

**Request for Proposals MCTI/CNPq/MS/SCTIE/Decit/Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Nº 31/2020**

***Grand Challenges Explorations – Brazil: Data Sciences Approaches to improve
Maternal and Child Health, Women’s Health and Children’s Health in Brazil***

The National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPq, the Department of Science and Technology at the Secretariat of Science, Technology, Innovation and Strategic Inputs for Health – Decit/SCTIE/MS; and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation– FBMG, launch this public Request for Proposals (RFP), and invite all interested parties to present their proposals on the basis of what is hereby established.

1 – Objective.

To support research projects that intend to contribute significantly to the scientific and technologic development and to innovation in the country, in the field of data sciences, to improve Maternal and Child Health, Women’s Health and the Health of Children in Brazil.

1.1 – The present RFP has the objective of:

a) Selecting and contracting proposals in accordance with research topics defined in subitem **1.2.**

b) Promoting actions for scientific education and dissemination to different target groups, so as to achieve broad social reach, including experts, groups and institutions that act in the area of formal and informal education, (eg. schools, extension studies, museum, science centers, zoos, botanical gardens, aquarium, conservation units' visit centers and NGO's).

1.2 – Proposals shall comply with the research lines and study types:

I) Cross sectional.

a) To apply innovative and technical analysis that employ machine learning to identify data patterns and natural experiments (e.g. the impact of economic cycles on primary care quality);

b) To analyze primary health care distribution and quality and its relation with health outcomes and infant and maternal nutrition;

c) To present prospective scenarios in Infant and Maternal Health, evaluating populational and epidemiological trends, to support the planning of programmatic activities and the identification of opportunities for intervention;

d) To develop monitoring, visualization, simulation, and health indicator projection tools that support the management of public health programs related to women health, child health, and nutrition programs.

II) Children’s Health.

a) Development of tools to monitor indicators at the local and federal levels related to growth and development curves and tools that evaluate the impact of social and environmental determinants on child development;

b) To develop georeferenced prediction models with vulnerability risk stratification for infant mortality, including its components: neonatal mortality (total, early and late) and post-neonatal mortality, and / or childhood mortality (under 5 years);

- c) To assess the impact of vertical or perinatal transmission of diseases such as Zika, Syphilis, HPV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) on the health and development of newborns and children;
- d) To assess infectious and non-infectious factors related to the occurrence of changes in growth and development during pregnancy and up until early childhood;
- e) Studies on health care for children with congenital anomalies, such as congenital Zika syndrome;
- f) To develop predictive models for the development of chronic diseases such as hypertension in children whose mothers had eclampsia, pre-eclampsia and hypertension, or even diabetes in children whose mothers were diabetic or had gestational diabetes.

III) Women's Health.

- a) To develop and/or evaluate strategies for the reduction of maternal mortality, considering the main causes, estimation of preventable deaths and potential recommendations to improve public policies in this field;
- b) To compare the quality of care provided to women (including adolescents) during prenatal visits, labor and in services related to sexual violence, taking into account the racial variable;
- c) To evaluate access and quality of the prenatal care (according to MOH protocols) per Federation Unit and per city, taking into account urban, rural and remote areas;
- d) To assess the coverage of contraceptive methods in specific populations and in those with difficulties to access them;
- e) To identify factors associated with alcohol and drug abuse among women and their impact on health outcomes;
- f) To develop instruments to assess how the type of delivery impacts the health of woman and child;
- g) To assess the impact of teenage pregnancy on the health of the woman and child;
- h) To develop predictive models of pregnant women who may develop gestational diabetes or eclampsia;
- i) To present analyses of the causes, levels and trends of premature birth in different regions; evaluations of the effectiveness of interventions to prevent premature birth; and to develop recommendations on how to prevent premature birth.

IV) Food and Nutrition.

- a) To evaluate interventions performed in Primary Health Care to control dietary risk factors for chronic conditions and nutritional problems in women, children and during pregnancy;
- b) To analyze the supply and quality of Primary Health Care and its relationship with outcomes in maternal and child health and nutrition;
- c) To develop predictive and risk stratification models for outcomes related to the double burden of malnutrition, especially on women and children;
- d) To study breastfeeding and / or food intake and nutritional and health outcomes (nutritional status, deaths, hospitalizations) based on data from SISVAN and from other health information systems, preferably those that assess vulnerable populations at different stages of their lives;
- e) To develop georeferencing tools that provide visualization of data on breastfeeding and / or food intake and nutritional status of the Brazilian population based on the SISVAN data, as disaggregated as possible
- f) To assess the impact of nutritional status, gestational weight gain and health status on maternal and child outcomes based on data from the SISVAN;
- g) To assess the relationship between breastfeeding and child health outcomes (nutritional status, deaths, hospitalizations) using data from the Food and Nutrition Surveillance System

(SISVAN) and other information systems, preferably those including assessment in vulnerable populations.

