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Anticipatory Call for Expressions of Interest: Addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa (ANSRHRA)

Virtual Q&A Webinar

March 26th 2024



SRHR are critical to achieving the SDGs

Sustainable social and economic development

Promotes gender equity, increases productivity and household income and provides multi-generational benefits by improving children's health and wellbeing

Legal obligations

SRHR are human rights and are protected by international, regional and national laws

Strong economic sense

Cost-effective investment that pays long-term dividends, while the costs of inaction are high



Goals and outcomes of ANSRHRA

Overall goal: Contribute to greater realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights by under-served populations in sub-Saharan Africa

Focus populations: Under-served populations include, but are not limited to, women and girls facing multiple forms of social, economic and political exclusion across the life course (see Call for Letters of Intent for a full description)

Expected outcomes:

1. Expanded use of evidence-informed gender-responsive sexual and reproductive health and rights interventions with under-served populations, including women and girls, in sub-Saharan Africa
2. Increased promotion of gender equitable sexual and reproductive health and rights by communities, governments and other key stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa



ANSRHRA Overview

An anticipated total of **CAD 29.9M** will support the ANSRHRA Initiative

- Approximately **CAD 19.1M** available to fund up to **16 implementation research projects** over two cycles (first in 2024 with a second cycle anticipated in 2026)

Implementation research teams who are successful at the Letter of Intent stage will be invited to submit full proposals for the anticipatory second stage of this call

- Approximately **CAD10.8M** is available to fund a **first cohort of up to 8 full proposals** at up to **CAD 1.2M each**, over a period of **36 months**



ANSRHRA Overview (cont'd)

All Implementation Research Teams (IRTs) must include:

1. a principal applicant who is a **sub-Saharan Africa-based researcher** (citizen or permanent resident of an African country) with a position in an institution based in an eligible country
2. a co-principal applicant who is a **senior member of a civil society organization** led by and/or prioritizing under-served populations who has been active in supporting priority areas of SRHR based in the **same country as the principal applicant's institution**
3. a co-principal applicant who is an independent researcher based in a **Canadian institution**
4. a co-applicant who is a relevant local-, district- or national-level **decision-maker**, based in the **same country as the principal applicant's institution**



ANSRHRA Overview (cont'd)

The ANSRHRA Initiative will also support two Health Policy and Research Organizations (HPROs) to:

- 1. Strengthen capacities** of IRTs and decision and policymakers to develop and implement evidence-informed, gender transformative SRHR policies and practices
- 2. Facilitate knowledge mobilization** by enabling opportunities for exchange, increasing scale and reach of successful interventions, and brokering critical national, regional and international relationships for implementation research teams
- 3. Build momentum** around shared advocacy addressing SRHR

HPRO for West and Central Africa

HRPO for East and Southern Africa



Anticipatory ANSRHRA Funding for Implementation Research Teams

Letters of Intent

- Due May 13, 2024
- Applicants notified of review decisions in June 2024
- Only successful applicants invited to next stage

Full Proposals

- Up to 15 successful applicants receive CAD50K development grant; participate in proposal development workshop in July 2024
- Full proposals due in October 2024

