



Medical
Research
Council

Supplementary guidance for outline submissions to the Applied Global Health Research Board

This document describes the additional requirements for outline applications to MRC's Applied Global Health Research Board. Applications to the Board should follow standard MRC policies and processes as set out in our [funding pages, applicant guidance, and peer review pages](#). These pages should be consulted prior to reading this document which sets out instances where different rules apply.

This document covers:

- [additional guidance for outline applicants](#)
- [the application process](#)
- [the assessment criteria for applications to the Board](#)

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Supplementary Guidance for Outline Applications

This guidance should be consulted after the applicant has consulted the standard [MRC guidance for applicants](#). The numbers listed next to the section headings below link to the relevant section in the standard guidance for ease of comparison.

1. [Who can apply and how to apply](#)

1.1 [Types of research organisations \(ROs\)](#)

In addition to the eligible research organisations outlined in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#), the Board will accept applications from the following lead organisations. All organisations must have sufficient capacity to deliver research projects, including robust financial management processes:

- **Higher education institutions based in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**
A university or institution based in an LMIC with degree awarding powers recognised by the government in which the organisation is based.
- **Research institutes based in LMICs**
A research focused institution based in an LMIC funded by the government of the country in which the organisation is based or by a not-for-profit non-governmental organisation.
- **Research focused non-governmental organisations based in LMICs**
A not-for-profit non-governmental organisation based in an LMIC with dedicated research capacity.

Applied global health research requires the involvement of a diverse range of collaborating organisations in order to effect sustainable change. As such the Board will accept applications involving the following collaborating organisations (please note that these organisations are not eligible to lead a proposal):

- **Local and national government departments based in LMICs**
Any recognised local or national department of an LMIC, e.g. the Ministry of Health.
- **International Intergovernmental Organisations based in LMICs**
Any organisation with a footprint in an LMIC formed of member sovereign states established by treaty recognised under international law e.g. the World Health Organisation.

Any collaboration with industry or other for-profit organisations is governed by the MRC Industry Collaboration Agreement (MICA). More information can be found on the MRC's [MICA pages](#).

All decisions regarding organisational eligibility lie with the MRC office. Applications will be returned to the research organisation if the MRC office deem that the organisational eligibility requirements have not been met.

If you have previously received funding from the MRC but do not currently meet the organisational eligibility requirements, or you are unsure of the eligibility of your organisation please contact the MRC Board team at: international@mrc.ukri.org.

1.3 [Applicants](#)

1.3.1 The Principal Investigator

The Board is open to applications from Principal Investigators (PIs) based in LMICs. There is no requirement for a project to involve UK based investigators. The Board is also open to UK based PIs working in equitable partnership with LMIC colleagues.

1.3.2 Co-Investigators

Applied global health research requires the involvement of a diverse range of collaborators, as such the eligibility requirements for Co-Investigators (Co-Is) are broader than those set out for the PI. A Co-I can be based in an LMIC government department or an international intergovernmental organisation based in an LMIC. Definitions of these organisations can be found in [section 1.1](#).

Where appropriate, applications to the Board are expected to include significant engagement with key stakeholders including implementing agencies within the LMIC(s) of focus. Where there is a significant level of engagement from individuals based in government agencies and/or international intergovernmental organisations applicants should consider including them as part of the researcher team as a Co-I. By including these individuals as Co-Is their time on the project can be properly recognised, and reimbursement of their salary can be requested.

Investigators from high-income countries outside of the UK are not eligible to apply as PIs but can be named as Co-Is with justification for why the expertise they are providing cannot be found in the UK or an LMIC.

All Co-Is must be registered on the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) System, information on how to register can be found in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#).

1.3.4 Project partners

In addition to the information provided in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#), we encourage applications to the Board involving contributions from key stakeholders (policy makers, implementers, patient/participant groups). Stakeholders who are not receiving funding from the project, or are providing a contribution in cash or in-kind, should be included as project partners.

Please note that PI and Co-I host organisations should not be listed as project partners on the application.

If the project partner listed is from industry, applicants must follow the [MICA guidance](#). Applicants with an industrial partner(s) will need to include MICA: as a prefix to their project title. At the outline stage the input/involvement of the industry partner should be detailed in the Case

for Support. Please refer to the [guidance described below](#). Applicants invited to submit a full application need to include a MICA Form and Heads of Terms as part of their Je-S application.