1.3 - We encourage submitting proposals that consider the impacts of COVID-19 on the topics defined in the item **1.2**, such as, for example, the impact of the pandemic on access to healthcare during the prenatal period and after delivery, on gestational health, on birth-related rates, premature birth, nutrition and other factors that can impact pregnancy and child development outcomes.

1.4 – We encourage projects to be developed in collaboration with other research centers or individual researchers.

1.5 – We seek proposals focused on addressing scientific matters related to the outcomes in development and in maternal and child health, women and children’s health. Projects must use innovative approaches to data analysis and modeling that can be applied to databases from DATASUS/MS, in CIDACS (Cohort 100M SINASC-SIM-SISVAN), at ICICT/FIOCRUZ, or to other datasets that the candidate have access to.

1.6 – Proposals must be based on linked data sets or on existing secondary data in Brazil, with the potential to produce practical results with the potential to be implemented in health care services and which may significantly impact public health policies. Further detail on this data can be found on <https://www.synapse.org/#!/Synapse:syn22088071/wiki/>.

1.7 – Studies of different designs that allows, according to the proposed methods, to achieve the expect outcomes shall be granted.

1.7.1 – Examples of what we are looking for. Proposals that:

- a) Support innovative collaboration among researchers, health experts and Brazilian data scientists;
- b) Answer scientific questions identified in this GCE RFP, while developing and strengthening the capacity of data sciences in Brazil;
- c) Consider the social, environmental and cultural determinants of health and incorporate in the results a broad understanding of the studied community;
- d) Include the mapping of barriers and restrictions to effective health interventions and contribute to inform the implementation of evidence-based public health programs;
- e) Contribute to a portfolio of funded projects that address regional diversities and the need to provide health equity to diverse and vulnerable populations;
- f) Explain how results are more likely to become relevant in a broad implementation in the public health system;
- g) Show relation with the implementation and evaluation of primary health care, whenever possible;
- h) Describe mechanistic models so as to establish the relationship between interventions and their results;
- i) Perform analysis of indicators, impact analysis, visualizations and predictive models that support the management of public health programs, whenever relevant.
- j) Propose and validate tools for disseminating high-volume data.

1.8 – Proposals for literature review or systematic review shall not be funded.

1.8.1 – Examples of what we are NOT looking for:

- a) Proposals submitted by applicants that are not based in Brazil or that aim at studying health conditions outside of the Brazilian territory;

- b) Proposals for studies that depend on the collection of primary data;
- c) Proposals that develop tools for collecting new primary data;
- d) Proposals that do not address women's health, children's health or maternal and child health;
- e) Projects that propose the development of a scientific data algorithm without clear relevance to the issues described in this call;
- f) Ideas without a hypothesis that is clearly defined and tested by metrics of success;
- g) Proposals that cannot be developed within the scope of GCE Phase 1 funding (R\$ 550,000,00 over 18 months);
- h) Proposals that do not describe the potential impacts of innovation on the formulation of health policies;
- i) Analyzes that would only bring minor improvements to existing approaches (e.g., in the absence of additional innovation, merely replicating an approach in a new geography).

2 – Timetable.

PHASES	DATE
RFP published on the Union's Official Gazette and on the CNPq's website	14/08/2020
Last day to challenge the RFP	26/08/2020
Deadline for submission of proposals	28/09/2020
Decision	26/10 to 06/11/2020
Publication of the preliminary result as a summary on the Official Gazette, and on the CNPq's website	12/11/2020
Deadline to present an administrative appeal	23/11/2020
Publication of the final result as a summary on the Official Gazette, and on the CNPq's website	30/11/2020

3 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

3.1 – The eligibility criteria noted below are mandatory and the absence of any one of them shall result in the proposal being disqualified.

3.2 – About the applicant:

3.2.1 – The applicant, in charge of submitting the proposal shall:

- a) Their resume is registered in the Lattes Platform, and updated till the last day for submission of the proposal.
- b) Be the project Principal Investigator (PI);
- c) Have a formal connection with the institution executing the project.

3.2.1.1 – A formal connection is understood as any form of existing connection between the applicant, as an individual, and the institution executing the project.

3.2.1.2 – In the absence of an employment or functional relationship, the connection shall be established by means of an official document where the applicant and the institution executing the project agree upon the research and/or training activity to be performed. This

document shall be kept by the applicant; there is no need to send it to the CNPq.

3.2.2 – On the proposal submission form, the applicant shall certify not to be at default with the CNPq or with the Federal Public Administration, directly or indirectly, as it would constitute an impediment to project implementation.

3.2.2.1 – If this statement is at any time found to be untrue, the CNPq shall take the necessary action against evidence of fraudulent misrepresentation.

3.3 – About the Institution Executing the Project:

3.3.1 – The Institution Executing the Project shall be on the registry of CNPq Institutions, as a Science, Technology and Innovation Institution (ICT).

