

Moving Minds Alliance 2025-2026 Research Fellowship Program

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MENTOR APPLICATIONS

Introduction

The Moving Minds Alliance (MMA) Research Fellowship Program supports local researchers in the Global South to conduct research on issues related to young children (aged 0-8 years) and their caregivers in emergency contexts. For the 2025-26 cohort, research will have a specific focus on Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Climate Emergencies.

MMA is now actively recruiting Mentors for the 2025-26 cohort of Fellows. This document outlines the roles and responsibilities of Mentors who will provide guidance and support to Research Fellows throughout the 12-month program.

Fellowship Overview

The 2025-26 MMA Research Fellowship Programme will support Research Fellows from the Global South to conduct research relevant to their country or local context. Their research will address critical knowledge gaps related to the impact of climate emergencies on young children, including mental health, programmatic interventions, post-reconstruction efforts, child-friendly policies, and policy research. Fellows will receive a stipend, participate in a community of practice, and have opportunities for knowledge sharing and dissemination.

Time Commitment

Mentors will be expected to meet with their Fellow on a regular basis (suggested to meet monthly, approximately 2-3 hours per month) and to meet with the MMA Fellowship Programme Team to share progress of your experience on a quarterly basis (1-hour per quarter or according to the needs of the programme team). The expected time commitment may vary depending on the specific needs of the Fellow and the complexity of the research project.

Mentor Responsibilities

Mentors will be matched with Fellows based on (any combination of) research interest, geography, and cultural relevance, and will provide support to Fellows throughout the duration of the Fellowship, through the following:

❖ Mentoring and Guidance:

- Provide regular guidance and support to the assigned Research Fellow on all aspects of their research project.
- Offer expert advice on research design, methodology, data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
- Assist the Fellow in navigating ethical considerations and obtaining necessary approvals.
- Provide constructive feedback on drafts of the final research report, presentation, and publication.
- Facilitate critical thinking and problem-solving throughout the research process.

❖ Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration:

- Share relevant research literature and resources with the Fellow.
- Connect the Fellow with other relevant researchers, practitioners, and organisations (as needed).
- Encourage the Fellow's participation in the MMA Research Forum and other relevant learning

events.

- Support the Fellow in disseminating their research findings through publications, presentations, and other appropriate channels.

❖ **Communication and Coordination:**

- Maintain regular communication with the Fellow through agreed-upon channels (e.g., email, video calls, in-person meetings).
- Provide timely feedback and address any concerns raised by the Fellow.
- Communicate regularly with the MMA Research Forum team as needed regarding the Fellow's progress and any challenges encountered.

❖ **Commitment and Availability:**

- Commit to providing consistent and high-quality mentoring throughout the 12-month program.
- Be available for regular meetings and communication with the Fellow.
- Be available for regular meetings with the Research Fellowship Programme Team.

Mentor Qualifications

- ❖ Proven expertise in relevant research areas with evidence of publication of research, ideally in academic journals (e.g., ECD, child development, emergency response, climate change, research methodology).
- ❖ Experience in conducting research in relevant contexts (e.g., Global South, emergency settings).
- ❖ Strong mentoring and coaching skills, with a commitment to supporting early-career researchers.
- ❖ Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to provide constructive feedback and build supportive relationships.
- ❖ Familiarity with ethical research principles and best practices.
- ❖ Strong interest in supporting the development of early childhood research in emergency contexts.

Compensation

Mentors will be provided with a quarterly stipend of \$500, contingent on meeting with the Research Fellowship Programme Team and regular engagement. It is expected that five (4) meetings will occur throughout the life of project, one each quarter, excluding the launch meeting.

To apply, please submit your application at this link no later than **Sunday, February 16th, 2025:**

[2025-26 MMA RESEARCH MENTORSHIP APPLICATION FORM](#)

Should you have any questions about the application process or other queries, please contact the following e-mail: sarah.ulhaq@movingmindsalliance.org.

Please note that applications will not be accepted via e-mail. Applications should only be submitted to the link above.

Please note that at this time, due to the reviewing team's limited resources, we are only able to accept applications in English (you may support your Fellow in the language of your choice, and MMA can support the official translation of the final report as needed). Please also note that communications when engaging with the Research Forum and associated MMA staff will be expected to be carried out in English.

The last date to submit the application is **February 16th, 2025**. Applications will be reviewed and assessed by the MMA

Research Forum team, based on the criteria outlined above. The MMA Research Forum team will not be able to provide feedback on applications not selected.