

Request for Proposals: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2024

Questions and Answers

General	
1.Q	Will the video of this webinar be shared with attendees?
1.A	The recording from the webinar on 10/July/2024 will be made available on Lacuna Fund's website in all supported languages as soon as possible.
2.Q	Would the timeline of proposed project be from April 2025 to October 2026? For datasets related to genomic marker generation, such as detecting the emergence of AMR or improving diagnostics, I believe the timeline of 1.5 years is short. Could I please have more details about this timeline?
2.A	Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund , page 11, Section <i>Project Timeline & Deliverables</i> . Proposed projects must be completed, datasets published, and final reports submitted by October 2026. For planning purposes, you can expect that agreements will be completed, and work may begin April 2025.
Application	
3.Q	How many people can be mentioned as a part of the team (as CV is required)?
3.A	You can include as many CVs as needed. If the platform gives you an error, you can include more than one CV within a single document.
4.Q	Is there a specific format of proposal outline that we should follow?
4.A	Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund , page 8-11, Section <i>Proposal Narrative</i> . We only accept applications through the SMA Portal: 2024 AMR Survey Monkey Apply

Eligibility	
5.Q	What is the minimum qualification for project leaders?
5.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, page 3-4, Section <i>Organizational Eligibility</i>.</p> <p>Teams must have the technical capacity - or the ability to build this capacity through a partnership described in the proposal – to conduct dataset labeling, creation, aggregation, expansion, and/or maintenance, including the ability to apply best practice and established standards in the specific domain (i.e., antimicrobial resistance) to allow high quality AI/ML analytics to be performed by multiple entities.</p> <p>Project leaders are not required to be senior members of the academic community. Please note that previous TAPs have valued Project leaders holding a Phd.</p>
6.Q	Should a proposal include multiple countries within a specific region or only one country on the list?
6.A	<p>Proposals can be focused on one country only or be multi-country. Please note that only low- and middle-income countries in Africa, Latin America and South and Southeast Asia are eligible (please see page 4 of the Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund). For a list of low- and middle- income countries, see this page: Low- and Middle-income Countries - List Wellcome</p>
7.Q	Do non-profits with local offices in Africa qualify?
7.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, page3-4, Section <i>Organizational Eligibility</i> for a comprehensive list of criteria that needs to be met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be either a non-profit entity, research institution, for-profit social enterprise, or a team of such organizations. Individuals must apply through an institutional sponsor. Partnerships are strongly encouraged as a way to strengthen collaboration and maximize the benefits derived from the use of the datasets, but only the lead applicant will receive funds • Have a mission supporting societal good, broadly defined. • Be headquartered in the country or region where data will be collected. The lead applicant must be headquartered in a low- or middle-income country in Africa, Latin America and South and Southeast Asia, and must propose work in the same country, or a low- or middle-income country in the same region. For a list of eligible countries, see this page. Institutions based in other countries or regions can apply as partners of the lead institution. As stated above, only the lead applicant will receive funds.

8.Q	We are a government entity and the only partner we would like to partner with has already received a Lacuna Fund grant before in a different domain. Are we still eligible?
8.A	<p>Please see pages 3-4 of the Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund), Section <i>Organizational Eligibility</i>.</p> <p>Having previously received one or more Lacuna Fund grants does not make an institution ineligible.</p>
9.Q	<p>1. We are a national non-governmental, non-profit organization in Yemen established by a number of medical doctors to support the needy people of Yemen. Through the last 20 years, we have implemented projects all over Yemen in many areas such as Health, Nutrition, Food Security and Climate Change and Environment. Would our application be eligible?</p> <p>2. Is an application from Papua New Guinea eligible?</p>
9.A	<p>Please see pages 3-4 of the Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund), Section <i>Organizational Eligibility</i>.</p> <p>For a list of low- and middle- income countries that are eligible to apply for the 2024 Antimicrobial Resistance RFP, see this page: Low- and Middle-income Countries - List Wellcome.</p> <p>Please note that countries must be in the geographical scope of this call to be eligible: Africa, Latin America and South and Southeast Asia.</p>
10.Q	I am a Malaysian researcher collaborating with other researchers from Malaysia on this application. Our proposed work will take place in Malaysia. Since I am currently based in Hong Kong, am I eligible to be the principal applicant?
10.A	<p>Please see pages 3-4 of the Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund), Section <i>Organizational Eligibility</i>.</p> <p>The lead applicant must be based in a low- or middle-income country in Africa, Latin America and South and Southeast Asia, and must propose work in the same country, or a low- or middle-income country in the same region. For a list of low- and middle- income countries that are eligible to apply for the 2024 Antimicrobial Resistance RFP, see this page: Low- and Middle-income Countries - List Wellcome.</p>

