
Open Call for Institutional Partners to join the TCoE Helpdesk Network

1. Overview

1.1 The Tech Community of Expertise Helpdesk

Supported by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Tech Community of Expertise (TCoE) helps partner countries advance inclusive, responsible, and effective digital transformation. TCoE provides access to technical expertise and practical support to strengthen local technology ecosystems, build institutional capacity, inform responsible governance and policy frameworks, and support the adoption of technologies that respond to country priorities. The [TCoE Helpdesk](#) (which is managed by Results for Development) aims to provide rapid on-demand access to UK and global S&T expertise to enable FCDO Posts to respond to emerging partner priorities, inform policy and regulatory reform, explore technology adoption opportunities, scope future investment opportunities and develop partnerships.

Through this open call, TCoE invites qualified UK-based organisations and institutions to express interest in joining the TCoE Helpdesk Network. Network partners may be mobilised for demand-driven assignments that draw on their technical expertise, regional knowledge, and experience working with government and development stakeholders.

1.2 Results for Development Institute (R4D):

Results for Development (R4D) is a leading non-profit global development partner. We collaborate with change agents around the world to create strong systems that support healthy, educated people. 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

1.3 About the TCoE Helpdesk Network

Selected UK-based partners will become part of a pre-qualified network that can be mobilised through the TCoE Helpdesk to respond to demand-driven requests from FCDO Posts. Assignments may include rapid research, policy analysis, technical briefings, strategy support,

programme design, stakeholder facilitation, capacity strengthening, or targeted advisory support for partner institutions.

The TCoE Helpdesk is particularly interested in partners which can combine strong technical depth with either experience working on science and technology issues in the UK context or experience working globally and in low- and middle-income country contexts, including supporting government stakeholders, development partners, research institutions, private sector actors, and civil society organisations.

1.4 Priority Areas of Expertise

- **Frontier and emerging technologies:** Artificial intelligence, AgriTech, climate technology, engineering biology, biosciences, space technologies, and other emerging technology applications relevant to development and diplomacy.
- **Responsible and inclusive technology governance:** Digital, data, and AI governance, cyber resilience, standards and regulatory frameworks, digital inclusion, ethical technology adoption, and open-source approaches.
- **Innovation ecosystems and private sector development:** Technology ecosystem mapping, start-up and scale-up support, innovation policy, and entrepreneurship support.
- **Digital government and public service transformation:** Digital public infrastructure, government digital services, public sector innovation, service design, and technology-enabled delivery models.
- **Science, technology, and innovation policy:** Strategic S&T leadership, institutional capacity building, research-to-policy translation, technology diagnostics, and evidence-informed decision-making.

1.5 Types of Assignments

- Rapid evidence reviews, technical briefs, or policy notes.
- Technology ecosystem mapping, diagnostics, or opportunity assessments.
- Advice on digital, data, AI, cyber, or emerging technology governance frameworks.
- Support to programme design, implementation planning, monitoring, evaluation, and learning.
- Facilitation of workshops, roundtables, peer learning sessions, or technical consultations.
- Short-term embedded advisory support or targeted institutional capacity strengthening.

1.6 Which Institutions Should Apply

The call is open to UK-based organisations, research and academic institutions, think tanks, non-profit organisations, and universities with a strong track record in one or more of the priority

areas. Applicants should demonstrate the ability to deliver concise, high-quality, decision-ready outputs under short timelines and to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders.

Applications are especially encouraged from partners with deep experience working across countries where FCDO Posts may seek TCoE support. The TCoE welcomes partners with strong regional knowledge, local networks, and experience translating global technical expertise into context-specific recommendations. This call is not open to independent experts. Please check Results for Development's website and LinkedIn for future opportunities.

