

## **CRDF GLOBAL**

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

#### **Building Networks Among Women to Share Best Practices and Experience Working in Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation Fellowship**

**Deadline: May 31, 2026**

#### **Summary:**

CRDF Global, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada under the Weapons Threat Reduction Program (WTRP), is launching an eight-month fellowship to strengthen the role of women in nuclear security and nonproliferation globally. This fellowship supports the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540, fostering inclusive, rights-based societies where all individuals, regardless of gender, can fully participate in economic, political, social, and cultural life.

The fellowship will select six pairs of female-identifying professionals from South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, including scientists, government representatives, academics, and nuclear security practitioners. Each pair will participate in a three-part program designed to build technical expertise, leadership skills, and professional networks:

1. **Five-Part Webinar Series (July 2026):** This virtual training series will equip fellows with the skills and knowledge to design and implement their mini-grant projects effectively. Sessions will cover nuclear security and nonproliferation principles, UNSCR 1540 implementation, project management, proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation, research and policy development, networking, and fundraising. Fellows will also receive guidance on integrating open-source tools, geospatial analysis, and nuclear risk reduction methods into their projects. Each pair will be assigned to a regional mentor who provides individualized feedback and facilitates connections with the broader nuclear security community.
2. **Mini-Grant Project Implementation (July 2026 – February 2027):** Following the webinar series, each pair will implement a joint mini-grant project (up to \$8,000 USD) that strengthens networks among women in nuclear security and nonproliferation within their home institutions. Projects should promote women's leadership and participation in decision-making, address institutional and structural barriers to inclusion, and include clear strategies for knowledge dissemination beyond direct participants. SMEs and mentors will provide ongoing guidance, including technical input, support for scalable interventions (mentorship programs, workshops, training sessions, surveys), and assistance in monitoring and evaluating measurable outcomes.
3. **Capstone In-Person Workshop (February 2027, Vienna, Austria):** The program culminates in a two-day workshop where fellows present project outcomes, share lessons learned, and explore collaborative opportunities for scaling impact. Activities include roundtable discussions on policy and gender equality, tabletop exercises leveraging technology for nuclear risk reduction, and site visits to the International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) to engage with female professionals in the field. SMEs will facilitate technical sessions, provide feedback, and support networking opportunities to further enhance leadership, skills, and global professional connections.

Through these components, the fellowship cultivates a sustainable, cross-regional network of women professionals equipped to advance inclusive approaches to nuclear security and nonproliferation, strengthen technical expertise, and promote gender equity in leadership roles.

CRDF Global seeks Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to provide technical guidance, mentorship, and professional support across all three program components. SMEs will play a key role in enhancing fellows' capacity to design and implement impactful projects while building a global network of women leaders in nuclear security.

### **Scope of work (SOW):**

The SME will support the fellowship by strengthening participants' technical knowledge, professional skills, and leadership in nuclear security and nonproliferation. SMEs will provide technical guidance, mentorship, and facilitation support across all fellowship components, working closely with CRDF Global staff, regional mentors, and fellows. Their contributions will help ensure strong project design, measurable outcomes, and sustainable professional networks for women in nuclear security globally.

SMEs are expected to engage in one, two, or all three fellowship components (development and delivery of virtual webinar(s), mentoring a pair(s) of fellows, and developing and delivering in-person training at the capstone workshop) and contribute to strengthening technical expertise, leadership development, and the long-term impact of fellows' mini-grant projects.

### Core Responsibilities

- Provide technical expertise on nuclear security, nonproliferation, and UNSCR 1540
- Mentor fellows on project design, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability
- Support development of monitoring and evaluation tools to measure impact
- Contribute to webinars, discussions, and capstone workshop activities
- Promote gender-inclusive leadership and women's participation in nuclear security
- Provide written inputs, feedback, and documentation of lessons learned
- Coordinate closely with CRDF Global and regional mentors throughout the program

### **Tasks and Deliverables:**

#### Task 1: Webinar Series Support (July 2026)

SMEs will support a five-part virtual webinar series, two hours each (one or several webinars) by delivering technical content, facilitating discussions, and guiding fellows in developing their mini-grant projects.

