**Mental Health Data Prize - Africa 2024**

**Application Instructions**

Application Date

Application Submission Start Date: July 1st 2024

Application Submission Closing Date: 31th July 2024

Applicant profile and information – completed via our application portal ([Announcements -Mental Health Data Prize::APHRC](https://www.mentalhealthdataprizeafrica.aphrc.org/applications/))

How to apply

Please refer to the following guidelines as you prepare your application to the RFP “Mental Health

Data Prize Africa”. Your application must include:

1. Proposal structure

Maximum 12 pages. Figures and references are not included in this page count.

Arial or Times New Roman font. 11point font or larger, at least 0.5” margins all around, Single line spacing, Standard character spacing (neither expanded nor condensed).

2. Budget Table (template is provided at end, in GBP)

Application Form

1. Project title

Country/countries of focus

Thematic areas /scope of work

**Instruction**. The research proposal addresses at least one of the following thematic areas in relation to anxiety, depression and/or psychosis:

- Generate data driven insights into at least one of:

* causal mechanisms underpinning these conditions
* intervention efficacy
* intervention effectiveness in an implementation context
* individual differences, e.g. what works for whom and why? and/or

-Develop data driven digital solutions/tools to address at least one of:

* causal mechanisms underpinning these conditions
* intervention efficacy
* intervention effectiveness in an implementation context
* individual differences, e.g. what works for whom and why?

Ensure the research proposal addresses one of the following thematic areas (*tick where applicable*):

* Generate data-driven insights
* Aim to develop digital solutions/tools
* Both

1. Project/ResearchTeam

**Instruction**: provide a description of the team composition, including the roles of co-applicants and collaborators, and a description of team diversity, gender balance and skill sets.

**Team composition:** Name, affiliations/organization, country, role, qualification/speciality/classification and contact address (as applicable)

* + - Lead applicant
    - Co- lead/applicant(s)
      * Don’t forget to attach CVs of key individuals involved

**Description of team diversity (max 350 words)**

* Please outline how your proposed team brings together skilled individuals/organisations, how you promote diversity and inclusion in terms of skills and background - where relevant, takes steps to include representatives, experienced experts, ***lived experience experts and policy makers in your team***.

1. Proposal summary (max 300 words)

**Instruction**: Provide a summary of what your proposal aims to achieve, the outcomes of the projects, including key deliverables. This should address your plans in the short and long-term vision of how the project might be developed after the prize ends, its potential scalability its anticipated outcomes and potential beneficiaries. Include project duration. The project should be completed in 12 months.

*NB. You may summarize as a paragraph or structure it into (Background, objectives, methodology, key anticipated outcomes/deliverables and its potential scalability (if applicable)*

4. Background, problem identification and significance (max 1500 words)

4.1. Introduction

Instruction.

* Define the research problem the proposal aims to address and how it addresses an important knowledge gap relevant to the identified three mental health disorders: aanxiety, depression, and/or psychosis; how the project responds to the priorities and scope of work identified
* What is the existing body of evidence/knowledge or tools/solutions to the problems defined and what are the gaps? What is new in this project? Present a review of relevant literature about the proposed project.
* Proposed solutions/methods. Provide a justification for the selected research/innovation(s) to be adapted, including available evidence of its [potential] effectiveness (as applicable). This section should outline how the proposed solution contributes to addressing the problem, how the project responds to the priorities and scope of work identified. It should identify key research questions aims to address.

4.2. Significance of the project/study: ppurpose and aanticipated results

* Clearly state the project objectives (general and specific objectives)
* Discuss how proposed methods/ solutions/ tools (as applicable) advance understanding for anxiety, depression, or psychosis, including factors contributing to effectiveness, target populations, contextual influences, and mechanisms supporting research. (i.e. mechanisms underpinning effectiveness) and future research?
* Detail how the proposed tool (as applicable) /method has the potential to provide a novel way of addressing data and/or research needs within mental health research.
* Discuss how project will significantly contribute to our understanding of mental health body of knowledge, with high potential impact on policy and programs practicability, (can it be delivered with minimal burden?); adaptation, (can it be adapted to novel contexts without compromising fidelity and integrity?); and integration, (can it be integrated successfully into existing healthcare systems?