1.7 [How to apply](#)

As stated in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#) it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they apply to the correct funding call/board/type of grant and that their application is submitted with adequate time to allow their research organisation, to complete necessary checks and complete the final submission (through Je-S), to the **MRC by 16:00 (GMT/BST)**, on the advertised [MRC submission deadline](#).

Application deadlines will usually be in April and October for meetings in July and January. Outline applications are considered by the Board and external experts. Invited full applications are subject to international peer review before consideration by the Board.

Because the Board requires the submission of outline applications, it is not mandatory for programme or partnership grant applicants to contact the MRC Programme Manager prior to submission but they can do so if they wish via international@mrc.ukri.org.

1.7.2 Applying for a funding opportunity

Applicants should read the appropriate guidance set out in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#) regarding starting an application on the Je-S system.

Applicants to the Board should make the following selections on Je-S:

- Select Council: **MRC**
- Select Document Type: **Outline Proposal**
- Select Scheme: **Standard Outline**
- Select Call/Type/Mode: **Applied Global Health Research Board Outline [round] [year]**
- Select: **'Create Document'** option

1.7.3 Who can submit

The [MRC guidance for applicants](#) gives details on who should submit the research proposal to Je-S. The submission route for an application is not always clear to organisations who do not routinely use the Je-S system. Some organisations have set up a "Submitter Pool" who will need to approve and submit the application before the deadline.

It is important that you clarify the Je-S submission arrangements for your organisation well in advance of the submission date.

Once you have completed the Project Details section of the Je-S form you are able to find out the submission arrangements for your organisation (which will vary depending on how the account is set up). Select the "Document Actions" button and then select "Show Submission Path" button.

If the screen shows “With Owner” and “With Council”, then the proposal will be submitted directly by you (the PI) to MRC (the Council).

If the screen shows “With Owner” and “Submitter Pool” (there should be names listed against this section) and “With Council”, then the proposal has to be approved and submitted by one of your research organisation’s named submitters. You should allow at least 48 hours for them to do this, your research organisation may require longer, and we would strongly advise you check this.

Please check that at least one of your organisation’s named submitters will be available on the day you plan to submit it. Please note that they will need to do this no later than 16.00 GMT/BST UK time on the advertised submission deadline.

2. [The Application](#)

The Applied Global Health Research Board will have a two-stage application process. Applicants are required to initially submit an outline proposal for consideration by the Board. The Board will then invite the highest quality proposals to submit a full application.

The outline application is shorter than a standard MRC application and a lot of the attachments detailed in [MRC’s guidance for applicants](#) are not needed at this stage.

The Applied Global Health Research Board requires the following at the outline stage:

- The proposal form
- The case for support (5 pages + 1 page for references)
- CVs (2 pages) and Publications (1 page)

Please **do not** submit a Justification of Resources at the outline stage.

2.1 [The proposal form](#)

At the outline stage minimal information is requested through the Je-S form. Information will be requested under the following headings:

Organisation where the grant would be held

This should be the lead RO responsible for administering the grant.

Project title

This should be no more than 150 characters and reflect the aim of the project.

Please note that if an application falls under the [MRC Industry Collaboration Agreement](#) then the project title should start with “MICA:”.

Start date and duration

The anticipated start date should be realistic and would normally be between one month and six months after the date of the decision-making Board meeting.

The duration of a grant will typically be from 12 to 60 months. Research grant applications for two years or less are not restricted to proof of principle or pilot work and will be accepted provided they are within the Board's remit.

Once a grant has been issued, grant holders are required to make every effort to start on the agreed date. The start of the grant may be delayed by up to 3 months from the start date shown in the offer letter, with the duration of the grant remaining unchanged. The grant may lapse if it is not started within this period.

Applicants

This should include the PI and all Co-Is involved in the project.

Please note that the PI and all Co-Is **must** be registered on the Je-S system before they can be added to an application, information on how to register can be found in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#).

Objectives

What is the project aiming to achieve? The objectives of the proposed project should be listed in order of priority and should be those that the investigators would wish the MRC to use as the basis for evaluation of work upon completion of any grant awarded.

Impact Summary

The Impact Summary should address the following two questions:

1. Who will benefit from this research?

List any beneficiaries from the research, for example those who are likely to be interested in, or to benefit from, the proposed research both directly or indirectly. It may be useful to think of beneficiaries as 'users' of the research outputs, both immediately, and in the longer term. Beneficiaries must consist of a wider group than that of the investigators' immediate professional circle carrying out similar research. For example:

- Is there anyone, including policy-makers, within international, national, local or devolved government and government agencies or regulators who would benefit from this research?
- Are there any beneficiaries within the commercial private sector who will benefit from the research?
- Are there any beneficiaries within the public sector, third sector or any others who might use the results to their advantage? Examples include museums, galleries and charities.
- Are there any beneficiaries within the wider public?

