



Call for Proposals – Phase 1 (CFP1)

Climate Change and Health Innovation *Hub* for West and Central Africa (CHINNOVA)

Sub-Grants for Collaborative Research and Innovation Projects (2026–2027)

(Call for Small Grants)

CFP NO. AAU/CHINNOVA/15/11/2025/001

For

The [Association of African Universities](#) (AAU) in Partnership with the [West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use](#) (WASCAL), [Institut Pasteur de la Cote d'Ivoire](#) (IPCI), and University of Omar Bongo, Gabon.

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1. Background and Rationale

The climate crisis is a profound threat to health. It disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities and exacerbates existing health and social inequities. In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where healthcare systems are often overstretched and under-resourced, the impacts are particularly acute. Frontline healthcare workers, many of whom are women from marginalised and underserved populations, are frequently ill-equipped to address the increasing burden of climate-induced health emergencies, such as extreme weather events, infectious disease outbreaks, and food and water insecurity.

Resilient healthcare systems are therefore essential for effective climate adaptation and mitigation, particularly in contexts of LMICs. In West and Central Africa, climate change is increasingly recognized as a major driver of health risks and vulnerability. Rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, more frequent extreme events, and related socio-economic stresses are already affecting the burden of vector-borne diseases, malnutrition, mental health outcomes, and health system performance across the region. However, healthcare system responses remain fragmented and siloed, lacking the interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral coordination necessary to address the complex, overlapping risks associated with climate change.

There is a critical need to build resilient and gender-responsive, health systems responses that are co-created with local communities and civil society to integrate the health co-benefits of climate interventions into broader national, and regional policy frameworks. To address critical knowledge gaps at the intersection of climate change and health regional research hubs on climate change and health were established in West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, the Middle East and





North Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, under the Advancing Research for Climate and Health (ARCH) initiative with funding from International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UK FCDO).

The [Climate Change and Health Innovation Hub for West and Central Africa](#) (CHINNOVA), which is part of the ARCH initiative, was established in October 2024. CHINNOVA seeks to establish, manage and support a cohort of networked researchers in West and Central Africa. CHINNOVA aims to promote research and innovative solutions to address the challenges relating to the climate change-health nexus. The CHINNOVA hub seeks to achieve this by improving data availability, fostering interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and inter-sectoral research collaborations, and building the capacity of the health workforce to anticipate and respond to the outbreak of diseases and disorders related to climate change.

CHINNOVA is led by the [Association of African Universities](#) (AAU) Secretariat with support from the [West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use](#) (WASCAL), [Institut Pasteur de la Cote d'Ivoire](#) (IPCI), and University of Omar Bongo, Gabon as co-leads.

CHINNOVA functions as a regional platform to:

- Facilitate knowledge co-creation across disciplines and countries.
- Build research capacity and leadership in climate change and health.
- Support evidence-informed policy and practice.
- Strengthen the resilience of health systems and communities to climate risks.





As part of this mission and work plan ([Annex 3](#)), CHINNOVA is pleased to launch this Call for Proposals to fund 8–10 collaborative research and innovation projects over a 18-month period (2026–2027).

2. Objectives of the First Call for Proposal

This Call for Proposals seeks to:

- Generate robust, contextually relevant evidence on the interactions between climate change and health in West and Central Africa.
- Pilot and evaluate innovative solutions to enhance climate resilience, health system adaptation, and community well-being.
- Strengthen the capacity of African research institutions and their partners to lead and sustain climate-health research agendas.
- Build collaboration across sectors, disciplines and countries to create knowledge, accelerate learning and scale-up effective approaches.

3. Geographic Coverage

This Call targets projects to be implemented in one or more of the following West and Central African countries: ***Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.***

Proposals may be submitted in English or French. Organizations intending to serve as leads members of a consortium must be headquartered in an eligible country of West and/or Central Africa. Applicants are advised that while proposals may be submitted for research and implementation activities in any of the eligible countries listed in this Call, certain countries are currently subject to additional due diligence and country clearance requirements by IDRC and the UK FCDO. Where country





clearance agreements exist between IDRC and country governments, additional approval processes to be followed and complied with will be communicated to relevant applicants prior to grant approval finalization.

