

Request for research proposals

Migration and South Africa

Background

The International Food Policy Research Institute and the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), in partnership with the National Treasury and other partners, are implementing over the period 2018–2021 a research programme called ‘Toward Inclusive Economic Development in Southern Africa’ (SA-TIED), with the aim of enhancing economic research, capacity-building, and policy dialogue. For information about SA-TIED please visit <http://sa-tied.wider.unu.edu/home>. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) leads SA-TIED Workstream 5 ‘Climate change and energy transition as drivers of change.’ This request is for research proposals relevant to (a) migration between South Africa and other countries, particularly those in the Southern Africa region, and/or to (b) migration within South Africa, including rural-urban migration.

Understanding the characteristics and drivers of regional and intra-South African migration is an important element in designing effective policies that enhance employment and economic outcomes. Beyond prevailing determinants of migration, potentially meaningful changes in climate, agriculture, trade, and energy supply are also likely to drive migration. The sparse availability of data on migration presents a challenge for policy-relevant research. New approaches to link different data sources, including the recent availability of tax administrative data, creates opportunities to better understanding the nature of migration in South Africa.

Papers generated under this call for proposals should support policy makers with evaluating and improving the operation and coordination of economic policies.

Offer

UNU-WIDER, the National Treasury of the Republic of South Africa (NT) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), invite proposals from qualified researchers for high quality economic research, in the focus areas listed below, that contributes directly or indirectly to evaluating and improving the operation and coordination of macroeconomic policies.

The objectives of this request for research proposals are to:

1. Provide an opportunity to researchers to conduct policy-relevant research on topics of relevance to migration and macroeconomic policy in South Africa.
2. Facilitate policy dialogue through engaging with researchers on policy-relevant issues and ensuring that the findings from this research are communicated effectively to all stakeholders — including the academic community, policy makers and civil society via policy summaries and dialogue.

Proposals from individuals, groups of individuals, and non-profit organizations are welcome. Researchers can be based in South Africa or internationally and can combine researchers from different countries and institutions.

Researchers with successful proposals that require access to tax administrative datasets at NT will be subject to agreed restrictions to preserve confidentiality. More information on the available firm-level data can be found [here](#).

Special consideration will be given to research teams that include junior and early-career researchers.

Individual researchers and organizations will be issued Research Agreements by IFPRI. A staff member from IFPRI will assess adequate completion of the contract.

A total research grant in the range of US\$3,000-10,000 will be paid upon delivery of a working paper, depending on the qualifications of the lead researcher and assessment of the proposal. In addition, a local expense allowance of up to a maximum US\$5,000 per proposal will be paid, depending on an assessment of costs required to undertake the proposed research.

The remuneration and local expense allowance will be expected to cover all costs associated with the conduct of all research proposed under the proposal, except attendance at the work-in-progress workshop and other knowledge-sharing and dissemination events.

What is expected of researchers?

All successful research grant applicants will be expected to:

1. Produce a relevant research paper of sufficient quality to merit publication in the SA-TIED Working Paper series.
2. (For research requiring access to tax administrative datasets at NT) Sign agreements and abide by all restrictions imposed by NT and other government agencies with respect to disclosure of confidential firm- and individual-specific information.
3. To present work in progress at an appropriate venue (TBD) and to listen to and to comment upon work in progress of other researchers (1-1.5 day time commitment).
4. Prepare a policy summary that brings together the key findings from the research

paper and the key policy lessons. A key focus will be on specific, policy-relevant recommendations that can be taken forward through a further phase of work.

5. Participate in a workshop/policy dialogue after completion of the final paper to communicate the policy implications and lessons from the research.

Focus areas

Proposals within these Focus Areas are particularly sought, but proposals in other areas may also be considered:

- 1 Climate change, water and food security, and energy production and availability as drivers of regional and rural-urban migration in South Africa
- 2 Methodological approaches to incorporate and merge alternate sources of migration data in South Africa
- 3 Using tax administrative data and other sources to understand the nature of foreign and/or domestic migrant workers in South Africa
- 4 Economic and socio-economic consequences of migration in South Africa, especially with regard to consequences on service delivery (housing, bulk infrastructure, etc.)

