

Bioethics Horizon Scanning for Mental Health Research - Supplier Q&A

Question	Answer
<p>1. Is there any additional information available with respect to the budget you are assigning for this project? We'd like to make sure we scope our proposal appropriately to your needs.</p>	<p>A budget of up to £200,000 GBP is available for this programme, which will span 9 months. It needs to include any VAT requirements – at 20% if you are based in the United Kingdom, or if you are not based in the United Kingdom, please allow 20% for reverse VAT charges that Wellcome will need to self-account for. As we are a charity, value for money in a proposal is important to us and will form part of our decision-making.</p>
<p>2. Could we get clarification on what the maximum budget for the project is?</p>	<p>Please see the answer to Q1.</p>
<p>3. Would the final deliverables be limited to internal dissemination or be eligible for external dissemination?</p>	<p>While some of the findings will be used primarily for internal purposes and planning, we are also committed to transparency and opportunities for suppliers to publish their work. As part of contracting we can explore way to serve both of these ends.</p>
<p>4. How much involvement will the supplier have in shaping the scope and format of the final research questions and deliverables?</p>	<p>The RFP details the minimum requirements for the scope and deliverables. We welcome creative approaches to further specify, expand upon and showcase resulting findings in proposals.</p> <p>The supplier will work in collaboration with the appropriate Wellcome teams to ensure that the resulting products meet the necessary requirements.</p>
<p>5. In addition to addressing the questions as indicated in the RFP, are we allowed to provide additional information as an addendum/attachment?</p>	<p>To the extent that it is useful to provide supplemental information, interested suppliers may provide up to 2 pages (single spaced, no smaller than 11pt font) of appended material. However, proposals will be primarily assessed based on the details provided on the sections and questions detailed in the RFP.</p>
<p>6. We note that on page 4 of the RFP there is a requirement for <i>“Details on how you plan to address issues of bias and inequity in many existing data sources, including how you plan to include perspectives of minoritised groups and experience from LMICs”</i>. However, cross-country</p>	<p>6. a) This work is intended to surface a broad range of ethical challenges in mental health research, across a wide variety of settings. The intent is to identify priority areas for further ethics research and guidance developing, focusing on major existing gaps and/or areas where there is</p>

<p>comparison does not appear to be a key aspect of the RFP objectives or specification. Therefore, we are unsure of the extent to which this should be incorporated into the research plan, including the involvement of people with lived experience. As doing this across many LMICs would be a substantial undertaking we have some clarification questions regarding this:</p> <p>A) We anticipate a potential for differences in key ethical issues relating to mental health research between countries, but it is unclear to what extent this should be captured in project outputs. Would separate prioritisation work be required for different countries/regions (including input from people with lived experience from those areas) to produce different prioritisation matrices etc.?</p> <p>B) Are there specific LMICs that Wellcome would want the supplier to focus on if this is required?</p>	<p>significant debate or a lack of not widely recognized norms. We recognize that much of the existing literature comes from higher income country settings and western philosophies, and encourage prospective suppliers to propose methods that will capture perspectives from other minoritized or marginalized viewpoints. While we do not have specific countries and contexts in mind, we want this work to be as broadly representative and inclusive as possible. If there are issues where there are specific gaps in the literature or guidance from under-represented groups or geographies, this should also be reflected in the prioritization matrix.</p> <p>B) Wellcome does not focus on specific LMICs. However, the successful supplier will be able to discuss focus regarding specific countries.</p>
<p>7. Would there be any scope for using additional future thinking techniques (beyond horizon scanning) to gather intelligence about the ethical issues that might arise in the future of mental health research and to describe what the future might look like? These might include, for example, a Delphi Exercise, the 7 questions method, or scenario thinking.</p>	<p>We are open to any appropriate methodologies that will best enable us to identify priority areas for future investment and development. Please describe and justify the selection of methodologies in your proposal.</p>
<p>8. Would the supplier be provided with information about the research and innovation landscape in the areas that should be covered – in the context of research to improve understanding of mental health conditions, develop effective interventions, and stratify therapeutic approaches – or would the supplier be expected to gather and analyse this information as part of the commission?</p>	<p>Chosen suppliers will work in collaboration with the appropriate Wellcome teams to tailor the horizon scan in line with the MH challenge area’s strategic priorities.</p>

<p>9. Could you provide the reasons for which Wellcome has decided to focus on research on anxiety, psychosis and depression?</p>	<p>Wellcome's Mental Health strategy focuses on areas that we believe we are best positioned to drive innovation and a step change in the MH research landscape, for the greatest impact. More information on the Mental Health Team strategy can be found here (link).</p>
<p>10. Will all applicants be asked to give a presentation of their proposal on the w/c 9 January 2023 or will only a group of applicants selected during the RFP period be asked to do so?</p>	<p>A selected number of applicants will be shortlisted and invited to present their proposals.</p>
<p>11. Would you consider a slightly longer timeline for this project where there is an adequate justification?</p>	<p>We are open to slightly longer timeline for the project, as appropriately justified. However, there is less flexibility on the interim deliverable, as it will inform strategic planning.</p>