	A lead organization proposing to conduct work in the same region would be eligible to apply as a lead applicant, given the proposal meets all other eligibility requirements.
11.Q	Are the United Nations agencies, such as the WHO, specifically our Regional Office in Africa, qualify to apply for this RFP?
11.A	<p>Please see pages 3-4 of the Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund), Section <i>Organizational Eligibility</i>, to deduce eligibility.</p> <p>The lead applicant must be based in and headquartered in a low- or middle-income country in Africa, Latin America and South and Southeast Asia, and must propose work in the same country, or a low- or middle-income country in the same region.</p> <p>If your organization is headquartered outside the relevant regions listed above but has country offices within those regions, your organization is still ineligible to apply as a lead. However, you may apply as a partner.</p> <p>Please note that international agencies, regional and country offices headquartered in high income countries (including United Nations) are only eligible as partners, not as primary institutions.</p>
12.Q	Is the Medical Research Council Unit the Gambia at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine eligible for this AMR call for proposals?
12.A	<p>Please see pages 3-4 of the Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund), Section <i>Organizational Eligibility</i>.</p> <p>The lead applicant must be based in and headquartered in a low- or middle-income country in Africa, Latin America and South and Southeast Asia, and must propose work in the same country, or a low- or middle-income country in the same region.</p> <p>If your organization/institution is headquartered outside the relevant regions listed above but has country offices or branches within those regions, your organization is not eligible to apply as a lead institution. However, you may apply as a partner.</p>
Budget	
13.Q	How many projects has Lacuna Fund committed to fund for the 2024 AMR workstream?

13.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, page 11, Section <i>Budget</i>.</p> <p>There is no exact number of projects to be funded. However, the total pool available is approximately \$1 million USD. We would like to fund projects in each of the target regions (Africa, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia) and anticipate supporting 3-4 smaller projects with budgets < \$100k and 1-3 larger, more complex projects with budgets ranging from \$200-300k. The Technical Advisory Panel will assess the feasibility and suitability of the budget and the link between the budget and grant narrative as part of the selection criteria.</p>
14.Q	<p>How is the funding dispersed once a grantee is determined? Do grantees submit monthly or quarterly invoices?</p>
14.A	<p>Grantees submit an initial invoice for 50% of the agreement's value upon signing of the agreement. Following this, grantees must provide quarterly financial reports and a midterm narrative and data quality report.</p> <p>Grantees submit their final invoice once mid-term narrative and data quality reports, as well as Financial Quarterly reports are approved.</p> <p>Grantees also submit a final narrative and data quality report.</p>
15.Q	<p>Is the grant able to fund acquisition of equipment that enables data acquisition?</p>
15.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, page 11-12, Section <i>Budget</i> for an inexhaustive list of what budgets may include.</p> <p>Budgets might include costs for data collection (including fair compensation for data provision).</p>
<h2 style="color: green;">Data-specific and scope requirements</h2>	
<h3>Data and data quality</h3>	
16.Q	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What type of dataset is expected from this project (sequential, statistical, imagery)? 2. Which parameters should be included for the improvement of Antimicrobial Resistance or Improved Prevention and Control?
16.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, pages 6-8, Section <i>Purpose and Need</i> to understand the purpose of this call for proposals.</p>

	<p>Please note that the types of datasets included in the RFP are illustrative examples only. The Technical Advisory Panel welcomes innovative proposals for training and evaluation datasets that will help us better understand the impacts of AMR and develop interventions to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p>We look to applicants to decide what type of dataset and which parameters are most suitable to address the problem you wish to address. We encourage you to visit Lacuna Fund’s Resources page for general and health-specific resources which might be helpful when developing a proposal.</p>
17.Q	<p>Is the team responsible for data collection as well as ML/AL modelling to "extract" meaningful information from the collected data?</p>
17.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, pages 6-7, Section <i>Need</i>.</p> <p>Proposals may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting and/or annotating new data; • Annotating or releasing existing data; • Augmenting existing datasets from diverse sources to fill gaps in local ground truth data, decrease bias (such as geographic bias, gender gaps or other types of bias or discrimination), or increase the usability of data and technology related to AMR in low- and middle-income contexts; • Linking and harmonizing existing datasets (such as across regions, time, pathogens, treatment, behavioral choices or climate factors). <p>While the focus of Lacuna Fund is primarily on dataset creation, annotation, augmentation, and maintenance, proposals may include the development of a baseline model(s) to ensure the quality of the funded dataset and/or to facilitate the use of the dataset for socially beneficial applications.</p>
18.Q	<p>After data collection, do we also send the ML models as part of the hosted dataset that can be used?</p>
18.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, pages 6-7, Section <i>Need</i>.</p>