2. How will they benefit from this research?

Describe the relevance of the research to these beneficiaries, identifying the potential for impacts arising from the proposed work. Please consider the following when framing your response:

- Explain how the research has the potential to contribute to the nation’s health, wealth or culture. For example: Fostering global economic performance, and specifically the economic competitiveness of the LMIC(s) of focus? Increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy? Enhancing quality of life, health and creative output?
- What are the potential impacts likely to be, and what is their importance?
- What are the realistic timescales for the benefits to be realised, and how will this research contribute?
- What research and professional skills will staff working on the project develop which they could apply in all employment sectors?

Summary

A plain English (layman’s) summary of the proposed work, explaining:

- The context of the aims and objectives of the research
- The potential applications and benefits

Summary of resources required for the project

Staffing, equipment and other resources required to carry out the project. Only high-level figures are required at the outline stage. Applicants are encouraged to request resources commensurate with the objectives of their research; both small and large scale grants will be accepted. Please see the [guidance provided below](#).

Project Partners

This should include all Project Partners involved in the project, i.e. collaborators not requesting funding or that are providing their own contribution. PI and Co-I research organisations should not be added as Project Partners.

Please note that it is not required for Project Partners to be registered on the Je-S system.

2.2 Attachments

The following attachments are required at the outline stage:

Mandatory Attachments	Page Limit
Case for Support	5 sides of A4 (plus 1 side for references)
CVs	2 sides of A4 per person
Publications	1 side of A4 per person

2.2.3 Case for Support

The [MRC guidance for applicants](#) gives detailed information on the requirements for the case for support document.

An outline case for support is required at the outline stage, it should not exceed five sides of A4 plus one additional page of references (six pages in total). Additional annexes are not permitted, this includes the reproducibility and statistical design annex. Any applications exceeding the page limit or with additional annexes will be returned to the applicants for reduction/removal.

Please use the following headings when preparing your outline Case for Support:

I. Research Project Summary

- Full title of the project (no more than 150 characters)
- Type of research award (Research Grant/Programme Grant/Partnership Grant)
- In which country(ies) will the project take place?
- Duration in months
- Total amount requested from this funding scheme
- Goals & principal research question to be addressed; please identify a concise and clearly articulated ultimate aim of the project.
- What Board opportunity (if any) the proposal addresses (list all that apply)

II. Importance

- Please consider issues such as burden of disease and priority for the relevant local, regional and national health services.
- What evidence is there that the answer to your research question is needed and wanted by relevant users and/or policy-makers?

III. Project description

Please describe your proposed research project, ensuring that you cover the following points:

- Which stakeholders will be consulted and when?
- In which setting(s) will the research take place? Where a particular setting is proposed which excludes the most vulnerable, for example the school setting, considerations should be made to include vulnerable groups or justify the choice not to.
- Who will the research participants be and why?
- What questions will be addressed?
- What are your research plans to address those questions?
- Give details of the methodological approaches, study design and techniques that will be used.
 - Enough detail must be given to show why the research is likely to be competitive in its field.
 - Particular care should be taken to explain any innovation in the methodology or where you intend to develop new methods.
- What pilot or preliminary data do you have available to help the panel assess the feasibility of the proposed study?
- If you are testing delivery of an intervention, please be clear about what that intervention will consist of and why.
- If the research involves data collection or acquisition you must demonstrate that you have carried out a datasets review, and explicitly state why currently available datasets are inadequate for the proposed research.
- What is the proposed timeline?
- How will you evaluate the outcomes of the study?

IV. How will results of study be used?

- What changes might be implemented as a result of the study?
- Who will make those changes happen and how?
- Might the results be generalizable beyond the immediate research setting?
- What is the envisaged social impact of the project?

V. Research Project Team

- Details of people involved
- How does the team of investigators incorporate the necessary range of disciplinary expertise and experience to carry out the study?
- If the proposal is a MICA, describe the input/involvement of the industry partner

VI. Capacity Building

- Details of capacity building needs and opportunities
- What are the capacity building plans within the research project?
- Who will participate in delivering these activities and who will benefit from them?

VII. Ethical Implications

- What are the ethical implications of the research?
- How will these be managed?

