

IDRC: Addressing Neglected Areas of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in sub-Saharan Africa

URL: <https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/funding/upcoming-funding-opportunity-addressing-neglected-areas-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and>

Keywords: SRHR; implementation research; gender-transformative research; sub-Saharan Africa; global health; Human Reproduction or Fertility; Health of Underserved Populations

Funding amount and duration of funding:

- Up to **CAD 1.2 million per project**
- Duration: **up to ~36 months**

UCT Internal Deadlines:

- Please complete the [intention-to-submit](#) form if you intend applying for this call by **17 Jul 2026**
- UCT eRA: Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is REQUIRED prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
 - contact faculty finance/budget reviewer by no later than **25 Jul 2026**
 - [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#) should reach the Finance Approver by no later than **07 Aug 2026**

Contact: internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

About the Funding Opportunity

The **Addressing Neglected Areas of SRHR in Sub-Saharan Africa (ANeSA)** initiative is a multi-partner programme supported by **IDRC, Global Affairs Canada, and CIHR**.

This call will fund **implementation research teams** to design and scale **gender-transformative, evidence-based interventions** that improve sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), particularly for **underserved populations**, including women and girls. The initiative responds to persistent gaps in equitable SRHR service delivery and aims to strengthen systems, policy uptake, and community engagement across sub-Saharan Africa.

Priority research areas include one or more of the following:

- Access to family planning and contraceptive services
- Safe abortion care (where legally permitted) and post-abortion care
- Adolescent SRHR services and rights
- Prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence
- Strengthening SRHR advocacy and accountability

Researchers must be able to form a consortium including a civil society organisation, a decision-maker partner and a Canadian research collaborator.

Projects must demonstrate scalable, equitable, and locally grounded approaches, with strong collaboration across research, policy, and civil society sectors.

Up to 12 Letters of Interest (LoIs) will be selected to move to the second stage of this call. The successful applicants will be required to attend a virtual proposal development workshop, after which they will each receive a proposal development award of CAD 50,000 for a duration of three months. The main deliverable is the submission of a full proposal. **For more information, please consult the [Call for Letters of Interest](#).**

Key Requirements

- UCT researcher must serve as Principal Applicant.
- Research must take place in eligible sub-Saharan African countries.
- Team must include:
 - Civil Society Organisation co-PI
 - Decision-Maker co-PI
 - Canadian Researcher co-PI
- Proposals must demonstrate:
 - Gender-transformative and feminist research approaches

- Strong stakeholder engagement and co-production of knowledge
- Potential for policy and systems impact

The following tools may assist in the process of finding African and Canadian researcher partners:

- CAGH: [Global Health Research Directory](#)
- CIHR: [Partnership Linkage Tool](#)

Application Process

How to apply

Applicants must ensure all proposals go through UCT's electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system for institutional approval before submission to the IDRC.

This is a **two-stage application process**:

1. **Submit a Letter of Interest (LOI)-** via <https://idrc-crdi.smapply.io/prog/anesa-cohort2-irt>
2. Shortlisted teams will be invited to submit a **full proposal**

Funder's anticipated timelines

- Call for Letters of Interest Launch: 29 June 2026
- Deadline for Submission of Letter of Interest: 23 August 2026
- Successful Applicants Notified: 18 December 2026
- Proposal Development Workshop: 9-11 February 2027
- Call for Full Proposal Launch: 12 February 2027
- Deadline for Submission of Full Proposal: 02 May 2027
- Applicants Notified of Funding Decisions: 21 July 2027

UCT's standard internal requirements

	Deadline
PI to initiate an eRA Proposal Approval request and alert their faculty finance office of the budgetary support needed	Immediately
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA at least 4 weeks before the funder deadline	25 Jul 2026
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least 2 weeks before the funder deadline	7 Aug 2026
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least 1 week before the funder deadline (if applicable, if funder requires institutional sign off)	14 Aug 2026
PI to submit the application on the funder portal by the funder deadline	23 Aug 2026