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Peace & Recovery Initiative

Information Session

October 2024





Peace & Recovery Initiative

Call for Proposals Information Session



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Housekeeping

- Brief presentation, followed by a Q&A
- Please submit your questions using the Q&A function during the presentation (you may need to select “... More”)
- Please keep your video and audio off during the presentation
- Closed captions are enabled; click the “Show Captions” button to view them
- Slides and a recording will be made available after the session
 - A translation of the recording will be available in several languages



Meet the P&R Initiative Team



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Questions we will answer

- What is the Peace & Recovery Initiative?
- What types of projects are eligible for funding?
- Who is eligible for funding?
- What are common proposal pitfalls or tips for successful proposals?
- What are the funding restrictions?
- When are the upcoming deadlines?
- Where should I direct my questions?

Agenda

- Introduction
- Call for Proposals
- Proposal tips and tricks
- Timeline
- Q&A



01

Introduction

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) | Peace & Recovery (P&R) Initiative

IPA works to reduce poverty

by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence



Generating evidence

- 20 country offices worldwide, evaluations in 50+ countries
- Conducted 900+ rigorous impact evaluations in partnership with hundreds of researchers
- Supports research addressing key policy and practice questions by awarding research funding
- Fosters partnerships between implementers and researchers

Supporting evidence use

- Synthesizes and disseminates research results for use in decision making
- Strategically support partners to apply results, by equipping practitioners and policymakers to strengthen their production and use of evidence



What is the Peace & Recovery Initiative?



A research initiative, supported by UK International Development and the Open Society Foundations, that generates and shares new evidence to inform policies and programs related to the prevention of, responses to, and recovery from most forms of social and political violence as well as humanitarian emergencies



P&R Initiative

Part of broader joint **IPA and J-PAL collaboration** which funds:

- J-PAL's Governance Initiative
- J-PAL's Crime and Violence Initiative
- IPA's Peace and Recovery Program

Activities

- **Facilitating research partnerships:** “matchmaking”
- **Funding research:** competitive research fund
- **Disseminating evidence:** synthesis products, public webinars, social and traditional media, tailored events and support, etc.

P&R has provided over
US\$4.7 million in grant
funding to **80+ projects**,
across **28 countries**



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Call for Proposals

Scope | Grant types | Evaluation criteria | Research partnerships

Scope

The Peace & Recovery Initiative supports projects that:

- Contribute to innovation and generalizable learning on program effectiveness,
- Identify mechanisms underpinning programming
- Address potential barriers to impact

Read our [call for proposals](#) for more details

Research themes:

- Understanding and preventing individual-level participation in violence
- Understanding, combating, and reintegrating armed groups
- Reducing prejudice and building horizontal social cohesion
- Strengthening household and community resilience
- Building institutions, resolving disputes, and delivering justice
- Addressing root causes and preventing future crises

Grant Types

Supporting the entire research project lifecycle

- **Exploratory grants:** for developing preliminary impact evaluation ideas for impact evaluations through travel, relationship development, descriptive analysis, etc. (US\$10,000 max)
- **Pilot studies:** for refinement of evaluation design, measurement, and/or implementation in advance of an impact evaluation; requires clear research questions and committed implementing partners (US\$75,000 max)
- **Full studies:** rigorous impact evaluations, follow-up studies, covering costs like data collection, research management, and data analysis (US\$500,000 max; generally ~US\$80,000-300,000)
- **Infrastructure and public goods:** creation of data or tools that can support several research projects or types of analyses, often ultimately supporting the design or implementation of future impact evaluations (US\$250,000 max)
- **Evidence use and policy outreach support:** for developing and exploring partnerships with policymakers, facilitating the uptake and dissemination of evidence, analyzing administrative data, and scoping for potential impact evaluations (US\$25,000 max)



Evaluation Criteria

Academic Contribution

Does the study make a significant contribution toward advancing the literature in the field?

Policy Relevance

Is there demand from policymakers for more and/or better information to influence their decisions in this area?
Will results generalize?

