

Call for a local mentor institute (Pakistan only)

Health systems research on the *Sehat
Sahulat* Programme

Deadline:

Published: 9 July 2020

Deadline: 23 July 2020, 23:59 CEST



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Overview

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research is seeking an in-country mentorship institute for a programme of health systems research on Pakistan's *Sehat Sahulat* insurance programme. The mentorship institute will provide technical mentorship in health systems 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 *Sehat Sahulat* Programme, a social health protection initiative in Pakistan, has enrolled over 6.6 million poorer Pakistani families to date and has been responsible for reimbursing over one million hospitalization cases. It is a cornerstone of Pakistan's move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Based on a request from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MNHSRC) Pakistan to the Chief Scientist, WHO, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, WHO Headquarters is engaging with MNHSRC to support the development of a series of health systems research studies to examine early implementation experiences of the *Sehat Sahulat* programme to inform its ongoing implementation, including through strengthening policies, guidelines and practices.

In line with the aim of this research programme – to be driven by policy-maker and implementer demand and be responsive to their knowledge needs – broad thematic areas for research were identified in a meeting with stakeholders engaged in *Sehat Sahulat* design and implementation in March 2020. The programme's implementers are the principal audience of the knowledge products generated as a result of this research.

To help execute this initiative, the Alliance will now select a mentor institute based in Pakistan. The mentor institute will make grants to Pakistan-based research teams based on the priorities identified, provide continuous technical assistance and quality assurance through the research process, organize further workshops for protocol development, and for research utilization, and ensure the production of knowledge outputs including policy briefs and journal articles.

The mentor institution will be a teaching, training and research institution in Pakistan that will provide technical mentorship to the research teams and local organizational facilitation and administration of all aspects of the initiative. The mentor institute will work in close collaboration with government stakeholders and will operate with oversight and overall support from the Alliance Secretariat.

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

Specific tasks of the mentor institute

- Develop and issue a call for expressions of interest based on the priorities identified, for in-country teams that include both researchers and decision-makers. Arrange transparent review and selection of proposals for funding support.
- Make sub-grants to the selected research teams for undertaking the research.
- Deliver a protocol development workshop to assist selected research teams in developing protocols. This includes arranging logistics and local travel, invitations, developing the agenda and facilitation, recording minutes and preparing reports of the workshop.
- Facilitate submission to local IRBs for ethical clearance.
- Provide, with overall guidance from the Alliance Secretariat, technical assistance to research teams and quality assurance throughout the life cycle, from protocol development to data collection and analysis, to write up, to dissemination and utilization of research findings.
- Monitor the implementation of research grants ensuring timely deliverables.
- Support research teams to translate research findings into a project report, recommendations, policy briefs and presentations.
- Deliver a dissemination workshop focused on utilization of the research findings by government stakeholders, including arranging logistics and local travel, invitations, developing the agenda and facilitation, recording minutes and preparing reports of the workshops.

Selection criteria

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

- Demonstrable experience of engaging closely and on an ongoing basis with the Ministry of Health, Pakistan in the provision of technical support – 60%
- Extensive experience in health systems and health systems research in Pakistan, including in publication of research and research mentorship – 30%
- Administrative capacity to issue and manage sub-grant contracts to research teams in Pakistan – 10%

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.

Funding and period

The maximum amount of funding available from the Alliance will be US\$ 150,000, this includes funds for the sub-contracts to research teams. No further funding will be provided by the Alliance within and beyond the project period. The activities will be implemented across 2020-2021 and the end date should not exceed 31 May 2021.

Application process

Deadline: 23 July 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 (Pakistan)**

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 9-month plan based on the outlined specific tasks of the mentor institute and the selection criteria outlined.
- **Itemized budget** for 9 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 by the Alliance Secretariat, and should not be included in the budget. Institutional overheads should not exceed 13%.

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.