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19.Q	Is the aim to avail the datasets on an open-source license for wider public access?
19.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, page 9-10, Section <i>Proposal Narrative</i>, sub-section <i>Data Management and Licensing</i>.</p> <p>Per Lacuna Fund’s Intellectual Property (IP) Policy, the dataset and any related IP, such as collection methods, datasheets, how to load or read datasets, or other information to ensure usability should be made available under an open source, by-attribution license (CC-BY 4.0 or CC BY-SA 4.0). If more restrictive licensing is proposed, provide a rationale for this. The budget may include resources for licensing.</p> <p>If you intend to use an existing dataset for your project, please indicate that your team has received the necessary permissions from the dataset’s owner that the dataset can be released in accordance with Lacuna Fund’s IP Policy, or provide justification for another licensing structure. Letters of support from existing data holders are optional but encouraged.</p>
20.Q	Does the team need to provide a letter of support from the owner/managing organization of the data as part of a proposed initiative(s)?

20.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, page 10, Section <i>Proposal Narrative</i>.</p> <p>If you intend to use an existing dataset for your project, please indicate that your team has received the necessary permissions from the dataset’s owner that the dataset can be released in accordance with Lacuna Fund’s Intellectual Property Policy (IP) or provide justification for another licensing structure. Letters of support from existing data holders are optional but encouraged.</p>
21.Q	<p>As we see the importance of community as intended beneficiaries in RFP, do we need to prioritize community-based data or is it open for health facility based, official based, or even other open-access cross-regional data?</p>
21.A	<p>There is no such restriction on community-based data. We encourage you to source the data from the most appropriate source for the problem you want to address in your context.</p> <p>You can visit Lacuna Fund’s website to see what types of data previous grantees have built datasets from.</p>
<p>Technical specifications and scope</p>	
22.Q	<p>Does AMR only relate to animals, animal husbandry, and livestock?</p>
22.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, pages 6-8, Section <i>Purpose and Need</i> to understand the purpose of this call for proposals.</p> <p>While animal AMR can be included, human AMR element must be the focus of the proposal.</p>
23.Q	<p>We have a TB diagnosis project which is partly funded and needs additional funding. Is this project eligible for consideration?</p>
23.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, pages 6-8, Section <i>Purpose and Need</i> to understand the purpose of this call for proposals.</p> <p>This project would be eligible if it would result in the creation of a new dataset or an expansion of or updates to an existing dataset for machine learning applications.</p>
24.Q	<p>Is data for malarial diagnosis captured in this project? If yes, which kind of malaria datasets should suit microbial resistance?</p> <p>Does Malaria resistance datasets eligible or does AMR only consider bacterial resistance?</p>
24.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, pages 6-8, Section <i>Purpose and Need</i>.</p>

	A proposal for a dataset on malaria diagnosis would be within the scope of this Request for Proposals if it focuses on antimicrobial resistance. Please note that Lacuna Fund supports the creation, expansion, and maintenance of datasets that enable robust and equitable application of machine learning (ML) tools of high social value in low- and middle-income contexts globally.
25.Q	Is it advisable to work on all the ESKAPE pathogens or pick a few depending on the time span of the call?
25.A	<p>Please refer to Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, page 11, Section <i>Project Timeline & Deliverables</i>.</p> <p>Proposed projects must be completed, datasets published, and final reports submitted by October 2026. For planning purposes, you can expect that agreements will be completed, and work may begin April 2025.</p> <p>We look to applicants to decide what the scope is feasible for the problem you would like to address, within the timeline.</p>
Mentorship	
26.Q	Is mentorship available only for the principal investigator?
26.A	<p>Please see pages 12 of the Antimicrobial-Resistance-2024-RFP-Lacuna-Fund, Section <i>Mentorship Opportunity</i> for information on the mentorship program. Mentorship is available for teams, not just the principal investigator. We encourage each team to evaluate which members will benefit most from the mentorship opportunity. ACTS will strive to match a mentor with everyone who requests one but cannot guarantee availability for all. Mentors will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.</p>
27.Q	How do I get matched with a mentor?
27.A	Please see details on how to apply on the ACTS website .
28.Q	Is mentorship mandatory?
28.A	Mentorship is not mandatory.