

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Analytics and Artificial Intelligence to Help Anticipate, Prevent, and Respond to Climate Fragility Risks



A. INTRODUCTION

Around the globe, climate change increases the frequency and severity of natural disaster events, including heat waves, droughts, floods, and rising sea levels all of which threaten lives and livelihoods. Communities in fragile and crisis-affected settings are hit particularly hard, as they have insufficient capacities to manage, absorb and mitigate complex, interlinking risks. Unlocking the full potential of data and analytics is key to helping policymakers, practitioners, and researchers understand, formulate, and assess appropriate and context-specific responses for earlier, faster, more targeted, and dignified crisis action that better matches people’s needs with solutions.

This first Open Call for Proposals (hereafter “Open Call”) by the newly established Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF’d) is seeking projects that advance analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist global and local stakeholders in anticipating, preventing, and responding to the consequences of climate fragility risks across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

B. OPEN CALL AT A GLANCE

Theme	Analytics and AI to anticipate, prevent, and respond to climate fragility risks
CRAF’d funding window	B – Analytics, Knowledge, and Capacity
Available funding	USD 3 million
Grant size	USD 500,000 – 750,000
Project duration	Maximum 24 months
Opening of call	Last week of October 2022
Deadline for concept notes	25 November 2022
Deadline for project proposals	6 February 2023
Anticipated disbursement of funding	March 2023

C. ABOUT CRAF'D

The use of data and analytics to manage complex risks in crisis-affected and fragile settings is sub-optimal.

Gaps in data collection remain wide, many stakeholders lack technical expertise to generate insights from data, and too often, analytical work takes place in siloes, to the detriment of the world's most vulnerable populations. The result is lost potential: insights are insufficient and often do not translate into action.

CRAF'd is a multilateral financing instrument with the goal of supporting scalable, sustainable, and well-governed ecosystems that unlocks the full value of data for greater resilience and stronger support to people and planet – when and where it matters most. Through its investments, CRAF'd expands shared capabilities of partners to use data for anticipation, prevention, and response to complex risks in crisis-affected and fragile settings across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

CRAF'd has a target of allocating USD 15-25 million annually through two funding windows. Allocations through funding window A help to ensure the sustainable provision of essential risk datasets as a common good. CRAF'd allocations through window B are designed to support the continuous expansion of analytics capabilities to better anticipate, prevent, and respond to complex risks.

CRAF'd Principles

To foster an ecosystem that is sustainable, scalable, and well-governed, CRAF'd partners collaborate based on principles that underpin how data capabilities are used and shared:

1. Prioritize the interests of populations in vulnerable situations to **leave no one behind** in pursuit of the **2030 Agenda** and share the conviction that this is only possible with a strong emphasis on **broad stakeholder engagement, local capacity building**, data/model validation, and expert analysis in the field.
2. Unite behind the notion that the **CRAF'd ecosystem** can only be sustainable if partners share risks, burdens, and benefits.
3. Commit to the **responsible use of data**, including principles of fairness, transparency, and privacy.
4. Provide **open access to outputs** funded by CRAF'd using interoperable and open data standards.
5. Incentivize **data providers** not to exclusively rely on financial support from CRAF'd.

D. THEMATIC FOCUS: CLIMATE FRAGILITY RISKS

This Open Call focuses on the ways in which climate risks amplify underlying fragility and its adverse effects on people and planet. The section below outlines the concept of climate fragility risks for this Open Call.

FRAGILITY

CLIMATE RISKS

CLIMATE FRAGILITY RISKS

Fragility

While there is no single definition of fragility, most common approaches refer to it as **a lack of necessary coping capacities within states or communities to manage, absorb, and mitigate complex and interlinked risks**. The UN [estimates](#) that over 320 million people are in need of emergency support – most of them living in fragile contexts – and the OECD [suggests](#) that almost a quarter of the world’s population is exposed to high levels of fragility and its various consequences.

