

Research Opportunities & Priorities: WHO/EMRO

Cost Effectiveness Workshop
14th December, 2014

RDI Units

- Research Promotion & Development (RPD), including Tropical Disease Research (TDR)
- Innovation & E-Health (IEH), including M-Health
- Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal (EMHJ)

RESEARCH POLICY & DEVELOPMENT

RPD

- Improving Program Implementation through Embedded Research (iPIER)
- Grant for Research in Priority Areas of Public Health (RPPH)
- Tropical Disease Research (TDR)
- Ethics Review Committee (ERC)
- WHO-CC
- Research & Development Observatory

Improving Program Implementation through Embedded Research (iPIER)

- **Goal:** to inform programmatic changes towards maximization of health interventions' benefits and improvements in population health status
- **Specific objectives:**
 - To support the embedding of implementation research within existing implementation processes and programme activities
 - To catalyse the use of research by implementers to improve programme implementation and scale-up
- **Deadline:** September 30, 2014 (review process underway)

Grant for Research in Priority Areas of Public Health (RPPH): 2014-2015 cycle

Goal: to address EMR problems and issues of public health importance with special emphasis on the 5 EMRO strategic areas. Through a competitive process of selection, funds will be provided to successful research proposals meeting the following criteria:

- Related to the research areas specified for the EMRPP 2014-2015
- With potential benefit(s) of research results to strengthen **health systems**, impact health **policy**, ensure **universal health coverage** and improve **public health**
- Not duplicating a proposal submitted to any other international or national agency for funding.

Grant: USD 10,000 - 20,000

Deadline: 31 December, 2014

RPPH: Health Systems Development & Strengthening

- Key barriers undermining **access and utilization** of health services in low and middle income countries in the EMR; potential solutions to address them
- Push and pull factors that induce and determine the pattern of **outmigration** from EMR Member States; potential measures to mitigate this phenomenon
- Most effective mechanisms to ensure equitable and sustainable **financial risk protection** for the informal sector in countries of the EMR
- Most effective regulatory measures necessary to address **antimicrobial resistance** (AMR) in EMR from a health systems perspective
- Options of performance-based incentives that are conducive for retaining and attracting **health workforce** in difficult and under-privileged areas in EMR

RPPH: Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Disaster preparedness versus response: **cost savings** in an EMR perspective
- **Lessons learnt** from major national / regional crises (social, biological, technological)
- **MCH, non-communicable diseases and mental health** in EMR humanitarian settings
- Effectiveness of **health interventions** in response settings of EMR crises
- Early recovery and transition of the **health sector** following EMR crises and disasters

RPPH: Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health & Nutrition

- Quality of EMR maternal and child healthcare services: **performance assessment** from different perspectives
- **Community practices and care seeking** behavior related to EMR maternal and child health
- Prevention of **child malnutrition**: EMR socioeconomic challenges and barriers
- Adopting **family planning** targeting use of modern contraceptive methods: an EMR socio-cultural perspective
- Use of **Caesarian Section** under EMR settings: indications and barriers

RPPH: Prevention & Control of Communicable Diseases

- Feasibility of implementing **integrated CD surveillance** in the EMR; its impact on health system strengthening with reference to disease detection, diagnosis and response
- Barriers to **immunization** among children not reached by immunization services in the EMR; service delivery strategies to effectively respond to such barriers
- Barriers to sustained **financing for routine immunization** in EMR low and middle income countries; successful financing and advocacy mechanisms for countries in different categories (GAVI / non-GAVI) in terms of long term sustainability
- High coverage with comprehensive **HIV interventions** in key EMR populations at risk
- **Integration** of EMR childhood / adolescent immunization programmes with other health programmes (e.g. Primary Health Care, PMTCT) and possible impact on vaccination coverage

RPPH: Prevention & Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) and Mental Disorders

- Implementing the WHO framework of **NCD surveillance**
- Understanding and addressing EMR **socioeconomic disparities** in NCD
- Scaling up **multi-sectoral action** on NCD and implementation of best buys for population-based NCD prevention: An EMR perspective
- Addressing the **health system barriers** to NCD integration in EMR primary health care
- **Epidemiology of and treatment gap** for mental, neurological and substance use (MNS) disorders in the EMR; interventions to reduce the treatment gap for MNS disorders and promote mental health literacy / reduce the impact of stigma in EMR

TDR Call for Proposals

Goal: to foster research on infectious diseases of poverty that lead to health improvement, strengthen research capacity of the individuals and institutions in developing countries, and develop implementation strategies and solutions that respond to health needs of these countries. It also aims at translating research results into policy and practice improving health and promoting the engagement of individuals and communities in using research evidence to reduce the disease burden in their respective countries.

Grant: USD 10,000 - 15,000

Deadline: 15 January, 2015

Tuberculosis

Evaluation of new tools for diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB), such as rapid diagnostic tests, new drugs, shorter regimens, etc.

Innovative interventions to increase tuberculosis case detection, including co-infections (e.g. TB/HIV).

Evaluation of new models/interventions for implementation of ambulatory multi-drug resistant (MDR)-TB.

Innovative interventions for management of TB/MDR TB among refugees.

TB elimination in low- and middle-income countries: implementation research.

Malaria

Prevalence of Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency in malaria endemic countries: epidemiological profile and trends over time.

Role and field application of different tools for malaria diagnosis and screening in different epidemiological situations, including point-of-case test for G6PD deficiency.

Research on how the protection given by a long-lasting, insecticide-treated net (LLIN) declines as it loses insecticide and gains holes, and the interaction between insecticide loss and hole acquisition.

Effective and feasible strategies for ensuring quality case management and engagement in case reporting in the private sector.

Community engagement for malaria control and elimination.

Optimal strategies for identifying and providing services, including vector control, that support malaria elimination among mobile and remote groups.

Neglected Tropical Diseases

Arboviruses: Multi-disciplinary research on vector ecology and control options for community-based integrated vector management, notably through environmentally friendly and biological control methods.

Evaluation of current modality effectiveness for cutaneous leishmaniasis management.

Evaluation of innovative preventive measures against leishmaniasis.

Use of sensitive transmission assessment techniques for the certification of the interruption of transmission of schistosomiasis and/or filariasis (lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis) in former controlled foci. These techniques may be applied on humans, or other hosts (insect vectors, snails, etc...) or water.

WHO Collaborating Centers (WHO CCs)

- Definition: “an institution designated by the WHO Director-General to form part of an international collaborative network carrying out activities in support of the Organization’s programme at all levels” (global / regional / national)
- We have 50 designated WHO CCs in the EMR, out of a total of 798 globally

Upcoming Project: Health Research And Development Observatory

- Resolution WHA 66.22, requested the Director General to establish a global health R&D observatory within the Secretariat to monitor and analyse relevant R & D information
- Information and data would enable users to:
 - Analyse data on financing for global health research and development;
 - Produce analyses to inform the management of national research and development portfolios;
 - Identify research and development priorities at national, regional and global levels;
 - Benchmark activities, for instance between countries; and
 - Monitor and evaluate trends against national, regional and global strategies.
- Current plans for cooperation with HQ in this regard

INNOVATION AND e-HEALTH

Scope of Work

- **General:** Support innovation and development of technology, including e-Health, and biotechnology solutions that lead to improving the performance of health systems and population health outcomes
- **Priorities:**
 - Promote sustainable eHealth solutions by promoting national eHealth strategies
 - Support member states in establishment of reliable and operational national health networks (HealthNet)
 - Support member states in designing and implementing eHealth applications and services (HMIS, Telemedicine, mHealth, eSurveillance, eLearning)

Thank you