Researcher Diversification Strategy: Information Session

Exploratory grant Fund opportunity

Innovations for Poverty Action

…finding and sharing what works…

April 4, 2024

Information Session

Exploratory grant Fund opportunity

Moderator: Caroline Nyuguto, Regional Research and Engagement Manager

April 4, 2024

ipa Innovations for Poverty Action

Panelists

Caroline Nyuguto
Moderator

Regional Research and Engagement Manager
IPA Kenya

Olasubomi Obadeyi
Panelist

Research and Project Development Manager
IPA Nigeria

Obed Kambasu
Panelist

Policy Manager

IPA Uganda

Jemima Okal
Panelist

Associate Policy Manager

IPA Kenya

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Introduction to IPA

Learn more about what we do at www.poverty-action.org

What We Do: 3-Pillar Strategy

1. **Create Stronger Evidence**
    To deepen knowledge of how to reduce poverty

2. **Share Evidence Strategically**
    To influence conversations
     and inform decisions
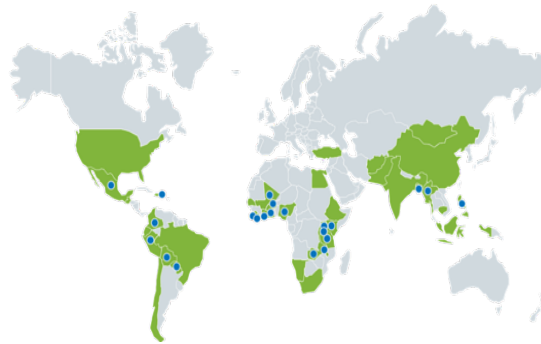
3. **Equip Decision-Makers to Use Evidence**
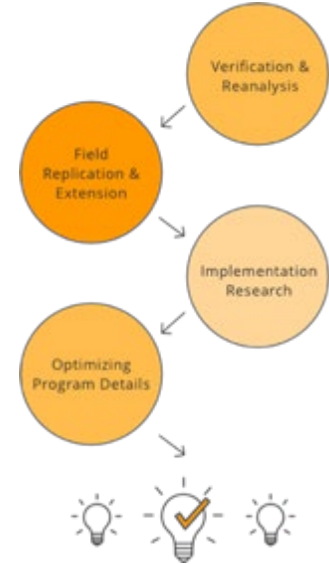   To improve the lives of the global poor

IPA at a Glance II

600+ Resarces in our network

900 Evaluations to date in 91 countries

20 plus years of generating evidence and moving evidence to policy

IPA at a Glance I

22 country offices

Agriculture   Education   Financial Inclusion   Governance

Health   Peace & Recovery   Small & Medium Enterprises   Social Protection

8 program areas

700+ partners

02

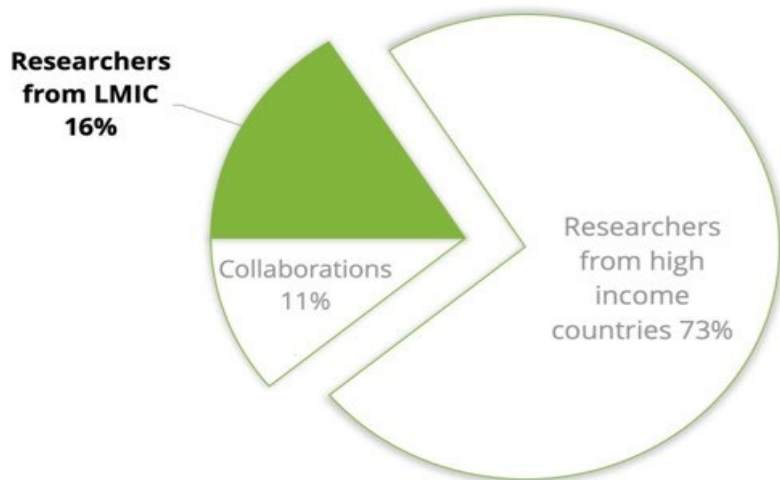# IPA's Researcher Diversification Strategy

Learn more about what we do at www.poverty-action.org

TOP 20 DEVELOPMENT JOURNALS

Researchers from LMIC 16%

Collaborations 11%

Researchers from high income countries 73%

Researchers from lower middle-income countries (LMICs) are under represented in development research

Top 20 Development Journal

Source: Verónica Amarante et al., "Underrepresentation of Developing Country Resarces in Development Research," Applied Economics Letters 0, no. 0 (August 12, 2021): 1–6, https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2021.1965528.

