



Request for Proposal: Research Grants

Expanding and improving Disaster Risk Finance

Closing date for proposal submission: **Monday 29th January 2024, extended to Thursday 29th February 2024 at 10 am (UK time).**

Overview

The Centre for Disaster Protection (the Centre) is inviting organisations interested in research questions around expanded and improved use of disaster risk finance (DRF) to strengthen resilience in developing countries to respond to this request for research proposals (RfP). Some more information on the thematic focus and how to respond to this RfP can be found below and in the enclosed guidance notes.

About the Centre

The **Centre for Disaster Protection** was launched by the UK Prime Minister in July 2017 to strengthen resilience in developing countries through better preparedness and planning backed by risk-based financing arrangements. The Centre is funded with UK aid from the UK government.

The Centre for Disaster Protection works to change how the world prepares and pays for disasters. Identifying, planning for and financing disasters before they strike saves lives, reduces suffering and protects livelihoods and economies, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable communities. The Centre brings countries together with international development, humanitarian and private sector organisations to find solutions and advocate for change. We find ways to stop disasters devastating lives by supporting countries and the international system to better manage risks. To do this, the Centre provides advisory services, builds knowledge, catalyses innovation and creates partnerships across the development, humanitarian and financial sectors.

The Centre's technical work is focused on cross-cutting goals as set out in [our five-year strategy](#) (2019-2024):

1. **Advice – quality assurance and advisory services and training:** We will have a respected and widely used quality assurance function that has increased the quantity and quality of risk financing products and services. Our effective technical assistance and capacity building will have supported high risk, vulnerable countries to make better disaster risk management decisions through knowledge exchange and genuine skills transfer.
2. **Evidence and Learning:** We will be internationally recognised as driving change through evidence, experimentation and learning which will strengthen the global evidence base on disaster risk financing.
3. **Advocacy and Influencing:** Through advocacy and influencing and being a positive disrupter, we will have improved the quality and quantity of disaster risk financing through the multilateral system.



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Additionally, we are focused on building effective systems and processes on people and operations to support the Centre to rapidly yet strategically scale and grow in a way that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion and ensures the organisation is a great place to work.

Research Proposals Focus

This call is for research proposals.

The Centre for Disaster Protection has an ambitious and targeted research agenda designed to generate robust evidence and develop practical policy and operational recommendations that will drive change.

The point of departure for the research themes and questions posed here is that Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) is now relatively well established at a global policy level and proof of concept has been established through a growing array of DRF instruments. We now face a second generation of challenges in moving beyond standing up new instruments and pilots towards achieving good quality DRF, on a meaningful scale. This is far more than a technical challenge, and will require understanding and addressing structural barriers, political and economic trade-offs and disincentives, legacy systems, and behaviours.

This programme of work will generate evidence and analysis to inform a wide-ranging problem diagnostic and proposals for solutions to enable substantial scale-up of DRF.

The Centre is looking to identify partners to work with us to address some of our key research priorities over the next 12-18 months across an initial three research areas. Prospective partners are invited to submit proposals that respond to all or part of the research questions outlined under each theme as described below.

We welcome research proposals with a variety of potential research methods or combinations of methods including but not limited to qualitative comparative and case study analysis including with political economy analysis approaches; participatory research approaches, including deliberative dialogues; literature reviews; and econometric analysis. Submissions are exploratory at this stage and we would expect to work in close collaboration with selected partners to refine and develop research approaches.

We particularly welcome and encourage submissions from, or in partnership with, researchers, universities, and organisations in the global South.

Research themes:

1. **Identifying and understanding constraints to demand for DRF at country level.**
Demand for DRF remains limited and uncertain. We have a limited understanding of the structural, political and economic barriers and disincentives to demand, including fragility and conflict, how these could be addressed and what realistic limits to demand, and realistic timelines might be. Specific research questions under this theme include:
 - What factors influence the attractiveness of and ability to sustain support for DRF for financial decision-makers?
 - What does DRF have to offer and how can DRF function effectively in conflict-affected and fragile settings?
 - What is the nature of demand, what products are available and what challenges do subnational duty bearers such as municipal and regional governments face in accessing DRF?

