Rapid Response Call (RRC) to Address COVID-19

April 2020
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Section 1. RRC Snapshot

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<th>SCOPE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competition Opens</td>
<td>14 April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission Deadline</td>
<td>28 April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcement of Awards</td>
<td>17 May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Project Start Date</td>
<td>21 May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Applicants and participants must be residing in Qatar. Copies of their Qatar IDs are required for the application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Parameters</td>
<td>Grant size is up to QAR 100K &amp; up to 3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Apply</td>
<td>Through QNRF website at <a href="https://support.qnrf.org/">link</a> by clicking on “Start New Application”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QNRF Contact</td>
<td><a href="https://support.qnrf.org/">https://support.qnrf.org/</a></td>
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Section 2. Overview
The rapid speed, outbreak spread, and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has taken the whole world by surprise and exposed how fragile and ill-prepared we are to cope with it. Nonetheless, many research funding agencies around the world have mobilized their resources to combat the situation. This rapid response on such a grand scale requires mechanisms of research funding that are adequate in terms of structure and agility to respond to emergent and impactful occurrences such as the Coronavirus.
To this end, QNRF is launching a Rapid Response Call (RRC) that is designed to study sudden and significant situations and help Qatari society and its institutions mitigate their impact.
This call complements QNRF’s diverse portfolio of programs and calls and is designed to provide funding on fast-track basis to address the challenges and opportunities presented by sudden and emergent situations such as that of COVID-19.

Section 3. Call Objectives
The objectives of this call are:
1- Provide rapid response and solutions to emergent and momentous situations
2- Contribute to the resilience and robustness of Qatar’s capabilities to cope with emergencies
3- To instil agility of response in Qatar’s research community and institutions.

Section 4. Areas of Applications
This call is dedicated to providing rapid research, development, or innovative solutions to address the challenges imposed by COVID-19 pandemic on the following sectors in Qatar:
1. Economy
2. Health
3. Education
4. Supply Chain
5. Food Security
6. Transport and communication
7. Social and cultural life
8. Psychological wellbeing of citizens and residents
9. Media, including social media

Section 5. Eligibility
5.1. Applicants and participants must be residing in Qatar. Copies of their Qatar IDs are required for the application.
5.2. Each applicant can submit only one application for this call.

Section 6. General Requirements
6.1. Applicants must be able to start their projects by 24 May 2020 at the latest.
6.2. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to deliver the project during the working restrictions of COVID-19 pandemic.
6.3. Applicants are expected to rely, as much as possible, on local personnel, institutions, and resources.
6.4. Proposals are expected to have specific outcomes that address any of the challenges mentioned above in section 4.

Section 7. Submission Process
7.1. How to apply?
The applicant is required to submit the proposal at the following link. For more information regarding the proposal submission, please refer to the RRC Application Guide at link.
7.1.1 Applicant should prepare the proposal according to the template available at link, which should not exceed 2 pages.

7.1.2 Applicant is required to include, in the same PDF file of the proposal, the CVs and Qatari IDs of the applicant and participants prior to uploading on the file.

7.2. Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open proposal submission by Applicants</td>
<td>Tuesday, 14 April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close proposal submission by Applicants</td>
<td>Tuesday, 28 April 2020 noon, Doha Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards announcement</td>
<td>Sunday, 17 May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signing award letters and start date of projects deadline</td>
<td>Thursday, 21 May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission of Final Reports (Technical and Financials)</td>
<td>At the end of the approved duration of the project</td>
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Section 8. Duration
The Duration of the grant can be up to 3 months.

Section 9. Budget Components
9.1. The grant is up to 100,000 QAR.
9.2. The budget components cover the following costs:
- Personnel Cost
- Equipment, Consumables, & Services Cost
- Miscellaneous Cost

Section 10. Proposal Screening
The submitted proposals will be subject to QNRF screening to ensure the completeness of the application.

Section 11. Proposal Evaluation
The review and decision process will be on a fast track basis (Fund/Not Fund) through a panel representing both academia and stakeholders. Please be aware, QNRF will not be able to give feedback on applications due to the rapid timescale of the evaluation process and grant distribution.

The evaluation criteria are listed below:

1. **Objectives, methodology, and outcome**
   Briefly, but clearly, explain the objectives of the project, the methodology to be used to achieve these objectives, in addition to the expected outcomes.

2. **Originality, feasibility, and merit**
   Demonstrate the originality of the objectives and methodology of the project. The objectives and methodology should not duplicate or overlap with previous work. Furthermore, show that the objectives of the projects are achievable, and that the outcomes are significant and feasible (technically, economically, etc.)

3. **Local resources**
   Identify and justify the local resources required to achieve the objectives, and demonstrate their availability and accessibility to the project.
4. **Local beneficiaries**  
Identify the local beneficiaries of the outcomes of the project and the extent of their benefit from it.

5. **Implementation and deployment plan**  
State the steps and measures intended to be taken to implement the outcomes of the project and identify the target entities and institutions of such implementation.

6. **Budget**  
Explain and justify the required budget and explain how the outcome of the project will represent a good return on the investment and value for money.

**Section 12. Post-Award and Payment**

12.1. The applicant is required to submit a monthly report that describes the progress made and a final report at the end of the project.

12.2. The payment by QNRF will be done on a reimbursement basis upon receipt and acceptance of the final report and based on the invoices submitted by the applicants within the approved budget limits.

**Section 13. Research Ethics and Integrity**

Applicants must observe the highest standard of integrity and ethical conduct. In this regard, Applicants are advised to refer to the relevant policies and regulations, including QNRF’s “Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements” document, available at link and REG at link.

**Section 14. Intellectual Property Policy**

QNRF will follow the Qatar Foundation (QF) IP Policy. Please consult the QNRF website for details on the applicable intellectual property policy http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/IP-Policy.

**Section 15. Inquiries**

For any inquiry regarding this RFP and the proposal submission process, please use the QNRF Support link at http://support.qnrf.org/index.php?/Tickets/Submit. Applicants can select the appropriate department and specify the topic of their query. QNRF’s response may be made publicly available in the Q&A section of the QNRF website.