

Queries and responses on the request for research proposals

Statebuilding in conflict-affected contexts: the role of taxation

Last updated 20 March 2024

Q.1 Is this research's data restricted to the Government Revenue Datasets (GRD)?

A.1 No, it is not. Researchers are welcome to use data from other credible sources outside of GRD.

Q.2 To ensure that our proposal meets your expectations and the required criteria, please guide us on the minimum research questions we should aim to answer. Should the research proposal take into account all three areas mentioned in the call or can the paper focus on only one question?

A.2 We do not expect a single research paper to answer all three questions, but rather focus on aspects of one or more areas mentioned in the Request for Research Proposals.

Q.3 I need to know if the topic will cover the role of taxation to fund a war in a country/state or the redistribution of wealth due to tax during wartime so it will prevent another conflict in the future. Can my research also focus on the causal relationship between conflicts and taxation?

A.3 The exact topic of the research will be decided by the researcher themselves. We seek proposals from researchers working on conflict analysis, statebuilding, peacebuilding, taxation, or other related fields who would like to contribute to the project. We are particularly interested in papers with a strong empirical contribution to the relationship between taxation and conflict and implications for statebuilding in conflict-affected contexts, but also welcome strong theoretical contributions with relevance to this area of research. In other words, you are welcome to submit a proposal that examines the effect of conflict on taxation but also proposals examining the effect of wartime taxation on peace.

Q.4 Is the submission only the abstract, the research proposal, or the incomplete paper?

A.4 The submission should consist of the following elements:

- (1) an up-to-date CV for each author; and
- (2) an extended abstract of 500–1500 words that summarizes the research question, data, and proposed methods for the analysis in sufficient detail to warrant an evaluation.

Please note that the submission of proposals is done electronically by using the relevant online application form on the RfRP [announcement page](#).

Q.5 Is it possible to submit a proposal for a completed, previously unpublished paper?

A.5 Yes, it is. The submission should consist of: (1) an up-to-date CV for each author; and (2) an extended abstract of 500–1500 words that summarizes the research question, data, and proposed methods for the analysis in sufficient detail to warrant an evaluation.

Q.6 Is it possible to submit more than one research proposal as long as they align with the focus areas of the RfRP?

A.6 Yes, it is possible for the same researcher to submit more than one research proposal during the call for proposals.

Q.7 I am currently a PhD student. Can I still apply for the call without a supervisor on the topic? Can I team up with other scholars if my proposal is in sync with their ideas? Or should I find a supervisor and then apply?

A.7 Proposals from individuals or groups of individuals are welcomed. You do not need to have completed a PhD. A supervisor is not required to apply. However, you are expected to be able to conduct the research on your own if you applied alone, or within the team of researchers if you applied as a team. We will not provide supervision.

Q.8 I am currently working as a faculty in a non-profit organization. Should the submission be through my employer or can I submit a proposal as an individual?

A.8 This depends on the contract you hold with your employer. For UNU-WIDER, it is permissible to apply either through your affiliated not-for-profit organization or individually.

Q.9 Is there expectation that papers will be predominantly quantitative focused, or can proposals use a wide range of methodologies including qualitative research?

A.9 There is no expectation to rely on quantitative methods. We welcome any rigorous application of an empirical research design.

Q.10 Regarding professional journal publication, are there any plans for UNU-WIDER to consider a special issue or are authors expected to submit to journals and then get the transfer of copyright from UNU-WIDER?

A.10 UNU-WIDER aims to publish all the selected proposals in the WIDER Working Paper Series. After publication in the WIDER Working Paper Series, UNU-WIDER can, on request, transfer copyright to the contract holder—any material published thereafter should carry due acknowledgement of UNU-WIDER as the original commissioning body. The aim is that these papers will be included in a book proposal or published in high-quality journals in economics, political science, development studies, or related fields.

Q.11 Does the call include a geographical focus and is there a limitation on types of conflict, for instance, does ‘criminal wars’ in Latin America fall within the scope of the call?

A.11 We are interested in proposals focusing on violent conflict, not only war/post-war settings. Proposals from all regions are welcome.

Q.12 Should the proposal focus on one or a few research questions?

A.12 The proposals should be for a single paper only. However, you are welcome to submit several proposals if you wish.

Q.13 Can the lead researcher be from any discipline, or do they need to be from the field of economics?

A.13 We welcome proposals from researchers of any discipline working on conflict analysis, statebuilding, peacebuilding, taxation or other related fields who would like to contribute to the project.

Q.14 Is a full proposal required or is an extended abstract of 500-1500 words that summarizes the research question, data, and proposed methods for the analysis sufficient?

A.14 We will evaluate submissions based on the extended abstract alone. There will be no request of a fully developed research proposal. Researchers are, however, expected to deliver a first draft of the research paper by 15 November 2024.

On information related to WIDER Working Paper Series, please visit our [information for authors](#) page.