VIII. Financial Information

- Are other funding partners involved? Who are the partners and what is the status of the discussions?
- In addition to the costing you have provided on Je-S, please provide a breakdown of the funding request per institution using the below table.

Organisation name	Total project costs (GBP)	Total cost requested from this scheme (GBP)

IX. Proposal History

Has an application for funding for this project been submitted previously to DFID, MRC, NIHR, another UKRI council or another funding organisation? If so, please indicate the status of the previous application.

3. [Resources](#)

3.1 Full economic cost

All grants should be costed on the basis of the full economic costs (FEC) necessary to deliver the research. For funds requested by research organisations based overseas the MRC will fund 100% of the FEC. For funds requested by research organisations based in the UK the MRC will typically fund 80% of the FEC and the RO(s) must agree to find the balance of FEC from other resources.

All submissions to the Board will have overseas costs and it is essential that these are entered correctly and claimed at 100%.

3.2 Fund Types

At the outline stage applicants are required to detail the funding requested under four headings detailed below. Full details of what costs should be covered under each heading can be found in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#). The following specifies how overseas costs should be entered compared to costs incurred in the UK.

Directly Incurred

UK costs that are explicitly identifiable as arising from the conduct of a project. Charged to projects as the cash value actually spent and supported by an auditable record.

Directly Allocated

UK costs of resources used by a project that are shared by other activities. Charged to projects on the basis of estimates. Do not represent directly auditable costs on a project-by-project basis.

Indirect Costs

UK RO overhead costs

Exceptions

All overseas costs. Exceptions costs will be funded at 100% FEC.

3.3 Overseas Costs

It is expected that all applications to the Board will include overseas costs, it is not necessary to discuss these costs with a programme manager before submission.

All costs requested by an overseas organisation should be entered under the exceptions heading and requested at 100% FEC.

MRC will support indirect and estates costs for organisations based in low- and middle-income countries participating in the project. Each LMIC RO can request indirect costs up to the value of 20% of their direct costs. At the outline stage these costs should be entered as exceptions.

3.7 Open access

Projects led by an organisation based in an LMIC can request open access costs as part of their application.

UK led proposals cannot claim open access costs and should follow the guidance set out in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#).

5. [Ethics and approvals](#)

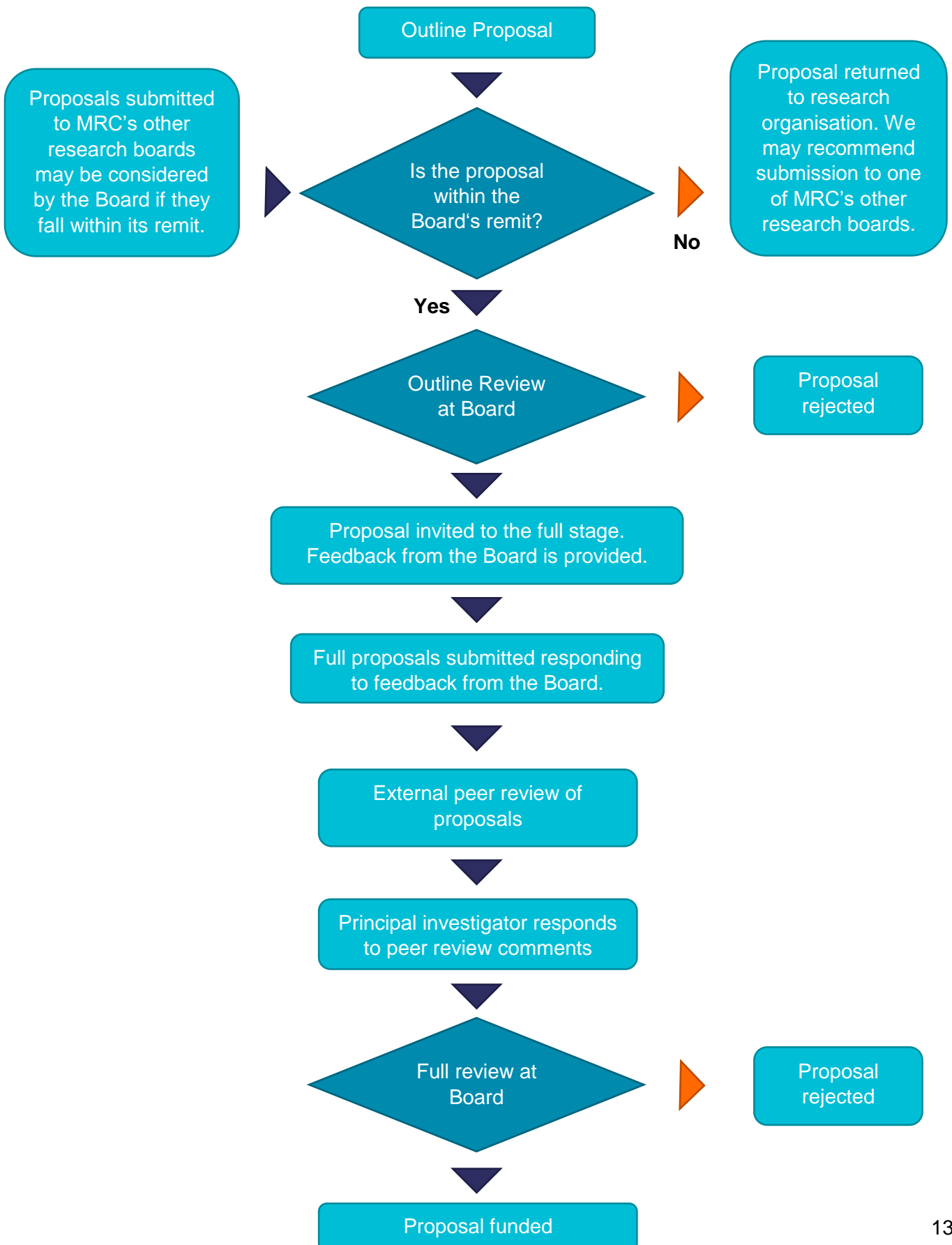
Full guidance on ethics and approvals can be found in the [MRC guidance for applicants](#). We ask all applicants to take into consideration the guidance set out in section [5.2.2 Research involving human participants in lower- and middle-income countries](#).