1. Project design and methodology (max 1500 words)

Instruction: Provide details of research approach/solution development and methods

5.1. Study settings and design: The methodology should discuss the following

* Discuss study settings relevant to your research question, population focus.
* Description of study design, context and target group
* Explain how each specific objective will be achieved in enough detail to enable an independent scientific assessment of the proposal. This section should show how the research questions will be answered in the most rigorous way possible.
* Relevant conceptual and/or theoretical framework that guides the research questions and hypothesis

5.2. Data and sampling

* Which data sources you will use to either generate insights or develop new tools (as applicable) and the rationale for the selection, including specific cohort description and variables that are relevant for your project. and provide good rationale for the collection of the data (if needed)
* Explain about the detail sample size, sampling techniques or selection criteria (if any)
* Discuss data collection methods (i.e. detail how existing data was collected)

5.3. Data management and analysis

* Describe analysis methods and modelling to be used, and, where relevant, approaches to harmonisation of variables.
* For proposals suggesting AI and data science innovations, proposals should highlight if the proposed work will be applying existing methodologies and/or adapting novel techniques.

5.4. Expected outputs and outcomes of the project

* Proposals are expected to focus on promising or proven innovative approaches that have potential to be scaled and facilitate transformative change in African countries whether directly or in time. Outline the scaling approaches and delivery mechanisms to be tested.
* Describe the project outputs and outcomes, and the contribution to the intended impact; explain how it will add to the existing body of knowledge. Outputs should point to how insights gained may impact people experiencing anxiety, depression and/ or psychosis has the potential to significantly impact either a broad range of individuals facing these mental health challenges including groups typically underrepresented in mental health research.
* Explain how gender and inclusion considerations will be integrated into the outputs and outcomes, and the expected impacts of the work. What strategies will you undertake to ensure your proposed work is inclusive and aware of the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations, and minimizes harm.
* Proposals are expected to focus on promising or proven innovative approaches that have potential to be scaled and facilitate transformative change in African countries. Outline the scaling approaches and delivery mechanisms to be tested.
* Describe how the outputs of the project can impact the lives of the African population or your target group, people with anxiety, depression and/or psychosis for either a wide range of people or a group who are not commonly represented in mental health research.
* Discuss how the proposed tool (as applicable) will enable future research into anxiety, depression and/or psychosis. How the tool can be applied within mental health research beyond the scope of this data prize.
  1. **Impact and scaling**
* Proposals are expected to focus on promising or proven innovative approaches that have potential to be scaled and facilitate transformative change in African countries whether directly or in time.
* The proposals are encouraged to take a critical approach to scaling. Scaling is not only about making something bigger or increasing the coverage of an intervention. **Scaling is the process of improving the reach, breadth, quality, equity, and sustainability of the changes, benefits, and solutions that innovations bring to the systems.** (see more in [Gargani and McLean, 2017](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/scaling_science)).
* Describe how the outputs of the project can impact the lives of the African population or your target group, people with anxiety, depression and/or psychosis, for people or a group who are not commonly represented in mental health research. Outline the scaling approaches and delivery mechanisms to be tested.
* Discuss how the proposed tool (if applicable) will enable future research into anxiety and/or depression, and psychosis and/or effective interventions in mental health research. How the tool can be applied within mental health research beyond the scope of this data prize.

6. Project mmanagement and collaboration (max 600 words)

* Provide an overview of how the proposed project will be managed, including roles and responsibilities.
  + If applying as a consortium, indicate responsibilities and proposed management of the projects, as well as the plans for collaboration between organizations.
  + How will the approach share ownership for the outcomes among the different organizations?
* Outline how relevant stakeholders or cross disciplinary teams will be involved in fair and equitable ways.
  + Iinvolvement with the mental health research community, involvement with people with lived experience experts, policymakers promote diversity and inclusion in terms of skills and background. takes steps to be representative of the population involved in the research.
  + In this context, lived experience is defined as “Unique form of knowledge, insights and expertise that comes from having experiences of menta health challenges” (Wellcome definition)
  + Since engagement with LE is a mandatory for this call, show a plan for how the different team members will be working collaboratively to share and synergise their complementary expertise throughout the process and to share work/embed research beyond the mental health research community.
  + Describe project governance and coordination arrangements to produce high-quality work and support fair and equitable partnerships.
* On engagement with lived experience expert’s application must demonstrate clear plans for collaboration with lived experience experts in the governance, planning, design, delivery and dissemination of the research. (please not as a research participants), LE must be appropriately compensated or paid for their involvement
* We highly encourage the research team to think the best approaches for collaboration with LE experts in mental health research or their project.