3.3.1.1 – A Science, Technology and Innovation Institution (ICT) may be: a public administration body (whether direct or indirect), or a not for profit private sector company, legally constituted under Brazilian Law and with headquarters and management in the country, which includes as part of its institutional mission or social/ corporate objective basic or applied research on science, technology, or development of new products, services or processes.

3.3.2 – The institution executing the project is the one with which the applicant has to show a connection.

4 – Financial Resources.

4.1 – Approved proposals shall be funded by resources that amount to R\$ 5,500,000.00 (five million five hundred thousand reais), of which R\$ 2,750,000.00 (two million seven hundred and fifty thousand reais) from TED 15/2019 signed with Decit/SCTIE/MS, and the remaining R\$ 2,750,000.00 (two million seven hundred and fifty thousand reais) from a Cooperation Agreement with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to be released based on the budgetary and financial availability of CNPq and in the form agreed upon in the reference documents.

4.1.1 – Additional funds resulting from future partnerships may be invested to complement proposals approved as part of this RFP and/or to contract new projects amongst those approved for their merit.

4.1.2 – When disbursement occurs in more than one financial year, each year's transfer will depend upon budgetary financial availability on the part of CNPq and its partners.

4.2 – At any stage of the process, if deemed convenient and timely, and as long as additional resources are available for this RFP, the CNPq and its partners may complement the existing contracts and/or contract new ones amongst those approved for their merit.

4.2.1 – In the situation described in subitem **4.2**, project selection shall follow the ranking order that came as a result of DEX final decision.

4.3 – Projects shall require a maximum funding of R\$ 550,000.00 (five hundred and fifty thousand reais).

5 – Fundable items.

5.1 – Funds from this RFP shall be used to cover expenses and/or scholarships.

5.2 – Expenses:

- a) Consumer goods;
- b) Third-party services – occasional payment, in full or in part, of maintenance contracts and third party services, for an individual or legal entity;
- c) Ancillary importing expenses;
- d) Air tickets and travel expenses, according to the Table “Travel Expenses Values for Individual Support and Short-Term Scholarships”. The proposal shall include funds for tickets and per diem, that are required so the PI can attend three Evaluation Workshops (Kick-off, Midpoint Evaluation and Final Evaluation).

5.2.1 – Any payments to an individual have to comply with the legislation, so as not to constitute an employment relationship.

5.2.2 – An individual working in the project shall not have an employment relationship with the CNPq and shall not be able to claim any payments, remaining under the exclusive responsibility of the project PI/institution executing the project.

5.2.3 – Payment of publication expenses shall follow the open access model.

5.2.4 – The team may include an expert in scientific communication, or it may choose to hire a team specialized in knowledge translation using project funds, as long as it is a sporadic activity, so as not to characterize an employment relationship.

5.3 – Scholarships.

5.3.1 – Long term scholarships for Technological Development and Innovative Extension will be awarded in the following modalities: Technological and Industrial Development (DTI); Technological and Industrial Initiation (ITI); Visiting Expert; Extension in the country (EXP) and Technical Support Extension in the country (ATP).

5.3.2 – Scholarships must be used following the deadline and criteria indicated for each modality, in accordance with RN-015/2010, available at http://www.cnpq.br/view/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_0oED/10157/25314

5.3.2.1 – Monthly payments for long term scholarships on Technological Development and Innovative Extension are published at <http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/fomento-tecnologico>.

5.3.3 – Scholarships can't continue beyond the project execution deadline.

5.3.4 – Scholarships can't be used as payment for services rendered, as this goes against the purpose of CNPq's scholarship program.

5.3.5 – The PI cannot hold a project scholarship.

5.3.6 – It is the PI's responsibility to nominate the scholarship recipients after signing the Term of Acceptance with the CNPq.

5.3.7 – It will be allowed the scholarship changes considering project characteristics and the modalities prescribed in this RFP.

5.3.7.1 - Scholarship changes shall be evaluated by the CNPq, taking into account the justification supplied on the Form for the Nomination of Scholarship holders, in the Integrated *Carlos Chagas* Platform, based on the following set of criteria:

- a) The goal of the action/project/research shall not be altered;
- b) The total sum approved for scholarships shall be maintained; and
- c) Limited to the final project deadline.

5.4 – Funds shall not be spent on:

- a) Certificates, ornaments, cocktail drinks, dinners, shows, or entertainment of any kind;
- b) Routine expenses such as electricity, water and telephone bills, which are considered expenses to be covered by the institution executing the project;
- c) Post office and photocopying expenses, except when related to the research project;
- d) Payment of administration or management fees, of any kind;
- e) Civil engineering works (except installation and adaptations required for the adequate operation of equipment, which should be justified in the detailed budget of the proposal) as they are seen as expenses to be covered by the institution executing the project;
- f) The purchase or renting of any kind of automotive vehicle and fuel expenses of any kind;
- g) Payment of salaries or complement to the salaries of technical and administrative personnel, or any other benefit given to employees from public institutions (federal, state or municipal);
- h) Payment of third-party services to an active civil servant, irrespective of the source of funding; and
- i) Payment on any account, to private companies that have in their corporate framework active civil servant, or employee of a public company or joint stock company, for services, including consultancy, technical assistance or similar.