#### Deliverables:

- Deliver expert-led webinars on nuclear security, nonproliferation, and UNSCR 1540
- Participating in Q&A and post-webinar discussions with fellows

- Submit proposed topics for the five webinar sessions with application/RFP

#### Task 2: Mini-Grant Project Mentorship (July 2026 – February 2027)

SMEs will mentor assigned pair(s) of fellows virtually over an eight-month period, providing ongoing technical guidance and feedback as they implement their projects.

##### Deliverables:

- Provide guidance on project design, methodology, budgeting, and execution
- Review and provide written feedback on project plans and progress updates
- Support development of monitoring and evaluation tools (metrics and data collection)
- Advice on dissemination strategies and sustainability of project outcomes
- Connect fellows with relevant regional networks and technical resources

#### Task 3: Capstone In-Person Workshop Support (February 2027, Vienna, Austria)

SMEs will support the final capstone in-person two-days workshop (CRDF Global will arrange all travel and logistics), where fellows present outcomes and participate in technical and professional development activities.

##### Deliverables:

- Identify training topics for the capstone in-person workshop and submit with proposal
- Develop and deliver technical sessions and tabletop exercises on nuclear risk reduction
- Write workshop evaluation and SME report outlining observations, recommendations, and challenges
- Participate in networking activities, including site visits (e.g., IAEA)

### **Qualifications and Selection Criteria (SME/Mentor Contractor)**

SMEs may apply for all tasks or select specific components based on their expertise, interest, and availability (e.g., full or partial webinar facilitation, mentoring one or multiple grantee pairs, and/or capstone in-person workshop participation).

##### Required Qualifications

- Demonstrated expertise in nuclear security, nonproliferation, or related fields, including UNSCR 1540
- Experience designing and delivering virtual and in-person technical training or webinars
- Experience mentoring or training women in STEM, leadership, or nuclear security contexts
- Experience in project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation
- Professional proficiency in English
- Availability for virtual engagement in July 2026 and in-person participation in Vienna, Austria, February 2027

### Professional Experience and Skills

- Background in nuclear security, policy, research, or related technical fields
- Experience supporting training programs, workshops, or professional development initiatives
- Ability to provide structured technical guidance and produce written outputs
- Strong cross-cultural communication and collaboration skills
- Experience working in international or multi-regional contexts
- Ability to commit to all program phases (webinars, mentorship, and capstone workshop)
- Demonstrated reliability and ability to meet deliverables on time
- Commitment to gender-inclusive leadership and professional development

### **Proposal Submission Requirements:**

- Statement of Interest and Technical Capabilities
- Cost proposal
- CV(s)
- List of recent experience in the RFP Subject Matter area and applicable references/past performance
- Any Small or Disadvantaged Business Designations (Veteran Owned, HUB Zone, Women Owned, Disadvantaged Businesses)
- [NAICS Codes](#): 541620 Environmental Consulting Services- Small Business Threshold \$15 million, 541690 Other Scientific and Technical Consulting Services – \$15 million

### **Funding and Logistics:**

- SMEs and mentors will be compensated according to negotiated agreements based on experience and contribution.
- Travel, lodging, and per diem for the Vienna workshop will be fully covered by CRDF Global.

### **Timetable:**

*April 15: RFP Announcement*

*May 10: RFP Questions due*

*May 18: RFP Questions & Answers released*

*May 31: RFP submissions due*

*July 1: Contract start date*

## **Contractor Selection Criteria:**

CRDF Global will select SME contractor(s) that provide the best value in terms of relevant technical expertise, experience, proposed approach, and cost (if applicable). Applicants should demonstrate strong experience in nuclear security, nonproliferation, and UNSCR 1540, as well as the ability to deliver technical training (virtual and/or in-person) and provide mentorship to professionals, particularly women in STEM and nuclear security fields. Experience supporting project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, as well as familiarity with international and cross-regional contexts, will be considered advantageous.

