

GiveWell Request for Information: Scaling Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Infants (IPTi) for Malaria

Summary

GiveWell is requesting information from organizations interested in supporting governments in bringing [Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Infants \(IPTi\) for malaria](#) to scale.

Questions are encouraged and may be submitted to ipti.rfi@givewell.org through December 11, 2020. Anonymized questions and responses will be [posted below](#).

Responses should be emailed to ipti.rfi@givewell.org before 5:00 pm Pacific on December 18, 2020.

Contents

[GiveWell Background](#)

[Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Infants for Malaria](#)

[RFI Instructions](#)

[After the RFI](#)

[Working with GiveWell](#)

[RFI Questions](#)

[Q&A](#)

GiveWell Background

[GiveWell](#) is a nonprofit dedicated to finding [outstanding, cost-effective giving opportunities](#) in global health and development and publishing our analyses to help donors decide where to give. In 2019, we directed \$150 million to our recommended giving opportunities. [Between 2015 and 2018, we directed between \\$38 million and \\$65 million per year combined to Malaria Consortium's seasonal malaria chemoprevention program and Against Malaria Foundation.](#)

GiveWell has a unique funding model. Some donors visit our website and make individual choices about where to give among our recommended giving opportunities. However, in most cases we direct money to the opportunities we believe to be the most cost-effective.

We typically select programs to fund according to the [criteria listed here](#). We will gladly respond to [clarifying questions](#) about our criteria and how they apply to this opportunity.

Transparency is a core GiveWell value (read about our transparency policy [here](#)). We intend to write reviews of all programs that we investigate in any depth. We strive to make all the reasoning behind our

decisions public for the benefit of donors deciding where to give, though we are [open to considering non-public information](#) in reviews. We will not publish any non-public information without organizations' explicit approval, and organizations always have the option of reviewing what we have written about them before we make it public. *We are not planning to publish materials submitted in response to this RFI, but we will publish information about organizations that receive planning and/or implementation grants.*

Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Infants for Malaria

Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Infants (IPTi) is the provision of malaria-preventive medications to infants, typically during their routine immunization visits in the first year of life.

Based on initial research, we think that IPTi for malaria may be a cost-effective, neglected giving opportunity (see our [research report](#) for more information).

While WHO has recommended IPTi since 2010, funding has been tied to requirements that may have hindered adoption. The WHO guidelines currently recommend that sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) be given during routine [Expanded Programme on Immunization](#) (EPI) vaccination visits at 10 weeks, 14 weeks, and 9 months of age, and that IPTi be conducted only where parasite resistance to SP is below 50%.

During a 2019 [WHO technical consultation](#) on malaria chemoprevention, participants agreed that relaxing some of the current recommendations in the WHO guidelines could encourage greater IPTi uptake. We are open to supporting more flexible approaches to IPTi implementation.

RFI Instructions

This RFI is the first information-gathering stage of a multi-stage program development process. The primary objective of this RFI is to identify organizations that have the experience and capacity to support IPTi implementation at scale.

To respond, submit the following to ipti.rfi@givewell.org with the subject line “2020 GiveWell IPTi RFI”:

- [Responses to questions](#) in any format
- Bio-paragraphs and/or CVs of up to five key staff
- 1-3 existing documents describing your activities and results in programs that are somewhat similar in scope or scale to IPTi. We strongly prefer that responding organizations not invest time polishing documents or preparing new reports.

Responses are due by **5:00 pm Pacific on December 18, 2020.**

What will we be looking for?

Below is a rough breakdown of how we plan to evaluate responses to this RFI, though we do not have an official scoring rubric and may deviate from this.

- Thoughtful and transparent reasoning (30%)
 - Transparency, especially about potential risk and weaknesses of a program

- Realism about big-picture vision and plans
- Clarity of communication
- Organizational capacity and experience (30%) ([see Q&A for more information](#))
 - Experience with IPTi specifically is not required.
 - Demonstrated experience in providing technical assistance to governments to bring service delivery to scale OR in delivering services directly to recipients at scale.
 - Track record of conducting strong monitoring and evaluation
 - Qualifications of key personnel
- Positioning (20%)
 - Local presence in target geographies
 - Existing global network and/or demonstrated ability to expand to new geographies
 - Role/influence in the field
- Alignment with GiveWell (15%)
 - Early program considerations clearly aimed at maximizing impact per dollar
 - Learning mindset
- Attention to detail/meeting the basic requirements of the RFI (5%)
 - [See Q&A below](#) for more detail on the word limits

Questions about the RFI process can be addressed to ipti.rfi@givewell.org by December 11, 2020, and responses to questions will be posted [here](#).