5.4.1 – Additional expenses shall be considered the responsibility of the applicant and /or the institution executing the project, so each is held accountable for its own actions.

5.5 – In order to contract or purchase goods and services, standard RN-008/2018, on **Accountability**, must be observed.

5.6 – CNPq is not responsible for supplemental funds to cover expenses arising from any external factors that are out of their control, such as currency fluctuation.

6 – Proposal Submission.

6.1 – Proposals must be submitted to the CNPq exclusively via the Internet, through the Online Proposals Form, available at **Plataforma Carlos Chagas (<http://carloschagas.cnpq.br>)**.

6.2 – The deadline for proposal submission to the CNPq will be 23h59 (twenty-three hours and fifty-nine minutes), Brasilia time, of the date described on the **TIMETABLE**.

6.2.1 – It is recommended that proposals are submitted as early as possible, as the CNPq shall not accept delays due to technical issues or internet traffic congestion.

6.2.2 – Proposals sent after the submission deadline shall not be accepted by the CNPq's electronic system.

6.3 – Clarifications and additional information about this RFP may be obtained at the email atendimento@cnpq.br or through the phone (61) 3211-4000.

6.3.1 – Telephone service closes at 18h30 (eighteen hours and thirty minutes) on weekdays.

6.3.2 – It is the applicant's responsibility to contact the CNPq in time to obtain the needed information or clarification.

6.3.3 – Inability to contact the CNPq or lack of answer on the part of the CNPq will not be accepted as justification for lack of compliance with the proposal submission deadline mentioned on the timetable.

6.4 - Questions about the available data base may also be sent to the discussion forum available at: <https://www.synapse.org/#!/Synapse:syn22088071/wiki/>.

6.5 – All research institutions involved in the project, be them national or foreign, shall have a previous register in the CNPq Directory of Institutions.

6.5.1 – The CNPq electronic system shall not accept proposals from research institutions that are not registered in the Directory of Institutions.

6.6 – The form shall include the following information:

- a) Applicant's data;
- b) Information about the team members;
- c) Project overview, in Portuguese and English, including title, key-words, abstract and main objective;
- d) Main field of knowledge and related areas;
- e) Participating institutions;
- f) Timeline (Steps / Activities);
- g) Research line; and
- h) Detailed budget.

6.6.1 – Unless all fields in the form are filled, the proposal shall not be accepted.

6.6.2 – Before applying, there shall be a registration:

- a) On the Lattes CV Platform: by the applicant and other project members holding a CPF number (registered on the Individual Taxpayers' Registry); and
- b) On the Lattes CV Platform or on the ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID): by the applicant and other project members who do not hold a CPF number (not registered on the Individual Taxpayers' Registry).

6.6.3 – The technical team may include researchers, students and technical experts.

6.6.3.1 – Other professionals may enter the team as collaborators.

6.6.4 – Only those who gave their formal written consent should be included in the project

team. The written consent must be kept by the PI.

6.6.4.1 – The PI shall face civil and criminal charges for fraudulent nomination of team members.

6.7 – Proposals shall be sent as an attachment to the proposal online form, in Portuguese and English, and in accordance with the “Template for Applicants” available in Annex I and II.

6.7.1 – The attachment proposal form shall contain up to 7 (seven) pages, with up to 3 (three) pages for the proposal in Portuguese, according to Annex I, up to 3 (three) pages for the proposal in English, according to Annex II, and 1 (one) page for the research outcomes and actions dissemination plan.

6.7.1.1 - Proposals that not follow the models described in Annex I and II, or exceed the number of pages, shall be disqualified.

6.7.2 – Sending the file is mandatory and its absence shall result in the proposal being rejected.

6.7.3 – The file shall be created in PDF OCR format and attached to the online Proposal Form, up to a limit of 1Mb (um megabyte).

6.7.4 – If pictures, graphics, etc. are needed to clarify the proposal's argument, they must not compromise the file's capacity as proposals that exceed the 1 Mb limit will not be received by CNPq's electronic ticket.

6.8 – An electronic notification will be issued, after proposal submission, which can be used as Proof of transmission.

6.9 – Only one proposal per applicant will be accepted.

6.10 – In case a second proposal is sent by the same applicant, within the deadline for submission, only the last proposal will be considered for analysis.

6.11 – If proposals sent by different applicants are found to be identical, both will be rejected.

7 – Evaluation.

7.1 – Evaluation Criteria.

