



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2014 IMPACT GRANTS

RESEARCH CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE DISEASE CONTROL

Submission deadline 30 May 2014

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) invites applications from individuals and research teams based in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) for grants to support research capacity strengthening and knowledge management. In 2014 it is anticipated that 20-30 new grants (up to a maximum US\$ 50,000 each) will be awarded.

IMPACT Grants

This grant scheme is designed to strengthen capacity for health research that will have an impact on the control of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), tuberculosis or malaria. This call is primarily to support acquisition of skills for *research that addresses implementation bottlenecks, identifies optimal approaches for real life settings, and promotes the uptake of research findings*. The goal is improved health care and its delivery.

Grants will provide support to:

- improve (or acquire) skills, and contribute to long-term achievements and sustainability of research efforts.
- address specific knowledge management needs that can advance the understanding, analysis and application of interventions.

TDR is particularly interested in proposals related to implementation research (i.e. research aimed at improving access, delivery or effectiveness of interventions or system). Examples of activities to be supported under the scheme include, but are not limited to:

Implementation/operation research and targeted short-term training; mentorship/attachment or workshops in methodologies related to knowledge management, such as: systematic and scoping reviews, data management, development and harmonization of operational and implementation research tools; and approaches for translating research results into policy and practices.

Candidates will be chosen based on the public health relevance, scientific quality and feasibility of the activities proposed that can be completed within one to two years. The grant will **not** fund masters or PhD training, experimental studies, discovery research, clinical trials or acquisition of skills not linked to a specific scientific output.

To promote gender balance and a greater role for women in health research, applications from qualified women and previous TDR grantees are particularly encouraged.

Proposals must provide the following information (not exceeding 10 pages, using Times New Roman 12 point font and 1.5 line spacing):

- A half page abstract of the proposed activities
- A description including the specific objectives (study methods if applicable) and expected outputs of the activities/training
- A summary description of the specific needs to be addressed through the proposed activity
- A description of the type and relevance of the capacity to be built
- A description of the potential impact of the research/training on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), tuberculosis or malaria.
- A justified and itemized budget, including publication costs.

Eligibility

The grant is targeted to resident nationals of low- and middle-income countries. Applications can be submitted by individuals employed in ministries of health, research institutes or academia as well as other health related organisations, with responsibility for planning, implementing research and/or evaluating disease control programmes. Applications must be endorsed by the head of the applicant's institution and collaborators. Proposals must contribute to the research capacity of the applicant's institution.

How to apply

Applications may be submitted in English, French and Spanish. All applications must be completed and submitted online using the WHO DataCol portal form found on this link:

https://extranet.who.int/datacol/survey.asp?survey_id=2865

The log-in credentials are: User name: **impact** Password: **grants**

Only applications submitted through this online portal will be considered.

An active email address is required to use this portal. A confirmation email will be sent to this address to acknowledge successful submission. Only one application may be submitted by each team or individual. Multiple submissions will not be processed. Information and documents to be uploaded are stated in the online application form. Applicants are advised to prepare the supporting documentation prior to starting the submission process. Access to the online submission portal will not be available after the deadline (12:00 midnight Geneva time, 30 May 2014).

Additional application information

- Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the DataCol application form, in particular the requested information and documents, paying particular attention to the **mandatory fields marked with an asterisk (*)**.
- Applicants are advised to consult the TDR Implementation Research Toolkit <http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/year/2014/ir-toolkit-manual/en/> as a resource material for guidance on the current concepts, approaches and contextual issues specific to implementation research.
- Applicants are advised to avoid last minute submissions as this could overload the system or fail due to internet connectivity problems. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- Please contact TDR (rcstdr@who.int) if you encounter difficulties during the completion and submission of the application form. All other queries regarding this call should also be submitted to this email address.

Selection Criteria

All applications will be screened for completeness and eligibility by the TDR Secretariat based on the conditions stated in this call. Multiple submissions by the same individual or team will be disqualified. Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by the Research Capacity Strengthening-Scientific Working Group (RCS-SWG) panel of experts external to TDR.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following four areas:

1. Relevance and potential public health impact of proposed activities.
2. Scientific merit, including concise problem statement and rationale, clear objectives, appropriate study methodology and ethical considerations.
3. Feasibility of the proposed activities: implementation timeline, detailed and justified budget, outcome-oriented monitoring and evaluation framework and dissemination and utilization plan for the research results.
4. Potential to strengthen existing research capacity of the applicant, contribution to their career path/professional development and engagement of relevant stakeholders in line with the theme and scope of the call.

The RCS-SWG final recommendation for funding will take into consideration the budget available for the Impact grant scheme and equity (geographical and gender).

Grantees' commitment

Grantees will be required to submit annual and final reports. The annual report will be reviewed to provide a measure of progress. The quality of the reports and work accomplished will determine continuation of funding. Grantees are expected to prepare and submit their research findings for publication in open-access, peer-reviewed journal and to disseminate their research findings locally.

Background on TDR research capacity strengthening

Research capacity strengthening and knowledge management (RCS) is a cross-cutting programmatic area of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). RCS promotes and funds research, training, institutional development and partnerships that increase the participation of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in the generation and use of new knowledge and tools for the prevention, control and elimination of infectious diseases of poverty. The long-term goal is to strengthen individual and institutional capacity to initiate and lead research activities in disease endemic countries, while developing national and international partnerships. In the context of its new strategy, TDR is committed to support LMIC researchers to initiate and conduct multi-disciplinary research while pursuing professional development in public health.

The focus on implementation research is based on the central theme of a systematic approach to understanding and addressing barriers to effective and quality delivery of health interventions, strategies and policies. The research questions are demand driven and framed from needs identified with relevant stakeholders in the health system.

For additional information on the current TDR strategy and the Implementation Research Toolkit, please visit www.who.int/tdr. For information on the income level of a specific country, please visit the World Bank's web site <http://data.worldbank.org>.