7. Team capacity and experience relevant to the proposal (500 words)

* List the project team members, their roles, and expertise relevant to the project
* Provide a brief overview of the organization’s (or the consortium’s) track record relative to its proposed role in the project.
* Please detail all relevant experience that will enable your team to achieve the research objectives of the project.
* Please detail all relevant experience that will enable your team to achieve the digital tool development (as applicable) objectives of the project.

8. Potential for uptake, dissemination and capacity building plan (400 words)

* How will your project manage use and mobilisation of insights generated in the mental health research community?
* Provide overview of how the activities and outputs of the project will engage potential end users such as ministries the strategies to ensure that the results will be used by stakeholders; what outcomes of the project might be for policy making and capacity building
* Please detail how members of the public and non-academic communities inform, use, or find value in the outputs of your research proposal?
* Discuss potential for building leadership skills amongst early career researchers, opportunities for learning across the project team, for example, engagement with policymakers, PLE and research management) building capacity to work collaboratively, across disciplines and practice research boundaries (for example, with policymakers, managers, and practitioners in the system). providing mentorship to improve the capacity of less-experienced researchers to generate new knowledge and achieve policy impact

9. Ethics and data protection (200 words)

* Explain the ethical procedure how data was collected (for existing studies)
* Clearly identify and describe potential risks for your project relating to: the ethical use of data - any harmful uses of your research outputs - safeguarding risks for involvement approach for people with lived experience What strategies and approaches will you use to mitigate against these risks? This may include attaching an organisational safeguarding policy (if this is a link, you can include it in the body of your answer, if this is an attachment, please upload it in the next question). If relevant, please attach an organisational safeguarding policy.
* Explain how the team’s approach can contribute to the sharing of best practice of ethical use of sensitive data in the mental health research community.

10. Data access and governance and open science (400 words)

* Provide metadata for the primary dataset you will be using for your project. Please identify any additional datasets you will access. Please upload evidence of authorisation to access your primary dataset. For data available under public licence, please upload a copy of the End User Licence. In the event that your organisation is the data controller, please upload appropriate supporting evidence. agreement with the data controller. Please also include a link to metadata for this dataset (you can add a link via the hyperlink button or by pasting the link as plain text).
* Provide any additional data access agreements (if any) with data holders/owners
* Please outline how the project will comply with: local privacy laws (GDPR, African Union Data Protection Laws or the local regulation from your country of interest) - where relevant, access protocols for restricted datasets
* If you are using your own datasets, please provide detail description of the data and how the data use comply with data ethics, protection and local privacy laws
* Organisational data protection policies for secure processing of personal data/information should be uploaded as an attachment in support of your plan (if this is a link, you can include it in the body or if this an attachment, please upload it).
* Describe if the lead applicant organization has organisational data protection policy
* Discuss how your work will comply with open science principles
* Please detail your plan for how your proposal will align with open science principles (see Wellcome and APHRC open access policy or read MHDP guideline).
* Explain how outputs of your research and tool development (as applicable) are made publicly available, software and security and privacy considerations.

11. Declaration of generative AI (200 words)

Instruction: Researchers should disclose in their proposal on the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process. Provide detailed information on the use of AI tools to analyse and draw insights from data as part of the research process. Where teams use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, the team should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and the team should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased.

* This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.

The statement should be placed in a new section entitled ‘Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process’. Statement: During the preparation of this work the team(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the team(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

12. Declaration of competing interest (max 200 words)

* The team members must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors should complete the declaration of competing interest statement using this template and upload to the submission system at the Attach/Upload Files

13. Work plan and milestones

* Please upload a Gantt chart with a proposed timeline and milestones for the project. These should reflect your current plans.
* We recognise that teams may need to adapt their proposed plans in line with ongoing learnings during the Prize.

14. Referencing

* Make sure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa).
* There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Make sure you follow the standard referencing format. We highly encourage use of referencing management software such as ENDNOTE, MENDELEY, ZOTERO etc.

15. Budget

Prepare a budget in the provided template. Budget should be presented in GBP. Information should be filled on the portal (no detailed budget or attachment is required at this stage).

* Please submit a budget table (i.e £200,000 budget will be spent. When u estimate considers all project costs including personnel, fringe benefits, equipment, supplies, travel, subsistence, materials, indirect costs (overhead costs) and etc. Please propose a good value for money. The indirect costs shall not exceed 10 per cent.

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| --- | --- |
| Category | Amount in GBP |
| Personnel |  |
| Material and consumables |  |
| Equipment’s |  |
| Travel and subsistence |  |
| Indirect/overhead costs |  |
| Total |  |