



Call for mentor institute (Ethiopia only)

Implementation research on compassionate
and respectful care services in the health
system

Deadline:

31 May 2020, 23:59 CEST

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Overview

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research is seeking an in-country (Ethiopia) mentorship institute for their initiative on Implementation research on compassionate and respectful care services in the health system. The mentorship institute will provide technical mentorship in implementation research to local research teams and local organizational facilitation and administration of all aspects of the initiative. **This is not a call for research projects.**

Background and objectives

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (the Alliance) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are collaborating with the Ethiopia Federal Ministry of Health on an initiative for Implementation research on compassionate and respectful care. The initiative adopts an implementer-led approach to understand and identify solutions for challenges in the implementation of a national strategy to foster a compassionate, respectful and caring health workforce. Embedded implementation research has a central role for decision-makers and implementers in identifying research questions, working in collaboration with local researchers to collect data and conduct analysis, and translating findings into recommendations for programme and policy changes.

This collaboration is part of a cross-WHO initiative coordinated by the Alliance on Country-led implementation research for UHC (CIRU). The initiative is focused on responding to country needs for implementation research to help tackle barriers to UHC. In the context of Ethiopia, the implementation research initiative is focused on compassionate and respectful care (CRC) services in the health system and is being undertaken jointly with the Health Workforce Department (HWF) at WHO Headquarters and the WHO Country Office in Ethiopia.

As the first step of this initiative, the Government of Ethiopia, the Alliance and WHO HWF conducted a workshop in August 2019 in Addis Ababa to prioritize themes for implementation research for CRC health workforce. For the next phase, the Alliance will now select a mentor institute based in Ethiopia.

The mentor institute will make grants to Ethiopian implementer-led research teams based on the priorities identified. It will also be responsible for providing continuous technical assistance and quality assurance through the research process, organizing workshops for protocol development and research utilization and ensuring the production of knowledge outputs including policy briefs and journal articles. The mentor institute will be responsible for local organizational facilitation and administration of all aspects of the initiative. It will operate with oversight from the Alliance Secretariat.

Through this call, the Alliance is seeking bids from interested Ethiopian institutions with teaching/ training capacity in implementation research and financial and administrative capability to serve as the mentor institution.

Specific tasks of the mentor institute

- Develop, with input from the Alliance, and issue a call for research proposals for in-country teams led by health system decision-makers, arrange transparent review and selection of proposals for funding support.
- Deliver a protocol development workshop at national and/or regional level, including arranging logistics and local travel, invitations, developing the agenda and programme, recording minutes and preparing reports of the workshops.
- Make subgrants to the selected decision-maker-led research teams for undertaking the research.
- Facilitate local ethics review and approval.
- Provide technical assistance to research teams and quality assurance in development of a preliminary research protocol, finalization of the research protocol after review, data collection, analysis and writing up, and in dissemination and utilization of research findings.
- Monitor the implementation of research grants ensuring timely deliverables. Make regular progress reports to the Alliance Secretariat on process, outcomes, challenges and recommendations for improvements.
- Support research teams to translate research findings into a project report, recommendations, policy briefs and presentations.
- Deliver a dissemination workshop at national and/or regional level, including arranging logistics and local travel, invitations, developing the agenda and programme, recording minutes and preparing reports of the workshops.
- Deliver and edit a series of articles or a special issue of a journal, including making an agreement with a suitable journal, supporting preparation and submissions of manuscripts by the grantees, writing an editorial, and convening a team of co-editors.

Selection criteria

For consideration as a mentor institution, the following selection criteria apply:

- Demonstrable experience of leadership of the public health community in Ethiopia (essential) and globally (desirable).
- Strong reputation and experience in health systems and implementation research, and in research mentorship.
- Administrative capacity to issue and manage subgrant contracts to research teams in Ethiopia.
- Track record of working with the government on issues relevant to the call.
- Experience of service on government boards or committees on topics of relevance (desirable).