Specifically, applicants from institutions headquartered in **Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo** or whose research activities will take place in these countries, must obtain **prior country clearance** before any grant agreement can be finalized and funds disbursed. In addition, **Cameroon, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo** are included on IDRC's high-risk country list. Applicants proposing work in these countries must:

- Clearly identify the scope of activities planned within these countries.
- Describe measures to ensure compliance with security, safeguarding, and fiduciary standards.
- Allow sufficient time in their implementation timeline for completion of the clearance process.

Proposals can involve these countries but must demonstrate the feasibility of safe, ethical, and accountable delivery of project activities. Nevertheless, CHINNOVA reserves the right to withhold or modify funding based on the outcome of the country clearance process.

4. Research Questions and Priority Areas

Proposals must address one or more of the priority research questions identified through CHINNOVA's stakeholder consultations in the region. The following thematic areas are prioritized. These guiding research questions are intended to assist





applicants in designing their proposals to address high-priority issues for West and Central Africa. Applicants may adapt these questions to specific contexts if necessary and are encouraged to identify additional questions that support the overall thrust of the proposed research. The top 10 priority research questions extracted from the stakeholder consultations in West and Central Africa are available in [Annex 1](#). Given that gender inequality is a significant barrier across all dimensions of diversity, CHINNOVA, IDRC & UKFCDO invest specific efforts in ensuring climate-health research promotes gender equality and inclusion.

Gender and socially inclusive research design: incorporate gender consideration into research design, methods, and analysis to ensure that the needs and perspectives of vulnerable groups, women and men are taken into account.

Furthermore, team composition should reflect gender equity. For additional background questions information see [Annex 3](#).

Health Systems Preparedness and Response

- How can health systems anticipate and adapt to climate shocks (e.g., heatwaves, floods, droughts, dusts, etc.)?
- What tools and approaches can improve health emergency preparedness and response capacity?

Interoperable Climate-Health Data Systems

- What innovative tools and standards can be developed to ensure the generation of high-quality, disaggregated, and interoperable climate and health data?
- How can data findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability (FAIR) be improved for climate-health evidence-based research and interventions?





Climate-sensitive Diseases and Health Outcomes

- How are climate variability and change influencing the distribution, seasonality, and burden of vector-borne and water-borne diseases, including, but not limited to malaria, dengue, and cholera?
- What interventions can strengthen surveillance and control of vector- and water-borne diseases in the context of climate change?

Gender, Equality, and Vulnerable Populations

- How do climate-health risks affect women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and marginalised groups?
- What interventions can reduce gender and social inequities in climate-health vulnerability?
- How do social determinants such as socio-economic status, gender, and geographic disparities influence community vulnerability and adaptive capacity to climate-related health risks in West and Central Africa?

Climate Information Services and Early Warning and Response Systems

- How can climate information be integrated into health decision-making and early action?
- What are effective models of community engagement, early warning and response systems, and risk communication?

Policy and Institutional Innovations

- What policy instruments, innovative multisectoral response mechanisms, and incentive structures can promote the integration of climate-health considerations into training curricula for both climate and primary healthcare workers?



5. Eligibility Criteria

This Call for Proposals welcomes applications from research entities and multi-stakeholder consortia positioned to contribute high-quality, impactful research on the climate-health nexus within West and Central Africa region. Applicants must be based in or have active collaborations within the countries indicated under the eligible countries above.

Eligible entities include:

- Research Institutions and universities actively conducting climate-health related research.
- Multi-stakeholder research teams from research entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations and private sector partners.
- Multi-country applications are allowed but the research team must ensure the scope is clear and adequately budgeted.

This initiative will not fund individuals. It focuses on supporting research teams and established institutions to ensure sustainability, knowledge translation and use for climate climate-resilient health system. As such, this CfP seeks to leverage the resources of these institutions for impact. The research teams should demonstrate diverse expertise and gender balance, comprising senior and upcoming researchers to foster capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange.

To ensure principles of excellence, equity, contextual relevance and capacity strengthening tailored to the call's thematic focus and regional scope, applicants are required to demonstrate the following capacities and attributes:

To be eligible, applicants must:

Be a legally registered organization headquartered in one of the eligible countries.

Eligible institutions include:

- Universities and accredited research institutes.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a research mandate.





- Public or private institutions engaged in health or climate research.

