



World Health Organization
Regional Office For The Eastern Mediterranean
Joint EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme for Operational Research
in Tropical and Other Communicable Diseases
18th CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010

The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) of the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) is pleased to announce the 18th CALL FOR PROPOSALS of the **Small Grants Scheme for Operational Research in Tropical and other Communicable Diseases** for the year 2010. The scheme is co-funded by the WHO/EMRO and the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). The Research Proposal Form is attached. Please note that **the deadline for application is 31 March 2010.**

OBJECTIVES OF THE EMRO/TDR SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

The Small Grants Scheme aims at:

- Supporting research that contributes to the prevention and control of communicable diseases;
- Strengthening the research capacity of the Eastern Mediterranean Region;
- Disseminating research results for their effective use in the prevention and control of communicable diseases;
- Monitoring the implementation of research results by the national control programmes to ensure the translation of research results into policy and practice.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING

Inclusion criteria:

- Applications are invited from researchers and health professionals working in communicable disease control programmes of ministries of health and other health sector partners, national universities, national research institutions and non-governmental organizations in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Proposals will be accepted only from national institutions and ministries of health of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, but teams including high income country institutions are eligible.
- Proposals should incorporate research teams from the following sectors: national research/academic institutions and/or nongovernmental organizations AND national control programmes of the ministries of health. This collaboration should ensure scientific soundness and co-authorship of the proposal, and more importantly, introduction of the research findings into policy and practice of the relevant disease control programme.

- Priority will be given to Multi-country studies on the same research topic.
- Duration of the Research: One year (2010 – 2011). However, the proposal could be the first phase of a two-year project. In such situation, the overall project should be described, and the detailed budget of the first phase as well as the expected budget of the second phase should be submitted.
- Financial Support: Not exceeding **US\$ 20,000**.

Exclusion criteria:

- Principal investigators with an ongoing EMRO/TDR small grants scheme projects. They are only eligible to apply for the grants after submission of their final reports.
- Principal investigators working in WHO or United Nations agencies.
- The statement that other funding agencies will be sought to partially cover the budget. However, providing documents regarding the availability of these funds is accepted and encouraged.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The Scheme will support projects that meet the above-mentioned objectives and eligibility criteria and will focus on the following diseases and their research priorities:

HIV/AIDS and Sexually transmitted diseases (STD)

1. Population size estimations of populations at increased risk of HIV including sex workers, men having sex with men and injecting drug users.
2. HIV and STI bio-behavioural surveys among populations at increased risk of HIV including sex workers, men having sex with men and injecting drug users.

Tuberculosis

Inventory studies to assess the proportion of underreporting from all health care providers (public and private non-NTP) to the National TB control programmes.

Malaria

Pilot implementation project on public private partnership with a focus on private health care providers' involvement in diagnosis, treatment and notification of malaria cases.

Neglected tropical diseases

1. Evaluation of the control measures for zoonotic cutaneous leishmaniasis: measuring the impact. Lessons learnt from the field.
2. Evaluation of the control measures for anthroponotic cutaneous leishmaniasis: measuring the impact. Lessons learnt from the field.
3. Topical treatment for anthroponotic cutaneous leishmaniasis
4. Effectiveness of amphotericin B liposomal (ambisome) short-course to treat anthroponotic visceral leishmaniasis.

Vector Control

1. Multi-country studies on the epidemiological/entomological impact of insecticide resistance and its management in relation to vector control interventions
2. Multi-country studies on the role of vector control interventions on the prevention of Anthroponotic Cutaneous Leishmaniasis

Hepatitis

Studies on the following aspects of viral hepatitis:

Epidemiological profile	Prevalence and risk factors for infection by HCV and HBV in different settings such as hospitals (invasive surgical procedures, etc), dentist clinics, etc. and identification of different risk groups for infection
	Studies on the different genotypes of viral hepatitis
	Studies on the intrafamilial transmission of HBV and HCV through genetic sequencing, clustering studies, and epidemiological research
Social sciences profile	Studies on the impact of behaviour on the transmission of HBV & HCV
Health economics profile	Studies on the cost-effectiveness of various preventive and treatment strategies
Preventive profile	Studies on the different preventive strategies including childhood immunization (with a special focus on the birth dose), health care workers' immunization, high risk groups immunization, harm reduction, infection control including injection safety, and occupational health.
	Studies on vaccine efficacy, coverage, and genetic variations of HBV under vaccine pressure
Case management profile of viral hepatitis	Clinical trials of non-lamivudine HBV treatment in children
	Evaluate the effectiveness of locally-produced medicines including herbal medicines
	Evaluate non-invasive serum and imaging markers

Other infectious diseases

1. Promotion of infection control at health facilities; especially hand-washing
2. Modifiable behavioral risk factors for influenza: the impact of risk communication, rumors..... etc

HOW TO APPLY The principal investigator should submit the following documents:

1. The Research Proposal Form. Proposals should be submitted in the format annexed. The format should be completed in **English, Arabic or French** and typed. Please follow the instructions mentioned next to each item in the format and these instructions should be deleted from the submitted form. An electronic version of the Application Form is available at www.emro.who.int, www.emro.who.int/tdr, or tdr@emro.who.int

2. **One-page curriculum vitae.** The *curriculum vitae* should clearly indicate the principal investigator's affiliation and complete address (including telephone number, e-mail, fax number) of him/herself and his/her institution(s) in addition to full name (**underline family name**); sex, date of birth, nationality; qualifications and the nature of the applicant's current and previous posts.
3. The first page of the proposal should be signed by the research team i.e the principal investigator and all the co-investigators and faxed to the below fax number.
4. National endorsement (Ministry of Health clearance) for the study.

Preliminary screening of the proposals will take place on **April 2010**. **All proposals that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria or do not provide the requested documents will be excluded from the selection process.** The initially accepted projects will be requested to obtain the institutional ethical clearance for the study in order to proceed for the final selection on May 2010.

SELECTION PROCESS The selection committee will select applications based on the basis of peer review of proposals. The criteria to be applied are scientific merit, relevance to the country priorities and implication on communicable disease control. Technical support will be available throughout the project to ensure high quality results. The principal investigators of the finally accepted projects will be duly informed in **May 2010**.

The completed application form should be mailed, faxed, or preferably e-mailed to:

Dr J. Mahjour, Director, Communicable Disease Control

**WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Abdul-Razak Al-Sanhouri Street**

P.O.Box 7608 Nasr City, Cairo 11371, Egypt

Tel: (202) 2276 52 50 - Fax: (202) 22765414

e-mail: tdr@emro.who.int

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS

31 March 2010

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

18th CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010
EMRO/TDR SMALL GRANTS SCHEME FOR OPERATIONAL RESEARCH
IN TROPICAL AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date of receipt	Research area	ID number SGS10/.....
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RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM

This form should be preferably submitted by e-mail

1. Name of the principal investigator and institutional affiliation: (Instructions: if the principal investigator is not affiliated to the national control programme of the Ministry of Health, he/she should include a co-investigator from the relevant control programme in the research team.)

Last name:	First name(s)	Sex: M/F
Title:		
Occupation		

Full postal address of the Principal Investigator for official communication:

(Office and institutional address)

(Home)

Telephone (o):
Telephone (h):
Fax:

e-mail-1 (mandatory):	e-mail-2:	e-mail of the institution:
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2. Name of co- investigators (instructions: there is no limit to the number of co-investigators and their expertise should cover the different research areas.)

