



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Request for Proposal (RFP): a delivery partner for The Mental Health Data Prize – Africa

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
1	Would you be able to clarify the budget envelope available for the RFP?	Our current budget available for this work is around £500,000-600,000. However, we would consider slightly higher bids if there is clear justification of the added value for the proposed package.
2	The RFP sets out that the scope is to find a supplier for the 9-month-long set-up phase, which we had interpreted would be the engagement and selection process up to the point of confirming teams selected to participate in the Prize programme. Under section 2. RFP Specification, point 7 then outlines the Supplier would be responsible for organising the pitch at the end of the 12-month Prize phase. Given the timings we'd understood, could we clarify if this pitch sits outside the specified 9-month set-up phase covered by the current RFP, but reflects a potential expectation should the delivery partner involvement be extended? Similarly, we noted that the specification does not mention support provision during the 12-month Prize phase – is this similarly because any such support would be arranged following outcomes of the set-up phase, should it be required?	The bulk of the work indeed involves the ~ 9 months set-up phase involving engagement, capacity building and selection of the participating teams. During the 12-month Prize phase, there won't be any provision of support nor any involvement from the suppliers' side. However, as part of this contract and as a final deliverable we'd require the supplier to deliver one final "Show and Tell" type event (likely to be a half-day long gathering) where prize teams can present their findings to their peers, Wellcome team and the interested community. The purpose of this gathering will purely be knowledge sharing and community building. We would envision this event to be an online gathering. However, if the supplier would like to propose alternative mechanisms such as an in-person or hybrid format, we would be open to it.
3	Would you provide us with participant agreements, NDAs and agreements for prize winners etc from Wellcome's first data prize?	We don't think it is appropriate to share current participation agreements between our UK-based supplier and prize participants, as they are tailored to English law. The same applies to NDAs. However here is a link to our grant conditions <a href="https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/guidance/grant-conditions">https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/guidance/grant-conditions</a> .



<b>4</b>	For Wellcome's first data prize, what were the main challenges of the project (apart from the one listed in the RFP of not attracting as many applicants from South Africa)?	The main challenges were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finding good quality data sources. For the Mental Health Data Prize – Africa we have a head start given that the landscaping project linked to the RFP document has pointed us towards good quality datasets.</li><li>• Matchmaking between individuals with different skillsets to form multidisciplinary teams. This is the reason why we have now built in a much longer set-up phase.</li><li>• The original prize had a three-phase format, which made the transitions between different phases burdensome from a project management and award making perspective. This will not apply in this instance given that the Mental Health Data Prize – Africa is planned to be a single phase process.</li></ul> Please refer to this link for more information in learnings: <a href="https://wellcome.org/news/listening-scientists-across-africa-develop-our-next-mental-health-data-prize">https://wellcome.org/news/listening-scientists-across-africa-develop-our-next-mental-health-data-prize</a>
<b>5</b>	Can we get learnings from the follow-up evaluation from Wellcome's first data prize? Access to documents, reports etc	We will be sharing relevant documentation with the selected supplier, and we are happy to have interactive sessions at the initial stage of the contract, to ensure that learning from the first prize is not lost, but is integrated into this second prize.
<b>6</b>	Would you be able to provide links to the digital tools created in Wellcome's first data prize?	Summaries of the tools we are funding (as well as additional information on the first prize) can be found at <a href="https://wellcome.org/what-we-do/data-science-and-health-trustworthy-data-science/wellcome-data-prizes">https://wellcome.org/what-we-do/data-science-and-health-trustworthy-data-science/wellcome-data-prizes</a> .
<b>7</b>	What is the minimum and maximum budget for this RFP?	Our current budget available for this work is around £500k-600k. However, we'd consider slightly higher bids if there is clear justification of the added value for the proposed package.



8	What is the budget for implementation?	Our current budget available for this work is around £500k-600k. However, we'd consider slightly higher bids if there is clear justification of the added value for the proposed package.
9	Broadly, what are considered allowable expenses that can be included in the project budget?	As this is a contract not a grant, there are no restrictions around types of expenses. It should be costed as part of the supplier's budget in order to complete the activity on time and in full. However as we are a registered charity we have a legal obligation to obtain value for money and budget will form part of the evaluation criteria.
10	How do you view solutions that are more technology/data-driven products vs. data-driven research?	Both technology/data-driven products and data-driven research are part of the scope of this prize. We are looking for a supplier that can provide the necessary matchmaking and can motivate multidisciplinary teams comprising of data science experts and mental health researchers. Applicants should submit a project that plays to their strengths and interests.
11	Can start-ups apply for this challenge?	If this question refers to start-ups applying as participant teams to the prize, then yes, they can as long as they fulfill the eligibility criteria. Start ups are also welcome to apply to this RFP as a supplier.
12	What does involvement look like post event? Would you like to stay involved? Do research? Stay in touch etc?	Sorry, we aren't clear about this question.
13	Is it possible for you to share the insights from the follow-up evaluation conducted? It would help us get better context.	<p>Emerging insights have already been captured in the current design principles summarised in the RFP document. We have also recently written about our experience and learnings from the first prize, which you can read about here: <a href="https://wellcome.org/news/listening-scientists-across-africa-develop-our-next-mental-health-data-prize">https://wellcome.org/news/listening-scientists-across-africa-develop-our-next-mental-health-data-prize</a>.</p> <p>For anything additional, we would be happy to have more in-depth discussions with the selected supplier during the early set up phase.</p>