6. [Research Involving Existing Facilities and Resources](#)

All applicants considering a proposal including a population cohort should contact the relevant programme manager via international@mrc.ukri.org.

Application Process

The Applied Global Health Research Board will have a two-stage application process. All applications to the Board will start with the submission of an outline proposal which will be assessed by the Board. The Board will then select the highest quality proposals to be invited to submit full proposals.



Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria will be used to assess all proposals submitted to the Applied Global Health Research Board. The assessment of any research proposal is based on five core criteria:

1. **Importance:** how important are the questions, or gaps in knowledge, that are being addressed?
2. **Scientific potential:** what are the prospects for good scientific progress?
3. **Resources requested:** are the funds requested essential for the work, and do the importance and scientific potential justify funding on the scale requested? Does the proposal represent good value for money?
4. **Capacity building:** do the activities described respond to identified capacity needs and gaps in the research project?

The following outlines the detailed assessment criteria that will be used depending on the type of grant that has been applied for.

Research Grant assessment criteria

Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important are the research questions, or gaps in knowledge, that would be addressed? • Are the research questions driven by LMIC country needs? • Is the level of innovation likely to lead to significant new understanding?
Scientific potential	<p>Research Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the prospects for good scientific progress? • How convincing and coherent is the management strategy proposed? • Are the methodological approaches the most relevant to answer the research questions? Robust methodology and research design should be at the centre of any proposal to aid reproducibility of research findings. • How well have project risks been identified, and will they be mitigated? <p>Research environment and people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How suitable is the investigator group? Please comment on track record(s) of the individual(s) in their fields and whether they are best-placed to deliver the proposed research. • Does the research team have the necessary disciplinary expertise to undertake the study? • Have LMIC researchers had intellectual input into the setting of the research agenda and its ongoing strategic direction? Are the partnerships equitable? • How suitable is the environment where the proposed research will take place? Has attention been paid to gender equality within the research team? Please comment on the level of commitment of the host research organisation to supporting the proposed research and whether appropriate facilities will be available to the researchers. • Have relevant stakeholders been identified and engaged from outside of the academic community? If they have not yet been engaged are there clear plans to do so? • Where a new research network is proposed, is the membership (geographical and disciplinary) and management structure of the network appropriate? Will it add value to existing networks? <p>Impact – <i>please note that a detailed pathways to impact document is only required if invited to submit a full application. At the outline stage the following points should be summarised in the Case for Support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the potential economic and societal impact of the proposed research in LMICs? Please comment on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ identification of realistic potential improvements to human or population health ○ contribution to relieving disease/disability burden and/or improving quality of life

- identification of potential impacts of research and plans to deliver these
- Is there sufficient engagement with relevant stakeholders within the country/countries of focus to enable appropriate dissemination of the research findings?
- Where appropriate, has consideration been given to how scale up of the research findings into policy and practice would occur? What is the likelihood of uptake of the research findings e.g. has a cost effectiveness evaluation, where relevant, been included as part of the proposed research?
- Has consideration been given to the impact of the research on gender equality?
- Are the findings likely to be generalizable to other relevant settings?