Climate risks

Human-induced climate change has become one of the biggest global challenges. Climate-related natural disaster events, including those listed below, are increasingly widespread, frequent, and intense.

Sudden onset natural disaster events

- Tropical cyclones
- Typhoons
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Blizzards
- Hydrological hazards

Slow onset natural disaster events

- Increasing temperatures
- Heat waves and droughts
- Sea level rise and ocean acidification
- Glacial retreat and related impacts
- Salinization
- Land and forest degradation
- Loss of biodiversity
- Desertification

Climate fragility risks and consequences

The adverse consequences of climate change amplify risks in already fragile contexts. They can intensify contests over scarce resources, reduce economic opportunities, disrupt social cohesion and inflict serious harm on affected people. These climate fragility risks, including those listed below, are a critical frontier for better international support in crisis-affected and fragile settings.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local resource competition • Livelihood insecurity • Displacement • Volatile food prices and provision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water scarcity • Conflict and social unrest • Unintended effects of climate policies |
|---|--|

E. SCOPE OF CRAF'D-FUNDED PROJECTS

Advances in data availability, analytics, and AI create potential for policymakers and practitioners alike to better diagnose the ways in which climate risks converge with complex risks in crisis-affected and fragile settings. Within this thematic focus, projects across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus should fall into one of the following categories:

UNDERSTAND & ACT (PRIORITY):

Analytics & AI to enable impactful crisis action.

Projects should **improve diagnostic, predictive, or prescriptive analytics** on climate fragility risks for more impactful crisis action:

- Contribute to a **better understanding** of climate fragility risks, including on regional, national, and sub-national levels.
- Strengthen the **translation of these insights** into **earlier, faster, more targeted, and dignified crisis action**, incl. anticipatory action.
- Facilitate earlier, faster, and more targeted **allocation of resources** to crisis-affected and fragile settings.

ASSESS & EVALUATE:

Analytics & AI to assess, monitor, and evaluate data-driven crisis action.

Projects should produce **analytics and AI approaches to better assess data-driven crisis action** related to climate fragility risks:

- **Advance monitoring and evaluation tools** on effectiveness and efficiency of data-driven crisis action.
- **Strengthen the assessment of data-driven decision-making** for earlier, faster, more targeted, and dignified crisis action, including resource allocation.

F. EVALUATION CRITERIA

CRAF'd will evaluate proposals against the criteria outlined below.

✓ **Commitment to all CRAF'd Principles**

Proposals are required to be aligned with the [CRAF'd Principles](#). As such, proposals must demonstrate how they:

- Prioritize the interests of populations in vulnerable situations to leave no one behind in pursuit of the **2030 Agenda**, including the engagement of local partners in support of capacity-building, citizen-owned data, minority inclusion, and trust.
- Foster **responsible use of data**, including principles of fairness, transparency, and privacy, including measures to avoid bias in analytics and AI.
- Provide **open access to outputs** funded by CRAF'd using interoperable and open standards.
- Leverage **multiple funding sources** beyond CRAF'd and ensure transparency thereof.

✓ **Thematic fit to Open Call**

Proposals are required to be aligned with the Open Call's **thematic focus of climate fragility risks** as outlined in [Section D](#).

✓ **Strategic relevance**

Proposals are required to be aligned with the Open Call's **scope for CRAF'd-funded projects** as outlined in [Section E](#). Proposals should outline how analytics and AI will:

- Contribute to a better **understanding** of climate fragility risks and help to **translate these insights into better crisis action**. (UNDERSTAND & ACT)
- Help to better **assess data-driven crisis action** related to climate fragility risks, including through **enhanced monitoring and evaluation** tools on effectiveness and efficiency of data-driven crisis action. (EVALUATE & ASSESS)

✓ **Output, outcome, and impact**

Proposals are required to be anchored in and aligned with the [CRAF'd Results Framework](#). Optimally, proposals are desired to demonstrate how analytics and AI will:

- Enable **earlier, faster, more targeted, and dignified** crisis action.
- Create **multiplier effects** and **synergies** across the CRAF'd data ecosystem.
- Facilitate earlier, faster, and more targeted **allocation of resources** to crisis-affected and fragile settings.