To submit proposals as a consortium, please note the following:

- A consortium must consist of at least one academic or research institution.
- A consortium must consist of at least one civil society partner (e.g., Local community associations, cooperatives, NGOs, etc.).
- A consortium must be coordinated by a partner based in an eligible country of West or Central Africa.
- The same person can serve as project coordinator or principal investigator for only one proposal. However, he can be a member of multiple consortia.
- Consortia which submit proposals are required to give notice of any submission of the same or similar proposals with other funding programmes as well as of the grants received as a result of such submission. CHINNOVA reserves the right to reconsider the award of funds if the respective project consortium fails to give notice of double submission or of the funding received as a result of such submission.

Demonstrate evidence of:

- Prior experience conducting relevant research.
- Financial management capacity to administer grants of this size.

Commit to:

- Engage stakeholders and decision-makers throughout the project.
- Share data and results in accordance with data and knowledge-sharing policies of CHINNOVA, IDRC & UK FCDO.
- Adhere to a M&E framework of CHINNOVA. The CHINNOVA roadmap is provided in [Annex 3](#).





- Adhere to [IDRC](#) and [UK FCDO](#) principles, including safeguarding, ethics, and value for money.
- Partnerships with regional and international collaborators are encouraged, but the lead applicant's primary affiliation must be in an eligible African institution headquartered in the countries listed in Section 3 (i.e., Geographical Coverage) of the Call.

6. Funding and Duration

All sub-grants will be subject to sufficient funds being made available to CHINNOVA by IDRC & UK FCDO under the partnership agreements between AAU and the other partners. Through this funding opportunity, 8-10 proposals will be funded to conduct research in West and Central Africa. **Total funding available is up to USD 700,000.00 and the maximum funding request per project is USD 70,000.00.**

CHINNOVA reserves the right to amend the number of sub-grants to be awarded as well as the amount based on the quality of applications and available resources.

In addition, all applicants from countries identified as “high-risk” countries and countries requiring clearance by IDRC & UK FCDO will undergo a special due diligence by CHINNOVA management secretariat before funding can be released.

Funded research projects are expected to be implemented over a period of **up to 18 months**, allowing for enough time for rigorous data collection, analysis, stakeholder engagement, dissemination of findings, knowledge translation and cross hub sharing and learning.





Funding support shall cover costs that are reasonable, necessary and directly linked to the successful implementation of the research project. Eligible costs include;

- Professional fees and salaries which are clearly justified remuneration for project personnel, including researchers and support staff directly engaged in project activities. Salaries should reflect regional standards and comply with the country Labour Laws.
- Fieldwork and research activities costs associated with data collection, surveys, community engagement and other essential field operations.
- Workshop and training expenses for capacity-building initiatives, raining sessions and stakeholders' workshops aligned with the projects' objectives.
- Travel and per diem travel costs for project team members, strictly limited to activities necessary for project execution as guided by the organization's travel policies.
- Equipment, specialized services and data management covering procurement or rental of necessary equipment and specialized essential to the research.
- No more than 13% on overhead costs

Before a funding decision is taken, successful applicants will be required to provide the following documents to allow CHINNOVA secretariat to undertake an institutional assessment prior to confirmation of funding:

- a. Three most recent audited financial statements duly authorized by a financial officer if an audited statement is not available.
- b. Current organizational chart.
- c. Human resources manuals.
- d. Finance and administration manuals.
- e. Policy/procedure for procurement.





f. Latest technical annual report (where applicable)

A Financial Proposal which should be presented in Unites States Dollar (USD). This should provide details of direct and indirect costs and justification for each budget line. It is required to budget travel costs for members of the team to attend CHINNOVA planned events in Côte d'Ivoire, & Ghana as planned in **Annex 3**. The total indirect cost is 13% and this maximum proportion must be fairly distributed among partners. Detailed breakdown of eligible expenses is given in **Annex 4**.

Other supporting documents should include:

- Letters of commitment from all partners written by the head of the Institutions
- CVs of key personnel (max 3 pages each).
- A work plan outlining key activity, timelines and expected deliverables.

Expression of Interest

Optionally, applicants are encouraged to submit a Letter of Interest (Expression of Interest) indicating their intent to apply on or before 25th October 2025.

Submitting an Expression of Interest is not mandatory, but it is strongly recommended as it helps CHINNOVA better plan for proposal reviews and provide timely guidance to potential applicants.