2. **What investments would be needed in systems that receive and programme DRF funds to enable timely and effective delivery of crisis response?** ‘Money through’ and ‘money out’ systems are a major barrier to realising the benefits of DRF.

Public financial management systems, social safety nets and basic service delivery systems may not be capable of delivering timely well-targeted responses. Notably, social protection systems are often very limited in scale and responsiveness to shocks and remain fragile and aid dependent in many low-income settings. International humanitarian response programming remains largely skewed towards ex post planning and response. Realising the potential benefits of DRF at scale will require intentional investment in the readiness of these systems to deliver timely and well targeted response. Specific research questions under this thematic include:

- To what extent and in what ways are public financial management systems a constraint on effective delivery of DRF and what would a realistic package of reforms and timeline for change comprise?
- What is the state of institutional ‘readiness’ of core national delivery systems including social safety nets and public health systems to deliver timely and effective crisis response and what would a realistic package and timeline for investment in building responsive capabilities comprise?

3. **How can we measure and monitor levels of investment in and coverage of pre-arranged financing for those most at risk?** In 2023, the Centre produced its inaugural annual data-led report on investments in and coverage of Pre-Arranged

Financing (PAF) in low and middle-income countries. The purpose of the report was to provide a trusted baseline and trend monitoring tool to enable more evidence-based reflection and discussion on levels and patterns of investment in PAF.

The report includes data-led analysis of global trends in PAF. This includes analysis of trends and patterns in Official Development Assistance (ODA) investments in PAF, based on a methodology developed by the Centre.

In 2024, the Centre will further refine and develop its methodology and analysis, to also illustrate trends in PAF coverage, risk exposure and vulnerability, based on direct research and contributions from partner organisations. Because sources of data and information on PAF are limited, and methodologies nascent, the Centre will look to work with partner organisations to improve the quality and coverage of data over time.

The Centre is looking for partners with expertise in and access to sources of data that can help us to fill in data gaps, and to develop and refine existing methodologies, data analysis, interpretation and presentation of trends and patterns. Specific areas of support sought include:

- Reviewing and suggesting improvements to the Centre’s core methodology for identifying and tracking PAF; writing new R script(s) to further automate the generation of the core datasets; providing data quality assurance of analysis generated by the Centre.
- Supporting in the development of additional analysis on PAF coverage and how current trends in PAF relate to the risk exposure and vulnerability of the recipient countries.
- Understanding levels of international investment in PAF in the wider context, including investments in the enabling environment and infrastructure for DRF



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(including for example, investments in ‘money out’ systems and enabling factors such as risk monitoring/early warning systems, regulatory reform, capacity strengthening); trends in the wider ODA funding environment and relevance to DRF; trends in climate financing and its relevance for DRF.

Eligible Grant Partners

The Centre and DAI seeks organisations or groups of organisations with demonstrated experience and/or networks in any of the above research focus areas.

The Centre welcomes applications for grant funding from non-profit organisations. This could include advocacy organisations, policy think-tanks, research institutes or other not-for-profit institutions of any kind. Where a group is proposed, one organisation must be proposed as lead organisation, which would lead the application and hold the grant contract on behalf of the group and bear responsibility for arrangements and compliance by all partners.

All applicants must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria to apply:

- Be legally registered in country of establishment
- Be non-governmental AND Not-for-profit
- Have strong financial accounting systems, including the ability to manage external funds
- Have at least one annual audit report
- Have experience in the key thematic and/or geographical areas addressed by this call, or be able to demonstrate outreach capacity to operate in the area independently or with partners.

Please note, any grant award will be subject to successfully passing required vetting and due diligence checks, compliance with the terms of a grant agreement with the Centre’s managing agent DAI Global UK Ltd., and adherence to DAI and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) codes of conduct. Further details on these processes will be provided to shortlisted organisations, and where appropriate, advice and assistance may be provided by DAI in demonstrating eligibility under these terms and codes.

Grants Duration and Budget

The funding duration is flexible, but projects expected to range from approximately 3 (three) to 24 (twenty-four) months. No activity may be funded beyond 30th June 2025.

