BEYOND COVID-19:

Pivoting from Crisis to New Opportunities

A proposal for a global, multi-year, and cross-sectoral collaboration between academia and public, private, and non-profit leaders to better respond to COVID-19 and help rebuild a thriving world.

The Proposal

COVID-19 is the greatest global disruption of the past century. Even as we work to recover, we have a window of opportunity to do more – but only if we make use of the lessons learned and capitalize on emergent innovations sparked by the pandemic. We propose to work in 10+ regional sites across the world. Researchers and leading practitioners will collaboratively generate the knowledge needed for both immediate and longer-term response, test and refine innovation improvements in all sectors, and build the response capacity required for crises.

The Impact

Now more than ever, we hope our work will help build a thriving world for all. We aim to do so by ameliorating COVID's adverse impact and enabling progressive innovations across all sectors.

A few examples include:

- **Rebuild Human Capital:** Reduce COVID-related mortality and morbidity and address learning losses

- **Expand Assistance:** Expand and refine economic assistance, food security, and job access

- **Raise Productivity:** Sustain innovation and support productivity growth in enterprises

- **Build Resilience:** Stabilize the economy and create fiscal, political, and administrative capability

The Center for International Development at Harvard University

As Harvard University's leading hub in international development, CID offers 100+ faculty experts in economics, public policy and governance, business and finance, education, technology, environment, global health and more. Bringing a vast depth and diversity of development expertise and experience, CID has been at the forefront of COVID response efforts throughout the world.

Engage with Us

To succeed in this collective initiative, we seek your collaboration:

- **Policymakers:** Access and monitor real-time trends to successfully act, work together for evidence-based policy responses, and build skills to manage crises

- **Private and Non-Profit Leaders:** Leverage lessons learned to boost productivity and innovation, deliver COVID response services more effectively and systematically

- **Researchers:** Produce high-quality research on COVID, design and evaluate innovative solutions, access new data, and contribute expertise to policy

- **Funders and Supporters:** Increase effectiveness of COVID support and facilitate effective exchange and coordination among global efforts

If interested in supporting and collaborating on any or all aspects of this proposal, please contact Fay Terrett at **fay_terrett@hks.harvard.edu**. The proposal outline is included on the next page. The full proposal and budget are available upon request.

At a Glance: Our Plan for Change

Site Selection

Select 10+ regional sites across the developing world that are interested in or already coordinating responses to COVID and engaging in multi-sectoral development reforms

Global Hub Setup

Set up our central coordination and dissemination hub at CID@Harvard to coordinate regional sites and facilitate global collaboration and impact

Convene Global and Local Teams

Engage local and international researchers, practitioners, civil society, and private sector leaders to assemble each regional site team as well as establish a global advisory team at the hub

Conduct Global COVID Life Panel

Collect cross-country household and firm-level data every 6 months on multiple indicators (e.g. labor, education, food security, production) as well as access existing big data and administrative records, to identify key trends on COVID's impact and produce a data dashboard for public and researcher use

Identify Areas of Collaboration

Combine feedback from regional teams, policy sounding boards, and analysis of survey and administrative data to identify the biggest needs at each regional site and related knowledge, policy, and practice gaps

Enable Immediate Response

Support sites to address specific pressing issues identified in their regions. Track progress and use data to adjust and recalibrate responses

Incubate Research-Policy Innovations

Address the medium- and longer-term knowledge and response gaps and leverage growth opportunities by incubating multi-year policy-research engagements with site collaborators through an annual Request for Proposals process for travel, pilot, and full study grants

Build Capabilities

Deliver CID@Harvard faculty-led, blended learning training sessions for site collaborator teams to build the delivery and research capabilities needed for immediate response and research-policy work

Synthesize & Disseminate

Disseminate generated insights, knowledge, and tools developed at regional and global levels through policy briefs, practitioner guides, tool-kits, and additional convening activities, such as conferences, expert-led public webinars, communities of practices, and data visualization platforms