7.1.1 – Criteria used to judge proposals according to their **Technical-Scientific Merit** and **budget adequacy** are:

Criteria for analysis and judgment		Weight	Score
A	Merit of the proposal for scientific, technological and development of new tools.	3	0 to 10
B	Innovation, taking into account originality of the project and the use of database.	3	0 to 10
C	Adequacy of the methodology to project objectives and technical feasibility, including available infrastructure and project implementation risk management.	2	0 to 10
D	Adequacy of the proposal to the research topics and objectives of this RFP.	2	0 to 10

7.1.1.1 – Proposals will be scored up to two decimals.

7.1.1.2 – The final scoring of each project will be assessed by the weighted average of the score attributed to each item.

7.1.1.3 – In the event of a tie, the Technical-Scientific Merit Committee shall find the highest score by adding the scores from criteria “A” and “B”. If there is still a tie, then the highest score on criteria “C” shall be used.

7.1.2 - The criteria for judging proposals as to their **Social Relevance** are:

Social Relevance Criteria		Weight	Score
A	Applicability for the SUS, in terms of the feasibility of using research results in public health services, programs and/ or systems.	3	0 to 10
B	Feasibility of project implementation	3	0 to 10
C	Contribution of the project to promote equity in health considering social, environmental and cultural determinants.	2	0 to 10
D	Potential impact and relevance of the project for the improvement of health care and surveillance in Brazil and in other regions.	2	0 to 10

7.1.2.1 – Proposals will be scored up to two decimals.

7.1.2.2 – The final score of each proposal on social relevance will be assessed by the weighted average of the score attributed to each item.

7.1.2.3 – Proposals shall be recommended from highest to lowest score and, in the event of a tie, the Social Relevance Committee shall find the highest score by adding the scores from criteria “A” and “C”. If there still is a tie, then the highest score in criteria “B” will be used.

7.2 – Evaluation phases.

7.2.1 – Phase I - Review by *ad hoc* consultants.

7.2.1.1 – In this phase, proposals are analyzed by experts nominated by the CNPq, as to their merit and relevance.

7.2.1.2 – *Ad hoc* consultants shall express their ideas based on the topics listed on the "Ad hoc Review Form", which will cover the matters addressed in subitems 6.5, 6.7 e 7.1.1 of this RFP.

7.2.2 – Phase II – Ranking by the Evaluation Committee.

7.2.2.1 – Membership of the Evaluation Committee will be defined by CNPq in accordance with the Ministry of Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

7.2.2.1.1 - It is forbidden for any Member of the Committee to:

- a) Evaluate proposals if a partner, spouse or relative (whether in a straight or collateral line up to the third degree) is taking part in the project;
- b) Evaluate proposals if there is a legal or administrative dispute/litigation with any member of the project team or with their partners or spouses;
- c) Evaluate proposals if there is any other conflict of interest; and/or
- d) Publicize the results of any evaluation prior to the official CNPq announcement.

7.2.2.2 – Proposals must be ranked by the Evaluation Committee according to the evaluation criteria listed in subitem **7.1.1**.

7.2.2.3 – The final score of each project shall be calculated as described in subitem **7.1.1.2**.

7.2.2.4 – All proposals shall be the object of a consolidated opinion on their merit, including the rationale justifying the final score attributed.

7.2.2.5 – After analyzing the merit of each proposal, the Committee will either recommend it or not recommend it for approval.

7.2.2.6 – The Committee's final opinion will be recorded in an Evaluation Spreadsheet containing the list of all proposals evaluated and their final scores, as well as other relevant information and recommendations.

7.2.2.7 – For every recommended proposal, the Evaluation Committee shall suggest the amount to be funded by the CNPq.

7.2.2.7.1 – The Evaluation Committee shall provide explanations for budget cuts.

7.2.2.8 – During the ranking phase by the Evaluation Committee, the RFP Manager and the technical-scientific area will monitor activities and might recommend adjustments/ corrections so the opinions are in conformity with the provisions of this RFP.

7.2.2.9 – The Evaluation Spreadsheet shall be signed by all Committee members.

7.2.2.10 – Only the top 20 proposals recommended by the Technical-Scientific Merit Committee will continue to Phase III, for Evaluation by the Social Relevance Committee (subitem 7.2.3 of this RFP).

7.2.2.11 – Based on the Evaluation Spreadsheet and opinions issued by the Evaluation Committee, the technical-scientific area of the CNPq shall provide information to be used in the Ranking phase by the Social Relevance Committee.

7.2.3 – Phase III – Ranking by the Social Relevance Committee.

7.2.3.1 – During this phase, the Social Relevance Committee shall analyze and rank the top 20 proposals recommended by the Technical-Scientific Merit Committee.

7.2.3.1.1 – This phase includes interviews with each PI from the 20 projects being analyzed.

7.2.3.1.2 – The Social Relevance Committee shall not exclude any proposal, given that they have all been acknowledged for their technical-scientific merit by the Evaluation Committee.

