

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

## Inclusion of Afro-descendants and Indigenous Peoples



Although the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant progress on many social indicators over the last decade, **systematic gaps remain that prevent the full inclusion of Afro-descendants and the development with identity of Indigenous Peoples**.<sup>1</sup> Evidence shows that these groups face disadvantages in multiple dimensions of their lives compared to the rest of the population, such as access to education and educational attainment (Näslund-Hadley & Santos, 2022; Freire *et al.*, 2022) and access to health services (ECLAC, 2017; Del Pino *et al.*, 2019; Marinho *et al.*, 2022), financial services (Paixão, 2017; Bustelo *et al.*, 2020) and digital technologies (Bocarejo *et al.*, 2021), among others. This is reflected in poor labor outcomes and high poverty rates in this population (Marco *et al.*, 2019; ILO, 2019; Bustelo *et al.*, 2020; IDB, 2022) that are exacerbated at identity intersections.<sup>2</sup> For example, Afro-descendant women face higher unemployment rates than the rest of the population (ECLAC, 2018; 2020), earn lower wages at

all educational levels (Freire *et al.*, 2022), and are less represented in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers (Corbett & Hill, 2015; Brasscom, 2023).

The inequalities faced by Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples are closely linked to historical processes of exclusion and discrimination that have left a legacy of persistent inequality in the region and have been passed down from generation to generation. Likewise, discrimination or unequal treatment based on race and ethnicity continues to limit the opportunities and full development of these populations, despite legal frameworks that prohibit these practices (IDB, 2022). It is essential to produce **rigorous research** in this area to close the gaps affecting these populations and strengthen the State's capacity to design and implement policies that contribute to the inclusion of Afro-descendants and to the development with identity of Indigenous Peoples.

- 1 Development with indigenous peoples' identity entails "a process that includes strengthening indigenous peoples, harmony with the environment, good management of territories and natural resources, establishing and exercising authority, and respect for indigenous values and rights, including cultural, economic, social and institutional rights of indigenous peoples, in accordance with their own worldview and governance" (IDB, 2006: 5).
- 2 Intersectionality is an approach that enables us to understand how different social identities—like race, ethnicity, gender, social class, ability, sexual and gender orientation—are intertwined and interrelated with the systems of power present in society.



## Objectives of the call

GDLab, the [Gender and Diversity Knowledge Initiative of the IDB Group](#), seeks to fund academic studies that provide solid evidence to:

- **Close the gaps** faced by Afro-descendants and Indigenous Peoples.
- **Reduce bias and unequal treatment** based on race and ethnicity.
- **Strengthen institutional capacity** to close the gaps faced by Afro-descendants and Indigenous Peoples.

Proposals that analyze one or more of the [26 IDB borrowing member countries](#) will be considered. The proposals must apply rigorous quantitative methods that establish causal relationships using structural models or experimental or quasi-experimental evaluations. Proposals that include qualitative analysis will be considered only to the extent that they serve as input for the implementation of quantitative methods. Proposals that generate actionable public policy recommendations for the public sector, private sector, and multilateral organizations are specially welcome.

The highest-quality studies will be considered for publication in the IDB working paper series. These publications will require an external review process. Publication as an IDB product will not preclude its publication in academic journals.

## Priority Issues

This call seeks [rigorous research proposals](#) that contribute to the inclusion of Afro-descendants and to the development with identity of Indigenous Peoples. Specifically, it seeks proposals that evaluate:

- 1. Interventions that address gaps faced by Afro-descendants and Indigenous Peoples.** Proposals in this area may address, among others, the following topics: the evaluation of affirmative action policy interventions, quotas or land titling; race- or ethnicity-based gaps in access to decent housing, quality education, technology use, and financial services; the effectiveness of policies for addressing the underrepresentation of Afro-descendants and Indigenous Peoples in STEM careers and leadership positions in the public and private sectors, as well as the role of the informal economy. Proposals are encouraged to evaluate intercultural programs to improve the accessibility and quality of health and education services in rural and urban areas, as well as interventions that promote the participation and agency<sup>3</sup> of these populations, protecting their ways of life and traditions in harmony with biodiversity. Research is also sought to evaluate the impact of policies that enhance the development of the cultural identity of Afro-descendant migrant families and Indigenous Peoples, as well as the effectiveness of economic development policies, social security and protection programs, and policies that promote entrepreneurship and business development in their communities.