Interested organizations are kindly invited to submit their Expression of Interest by completing the online form available through the link below:

[Expression of Interest](#)





7. Application Process

Applicants must submit:

A Technical Proposal in English or French language (max 25 pages in English, max 30 pages in French) covering:

- Rationale and problem statement.
- Objectives and research questions.
- Methodology
- Work plan which details activities and timelines
- Research team and roles, including partnerships if any.
- Capacity-building strategy.
- Knowledge translation and policy influence plan.
- Conflict of Interest Declaration Form
- Gender, equality, and inclusion considerations.
- Data management plan.
- Risk management strategy.
- Feasibility and Value for money.

Section 1: Rationale and problem statement.

The section should state why the research problem matters, highlight the magnitude, urgency or consequences of the issues being studied. It should also show what is currently missing in the evidence base, policy or practice, in addition to mentioning limitations in previous studies or lack of context specific data.





Explain how your study will fill the identified gaps- whether by generating new data, testing hypotheses, evaluating and intervention or informing policy and practice.

Briefly indicate the anticipated value or application of your findings

This section describes the scope of and the justification for the proposed research program, including the knowledge areas it seeks to advance. Priority research questions are to be presented and discussed in the context of existing research gaps. It should also provide a brief overview of the body of research related to the challenges or gaps identified and indicate the gaps that the network proposes to fill.

To show the significance of the research gaps, this section should provide detailed insight into the regional dynamics and context indicated above and should discuss how the proposed research plans to address these.

Section 2: Objectives and research questions

This short section should specify the main research question and specific research questions followed by the provision of both the overall/broad and specific objectives of the study and related research questions the study seeks to address

Section 3: Methodology

This section of the research concept should clearly explain how the study will be conducted to ensure it is replicable, valid and appropriate for answering the research questions. Below are essential components to include:





- 1. Study design:** Specify the type of study, e.g cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, randomized controlled trial, qualitative, mixed-methods, etc, with a brief justification of the choice
- 2. Study site and population:** Clearly describe the study location and target population, including the eligibility (inclusion/exclusion) criteria
- 3. Sample size and sampling procedure:** State the sample size and how it was calculated. Explain the sampling technique i.e random, purposive, stratified
- 4. Data collection methods:** Specify what data will be collected and how, e.g interviews, observation, extraction of secondary data. Mention the tools to be used for data collection and whether these will be developed for the study or standardized/existing
- 5. Data analysis plan:** describe how data will be processed and analysed
- 6. Ethical considerations:** mention whether the study will be submitted to an institution review board for ethical review and approval. Mention whether this will be done. Mention the informed consenting process, how study confidentiality will be maintained and risks minimized.

You must be clear about what activities are envisaged and how they will contribute to achieve each objective and define the budget in terms of these activities.

This section should list key research questions the research seeks to address and show how they will be answered in the most rigorous possible way. You must be clear about what activities are envisaged and how they will contribute to achieving each objective.

Provide a robust background outlining the identification of knowledge gaps to be addressed through the proposed research. The methodology should clearly address





how your proposed research will address the research hub's objectives as well as the objectives of this specific CfP as outlined above. It should demonstrate how research activities are linked to thematic and regional priorities.

Discuss the set of activities that will be taken to develop and support a research network across countries in the region of focus. This should reflect the structure and governance of the research team and the monitoring, evaluation and learning activities that are envisioned. This section should also include intended outcomes, theory of change and the proposed activities the research team will undertake including gender equality and inclusion considerations. Indicate how gender equality and inclusion considerations will be integrated into the project and how the network design with address intersectional issues that women and other marginalized groups experience.

Include ethical considerations in this research. Prior to commencing research, applicants will need to obtain approval from an official institutional or national research ethics body. In contexts where there is no official institutional or national research ethics body, the applications will need to propose an alternative ethics approval body.

Section 4: Policy Relevance and engagement / dissemination strategy

Define the major outputs and outcomes expected from the research by estimating the outputs expected out of your research like # of peer reviewed publications, # of policy briefs, grey literature etc. Describe how the research findings will be disseminated or implemented at an initiative level. Discuss how the research results are likely to be used, what their expected impacts (outcomes) might be and any obstacles to the execution of the research or the eventual use of the results.





Section 5: Research team capacity statement

Give an overview of the research team management, taking into consideration Leadership, administration and previous similar work that makes you best fit for this call. Please provide a summary of the proposed research team composition and attach at least 2 paged CVs for each. Attest to your organization's ability to manage this grant, including past grant sizes, compliance with donor reporting and legal requirements, and handling foreign funds and disbursements. Provide a copy of the legal or corporate registration of the organization with whom the main applicant is affiliated.

