

February 9, 2024

Dear CSDE,

We write to request matching funds for a PHI Tier 2 Application, “Overcoming gender-based barriers to women in the healthcare workforce in northern Nigeria” a randomized evaluation of Girls 4 Health,” to be submitted on March 1, 2024.

To borrow from our letter of intent:

*Nigeria’s healthcare system is underperforming and underdeveloped (Welcome 2011), but the problem is most severe in northern Nigeria (Wollum et al. 2015). Country-wide, Nigeria has less than 15% of the necessary doctors to meet World Health Organization standards (Ighobor 2023), yet northern Nigeria has even fewer health workers and health training institutions than other regions, despite having a larger population and higher levels of ill health (Adamu et al. 2018).*

*These deficits manifest severely in maternal and child health; despite having 2.5% of the world’s population, Nigeria has 13% of global maternal deaths (NPC and IFC, 2014). Gender mismatch likely worsens the problem of understaffing. Cultural norms lead women to prefer seeking care from women (Ajayi et al. 2023), but the healthcare workforce in northern Nigeria is male-dominated (Adamu et al. 2018). Estimates suggest that only 10-15% of the skilled healthcare workforce is female (PATHS 2 2010).*

*Strengthening the female healthcare workforce has considerable potential to improve health outcomes in northern Nigeria by increasing antenatal care and facility-based deliveries (Uzundu et al. 2015). Girls 4 Health (G4H), a project by a community organization called the Centre for Girls’ Education (CGE) in northern Nigeria, targets the first step of this process: convincing and enabling high-performing adolescent girls to pursue careers as skilled health care workers.*

In conjunction with CGE, myself, Dr. Sherr and PhD student Jiayuan Wang will conduct a cluster randomized control trial of Girls 4 Health from March 2024 to July 2025. We are seeking funds from PHI to support a midline survey in August 2024, allowing us to reduce attrition, and collect data on implementation quality and intermediate attitudinal and behavioral outcomes.

Without matching funds from CSDE, however, the project will be difficult to complete. The amount we’re requesting from PHI – \$64,900 – is likely to barely cover the expenses of conducting the midline survey. As such, we have almost no funds available to support cleaning and analyzing the data from the survey. We seek matching support from CSDE to help us hire Jiayuan Wang (a co-PI on the proposal, a second year PhD student at the Evans School, and a CSDE trainee) as a research assistant for one quarter.

Please let me know if we can provide any other information towards this request! We appreciate your consideration.

Best regards,

Isabelle Cohen