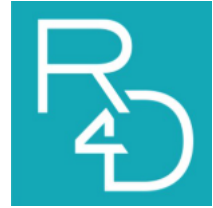




RESULTS FOR
DEVELOPMENT



Request for Cluster Coordinator Consultant for *Nigeria – Science and Technology Cluster Partnership (Project 1A)*

Accountable Grant Holder: Results for Development (R4D)

Contract Period: September 2026 – March 2027

Level of effort: Up to 70 days

Deadline for applications: 25 September 2026, 5:00pm UK/WAT time

Reporting to: Umar Kabo Idris, R4D Portfolio Manager, Nigeria

Results for Development Institute
1120 19TH Street, Suite 502 NW
Washington, DC 20036
USA
Email: uidris@r4d.org

1. About Results for Development (R4D)

Results for Development (R4D) is a leading non-profit global development partner. We collaborate with change agents around the world — government officials, civil society leaders and social innovators — to create strong systems that support healthy, educated people. We help our partners move from knowing their goal to knowing how to reach it. We combine global expertise in health, education and nutrition with analytic rigor, practical support for decision-making and implementation and access to peer problem-solving networks. Together with our partners, we build self-sustaining systems that serve everyone and deliver lasting results. Then we share what we learn so others can achieve results for development, too. www.R4D.org

2. R4D Program Overview

Results for Development (R4D) has been awarded an Accountable Grant by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to implement the Igwebuike portfolio — a Science, Technology and Innovation programme in Nigeria comprising three complementary projects. This Terms of Reference relates to Project 1A: the UK-Nigeria Science and Technology Cluster Partnership.

The cluster partnership aims to connect a strategically important Nigerian sector with relevant UK institutions and firms, creating a practical route for research, technical capability, and innovation to translate into policy influence and commercial partnerships, with clear institutional ownership from a relevant Nigerian institution. The grant period from September 2026 to March 2027 focuses on designing the cluster, confirming the sector and anchor institution, and initiating early joint collaboration between Nigerian and UK partners. Full operationalisation of the cluster is intended as a phase two objective beyond the grant period.

The Cluster Consultant will lead two distinct but connected workstreams: first, a focused scoping exercise in September 2026 to confirm the priority sector and identify the right anchor institution and UK partners; and second, the day-to-day coordination of the cluster from October 2026 through to March 2027. This combined role ensures that the knowledge and relationships built during the scoping phase are carried directly into implementation, avoiding any loss of context or momentum.

3. Purpose and Objective

The Cluster Consultant serves as the primary technical lead for the scoping exercise and the day-to-day operational coordinator of the cluster throughout the grant period. In the scoping phase, the consultant brings the methodological rigour and practical cluster design experience needed to produce a credible, evidence-based sector and institution recommendation. In the coordination phase, the consultant acts as the primary intermediary between the anchor institution, Nigerian cluster members, UK partners, and R4D, ensuring the cluster moves from design into early joint collaboration, with at least one concrete UK-Nigeria partnership opportunity initiated and documented before the end of the grant period.

4. Scope of Work

In pursuit of the above objectives, proposals are requested to deliver the services outlined below:

September 2026: Sector and Institution Scoping

- Review R4D's existing knowledge of candidate sectors, institutional relationships, and UK partnership landscape to inform the scoping approach
- Design and conduct structured conversations with a focused set of Nigerian government officials, research institution leads, private sector actors, and UK counterparts to test sector demand, institutional appetite, and UK partnership interest
- Draw on the Nigeria Innovation Cluster Exchange (NICE) cluster mapping and other available baseline data to inform the assessment without duplicating existing work
- Apply clear, documented criteria to assess candidate sectors and potential anchor institutions, producing an evidence-based recommendation
- Produce a short sector and institution recommendation note for review and agreement with R4D and FCDO before cluster design begins
- Participate in a virtual debrief with R4D and FCDO to present and discuss findings

October to November 2026: Cluster Design Workshop

- Work closely with the anchor institution and R4D to prepare for and facilitate the one-day Cluster Design Workshop in Abuja
- Identify and confirm founding cluster members, coordinate logistics and participant preparation
- Facilitate the workshop to produce a validated cluster model and agreed first round of joint activities
- Produce a workshop report documenting agreed membership, roles, and activity commitments
- Establish regular coordination touchpoints between cluster actors, documenting agreed communication channels and collaboration protocols

December 2026: Cluster Proposition Document

- Support R4D and the anchor institution to co-develop the Cluster Proposition Document, contributing on-the-ground knowledge of cluster member priorities, institutional dynamics, and sector context
- Coordinate feedback and input from cluster members during the review process
- Support the anchor institution to take ownership of the document as a founding institutional commitment

January to February 2027: Early Cluster Activation

- Coordinate delivery of early cluster activities across the three cluster cycle stages of Research, Policy, and Partnerships

- Manage communication and follow-through between cluster members, tracking progress against agreed activities and timelines
- Troubleshoot institutional friction as it arises and ensure quality assurance on cluster outputs
- Maintain active engagement with the anchor institution to support its growing leadership of the cluster

March 2027: Pilot Review Workshop and Close Out

- Facilitate the Pilot Review Workshop in Abuja, coordinating logistics, participant preparation, and documentation
- Support the anchor institution to lead the session, present early collaboration outputs and evidence to FCDO and other participants, and document a clear pathway for continuing cluster engagement beyond the grant period
- Contribute to internal MEL project alignment, the end of programme learning note and the next-phase sustainability plan

5. Deliverables

The following deliverables are expected across the engagement period. Payment will be made upon completion and sign-off of each deliverable by the R4D Portfolio Manager.