Section 6: Project schedule, Detailed budget and data management plan

As part of the application process, applicants will also be required to submit the following documents:

- Project schedule in Word - A project schedule or workplan should include a list of key outputs (events or deliverables) and outcomes, proposed timelines linked to items included in the project budget
- Budget in USD to be prepared and submitted based on the budget template
- Data Management Plan in line with IDRC Open Access Policy (<https://www.idrc.ca/en/openaccess-policy-idrc-funded-project-outputs>)

8. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by an independent panel of external reviewers using the following weights for different sections of the application, as outlined below. The committee will assess proposals for their relevance to the priority areas, rigour,





legitimacy, positioning for use and integration of gender, equality and inclusion throughout (Annex 2).

Criterion	Weight (%)
Relevance to Call Research Questions and Priorities Areas	20%
Scientific and Technical Merit	20%
Potential for Impact and Scaling	20%
Team Composition and Expertise	15%
Gender Equality and Inclusion	15%
Budget Appropriateness and How it Aligns with the proposed activities	10%

9. Reporting, Monitoring, and Knowledge Sharing

Successful grantees will be required to:

- Submit annual technical and financial reports.
- Participate in CHINNOVA learning and peer exchange events. The roadmap identifies three collaborative events, including i) an inception workshop together with training on CHINNOVA's MEAL framework; ii) of the CHINNOVA research program (CRP) is provided in [Annex 3](#) Representatives from the research hub subgrants will also be expected to participate in the broader network activities when relevant and research projects' budget will need to reflect this.
- Share datasets and publications with CHINNOVA's data and knowledge sharing platforms.
- Contribute to CHINNOVA synthesis reports, policy briefs and dialogues.





10. Ethics and Safeguarding Standards

Applicants must:

- Comply with [IDRC](#) and [FCDO](#) standards on research ethics and safeguarding.
- Secure all necessary ethical approvals prior to conducting research involving human subjects.
- Demonstrate adherence to Do No Harm principles and respect for local communities.
- Develop a work plan compatible with the roadmap of the CRP ([Annex 3](#))

11. Anticipatory Timeline, Questions and Contact Information

Open call for proposal	09 October 2025
Deadline for submitting proposals	15 November 2025
Technical review by independent experts and CHINNOVA's Advisory Committee.	December- 2025
Notification of selected research consortia, Award & Due Diligence	January 2026
Commencement of project implementation	February 2026

All questions regarding this Call should be submitted to: The Project Coordinator via chinnova@aaau.org

12. Submission Guidelines





We are pleased to invite qualified applicants to submit proposals in English or French Languages under this Call through our fully digitized, secure, and transparent **Online Grants Management System (OGMS)** designed to uphold global standards in grants administration.

All submissions must be made through the OGMS portal:

🔗 <https://grants.chinnova.aau.org>

Proposals must be submitted electronically in **PDF format**. Please note that Late or incomplete proposals will not be reviewed. Applications sent through email or as hard copies will not be considered.

13. Application Steps

a. Register or Sign In

- New users: Select “Create an Account” and follow the on-screen instructions.
- Existing users: Log in using your credentials.

b. Find the Call

- Navigate to the ‘Open Calls’ section.
- Select **CHINNOVA Small grants Call** then click ‘Apply’.

c. Complete Your Application

- Fill in all required fields with accurate, up-to-date information.
- Upload all mandatory supporting documents, including your proposal narrative, budget, Work Plan, CVs, and institutional endorsements (as specified in the Call Guidelines).

d. Review and Submit





- Carefully review your application to ensure completeness and compliance.
- Submit the final version. You will receive an immediate confirmation email.

e. Deadline for Submission

- All applications must be submitted by **15 November 2025, 6:00 pm (GMT)**

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted

Annex 1: Top 10 Priority Research Questions Extracted from Stakeholder Consultations.

1. What climate-sensitive disease surveillance and early warning systems can be developed, including but not limited to use of AI tools to predict and prevent health systems crisis?
2. What spatio-temporal indicators, metrics, and predictive models relate climate change and health?
3. What equity, social inclusion and gender-responsive interventions can improve health care systems resilience in the face of climate risks and shocks/stressors?
4. How do existing national and regional climate policies in West and Central Africa integrate health considerations and vice versa, and what policy gaps exist in addressing the health impacts of climate change?
5. What innovative tools and standards can be developed to ensure the generation of high-quality, interoperable climate and health data?
6. How can partnerships and collaborations across sectors (health, environment, education, etc.) improve climate-resilient health systems?