Ethics

- Are there any ethical and/or research governance issues? Please comment on:
 - whether the proposed research is ethically acceptable
 - any ethical issues that need separate consideration
 - appropriateness of ethical review and research governance considerations
 - any potential adverse consequences for humans, animals or the environment and whether these risks have been addressed satisfactorily in the proposal

Data management plan – *please note that a detailed data management plan document is only required if invited to submit a full application.*

- Does the data management plan indicate whether the applicants have (or are likely to have) a sound plan for managing the research data funded through the award, taking account: the types, scale and complexity of data being (or to be) managed
 - the likely long-term value for further research including by sharing data
 - the anticipated information security and ethics requirements

MRC Industrial Collaboration Awards (MICA)

Any research proposal involving a collaboration with one or more industrial partners (contributing either in cash or in kind) is handled by MRC as a MICA. All MICA proposals will be identifiable to reviewers as they will have the word 'MICA' at the start of the project title.

- If the proposal has been identified as a MICA, it will also need to convince the relevant research board or funding panel that:
 - the planned research could or would not be undertaken in the absence of the requested funding, or that it could not be undertaken to the quality level or timescale proposed
 - the collaboration or partnership is consistent with the aims and delivery of the project and MRC funding rules and requirements for academic-industry collaborations
 - potential conflicts of interest between the parties are acceptable and are being, or would be, appropriately managed

Research involving cohort resources

For any research proposal involving a cohort:

- What new health research questions or hypotheses will it be possible to answer over the next five to ten years using the cohort resource?
- Why can this science be addressed using this cohort above other resources?
- What does this cohort offer that other cohorts do not (nationally and internationally) and how does it relate to other relevant cohorts? Applicants should either list the assets (measures, specimens, population group) as an Annex or reference the cohort website.
- What are the plans for establishing the cohort as a resource – how is it/will it be used by the wider research community?

Resources requested	<p><i>Please note that at the outline stage only limited information is required on the resources requested. Please see guidance provided above.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the funds requested essential for the work and justified by the importance and scientific potential of the research? • Is the applicants' stated time commitment to the work appropriate and sufficient? • Does the proposal demonstrate value for money in terms of the resources requested? • Is the distribution of funding across partners appropriate for the intended contribution within the research proposal? • Are requests for equipment (>£10,000) fully justified? <p>Research involving cohort resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must be clear which costs relate to de novo data collection, analysis of new data and/or maintenance or use of existing data
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have capacity assets, gaps and needs been fully explored across the research project including all relevant stakeholders? • Have appropriate capacity building activities been embedded within the research proposal?

Programme Grant assessment criteria

Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important are the research questions, or gaps in knowledge, that would be addressed? • Is the proposed work a “programme”, i.e. a coordinated and coherent group of related projects to answer an inter-related set of questions? • Does the work require long-term and extensive support? • Are the research questions driven by LMIC country needs?
Scientific potential	<p>Research Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the prospects for good scientific progress? • How convincing and coherent is the management strategy proposed? • Are the methodological approaches the most relevant to answer the research questions? Robust methodology and experimental research design should be at the centre of any proposal to aid reproducibility of research findings. • How well have project risks been identified, and will they be mitigated? <p>Research Environment and People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the applicant's track record of research, do they have the potential to successfully manage and deliver a major research programme? • What is the track record and standing in the field of the named applicants? Reviewers should take account of preprints in considering applications, noting the content of the papers, not where they, or subsequent peer reviewed papers, are published. • How appropriate is the expertise of the applicants to the proposed work? Does the research team have the necessary disciplinary expertise to undertake the study? • Have LMIC researchers had intellectual input into the setting of the research agenda and its ongoing strategic direction? Are the partnerships equitable? • Has attention been paid to gender equality within the research team? • Is the proposed environment(s) suitable and does it have the variety of expertise and disciplines to support a programme? • Has the host institution(s) demonstrated a clear commitment to the proposed programme for the duration of the grant? • Are any collaborators well chosen? • Does the environment provide appropriate opportunities for training and career development of personnel supported on the grant? • Are there any dependencies on other organisations or funding of which the MRC should be made aware? • Have relevant stakeholders been identified and engaged from outside of the academic community? If they have not yet been engaged are there clear plans to do so?

