OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Essential Data Sets on Risk Events and Affected Populations

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I. Introduction

Each year, the international community allocates over $30 billion for crisis action in fragile and crisis-affected settings. As we face escalating social, political, economic, and environmental challenges, it becomes increasingly clear that data-driven approaches play a crucial role in improving our crisis response. Not only do they optimize resource allocation, but they also enable us to act earlier, faster, and more precisely, bringing dignity to those in crisis situations.

In these fragile settings, the scarcity of risk data creates a pressing challenge, often leaving crisis actors ill-equipped to respond effectively. This is where CRAF'd aims to step in. Our key goal is to address this data gap, making actionable insights on complex risks available to bolster our crisis response strategies.

Through this Open Call for Proposals, we are seeking projects that generate vital risk data sets, particularly those relating to major risk events and their impact on affected communities. By investing in these projects, CRAF'd will enable international partners to better anticipate and respond to crises, thereby safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of those in vulnerable settings.

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II. Open Call at a Glance

Theme	Essential data sets on risk events and affected populations
CRAF'd funding window	A – Essential risk data sets
Available funding	USD 3 million
Minimum grant size	USD 250,000
Project duration	Maximum 24 months
Opening of call	05 July 2023
Deadline for concept notes	06 August 2023 (12AM EDT)
Deadline for project proposals	October 2023
Anticipated disbursement of funding	November 2023

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III.   About CRAF'd

CRAF'd is the first and only multilateral financing instrument designed to build a global risk data ecosystem and enhance collective capabilities for anticipating, preventing, and responding to complex risks in fragile and crisis-affected settings.

By fostering collaboration and harnessing the power of data, CRAF'd is at the forefront of driving effective crisis action. The CRAF'd ecosystem already spans over 100 partners and 40,000 users across the globe. They leverage CRAF'd-supported insights to shape over $8 billion in crisis aid.

CRAF'd is allocating nearly $20 million annually through two funding windows. Allocations through funding window A help to ensure the sustainable provision of essential risk data sets as a common good. CRAF'd allocations through window B are designed to support the continuous expansion of analytics capabilities to better anticipate, prevent, and respond to complex risks.

To foster an ecosystem that is sustainable, scalable, and well-governed, CRAF'd partners collaborate based on principles that underpin how data capabilities are used and shared:

1. **Prioritize the interests of populations in vulnerable situations** to leave no one behind in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and share the conviction that this is only possible with a strong emphasis on broad stakeholder engagement, local capacity building, data/model validation, and expert analysis in the field.

2. Unite behind the notion that the CRAF'd ecosystem can only be sustainable if partners **share risks, burdens, and benefits**.

3. **Commit to the responsible use of data**, including principles of fairness, transparency, and privacy.

4. **Provide open access** to outputs funded by CRAF'd using interoperable and open data standards.

5. Incentivize data providers **not to exclusively rely on financial support from CRAF'd**.

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IV.   Thematic Focus of this Call for Proposals

The thematic focus for this Open Call is on essential data sets that provide insights into major risk events and affected populations. Projects should fall into one of the two categories:

1. **Primary data sets** on risk events and affected populations that focus on capturing information related to:

    o   Population and demographics

    o   Conflict and violence

    o   Weather and climate

    o   Public health and diseases

    o   Food and nutrition

    o   Geography and infrastructure

    o   Gender, including Women, Peace, and Security

    o   Other: please consult with the CRAF'd Secretariat before applying

2. **Composite data sets** that provide comprehensive and reliable multi-hazard information. These data sets can combine data from various sectors, geographic locations, and sources to create a nuanced composite view on complex risks events and/or affected populations.

Across both categories, data sets that are gender-disaggregated and/or focused on other dimensions of gender impact are a priority for CRAF'd.

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V.   Strategic Focus of Call for Proposals

The strategic focus for this Open Call is to prioritize projects that provide essential risk data sets as a public good. To this end, projects must demonstrate how they contribute to the following key strategic objectives:

o   **Securing essential risk data sets:** CRAF'd is committed to securing essential risk data sets as a public good so that everyone, everywhere, can discover, access, integrate and share the data they need. The data sets must play a critical role in improving crisis anticipation, prevention, and response efforts in fragile and crisis-affected settings.

o   **Supporting decision-making, programming, and resource allocation**: CRAF'd-supported data sets must demonstrate they have an impact on resource allocation, decision-making and programming that reaches people in fragile and crisis-affected settings earlier, faster, and in a more targeted and dignified way.

o   **Working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus:** CRAF'd invests in data sets that can be leveraged by stakeholders across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to comprehensively address complex risks.

o   **Fostering sustainable connections and collaboration:** CRAF'd strongly encourages joint applications from multiple organizations and partnerships with other organizations in the CRAF'd ecosystem. Collaboration with local organizations is particularly desirable.

o   **Enabling impact at scale:** CRAF'd seeks to invest in data sets that are either already widely used or address under-researched areas.