7. How can the capacity of key stakeholders and communities be strengthened to participate in the co-production/co-design of climate and health research initiatives and methodologies?
8. How can data findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability (FAIR) be improved for climate-health evidence-based research and interventions?
9. What climate resilient health infrastructure can be developed to improve health systems surge capacity in the face of climate risks in fragile zones, including rural, peri-urban, urban and conflict-affected areas of West and Central Africa?
10. How do social determinants such as socio-economic status, gender, and geographic disparities influence community vulnerability and adaptive capacity to climate-related health risks in West and Central Africa?



Annex 2: Ensuring Climate-Health research initiatives address gender equality and inclusion

11. To promote gender equality and inclusion, it is critical for research projects to strongly consider investigating the roles of sex, gender, and other diverse identities and experiences and their relationship to the history, structures and functioning of these systems. The questions below are intended to guide you in reflecting how your research addresses social and gender equality and inclusion, and how you can strengthen these dimensions in your proposal.

1. Does your proposal intend to understand and address social and gender inequalities and their underlying causes?
2. In the context of your proposal, what are the power structures and power dynamics that exist between men and women, and other groups which underpin gender inequality? What are some possible avenues to address and change these conditions?
3. In the context of your research problem, how is this affected by identities or experiences such as race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, income levels and where individuals live (e.g., rural, urban settings)?
4. Is there a logical theory of change of how your research objectives will promote or lead to greater gender equality and/or inclusion? What impact will your research proposal have on these aspects?
5. Do you have a stand-alone objective on addressing gender equality and inclusion? How are other objectives framed in relation to addressing gender equality and inclusion?
6. How will the proposed conceptual framework(s), research design and related research methods address and analyze the root causes and context-specific factors contributing to intersectional forms of gender inequality? Which individuals and groups should be engaged in co-creating this research design and its implementation — to what extent and how will they be engaged?
7. Has your project identified clear outcomes and indicators with respect to gender equality and inclusion? Are these integrated into project measurement

- tools? For example, do you plan to collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data? What about gender-disaggregated data? Have you planned to undertake a pre- and post-project gender analysis?
8. Does the proposal's knowledge translation plan integrate sex and gender considerations (including intersectionality) in how the iterative processes of engagement, analysis, synthesis, product development and knowledge facilitation are designed and operationalized?
 9. Do the members of your research team understand contextual gender equality and inclusion issues? Do you have the right skills and experience in your team? Which of your team members will take the lead in designing, implementing, monitoring, and assessing your project's objectives to address gender inequality and inclusion?
 10. Does your research team have a good balance between male and female scientists or scientists of other identities?
 11. Have you clearly budgeted for gender equality and inclusion activities and staffing? Have you allocated sufficient time and resources to strengthen the capacity of your team, partners and other stakeholders on gender and inclusion issues?



Annex 3: Roadmap for the CHINNOVA Research Programme

1. Background

The Climate-Health Innovation Hub for West and Central Africa (CHINNOVA) is a network of networks dedicated to enhancing the resilience of health systems to climate change through interdisciplinary collaboration, data accessibility, capacity-building initiatives and ensuring the integration of gender equality and inclusion approaches in the implementation. By increasing the availability of disaggregated and interoperable data on climate and health, CHINNOVA aims to enhance the region's ability to assist research and services in the region.

To ensure continuous improvement and accountability, a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation, and learning (M.E.A.L.) framework is to be implemented, including regular progress reports (interim, mid-term and final), and a sustainability plan. The project emphasises stakeholder engagement, with a strong focus on engaging governments, health organisations, and local communities to ensure context-specific innovation and sustainable solutions. The CHINNOVA initiative also will organise an International Conference on Climate Change and Health (I3CH) to disseminate findings and promote knowledge sharing, gap filling, and global dialogue on climate-resilient health systems.

In general, the project represents a significant step toward building climate-resilient health systems in West and Central Africa, ensuring that gender, equity and social inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalised populations (e.g., Displaced, refugees, indigenous people), are considered in the implementation of climate-health innovative solutions and interventions.

2. Objectives





Based on stakeholder feedback, **CHINNOVA** will focus on translating research into actionable policies, expanding data & knowledge accessibility for research, integrating AI-driven analytics and gendered health implication of climate change into climate-health surveillance, and strengthening regional collaborations with meteorological and health institutions to improve early warning systems.

