



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Request for Proposal (RFP): Investigating the Impacts of Climate Variability and Climate Change on Fungal Pathogens of Public Health Importance

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
1	<p>Budget</p> <p>We would appreciate information on the expected budget envelope to better frame our proposal.</p> <p>Is there an indicative or maximum budget range that Wellcome can share to guide proposal development?</p> <p>Does Wellcome have a target budget range or ceiling?</p> <p>Could Wellcome indicate the expected top-line budget or preferred duration to help suppliers right-size their proposals?</p> <p>Can Wellcome confirm that there is no overhead restriction on contracts?</p>	<p>We believe that suppliers are best positioned to determine the costs associated with their proposed activities and to justify these costs based on the scope and requirements of the project.</p> <p>We encourage you to carefully consider the resources and efforts required to deliver the proposed outcomes and to provide a detailed budget breakdown that reflects this.</p> <p>Your budget should include all necessary costs to complete the activity on time and in full, including any overheads. Overheads should be costed as part of your budget to complete the activity on time and in full.</p> <p>Please ensure that your proposal demonstrates value for money and provides a strong justification for the budget requested.</p>
2	<p>Geography</p> <p>Are there any preferred geographic regions or populations of focus?</p> <p>What is the scope of the review on the impact of climate variability, is this global or is there more focus on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)?</p> <p>Are there specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or geographic priorities (e.g., LMICs) Wellcome expects the project to address or consider in the analysis?</p>	<p>Given the state of the evidence, there are no preferred geographic regions or populations of focus, and so the scope of the review is global with no specific SDGs or geographic priorities defined a priori.</p> <p>We expect proposals to consider and include literature from all regions worldwide.</p> <p>We expect literature to be classified by geography whenever possible to ensure a comprehensive understanding of potential regional differences and contexts.</p>

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
	What is the scope of the review on the impact of climate variability, is this global or is there more focus on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)?	
3	Are there expectations regarding stakeholder engagement or policy impact?	<p>Successful suppliers will be required to actively engage with a diverse range of stakeholders throughout the project, including regular communication and collaboration with internal teams, and relevant experts to ensure that the project aligns with the needs and expectations of all parties involved.</p> <p>We note that suppliers are expected to engage with the scientific community and with Wellcome to convene and coordinate a scientific advisory committee, which will provide guidance and oversight for the project and contribute to two other projects for Wellcome as stated in the RFP.</p> <p>Additionally, suppliers should consider the broader policy implications of their work when providing insights and recommendations.</p>
4	Will Wellcome provide access to any specific datasets or resources?	Wellcome will not provide access to specific datasets or resources for this project.
5	Does the 30-page maximum in deliverables 4 and 5 include all appendices?	No, the 30-page maximum for deliverables 4 and 5 does not include the appendices. The main content should be within the 30-page limit, but you can add as many appendices as needed to support your findings and recommendations. This allows for a comprehensive and detailed report while keeping the core content concise and focused.
6	<p>Scientific Advisory Committee</p> <p>Can payment for members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) be included within the proposal? For example, including a day rate and an estimated number of days involved in the costs.</p> <p>Does Wellcome typically support its scientific advisory committees with an honorarium, and is that the expectation with this committee?</p>	<p>Payment for SAC members can be included in the proposal budget. These payments are considered fees for services.</p> <p>Wellcome no longer uses the term “honorarium” for these payments. The term has been phased out due to tax and compliance considerations, as true honoraria imply no expectation of payment and are rarely applicable. The current expectation is that payments to SAC members are committee fees, treated as taxable income.</p> <p>Wellcome supports paying committee fees (not stipends or honoraria) to SAC members. The supplier should include these costs in their</p>