CRDF Global prioritizes a safe and collaborative work environment in which diversity, equity, and inclusion are championed and actively promoted. CRDF Global provides equal opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status, or disability status. We are committed to fostering a respectful, inclusive, and engaging environment and promoting diverse participation and representation across all program activities.

## **Selection Criteria and Evaluation Methods:**

### Evaluation Factors

1. Technical Approach – Relevance and alignment of the proposed methods with the fellowship objectives, including mentoring, webinar support, mini-grant guidance, and capstone workshop contributions. Feasibility, clarity, and inclusion of proposed webinar topics and draft workshop agenda will be considered.
2. Key Personnel and Qualifications – Expertise in nuclear security, nonproliferation, and UNSCR 1540; experience mentoring women professionals in technical or STEM fields; facilitation, leadership, and cross-cultural skills; familiarity with international organizations (e.g., IAEA, WINS).
3. Management Approach – Clear plan for engagement across all program phases, including coordination with CRDF Global staff and regional mentors, mentoring methodology, progress monitoring, and deliverable quality assurance.
4. Cost/Price – Reasonableness and clarity of proposed cost relative to scope of work and program objectives.
5. Risk Management – Identification of potential challenges (e.g., scheduling, virtual engagement) and strategies to mitigate them.
6. Small Business Participation (if applicable) – Use of small businesses or partnerships where relevant.

### Evaluation Methods

Proposals will be evaluated using one of the following methods, as determined appropriate by CRDF Global:

7. Lowest Price, Technically Acceptable (LPTA): Selection of the lowest-cost proposal that meets all technical requirements.
8. Best Value Trade-Off: Selection based on the best combination of technical merit, experience, and cost to achieve fellowship objectives.

The award will be made to the proposal that demonstrates the strongest overall alignment with fellowship objectives, technical expertise, experience, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness, ensuring high-quality SME support across all program phases.

Evaluation Scoring Methodology:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following scoring system:

9. Excellent (5): Exceeds all requirements and offers superior benefits.
10. Good (4): Meets all requirements with some additional value.
11. Acceptable (3): Meets all minimum requirements.
12. Marginal (2): Meets some requirements but has deficiencies.
13. Unacceptable (1): Fails to meet requirements.

**Basis for Award:**

The award will be made to the offeror(s) whose proposal(s) represent the best value to CRDF Global and GAC, considering technical merit, relevant experience, and cost (if applicable). Proposals will be evaluated based on the SME's demonstrated expertise in nuclear security, nonproliferation, and UNSCR 1540; experience delivering virtual and/or in-person technical training; and ability to mentor and support professional development, particularly for women in STEM and nuclear security fields. Consideration will also be given to the quality, relevance, and feasibility of the proposed approach to webinars, mentorship, and/or capstone workshop contributions, as well as the SME's qualifications, availability, and ability to contribute across one or more fellowship components. Familiarity with international and cross-regional contexts, including engagement with organizations such as the IAEA or WINS, will be considered an asset. Cost reasonableness and overall value for money will be assessed in relation to the proposed scope of engagement, and CRDF Global may select one or multiple SMEs based on program needs.

**Submission:**

Proposals should be submitted to email: [GACgrants@crdfglobal.org](mailto:GACgrants@crdfglobal.org) no later than *5:00 PM EST time on May 30, 2026*. Proposals should be submitted as electronic documents in PDF, Word or Excel format.

Email subject line should be RFP – SME Support for Women in Nuclear Security Fellowship and the RFP should be names as [LAST NAME, FIRST NAME - WINS 2026. e.g., Adam, John – WINS 2026]

**Background:**

CRDF Global is an independent nonprofit organization founded in 1995 in response to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the threat of large-scale proliferation of weapons technology from the region. With support authorized by the Nunn-Lugar Act of 1991 and the Freedom Support Act of 1992, as well private foundation contributions, CRDF Global embarked on bolstering the global scientific community and fostering alternatives to weapons research.