7.2.3.2 – Membership of the Social Relevance Committee will be defined by the Ministry of Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

7.2.3.2.1 – It is forbidden for any Member of the Social Relevance Committee to:

- a) Evaluate proposals if a partner, spouse or relative (whether in a straight or collateral line up to the third degree) is taking part in the project;
- b) Evaluate proposals if there is a legal or administrative dispute/litigation with any member of the project team or with their partners or spouses;
- c) Evaluate proposals if there is any other conflict of interest; and/or
- d) Publicize the results of any evaluation prior to the official CNPq announcement;

7.2.3.3 – The Social Relevance Committee shall be in charge of recommending the final ranking of proposals for this RFP, irrespective of their score in the previous phase, except for the provisions set forth in subitem 7.2.3.1, following only the evaluation criteria set forth in subitem 7.1.2 of this call.

7.2.3.4 – All proposals evaluated in this phase shall be subject to a consolidated opinion on their merit, including the justification of the final score assigned.

7.2.3.5 – The Social Relevance Committee's opinion will be recorded on a special Spreadsheet containing the ranking of all proposals evaluated, with their final scores and opinions, as well as other relevant information and recommendations.

7.2.3.5.1 – The spreadsheet shall be signed by all members of the Social Relevance Committee.

7.2.4 – Phase IV – Analysis by the Technical-Scientific Area of the CNPq.

7.2.4.1 – This phase involves the analysis of compliance with eligibility criteria and other provisions of this RFP. Non-compliance will result in rejection of proposals and in the monitoring of the activities by the Evaluation Committee and the Social Relevance Committee.

7.2.4.2 – The Technical-Scientific Area shall analyze the opinions written by the Evaluation Committee, by the Social Relevance Committee and the Evaluation Spreadsheet, and shall then issue a Technical Note providing information that will support the decision by the CNPq President.

7.2.4.3 – The Technical-Scientific Area shall issue a technical note where it will point out issues that might hinder approval of the proposal: budgetary issues, wrong or false information, technical inconsistencies, errors in evaluation, elements to be included, modified or excluded.

7.2.4.3.1 – In the case mentioned in subitem **7.2.4.3**, the Technical-Scientific Area shall take the necessary measures to resolve issues, including recommendation to prepare a new opinion, to complement the previous one and/or to correct the Evaluation Spreadsheet.

7.2.5 – Phase V – CNPq President's Preliminary Decision.

7.2.5.1 – The CNPq President shall make a decision based on the Technical Note issued by the Technical-Scientific Area in charge, and attached documentation that makes up the evaluation package.

7.2.5.1.1 – The decision made by the CNPq President shall include a list of approved and non-approved proposals on the basis of merit, as well as rejected proposals.

7.2.5.1.2 – Amongst approved proposals, those to be contracted shall be highlighted, considering the budget limit of this RFP, and specifying funding sources.

7.2.5.2 – The decision shall be announced on the CNPq web page, available at www.cnpq.br, and published, as a summary, on the Official Gazette according to the TIMETABLE.

7.2.5.3 – All applicants for this Request for Proposals shall have access to the review on their proposal, but the identity of the reviewer will be kept undisclosed.

8 – Administrative Appeal after the CNPq President's Preliminary Decision.

8.1 – The applicant may contest the decision of the CNPq President and appeal using a specific electronic form, available at the Carlos Chagas Platform (<http://carloschagas.cnpq.br>), within 10 (ten) days, beginning on the date the results are published on the DOU and on the CNPq's website.

9 – Phase V –Final Decision by the DEX.

9.1 – DEX shall make the final decision based on the Technical note prepared by the Technical-Scientific Area in charge, where there is information to support the analysis of administrative appeals, and all documents that make up the evaluation package.

9.2 – Final decision by the DEX shall be published on the CNPq web page, available at www.cnpq.br and published, as a summary, on the Official Gazette according to the TIMETABLE.

10 – Implementation and Execution of Approved Proposals.

10.1 – Approved proposals will receive funding in the modality of Individual Support, in the name of the Applicant, after signature of the Term of Acceptance.

10.2 – The signature of the TERM OF ACCEPTANCE will be subordinated to the previous existence of a **Technical Cooperation Protocol**, agreed between the institution that implements the project and the CNPq, as established in CNPq norm RN-006/2019.

10.3 – The applicant shall have up to 90 (ninety) days to sign the TERM OF ACCEPTANCE, starting from the date of publication of the summary of the final decision in the Official Gazette.

10.3.1 – The deadline set on subitem **10.3** may be extended, at the discretion of the Directorate of Agrarian, Biological and Health Sciences – DABS, after written request presented by the applicant, at least 15 (fifteen) days before the deadline.

10.3.2 – After the expiration of the term set forth by item **10.3** or after its extension, if the applicant has not signed the TERM OF ACCEPTANCE, right to the grant will be lost, and the CNPq will be able to support other proposals which, though approved, were not contracted because of their place in the ranking and because of the budget limit of this RFP.

10.3.3 - The deadline set on subitem **10.3** may be exceptionally extended by the CNPq Executive Board, upon presentation of a written substantiated request by the RFP manager at least 15 (fifteen) days before the deadline. In this case, the time extension will benefit all applicants with approved proposals.

