles of feminist learning and action – the Collaborative aims to be:

- **Participatory & Interconnected**
- **Co-Created & User-Driven**
- **Inclusive & Intersectional**
- **Action-Oriented & Change Driven**

The Collaborative models these principles by ensuring a supportive and interconnected environment within and between Labs. Alongside their projects, Labs will be resourced and supported with hands-on

evaluation, public engagement, and knowledge exchange assistance throughout their projects, provided by CanWaCH and others.

As part of proposals, applicants are encouraged to reflect on the principles and approaches that guide their work and partnership. Applications should explicitly demonstrate clear commitment to anti-racist, community-led, and rights-based approaches and values in their proposed work.

Required & Eligible Organizations

For each application, there is no maximum number of participating organizations. The minimum number of participating organizations for a project based entirely in Canada is two (2), which should include: one (1) Canadian-registered civil society organization; and one (1) Canadian-based research institution. Projects including global partner(s) are strongly encouraged.

If a project is taking place in a country(ies) other than Canada, the proposal must also include a participating organization(s) registered in that country.

Each partnership must designate one lead applicant who will submit the proposal to CanWaCH. Not all partners in the proposal need to be members of CanWaCH or be Canadian-based. The lead applicant must demonstrate a track record of managing project budgets and activities of a similar size and scope to those being proposed, and will be responsible for submitting all required reports. Given efforts to ensure that solutions are locally-led and locally-oriented, CanWaCH will accept applications from non-Canadian lead applicants where appropriate.

CanWaCH strongly encourages applications that show commitment to engaging diverse partnerships and non-traditional actors. Multi-partnered proposals will be considered favourably. Partners may include, but not be limited to: small- to medium-sized civil society organizations¹, large civil society organizations¹, academic institutions, and in-country civil society, institutions, local government stakeholders, and/or community groups. Where work is happening in specific countries, preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate solid, existing partnerships with local organizations or institutions in those countries, and outline clearly the role of each partner.

Submission Details

1. Timeframe

Please note that Labs must begin work no later than 1 April 2022. As such, preference will be given to Labs who clearly indicate that core staff and structures are readily in place to begin undertaking this work. All Lab activities funded under this RFP must be completed by 31 March 2023.

¹ For the purposes of this proposal, organizations may self-identify as a small, medium, or large civil society organization. There is no pre-established definition in terms of operating budget, etc.

In your proposal, please note any anticipated requirements, such as unobtained Research Ethics Board approvals in Canada or elsewhere that will be required for your project, if relevant.

2. Budget & Allowable Expenses

Through this Request for Proposals, CanWaCH plans on awarding funding of approximately \$100,000 CAD per Lab over a 1-year period (approx. 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023). Proposal budgets may be for a larger or smaller amount of funding, but should be mindful of this planned range when creating their budgets, and should not exceed \$125,000 CAD. CanWaCH anticipates launching approximately three (3) Labs in this initial phase; however, a greater or fewer number may be selected at CanWaCH's sole discretion. CanWaCH reserves the right to select no proposals, and/or to cancel or amend this Request for Proposals at any time and for any reason.

Requested funding should be sufficient to complete the goals and activities outlined in the proposal, and applicants do not need to request the full amount of available funding. All proposals should include a detailed budget as an appendix, with any clarification needed included in the narrative proposal. Please include information on any cost sharing or in-kind contributions made by participating organizations, if applicable. The budget should be broken down using the provided template. Expenses accrued before the official launch of the Lab are not eligible for reimbursement. Please note that CanWaCH cannot cover a percentage of overhead costs: all budget lines must be able to be receipted.

The following section describes allowable expenditures by budget category. Costs not directly related to the proposed activities cannot be included in the proposed budget. Please note that not all budget categories are required to be present in the proposal, and within budget categories, there is no maximum or minimum amount or percentage required.

A. Personnel

This category includes costs relating to project human resources.

B. Output-related Expenses

This category includes costs associated with delivering the Lab's core activities, such as publishing findings, developing training and capacity-building materials, and disseminating products.

C. Logistics

Logistics costs include all costs required for the functioning of the project for which itemized receipts can be secured, such as translation services, technology, basic health and safety requirements (ex: masks, sanitizer) and printing and stationery.

