



**USAID Youth Excel: Our Knowledge Leading Change Program Grant Competition**  
**Using ‘Research-to-Change’ (Implementation Research) to Strengthen Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management for Girl’s Education in Malawi and Zambia**  
**March 15, 2022, Webinar**  
**Question and Answer**

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1. We are an unregistered initiative can we still apply?

Unregistered organizations are not eligible to apply for this grant competition (Section 2, Page 4).

2. We have not had any donor funds or records of donor funded activities since we started our initiative two years ago, are we eligible to apply?

Applicants are required to have a current donor-funded project on which they are proposing to conduct implementation research through Youth Excel support (Page 2). In addition, concept notes will be assessed based on demonstrated capacity (Part B, Question 9) and past performance (Part C) on donor-funded projects of similar size and scope (Page 9).

3. Can a government department working with vulnerable communities under the ministry of gender community development and social welfare apply for this grant?

Government institutions are not eligible to apply for this grant competition (Section 2, Page 4).

4. How popular is the concept of data summits in the environments you work in and how do you implement them?

We are still in the early stages of implementing data summits across Youth Excel. We envision data summits to be a space (likely virtual) where stakeholders and grantees can convene to hear key findings from grantee research, share questions and receive feedback about findings, and discuss best practices using the lessons learned.

These type of gatherings (virtually or in person) are a trend amongst people working in the knowledge and data space, they may have different names, but the goal is similar: how to take the best advantage of the increasing amount of knowledge and data that we have and to learn from those that have been the most successful at doing so. In short, these are spaces to learn through interacting with knowledge and data.

5. Should the data collection strategy be a living document (i.e., give room for finetuning) or should it be timebound?

Through this grant competition, there will be several points at which you will be submitting a timebound data collection strategies, with each building on the last. Here is how the process will look: Grantees will develop a timebound data collection strategy, implement this strategy, share

what they learned with other grantees, and develop a new data collection strategy to build on their prior work and continue this process in an iterative fashion.

6. What is the difference between service provision and product provision?

A service provision is anything given to a participant that enhances their skill, while a product provision is a material that is given to the participant. Please note that your current activity may include either service or product provision or both. We encourage you to select all options that apply.

7. Where do you apply for the DUNS number and certification?

You can apply for one using this link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>. Please note that it is free to apply for a DUNS number.

8. How many implementing partners are you looking for?

We anticipate awarding 4-5 subawards subject to the availability of funds (Page 4).

9. On the online questions, are we supposed to fill in information for the project being implemented or purely for this application only?

In Section B of the concept note form (Page 8), please describe the current donor-funded project and the implementation research component that you are proposing to conduct on it through Youth Excel. In Section C of the concept note form (Page 9), please describe past projects.

10. Can organizations apply as a partnership? And if yes would both organizations be required to be fully eligible on their own or not?

Funds will be awarded to individual organizations; partnerships via subawards are not eligible. However, organizations are encouraged to collaborate in other ways.

11. Is it okay or allowed to apply to the competition as partners?

Funds will be awarded to individual organizations; partnerships via subawards are not eligible. However, organizations are encouraged to collaborate in other ways.

12. Does the implementation research need to be integrated in an existing menstrual hygiene project or education-related project, or is it both?

Implementation Research must be integrated within an existing school-based menstrual health and hygiene management program (it may be an MHM program or an MHM activity under an education, WASH, SRH program). The implementation research component must link activities to strengthen menstrual hygiene management to improvement of educational outcomes.

13. How long will the funding run?

The length of the activity is slated for 8 months (Page 4).

14. Please clarify if Research-to-Change will only be used at the implementation stage and planning stage or is it used throughout the program?

The Research-to-Change approach enables you to add research activities in parallel with your current program implementation and will include several components such as gathering data, learning from data, and program adaptation. Research-to-Change is intended to be conducted throughout your current program.

15. Is it possible to blend in other participatory action methodologies in the implementation research model?

Research-to-Change is not bound to any one methodology or approach. It draws from any form of data gathering that has the specific goal of strengthening programs within context. If participatory action methodologies are being used to gather data that strengthens programs, then it also can be considered as Research-to-Change.