✓ **Sustainability**

Proposals are required to demonstrate a **reliable long-term provision of their outputs with regular release cycles** that the CRAF'd data ecosystem can depend on.

✓ **Scalability**

Proposals are required to demonstrate the potential for **roll-out to larger contexts** so that analytics and AI can be applied across large geographic regions.

- ✓ **Innovation**
Proposals are required to demonstrate **innovation and use of new approaches** to overcome pernicious barriers and systemically embedded problems.

- ✓ **Cost effectiveness**
Projects are required to demonstrate **economical use of resources**.

- ✓ **Geographic balance**
Across all proposals, CRAF'd will consider **geographic balance** of recipient organizations and coverage of project areas in the selection process.

G. APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process for this Open Call is structured in two stages: In the first stage, eligible organizations (see [Section H](#)) can submit a concept note. After a pre-selection process, CRAF'd will invite a limited number of organizations to develop a full-fledged project proposal. The final approval of selected projects by the Steering Committee is expected in March 2023, with the subsequent disbursement grants.

STAGE 1 – Concept notes

In the first stage of the application process, CRAF'd invites all eligible organizations to submit concept notes through an online form. Eligible organizations can request access to the form [here](#). The CRAF'd Secretariat will host two information sessions. If you are interested to learn more about this Open Call and the first stage of the application, you can register for the information session on **9 November 2022, 9:00 AM (EST)** [here](#) and for the information session on **9 November 2022 at 5:00 PM (EST)** [here](#).

Launch of Open Call	Last week of October 2022
Online information sessions	9 November 2022
Submission of concept notes	25 November 2022
Communication of first stage results	Early January 2023

STAGE 2 – Project proposals

Applicants who receive positive feedback on their concept note in the first stage, are then invited to develop full-fledged project proposals. The second stage of the application process will be managed through the Fund Management Platform (FMP) hosted by the Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTFO). The CRAF'd Secretariat will grant access to the FMP and together with the MPTFO provide training for all applicants. The CRAF'd Steering Committee will ultimately decide on the final allocation of funds based on the submitted project proposals.

Submission of project proposal	6 February 2023
Approval of projects by Steering Committee	Mid-March 2023
Communication of results	Mid-March 2023
Disbursement of funding	Late March 2023

H. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Participating UN organizations, who have signed the CRAF'd Memorandum of Understanding, and Non-UN organizations are eligible to apply for CRAF'd funding through this Open Call.

Limitations

Each eligible organization is allowed to submit up to **two concept notes through this Open Call**. This includes joint applications with other organizations. If an organization submits more than two concept notes, only the first two submissions will be considered.

Requirements for Non-UN Organizations

Non-UN organizations can access CRAF'd funding either as a sub-grantee through a Managing Agent, or through the CRAF'd direct access modality if suitable, as outlined in the [CRAF'd Terms of Reference](#). The access modality will be determined on a case-by-case basis before CRAF'd invites the respective non-UN organizations to develop a project proposal in the second stage of the application process (see [Section G](#)).

Regardless of the access modality, non-UN organizations will be required to provide at minimum the following documents:

1. Proof of current valid formal registration as non-profit for the duration of the proposed project in the country where the headquarters of the organisation is located. If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project.
2. Proof of a successfully managed and implemented grant of at least \$500,000 in the last three years, e.g., financial, grant, or annual report.
3. UN reference or donor reference, attesting to satisfactory financial and programmatic management of a grant in the last three years.

I. CONTACT

For questions on this Open Call or CRAF'd in general, please contact the CRAF'd Secretariat at crafd@un.org. For further information, please also visit the CRAF'd [website](#).