1.7 Minimum Requirements

- Demonstrated institutional expertise in one or more of the priority areas listed above.
- Institutional experience working with government stakeholders, development partners, research organisations, private sector actors, or multilateral and bilateral funders.
- Experts with strong analytical, written, facilitation, and communication skills, with the ability to produce clear, practical outputs for policy, delivery, non-technical, and technical audiences.
- Quality and clarity of previous outputs, publications, or comparable work products.
- Availability, responsiveness, and ability to deliver short-term assignments under time-sensitive Helpdesk timelines.
- Commitment to inclusive, ethical, context-sensitive ways of working, including equity, inclusion, safeguarding, and responsible technology principles.

1.8 Duration and Payment

Selected network partners may be engaged under a framework arrangement through 31 March 2027. Inclusion in the TCoE Helpdesk Network does not guarantee any minimum level of work, number of assignments, or payment. Assignments will be issued on a rolling, demand-driven basis as needs arise and will be subject to the partner's availability, relevant expertise, and R4D's approval of the specific scope of work. Rates, level of effort, deliverables, timelines, and payment terms will be determined and agreed for each assignment before work begins. Payment will be made per assignment, in accordance with the agreed scope, approved deliverables, and applicable contract terms.

2. General Information

2.1 Confidentiality/Proprietary Information

All information contained in this RFP is proprietary. It is for the sole use of the applicant in connection with bid response preparation and is not to be used by applicant for any other purpose or revealed or disclosed in any manner to any other individuals and/or company without specific written permission from R4D.

Materials submitted by the applicant in response to the RFP that are considered confidential/proprietary must be clearly marked as such at the time of submission. R4D will not disclose any information in any proposal submitted except as needed to evaluate the proposals.

2.2 Procurement Protocol

R4D reserves the right to make all decisions regarding this RFP, including the right to reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP. Applicants 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.

2.3 Addendum

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. Applicants who submit an intent to bid notification will receive updates via email.

2.4 Notification of Supplier Selection

Applicants will be notified via email of the results of the selection process.

2.5 RFP Response Preparation Cost

All costs incurred by the applicant in the preparation of its response to this RFP, and any oral presentations requested, shall be wholly absorbed by the applicant.

2.6 Contract Terms and Conditions

Engagement with selected applicants will be based on R4D's standard terms and conditions. It shall constitute the written agreement between applicant and R4D and shall not be binding until fully executed and delivered by both parties.

2.8 No Publicity

No publicity or news release pertaining to this RFP, responses to this RFP, or the award of any contract related to this bid document may be released without R4D's prior written approval.

2.9 Accuracy of Information

This RFP and other bid documents furnished by R4D may include errors, omissions, or deficiencies, and the accuracy and completeness of such documents is not guaranteed. In the event of such errors, omissions, or deficiencies are discovered by the applicant, it shall promptly notify R4D in writing. Corrected information will be provided to all applicants.

2.10 Former Employees and Board Members of Results for Development

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.

2.11 Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

Successful applicants will be required to certify in the contract agreement that they have existing or will adopt Safeguarding and PSEAH practices to ensure prevention, training and awareness raising, reporting and responding to incidents. Under the terms of this agreement the Vendor must:

- Adopt and adhere to the commitments outlined in the [R4D Safeguarding Policy at this link](#) (PDF copy available on request), unless the supplier's own policy is equal to or more stringent than R4D's policy at the time of entering into the agreement.
- Engage in Safe Recruitment practices.
- Ensure all staff are made aware of Safeguarding and PSEAH commitments.
- Implement functional and accessible reporting channels.
- Respond to concerns with a survivor-centered approach and in accordance with developed investigation processes and disciplinary standards.
- Report any credible allegations of Safeguarding or PSEAH violations regarding the work under this agreement to R4D immediately.

4. Application Instructions

Interested organisations should submit a concise expression of interest that includes the following:

- A brief organisational profile, including relevant experience and geographic focus.
- A summary of priority areas of expertise and examples of comparable assignments.
- Two to three examples of relevant outputs, publications, or project summaries.
- Indicative daily rates in GBP (including VAT) for a minimum of three labor categories (e.g. research associate, expert, senior consultant).
- Contact details for the lead applicant and any relevant partners.

Contact

For questions about this open call, please contact **TCOEHelpdesk@r4d.org**.