

Open Data Micro-Grants 2026 – Health Equity Award

The MICCAI 2026 Open Data initiative is pleased to announce the results of the Open Data Micro-Grants, launched as part of the Health Equity Award to support the creation and public release of new datasets for medical imaging and clinical AI. The programme provides small-scale funding to support dataset preparation, annotation, quality control, documentation, and public release, with a strong focus on health equity, diversity, and under-represented populations.

Call overview

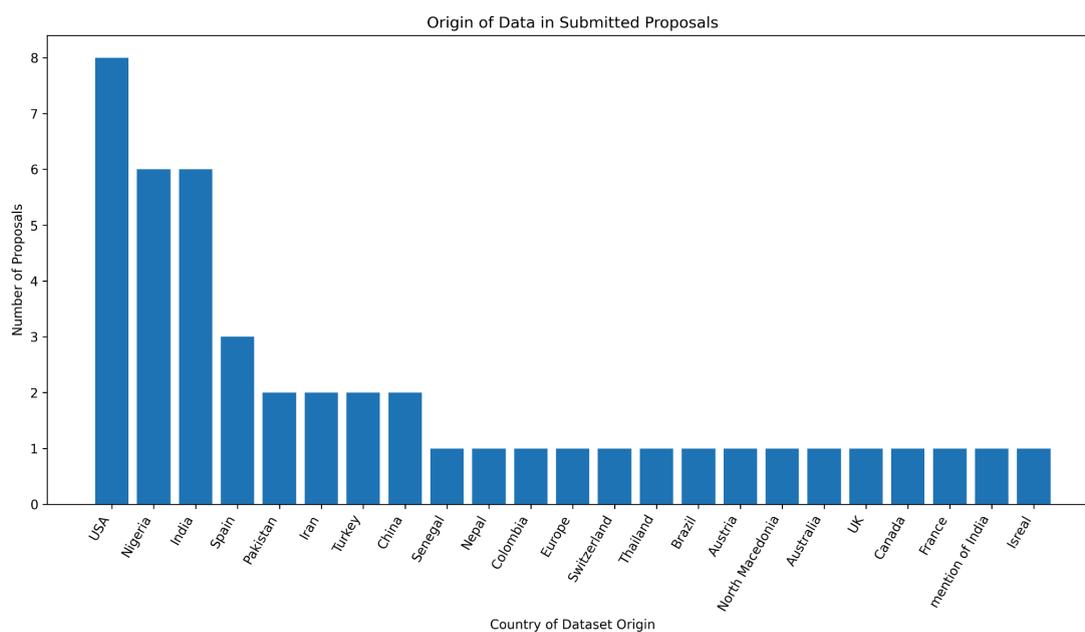
The 2026 call attracted strong international interest from the research community:

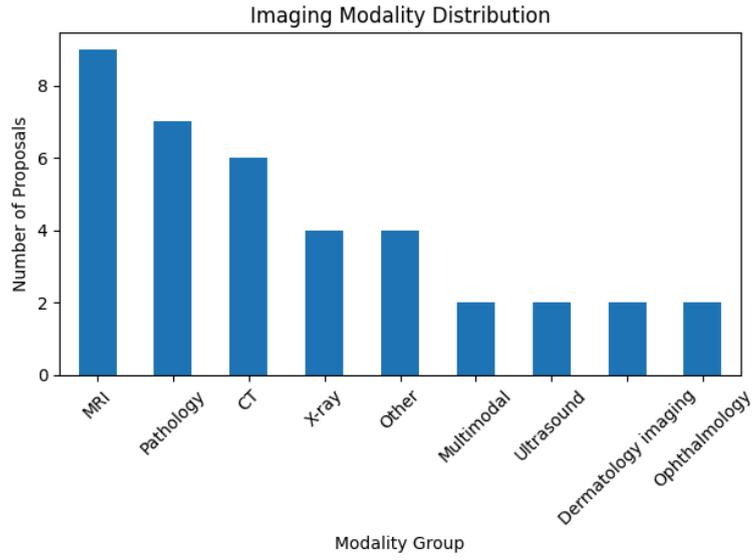
- 38 proposals submitted
- 22 proposals involving LMIC datasets
- 8 grants awarded (4 large, 4 small)
- 4 proposals shortlisted