IPA's LMIC Researcher Diversification Strategy

By 2025, our goal is for 60 percent of IPA projects to include LMIC researchers.

01 — Research Networks

Expand development research networks to include more southern researchers

02 — Funding

Enhance access to funding for southern researchers.

03 — Pipeline Development

Promote pipeline development of southern researchers within our country office

04 — Policy Engagement

Support southern researchers with research communications and policy engagement.

IPA's Value Add

IPA's unique value lies in our role as developer and implementer of research projects with a large network of researchers.

Role as a developer & implementer

Hands on policy engagement

Network of researchers

Convening power

03

The Exploratory Grant Fund Opportunity

Learn more about what we do at www.poverty-action.org

Grant Types and Purpose

Proposal Development Up to $10,000

Exploratory work related to preliminary research ideas

01

Coverage

These grants cover exploratory work related to preliminary research ideas, such as conducting background research, developing partnerships, visiting field sites, and collecting preliminary data.

02

Access to Data and RCTs

These grants may also be used for activities intended to facilitate access to administrative data for designing or conducting an RCT. Examples of these activities include, but are not limited to, negotiating data use agreements, conducting exploratory data analysis and cleaning, or setting up technical access mechanisms.

03

Travel Cost for Proposal Development

The expectation is that these funds will be used to support costs related to PI travel to develop a proposal for a pilot or full-scale randomized evaluation during a subsequent call for proposals. Please note these grants are provided on a cost-reimbursable basis

Eligibility Criteria

Researchers

- who hold a PhD *AND*
- whose primary affiliation is with a university, research institution or think tank *AND*
- who are based in **Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda**

Note: Only 1 person per team needs to meet these criteria. There is no restriction on the co-PIs. Team applications are encouraged.

What are we looking for in a proposal?

- Based on a strong research idea.
- Has a clear pathway to a randomised evaluation.
- Follows the application guidelines.
- Written clearly, simply and succinctly.
- Avoids common mistakes.
- Well-planned.

What makes a strong research idea?

- Academically interesting
- Policy relevant
- RCT-able idea (cause and effect question)

What is a clear pathway to a randomised evaluation?

Relatability

For any grant type, proposals need to relate to a program. There needs to be an intervention or a planned intervention described as part of the proposal
It needs to be possible to randomize the implementation of the intervention.

This grant is not for a pilot or full RCT. Rather, it is for exploring the feasibility of doing either.

Exploratory work, within the context of our competitive fund, refers to preliminary research activities aimed at identifying and understanding key factors or variables relevant to a specific research question or problem.

Exploratory phase

This phase involves gathering initial data, conducting pilot studies, and exploring potential methodologies to inform the development of more comprehensive impact evaluations.

Exploratory grants are intended to support preliminary research, so proposals need only address the general topic of interest, the academic literature you hope to contribute to, and your current thinking about how relevant questions might be explored through a randomized evaluation. These proposals do not need to include a detailed program or evaluation design

Follow the application guidelines

Proposal development grants
(up to $10,000) should ideally contain:

- A concise statement of topic.

- Proposed partners, if available.

- A discussion of the project's connection to each country office key themes.

- Budget

- Basic information about the PIs

Writing Tips for your Proposal

Proposals that are simple, succinct and clearly written have higher chances of success

- Make sure each section speaks directly to the headings included in the proposal form

- Use a clear title for the proposal

- Use clear, concise language

- Cite related literature

- Review your own proposal & ask others to review it too.

Common mistakes to avoid

Insufficient detail on the theory of change and intervention

- Explain the need that exists and how the intervention will address the need

- Provide specific details about the intervention and research - sample size, what the treatment involves, how it will be randomised, data collection etc.

Not laying out a clear pathway to an RCT

- The end goal for funding is a full scale RCT so you must explain how your proposal development grant will lead to a full scale in RCT

RFP Timeline

01
Proposal due
Friday, 19 April 2024

02
Review of proposal
Internal
Month of May

03
Decision released
May 31st, 2024