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
	<p>Are there any specific countries that should be represented within the SAC, or any countries of focus for the project?</p> <p>How many people should be included in the SAC?</p> <p>Do you have a preference for the makeup of the scientific advisory committee (SAC)? For example, how many members (if more than one member is expected to represent each field), representing which geographic regions (if geographic representation is important), which academic institutions (also if important) etc.?</p> <p>The RFP states that the supplier and the SAC will also be required to collaborate with other ongoing activities on fungal pathogens and infections indicated by Wellcome. While the quoted cost above accounts for the SAC's time, it does not include the cost of our effort. May we assume this cost will be covered as separate scope?</p> <p>Can the same individuals serve on both the supplier team and the Scientific Advisory Committee, or is a strict separation required?</p> <p>Would the scientific advisory committee meet in person or remotely?</p> <p>If the scientific advisory committee are meeting in person, would this be facilitated and funded (i.e. rooms, travel etc) separately by Wellcome or through this RFP?</p> <p>What level of involvement is expected from Wellcome in the selection and operations of the SAC? Does Wellcome already have suggestions or engagements with experts, or is the supplier expected to do this independently?</p> <p>How many SAC members does Wellcome envisage, and are there any guidelines on budgeting honoraria for their participation?</p>	<p>budget as fee-for-service payments. These fees are processed through accounts payable (not payroll) and are generally subject to tax as miscellaneous income or self-employed earnings, depending on the recipient's status.</p> <p>There aren't any specific countries that ought to be represented within the SAC or any particular countries of focus for the project.</p> <p>We suggest the SAC is composed of 7-8 people but no more than 10. We expect equitable representation across the Global North to ensure a balanced perspective from different geographic regions. Additionally, representation should be equitable across the relevant subject areas. It is also important to consider gender balance and other Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) considerations to ensure a diverse and inclusive committee. There is no preference for which academic institutions are to be represented in the SAC.</p> <p>All costs related to the project should be included in your budget. Consequently, your budget shall include the costs of convening and coordinating the SAC.</p> <p>We expect a strict separation between individuals serving on the SAC and those on the supplier team.</p> <p>This would be determined by the composition of the SAC. It is likely that an equitable, diverse, and inclusive committee will be meeting virtually.</p> <p>We do not expect the SAC to meet in person.</p> <p>We expect the supplier to take the lead in proposing the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). Initially, the supplier should suggest a composition for the SAC, detailing the expertise they believe is necessary for the project. This proposal will then be discussed with Wellcome to ensure that the right individuals are selected for each field or area. While Wellcome may have some suggestions or existing engagements with experts, the primary responsibility for proposing the SAC lies with the supplier. This collaborative approach will help ensure that the SAC is well-rounded and includes the necessary expertise to guide the project effectively.</p>

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
	<p>Should SAC honoraria and meeting costs be included in the supplier's budget, or will Wellcome cover these directly?</p> <p>How many members does Wellcome anticipate will serve on the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)?</p> <p>Does Wellcome support paying a stipend or honorarium to SAC members? Should the supplier include these costs in their budget?</p> <p>Are the SAC meetings expected to be in person or virtual?</p>	<p>We suggest the SAC is composed of 7-8 people but no more than 10 members. We do not have specific guidelines on budgeting committee fees for their participation.</p> <p>As stated above, committee fees to SAC members should be included in the budget as fee-for-service payments. Wellcome will not cover committee fees directly.</p> <p>SAC meetings are not expected to be in person or virtual. That would largely depend on the composition of the SAC. However, it is likely that these will happen virtually as we expect an equitable, diverse, and inclusive representation across geographies, sectors, and gender.</p>
7	<p>The RFP states that fungal pathogens affecting animals and plants with the potential to affect humans and those that produce toxins that affect human health are also in scope. We assume this means that these fungal infections should also be a part of the literature review and the cataloging of data sources. Is that correct? Should these pathogens be treated with the same level of priority as fungal pathogens that currently affect humans?</p>	<p>Animal and plant fungal infections with the potential to affect humans and those that produce toxins should be incorporated into the literature review and the cataloging of data sources. They must be given the same level of importance and priority as fungal pathogens that only affect humans. This comprehensive approach ensures that all relevant fungal pathogens are accounted for, enabling a thorough understanding and effective management of their potential impacts on human health.</p>
8	<p>When identifying methodologies used to establish the association between climatic factors and fungal infections and non-climatic factors and fungal infections, we assume that the latter operates in the presence of climatic factors. The association between non-climatic factors such as population density, socioeconomic development etc. are well established. However, the confounding role of climatic factors is less known.</p>	<p>This project aims to review the impact of climate variability and climate change on the emergence, distribution, and spread of fungal pathogens, through a systematic assessment of the available evidence. Thus, you must ensure that the review emphasizes exploring the methods used to establish the effects of climate variability and climate change on fungal pathogens. Whilst non-climatic factors operate in the presence of climatic factors, the evidence you are expected to curate must explore the impacts of climate variability and/or climate change.</p>
9	<p>Is Wellcome expecting the supplier to collect or generate any new data, or strictly catalog existing sources?</p>	<p>Suppliers are not expected to generate any new primary data. Instead, the focus should be on analyzing, mapping, and cataloguing the existing evidence from available sources. This approach ensures that we make the most of the wealth of data already out there.</p>