Grant Type	Number	Funding
Large Micro-Grants	4	USD 1,200
Small Micro-Grants	4	USD 650
Shortlisted Proposals	4	-

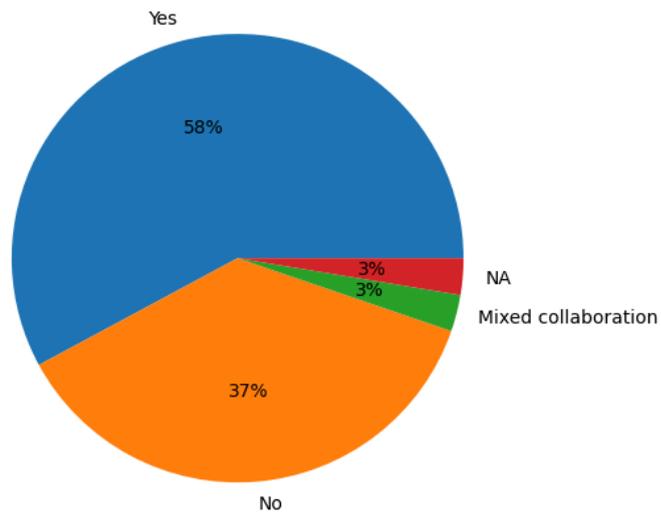
Participation statistics

Submissions were received from researchers across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, demonstrating the global interest in open medical datasets. The proposals covered a wide range of imaging modalities including MRI, CT, X-ray, ultrasound, pathology whole-slide imaging, retinal imaging, and multimodal datasets. Clinical applications included cancer, neurological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases, ophthalmology, and hematology.

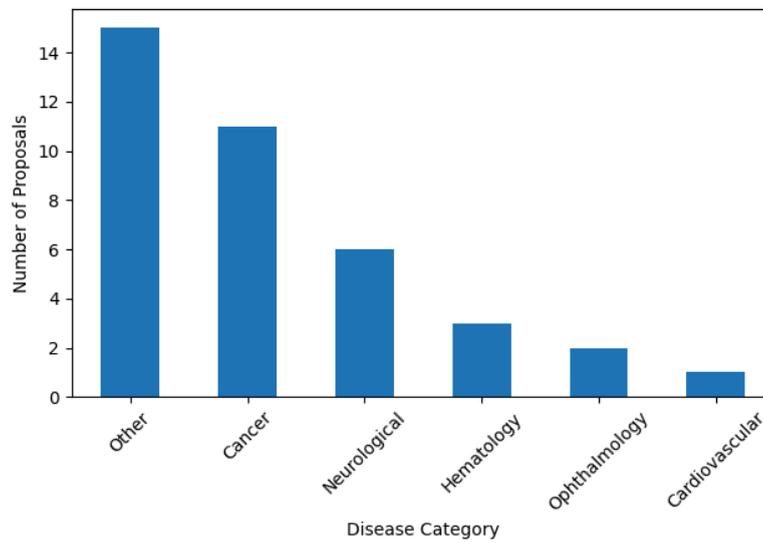




LMIC Participation in Proposals



Disease Area Distribution



Next steps

Funded teams will prepare and release their datasets under open licenses. Each project will submit a dataset paper to the MICCAI 2026 Open Data Track. Accepted papers will be presented at the Open Data session and invited to contribute to a *MELBA* special issue on Open Data. We thank all applicants for their excellent proposals and their commitment to advancing open, diverse, and equitable AI in healthcare.