Call for proposals
Developing online modules for Alliance teaching and training

Deadline: 17 February 2022, 23:59 CET
Call for Proposals
Developing online modules for Alliance teaching and training

Date issued: 19 January 2022
Deadline: 17 February 2022, 23:59 CET

Overview
The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (the Alliance) invites proposals from an individual or small team of health policy and systems researchers with expertise in curriculum development and online teaching pedagogy to develop content based on Alliance key reference materials into teaching modules for its online course platform. This is not a research call.
Call for proposals — Developing online modules for Alliance teaching and training

Background

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (the Alliance) is a partnership hosted within the World Health Organization with the goal of promoting the generation and use of health policy and systems research (HPSR) as a means of strengthening health systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Its three strategic objectives are to: 1) stimulate the generation and synthesis of policy-relevant health systems knowledge, encompassing evidence, tools and methods; 2) promote the dissemination and use of health policy and systems knowledge to improve the performance of health systems; and 3) facilitate the development of capacity for the generation, dissemination and use of HPSR knowledge among researchers, policy-makers and other stakeholders. More information about the Alliance may be found on its website: https://ahpsr.who.int/.

About Alliance capacity strengthening

Capacity strengthening has been a core component of the Alliance’s activities since its inception. The HPSR landscape has changed since the Alliance began its pioneering work. Studies commissioned by the Alliance in 2014 found that despite the important new HPSR courses available, including those supported by the Alliance, training opportunities for HPSR were still limited. It is particularly the case that, where training opportunities do exist, they have tended to focus on methods. There remains unmet appetite, especially in LMICs, for exposure to HPSR concepts to help health system actors better address the pressing needs that face health systems today. Based on the accumulated work of the Alliance over 25 years, we believe that there are a handful of essential concepts that emerging and established leaders in HPSR need to master: participatory leadership, systems thinking, and evidence synthesis, among others.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically increased the need for and demand of digital platforms for teaching and training. Current trends suggest that online training and self-directed online learning are adaptations that will persist into the future.

As part of its strategic objective on capacity strengthening, the Alliance will develop online modules on its essential HPSR concepts. The main objective

---

1 These include open access courses from the Consortium for Health Policy, Systems and Analysis in Africa (CHEPSAA), KEYSSTONE, ARCADE, etc.

2 These include a Coursera online course on systems thinking in public health (Johns Hopkins University); Systems tools for complex health systems: Creating causal loop diagrams (Columbia University); Gender and intersectionality (Ramalingaswami Centre/Public Health Foundation of India); Embedded implementation research (Nossal Institute, Melbourne University)
of these modules will be to bundle together in one place and in a learning format, broader concepts of HPSR for application in one’s own setting. These modules will be freely available for use by Alliance partners, students, district health officers, programme managers and other interested health system actors.

**About the desired outputs**

The Alliance seeks to develop an initial set of four online modules based on its essential concepts:

- Introduction to HPSR
- Systems thinking
- Evidence synthesis
- Participatory leadership

The selected individual or small team will work closely with the Alliance Secretariat. The individual/team will review Alliance core documents (including its readers, flagship reports, practical guides and toolkits) to develop module content. Each module should consist of learning objectives, main content, essential readings, knowledge check quizzes, and other information as needed. Each module should last approximately 1-1.5 hours. The modules must also be accompanied by an overview that covers the modules' purpose, scope, content, use and utility. The expected audience for these modules is Alliance partners and other interested parties – including students, district health officers, programme managers and other health systems actors interested in HPSR concepts.

**Modules will be completed (content developed, approved and uploaded to the online platform) on a rolling basis. All modules are expected to be completed by September 2022.**

**Eligibility**

Individuals and small teams submitting proposals to this call must demonstrate a mix of core competencies, including:

- Master’s degree in relevant field (i.e., public health, social science, communication, education)
- Proven expertise in teaching and facilitation, curriculum development and online pedagogy
- At least three years of relevant experience in LMIC settings
- Excellent communication skills, and effective presentation skills

There are no geographic requirements for this call for proposals, though individuals/teams from LMICs are encouraged to apply. Teams with a gender balance and/or led by women are also encouraged to apply.
Selection process

Proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Demonstrated understanding of concept, and suitable proposal (40%)
- Organizational capabilities and team composition (40%)
- Appropriateness of budget, and value for money (20%)

Following a review of the proposals, shortlisted proposals may be invited to a brief interview.

How to apply

Deadline: 17 February 2022, 23:59 CET

Bids submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

Submissions of bids should be made at alliancehpsr@who.int. Please use the subject: WHO Bid Ref. Call for Proposals: Teaching and training.

Successful applicants can be expected 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.

Format of submission

Part 1: Administrative Information
Name of the proposed contractor (or lead contractor if a team) along with name and contact details (postal address, email, phone) of a key contact person. The same should be provided for all team members.

Part 2: Technical proposal
The technical proposal should include the following sections:

Introduction (up to 250 words)
The introduction should provide an overview of the individual or team and a basic statement of motivation, and how this work fits with your academic/professional background and interests and a brief description of relevant experience related to the requirements.

Approach (up to 750 words)
Provide an overview of the proposed set of outputs and how they will be achieved. Highlight key challenges you see in approaching this project, and how these challenges will be managed.
Proposed timeline (up to 250 words)
Indicate an approximate timeline for working to complete the overall project before the deadline of September 2022.

The team (up to 250 words to describe the team composition overall, and 150 words per each team member profiled)
Provide an overview of the team, and which team members will be responsible for which roles and responsibilities. Short introductions to the team members should also be included. Full CVs are not necessary. It is particularly important to demonstrate that the team composition covers the various capacities outlined in the ‘Eligibility’ section.

Part 3: Portfolio of relevant work
A portfolio can be provided in any format that best conveys the previous work of members of the team. A list of links to online versions is fine.

Part 4: Budget
Please provide a budget breakdown with a justification for costs. All figures should be in USD.

Budgets should provide a breakdown of personnel costs, equipment, technology subscriptions, and any other costs (such as project management etc.) that might apply.

Note 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. WHO has the right to 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 into 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.