CHINNOVA has launched this **Call for Proposals (CFP)** to support interdisciplinary, action-oriented research on climate and health across West and Central Africa. Based on its strategic objectives, core research questions derived from the regional situational analysis and stakeholder consultations, the *hub* will fund cohorts of small and large projects to be implemented over a period of **18 and 24 months at different starting dates over the January 2026 – December 2028 timeline**

3. Expected Results

CHINNOVA has co-created the thematic priorities and this roadmap for its research programme (CRP), in order to provide a clear direction for climate-health research and interventions. Funding a CRP cohort of projects will allow innovative solutions to be explored and implemented, addressing unique climate-health challenges in the region. Additionally, the installation of a data collection framework will enhance the systematic harnessing and analysis of climate-health data by sub-grantees, facilitating further research, informed decision making, and policy formulation. The organization of annual International Conferences on Climate Change and Health (I3CH) will promote knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the dissemination of best practices among diverse stakeholders. Training workshops will build the capacity of researchers, grassroots organisations, and local communities, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to integrate gender equality and inclusion in climate health responses. Strengthened integration of gender equality





and inclusion measures will ensure that health responses are equitable and inclusive, addressing the needs of all segments of the population. In the long term, these outcomes will culminate in a stronger and more cohesive CHINNOVA network that effectively supports research and implements actions on climate health issues in West and Central Africa.

Hence, CHINNOVA will establish an open-access climate and health data repository to encourage further research, and AI-powered climate-health risk models development. Regional roundtables, and advocacy campaigns will support research uptake. The hub will also conduct major training workshops, stakeholder exchanges, and develop an M&E mechanism on climate-health resilience research. Communication efforts will include policy briefs, synthesis reports, and an interactive knowledge-sharing platform.

4. Phases

Phase 1 – Preparation & Finalization of the Priority Areas & Call (May-Jun 2025)

- **May-June 2025:** Sub-regional consultations (West/Central Africa) to develop, and refine the above-mentioned thematic priorities.
- **August-September 2025:** Finalization of Call for Proposal (CfP) documents (terms of reference, budget templates, ethical guidelines, evaluation criteria, list of external evaluators).

Phase 2 – Launch & Dissemination of Call for Proposals (Jul – Sep 2025)

- **October 2025:** Official launch of the **first Call for Proposals** (small projects) via CHINNOVA, AAU, WASCAL, IPCI, IDRC, FCDO-UK, and other dissemination platforms.
- **October 2025:** Online promotional events, FAQs, and helpdesk for applicants.

Phase 3 – Submission, Selection, Award & Due Diligence (Oct – Nov 2025)





- **November 2025:** Proposal submission deadline
- **December 2025:** Technical review by independent experts and CHINNOVA's Advisory and Ethics Committee.
- **January 2026:** Notification of selected research consortia, Award & Due Diligence

Phase 4 – Grant Agreement & Project Kick-off (Jan 2026 – Feb 2026)

- **January 2026:** Signing of grant agreements and fund disbursement.
- **February 2026:** Official start of research cohort's activities.
- **February –March 2026:** Projects inception workshop, team onboarding, and training on CHINNOVA's MEAL framework.
- **April 2026:** Official launch of the **second Call for Proposals** (Large projects)
- **July 2026:** Signing of grant agreements and fund disbursement.

Phase 5 – Implementation, Monitoring & Reporting (2026–2028)

- Annual progress reporting of project cohort
- Continuous data collection, formatting and archiving
- Annual technical review (online) & M&E field visits
- Integration with CHINNOVA's MEAL system for continuous adjustments.
- Training on the integration of GESI in climate-health research & innovation.

Phase 6 – Knowledge Mobilisation & Legacy (2026-2029)

- Final report submission and independent evaluation.
- Synthesis publications and contributions to CHINNOVA's Knowledge Platform.
- Presentation of results at the CHINNOVA 2028 International Conference on Climate and Health.

5. Conclusion





This roadmap is meant to guide a structured rollout of CHINNOVA's Research Programme and ensure alignment with regional climate-health priorities and the hub's long-term vision for resilience, equity, and innovation. Therefore, all applicants must adhere the work plan of their proposals to this roadmap.

Annex 4: Budget Considerations

Herewith the breakdown of all eligible expenses aligned with the IDRC & UK FCDO rules.