D. Travel (domestic and international)

This category includes costs for transportation, accommodation, per diems, airfare, and other expenses related to travel in Canada and internationally. Reasonable accommodations for safe travel during COVID-19 (ex: cost of personal protective equipment for travelling staff) may be included here, in keeping with Global Affairs Canada's [Travel Guidance for International Development Partners](#). However, given the uncertain climate surrounding travel at the time of this RFP, and current guidelines advising against travel, additional justification is requested for projects with substantial travel budgets.

3. Reporting, Data Sharing & Transparency

Both narrative and financial reporting will be required. Reporting will consist of:

- **Quarterly briefing calls:** All Labs must commit to participating in 3 quarterly videoconference briefing calls with a CanWaCH Secretariat staff member to discuss project activities and challenges to date (approximate dates: July 2022, October 2022, January 2023).
- **Mid-point financial report:** A financial report update will be required at the midpoint of the project (reporting on financial actuals up to 30 September 2022, due no later than 31 October 2022). Labs will be assisted by CanWaCH to complete these responsibilities.
- **Final report:** A final narrative and financial report on activities will be required at the end of the project (within 45 days of 31 March 2023 or the close of the project, whichever is earlier).

Note: Labs must keep track of all project costs to satisfy the requirements of any possible audit.

Updates on the Collaborative's work will be disseminated through CanWaCH's network during the initiative. Pending safety and public health advisories, CanWaCH reserves the right to conduct site visits to projects and partners in-country throughout the lifetime of the project, in close consultation with Labs, wherever applicable.

All Labs will be required to update project information on CanWaCH's Project Explorer, and commit to sharing data and solutions emerging from the project with the Canadian and global community. Labs are required to ensure that there are no significant impediments to meaningful dissemination of their work.

4. Commitment to Ethical Practice, Partnership & Co-Leadership

Policies

Successful proposals must demonstrate commitment to environmental sustainability, gender equality, human rights, and ethical codes of conduct. Partners should provide evidence (ideally in the form of links to organizational policies) that confirm their commitment. More broadly, submitting applicants will be required to show evidence, through existing organizational policies, that their organization:

- Does not contribute to any harmful environmental effects, in the short, medium, or long-term.
- Contributes, where possible and relevant, to positive environmental effects.
- Demonstrates commitment to reducing gender inequalities, enhancing women's participation and leadership, and supporting women and girls to realize their rights.
- Adheres to global standards and codes of conduct to ensure the safety and dignity of staff and communities.
- Demonstrates commitment to inclusivity, particularly of the most vulnerable and marginalized.
- Has policies in place relating to ethical procurement, addressing assault and discrimination, ensuring safety and security, effective risk management, anti-corruption, and other policies, including policies and procedures specifically relating to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. All proposals must comply with relevant Canadian and in-country laws.
- Organizations or associated individuals must not be named to any sanctions lists.

Partners & Partnerships

CanWaCH strongly encourages its members to apply for this opportunity; however, proposals from either members or non-members (or a mix of both) are eligible.

The selected Labs will demonstrate a commitment to co-creation and user-driven approaches. This will look different in each proposal, but at a minimum, proposals should clearly articulate how their proposal has been driven and developed with communities and user priorities reflected. Labs are responsible for ensuring that their projects comply with the requirements of their Canadian institutions, local laws, and requirements of relevant governments or local partners.

Within the proposal, applicants should also outline the specific contributions of each participating organization, describe how the partnership was formed, and explain how they will maintain a collaborative, co-leadership model throughout the initiative.

Upon being selected, all organizations must ensure that at least one representative from each Lab attends a virtual inception workshop hosted by CanWaCH at the launch of the Collaborative (anticipated: mid-late April 2022) as well as an interim workshop (anticipated: October 2022) and a final dissemination event (anticipated: April 2023). While we anticipate that all events will be virtual, any travel and per diem costs for these workshops will be covered directly by CanWaCH, and so do not need to be included in the proposal budget.

5. Proposal Content

Please ensure that the following elements are included in your proposal submission. The maximum length for the narrative (not including appendices) is twelve (12) pages.

Project and Organizational Information

- Brief background on the data challenge being addressed.
- Rationale for the proposed project, including details on the anticipated outcomes of the proposed solution.
- Detailed overview of the proposed project, including activities and expected outputs.
- Detailed overview on the communities and geographic regions engaged.
- Project timeline and expected key milestones.
- Assessment of the possible risks or barriers to success, and planned mitigation strategies.
- Details of each participating organization and their role/responsibilities within the project.
- Brief overview of each participating organization's relevant previous experience, including a list of any current projects or ongoing activities in the region (you may link to the CanWaCH Project Explorer if they are included there).

