



*Solutions to global health, equity and development
through research and innovation in low- and middle-
income countries*



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Key Design Features of the RFI

What problem does the RFI aim to address?

Globally, Research Partnerships are created against a complex backdrop of inequitable conditions and practices

Addressing unfair outcomes between partners in:

- Ability to shape the research agenda
- Scientific productivity and impact
- Training and capacity building opportunities
- Credit and recognition for contribution
- Access to data and intellectual property
- Compensation for participation in research partnerships



Example Scenarios

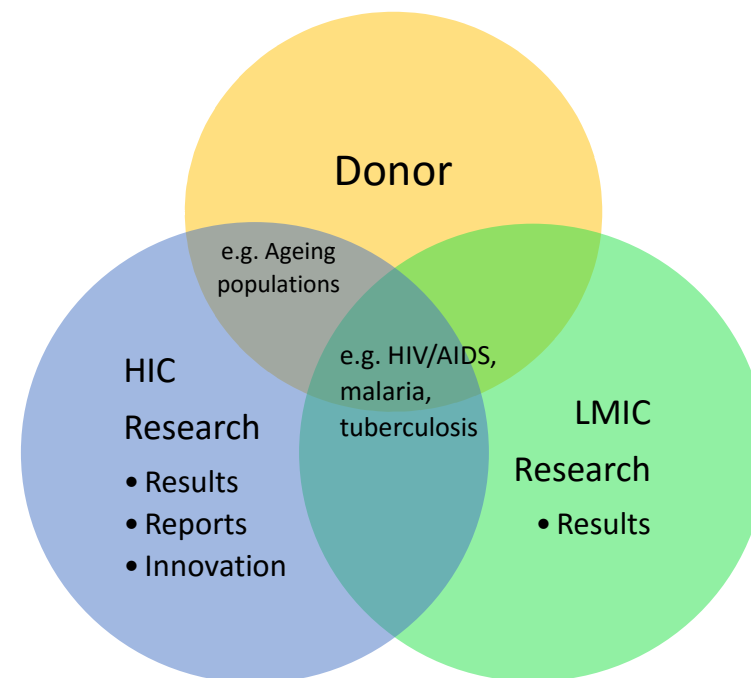
What does the RFI try to achieve?: Current scenario

Immediate results:

- Donor interests are fulfilled
- HIC research institution may not meet its mission or goals
- LMIC research institution has not addressed the other significant national issues

Long-term results:

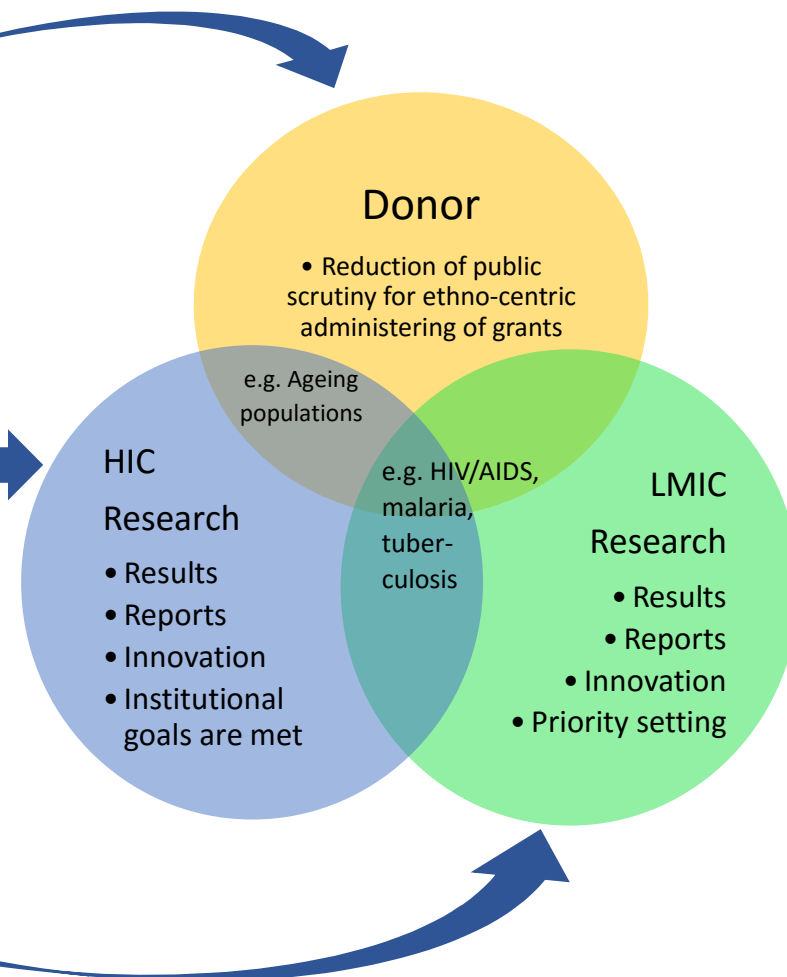
- Imbalance in LMIC capacity
- Large research budgets cover only a small proportion of existing global problems



