RiGHT Foundation

Request for Proposals 2026

Product Development Award

Targeted Call

Request for Proposals: PDA Targeted Call

Diagnostics for Ebola Outbreak Preparedness and Response

Executive Summary

The RIGHT Foundation invites proposals for the 2026 Product Development Award (PDA) Targeted Call: **Diagnostics for Ebola Outbreak Preparedness and Response**.

This Targeted Call supports existing diagnostic products or platforms with proof-of-concept or preliminary performance data to improve their potential use in low- and middle-income country (LMIC) settings and generate evidence that can strengthen Ebola disease diagnostic preparedness and response.

The recent outbreak of Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) has highlighted persistent diagnostic gaps, including limited availability of diagnostics suitable for decentralized use, delays associated with centralized laboratory testing, and the need for improved diagnostic performance under resource-constrained conditions. [1,3,5]

Priority technologies include point-of-care molecular diagnostics and rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs). Other diagnostic approaches may also be considered where strongly justified within the scope of this call.

Applications must be submitted through the RIGHT Foundation Grant Management System by **18 August 2026, 10:00 AM Korea Standard Time (KST)**.

1. Introduction

1.1. About the RIGHT Foundation and the Product Development Award

The RIGHT Foundation is a non-profit global health R&D funding organization established through a partnership among the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Korean life sciences industry, and the Gates Foundation. The Foundation supports the development of vaccines, therapeutics, biologics, and diagnostics to reduce the burden of infectious diseases that disproportionately affect people living in LMICs.

The Product Development Award (PDA) supports product-oriented R&D with a clear pathway toward implementation, regulatory approval, procurement, policy adoption, or other mechanisms that improve equitable access. This Targeted Call addresses a specific public health priority.

1.2. Public Health Context

Ebola disease remains a recurring public health threat across multiple *Orthoebolavirus* species. [2,7]

The 2026 Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda has highlighted persistent diagnostic gaps, including reliance on centralized laboratory testing, delays in specimen transport and processing, limited availability of diagnostics suitable for decentralized use, and the need for improved performance under resource-constrained conditions. [1,3,5]

WHO has added the first molecular diagnostic test for Bundibugyo virus to its Emergency Use Listing (EUL), helping facilitate access to a quality-assured diagnostic product during the current public health emergency. [4]

Recent global initiatives, including activities by FIND and the Gates Foundation Grand Challenges program, similarly highlight the need to advance decentralized diagnostics for Ebola outbreak settings. [5,6]

Through this Targeted Call, the RIGHT Foundation seeks to support existing diagnostic products or platforms that can strengthen preparedness and response while generating evidence that may contribute to diagnostic capacity during the current public health emergency, where feasible.

2. Award Description

Category	Description
Objective	To advance and validate existing diagnostic products or technologies that strengthen Ebola disease diagnostic preparedness and response in LMIC settings
Target Health Conditions	Ebola disease, including Bundibugyo virus disease. Diagnostic products addressing broader filovirus coverage may also be considered where supported by a clear public health need and scientific rationale.
Product Type	Diagnostics
Diagnostic Modalities	• Point-of-care molecular diagnostics • Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) • Other diagnostic modalities, where strongly justified
Project Entry Point	Existing diagnostic products, platforms, or technologies with proof-of-concept or preliminary performance data
Funding Scope	Product adaptation, analytical and/or clinical performance validation, operational optimization, field-use assessment, and implementation-enabling evidence generation
Award Amount	Up to 500 million Korean won (KRW) per project
Project Duration	Up to 9 months
Co-funding Requirement	• Required for applicant teams that include a for-profit entity: at least 50% of total project costs in cash and/or in-kind contributions • May be waived for teams consisting solely of eligible non-profit entities

Category	Description
Partnership Requirements	• Inclusion of at least one Korean legal entity making a significant contribution to the proposed project • Collaboration with LMIC-based institutions is strongly encouraged where relevant to the proposed work
Global Access Commitment	Required to comply with the RIGHT Foundation Global Access Policy and provide a clear implementation plan for achieving Global Access

3. Funding Scope

Projects should advance existing diagnostic products or platforms toward practical use in LMIC settings by building on proof-of-concept or preliminary performance data and generating evidence relevant to Ebola disease diagnostic preparedness and response.