Additional Details

These may be submitted as Appendices, and so do not apply towards the 12-page limit.

- CVs of the lead representatives from primary organizations
- Proposal budget
- Details or links to organizational policies and codes of conduct (see Submission Checklist)
- Details on Research Ethics Board approvals if relevant
- Collaborative Application Checklist

Please note that, before being awarded the final contract, all member organizations will be required to make available their incorporation documents or confirmation of being a registered organization. The lead applicant may also need to provide copies of audited financial statements, and other vetting documents as deemed necessary by CanWaCH.

6. Submission of Proposals

Submission Process

- The deadline for submitting final proposals is **Monday, January 31st, 2022 at 5:00 PM EST**. Any proposals received after that will not be considered.
- Proposals must be no longer than 12 pages in length with 11pt font and 1" margins on 8.5" by 11" paper format (excluding documentation in Appendices).
- Proposals must be submitted using MS Word format, and not in PDF. Budgets and appendices may be submitted in MS Excel or PDF, if preferred.
- Please note that only complete applications will be reviewed and considered.
- Proposals should be submitted via email. Multiple emails, zip files, or links to an accessible folder such as Google Drive are acceptable; however, please clearly specify in your email if your proposal content is available in multiple places.

Please send your completed proposal to the attention of Jessica Ferne, Director, Global Health Impact at impact@canwach.ca no later than 5:00 PM EST on **Monday, January 31st, 2022**

Language

Proposals and accompanying materials may be submitted in either English or French.

7. Review & Selection Process

Eligibility Criteria

Proposals will be screened for eligibility by CanWaCH staff for completeness and eligibility against the following criteria:

1. Representation of required organizations (one (1) Canadian research partner and one (1) Canadian civil society partner).
2. Confirmation of adherence to required policies and codes of conduct.
3. Inclusion of all required documentation and proposal components.

Selection process

Eligible proposals will be circulated to a review committee, which will be composed of representatives from diverse Canadian organizations, including civil society, academia, and health professionals.

Each eligible proposal will be given a score for each of the following areas of assessment, and will be ranked according to the total score:

Criteria	Score
1. Potential of proposed work to significantly and meaningfully address a data challenge, representing a more-than-incremental improvement over existing solutions	20%



2.	Demonstrated expertise and capacity of implementing partners to deliver and report on proposed work	15%
3.	Demonstrated quality partnership between implementing partners, which may be either evidenced through previous successful experience or a clearly articulated strategy for collaboration	15%
4.	Clearly articulated rationale for the relevance, urgency, and critical nature of the data challenge being addressed	10%
5.	Demonstrated evidence that proposed work is feasible, desirable, and builds on existing knowledge	10%
6.	Clearly articulated and comprehensive budget and timelines, demonstrating feasibility of completion within the project timeframe	10%
7.	Potential for scale / expansion of work after the first year of funding	10%
8.	Demonstrated evidence that proposed work is able to be rigorously evaluated	5%
9.	Demonstrated commitment to anti-oppressive, gender-transformative, transparent, and rights-based approaches used in the proposed work	5%
	TOTAL	100%

Please note that the ultimate selection of successful proposals, regardless of ranking, will be at CanWaCH’s sole discretion, and that CanWaCH reserves the right to modify eligibility criteria at any time. Further, CanWaCH reserves the right to award applications with different budget amounts or types of work than those set out above.

About CanWaCH

The Canadian Partnership for Women and Children’s Health (CanWaCH) is a proud membership of more than 100 non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, health professional associations and individuals partnering to improve health outcomes for women, adolescents, and children in more than 1,000 communities worldwide. CanWaCH unites the expertise and commitment of Canadian organizations and individuals to advance the health and rights of women, children and adolescents globally. Our vision is a world where women, children and adolescents, in all their diversity, realize their right to thrive in full health. Learn more at www.canwach.ca/about.

For Additional Information

All questions and requests for clarification should be sent in writing to impact@canwach.ca no later than **Wednesday, January 26th, 2022 at 12:00 PM EST.**

