



## **Role of Data Streams in Informing infection dynamics in Africa (INFORM Africa)**

### **Request for Applications (RFA): Pilot projects**

We are pleased to announce funding opportunities for pilot projects under the INFORM Africa research hub under the Data Science for Health Recovery and Innovation in Africa (DS-I Africa <https://dsi-africa.org/> ) program (<https://dsi-africa.org/project/7> ). Each pilot project can receive up to \$45,000 for 12 months of implementation. Eligible applicants are invited to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by **13 January 2023**.

### **Background**

The INFORM Africa research hub is a 5-year project funded by the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) through its DS-I Africa program. The goal of INFORM Africa is to effectively use big data to address urgent public health needs related to SARS-CoV-2 and HIV pandemics to develop population-scale data streams as a cornerstone for future pandemic preparedness in Africa.

INFORM Africa aims to:

1. Establish data streams from public and private sectors to better understand the multilayer interactions that may explain the dynamics and impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Develop geospatial tools that will be used by countries' leadership and governments in pandemic surveillance and response to improve preparedness.
3. Expand data science research opportunities and capacity through engagement with the broader DS-I Africa consortium and several proposed pilot projects in data science.
4. Maintain a sustained engagement with policymakers and governments to promote further open access to high-quality data and the redistribution and uptake of any product/tool developed by our team.

Proposals submitted should target the use of data science with a focus on any of our below-aligned project objectives:

- Expand the goal and focus of INFORM Africa's research hub to include projects on the impact of climate change on health
- Expand INFORM Africa's research focus to additional pathogens

- Expand INFORM Africa's research focus to additional geographic regions within Africa
- Bring new big data tools to bear on existing data being collected.

### Eligibility

- Be an early career investigator based in Africa (PhD students may apply but should have a faculty Co-Investigator on the project)
- The pilot projects must relate to the objective and scope described in the present RFA.
- Projects should have a duration of 12 months
- Applicants should be affiliated with an academic or research institution or a research hub
- Applications from within the DS-I consortium will be preferred however applicants from outside the consortium can apply including from industry partnerships in Africa

### Application process

- Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI). Please access the LOI through this link. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rA0nR\\_Uh3Yzvel8FqxFDvJe6znezoj0IjNKHVB-XCQg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rA0nR_Uh3Yzvel8FqxFDvJe6znezoj0IjNKHVB-XCQg/edit?usp=sharing)
- Invitation to submit full proposals with supporting documents
- Award notification

### Guideline for application

- All submissions must be in English
- Applicants can submit more than one LOI so long as the objectives are distinct.
- Applications are not restricted to African investigators/institutions, but special consideration will be given to African investigators/institutions.
- Details on the requirements for full proposals will be provided only to shortlisted applicants, which will generally expand on the information in the LOI.
- Project awardees will be part of the INFORM Africa hub and will be required to provide updates in meetings and other hub activities.

### Key dates:

**LOI application deadline:** 13 January 2023

**Request for full applications deadline:** 3 February 2023

**Full application submission deadline:** 24 February 2023

**Notice of Award:** 15 March 2023

**Inquiries:** For questions/information related to administrative or technical processes, please contact INFORM Africa Research Hub manager, Sophia Osawe [sosawe@ihvnigeria.org](mailto:sosawe@ihvnigeria.org)