Technical Design

Does the design appropriately address the proposals questions? If an evaluation, is the study sufficiently powered?

Project Viability

Are there political, partner, or logistical obstacles that may threaten the implementation of the study or intervention?

Value for Money

Is the cost commensurate with the study's expected contributions to science and policy?

Other Considerations

Geography (priority countries)

Ethics

Team diversity (local researchers, lived experience, interdisciplinary teams, etc.)



Funding Restrictions

We generally cannot fund...

- Program or intervention implementation costs
 - This includes any costs the partner would have otherwise incurred to implement the program or intervention being tested, including costs associated with refining or developing new approaches that will be adopted by the if proven effective
- Salary costs for researchers from institutions in high-income countries
- Purely qualitative research that does not contribute to impact evaluations
- Projects that are lab in the field or survey experiments, except in rare circumstances or within the context of a broader impact evaluation
- Research using historical datasets, except in the context of a broader impact evaluation

Overhead caps:

- 15% for non-profits or institutions in LMICs
- 10% for universities in high income countries

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Tips & Tricks

Project development | Proposals

Common Proposal Pitfalls



Low academic contribution: Our goal is to create general knowledge, not just answer a question of particular interest to an implementer

Not policy relevant: We assess the potential for implementing the intervention at scale, and demand from implementing partners for more or better evidence on the topic

Poor identification strategy: Identification of treatment and control groups must be clear and use the most rigorous method possible. While experimental designs are preferred, if the proposal follows a quasi-experimental design, the proposal should clearly justify why randomization was not feasible

Lab-in-the-field experiments: We cannot fund lab-in-the-field experiments unless they are within the context of a broader project (e.g. as a measurement strategy)

Common Proposal Pitfalls (Continued)



Project stage: Full proposals need to be advanced in the project development process, and must include power calculations

Bundled programs: We encourage evaluations to try to disaggregate the impacts of different program components, and identify mechanisms driving this impact

Researcher qualifications: At least one researcher per project must be affiliated with an university, and either hold or be pursuing a PhD

Restrictions for exploratory funding: Exploratory funding is earmarked for early career researchers and researchers based in LMICs

Project Development & Proposal Tips



Ask us about prospective projects: Feel free to ask us about prospective proposals. We have a good sense of whether projects could be competitive.

Topics of less interest: evaluations of psychosocial programs, research that replicates previous studies with little innovation, programs that do not address P&R research themes

Consider innovation: We are particularly interested in funding studies with violence or conflict as a dependent variable and/or ones that include real world measures of peace, social cohesion, conflict, violence, etc.

Connect with IPA Country Offices: IPA offices have the ability to support with project development in places where we have a presence, and sometimes regionally

Apply for exploratory funding: We are looking for early-stage ideas that have promise

Matchmaking

Considerations

- Relevance to P&R's scope
- Timeline
- Commitment to running research
- Team capacity
- Number of program participants or other “implementation units”

Process

- We will reach out to our research network
- You can expect to know if we find a match within eight weeks
- We may not be able to find a match for every project



Fill in the matchmaking form [here](#)

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Resources & Timelines

Timeline



Round VIII Timeline

- Full proposal: November 22, 2024
- Decisions announced: February 2025

Future Rounds

- Next round expected to open in Q1 2025, with semi-annual rounds to follow
- Consider leveraging our matchmaking support early on to prepare for upcoming rounds



Apply!

Next steps:

- Reach out for **matchmaking support** (do so early on)
- **Apply for funding**

Reach out to us for:

- Questions about the call for proposals
- Support identifying and connecting with relevant researchers or IPA country offices
- Help thinking through project designs
- Determining whether your project is a good fit for our fund or other affiliated initiatives
- Partnering on policy or dissemination work



Resources

P&R Initiative

- [Initiative website](#)
- [Call for Proposals](#)
- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Matchmaking form](#)

Background

- [About IPA](#)
- [Read more](#) about randomized impact evaluations
- [Course offerings](#) to learn about randomised evaluations

Keep informed

- Subscribe to our [newsletter](#)
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Contact Us

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