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VI.   Technical Requirements

For the purpose of this Open Call, a data set refers to a collection of primary and secondary data that can be analyzed and used to generate insights, models, or other forms of knowledge related to complex risks. Data sets can be generated by humans or machines and encompass a wide range of data types.

Applicants should consider the following technical requirements:

o **Public accessibility:** CRAF'd-supported data sets are expected to be accessible to CRAF'd partners and crisis actors at no cost, including through relevant platforms like the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#). While privacy and security concerns may limit full public access to some data sets, applicants are encouraged to commit to providing open access data sets whenever possible.

o **Formats:** CRAF'd supported data sets should utilize non-proprietary data formats. This ensures maximum accessibility and interoperability, facilitating the seamless exchange and utilization of data across different systems and stakeholders. Additionally, data sets should ideally be machine-readable, and projects should prioritize the provision of an application programming interface (API).

o **Temporal dimensions:** CRAF'd encourages the provision of both real-time and historical data. To this end, the data sets should go beyond one-off collections and demonstrate a continuous and comprehensive approach.

o **Spatial dimensions:** Projects should particularly focus on providing data sets in fragile and crisis-affected settings. This includes a specific emphasis on regional, national, and subnational levels, but ideally not lower than district and/or county level.

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VII.   Project Checklist

Submitted proposals will undergo a thorough evaluation process, taking into consideration their alignment with the strategic and thematic focus, as well as adherence to technical requirements and CRAF'd Principles. The evaluation criteria are outlined below:

- ✓ **Thematic focus**
  Proposals are required to be aligned with the Open Call's thematic focus of essential data sets on risk events and affected populations as outlined in Section IV – Thematic Focus.

- ✓ **Strategic focus**
  Proposals are required to have substantial impact and strategic relevance as outlined in the Section V – Strategic Focus and be aligned with the CRAF'd Results Framework as outlined in the CRAF'd ToR.

- ✓ **Technical requirements**
  Proposals are required to be aligned with the technical requirements as outlined in Section VI – Technical Requirements.

- ✓ **Commitment to all CRAF'd Principles**
  Proposals are required to be aligned with the CRAF'd Principles.

- ✓ **Sustainability**
  Proposals are required to demonstrate a reliable long-term provision of their outputs with regular release cycles that the CRAF'd data ecosystem can depend on.

- ✓ **Scalability**
  Proposals are required to demonstrate the potential for roll-out to larger contexts so that data is available and can be utilized across large geographic regions.

- ✓ **Innovation**
  Proposals should showcase innovative and novel approaches that can overcome entrenched barriers and address systemic challenges.

- ✓ **Cost effectiveness**
  Projects are required to demonstrate economical use of resources.

- ✓ **Geographic balance and local ownership**
  Across all proposals, CRAF'd will consider geographic balance of recipient organizations. Local ownership of data sets and inclusion of local knowledge are an advantage.

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VIII. Application Process

The application process for this Open Call is structured in two stages:

STAGE 1 – Concept Notes
Eligible organizations can submit concept notes through this online form. The concept notes serve as an initial screening process to evaluate the alignment of proposed projects with the Open Call's objectives and criteria.

Launch of Open Call	5 July 2023
Submission of Concept Notes	6 August 2023 (12AM EDT)
Communication of First Stage Results	September 2023

ACCESS THE ONLINE FORM HERE!

STAGE 2 – Project Proposals
Applicants who receive positive feedback on their concept notes will be invited to develop full-fledged project proposals. The project proposals will provide detailed information about the objectives, methodology, timeline, budget, and expected outcomes of the projects. The proposals will be evaluated by the CRAF'd Steering Committee, and successful applicants will be notified of the project approval.

Submission of Project Proposals	October 2023
Project Approval by the Steering Committee	October 2023
Disbursement of Funding	November 2023

IX. Other Eligibility Criteria

Participating UN organizations, who have signed the CRAF'd [Memorandum of Understanding](#), and Non-UN organizations are eligible to apply for CRAF'd funding through this Open Call.

Requirements for Non-UN organizations

Non-UN organizations can access CRAF'd funding either as a sub-grantee through a Managing Agent, or through the CRAF'd direct access modality if suitable, as outlined in the CRAF'd Terms of Reference. The access modality will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Regardless of the access modality, non-UN organizations will be required to provide at minimum the following documents:

1. Proof of current valid formal registration as non-profit for the duration of the proposed project in the country where the headquarters of the organisation is located. If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project.

2. Proof of a successfully managed and implemented grant of at least the grant size requested from CRAF'd in the last three years, e.g., financial, grant, or annual report.

3. UN reference or donor reference, attesting to satisfactory financial and programmatic management of a grant in the last three years.

X. Contact

For questions on this Open Call or CRAF'd in general, please contact the CRAF'd Secretariat at crafd@un.org. For further information, please also visit the [CRAF'd website](#).