10.4 – Proposals to be supported by this RFP shall have a maximum execution time of 18 (eighteen) months.

10.4.1 – The deadline for project execution may be exceptionally extended, upon presentation of a written substantiated request by the applicant, at the CNPq's discretion.

10.4.1.1 – Extension of time allowed for project execution shall follow the corresponding time extension of the cooperation agreement (TED 15/2019 with the Ministry of Health and Cooperation Agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).

10.5 – During project execution, the applicant shall maintain all the conditions of qualification, capability and reputability presented at the time of proposal submission that are necessary to meet the objectives, as well as maintain up to date personal information in the relevant records.

10.6 – The existence of any type of default by the applicant with the Federal Public Administration and at the SIAFI constitutes an impediment for the implementation of the project.

10.6.1 – The existence of any type of default found after contracting will prevent the applicant from receiving any financial payments during the project.

10.7 – The information generated with the implementation of the selected proposals and made available at CNPq's data base will be of public domain, subject to the provisions below.

10.7.1 – The projects submitted to this RFP, as well as any technical reports presented by the researchers and/or grantors for the CNPq, that contain information about ongoing projects, will

have access restricted until the decision regarding final approval by the CNPq (Law 12.527/2011, art 7, §3, and Decree 7.724/2012, art 20).

10.7.2 – The applicants who have submitted projects to the CNPq, as well as those who present to the CNPq technical reports, that may generate, entirely or in part, results that are potentially objects of Patent for Invention, Utility Model, Industrial Design, Computer Program or any other form of record of Intellectual Property and similar, shall clearly express their interest in restricting access at the time of project submission and/or when sending the technical report.

10.7.2.1 – Requirements of confidentiality and restriction of public access provided in subitem 10.7.2 shall continue for the period of 5 (five) years from the request for the restriction.

10.7.2.2 – Although access may be restricted, it does not reduce the responsibility that researchers, their teams and institutions have, as members of the research community, for maintaining, as much as possible, the results of the research, data and collections available to other researchers for academic purposes.

10.7.3 – The institutions involved must ensure that their employees, officials, public and subcontracted parties, who have access to restricted access information, have agreed to fulfill the obligations of restricting access to information.

10.7.4 – The CNPq shall, at its discretion, make available basic information on all projects, such as: title, summary, object, applicant(s), executing institutions, and resources granted by the entity.

10.8 – The granting of financial support can be cancelled by CNPq's Executive Board of Directors, by means of a reasoned decision if, during its implementation, a serious occurrence justifies the cancelation, without impact to other appropriate measures.

10.9 – It is the exclusive responsibility of each applicant to adopt all measures involving special authorizations and permits, of legal or ethical nature, that are needed for project execution.

11 – Monitoring and Evaluation.

11.1 – Monitoring and evaluation actions shall be of a preventive and corrective nature, so as to enable adequate and timely management of projects

11.2 – During execution, the project shall be monitored and evaluated at all phases, in accordance with the provisions of the TERM OF ACCEPTANCE.

11.3 – Throughout the process, the CNPq, the Ministry of Health and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation shall have the right to monitor and evaluate project execution and work plan, and perform on-site inspection of the use of resources.

11.3.1 – During project execution, the CNPq, the Ministry of Health and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation shall be able to promote technical visits, at any time, according to relevant legal standards, or request additional information, with the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the project.

11.4 – The applicant/PI shall inform the CNPq about any changes to project execution and, whenever necessary, shall ask for CNPq's approval, by means of a reasoned request, as provided by Decree 9.283/2018 and RN-006/2019. In these cases, the CNPq shall be in charge of the analysis and authorization; whenever relevant, the MoH and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation shall be heard.

11.4.1 – During project execution phase, all communication with the CNPq shall be promoted by the Call Center: atendimento@cnpq.br.

11.5 – For monitoring and evaluation purposes, every year the applicant/PI shall present to the CNPq a partial form on project execution/ work plan, taking into account the start date of the process at the CNPq, by means of an electronic platform, as established in the TERM OF ACCEPTANCE.

11.5.1 – Partial results obtained by the research project shall be monitored yearly by the CNPq , which will also consider objectives, timetable, targets and indicators established in the approved project/ work plan.

11.6 – The Ministry of Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will conduct the “Kick-off”, Midpoint Review and Final Evaluation Seminars. In order to carry out these Seminars, the Ministry of Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will, in due course, define the documents linked to the implementation of scientific research to be presented by the PIs, such as follow-up reports, executive summaries and proof of inclusion of the study information in the managerial database of Decit / SCTIE / MS - *Pesquisa Saúde*.

11.6.1 – Expenses related to the participation of researchers in seminars shall be part of the project's budgetary planning, as described in subitem **5.2.d**.

11.7 – In addition to being subject to periodic monitoring carried out in the Evaluation Seminars, the funded projects will also be followed-up by specialists from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation during the project implementation and the knowledge translation.