In the past 25 years, our work has expanded to address ever-changing global concerns, but our commitment to ensuring the success of our partners remains the same. We are a leading provider of flexible logistical support, program design and management, and strategic capacity building programs in the areas of higher education, CBRNE security and nonproliferation, border security, cybersecurity, global health, technology entrepreneurship, and international professional exchanges.

With offices in Arlington, VA; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Amman, Jordan, CRDF Global's diverse staff and networks of local community and government stakeholders deliver tailored programs that meet specific regional needs in over 100 countries across the globe.

Vision Statement:

Our world, healthy, safe, and sustainable.

Mission Statement:

Safety, security, and sustainability through science, innovation, and collaboration.

Values:

We do the right thing.

We care about each other and the people we work with.

We work together to deliver excellence

CRDF Global provides equal opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran, or disabled status. We are committed to prioritizing an inclusive and collaborative space in which diversity and equity are discussed, championed, and supported. We acknowledge and honor the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals. We pledge ourselves to create and maintain an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.

More information is available at [www.crdfglobal.org](http://www.crdfglobal.org).

**Solicitation Terms & Conditions:**

Right to Select Suppliers. CRDF Global reserves the right to negotiate with and select all qualified suppliers at its own discretion and is not obligated to inform suppliers of the methods used in the selection process. CRDF Global reserves the right to dismiss any and/or all suppliers from the bid process and reject any and/or all proposals.

**Obligation.** This RFP does not bind or obligate CRDF Global in any way. CRDF Global makes no representation, either expressed or implied, that it will accept or approve in whole or in part any proposal submitted in response to this RFP. CRDF Global may reward, in whole or in part, the proposal at its sole discretion.

**Notification.** CRDF Global will notify bidders following completion of the evaluation process, as to whether or not bidders have been awarded the contract. The only information regarding the status of the evaluation of proposals that will be provided to any inquiring bidder shall be whether or not the inquiring bidder has been awarded the contract. CRDF Global may, at its sole discretion, inform any inquiring bidder of the reason(s) as to why it was not awarded the contract.

**Binding Period.** Following the due date of submission of this Proposal, the pricing included in this RFP shall be binding upon the supplier for the duration of the contract.

**Hold Harmless.** By submitting a response to the RFP, the bidder agrees that CRDF Global has sole discretion to select any and/or all suppliers. During or following the conclusion of this process, bidders waive their rights to damage whatsoever attributable to the selection process, materials provided, supplier selection, or any communication associated with the RFP process and supplier selection.

**Transfer to Final Contract.** The terms and conditions of the RFP, including the specifications and the completed proposal, will become at CRDF Global's sole discretion, part of the final contract (the "Agreement") between CRDF Global and the selected bidder. In the event that responses to the terms and conditions will materially impair a bidder's ability to respond to the RFP, bidder should notify CRDF Global in writing of the impairment. If bidder fails to object to any conditions incorporated herein, it shall mean that bidder agrees with and will comply with the conditions set forth herein.

**Exceptions.** Any exceptions to the terms and conditions or any additions which bidder may wish to include in the RFP, should be made in writing and included in the form of an addendum to the applicable Section in the RFP.

**CRDF Global Proprietary Information.** Supplier agrees that all non-public information contained in this document and communicated verbally in reference to this RFP by CRDF Global shall be received for the sole discretion and purpose of enabling the supplier to submit an accurate response to this RFP. The information contained in this RFP and disclosed during the course of negotiations and communications is proprietary in nature and under no circumstances to be disclosed to a third party without prior written consent from CRDF Global.

**Supplier Proprietary Information.** Information contained in the response to this RFP will be considered proprietary in nature if marked "confidential" or "proprietary". Such marked documents will not be disclosed to third parties outside CRDF Global with the exception of retained consultants under contractual confidentiality agreements.