2.1 Last name:	First name(s)	Sex: M/F
Title:		
Occupation		

Tel(o):	Tel (h):	e-mail:
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2.2 Last name:	First name(s)	Sex: M/F
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Title:		
Occupation		

Tel(o):	Tel (h):	e-mail:
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3. Title of the project: (Instructions: 30 words maximum, the title should be comprehensive, covering the main study objective(s) and study area)

4. Background: (Instructions: Literature review of previous studies on the subject; and justification of the study by stating the problem and its public health importance)

5. Objectives of the study:

5.1 General objective: (Instructions: state the goal you need to achieve)

5.2 Specific objectives: (Instructions: state the details of each objective that will finally lead to achievement of the goal)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

(others)

5.3 Secondary objectives: (Instructions: these are subsidiary objectives that could be studied during the course of the project but are not the main objectives of the study, they are optional and vary according to the type of the study)

6. Materials and methods: (Instructions: Describe the research methods that could best achieve the study objectives. These methods cover the items 6.1 to 6.7)

6.1 Study area/setting: (Instructions: describe the area or setting where the study will be conducted. This description should cover the details relevant to the study topic)

6.2 Study subjects: (Instructions: eligibility and exclusion criteria of the study subjects)

6.3 Study design: (Instructions: mention the type of study design eg cross-sectional, case-control, intervention study, etc..)

6.4 Sample size: (Instructions: mention the input criteria for sample size estimation. This needs the expertise of an epidemiologist)

6.5 Sampling technique: (Instructions: mention the sampling technique that will be used in order to obtain a representative sample for your target population. This needs the expertise of an epidemiologist)

6.6 Data Collection methods, instruments used, measurements

6.6.1 (Instructions: Describe the instruments used for data collection (questionnaire, observation recording form, etc.), and studied variables included in these instruments, as well as the methods used to test for the validity and reliability of the instrument)

6.6.2 (Instructions: Techniques used should be briefly described and referenced)

6.6.3 (Instructions: describe the quality control measures and good practices followed during the study implementation e.g GLP, GCP, etc..)

6.6.4 (Instructions: Study definitions (eg case definition) should be mentioned)

6.6 Data management and analysis plan:

(Instructions: Describe the analysis plan, tests used for data analysis and statistical package(s) used)

7. Implications of study results on disease control

(Instructions: Expected results and potential contribution of the project to the relevant control programme)

8. Areas of integration of research activities (if applicable) (eg integration of research activities related to more than one disease)

9. Bibliographic references (Instructions: mention at least 10 recent articles relevant to the study subject and enumerated according to their order of appearance in the text)

10. Ethical Considerations:

10.1 Informed consent form (Instructions: If needed, please attach extra documents)

10.2 Institutional ethical clearance

- o Do you have an ethical review board in your institution? Yes [] No []
- o Institutional ethical clearance has been obtained for the study: Yes [] No []

(Institutional ethical clearance and ethics approved informed consent should be amended in case of initial acceptance of the proposal during the preliminary screening of the proposals. In case there is no institutional ethical review board, the clearance of the Ministry of Health could be accepted.)

11. Other funding agency

Is your study funded by another funding agency: Yes [] No []
(If yes, specify the agency and available funds)

12. Required products:

12.1 Research reports: (A progress report should be submitted halfway of the project's implementation and a final report at the end of the year. The final report should be submitted in the form of a scientific article together with the final raw data file).

12.2 Mechanisms to ensure implementation of research results in the health policy of the concerned control programme of the Ministry of Health:

12.3 Strategies to enhance the dissemination and utilisation of results:

13. Other information

Annex 2: Budget

Activities	Input description/TOR	Measurement unit e.g. Person/days Person/months	Quantity	Frequency	Unit cost(US\$)	Total cost (US\$)	Other sources (US\$)
Human resources and field work							
Subtotal							
Training and workshops							
Subtotal							
Local Travel							
Subtotal							
International technical assistance							
Subtotal							
Office equipment and stationeries							
Subtotal							
Data entry, management, analysis and reporting							
Subtotal							
Communication facilities telephone cards for cell phones, mailing etc							
Subtotal							
Dissemination of results Meeting							
Subtotal							
Total budget							