- Where a new research network is proposed, is the membership (geographical and disciplinary) and management structure of the network appropriate? Will it add value to existing networks?

Impact – *please note that a detailed pathways to impact document is only required if invited to submit a full application. At the outline stage the following points should be summarised in the Case for Support.*

- What is the potential economic and societal impact of the proposed research in LMICs? Please comment on:
 - identification of realistic potential improvements to human or population health
 - contribution to relieving disease/disability burden and/or improving quality of life
 - identification of potential impacts of research and plans to deliver these (in the Pathways to Impact statement)
 - Is there sufficient engagement with relevant stakeholders within the country/countries of focus to enable appropriate dissemination of the research findings?
 - Where appropriate, has consideration been given to how scale up of the research findings into policy and practice would occur? What is the likelihood of uptake of the research findings e.g. has a cost effectiveness evaluation, where relevant, been included as part of the proposed research?
 - Has consideration been given to the impact of the research on gender equality?
 - Are the findings likely to be generalizable to other relevant settings?

Ethics

- Are there any ethical and/or research governance issues? Please comment on:
 - whether the proposed research is ethically acceptable
 - any ethical issues that need separate consideration
 - appropriateness of ethical review and research governance considerations
 - any potential adverse consequences for humans, animals or the environment and whether these risks have been addressed satisfactorily in the proposal

Data Management Plan – *please note that a detailed data management plan document is only required if invited to submit a full application.*

- Does the data management plan indicate whether the applicants have (or are likely to have) a sound plan for managing the research data funded through the award, taking account:
 - the types, scale and complexity of data being (or to be) managed
 - the likely long-term value for further research including by sharing data
 - the anticipated information security and ethics requirements.

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Any research proposal involving a collaboration with one or more industrial partners (contributing either in cash or in kind) is handled by MRC as a MICA. All MICA proposals will be identifiable to reviewers as they will have the word 'MICA' at the start of the project title.

- If the proposal has been identified as a MICA, it will also need to convince the relevant research board or funding panel that:
 - the planned research could or would not be undertaken in the absence of the requested funding, or that it could not be undertaken to the quality level or timescale proposed
 - the collaboration or partnership is consistent with the aims and delivery of the project and MRC funding rules and requirements for academic-industry collaborations
 - potential conflicts of interest between the parties are acceptable and are being, or would be, appropriately managed

Research involving cohort resources

- For any research proposal involving a cohort.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What new health research questions or hypotheses will it be possible to answer over the next five to ten years using the cohort resource? • Why can this science be addressed using this cohort above other resources? • What does this cohort offer that other cohorts do not (nationally and internationally) and how does it relate to other relevant cohorts? Applicants should either list the assets (measures, specimens, population group) as an Annex or reference the cohort website. • What are the plans for establishing the cohort as a resource – how is it/will it be used by the wider research community?
Resources requested	<p><i>Please note that at the outline stage only limited information is required on the resources requested. Please see guidance provided above.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the funds requested essential for the work and justified by the importance and scientific potential of the research? • Is the applicants' stated time commitment to the work appropriate and sufficient? • Where the MRC is being asked to fund investigator salaries, are the requests in each case reasonable? • Does the proposal demonstrate value for money in terms of the resources requested? • Is the distribution of funding across partners appropriate for the intended contribution of partners within the research proposal? • Are requests for equipment (>£10,000) fully justified? <p>Research involving cohort resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must be clear which costs relate to de novo data collection, analysis of new data and/or maintenance or use of existing data
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have capacity assets, gaps and needs been fully explored across the research project including all relevant stakeholders? • Have appropriate capacity building activities been embedded within the research proposal?

Partnership Grant assessment criteria

Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important are the objectives the partnership plans to address? • Have the applicants demonstrated the partnership format is right for activities they propose and for the scientific field? Will the partnership provide added value to the research? • How original is the proposal? Are there similar partnerships in the UK or elsewhere? • What impact will this Partnership grant funding have on current or future scientific delivery and on scientific strategy? • Are the research questions driven by LMIC country needs?
Scientific potential	<p>Research Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the potential of this approach to advance the scientific area? • Are the aims and objectives realistic within the timeframe and with the resources proposed? • How convincing and coherent is the management strategy proposed? • What is the longer-term outlook beyond the funded period of the partnership? • Are the methodological approaches the most relevant to answer the research questions? Robust methodology and experimental research design should be at the centre of any proposal to aid reproducibility of research findings. • How well have project risks been identified, and will they be mitigated? <p>Research Environment and People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the researchers involved in the partnership deliver the proposed work? Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are the co-investigators and/or collaborators well chosen? ○ Does the quality and productivity of their recent work suggest that they will be likely to successfully deliver the proposed objectives? Reviewers should take account of preprints in considering applications, noting the content of the papers, not where they, or subsequent peer reviewed papers, are published.

