

Table 1 Structured reflexivity statement to be completed with manuscript submissions from international research partnerships involving researchers from high- and low-to-middle-income countries. This describes 15 questions that should be addressed by corresponding authors on behalf of an international research partnership. The questions are intentionally open-ended and designed to address specific components of equitable research partnership. It may be that not all questions can be addressed (e.g. a small project with minimal or no funding) but researchers should be able to describe individual components that they have considered when developing their partnership.

| | | QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|--|----|--|--|
| Study conceptualisation | 1 | How does this study address local research and policy priorities? | In Côte d'Ivoire, 59% of pregnant women are estimated to be anemic. Our study not only assesses the effectiveness of the existing protocol but also assists decision-makers in choosing and directing interventions. Our study is well aligned with local priorities. |
| | 2 | How were local researchers involved in study design? | The 1 st and 3 rd author of this paper are local researchers. The participation of the local researchers in the study design consisted of: - having discussions with health officials and actors for a better understanding of the national protocol on iron and folic acid supplementation and its implementation; - providing information (number of pregnancies and births per village and neighborhood of residence) on the study area. All randomization procedures were done jointly. |
| Research management | 3 | How has funding been used to support the local research team(s)? | Approximately 100% of the funding was used to cover salaries, training, travel for the local research team and local administrative costs of the local institution. |
| Data acquisition and analysis | 4 | How are research staff who conducted data collection acknowledged? | The research staff who conducted data collection has been acknowledged in the submitted manuscript (see manuscript section "Acknowledgements"). |
| | 5 | How have members of the research partnership been provided with access to study data? | All members of the research partnership have access to the data. |
| | 6 | How were data used to develop analytical skills within the partnership? | Data analysis was conducted by the senior author (GF) using a fully blinded data set. The analysis was conducted jointly, and all DO files were shared and reviewed together. |
| Data interpretation | 7 | How have research partners collaborated in interpreting study data? | Research partners did not interfere in the study data interpretation. Data interpretation was done by the local coordinator. |
| Drafting and revising for intellectual content | 8 | How were research partners supported to develop writing skills? | The first author of the paper (KS) received several rounds of feedback on the paper. |
| | 9 | How will research products be shared to address local needs? | Research products will be shared through publication, and workshops or feedback meetings with local authorities |
| Authorship | 10 | How is the leadership, contribution and ownership of this work by LMIC researchers recognised within the authorship? | The leadership, contribution, and ownership of this work by LMIC researchers is acknowledged through the 1 st and 3 rd authors within the authorship. The role played by each of them is clearly defined in the contributors section. |
| | 11 | How have early career researchers across the partnership been included within the authorship team? | The first author of this paper did this as part of his PhD. |
| | 12 | How has gender balance been addressed within the authorship? | Within the authorship, we have 20% female against 80% male. |
| Training | 13 | How has the project contributed to training of LMIC researchers? | This project allowed the obtaining of the PhD degree for a student from a LMIC. |
| Infrastructure | 14 | How has the project contributed to improvements in local infrastructure? | We improved provision of supplements in the short run through the project – it is not clear whether these improvements can be sustained. |
| Governance | 15 | What safeguarding procedures were used to protect local study participants and researchers? | Careful consenting processes were followed. To ensure confidentiality, participants are only identified by a unique participant number, which is anonymized and cannot be traced back to the person without significant effort. The master database is managed in a secure server. |