The RIGHT Foundation is particularly interested in projects that:

- Address a clearly defined public health need in LMIC outbreak settings
- Demonstrate meaningful advancement over current diagnostic practice or relevant comparator technologies
- Improve product attributes such as performance, operational suitability, affordability, accessibility, or usability
- Generate evidence supporting regulatory review, independent performance evaluation, procurement consideration, or public health implementation
- Present a credible pathway to continued product development and equitable access in LMICs

Broader filovirus coverage may provide additional public health value where scientifically and operationally justified. Applicants should clearly explain the intended use case and avoid unnecessary technical complexity.

3.1. Eligible Activities

Projects may include one or more of the following activities.

Activity	Illustrative examples
Product adaptation	Adaptation or optimization of an existing diagnostic product or platform for Bundibugyo virus or other orthoebolaviruses, including assay design, reagents, workflow, software, or device operation
Performance validation	Analytical and/or clinical performance evaluation using appropriate specimens or reference materials, including sensitivity, specificity, limit of detection, reproducibility, cross-reactivity, or comparison with relevant comparator technologies
Operational optimization	Improvements to workflow, sample preparation, turnaround time, reagent stability, storage, transport, usability, affordability, manufacturability, or other characteristics relevant to intended-use settings

Activity	Illustrative examples
Field-use assessment	Evaluation of operational feasibility, usability, specimen handling, biosafety, training requirements, supply considerations, or other factors supporting implementation in decentralized or resource-constrained settings

3.2. Diagnostic Modality Considerations

Diagnostic Modality	Considerations
Point-of-care molecular diagnostic	• Proposals should demonstrate a credible pathway toward decentralized testing, including true point-of-care or near-patient use where appropriate [3,5] • Applicants should address operational simplicity, affordability, infrastructure requirements, and performance relative to currently available molecular diagnostic platforms [3]
Rapid diagnostic test (RDT)	• Proposals should demonstrate a credible strategy to improve diagnostic performance, particularly sensitivity, while maintaining rapid turnaround time, ease of use, affordability, and suitability for decentralized deployment in LMIC settings [5]
Other diagnostic modality	• Alternative diagnostic approaches may be considered where applicants provide a compelling scientific rationale, demonstrate clear public health relevance, and show alignment with the objectives of this Targeted Call

3.3. Activities Not Supported

The following activities are **not supported** under this Targeted Call:

- Basic or discovery-stage research without a defined diagnostic product development pathway
- Development of entirely new technology platforms without proof-of-concept or preliminary performance data
- Purchase of capital equipment, construction of facilities, or establishment of research infrastructure
- Technologies that do not demonstrate a meaningful advantage over current practice or relevant comparator products already in development
- Proposals that do not demonstrate a clear use case relevant to LMIC outbreak settings
- Proposals that do not provide sufficient evidence to support the scientific rationale for the proposed work
- Product concepts that are unlikely to support equitable access in LMICs because of prohibitive cost, excessive infrastructure requirements, or unrealistic implementation assumptions

4. What We Look For

Successful proposals should clearly explain not only what activities will be undertaken, but also why those activities are appropriate for the intended users, operating environment, and public

health context.

Characteristic	What RIGHT Looks For
Clear public health value	A well-defined public health need, intended use case, target users, and target setting, with a clear explanation of how the proposed product could improve diagnosis in LMIC outbreak settings
Meaningful and credible product advancement	A technically sound development plan supported by proof-of-concept or preliminary performance data, with realistic objectives and measurable milestones achievable within the project period
Operational and implementation relevance	Consideration of usability, affordability, infrastructure requirements, specimen handling, reagent stability, workflow, manufacturing, supply, or other factors that may influence future adoption
Strong partnerships	A project team with complementary expertise and, where appropriate, partnerships that strengthen product development, validation, field evaluation, regulatory planning, manufacturing, or future implementation
Pathway beyond the award period	A credible strategy describing how the proposed work could support regulatory review, independent evaluation, procurement consideration, implementation through public health systems, or continued product development

5. Eligibility Criteria

5.1. Applicant Team

Applications must include **at least one Korean legal entity** with relevant R&D expertise that makes a significant contribution to the proposed project. The Korean entity may participate as either the Principal Investigator Organization or a Collaborator Organization.