<sup>3</sup> Understood as people's capacity to freely make decisions based on the goals or values they consider important.



## 2. Interventions that prevent or discourage unequal treatment based on race and ethnicity.

Proposals in this area may address, among others, the following topics: the evaluation of programs designed to achieve equality in employment and programs that promote inclusion and equality in access to education and health systems; the influence of media and cultural representation on racial and ethnic stereotypes; and the evaluation of interventions aimed to change biased attitudes and behaviors in areas such as education, employment, access to financial services, business training, and hiring panels, among others. The design and evaluation of programs aimed at influencing the academic performance and STEM career choices of these populations is also encouraged.

## 3. Policies that strengthen the institutional capacity of countries in the region to promote the inclusion of Afro-descendants and the development with identity of Indigenous Peoples.

Proposals in this area should provide causal evidence on the institutional limitations facing countries in the region to designing and implementing policies that contribute to the well-being of these populations. Proposals are also sought to improve the accuracy of measurements of these groups by adopting best practices for collecting comparable data. Studies in this area should generate actionable public policy recommendations

**Intersectionality.** Proposals that consider the intersections of identity, such as the differentiated impact of these issues on Afro-descendant and Indigenous women, are strongly encouraged. Likewise, the development of proposals that consider how these issues affect different groups within the Afro-descendant and indigenous communities, such as youth, the elderly, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ people, is strongly encouraged.

## Who can submit proposals?

Independent researchers or research teams comprised of entities from the public sector, private sector, universities, or research centers may apply. Applicants must meet the following requirements: be a citizen of one of the [48 IDB member countries](#) and not have family members who currently work at the Inter-American Development Bank or IDB Invest (jointly, "IDB Group") (to the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including husband or wife).<sup>4</sup>

IDB Group specialists may be part of the research team but may not receive compensation for their participation. The funds awarded will be distributed exclusively among the members of the winning team.

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to IDB policies, additional ineligibility criteria may apply; for example, certain categories of former IDB Group employees or individuals sanctioned by the United Nations and other international organizations will be ineligible.



## Proposal Contents

- **Research team.** The names of the researchers and evidence of their ability to meet the objectives of the study (including previous relevant experience) and the *curriculum vitae* of each researcher (maximum 3 pages per person). All team members must meet the following requirements: be a citizen of one of the [48 IDB member countries](#) and not have family members who currently work at the Inter-American Development Bank or IDB Invest (jointly, "IDB Group") (to the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including husband or wife).<sup>5</sup> Note that, in the event that the proposal is selected, changes in team composition will need the approval of GD-Lab and may constitute a reason for terminating the agreement.
- **Objective and research question.** Country or countries to be covered, thematic area, main research question or questions, and general objective of the research proposal.
- **Relevance in terms of public policy and innovation.** The proposal must specify the knowledge gaps it intends to address and provide a comprehensive explanation of how the proposed study will contribute towards closing these gaps. Additionally, the proposal should highlight the innovative aspects of the study that will help to address the problem at hand.
- **Scalability and replicability.** Detailed description of how the proposed study can be broadly implemented and scaled, acknowledging any barriers to scaling and whether the ideas and potential outcomes could be applied in other contexts.
- **Data sources.** Detailed description of the data, including whether it is publicly available or access is restricted. If access is restricted, the proposal must show that access to the data is possible. Specify if the databases and source code (e.g. do-files) can be shared with the IDB once the draft study is completed or if there are any valid restrictions preventing them from being shared.
- **Methodology.** The proposal must include a detailed description of the methodology. This call focuses on rigorous research proposals that use quantitative methods to identify causal effects. For studies based on experimental or quasi-experimental methods, the proposal must include a discussion of the identification strategy that will allow for estimating causal effects. Ideally, proposals should include identification strategy validation tests (e.g., balance tests, common trend tests, placebo tests, etc.).
- **Execution period and work plan.** A work plan that specifies the main tasks to be carried out and the estimated execution time. Depending on the type of study, the maximum period to complete the research is 18 months.
- **Budget.** Resources to be used in the context of the research work plan. The budget should distinguish between sums allocated for professional fees, data collection, activity implementation, and other main categories of research spending.

<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to IDB policies, additional ineligibility criteria may apply; for example, certain categories of former IDB Group employees or individuals sanctioned by the United Nations and other international organizations will be ineligible.