Proposals should indicate understanding of SA-TIED's objectives and current work and, in particular, the work completed and undertaken in SA-TIED Workstream 5 'Climate change and energy transition as drivers of change'. Research on the projects of accepted proposals will be conducted within SA-TIED Workstream 5. Connections to completed (or ongoing) research of SA-TIED Workstream 5 are desirable but not a necessity.

Dates

16 March 2020	Final opportunity for questions on the request for research proposals.
6 April 2020	Proposals due.
27 April 2020	Target date for informing on funding decisions.
11 May 2020	Target date for completion of necessary administrative procedures.
3 August 2020	Target window for submission of first draft of papers and work-in-progress presentations.
14 September 2020	Target window for submission of final paper.
December 2020	Target window for policy dialogue

Evaluation process and criteria

Proposal evaluation will follow the process described below:

Technical panel

A technical panel will score proposals along four criteria: technical merit, technical capabilities of the research team, policy relevance, and capacity-building. During this assessment, proposals must meet both a minimum level of technical merit and research team capabilities, and a minimum total score.

The assessment of the technical aspects of the proposal will be in accordance with the following criteria:

1. technical merit (TM) 30 points
2. capabilities of the research team (RT) 25 points

The proposals will need to score a minimum of 40 points out of the total of 55 points awarded for technical aspects to be recommended by the panel.

Assessments by the technical panel of the ability of research teams to adjust to unforeseen circumstances (see point 6 above under Expectations section) will form an important part of scoring under these criteria.

As the programme aims to both support policy-relevant research and build research capacity in southern Africa, the proposals will also be awarded points for their potential contribution to southern African analytical capacity and their degree of policy relevance.

3. policy relevance (PR) 25 points.
4. capacity building (CB) 20 points

A maximum of 100 points can therefore be awarded. Proposals must meet a minimum of 70 points to be recommended by the technical panel to stage two of the assessment. The technical panel will provide written recommendations and total scores to the policy panel for their input.

Policy panel

The policy panel will comprise officials from relevant institutions. The policy panel will consider the policy relevance of the proposal and ensure that the proposed paper/outputs can be published without contravening confidentiality issues and that proposed use of data is in line with their best-practice requirements.

The technical panel will recommend proposals to the policy panel for decision. IFPRI will make final funding decisions taking into account inputs provided by the technical and policy panels.

A maximum number of two (2) proposals per researcher may be received, and only one (1) contract per individual researcher may be awarded (the panel may consider more awards in the case where the researcher is part of multiple teams).

Only the final decision on whether to fund the proposal or not will be communicated to applying researchers.

Other considerations

For successful proposals:

1. Researchers or their institutions will sign a Research Contract with IFPRI.
2. Researchers/institutions will transfer copyright of research produced under the contract to IFPRI. An important purpose of this copyright transfer is to allow IFPRI to effectively negotiate with book publishers and editors of journals in order to seek the most desirable possible publication outlet for a related set of papers. If no (further) publication is to be expected by IFPRI, the copyright can be transferred to the author(s).

Proposal submission details

1. The submission of proposals is done electronically using the Dropbox link below. Please provide details (including address, gender, nationality, date of birth, title, and affiliation(s)) of all researchers involved in brief CVs (two pages or less) for each researcher. Please use the last name of the lead author to name your files as follows:
 - a. Proposal: "lastname_proposal"
 - b. CVs: "lastname of lead author_CV_last name of researcher"

If the lead author is submitting more than one proposal, please add a number after the last name, for example, "lastname1_proposal".

Dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/duYHhJppNSLuLcwPNYWj>

2. The technical proposal should be no more than five pages of A4 paper in length excluding cover page and references, using 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing, and standard margins. The cover page should contain the complete contact information of researcher(s) and a less than 200-word proposal abstract, which should summarize the research question, main methods, data, and expected contribution to the policy debate.
3. Submission of a budget is not required for the proposal.
4. Any questions on the proposal process should be sent to Simrin Makhija (s.makhija@cgiar.org) by 16 March 2020. All queries and responses will be shared via a Dropbox link after this date.