

NSTC (ZAMBIA) – FNI (MOZAMBIQUE) BILATERAL JOINT CALL FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

THEMATIC AREA: HEALTH

Call Opening Date: 7th August, 2020
Call Closing Date: 4th September, 2020

1. PREAMBLE

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) of the Republic of Zambia and the Fundo Nacional de Investigaçao (FNI) of the Republic of Mozambique are Science Granting Councils (SGCs) participating in the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) for Sub Saharan Africa. The SGCI seeks to strengthen the capacities of the participating SGCs in supporting research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to socio-economic development of the countries. The Initiative is jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The SGCs (in the two countries) in contributing to their national research systems, secured Grant funding from the International Development Research Centre under the auspices of the SGCI. The said Grant aimed at supporting research projects in **Health** is based on a co-funding arrangement between the IDRC on one hand and the NSTC and FNI on the other.

2. BACKGROUND

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak of a new type of Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19 disease) a global pandemic. The SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19 disease has spread to Africa and countries have heightened various responses towards addressing the disease outbreak.

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) recognises that close cooperation among Member States on key health issues is essential for effective control of diseases and for addressing common health concerns within the region. SADC Member States (which includes Zambia and Mozambique), have endorsed the Protocol on health, which is a prerequisite for sustainable human development and increased productivity in Member States. It is further acknowledged that this pandemic presents a major challenge that requires a response informed by scientific research at regional, continental and global level.

To contribute towards efforts to address the COVID-19 disease in the region, the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) has partnered with the Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI) of Mozambique to support collaborative research projects in health. The NSTC and FNI are thus inviting eligible researchers from Mozambique and Zambia to apply for funding to undertake bilateral collaborative research projects in health with focus on address the COVID-19 disease and public health.

The overall goal of this Joint Call is to contribute to generation of critical knowledge that will help in the prevention and containment of the current outbreak of COVID-19 in the two countries.

3. GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION

3.1. Research Thematic Areas

Research Proposals **must** fall within the following broad research thematic areas:

- i. COVID-19 transmission dynamics, control and prevention;
- ii. Therapeutics and care interventions (for example Efficient, low-cost Test Kits to improve coverage of testing, Efficient, low-cost pharmaceutical treatments, Efficient, low-cost disease prevention and control technologies etc)
- iii. Public Mental Health, socio cultural aspects and vulnerability;
- iv. Science communication.

Note:

- Research proposals should be practical and focused towards problem solving in the identified priority research area.
- Proposals that demonstrate a **strong multidisciplinary and collaborative approach among researchers and institutions** are encouraged.

3.2. Eligibility

A. In Mozambique:

- i. Accredited Private or Public Research Institutions in Mozambique
- ii. Accredited Public or Private Higher Education Institutions
- iii. Private Sector

B. In Zambia:

This Call is open to:

- i. Public and private science and technology Research and Development (R&D) Institutions/Centres and Institutions of Higher Learning that are registered with NSTC.
- ii. Individual researchers (shall be required to be affiliated to an NSTC-registered institution).

Note:

The responsibility to find research partners in the collaborating country is on the applicants.

3.3. Funding Ceiling and Eligible Expenses

A. In Mozambique

The funding ceiling on the Mozambican side is **One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Metical only (1 250 000,00MT) per project.**

B. In Zambia

The funding ceiling on the Zambian side is **Three Hundred Thousand Kwacha only (ZMW300,000.00) per project.**

The funding may cover the following expenses:

- i. Research materials and supplies
- ii. Research equipment and accessories
- iii. Local travel
- iv. International travel (Travel to partner countries)
- v. Transportation and shipment of research materials
- vi. Special services
- vii. Human Resource Development (student support at Masters and PhD levels is a prerequisite for all projects)
- viii. Organization of workshops/seminars
- ix. Dissemination of results including publication cost
- x. Institutional Administrative cost at 5% of the total budget
- xi. Monitoring and Evaluation cost at 5% of the total budget

Note:

- Funding ceilings are equivalent in the two partner countries
- Two (2) separate budgets will be required, one for each side

3.4. Project Duration

The collaborative research projects will be for two **(2) years duration from 2021 to 2023.**

3.5. How to Apply

A. In Zambia

- Applicants must submit a **Research Proposal** by way of completing the prescribed **Application Form**, which is available on the NSTC website; (www.nstc.org.zm). Applications must be submitted electronically to: srf@nstc.org.zm and copied to nstc@nstc.org.zm. Hard copy applications will **not** be accepted.

B. In Mozambique

- Applicants must submit a **Research Proposal** by way of completing the prescribed **Application Form**, which is available on the FNI website; (www.fni.gov.mz).

- Applications must be submitted electronically via FNI online system that could be found in the links <https://fni.gov.mz/contactos/SUBMISSAO> and <http://gms.fni.gov.mz/sistemamonitoria/>. Hard copy applications will not be accepted.

Note:

- Applications must designate two (2) Principal Investigators (PIs); one in Mozambique and one in Zambia. The PIs will be responsible for the technical and administrative coordination of the project including scientific and financial reporting.
- Applications must be completed jointly, but must be submitted separately to the respective funding agency in the two countries.
- The Closing Date for submitting applications is **Thursday, 04th September, 2020**

4. EVALUATION, REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION OF PROJECTS

A four tier evaluation and review process will be used as follows:

- i. Screening of applications by each collaborating agency
- ii. Preliminary evaluation and review of proposals by each collaborating agency using individual country local review processes
- iii. Joint review of proposals by an equally represented review panel nominated by the collaborating agencies to make recommendations for funding
- iv. Funding decisions by a Joint Committee of the collaborating agencies

Note:

Proposals will be evaluated and reviewed by independent experts. Selection of projects will be on merit and priority, taking into consideration the following:

- Scientific merit and quality of the proposed research;
- Evidence of the capacity and capability of the research teams and significant contribution to and leadership in the proposed field
- Demonstration of collaboration, inter and multi disciplinarity of the proposed research
- Originality, innovativeness of the proposed research and strong innovation/commercialization potential
- Potential for human capital development for research and innovation
- Consideration for gender and inclusivity dimensions

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