Deliverable	Completion Deadline
Deliverable 1 — Scoping methodology note outlining the approach, stakeholder engagement plan, and assessment criteria	Early October 2026
Deliverable 2 — Sector and institution recommendation note of no more than eight pages setting out the recommended priority sector, anchor institution candidate, and shortlisted UK partner candidates with supporting evidence	Early November 2026
Deliverable 3 — Workshop Report from the Cluster Design Workshop documenting the agreed cluster model, founding membership, and first round of joint activities	Late November 2026
Deliverable 4 — Monthly coordination notes (x4) documenting touchpoints, progress updates, and any issues arising across cluster member relationships	Ongoing Nov 2026 to Feb 2027
Deliverable 5 — At least one signed UK-Nigeria collaboration agreement or partnership commitment coordinated and documented, with evidence of anchor institution engagement	28 February 2027
Deliverable 6 — Pilot Review Workshop Report and contribution to end of programme learning note and next-phase sustainability plan.	31 March 2027

6. Required profile

Essential

- Direct hands-on experience designing and operationalising cluster models in comparable international development contexts
- Strong understanding of what makes a cluster work in practice, including sector selection, anchor institution identification, governance design, and early activation
- Demonstrated experience in convening and coordinating multi-stakeholder initiatives in Nigeria's STI, innovation, or private sector development landscape
- Strong existing relationships with Nigerian government agencies, research institutions, or private sector actors in relevant sectors
- Political understanding of how to navigate ministry and agency dynamics in Nigeria, with the ability to operate as a neutral convener rather than an advocate for any one actor
- Excellent facilitation and stakeholder management skills, with experience designing and running multi-stakeholder workshops
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English, with ability to produce clear and concise analytical and operational documents for government, private sector, and international development audiences
- Ability to work independently and manage competing priorities across a compressed implementation timeline
- Based in Nigeria with ability to travel within the country as required

Highly Desirable

- Experience working on FCDO-funded programmes or comparable UK government development initiatives
- Prior experience working in Nigeria or comparable West African contexts on cluster development, innovation ecosystem strengthening, or research-to-commercialisation programmes
- Familiarity with UK-Nigeria bilateral partnership initiatives and the broader UK development and innovation ecosystem
- Technical knowledge in one or more of the candidate sectors under consideration for the cluster
- Familiarity with the UK-Nigeria Enhanced Trade and Investment Partnership framework and its sectoral priorities

7. Working arrangements

Period of Performance: September 2026 to March 2027

Level of Effort: Up to 70 days. Day allocation across the period will be agreed with the R4D Portfolio Manager at the start of the engagement and reviewed monthly.

Location: Nigeria-based with regular in-person engagement with the anchor institution and Nigerian cluster members. Fieldwork and virtual engagement with UK partners and FCDO will also be required.

Reporting To: Umar Kabo Idris, R4D Portfolio Manager, Nigeria

Travel: Local transportation and associated expenses will be reimbursed upon receipt of proper documentation.

8. Application instructions

Please submit the following documents using the online submission form on R4D's Business Opportunities page:

- CV(s) of those that are going to be involved.
- A maximum 3-page document outlining:
 - Your interest in the role
 - Your experience that relates to the criteria in this request for proposals
 - An explanation of how you would approach the work
- A budget containing:
 - Preference for firm fixed price for each deliverable specified in the scope of work based on daily fee rate(s) and estimated level of effort assumptions.
 - Any anticipated expenses
 - Short commercial narrative explaining the reasons for your budget

The deadline for applications is 25th September 2026, 5:00pm UK/WAT time. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. A 45-minute interview with the R4D Nigeria STA-S team will likely take place w/c 28th September.

9. General Information

- All information contained in this RFP is proprietary. It is for the sole use of the Offeror in connection with bid response preparation and is not to be used by Offeror for any other purpose or revealed or disclosed in any manner to any other individuals and/or company without specific written permission from R4D.
- R4D reserves the right to make all decisions regarding this RFP, including the right to reject any proposals received in response to this RFP. Offerors understand that the issuance of this RFP does not create any obligation on the part of R4D to enter into any contract or to undertake any other obligation with respect to the requirements referred to herein.
- In the event that any modification to this RFP becomes necessary, R4D will publish updates in the same formats and locations as the original RFP.
- All costs incurred by Offeror in the preparation of its response to this RFP, and any oral presentations requested, shall be wholly absorbed by the Offeror.
- Former Employees and Board Members must disclose their prior relationship with Results for Development and should contact the point of contact listed in this RFP to verify eligibility to do business with R4D.