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
10	To what extent should grey literature and non-English language sources be included in the review?	Grey literature and non-English language sources should be fully included in the review. Incorporating these sources is essential to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive understanding of the subject in question. These considerations can offer important perspectives and findings from different regions and cultures, contributing to a more global and diverse evidence base.
11	Can you clarify expectations for the data mapping output? Should it include only public datasets, or also proprietary/private ones where possible?	The data mapping output should include as much information as possible, encompassing both public datasets and proprietary/private ones where feasible. Incorporating a wide range of data sources will ensure a comprehensive and robust analysis.
12	Will Wellcome facilitate connections to existing grantees or partners working on fungal pathogens or climate to avoid duplication?	Wellcome could facilitate connections with existing grantees or partners when appropriate.
13	On page 2, the literature review section indicates that the focus will be the impact of short- and long-term climate variations on “emergence, distribution, and spread of fungal pathogens”. Does this mean that studies outside of the health field not in humans (e.g. ecological/biological studies of fungal pathogens in the environment/soil) should be included in the review?	Studies outside of the health field, such as ecological and biological studies of fungal pathogens in the environment and soil, should be included in the review if the scientific advisory committee finds them appropriate. The inclusion of these studies will depend on their relevance and contribution to understanding the impact of short- and long-term climate variations on the emergence, distribution, and spread of fungal pathogens. The scientific advisory committee should evaluate and determine the suitability of these studies to ensure a comprehensive and relevant review.
14	Should the data audit and curation section of the RFP include datasets that focus on only climatic and environmental data or health data, or only include those that combine both?	It is essential that the data audit and curation include datasets that cover climatic, environmental, and health data. At the minimum, data assets should incorporate climatic and health data. This comprehensive approach will ensure that the research can explore the multifaceted effects of climate variability and climate change on fungal pathogens which are at the core of this project.
15	Deliverable 3 mentions the use of tools and frameworks for appraisal of the literature. Is it expected that all included literature is appraised by study design?	We do not expect suppliers to appraise the literature by their study design. However, we expect suppliers to provide details of the tools or frameworks they used/intend to use to appraise the literature.
16	Project duration	

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
	<p>Is there an expected or recommended project duration that Wellcome envisions?</p> <p>The RfP notes a contract commencement in August but doesn't state a desired end-date. Is there an intended timescale for the completion of the project? We can make it work for different timescales - it may have an influence on budget if it is short.</p> <p>What is the expected timeline of the activities and dates of the deliverables?</p> <p>Does Wellcome have a desired timeline for generation of the draft report? Are there any internal or external milestones we should be aware of?</p> <p>Could you indicate the target completion dates for the final report and any interim milestones (e.g., SAC meetings, draft review), to ensure we align our plan and costs?</p> <p>What is the expected length of time for the contract period?</p>	<p>The expected duration for the project is six months. However, we are open to considering longer project durations if the supplier proposes a timeline that justifies the need for additional time. We want to ensure the project is thorough and meets all objectives, so flexibility in the timeline might be possible based on the supplier's proposal and rationale.</p> <p>The expected timeline for the deliverables will be negotiated with the supplier but an indicative guideline is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable 1: End of week 2 • Deliverable 2: End of month 1 • Deliverable 3: Mid of month 2 • Deliverable 4: End of Month 5 • Deliverable 5: End of Month 6 <p>The SAC is expected to meet regularly with the supplier of this piece of work. We expect the supplier to take the lead in determining the cadence of these meetings. The SAC will also be required to meet at least 3 times over the contract period with Wellcome's cross-matrix fungal group to report on their findings. We propose that meetings with the cross-matrix fungal group happen at the end of Months 1, 3, and 5.</p>
17	Could Wellcome clarify if there are any minimum experience requirements or specific qualifications expected for the supplier team (e.g., years of experience in systematic reviews, global health, climate science, mycology, or public health)?	While there are no specific minimum experience requirements or qualifications mandated for this project, it is essential that the supplier team possesses adequate experience and expertise to effectively conduct the work outlined in the RFP.
18	Wellcome has a range of materials and text on its wider fungal research project. Are there any existing internal literature reviews or scoping studies from this work? Clearly there is a need for more detailed work, but if there is any light-touch work internally to build on, that would be useful to know.	There are currently no existing literature reviews of scoping studies we could provide at this stage.
19	The element of looking at recommendations for data enrichment could vary significantly - ranging from broad outcomes and principles, to a full technology roadmap across the whole topic, across organisations. We note that you need the	Recommendations should be based on the findings from the literature review and data audit, aiming to improve data quality, address gaps, and enhance interoperability. Additionally, the recommendations should discuss potential future directions for research and data

