

BioPREVAIL Built Environment Challenge

Q&A Session Summary

Tuesday August 5, 2025

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM GMT+2

Online: [Video Recording](#)

Materials: [Presentation slides](#)

Hosted by the Global Health Security Fund: **Lisa McDonald**, President; **Darja Könning**, BioPREVAIL Program Manager; and **Eduardo Flores**, BioPREVAIL Project Manager.

Note: This document will be updated regularly as new questions arise. Please check back periodically for updates. Submit your questions to admin@bioprevail.org

Q 1. What is meant by “context-specific” and “locally sourced or manufactured” solutions?

Answer: “Context-specific” solutions are tailored to the environmental, economic, regulatory, and operational conditions of the setting in which a laboratory functions—such as climate, infrastructure, and workforce capacity. “Locally sourced or manufactured” solutions use materials, tools, or expertise available in the region or country of implementation, reducing reliance on global supply chains and improving long-term sustainability.

Q 2. How does the application and review process work, and what are the deadlines?

Answer: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis after the priority deadline on August 15, 2025, until one week after the late submission deadline on August 31, 2025. Early submission is encouraged for timely review.

Selected applicants will be contacted between late August and mid-September, and all applicants will be informed of results by the end of September. To be considered, all submissions must be made via the BioPREVAIL StartupTree platform.

Q 3. What kind of support will selected teams receive if chosen?

Answer: Selected teams will receive up to CAD 10,000 in financial support for prototype development, personalized mentorship, access to virtual training sessions, and recognition through BioPREVAIL’s communication channels. After the development

phase, projects may receive an additional CAD 10,000 to support prototype testing or copyrights.

Q 4. What are the expectations for sustainability, maintenance, and long-term feasibility in the proposals?

Answer: Proposals must include realistic operational and maintenance plans, using accessible parts and local supply chains. Solutions should be energy-efficient, cost-effective, and feasible to operate long-term within the available local expertise and resources. Solutions that can adapt to local challenges such as power instability, climate, and infrastructure constraints are strongly encouraged.

Q 5. How will intellectual property (IP) be handled, and what are applicants' responsibilities?

Answer: Applicants retain ownership of any intellectual property included in their submission. BioPREVAIL and its partners will review applications only for evaluation purposes and will not claim any IP rights. However, applicants are responsible for ensuring that their submissions do not infringe on existing IP rights, such as patents, trademarks, or copyrights. If selected projects progress to the implementation stage, further IP agreements may apply.

Q 6. Can you participate in multiple projects?

Answer: Yes, you can participate in multiple projects. If your ideas or solutions respond to the problem statement in at least one of the thematic areas, you are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal for each relevant project. There's no restriction on being involved in more than one, as long as each proposal aligns with the goals of the call. As always, we strongly encourage everyone to apply, even if you're unsure whether your idea perfectly fits — it's better to put your proposal forward and engage in the process.

Q 7. Can you apply if you are in a high-income country or is this specific for LMICs?

Answer: Yes, you can absolutely apply if you're based in a high-income country. The call is not restricted by geography. As mentioned during the session, *“any solution that you see a fit into the call for application description is welcome.”* What's important is that your proposal addresses the challenges outlined in the problem statement, specifically within resource-constrained settings.

We are looking for solutions that can make an impact in those environments, regardless of where the applicant is located. So, if your idea is relevant and has the potential to contribute meaningfully, we strongly encourage you to submit a proposal.

Q 8. Is this call limited to technical solutions or would it extend also to trainings or CoP formations?

Answer: The focus of this call is primarily on technical solutions that directly change how laboratories function, especially given that we are moving into a prototyping phase, where solutions will be tailored to specific contexts. As explained in the session:

"We would be looking for actual technical solutions that change the way the laboratory functions... getting things from concept to new."

That said, the team is open to seeing a wide range of ideas. While the call is not seeking traditional training or capacity-building proposals, there is space for approaches that rethink how capacity is strengthened—for example, through innovative tools, systems, or new ways of building Communities of Practice (CoPs). These would need to go beyond conventional models and be framed as transformative solutions with tangible impact in resource-constrained settings.

Q 9. Can I submit an architectural/engineer project that was already built for a Covid Center? I believe that it has room for improvements, and it could be used for future outbreaks. If so, what is the obligation to build a prototype and a pilot, regarding the high cost of a full building?

Answer: Yes, you are encouraged to submit your project if it aligns with the objectives outlined in the call. Previously built architectural or engineering solutions can still be relevant, especially if you believe there's potential for improvement or adaptation for future outbreak response.

That said, when it comes to large-scale or high-cost infrastructure projects, there may need to be further discussion with the organizing team and stakeholders. These types of proposals are more complex, and how they would move forward—particularly around prototyping or piloting—would depend on alignment with the challenge scope and available resources.

What's most important is that your proposal presents a clear and feasible solution that could have impact in resource-constrained settings. If it does, we welcome you to apply and explore how it could be supported through this process.

Q 10. Can you fund a study to assess effect of climate and heat stress in diagnostic and workforce and in addition employment use of sensors?

Answer: While the primary focus of the call is on practical, implementable solutions—especially those that can be prototyped and tailored to specific contexts— if the study is part of a broader solution that includes a clear, actionable outcome—such as the use of sensors or adaptive systems—and fits within the timeframe for development and piloting, we encourage you to apply. Research components are welcome, as long as they directly inform a practical intervention aligned with the challenge goals in resource-constrained settings.

Q 11. Can a partner submit several proposals? Our team has 5 proposals working with countries in Africa and the Caribbean

Answer: Yes, a partner can submit multiple proposals. There is no limit to the number of submissions from a single organization or team, as long as each proposal clearly aligns with the problem statement and addresses one or more of the thematic areas. If you have five distinct proposals that respond to the challenge—especially in diverse regional contexts like Africa and the Caribbean—you are strongly encouraged to submit them all.

Q 12. I'm a bachelor holder and with expertise and experience in laboratory, Can I meet the criteria to apply as investigator?

Answer: Yes, you can apply. The call does not require a specific academic title to be eligible. What matters most is the relevance of your experience, your understanding of the problem, and the strength of your proposed solution. If your background equips you to address the challenge effectively, you are encouraged to apply as an investigator or as part of a team.

Q 13. I am an engineer managing High Containment Labs in the DRC and have been sharing experience with other engineers in Africa. Can a proposal be centered on Operation and Maintenance in a region to facilitate labs sustainability?

Answer: Yes, absolutely. A proposal focused on improving operation and maintenance practices to support laboratory sustainability—especially in resource-constrained regions—is welcome. If your idea addresses the problem statement and fits within one of the thematic areas, particularly by offering practical and scalable solutions, we strongly encourage you to submit it.