Collaboration with institutions in LMICs—including public health agencies, healthcare institutions, research organizations, reference laboratories, manufacturers, or other relevant partners—is strongly encouraged where appropriate to the proposed work.

5.2. Eligible Organizations

Eligible Korean and international partners may include organizations with relevant expertise in life sciences, diagnostics, public health, healthcare, or related fields, including:

- For-profit companies
- Non-profit research organizations and foundations
- Academic institutions
- Government research institutions
- Public health laboratories, healthcare institutions, and other organizations with relevant scientific, technical, manufacturing, regulatory, implementation, or public health expertise

5.3. Commitment to Global Access

As a funding condition, the Principal Investigator Organization and all Collaborator Organizations will be required to agree to the RIGHT Foundation Global Access Policy and to articulate a clear path to achieving Global Access.

Applicants should describe how their proposed product development, manufacturing, regulatory, commercialization, intellectual property, and partnership strategies will support equitable access in LMICs.

5.4. Co-funding Requirement

For Product Development Awards (PDA), the RIGHT Foundation provides funding for up to 50% of the total project cost. Applicant teams are expected to secure the remaining project cost through cash and/or in-kind contributions.

The co-funding requirement may be waived for applicant teams consisting solely of eligible non-profit organizations, including academic institutions, government institutions, and non-profit research organizations.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be evaluated through the RIGHT Foundation's established review process using the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criterion	Assessment Considerations
Strategic and Public Health Relevance	• Alignment with the objectives of this Targeted Call and the RIGHT Foundation's mission • Relevance to unmet public health needs in LMICs • Clarity and appropriateness of the intended use case, target users, and intended use settings • Potential contribution to strengthening diagnostic preparedness and response for Ebola disease
Scientific and Technical Merit	• Scientific rationale, technical quality, feasibility of the proposed work, strength of supporting evidence, and likelihood of achieving the proposed objectives and milestones within the proposed project period
Potential for Product Advancement and Implementation	• Expected contribution of the proposed work to advancing the proposed product toward future regulatory review, independent performance evaluation, procurement consideration, implementation through public health systems, or continued product development • Operational suitability for the intended LMIC settings, including ease of use, affordability, infrastructure requirements, and manufacturing and supply feasibility

Evaluation Criterion	Assessment Considerations
	• Degree of differentiation from current diagnostic practice or relevant comparator products and technologies under development
Project Team and Partnerships	• Qualifications and complementary expertise of the project team • Appropriateness of the partnership structure • Access to the scientific, technical, clinical, manufacturing, regulatory, implementation, or public health capabilities required to successfully deliver the proposed work
Global Access	• Commitment to the RIGHT Foundation Global Access Policy and the credibility of the proposed approach to achieving Global Access, including appropriate development, manufacturing, regulatory, commercialization, intellectual property, and partnership strategies to support equitable and sustainable access in LMICs

7. Application Submission

Applications must be submitted through the RIGHT Foundation Grant Management System (GMS) by the deadline specified below.

Deadline: 18 August 2026, 10:00 AM Korea Standard Time (KST)

Applicants should follow the RFP Instructions for detailed guidance on application requirements, submission procedures, and required documents.

8. References

[1] World Health Organization. Disease Outbreak News: *Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus — Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda (DON613)*. 2026.

[2] World Health Organization. *Ebola disease – Fact Sheet*.

[3] Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. *Molecular Diagnostic Tests (RT-PCR) for Ebola Virus Bundibugyo Strain*. 2026.

[4] World Health Organization. *WHO adds first diagnostic test for Ebola Bundibugyo virus to its Emergency Use Listing*. 2026.

[5] FIND. *Ebola*. 2026.

[6] Gates Foundation Grand Challenges. Innovations in Decentralized Pan-*Orthoebolavirus* Diagnostics. 2026.

[7] U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Ebola (Ebola Virus Disease)*.

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