- **Ethics committee.** Name of the institutional review board (IRB) before which the research proposal will be presented if selected.

## Selection Criteria

The Scientific Committee of this call for proposals will evaluate them based on relevance, innovation, scalability, replicability, quality of the methodology, and ability of the team to carry out the research project. The Scientific Committee is made up of specialists on these issues from the IDB Group and by **Donn. L. Feir** (University of Victoria) and **Ursula Mello** (Insper - Institute of Education and Research), external academic advisors. The decisions of the Scientific Committee will be final and unappealable.

The selected teams must be willing to receive and respond to comments from the advisors of the call for proposals and from IDB Group specialists throughout the execution of the study, as well as to participate in discussion seminars held during the consultancy period.

## Evaluation Criteria

- **Relevance and innovation.** Does the proposal address a knowledge gap? How would the study contribute to closing these knowledge gaps? What is the innovation proposed by the study to address the problem?
- **Data and methodology.** Does the proposal present a clear research design and methodology? Proposals should explain in as much detail as possible how they will address the topic under study. The data col-

lection issues and the estimation strategy should be described in detail.

- **Implementation capacity.** The experience of the researchers in undertaking the proposed project will be an aspect to consider. Priority will be given to proposals submitted by researchers who demonstrate previous experience in the subject matter and proposed methodologies. Proposals must have an implementation plan and budget for the activities proposed.
- **Scalability and replicability.** Are the ideas and results applicable to other contexts? Are there obstacles to scaling the project?

## Funding Amount

Subject to the decision of the Scientific Committee and the signing of a consulting contract with the IDB, participants may apply for one of the following funding categories based on the scope of the proposal:

### CATEGORY I - Quantitative diagnoses that establish causal relationships.

Studies in this category require resources to complement existing funds, to cover research activities or access to data sources. Proposals in this category can access a maximum of **20,000 US dollars (USD), duly justified**, and have a maximum of **12 months** to complete the study from the signing of the contract.

### CATEGORY II - Pilot interventions.

Studies in this category require resources to implement or evaluate the impact



of an intervention or pilot program. Proposals in this category can access a maximum of **100,000 US dollars (USD)**, **duly justified**, and have a maximum of **18 months** to complete the study from the signing of the contract.

The researchers or consulting firms in charge of the studies selected must sign a consulting contract with the IDB to access the resources available through this call for proposals. The resources of both categories will be disbursed upon presentation and approval of the outputs defined in the consulting contract. The IDB reserves the right to revoke this call for proposals at any time prior to the signing of the consulting contract.

## Use of Funding

The resources provided must be used **exclusively** for financing research activities, collecting primary data, accessing secondary data sources, and certification of the research proposal by an IRB. The amount of funding requested must be clearly justified.

The funds from this call for proposals **cannot be used** to cover the costs of materials for disseminating the study (dissemination of the outputs of this call for proposals will be the responsibility of the IDB), travel, or acquisition of goods and services (except when they are shown to be essential to achieving the research objectives). Additionally, overhead can account for a maximum of 15% of direct costs.

## Deadline for submitting proposals

This call for research proposals will be open until **October 11, 2023**. To ensure proper processing of all proposals, it is strongly recommended that you submit your proposals well in advance of the deadline.

The results of this call will be announced in January 2024.

## How to apply

To apply, teams must download and complete the application form (in Spanish or English) and submit the duly completed form through GDLab's [call for proposals website](#). Applications sent by email or those that do not follow the format of the form will not be accepted.

 [gdlab@iadb.org](mailto:gdlab@iadb.org)



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#### **Arbitration, applicable law, and privileges and immunities of the IDB**

All questions, matters, or disputes related to this call for proposals shall be governed by the laws of the District of Columbia, although no part of this clause or the conditions and rules of the call for proposals may restrict, limit, or impede any right, privilege, or immunity granted to the Bank or Bank personnel under any national or international treaty or law.

Should any dispute arise related to the call for proposals that cannot be resolved through a friendly settlement, then once one of the parties gives notice of the disagreement or dispute to the other, it shall be submitted for arbitration and final resolution before a single arbiter. The arbitration will be administered by the American Arbitration Association, in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. The location of the arbitration proceeding shall be Washington, D.C. The costs of any arbitration proceeding shall be borne by the Participant and the Bank in equal parts.

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