**Rift Valley Institute**

**South Sudan Women’s Research Network**

**Call for Proposals: Research Grants – Round One**

**February 2022**

**About Rift Valley Institute**

The Rift Valley Institute (RVI) is an independent, non-profit organisation, founded in Sudan in 2001, currently working in eastern and central Africa. The aim of the Institute is to advance useful knowledge of the region and its diverse communities, bringing a better understanding of local realities to bear on social and political action. RVI has a number of long-running projects in South Sudan including working in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Museums and National Heritage on the development of the South Sudan National Archives, and the South Sudan Customary Authorities Project, which includes a significant emphasis on developing the skills of young South Sudanese researchers. For more information, visit: <https://riftvalley.net/projects/south-sudan-womens-research-network>.

**About the Grant**

In 2020, RVI secured a grant from the European Union with a key objective to strengthen women’s research in South Sudan. The project will increase the capacity, experience and the institutional power of women researchers, which will in turn increase and diversify knowledge production on developmental challenges, widening the scope for gender-sensitive development and good governance, and ultimately improving the development outcomes of women in South Sudan. To support this, the project has a research grant scheme under which successful applicants will be trained and mentored throughout the research process by experienced researchers from South Sudan, the wider region and beyond. South Sudan currently faces many challenges, ranging from social to environmental. A structural deficit in applied social science research capacity and underfunding of tertiary institutions means that there is often limited local ownership of research processes, their application and development outcomes.

RVI is therefore pleased to invite applications for research grants. There will be two rounds of applications and this call is for round one. Each round will award ten research grant positions so that at the end of the project twenty South Sudanese women researchers will have benefited. The maximum award is $8,000 per research project to cover all costs, including research time, travel, and equipment, to be paid in installments on the basis of agreed deliverables. Note that a researcher’s fees should not exceed a maximum of 60% of the total cost. Grants will last for a maximum duration of nine months. The grants are intended to support early career researchers to develop and implement a research project of their choice. See Annex II.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Alongside the financial support for the research project, RVI will provide:

1. Training on a range of research methodologies.
2. Mentoring and technical support throughout the research process from national, regional and international experts.
3. Peer review of final outputs.
4. Opportunities to engage in tailored research seminars.
5. Opportunities to present research findings at public lectures.
6. Space and internet connection at the RVI office in Juba. For those based outside Juba, RVI will seek to work with partners to provide similar support in other locations.

Creativity in research proposals is highly encouraged with regards to research topic, location, approach and outputs (e.g. articles, blogs, oral history collections). The use of diverse research methods is also encouraged.

**Eligibility**

Interested South Sudanese early career women researchers from the following institutions are eligible to apply.

* Institutions of higher learning.
* Civil society organisations.
* Non-governmental organisations.
* Community-based organisations.
* Religious institutions.
* Teachers at primary, secondary and technical schools.
* Independent researchers.
* Media houses.
* Private sector.

**Timeline**

RVI’s timeline for the call is as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Item** |
| 8 February 2022 | Publish call for grant applications |
| 18 February 2022 | Hold a question and answer session |
| 6 March 2022 | Deadline for submission of proposals |
| 21 March 2022 | Notify successful grantees |
| 28 March 2022 | Commence training programme and assign mentors |
| 4 April 2022 | Commence Fieldwork |
| 5 December 2022 | Deadline to submit completed research from Round One |

**How to Apply**

Fill in the attached application form (Annex I) and email it together with your Curriculum Vitae (CV) to the South Sudan Women’s Research Network Project Manager at [suzan.voga@riftvalley.net](mailto:suzan.voga@riftvalley.net) with the subject heading Call for Research Grant Proposals. Copy [anna.rowett@riftvalley.net](mailto:anna.rowett@riftvalley.net)

**Question and Answer Session**

RVI will hold a question and answer (Q&A) session at its office in Hai Kuwait Residential Area, Off Bilpam Road, opposite Nile Hope, Juba, on Friday 18 February 2022 from 10am to 1pm. Please call Suzan Voga on +211 929 554 623 or email [suzan.voga@riftvalley.net](mailto:suzan.voga@riftvalley.net) to reserve a place. RVI will answer questions from potential applicants during this Q&A session. For prospective applicants outside Juba, Q&A sessions will be organised and conducted over WhatsApp and/or telephone. All applicants should confirm attendance for the Q&A sessions by Tuesday 15 February 2022 at the latest.