First cohort of Implementation Research Teams

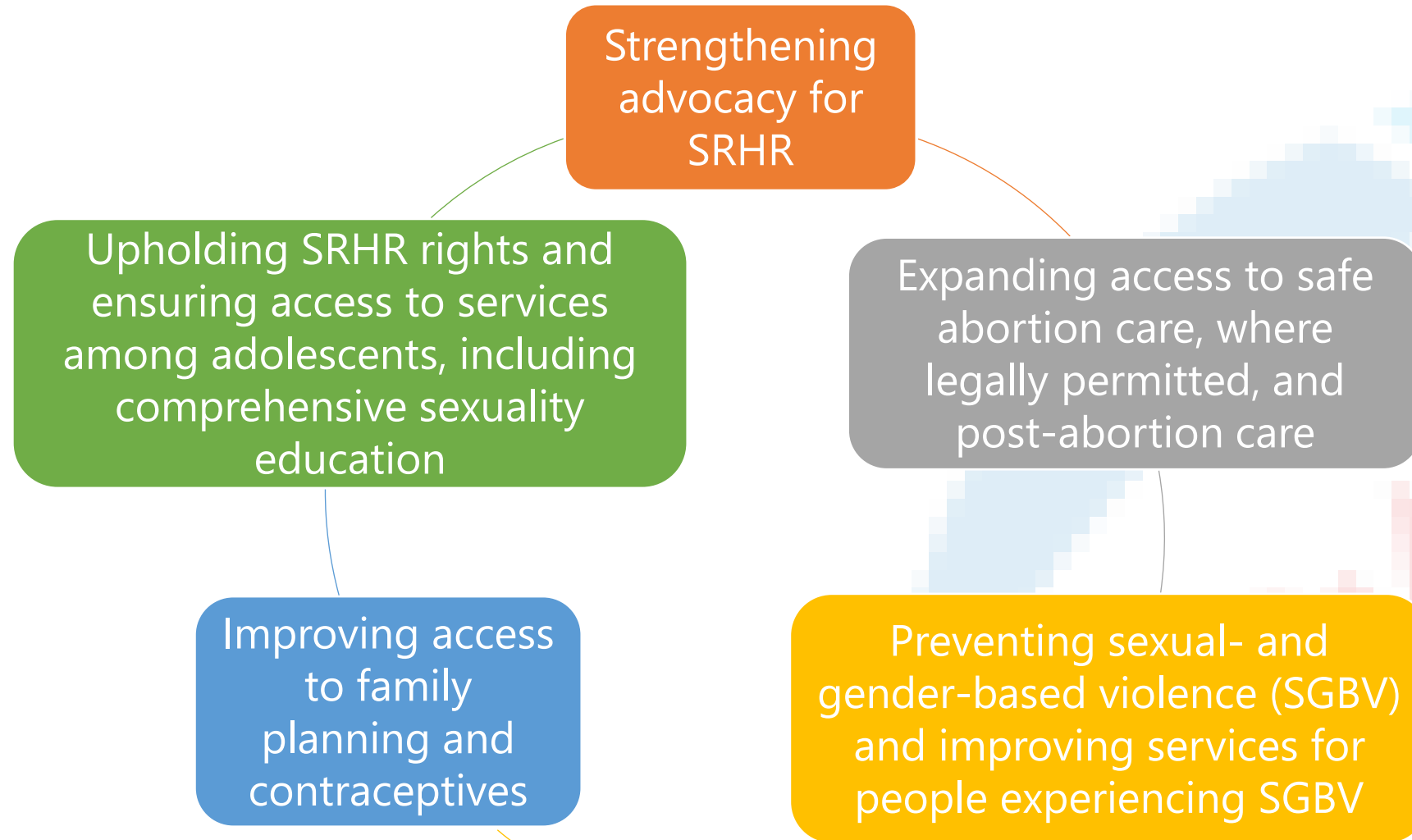
- Applicants notified of funding decisions in November 2024
- Funding start date January 2025

All dates are anticipatory and approximate



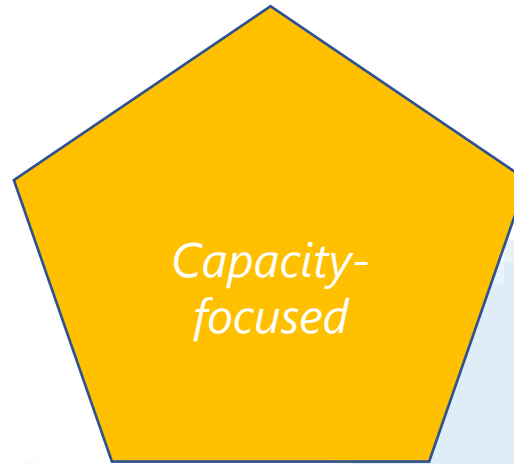
Components of the LOI: Research Areas

Each described in more detail in the Call document

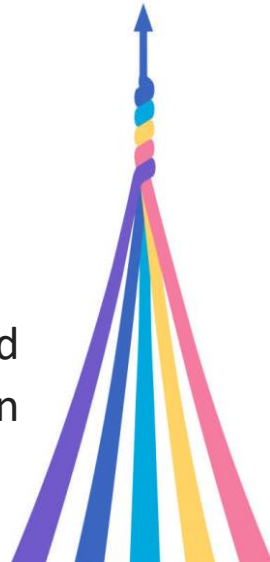




Components of the LOI: Core Design Elements



Implementation research develops tests and refines theories or hypotheses of how interventions can achieve their intended impacts for specific populations



Gender transformative research aims its interventions at the individual, organizational, political and structural levels that shape issues of power and voice



Components of the LOI: Evaluation Criteria and other requirements

Letters of Intent that meet eligibility criteria will be reviewed by an External Scientific Community for

Relevance and rationale (35%)

Gender-transformative and intersectionality considerations (20%)

Team capacity (20%)

Knowledge mobilization and impact (20%)

Appropriateness of budget (5%)

Requirements for each section and with respect to each criteria are described in the Call for Letters of Intent document - read the instructions carefully!