11.8 – If the project is found not to be executed as expected, the CNPq shall take the necessary measures, taking into account that specific case. If requirements are still not met, the grant shall be canceled, notwithstanding the adoption of other relevant measures, as the case might require.

11.8.1 – If during the Evaluation Workshops, the MoH and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, identify that the project is not being executed as expected, they may ask the CNPq to take necessary measures.

11.9 – BMGF consultants will provide technical support to improve the dissemination plan regarding outcomes and actions resulting from the study.

12 – Accountability/ Final Evaluation.

12.1 – The applicant/ PI shall send the REO (Object Execution Report) to the CNPq in a specific Online Form, within 60 (sixty) days of the deadline for project execution, according to the **Term of Acceptance** and RN-008/2018, or else pay back to the CNPq all amounts spent and be subject to other penalties prescribed by the pertinent legislation.

12.1.1 – All boxes of the REO shall be adequately filled.

12.1.2 – The REO shall include:

- a) Description of activities performed so as to reach project objectives and goals;
- b) Demonstration and comparison between goals and results achieved;
- c) Comparison between goals set and goals achieved, with justifications in case of inconsistencies, for the period of the REO; and
- d) information about implementing scientific communication activities, through texts, access links, e-mails, pictures, videos or audios, amongst other products that may become available in public repositories and used by the CNPq in its institutional communication activities.

12.1.3 – The applicant/ PI shall attach to the REO a file containing:

- a) The statement that funds were used exclusively for project execution, followed by a document proving that unused resources (if any) were returned;
- b) List of goods purchased, developed or produced, with documents proving such goods were incorporated by the institution executing the project;
- c) Evaluation of results; and
- d) Consolidated financial statement showing reallocation and transfer of funds, if applicable.

12.2 – If the REO is not approved or shows signs of irregularities, the CNPq shall request that the grantee presents a Financial Execution Report, and the digital proof of financial expenses, as well as other documents mentioned in RN-008/2018.

12.2.1 – At the discretion of the CNPq, the grantee may be asked to present the Financial Execution Report, irrespective of the REO evaluation.

12.2.2 – Original documents must be stored by the PI for five years, counting from the date of approval of the final accountability report.

12.3 – At the end of the execution of the winning projects, the MoH will ask researchers to provide an Executive Summary, including the main research results. This summary will be forwarded by the PI directly to the Ministry of Health in a language that is adequate to the target audience.

13 – Contesting the RFP.

13.1 –The applicant who does not contest before the deadline established in the TIMETABLE, shall lose the right to contest the terms of this Request for Proposals.

13.1.1 – The applicant who does not contest this RFP timely, accepts all of its terms and thus loses the right to contest its provisions.

13.2 – The contest shall be sent to the CNPq President, to the e-mail: presidencia@cnpq.br, following procedural steps established in Law 9.784/1999.

13.2.1 – Contesting this RFP will not stop nor delay the deadline set on the TIMETABLE.

14 – Publications.

14.1 – Scientific publications and all other media disseminating or promoting events or research projects, done with support of the present Request for Proposals, must cite the support of the CNPq, Decit/SCTIE/MS, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other funding institutions and agencies.

14.1.1 – All scientific publications resulting from the study shall be published in open access journals.

14.1.2 – In scientific publications, the CNPq shall be cited exclusively as “National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPq” or as “*National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPq*”. Likewise, Decit/SCTIE/MS shall be cited exclusively as “Ministério da Saúde – MS” or as “*Ministry of Health of Brazil – MoH*”. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation shall be cited as “Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation” or as “*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*”.

14.1.3 – These publications, as well as communication and information campaigns, shall be included in the follow-up and final reports.

14.2 – Advertising campaigns concerning projects funded by this RFP Union shall rigorously comply with the guidelines that regulate this type of activity.

14.3 – In case the project or the report *per se* come to acquire commercial value or lead to the development of a product or method involving the establishment of intellectual property, the exchange of information and rights protection, each case shall comply with the current legislation: Industrial Property Law (No. 9.279 of May 14, 1996), CT&I Legal Framework (EC 85/2015, Law 10.973/2004, Law 13.243/2016 and Decree 9.283/2018) and internal norms of CNPq that regulate the topic (RN-034/2014).

15 – GENERAL PROVISIONS.

15.1 – This RFP is regulated by public law principles included in the CT&I Legal Framework and particularly in internal norms of the CNPq.

15.2 – At any time, the present Request for Proposals can be revoked or annulled, totally or partially, by means of a reasoned decision on the part of CNPq's Executive Board of Directors, and this event does not imply any rights for indemnity/compensation or complaints of any sort.

15.3 – CNPq's Executive Board of Directors reserves the right to resolve cases not covered and circumstances not anticipated by this Request for Proposals.

15.4 – Annex I and II (Example of the Proposal in Portuguese and in English) are part of this RFP.

Brasília, August 14, 2020.