

Virtual Research Analyst Network (VRAN)

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)

What is the Global Good Fund?

The Global Good Fund is a collaborative effort between Bill Gates and Intellectual Ventures. The Fund's goal is to combine the power of invention with innovative business strategies to develop solutions that generate sustainable impact in the developing world. Global Good tackles problems in the developing world by using resources and methods normally reserved for commercial pursuits. We work closely with the Intellectual Ventures Laboratory to create innovative solutions in global health and development. Guided in part by the expertise of partner organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Good focuses on important problems where invention can translate into meaningful impact in developing countries. Our goal is to think big and take on problems with unconventional approaches that lead to development of breakthrough inventions that solve real world problems. To maximize the extent of this impact, Global Good partners with key industry players that offer unprecedented manufacturing and distribution capacity on a global scale. These partners benefit from the inventions generated by the Fund, and in return, commit to building a dynamic, economically-viable business ecosystem around these solutions.

What is the Virtual Research Analyst Network (VRAN)?

The Virtual Research Analyst Network consists of a limited number of members who provide analysis support to the Global Good Fund for its current and future investments in Global Health and Development.

How does it work?

Virtual Research Analyst Network members receive requests from Global Good to research and analyze specific questions in technology, engineering, science, global health, international agriculture, business, commercialization and intellectual property. Members respond to these requests based on their availability and ability to respond diligently. Responding to a request may entail an hour or two independently researching various sources of information and then responding quickly, succinctly and accurately to the request. In other cases, a request may require many hours of primary and secondary research activities resulting in a formal report. Members are expected to be resourceful with their research but may be guided by content and primary source material provided by Global Good. These may include publicly available reports, databases and other credible sources of public health and development publications. Members are expected to provide citations and reference to the source material.

Communication between Global Good and VRAN member is facilitated through electronic means, as such, members are expected to work remotely and independently. That said, members will have the opportunity to interact with Global Good members during periodic structured forums and unstructured gatherings.

What are the responsibilities for Virtual Research Analyst Network members?

Virtual Research Analyst Network members support Global Good with technical or business analysis on various topics related to global health and global development. Responsibilities include:

- Monitoring requests sent by Global Good and responding based on availability and capability

- Performing research through various sources of credible material, including journals, publications, databases or reports
- Summarizing findings in the requested format and submitting responses within the expected time frame
- Presenting research summaries in person, as requested by Global Good
- Tracking the number of hours responding to requests and submitting a time sheet to Global Good on a weekly basis

What are some examples of queries or requests sent to VRAN?

- How much does it cost to immunize a child in Africa on average?
- What methods are used currently to diagnose blood sepsis?
- Which manufacturers produce -80 °C freezers and how much do they cost?
- What diagnostic devices are currently on the market that are enabled by smartphones?

How much work can I expect each month?

The volume and frequency of requests for analysis from Global Good varies widely. As such, Global Good makes no guarantee to members with respect to the amount of analysis requested each month. When requests are made, members are free to respond to requests based on their availability and capability.

How are requests for analysis announced?

Communication between Global Good and members is facilitated through electronic means. Members are expected to monitor this communication regularly. The first member to respond based on availability and capability will typically own than request. You may communicate with the requesting party at Global Good to answer any questions you may have or to better understand the specific request.

How do I submit my analysis?

Depending on the request, your analysis may be in the form of a few sentences and citations or may be in the form of a report in various draft stages. Either way, you will submit your analysis via email to the requesting party at Global Good. The task is closed once your analysis is accepted by the requesting party.

How is my work assessed?

Global Good requesters evaluate the quality and timeliness of your analysis using a simple assessment scale (1-very poor, 2-poor, 3-fair, 4-good, 5-excellent). Your performance will be assessed regularly and you will be given feedback to improve work productivity and quality. Members failing to deliver to expected standards may be dismissed from the network at Global Good's discretion.

How am I compensated for my work?

Members are expected to track the number of hours responding to requests and then submitting a time sheet to Global Good on a weekly basis. You will be compensated for each week's work at a rate of \$25/hour.

Do I need to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)?

Yes, you will be asked to sign the Global Good NDA.

What are the qualification and eligibility requirements for membership?

- All members should be eligible to work in the United States. Foreign students may need additional approval from their university or department.
- Members should be enrolled in a graduate level program or higher
- Members should have specialization in at least one of the following:
 - Global health (infectious diseases, maternal and child health)
 - International agriculture (crops, livestock, trade, productivity, small holder farmers)
 - Business (market and competitive landscaping, economics, business modeling, financial analysis, entrepreneurship)
 - Engineering (bioengineering, computer science, diagnostics, medical devices)
 - Life sciences (applied biology, genomics, proteomics, assay methodology)
 - Intellectual property

Can I quit anytime?

Yes, you can quit at any time by sending a written notice to Global Good.