

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS
on
LOCAL MARKETS IN THE CONTEXT OF URBAN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Closing date: 21 July 2016, 12 noon GMT

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) invites proposals for original research projects which can contribute to an improved understanding of the impact of humanitarian response on local markets, with specific reference to urban humanitarian crises.

Background: With funding from DFID, the IIED Urban Crises Learning Fund seeks to fill evidence gaps through primary research, reflecting on past humanitarian responses, developing new tools, and learning from experiences in other fields. By engaging humanitarian agencies in the process of research and learning, alongside urban stakeholders from municipal officials to civil society, the Learning Fund seeks to contribute to a more in-depth understanding of how the humanitarian sector can most effectively operate in urban contexts and work with urban actors – an imperative in an increasingly urban world facing both slow- and fast-onset crises, from food shortages to conflict and natural disasters.

This is the third in a series of thematic calls for research proposals, with the aim of supporting innovative thematic and regional research on key issues shaping humanitarian responses in urban areas. This will include research and learning to provide the necessary conceptual frameworks and understanding to inform the activities and responses by ‘operational’ organizations, and to synthesise outputs into useable lessons for local governments, national and international NGOs, and bilateral funding agencies. Further details of the Urban Crises Learning Fund and existing publications can be found at www.iied.org/urban-crises-learning-fund.

Guidelines: IIED is now seeking to receive proposals for research projects which can contribute to the goal of improving humanitarian response in urban contexts. This is the third of four planned thematic calls for proposals, with the final call to be released in the third quarter of 2016. **The focus of this call is on examining local markets in the context of a humanitarian response with specific reference to urban humanitarian crises.** The function of urban areas as hubs in local and global supply chains, the extent and scale of urban formal and informal markets, the interplay between consumers and suppliers, and the diversity of livelihood activities they host, means that a closer examination of the impacts of a humanitarian intervention on these features and on their recovery from a crisis is required. The intention of the research projects is to inform humanitarian programming around engagement with local market actors, including suppliers and consumers (from both host and displaced communities), fostering the recovery of local markets and their roles in supply chains, and enabling more effective market-based programming.

There are no geographical restrictions on the study locations (although the final decision will take the overall geographical coverage of the portfolio of projects into account), nor on the type of humanitarian crisis being addressed, as long as proposed studies contribute new evidence and understanding to the topic. We particularly welcome the collection of new primary data. Indicative topics or themes might include, but are not limited to, examining and analysing:

- The roles that markets can play in an urban environment in fostering recovery following a humanitarian crisis;
- The ways in which markets impacted by crises in turn affect the livelihoods and subsistence of urban residents, and consequently, how humanitarian responses and their effects on markets can have positive or negative impacts on local populations – including both refugee and host populations in the context of displacement;
- The challenges and opportunities for market analysis in the urban context, including for displaced and host populations, and the tools that can be used for such analysis;
- The ways in which humanitarian and development programming can jointly help to support the restoration of markets in a post-crisis situation;
- The consequences of humanitarian interventions in urban contexts on local markets and supply chains, including but not limited to the effects on service providers (such as water and energy) and other local businesses.

The research should be framed in such a way that it is of relevance to local governments, national and international NGOs, and other actors in the field of urban humanitarian response. Research proposals that support local participation in the co-production of knowledge are particularly encouraged.

Further information:

- We expect to fund around 5 projects with budgets in the range of 15,000-30,000 GBP per project in this call.
- Successful applicants will be expected to produce a working paper (up to 15,000 words) and a policy briefing paper (2,000 words) to be published in English as an IIED product (with appropriate co-branding as relevant).
- IIED will facilitate a process of review of the working papers and will provide editorial support in the publication process.
- We expect each research project to last between 3-6 months, with an expected contract start date of 1 September 2016 and completion and publication of research outputs by 28 February 2017.
- We encourage collaborative research projects where local partners play a substantial role in the study process.

Submission process: Proposals should be sent to IIED by email (humans@iied.org) not later than **12 noon GMT on Thursday 21st July, 2016**. Submissions should be in the form of a brief proposal (not more than 5 pages plus budget in Excel) outlining the following:

- Objectives of the research, background information and policy relevance
- Methodology
- Key partners and research team composition
- Anticipated outputs (type e.g. working paper, policy brief, academic journal paper, other)
- Summary of relevant research and/or operational experience (not more than 1 page)
- Other relevant information
- Proposed budget narrative
- Timeline and estimate dates of delivery of outputs

Proposed budget: please provide an indicative budget in Pounds Sterling in **Excel** format, using the following outline categories as applicable, providing additional detail for each category as appropriate. You are welcome to add or remove categories as needed. If you include any overheads, please also include a narrative to explain what this covers, as well as narrative on staff rates justification, management/admin time justification, and travel costs policy (up to 600 words).

Budget line (please include only relevant budget lines)	Unit	Cost per unit	Quantity	Total cost in GBP
1. Staff costs 1.1 Staff member (name and role) 1.2 Staff member (name and role) 1.3 Other	Days	X GBP	X Days	
2. Research costs 2.1 Training 2.2 Data collection, entry and analysis 2.3 Other e.g. translation				
3. Workshop costs 3.1 Facility hire 3.2 Meals 3.3 Accommodation 3.4 Other				
4. Travel costs 4.1 Airfare 4.2 Domestic transport 4.3 Accommodation 4.4 Other				
5. Other expenditures (describe)				
Total planned expenditure				

Please note that disbursements will usually be made as follows: 30% on signing the contract, 40% at an agreed point in the project, and 30% on satisfactory completion of the project. However, there may be room for flexibility in this depending on the type of costs and the lengths of the projects. The first payment will be made in advance and the final payment in arrears. Disbursements should be made to a registered institution or organisation (e.g. university, NGO) not to personal bank accounts. Disbursements to individual researchers will also be considered where warranted.

Eligibility: this call is open to researchers and practitioners globally, whether independent or part of an organisation in the public, non-profit or private sector. We encourage collaborative research projects where local partners play a substantial role in the study process.

Selection process: proposals will be reviewed by a panel on a competitive basis. Applicants will be contacted by mid-September 2016. The following criteria will be used to assess the submissions:

- Relevance of research questions to theme
- Potential for generating applicable lessons for the sector
- Quality of research questions
- Appropriateness of methodology
- Proposed local collaboration/level of partnership

- Appropriateness of budget
- Experience of research team
- Ensuring spread of locations, topics (crisis type, focus of research), organisations and partnership types

For further information please contact Diane Archer at IIED: humans@iied.org