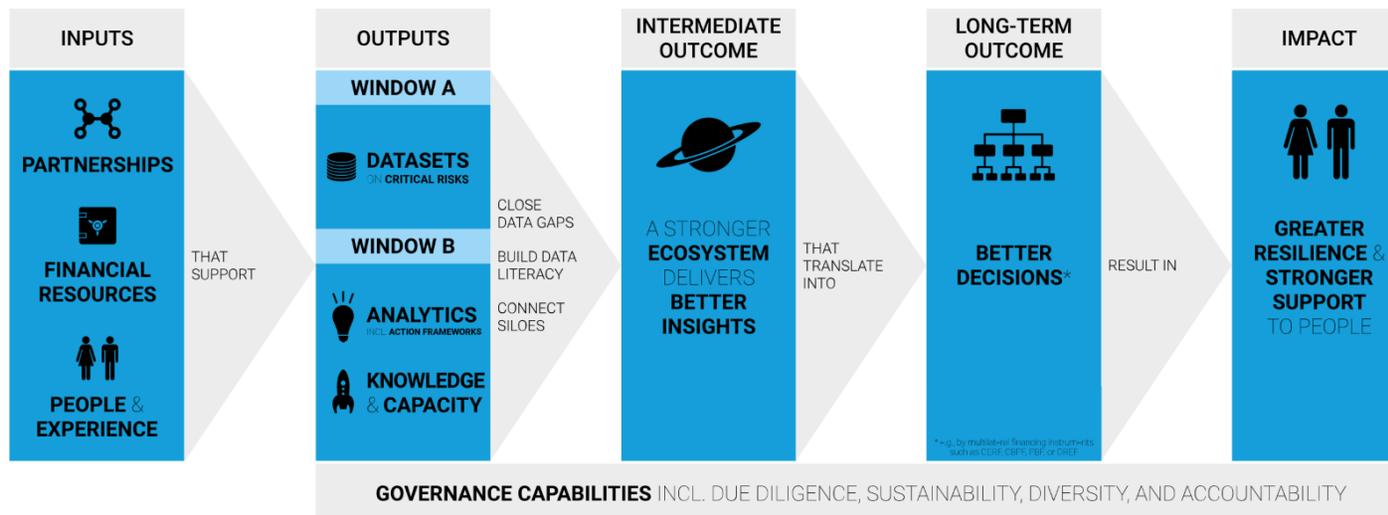
Annex I

A. CRAF'D THEORY OF CHANGE

The design of CRAF'd is grounded in a strong theory of change: CRAF'd investments in **outputs** like data and analytics help create a **scalable, sustainable, and well-governed ecosystem**. The ecosystem approach will enable **better insights** into complex risks in crisis-affected and fragile settings (**intermediate outcome**). Those insights are then leveraged for **better decisions**: Data and analytics outputs will inform evidence-based policymaking and guide operational planning and programming processes – including resource allocation decisions by major financing instruments (**long-term outcome**). In turn, these outcomes will drive **greater resilience and stronger support to people and the planet in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda** when and where it matters most (**impact**).

The **assumption** behind CRAF'd investments is that humanitarian, development, and peace operations are less effective than they could be, in part because:

1. **Data gaps** and **lacking data literacy** impair the generation of earlier, faster, and more precise insights into complex risks.
2. Even when available, data-driven **insights often do not translate into action**.
3. **Work** on data and analytics often **takes place in siloes**, is not shared, or is built from scratch.



Annex II

A. RESULTS FRAMEWORK: OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, AND IMPACTS

OUTPUTS: DATA ON COMPLEX RISKS, ANALYTICS, KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY

Outputs	Indicators
<p data-bbox="191 472 436 500"><u>Funding Window B</u></p> <p data-bbox="191 542 934 607">Analytics that drive critical insights for crisis anticipation, prevention, and response.</p> <p data-bbox="191 649 1018 781">These could be, for example: Composite risk indices, AI models, diagnostic and predictive analytics methods, risk frameworks, action frameworks, specific use cases, monitoring and evaluation.</p>	<p data-bbox="1060 472 1444 500">Initial indicators for <u>analytics</u>:</p> <ul data-bbox="1060 521 1822 721" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1060 521 1514 548">• # analytics products supported<ul data-bbox="1108 565 1822 721" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1108 565 1276 592">– ... in total<li data-bbox="1108 609 1822 636">– ... for action frameworks, incl. for anticipatory action<li data-bbox="1108 652 1822 721">– ... with gender disaggregation and other diversity goals as a primary objective