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
	recommendations here to be actionable, which suggests more detailed development work, not just a top-line sense of the future. Could we check this is the case?	collection, highlight emerging trends or areas of interest, and identify priority areas. Furthermore, the RFP calls for recommendations for policymakers to support research and data collection efforts, suggesting policies that could facilitate better understanding and management of climate impacts on fungal pathogens. Therefore, the recommendations should go beyond broad outcomes and principles, providing detailed and practical guidance for future development work.
20	Does Wellcome have a policy on the use of AI-driven tools for this kind of project, that we should reflect in the method?	Suppliers must ensure generative AI tools are used responsibly and in accordance with relevant legal and ethical standards where these exist or as they develop. As best practice, any outputs from AI tools in funding applications should be clearly acknowledged. There are no further specific restrictions.
21	Is the review expected to focus equally on fungal pathogens affecting humans, animals, and plants, or is there a prioritization?	Animal and plant fungal infections with the potential to affect humans and those that produce toxins should be incorporated into the literature review and the cataloging of data sources. They must be given the same level of importance and priority as fungal pathogens that only affect humans. This comprehensive approach ensures that all relevant fungal pathogens are accounted for, enabling a thorough understanding and effective management of their potential impacts on human health.
22	<p>What is the timeline of the two other related Wellcome initiatives (global burden of disease and community engagement)?</p> <p>What level of coordination is expected between this project and those other initiatives? Shared data? Joint meetings?</p>	<p>The other two related initiatives are likely to start in the second half of 2025. A more precise date will be communicated to the supplier in due course.</p> <p>We expect some coordination between this project and the other two initiatives. The supplier of this project will be required to share data and outputs with the suppliers of the global burden of disease and community engagement projects. Additionally, joint meetings are expected to ensure alignment and collaboration across all initiatives.</p>
23	How does Wellcome intend to use the final report? Will this be to support Wellcome's internal positioning and alignment, or will this report be published externally?	We intend to publish the report externally to share the findings and recommendations with a broader audience. This will help inform and engage stakeholders, researchers, and policymakers globally.

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
		The report will also be used internally to define priority areas and potential activities, ensuring that Wellcome's efforts are strategically aligned and focused on the most impactful areas. This approach will maximize the value and utility of the report.
24	Given this piece of work spans two of Wellcome's internal Strategies, should the proposal consider internal workshops at different phases of the project to ensure there is alignment across different internal teams?	The proposal could consider internal workshops at different phases of the project to ensure alignment between the different teams.
25	Would Wellcome prefer that we prioritise Annex 1 pathogens with the greatest public-health impact, or treat all pathogens equally? And should we include downstream health outcomes (e.g., infection rates, toxin-related illness) in addition to pathogen presence/distribution?	At this stage, we would prefer all pathogens to be given the same level of importance and priority. You may consider downstream health outcomes particularly if the Scientific Advisory Committee finds them appropriate.
26	Have suppliers for the Annex 2 data review and contextual study been appointed? If not, RP would be glad to discuss supporting the data review component, either within this project or via a separate commission.	No, suppliers for the work mentioned in Annex 2 have not been appointed. Requests for Proposals will open shortly.
27	Overlap with parallel reviews (Annex 2): Will Wellcome facilitate data-sharing MoUs with the two related suppliers, or should we budget dedicated liaison time?	Wellcome could facilitate data sharing MoUs with the other two related suppliers.
28	The specification references "data audit & curation." Can you confirm that no primary field sampling is expected?	We confirm that no primary field sampling is expected for this project.
29	Since the SAC will be working on providing guidance on the pathogens focus of this work, what specific weighting will be given to specific expertise on fungal pathogens within the bidding team?	As per the Evaluation Criteria specified in the RFP, Experience is weighted at 30% of the overall evaluation. We expect the supplier to have relevant skills, experience, and contextual understanding to deliver this work. While we do not require the supplier to have expert knowledge on fungal infections, it is essential that the team possesses sufficiently representative expertise to lead the work, provide insights, and make actionable recommendations.
30	What is the specific remit of Wellcome's Community Engagement teams in this field, do they work directly with CSOs, local community groups, and at what level?	Wellcome's Community Engagement (CE) team works at different levels, including with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and community groups but also through other organisations with closer and more specific links to relevant communities. For the fungal-

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
		related CE work, we will launch a Request for Proposals and so it will be the supplier who will be working with the CSOs and community groups.
31	Are the executive summary and appendices described in the requirements for Deliverable 4 included in the 30-page limit?	The Executive Summary is included in the 30-page limit for Deliverable 4. However, the appendices are not included in this limit. This allows you to provide a concise and focused main report while still having the flexibility to include detailed supporting information in the appendices.
32	What is the expected range of the volume of literature from all sources to be reviewed and assessed for the literature review?	There isn't an expected volume of literature from all sources to be reviewed and assessed. The purpose of the review is to assess the current state of the evidence.