The Call document also outlines additional documents required as part of submissions



Components of the LOI: Evaluation Criteria

Rationale and research design (35%)

- Addresses **local priorities** of under-served populations and demonstrates **buy-in** from decision-makers, under-served populations, and organizations that serve them
- Addresses overall objectives, **at least one** priority research area and integrates **all core design elements**
- Includes clear research question(s), conceptual or theoretical framework(s) and data collection plan

Gender transformative and intersectionality considerations (20%)

- Extent to which **gender-transformative research approaches** and **gender equity and intersectionality considerations** are embedded in proposed research and implementation
- Addresses **gaps in evidence** pertaining to implementation of gender transformative SRHR interventions
- Considers gender norms, roles and relations and how they affect **access to and control over resources and opportunities**



Components of the LOI: Evaluation Criteria (cont'd)

Team capacity (20%)

- Demonstrates expertise, experience, readiness and appropriateness of the research teams, particularly in **gender-transformative research approaches** and **gender equity and intersectional analysis**
- Demonstrates expertise in research, advocacy, knowledge mobilization, and policy influence related to ANSRHRA's priority areas
- Awareness of capacity gaps and outlines a comprehensive strategy to address them

Knowledge mobilization and impact (20%)

- Demonstrates how generated evidence will **inform decisions**, contribute to **scaling-up** interventions, and **strengthening advocacy** and **accountability mechanisms**
- Describes appropriate, clear and creative project-specific knowledge mobilization strategies
- Includes broad engagement of decision-makers, including under-served populations, **in defining priority evidence needs** and **knowledge translation and mobilization strategies**



Components of the LOI: Evaluation Criteria (cont'd)

Appropriateness of budget (5%)

- Justified in relation to the suggested activities
- **Apportioned appropriately** between the principal applicant, civil society organization co-principal applicant, Canadian-based co-principal applicant, and, where appropriate, the decision-maker co-applicant
 - While each team should define the most appropriate way to distribute their budget to achieve their proposed project's activities, a **minimum of CAD250,000** must be allocated to support the activities of **civil society organizations** related to strengthening **advocacy** and **accountability mechanisms**



Submitting an LOI: How to use SurveyMonkey Apply

1. Register

2. Log in

3. Start your application

The registration page features the 'Apply' logo and the text 'Register for an applicant account'. It offers a 'Register with' button with a Google 'G' icon. Below this is an 'OR' separator and two input fields for 'First name' and 'Last name'. Further down are fields for 'Email', 'Password', and 'Confirm password', each with a visibility toggle. A reCAPTCHA 'I'm not a robot' checkbox is present, along with links to 'terms of service' and 'privacy policy'. A blue 'CREATE ACCOUNT' button is at the bottom.

The login page features the 'Apply' logo and the text 'Log in with'. It offers three social login buttons: Facebook 'f', Twitter, and Google 'G'. Below these is an 'OR' separator and input fields for 'Email' and 'Password', each with a visibility toggle. A 'Forgot your password?' link is located to the right of the password field. A blue 'LOG IN' button is at the bottom, with a link below it that reads 'Or Sign in with IDRC Employees / Employés du CRDI'.

The 'All Applications' page shows a dropdown menu for 'All Applications'. The main content area displays details for a specific application: 'Regional Hubs for Climate Change and Health Research' with the ID 'RHCCHR-PRRCCS-0000000208' and a 'Deadline: 2024 Apr 5 05:00 PM (EDT)'. A progress bar indicates '0 of 1 tasks complete'. A prominent green 'START' button is visible, and the page notes 'Last edited: 2024 Mar 4 01:00 PM (EST)'.

[Application Guide for SurveyMonkey Apply](#)



Submitting an LOI: How to use SurveyMonkey Apply

- The SurveyMonkey submission portal includes 3 sections:
 1. **Privacy agreement:** applicants must read and agree to the Privacy statement to continue with the application
 2. **Eligibility screening:** includes 16 eligibility screening questions. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria outlined will be withdrawn from the competition.
 3. **Letter of intent submission:** includes 3 sub-sections:
 - a. **Application form submission:** includes 5 questions about your proposal
 - b. **LOI submission:** 7,000 words max. in English; 8,400 words max. in French
 - c. **Supporting documents submission:** includes letters of support; biographies; Indigenous co-applicant details; legal certificate; organization charts; and list of external donors.
- Once submitted, all applicants will receive an automatic email confirming their submission



Submitting an LOI: Questions

Any inquiries should be directed to SRHR-SDSR@idrc.ca on or before Monday May 6, 2024, to receive a response prior to the deadline date

Any inquiries which affect all applications received will be compiled anonymously and answered in a **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQ) document, posted to the Initiative's website

Applications must be submitted through the **SurveyMonkey Apply portal** no later than **May 13, 2024** (17:00 Eastern Standard Time)

All required documents must be received before the deadline. Letters of intent received after the deadline will not be considered



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