14	You have mentioned anxiety, depression, and psychosis as the main mental health areas. Will the prize only focus on these, or would you be expanding to look at others / or intersectional as well?	As part of this prize, we will support teams to answer research questions relating to understanding and intervening in anxiety, depression and psychosis, broadly defined to include obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. However, we would be happy to support tools and/or research involving more intersectional lenses, so long as at least one of those mental health problem areas remain the key focus.
15	What is the total prize money on offer (you have mentioned 5-10 proposals) @GBP200K – is there a cap that we need to be aware of?	We are looking to fund between 5-10 teams, based on the quality of the applications received. Each team will receive £200,000 to work on this prize over a period of 12 months.
16	When you mention ‘longitudinal’ – what is the time frame you are looking at?	For the purpose of this prize, longitudinal datasets refer to those datasets with at least three waves of data collection, tracking the same individuals over at least three distinct periods of time.
17	Is there already a set of researchers, data scientists that you are working with? Should the proposal include them?	At this stage, we advise each supplier to prepare their proposals with the partners that they think would work best for their proposed plan.
18	“Provide data-related training” – can you please clarify what sort of data related training are you referring to here?	Any data related skills that would enable the interested community to succeed in this prize. These might include specific longitudinal data analysis skills, open science practices, software developer skills, and others. We’d like the interested community to be consulted to understand their needs so that training can be tailored accordingly.
19	Is it mandatory for the proposal to include legal support? Or can one be brought in as needed by the PMU?	It isn't mandatory to have a named legal support subcontract as part of this proposal as long as the supplier can showcase that the necessary support will be brought in as needed at crucial points of the set-up phase.
20	What is the total period of engagement you are looking at? 15 months? 18 months? Or longer? Including pre-prep and post project work?	The active period of engagement is the ~ 9-month long set-up phase. We are open to consider longer alternatives to this period of set up phase if the supplier feels that is needed for the successful



		<p>delivery of the project. During the 12-month Prize phase there won't be any provision of support nor any involvement from the supplier's side. However, as part of this contract and as a final deliverable we'd require the supplier to deliver one final "Show and tell" type event (likely to be a half day long gathering) where prize teams can present their findings to their peers, Wellcome team and interested community. The purpose of this gathering will purely be knowledge sharing and community building. We'd envision this event to be an online gathering. However, if the supplier would like to propose alternative mechanisms such as an in-person or hybrid format, we'd be open to it.</p>
<b>21</b>	<p>Can you disclose a ballpark budget? Are there any other financial related do's and don'ts we need to be aware of?</p>	<p>Our current budget available for this work is around £500k-600k. However, we'd consider slightly higher bids if there is clear justification of the added value for the proposed package.</p>
<b>22</b>	<p>There is a note stating that the supplier should not have access to individual-level data, whether pseudonymized or not. While the current data review criteria may be sufficient without accessing the data directly, we believe that having access to the data would be advantageous for the process as it would enable us to thoroughly review and validate its accuracy. Could you please provide further clarification on this issue?</p>	<p>In order to meet the requirements of data protection laws, in particular data minimisation and purpose limitation, we believe that it is not necessary or proportionate to access sensitive, individual-level data at this stage for this purpose.</p>
<b>23</b>	<p>What is the expected cadence of engagement and level of influence envisaged for the Wellcome team with the advisory board?</p>	<p>The Wellcome team may suggest areas of expertise that should be covered as part of the advisory board and/or potential experts that may be suitable. However the advisory board will be put together by the supplier. Wellcome may be attending the meeting in observatory capacity only.</p>



24	While we assume the potential benefit of proposing advisory board members, will this be part of the scoring criteria? Also, we assume that this board will serve on a voluntary basis but please advise if the intent is otherwise	Our scoring criteria has been published as part of the RFP and we would suggest potential suppliers refer to these. Advisory board members should be considered as consultants with fees paid accordingly and budgeted for as part of this proposal.
25	Is there a cap on the number of trainees and trainings that should be provided?	No, but we'd suggest including an aimed/estimated number as part of this proposal according to what the supplier deems feasible.
26	Could you provide more information about the Wellcome Trust's expectations for the overall budget for delivering the prize and/or expectations for the scale of the activity to create, train and supporting multidisciplinary teams. Given the scale of Africa, the scope of this activity could vary widely.	Our current overall budget available for this work is around £500k-600k. However, we'd consider slightly higher bids if there is clear justification of the added value for the proposed package. In relation to the scale of the activity for training and supporting multidisciplinary teams, we'd suggest the supplier to propose activities (in terms of numbers and scales) according to what they deem possible within this budget envelope.
27	Does the Trust have any specific expectations that the supplier will coordinate with other existing Wellcome Trust investments in these areas, such as AMARI? Will the Trust take an active role in facilitating engagement with its other investments?	We don't have any such expectations. If there are any relevant links to be made, we are happy to enable these. However, we don't plan on taking an active role in such facilitation.
28	Could the Trust clarify its expectations and potential for the supplier to make use of the Trust's existing systems and processes for commissioning and managing research grants? Is it expected that the supplier will use systems that are completely separate from those of the Wellcome Trust?	We expect the supplier to manage their own process for grant making which will be entirely separate from Wellcome's existing systems. However, we would expect the supplier to align with Wellcome's grant conditions where possible <a href="https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/guidance/grant-conditions">https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/guidance/grant-conditions</a> .
29	Does the supplier have to be a health expert to participate in the study? As we propose sourcing experts to join our team specifically to assist with this role.	We welcome applications from potential suppliers without a health research background as long as they can demonstrate relevant partnerships with experts particularly in mental health research.