

Guidance on Environment, Conflict, and Gender

2022

COURTESY OF THE GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (GIZ) ON BEHALF OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (BMZ)

As part of Lacuna Fund’s mission to fund the creation, expansion, and maintenance of training and evaluation datasets that enable the equitable application of machine learning tools of high social value in the Global South and for underserved populations globally, we undertake to comply with social and environmental standards.

In our governance and operations, we are guided by the following principles: accessibility, equity, ethics, participatory approach, quality, and transformational impact. In keeping with these principles, we will take steps to promote environmental sustainability, mitigate climate change and advance safe, healthy and equitable outcomes for all.

- 1. Environment and Climate Change:**
 - Lacuna-funded projects will work to mitigate the risk that high demand for computing power in the development of AI technology might lead to high power consumption and increased carbon emissions.
- 2. Conflict and Context Sensitivity and Human Rights**
 - Grants will be geared towards relatively low-risk data types when possible.
 - Technical Advisory Panels (TAPs) will consider potential human rights risks, including those associated with situations where there is conflict between groups. TAPs will consider these in their review of proposals in order to mitigate the risk of discrimination or harm due to exclusion of certain groups from datasets.
 - Grantees will consider potential human-rights risks of their work and the importance of context-sensitive approaches.
- 3. Gender**
 - Throughout the grantmaking process, TAPs will ensure that the gender dimension is appropriately reflected in the assessment of teams and proposals.
 - Grantees will be asked to consider the gender dimension of their work, including the diversity of their teams, the balanced representation of gender in the collection of training data and the development of models.