**Annex I**

**Round One Research Grant Application Form**

Send your completed form and Curriculum Vitae by email to Suzan Voga [suzan.voga@riftvalley.net](mailto:suzan.voga@riftvalley.net) copying [anna.rowett@riftvalley.net](mailto:anna.rowett@riftvalley.net). Before filling in this form, please read *Call for Proposals: Research Grants – Round One.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION** | | | |
| **Name of Applicant** |  | | |
| **Sex** | ☐ Male | ☐ Female | |
| **Highest Level of Education attained**  *(Please )* | ☐ Masters Degree | ☐ Bachelor’s Degree | ☐ Certificate |
| ☐ Other *(specify)* |  | |
| **Affiliation**  *(Please  current affiliation)* | ☐ University | ☐ College | ☐ Teacher training institute |
| ☐ Civil society organisation | ☐ International non-governmental organisation | ☐ National non-governmental organisation |
| ☐ Community-based organisation | ☐ Religious institution | ☐ Technical school |
| ☐ Secondary school | ☐ Primary school | ☐ Private sector |
| ☐ Media house | ☐ Independent researcher | |
| ☐ Other *(specify)* |  | |
| **Email:** |  | **Telephone:** |  |

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| **PART 2: RESEARCH DETAILS** | | | |
| **Research Title** |  | | |
| **Project Type**  *e.g. oral research methods, photographic, archival, etc.* |  | | |
| **Location**  *Where the research will be conducted* |  | | |
| **Proposed Methodology**  *(300 words)* |  | | |
| **Research Objective(s)**  *(Not more than 3)* |  | | |
| **Research Purpose**  *(100 words)* |  | | |
| **Significance of the Research**  *(200 words)* |  | | |
| **Research Summary**  *(300 words)* |  | | |
| **Proposed Start Date:** | DD/MM/YYYY | **Duration in Months:** |  |

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| **PART 3: RESEARCH WORK PLAN** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Provide a detailed timetable of actual dates and corresponding research activities. Projects should have a maximum duration of nine months. Add columns and rows as needed.* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Activity** | **Month 1** | | | | **Month 2** | | | | **Month 3** | | | |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| **PART 4: BUDGET** | | | | |
| *Please provide a detailed budget with cost estimates. A researcher’s fees should not exceed a maximum of 60% of the total cost. No additional funds will be paid. The grants must include all research costs including travel and equipment. Add rows as needed* | | | | |
| **Item**  *Activity in Part 3 that requires money* | **Description** | **Unit** | **Unit Cost** | **Total** |
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| **Grand Total** | | | |  |

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| **PART 5: RESEARCH PRODUCT**  *What is the outcome, or possible product of your research? Please  one* | | | |
| ☐ Blog post | ☐ Short report | ☐ Long report | ☐ Article |
| ☐ Other *(specify)* |  | | |

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| **PART 6: DECLARATION** | | | |
| I declare that I have read the *Call for Proposals: Research Grants – Round One* and my application is in accordance to the call, and I have used the application form template provided. Upon being selected as a grant recipient, I agree to the following conditions of the grant:   * I shall be actively engaged in and have day-to-day control of the research process. * I shall attend trainings conducted by RVI. * I commit to attending mentoring sessions organised by RVI and led by their appointed mentor(s). * I commit to completing my research on the date I provided in the timeline and producing at least one tangible product. * I commit to attending tailored research seminars and participating actively. * I commit to attending public lectures and presenting my research findings. | | | |
| **Applicant’s Name** |  | | |
| **Signature** |  | **Date** |  |

**Annex II**

|  |  |
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| **Suggested Research Topics** | |
| Agriculture | |
| Environment and climate change | |
| Witchcraft and poisoning | |
| Role of women in poverty alleviation | |
| Women’s success stories: The case of widows | |
| Women’s role in gender empowerment | |
| Gender-based violence | |
| Public services: The realisation of the 35 percent | |
| Women setting the agenda |
| Protection of women: The case of the girl-child as compensation |
| Women and culture |
| Impact of forced marriage on schoolgirls |
| Women’s contribution to nation-building |
| Women’s histories: Women as subjects of law and legislation |
| Court processes victimising men |
| Role of women in conflict and mediation |
| Politics: Women in traditional leadership |
| Women’s challenges in the political space |
| Women and security |
| Urban and rural women engagement |
| Women as perpetrators of violence and inequalities |
| Mental health |
| Leaders and champions |
| Livelihoods: The case of crafts and pottery |
| Peace and governance |
| Community history |
| Socio-cultural construction |
| Socio-economic rights: Access to education, property inheritance and employment |
| Rural development |

Please note that you do not have to limit yourself to the above topics. You are encouraged to come up with your own topic of research if none of the above appeals to you.



This project is funded by the European Union

1. Participants (also prospective applicants) at the project launch, inception and planning meeting—held on 6 December 2021—suggested these topics during a brainstorming session. However, you are not required to limit yourself to them, but are encouraged to come up with your own. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)