



Utilizing Health Information for Meaningful Impact in East Africa through Data Science
Pilot Projects Funding Announcement

26 June 2023

As part of the DS-I Africa Consortium, the UZIMA-DS Research Hub is soliciting applications for Pilot Project grants. Qualified candidates are invited to complete an Intent to Submit form by 14 August 2023.

Background

UZIMA-DS is a Kenyan led data science platform that leverages large, existing data sets to develop and validate artificial intelligence (AI)/machine learning (ML) models to identify women at risk for poor pregnancy outcomes; and to identify adolescents and young healthcare workers at risk of depression and suicidal ideation. UZIMA-DS aims to address three critical needs across the translational spectrum of data science: 1) Harmonization of multimodal data sources; 2) Leveraging temporal patterns of data to identify trajectories through prediction modeling using AI/ML-based methods; and 3) Engaging with key stakeholders to identify pathways for dissemination and sustainability of these models in target communities.

Additional information can be found at <https://uzimadatascience.org>.

Award Information

The UZIMA-DS Research Hub anticipates funding a minimum of two pilot projects: 1 to existing UZIMA-DS Hub Institutional members and 1 to external partners in collaboration with at least one UZIMA-DS partner.

The Pilot Projects are planned to be short-term (8-12 months) with a budget up to \$50,000 USD each in total costs, depending on the available funds, and eligible for 1 year of funding with the possibility of a no-cost extension. African early career investigators are highly encouraged to apply; PhD students may apply but should have a faculty member as co-investigator on the project.

Applications for Pilot Projects will be **required to have aims related to the overall objectives of the UZIMA-DS Hub**. Priority focus areas should include:

- *Mental Health*
- *Maternal, Newborn and Child Health*
- Use of medical record data to augment datasets
- Use of community health workers for interventions
- Climate and environment data to augment current datasets (e.g., Data on elections, violence and the impact on health; etc.)
- Ensuring public trust in AI/ML ecosystems (e.g., Ethics frameworks for Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems; Barriers and facilitators to data sharing among global health researchers and targeted intervention strategies; etc.).
- Analyses of existing biobank samples to augment existing MNCH and/or Mental Health related datasets.

How to Apply

- Complete an Intent to Submit (ITS) form by **14 August 2023** using the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec2OwSSFWeuBYW1nQuD2hRGm8l9WfmT1ij6MgxPte1aF0S8w/viewform>
- **The ITS includes the following information:**
 - Applicant Name
 - Name of Institution or Affiliation
 - Name of faculty Co-Investigator (for PhD applicants)
 - Proposed duration and budget for Pilot Project
 - Proposed start date
 - A brief outline of the project (300 words max), including:
 - Background; Specific Aims; Methods; Expected Outcome(s) and Impact; and Relevance to UZIMA-DS
 - *ITS should also be accompanied with the applicant's CV.
- Full applications will be requested from selected applicants by **15 September 2023**.
 - Full applications will be expected to identify an UZIMA-DS collaborator as part of the submission. Applicants are encouraged to meet with the potential collaborator prior to application submission.
- For questions related to this funding opportunity, please email UZIMA.DataScience@gmail.com.

Key Dates

- **14 August 2023** - Letter of Intent due
- **15 September 2023** - Request for full application for selected applicants
- **Nov 2023 (date is TBD)** - Full application due
- **Early February 2024** - Award Notice of Funding

Additional Information

- The ITS and full application should be submitted in English.
- Applicant should be affiliated with a formal institution, e.g. University, Research Institute, or Research Hub.
- Applicants can submit more than one ITS so long as the objectives are distinct.
- Applications are not restricted to African investigators/institutions, but priority will be given to African investigators/Institutions.
- PhD students may apply but should have a faculty mentor as a co-investigator on the project.
- Details on the requirements for full proposals will be provided to shortlisted applicants and will generally expand on the information in the ITS.
- The UZIMA-DS Research Hub will oversee the distribution of yearly sub-award funds coordinating with the appropriate support staff from each institution. Pilot Project investigators will be responsible for managing their budget.
- Awardees will become members of the UZIMA-DS Research Hub for the duration of the Pilot Project funding period, with the opportunity to continue membership after funding has ended.