What does the RFI try to achieve?: Scenario with the RFI set in place

RFI in place:

- Intellectual property rights
- Capacity building efforts
- Ownership/sharing of data
- Compensation for overhead costs
- Research contracting context



How will the RFI address these problems?

The RFI aims to provide collective leadership by having institutions reporting on their practices and policies to inform the world through:

- Making the nature of unfair practices explicit in the RFI
- Encouraging institutional reporting to facilitate improved understanding
- Showcasing policies, practices and strategies that effectively address problems of fairness
- Tracking, measuring and reporting on the global state of fairness in research partnerships

THE GLOBAL BENEFITS

- Increase awareness of existing issues
- Gain sensitivity to how stakeholders view their own actions and practices
- Provide a legitimate platform for sharing information
- Improve partnership negotiations
- Enable analysis of report results
- Step towards fulfilling SDG 17



What is the potential value of addressing these problems?

Key Features of Fair Research Partnerships

RFI Reporting Guidelines: Proposed reporting topics

Fairness of Opportunity – “BEFORE Research”

1. **Relevance to communities** – *in which research is done*
2. **Early engagement of all partners** – *in deciding about aims, methods, implementation*
3. **Making contributions of all partners explicit** – *before projects reach a ‘no-return’ phase, ensuring ‘fair value’ for all before, during and after research*
4. **Ensuring that ‘matching’ and other co-financing mechanisms do not undermine opportunities for fair participation of all partners**
5. **Recognition of unequal research management capacities between partners and providing for appropriate corrective measures** – *negotiation, contracting, language, financial management systems*

RFI Reporting Guidelines: Proposed reporting topics

Fair Process – “DURING Research”

6. **Minimizing negative impact of research programmes on health and other systems – divert human and other resources away from essential services and care**
7. **Fair local hiring, training and sourcing - staff, consumables and other support**
8. **Respect of authority of local ethics review system – possible measures to enhance this**
9. **Data ownership, storage, access and use – during and after research**
10. **Encourage ‘full cost recovery’ budgeting and compensation for all partners**

RFI Reporting Guidelines: Proposed reporting topics

Fair Benefit Sharing – “AFTER Research”

11. **Research System Capacities** - *improvements to ensure local research systems become more competitive, better able to take the lead in future*
12. **Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Transfer** – *specific measures to share IP Rights in collaborative research*
13. **Innovation System Capacities** – *Measures to optimize localisation of spin-off economic activities, scaling ability and culture of innovation*
14. **Due diligence efforts** – *minimizing negative environmental, social and cultural impact; achieving SDGs; increasing women in science*
15. **Expectation of all partners to adhere to a best practice standard in research collaborations** – *such as Research Fairness Initiative or other such efforts (see the RFI website)*

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Thank you!

