



Centre of Excellence on Data
for Children with Disabilities

Fostering Inclusion through Data

Call for Proposals - Data Analyses Round 2

Application deadline:

16 June 2023, Midnight, EDT/ 17 June 2023, 4:00 am GMT



BACKGROUND

Millions of children with disabilities around the globe continue to be left behind, despite near-universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the call for action embedded in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the clear mandate set by the Sustainable Development Goals. Often, this neglect is the result of limited data. When absent from official statistics, children and adults with disabilities remain politically and socially ‘invisible’, increasing their marginalization and exposure to rights violations.

Historically, attempts to protect the rights of children with disabilities have been hampered by this lack of data. More recent times have seen a renewed focus on generating reliable and internationally comparable data on such children, leading to the development of new tools for data collection. These include the Child Functioning Module, released by UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics in 2016. It has also resulted in a substantial increase in the availability of data on children with disabilities over the last five years, fostering data analysis and contributing to increased knowledge generation.

To carry the momentum forward, UNICEF launched the Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities. The Centre’s aim is to fill data gaps and meet the growing need for coordination, quality oversight and technical expertise in the field. Its priority areas include supporting a broad range of activities to build the capacity of data producers and data users, facilitate the development of new methods and tools, and support data collection, data analysis, data interpretation and use, and knowledge generation.

To promote the use of data and the generation of knowledge on the state of children with disabilities, the Centre has committed to sponsoring innovative data analyses.

This initiative is designed to build capacity for data analysis and to promote collaboration between skilled and early career researchers/data analysts, as well as collaboration among associated institutions. The recipients will have the opportunity to design and conduct innovative data analysis on topics relating to children with disabilities; the results will be published in a format to be determined by UNICEF.

A globally competitive process will be undertaken to select successful candidates. **Applications from qualified candidates from low- and middle-income countries and/or who identify as having a disability are encouraged.**

Each successful candidate will receive up to a total of US\$9,000 for a period of nine months. The amount will depend on the complexity of the project. Upon selection, the recipients will be required to enter into a consultancy agreement with UNICEF for the duration of the project.

The applicants will be supervised by senior researchers from the university or institutions hosting them. The applicants will also receive regular input and feedback from the Centre, including from other experts in the field of disability data. Through this initiative, the successful candidates will have an opportunity to collaborate with a wide network of experts in disability data, advance their skills and promote their professional growth.



APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

This Call for Proposals is open to candidates of all nationalities who are in the process of completing a PhD, have recently completed a PhD and are still affiliated with a university or research institution, or who have completed a master's degree and have at least five years of relevant experience in research or data work. Degrees in a variety of disciplines – including, but not limited to, anthropology, child development, disability studies, economics, public health, public policy, psychology, sociology and statistics – will be considered.

The applicants must be willing to commit to a nine-month project. The recipients will be hosted by the university or research institution they are affiliated with or where they are completing their studies. Alternatively, junior professionals must be supported by their offices and have a senior professional within the organization to oversee their work. The supervisors must submit a letter of recommendation and willingness to support the work.

A letter of commitment is required from the university, research institution or national statistics office to host the applicants and attest to their competency and commitment.

The applicants will need to possess a combination of the following skills and experience:

- Advanced training in quantitative research methodology, demonstrating a sound grasp of statistical theory and its application to practical policy
- Ability to analyse large data sets using a variety of statistical software
- Excellent writing skills
- Ability to communicate complex technical ideas to non-specialists, verbally and in writing
- Demonstrated interest and experience in the field of child disability data
- Ability to work independently and meet strict deadlines
- Motivated to seize the opportunities in this initiative and become an active member of the hosting university or research institution to champion child disability data research
- Ability to think creatively about child disability data collection, analysis, dissemination, and implications for policy, and to develop unique article topics
- Willingness to learn and accept advice.

UNICEF reserves the right to disqualify any entry that contains hurtful, misleading, libelous or vulgar content, or that contains any material that could constitute or encourage conduct that would be considered a criminal offence, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any national or international law or UNICEF standard.