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME: A STRONGER ECOSYSTEM THAT DELIVERS BETTER INSIGHTS

Outcome	Indicators
<p>Development of a sustainable, well-governed, and scalable ecosystem.</p> <p><i>For an ecosystem, sustainability, good governance, and scalability are crucial for success, so that the insights it enables can find their way into decision-making with impact.</i></p>	<p>Initial indicators for <u>scale</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % yearly increase in organizations participating in the (CRAF'd-supported) ecosystem• % yearly increase in downloads of (CRAF'd-supported) outputs <p>Initial indicators for <u>sustainability</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % ecosystem stakeholders contributing datasets to the ecosystem during a year• % ecosystem stakeholders from fragile and crisis-affected situations• % ecosystem outputs¹ that are continuously available as requested² <p>Initial indicators for <u>good governance</u>, excl. diversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % ecosystem outputs in non-proprietary formats³• % ecosystem outputs with open access• % ecosystem participants with policies for the responsible use of data <p>Initial indicators for <u>diversity</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % datasets that are disaggregated by sex, age, disability, etc. (at least one)• % datasets and analytics that allow comparison by sex, age, disability, etc. (at least one)• % participants by sex and geography (from fragile and crisis-affected situations) for conferences, workshops, and talks• % learning beneficiaries by sex and geography (from fragile and crisis-affected situations) for workshops and trainings

¹ The CRAF'd Secretariat is tasked to publish a list of Essential Outputs every year – see glossary.

² Meaning following their regular, e.g., daily or monthly, update cycle.

³ E.g., csv, json, xml, txt, sql (not dta, spss or similar proprietary file formats).

LONG-TERM OUTCOME: BETTER DECISIONS

Outcome

Better resource allocation and investment **decisions**, e.g., by CRAF'd partners and/or major multilateral financing instruments⁴.

"Better" in this context can mean, for example: Data and analytics outputs funded by CRAF'd are used for decision making and can translate into action, incl. through action frameworks for anticipatory action, forecast-based action, or other forms of pre-arranged financing.

Indicators

Initial indicators (survey-based):

- % CRAF'd outputs (datasets and analytics) that stakeholders use for crisis anticipation, prevention, or response (disaggregated)
- % CRAF'd outputs (datasets and analytics) that lead to funding processes, allocations, or investments
- % CRAF'd partners and multilateral financing instruments⁵ that report leveraging CRAF'd supported datasets and analytics in their funding decisions

See next page for intermediate outcomes.

⁴ like CERF, CBPF, PBF, DREF, or others

⁵ like CERF, CBPF, PBF, DREF, or others

IMPACT: GREATER RESILIENCE AND STRONGER SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AND PLANET

Impact

Delivering **greater resilience and stronger support to people and planet** when and where it matters most.

“Greater/stronger” in this context can mean, for example: More timely support (e.g., shorter lead times), more targeted support (e.g., based on higher resolution data), more effective support (e.g., compared to baselines), more dignified support (e.g., as attested by beneficiaries).

Indicators

Initial indicators:

- Scale
 - number of people supported using action frameworks for crisis prevention, anticipation, and response⁶
- Quality (examples)
 - *better anticipation*: % yearly decrease in average funding decision lead time for major international financing instruments (e.g., days between crisis event and funding allocation from pooled fund instruments)
 - *better response*: % improvement in timeline of people’s recovery from crisis (e.g., days until return to normal food consumption compared to baseline)
 - *better prevention*: % improvement in local coping capacity or resilience indicators (e.g., from global open-source risk assessment for crises and disasters)

⁶ E.g., [anticipatory action](#), pre-arranged financing, or [forecast-based action](#) frameworks.