The Centre is prepared to consider proposals for Centre contributions of between £15,000 to £50,000 (fifteen thousand to fifty thousand GBP). Applications across this range will be welcomed, noting that assessment of proposals will include careful consideration of value for money of the requested contribution.

All proposals should include a clear and itemised budget for the suggested project, that identifies and quantifies all resource requirements needed for delivery of the proposed activities.

Applicants may request grant-funding for all eligible costs associated with the proposed project, or for a portion of the proposed costs, proposing co-funding of certain elements itself or (subject to ensuring alignment with the Centre’s aim) by third party funders. Co-funded elements can include cash or in-kind organisation contributions.

Types of activities and costs that the Centre cannot support include:



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- Costs incurred outside of the grant award period
- Financial profit.
- Interest payments.
- Costs already funded by other sources
- Projects consisting primarily of management of sub-grants to others
- Politically motivated activities
- Activities that advocate terrorism or violence of any kind.
- Travel costs in any class other than standard or economy.

Funding of procurement of assets will be considered on a case-by case basis. Specialist, project specific assets integrally required for delivery the proposed activity are most likely to be considered eligible. General assets such as standard IT equipment will not usually be considered.

Only costs actually incurred will be eligible for funding. All cost items must be supported by evidence (receipts or other documentary proofs) in grant partner financial reports.

Value for Money

The Centre is required to ensure that value for money is considered carefully in all funding decisions. All grant applications – including overall and individual cost elements and additional resource mobilised or leveraged - will be assessed on a value for money lens that considers equity, economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact.

Intellectual property (IP)

Ownership of background IP brought by a grant partner to an assignment will ordinarily remain with that partner. Ownership of any foreground and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) arising out of the performance of project will be discussed in detail in the context of grant award.

However, the Centre and DAI shall at minimum be awarded licence to use all foreground IP arising from activities and projects funded with contributions from the Centre (and any background IP only to the extent this is needed to make use of the foreground IP) in the form of a perpetual, irrevocable licence to use, sub-licence or commercially exploit such IPRs in the delivery of its mission and likewise provide licence to the Centre's funder, the UK FCDO, for the same rights.

Where the Centre contributes IP, the grant partner will be provided with right to use such IPRs and other Centre IPRs to the extent needed to perform their obligations under this project.

Application and Selection process

The grant will be contracted by DAI Global UK, who are the Centre's managing agent. **Interested organisations should apply by e-mail by sending the following to jobs_centre@disasterprotection.org:**

- Partner Information Form (Annex A)
- Proposal (Guidance available Annex B)

Bid submissions should be clearly marked with the following E-mail Subject line:
Research Grant RfP 1: Expanding and improving Disaster Risk Finance



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Any questions about the assignment or application process may be sent to the same address.

Key steps and timing

- **Deadline** The window for applications will remain open until **29th January 2024 at 10 am (UK time)**. This has been extended to the **29th February 2024 at 10 am (UK time)**.
- Any questions for clarifications can be submitted in writing (by email) to the Centre and no later than **15th January 2024, extended to the 15th February 2024**. The Centre will reply to all questions no later than **22nd January 2024 extended to the 22nd February 2024**. – anonymised questions and answers will be posted on *Contracts Finder*.

We encourage applicants to check regularly for any updates and responses to questions.

Assessment of proposals, selection of shortlisted bids for further discussion, due diligence and award

- The Centre will consider applications on a rolling basis /will review proposals following the close of the window for applications.
- The Centre will aim to confirm to applicants whether the applications has been shortlisted for further discussion, or cannot be supported, no later than 2 months after the close of the window for applications.
- The Centre (with its managing agent) will enter into further discussion with shortlisted applicants to discuss any questions around technical scope, delivery concerns, costs and payments, share and discuss grant award contractual terms and conditions, and commence due diligence and vetting checks in lines with UK Aid and DAI policies.

For the avoidance of doubt, shortlisting and subsequent discussion will in no way indicate final approval of award of funding and will remain exploratory in nature until a final grant agreement is concluded by both parties.

The Centre and DAI reserve the right to make amendments to this RfP process, to withdraw the opportunity, and/or to choose to make no award as a result of this process.