



## **Request for Proposals # 2023-001**

**Project:** Countdown to 2030: Strengthening Evidence and Analytic Capacity to Track Progress in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition

**Countdown 2030 Fellowship Program - Cohort 1 Recruitment**

## 1 Introduction

The [African Population and Health Research Center](#) (APHRC) is accepting research proposals for the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship Program, a multilateral collaboration to strengthen analytical capacities for monitoring and tracking the progress of life-saving interventions for Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N).

This call targets scholars and analysts from collaborating countries who wish to contribute to research efforts to strengthen evidence generation on the progress towards improving RMNCAH+N interventions. More information about the fellowship program and the application process is detailed below. **Applications will be accepted until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

## 2 Background

APHRC is an African-led and Africa-based international research institute engaged in multidisciplinary, evidence-informed policy research. Our researchers are contributing to the body of evidence about the critical issues in population health and wellbeing impeding Africa's development in order to provide strong direction and recommendations to policy- and decision-makers at all levels.

The [Countdown 2030 for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health](#) (CD2030) is a global collaboration of academic institutions, universities, and UN agencies that aims to improve the measurement and monitoring of women's, children's, and adolescents' health. The collaboration focuses on intervention coverage trends and inequalities and associated health system drivers, and strengthens regional and national capacities on analysis to generate and use evidence. As part of the consortium, APHRC is leading the Countdown work in sub-Saharan Africa. Through regional networks, the Center brings together research and public health institutions with ministries of health from countries in the region to strengthen the evidence and advocacy in support of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and nutrition programs.

Through APHRC, CD2030 will offer a one-year fellowship program to strengthen analytical capacities for monitoring RMNCAH+N. Countdown to 2030 will engage Country Fellows directly or indirectly in collaborations and country progress monitoring. Every year, CD2030 will host a competitive process to select about 10 fellows to take part in a 12-month fellowship to work on a specific project.

## 3 Fellowship procedures

Fellows will have the opportunity to develop skills through instruction and engagement with global and regional CD2030 collaborators, by participating in APHRC short courses (e.g. Scientific Writing; Data Analysis Using R/Stata; Research Governance; Policy Analyses, etc.), and in interactions with other fellows. This will include two one-month stays at APHRC over the course of the fellowship and remote support from CD2030 collaborators during the rest of the year. CD2030 will explore the feasibility of a visit to relevant global level partners (WHO, UNICEF, GFF, etc..) as an additional learning and networking opportunity. The projects that fellows undertake (as proposed by the fellow in their applications) must be relevant to the CD2030 country collaboration and produce scientific outputs such as a technical report, policy-brief and/or

scientific paper. Each fellow will have one or more mentors from the Countdown Data & Analysis Centers (or other CD collaborating institutions, if needed). Fellows will also present their results during the annual CD2030/GFF analysis meetings for countries. CD2030 will create a committee of CD2030 regional or global partners and subject-experts to select the best candidates to be awarded, while ensuring the most disadvantaged countries and younger applicants are promoted. The composition of each annual cohort will also be, at a minimum, 50% women. The Fellow will have to commit and sign the CD fellowship agreement.

#### 4 Key activities and deliverables

- Actively contribute to country collaboration activities by leading the drafting of reports or other technical and communication products
- Attend two training workshops at APHRC
- Attend virtual and face-to-face meetings with mentors and technical facilitators
- Draft and submit at least one article to an international peer-reviewed journal at the end of the fellowship
- Submit progress report every three months

#### 5 Duration

The maximum duration of the fellowship is 12 months.

#### 5 Eligibility

The selection of successful fellows will be based on the following criteria

- Minimum qualifications: Master's Degree in Public Health, Epidemiology, Global Health, Demography, Biostatistics or any related field with a specialisation/focus on Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, and Adolescent Health
- The quality of the research proposal submitted and its relevance to the country's fellow
- Fellows should be aged below 45 years by the time of application
- Experience in research

#### 6 How to Apply

Country candidates should send their application (using template in Appendix A) to [CD2030FP@aphrc.org](mailto:CD2030FP@aphrc.org) by **12:00pm GMT on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. The application should include:

- a) A technical concept not exceeding five pages describing how the prospective work will be delivered, **using the Template in Appendix A** (excluding attachments)
- b) A detailed CV including contracts of three referees
- c) A letter of support from the CD20230 country partner institution

## Appendix A. Research concept template

<b>1. Title of Research</b>
<b>2. Research Problem:</b> Provide a brief description of the problem you intend to address and the possible research questions, <b>(maximum 1 page)</b>
<b>3. Research Methods:</b> Provide brief description of the proposed methods of data collection and analysis <b>(maximum 1 page)</b>
<b>4. Significance.</b> Provide a brief description of the scholarly contribution your proposed research idea will make, as well as its relevance to contemporary public and population health issues in Africa. <b>(maximum 1 page)</b>
<b>5. Motivation.</b> Provide a brief narrative explaining why applying for the CD2023 Fellowship Program. Suggested issues to cover: how your research fits within RMNCAH-N work within your country; how findings will be utilised ; long-term career goals; research interests and future research involvement; teaching interests and future teaching roles; <b>(maximum 1 page)</b>

## Appendix B – Applicant CV

<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Include month and year of graduation (or expected date), major, faculty/department, thesis title (if any), and degrees or certification. Begin with the most recent degree</p>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Dates attended (mm/yyyy-mm/yyyy)</b>
<p><b>EMPLOYMENT HISTORY</b></p> <p>List in chronological order (beginning with current or most recent employment), include position details, dates, and reason(s) for leaving previous jobs</p>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Employment period (mm/yyyy-mm/yyyy)</b>
<p><b>COMPUTER SKILLS</b></p> <p>List computer packages and level of skill (i.e. basic, intermediate, and advanced)</p>			
<p><b>PUBLICATIONS</b></p> <p>Provide full reference for <b>ALL</b> your publications</p>			
<p><b>CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS</b></p>	-		
<p><b>PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS</b></p>			
<p><b>AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS RECEIVED</b></p>			
<p><b>REFEREES* NAMES AND E-MAIL CONTACTS (max three)</b></p>			

\*Referees should be able to comment on your research capacity as well as provide the supportive environment for your CD Fellowship, e.g. you direct line manager or your head of department etc.