ELIGIBILITY

- Individuals who have recently obtained a PhD, are currently enrolled in a PhD programme, or hold a master's degree with five years of relevant experience in research or data work
- Are affiliated with a university, research institution or national statistics office
- **Applications from qualified candidates from low- and middle-income countries and/or who identify as having a disability are encouraged.**



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must complete in English the following documents and send them in one PDF file to disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org with the subject line : Data Analysis Call for Proposals, [Last name], [First name].

The completed package must include a:

- Cover letter summarizing the applicant's experience and motivation
- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Recommendation letter from the proposed supervisor
- Letter from the university, research institution or national statistics office stating their willingness to host the applicant
- Project proposal of 3-5 pages specifying the research question, the focus and type of data analysis to be conducted, the proposed methodology, and the relevance of the research
- Publication record or up to three academic writing samples on research areas.

PROJECT PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

- Clearly state the problem/importance of research or research question
- Provide detailed description of proposed methodology and data sources
- Provide a bibliography (no more than two pages) of key sources to be utilized
- List adviser(s) and provide short description of adviser's experience on children with disabilities
- Provide information on potential partnerships relevant to the research/data collection (local non-governmental organizations, government offices, statistical offices, etc.)
- Develop a timeline for analysis completion within the nine-month window of the project
- Provide an estimated total budget required to complete the project. In doing so, consider the following deliverables:
 - Detailed draft analysis plan
 - Final analysis plan
 - First draft manuscript
 - Second draft manuscript
 - Final manuscript
 - PowerPoint slide presentation on the analysis plan
 - Draft PowerPoint slide presentation on the project
 - Final PowerPoint slide presentation on the project
 - Participation in six virtual calls with the Centre for reviews as well as a webinar to present the project upon completion

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Any questions or concerns regarding the Call for Proposals or application process can be addressed to disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org.



OUTCOME

At the end of the nine months, the recipients are required to submit a manuscript for publication (format to be determined). In addition, the recipients are required to present either the preliminary and/or final results of their work during seminars, workshops and/or conferences. Recipients are required to ensure that their final work is accessible to persons with disabilities. The recipients are also encouraged to conduct and disseminate their findings in local and national languages, as applicable.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications that satisfy the eligibility requirements are subject to a review process by the Centre.

The evaluation process is designed to identify scientific excellence. The evaluation process will include three main steps:

1. The Centre team checks whether the application package adheres to the Call for Proposals.
2. The assessors evaluate the assigned applications and allocate points following the evaluation criteria. The assessors will convene to discuss a shortlist of proposals.
3. A ranked list of applications is created. Recipients will be selected in order of ranked score.

Evaluation criteria:

Evaluation components	Score Total = 100%
Quality and feasibility of the proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated potential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contribution to the literature ○ Contribution to data on children with disabilities ○ Appropriate quantitative methods • Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of priority themes (data on children with disabilities) • The potential to add knowledge to policy actions • Appropriate milestones and timelines 	40%
Impact of the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential contribution to data base or data methodologies for children with disabilities, and potential collaborations with UNICEF • Disseminate work to the academic community (through, for example, a lecture, seminar, workshop, conference, etc.) • Promote project results to a broader audience (for example, the general public, non-governmental organizations, policymakers, national statistics offices, etc.) 	20%



Evaluation components	Score Total = 100%
Training and career development of the applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research experience and results (based on CV, publication record, contributed work, etc.)• Potential to acquire new research and career-related skills• Potential to conduct further research on priority themes	20%
Host institution support and training priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host institution's expertise in training independent researchers and liaising with non-academic partners• Host institution's focus and experience in disability data-related research	20%



Website: [Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities](http://www.unicef.org/data/centre-of-excellence-on-data-for-children-with-disabilities)

Please keep in touch with us on twitter: <https://twitter.com/CentreforData1>

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