



Partner Expression of Interest: Request for New Lead Organization of the Tobacco Control Data Initiative

What is the Tobacco Control Data Initiative?

The Tobacco Control Data Initiative (TCDI) was launched in 2019 and is implemented by Development Gateway: an IREX Venture (DG), in partnership with the University of Cape Town's Research Unit on the Economics of Excisable Products (REEP) and funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. **TCDI aims to supply sub-Saharan African governments, civil society and academia with improved access to country-specific data that will inform better tobacco control policy design and implementation.** The program has built national online websites that present data from different sources, including primary data collected during our project and existing secondary data made publicly available and papers published in peer-reviewed journals.

To date, DG and our Africa-based partner organizations have completed data collection in Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia. DG has launched TCDI websites for the six program countries: [South Africa](#), [Nigeria](#), [Zambia](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#), and the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#).

Who is Development Gateway?

DG is an international nonprofit organization that creates innovative information management and data visualization technology, implements data-focused programs and conducts research and evaluation to further sustainable development. DG supports public and private sector actors in collecting, analyzing and using data in the health sector for policymakers and development agencies to make more effective decisions and to improve service delivery. DG is headquartered in Washington, DC, and is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A more complete overview of DG can be found at <http://www.developmentgateway.org>.

What impact have the TCDI websites had so far?

These sites are actively assisting tobacco control advocates and policymakers seeking to adopt, implement and monitor evidence-based tobacco control policy. In each TCDI program country, DGers work directly with the national government department responsible for tobacco control policy development. In several cases, this relationship is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

DG has already received positive feedback from government, CSO and academic stakeholders - such as South Africa's Deputy Health Minister, the Nigeria Tobacco Control Alliance (NTCA) and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids - reporting that they are using TCDI websites to streamline research and prepare presentations for more

efficient decision making. The ongoing utility of TCDI tools will depend on the capacity of the initiative to continually update data and to integrate new and up-and-coming websites.

We seek an African-based organization or consortium to take over ownership of TCDI, including managing content, stakeholders, and data collection activities across seven countries.

From 1 November 2023 DG will be transitioning to a new role in the TCDI project and is therefore requesting Expressions of Interest from organizations or consortia to become the new lead organization of TCDI. Responding organizations must have a legal headquarters in Africa and must have worked in at least two of the existing TCDI countries: the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia. Note: if you would like to apply as an organization but are open to or would like to join a consortium, please note that in your application.

DG will continue to manage the back-end infrastructure needs (such as website infrastructure development, support and bug fixes). The handover duration is four years, with the full handover of TCDI in the years following.

DG's Role: phases of mentorship and support

DG will continue to support the TCDI project after 1 November 2023 in two phases: (1) mentorship and (2) support. These two phases are designed to ensure that the selected organization/consortium is fully prepared to assume key responsibilities by the end of the sustainability grant.

Phase I

Phase I would be a mentorship period (1 November 2023 - 1 November 2025) in which DG would train the organization/ consortium on how to search for new content to add to the site, write new text, design any new infographics and graphs for the site, identify and liaise with tobacco control experts to review the content, write requirements, implement the new content on the site, conduct data collection activities such as prevalence spot checks, and liaise with country governments, among other responsibilities. In this phase, DG would continue to be ultimately 'responsible' for these activities and manage the grant with the Gates Foundation, with the selected organization/consortium 'shadowing' in order to prepare them to eventually assume responsibility for the tasks outlined above. This shadowing would take place in both virtual and in-person formats.

Current TCDI collaborators such as local tobacco control experts would continue to conduct reviews of any new website content. DG would continue conducting advanced website updates, creating new features, bug fixing, and maintaining the underlying infrastructure.

During this time, the selected African organization/consortium may need to hire or second individuals such that there is a presence in each of the TCDI focus countries. Current DG consultants based in-country would transition existing relationships to these individuals.

Phase II

Phase II would be a support period (1 November 2025 - 1 November 2027) in which the African organization/consortium would take responsibility for the tasks outlined above, with DG in support. The responsibilities of the organization/consortium would include managing stakeholders, communicating with governments, writing requirements, updating site text/infographics, measuring impact, conducting basic website updates, and managing data collection activities. In this phase, the organization/consortium will also add a seventh country (TBD) to implement these processes learned in Phase I from the beginning.

Throughout Phase II, DG would serve as a mentor and will be available for questions, guidance, and to monitor the quality and timeliness of the selected organization/consortium's work.

Given DG's extensive expertise in digital development, DG would not transfer responsibility for website infrastructure support and bug fixes to the selected organization/consortium. After grant completion, DG would continue to perform website infrastructure support and bug fixes through an ongoing support contract with the selected organization/consortium.

Important Dates

- Questions may be submitted to DG at any time until 7 July 2023.
- Submission of completed Expressions of Interest due by 11:59 PM (Eastern Standard Time, GMT +02) on 12 July 2023. Early submissions are welcome.
- Review of Expressions of Interest will take place from July 13th to July 20th. Firms may be contacted for follow-on questions as necessary during this period .
- If a firm or consortium is considered successful, DG will invite the organization to submit a full proposal.

Schedule for Contract

- After successful EOI review and if asked to submit a full proposal, the contract would initiate on 1 November 2023 and continue as needed with an estimated completion date of 31 October 2026 (though TCDI may continue beyond that if additional funding is secured).

Submission

All Expressions of Interest should be submitted in English, to Andrea Ulrich at aulrich@developmentgateway.org with the subject line “EOI for New Lead Organization of TCDI”. Questions may also be sent to Andrea Ulrich at aulrich@developmentgateway.org.

Responses should be no more than six pages in length.

The first page should include an organizational overview with details about legal status, location of headquarters, etc. Responding organizations must provide an affirmative statement that the firm has never received money from the tobacco industry, or any of the tobacco industry’s affiliate organizations.

A maximum of five pages should be dedicated to answer the following questions.

1. Briefly explain why your organization or consortium is interested in this opportunity.
2. Describe your approach to adapting and managing tools, processes, or products developed by other organizations, and any relevant experience.
3. How has your organization/consortium managed projects across multiple countries, languages, and time zones? What processes do you have in place to do so successfully?
4. How does your organization/consortium ensure diversity within leadership and management, including representation of women or other minority groups? How do you ensure a safe and respectful working environment for all?
5. Explain your approach to stakeholder engagement and management. Please elaborate on liaising with government, academic, and civil society stakeholders.
6. Briefly explain your experience in managing or conducting primary research and synthesizing secondary research.
7. What is your organization’s/consortium’s experience with technology project management or technology development? Do you have experience doing this work in house or in partnering with technical organizations?
8. Please describe your approach to gender- and youth-inclusive programming and research.

9. Elaborate on your experience translating information into visuals (graphs, infographics) and data analysis. How do you ensure that the visuals and data analysis are gender intentional?
10. Which of the tasks listed in Phase 1 and Phase 2 would you say your organization or consortium is strongest in? Which would you say your organization or consortium is weakest in?