- What skills and expertise do the Investigators have to promise success in the proposed approaches? Does the research team have the necessary disciplinary expertise to undertake the study? Have LMIC researchers had intellectual input into the setting of the research agenda and its ongoing strategic direction? Are the partnerships equitable?
- Has the partnership environment been well described?
- Have relevant stakeholders been identified and engaged from outside of the academic community? If they have not yet been engaged are there clear plans to do so?
- Has the host RO(s) demonstrated commitment to supporting the proposed partnership, for example by reducing or waiving co-investigator salary and associated estates costs?
- Has attention been paid to gender equality within the research team?
- If the proposal is for shared equipment or expertise, have the applicants described where this will be sited and how it will be supported by the host RO(s)? Does the management strategy ensure equitable access to any equipment or staff that will be shared between collaborators?
- Does the partnership provide opportunities for the training and career development of personnel working in the partnership?
- If the proposal involves a request for studentships:
 - Will the studentships provide a unique training experience which could not be supported by existing MRC studentship support for example Doctoral Training Grant funding?
 - Will the management strategy ensure high standards of supervision, mentoring and support for students?
 - Do all studentships requested meet MRC's research training objectives and expectations (see RCUK Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training)?

Impact – please note that a detailed pathways to impact document is only required if invited to submit a full application. At the outline stage the following points should be summarised in the Case for Support:

- identification of realistic potential improvements to human or population health
- contribution to relieving disease/disability burden and/or improving quality of life
- identification of potential impacts of research and plans to deliver these (in the Pathways to Impact statement)
- Is there sufficient engagement with relevant stakeholders within the country/countries of focus to enable appropriate dissemination of the research findings? Is there sufficient engagement with relevant stakeholders within the country/countries of focus to enable appropriate dissemination of the research findings?
- Where appropriate, has consideration been given to how scale up of the research findings into policy and practice would occur? What is the likelihood of uptake of the research findings e.g. has a cost effectiveness evaluation, where relevant, been included as part of the proposed research?
- Has consideration been given to the impact of the research on gender equality?
- Are the findings likely to be generalizable to other relevant settings?

Ethics

- Are there any ethical and/or research governance issues? Please comment on:
 - whether the proposed research is ethically acceptable
 - any ethical issues that need separate consideration
 - appropriateness of ethical review and research governance considerations
 - any potential adverse consequences for humans, animals or the environment and whether these risks have been addressed satisfactorily in the proposal.

Data Management Plan – please note that a detailed data management plan document is only required if invited to submit a full application.

- Does the data management plan indicate whether the applicants have (or are likely to have) a sound plan for managing the research data funded through the award, taking account:
 - the types, scale and complexity of data being (or to be) managed
 - the likely long-term value for further research including by sharing data
 - the anticipated information security and ethics requirements.

	<p>Research involving cohort resources For any research proposal involving a cohort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What new health research questions or hypotheses will it be possible to answer over the next five to ten years using the cohort resource? • Why can this science be addressed using this cohort above other resources? • What does this cohort offer that other cohorts do not (nationally and internationally) and how does it relate to other relevant cohorts? Applicants should either list the assets (measures, specimens, population group) as an Annex or reference the cohort website. • What are the plans for establishing the cohort as a resource – how is it/will it be used by the wider research community?
<p>Resources requested</p>	<p><i>Please note that at the outline stage only limited information is required on the resources requested. Please see guidance provided above.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the MRC is being asked to fund investigator salaries are the requests in each case reasonable and do they reflect the level of intellectual contribution? • Do contributions from the host RO(s) or from other sources enhance the value for money of the proposal? • Is the distribution of funding across partners appropriate for the intended contribution of partners within the research proposal? • Are requests for equipment (>£10,000) fully justified? <p>Research involving cohort resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must be clear which costs relate to de novo data collection, analysis of new data and/or maintenance or use of existing data
<p>Capacity Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have capacity assets, gaps and needs been fully explored across the research project including all relevant stakeholders? • Have appropriate capacity building activities been embedded within the research proposal?

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