The selection committee will also consider how the proposal responds to the following additional factors:

- Value for money
- Monitoring and evaluation of this programme of work

The selected mentor institution will be expected to work independently, regularly completing and reporting on agreed products, while maintaining an ongoing collaborative relationship with the Alliance Secretariat. **At least 50% of the named team members on the bid should be women.**

Funding and period

The maximum amount of funding available from the Alliance will be US\$ 180 000. No further funding will be provided by the Alliance within and beyond the project period. The activities will be implemented from 2020-2021 and **the end date should not exceed 31 December 2021.**

One protocol development workshop for research teams, and one dissemination workshop should be included, as should the costs of monitoring the implementation of research grants. At least 70% of the total budget should be reserved for the grant awards to six implementer-led research teams. No more than 20% of the total budget should be used for project management and staff salary costs.

Application process

Deadline: 31 May 2020, 11:59 CEST

Bids submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

Successful applicants can expect to be notified within one month of the deadline. WHO may, at its own discretion, extend

this closing date for the submission of bids by notifying all applicants thereof in writing.

Submissions of bids should be made at alliancehpsr@who.int. Please use the subject: **WHO Bid Ref. Call for a Mentor Institute (Ethiopia)**

Submissions of **not more than 5 pages** (standard font size 11, 1.15 linespacing, normal margins should include the following:

- **Contact details:** Name of the bidding institution including contact details and name of a key contact person.
- **Motivation for applying:** A description of how this work fits in with the bidder's expertise and aligns with current areas of work in teaching and training in implementation research.
- **Composition of the proposed team:** names, expertise, function in institution, gender, and role in team and experience relevant to the call. CVs may be included as an annex to the submission.
- **Project plan:** Description of a 16-month plan based on the outlined specific tasks of the regional institute and the selection criteria outlined.
- **Itemized budget** for 16 months based on the specific tasks outlined. This call will not fund equipment or support for hiring new permanent teaching staff. The budget should be in US \$. **Please also provide a summary budget** of the total costs broken down by the following categories (not all may be applicable): personnel, supplies/facilities, equipment, communications, travel and per diem, and workshops (one each for protocol development and dissemination). Costs of peer reviewed research publications / a special Issue will be supported directly by the Alliance Secretariat, and should not be included in the budget. Institutional overheads should not exceed 13%. The Alliance may challenge proposed costs that it does not consider appropriate or as offering optimal value for money.

Notes for applicants

1. WHO may, at any time before the closing date, for any reason, whether on its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a (prospective) applicant, modify the bid by written amendment. Amendments could, inter alia, include modification of the project

scope or requirements, the project timeline expectations and/or extension of the closing date for submission.

2. All prospective applicants that have submitted a bid will be notified in writing of all amendments to the bid and will, where applicable, be invited to amend their submission accordingly.
3. Applicants should note that WHO reserves the right to:
 - a. Award the contract to an applicant of its choice, even if its bid is not the lowest;
 - b. Accept or reject any bid, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected applicants and without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the grounds for WHO's action;
 - c. Award the contract on the basis of the Organization's particular objectives to an applicant whose bid is considered to be the most responsive to the needs of the Organization and the activity concerned;
 - d. Not award any contract at all;
 - e. Eliminate bids for technical or other reasons throughout the evaluation/selection process. WHO shall not in any way be obligated to reveal, or discuss with any applicant, how a bid was assessed, or to provide any other information relative to the evaluation/selection process or to state the reasons for elimination to any applicant.
4. WHO is acting in good faith by issuing this request for bids. However, this document does not obligate WHO to contract for the performance of any work, nor for the supply of any products or services.
5. WHO reserves the right to enter negotiations with one or more applicants of its choice, including but not limited to negotiation of the terms of the bid(s), the price quoted in such bid(s) and/or the deletion of certain parts of the work, components or items called for under this bid.
6. Within 30 days of receipt of the contract, the successful applicant shall sign and date the contract and return it to WHO according to the instructions provided at that time. If the applicant does not accept the contract terms without changes, then WHO has the right not to proceed with the selected applicant and instead contract with another applicant of its choice.