After the RFI

Additional information gathering

We may request phone meetings or additional information from a subset of organizations in January and February of 2021.

Funded GiveWell grant investigation

We may offer grants of \$50,000 to one or more organizations to conduct more detailed project planning to inform a GiveWell grant investigation. (see more in [Q&A below](#))

The goal of this stage of work would be to build out a more detailed project plan, monitoring and evaluation plan, and budget. A key output of this phase would be inputs for a GiveWell grant investigation and cost-effectiveness analysis ([see here](#) for an example of a recent technical assistance grant investigation summary). During this phase, organizations would work closely with GiveWell.

The GiveWell grant investigation will focus on:

- Feasibility of the program plan and likelihood of success at scale
- Cost-effectiveness of the intervention at scale
- Strength of proposed monitoring and evaluation plans
- [Qualitative impressions](#) of the organization

Initiating implementation

Conditional on a successful grant investigation, GiveWell will fund one or more organizations to conduct operational pilots and/or scaled implementation of IPTi, according to their project plans.

Our best guess is that initial piloting and/or implementation grants may be between \$250,000 and \$10 million, depending on scope and duration (see [Q&A for more information](#) on budget for implementation phase). We will consider grant renewal and/or scope expansion after the initial implementation grant is made.

Note that many funders are interested in supporting programs that ultimately lead to full transition to government. Our goal is to expand IPTi implementation even if that means that GiveWell provides significant funding over a long time horizon.

Working with GiveWell

Our impression from talking to grantees is that GiveWell operates differently from other funders. Below are some pointers to support your engagement with GiveWell:

- We strongly prefer to work with organizations that are candid with us about programmatic strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges, successes and problems. We prefer a level of transparency that can feel counterintuitive to organizations used to “selling” their programs. And while candor may not accrue immediately to your benefit, in the longer term it is the cornerstone of a strong relationship with GiveWell.
- While we do ask a lot from charities throughout a grant review process, we want to make the process as low-cost and smooth for you as we can. In general, we ask that you not create new written materials for us unless explicitly requested. We also encourage charities to tell us when answering a question will be very time-consuming, or when you think we are not asking the right questions or getting something wrong.

RFI Questions

Please include answers to the following questions in a written document. The document format, font, etc., are not important.

For organizations applying in partnership, please answer the organizational background questions #1-5 for each organization separately.

Organizational background

1. Name of organization
2. Type of entity
3. Total organizational revenue
4. What are your organization's top five sources of funding, by percentage of total revenue? ([see Q&A for more information](#))

(100-word limit per organization)

5. Which countries do you operate in? What is the nature of that operation, including permanent staff based in each country? ([see Q&A for more information](#))

(200-word limit per organization)

6. For organizations applying in partnership, what is the nature of your partnership?

(100-word limit)

IPTi narrative

Please adhere to the word limits ([see Q&A below](#) for more information on word limits); we've set these to be clear that we are not looking for fleshed-out plans or a concrete proposal. We are instead more interested in how you would approach thinking about this. We would expect more detailed plans to be developed in the program-planning phase.

1. Where would you focus geographically and why, OR how would you go about prioritizing where to focus geographically?
2. What would your goals be for the planning period? What activities would you undertake to achieve those goals?
3. What is your preliminary big-picture vision for the path to scale, OR how would you go about building that vision?

(300-word limit)

4. OPTIONAL: What else would you like GiveWell to know (about the program, about your organization, about what we might be getting wrong)?

(250-word limit)

Q&A

Questions about the RFI process can be submitted to ipti.rfi@givewell.org through December 11, 2020, and responses to questions will be posted here.

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