Personnel cost: all remuneration, allowances, and benefits paid to staff and advisors hired for a specific project. Project advisors are people hired for long periods (more than 1 year) and paid a salary on a regular basis. The payment of replacement salaries (to release academics from teaching commitments) or of core salaries (i.e., of existing staff) must be justified in the context of research capacity building. As a general rule, CHINNOVA does not pay salary supplements, i.e., honorarium for full-time employees in addition to their regular salaries or higher salaries than the institution would normally pay. Note that the total cost of the salaries should not exceed 25% of the project budget unless you submitted a detailed rationale that is approved by the CHINNOVA Secretariat. What to include under Item of expenditure: Identify the position title. Example: Project Manager/ Project Leader/ Project Coordinator. What to include under budget notes and explanations: Specify annual salary, the currency used for the calculation, and the percentage of time dedicated to the project and any other criteria taken into account to calculate the amounts. Make sure to state benefits are included (when applicable). Example: **75,000 USD/year x 10%-time** dedication. Benefits included.

Consultants: Provide the list of consultants needed to provide expert professional advice on a fee-for-service basis. Consultants are subcontractors that are contracted for shorter periods to work on specific assignments. Payments to consultants include all expenses related to acquiring the services of a consultant or subcontractor for a specific activity within the project. Costs may include fees, travel and per-diems, and non-travel expenses incurred directly by the consultant and billed to the project.





Please use a budget note to: (1) indicate the daily rate used to calculate the consultant's fee; (2) estimate travel costs (if applicable); and (3) list other related consultant costs. Please consult IDRC current per diem rates if consultant/subcontractor travel is expected. Refer to the IDRC Per Diem rates when completing this information.

Example: 1 Gender Specialist fees @400USD/day x 50 days/year

Air ticket for 1 trip to Dakar x 10 days @ 275 USD/day.

Equipment: Equipment that has a useful life of more than 1 year and costs more than USD 2,000 per item. Costs may include the basic purchase price, related sales taxes, freight costs, and other costs associated with buying the equipment. Equipment should not exceed 20% of the project budget unless you submitted a detailed rationale that is approved by the CHINNOVA Secretariat. Please provide a brief reference of the type of equipment to be purchased (Make, model, power etc). Example: WESTON industrial Fruit dehydrator MW100 100kg capacity/Stainless Steel = 17,800 USD.

International & local travels: All costs related to international & local travels incurred by Project Personnel listed in the Personnel category of the budget proposal. Allowable costs include ground transportation, accommodation, meals, airfare, departure taxes, and other related expenses. If destination is not known at this phase, please provide estimation based of travel expenses indicating the region. It is required to budget travel costs for members of the team to attend CHINNOVA planned events in Côte d'Ivoire & Ghana as stated in the forward-looking plan (**Annex 3**). Refer to your institutional Per Diem rates when completing the budget table.

Example: Air tickets for 3 trips/year x 2 persons@ 1,000 USD each in Accra = 6,000/year.

Trainings & Workshops/Meetings: Include here meetings and workshops cost (e.g., catering, per diem, room rentals), any trainee's registration and tuition fees; living and other allowances; research and training expenses; and travel costs during the trainee's participation in degree or diploma programs, short courses, student field work, training, or other scholarly activities. The training budget should be reported in four sub-categories based on the type of training being supported: Masters/Undergraduate — study leading to a Masters/Graduate degree; Short



Course — study leading to a diploma or certificate; or Other — all other scholarly activities (e.g., field work study).

Data Collection & Research: All services and materials required to collect, store and share data with CHINNOVA, and carry out the research. Costs include remuneration of persons who gather data and information or provide casual labour, maintenance and operation of project vehicles, consumable goods and non-capital equipment, computer services, training for project staff for implementation of research activities, rent paid for land or premises used in a research activity, article processing charges (APCs), and translation of project-related documents.

Indirect Cost: Include here: administrative costs not directly related to the research. Costs may include clerical, accounting, or secretarial help, general office expenses, office rental and utility charges, non-capital office furnishings, communications costs, and photocopying. The maximum contribution towards indirect costs is up to 13% of all recipient-administered costs, including capital equipment, and sub-contractors administered costs. That maximum contribution may be shared between the proposing institution and the collaborating and must never exceed 13% in total.

Example: Requested contribution towards indirect costs (8% of 83,000 USD) = 6,640 USD.

