Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa

Health Policy and Research Organizations – Call for Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions

(Last updated on June 9, 2014)

What is the Global Health Research Initiative (GHRI)?

- The Global Health Research Initiative (GHRI) is a made-in-Canada collaboration that improves health worldwide. Funded by Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and Canada’s International Development Research Centre, GHRI brings together researchers and decision makers from Canada and low and middle income countries to support scientific breakthroughs and shared learning to meet critical global health challenges in areas like health systems strengthening, maternal and child health improvement, and HIV prevention.

For more information visit: www.ghri.ca

Who is funding the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa Program?

- Through GHRI, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) are all equally investing in this CAD 36 million program which will be implemented from 2013 to 2020.

What are the targeted countries of the program?

- The targeted countries are Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, and South Sudan. The program also aims at influencing decision making in other sub-Saharan countries.

Can one organization apply to participate in consortium proposals for different regions (East and West Africa)?

- An organization can only submit a proposal to be an HPRO in one region, West or East Africa, not both.

Which kinds of organizations are eligible for funding?

- To be eligible, the organization or the consortium (with a lead organization identified) must have the following characteristics and competencies:
  - be a non-partisan, not-for profit organization legally founded and registered as an independent entity in the country of operation
  - be an African organization (United Nations agencies and international organizations based in Africa or overseas are ineligible to be the lead organization or to be part of a consortium)
  - support policy development and implementation through, knowledge brokering, analysis and research as their mandate
  - work in at least one of the targeted countries and demonstrate willingness and capacity to expand their work in all the other targeted countries in the selected HPRO region (East or West).
Can a profit-oriented firm who is engaged in research related to health policy and research apply to be an HPRO/part of an HPRO consortium?

• No. Only not-for profit organization are eligible to apply to be an HPRO or part of an HPRO consortium. Profit-oriented firm can however collaborate or participate with HPROs when deemed relevant.

I am applying to the HPRO call for proposal and would like to also apply to the IRT call for letter of intent. Is this possible?

• Applicants are not eligible to lead both an IRT and an HPRO, or an organization that is part of an HPRO, in the case of an HPRO consortium. Nevertheless, applicants may submit as a lead/principal on both HPRO and IRT calls. In this case of dual application, ALL applicants must declare clearly their preference in the event that they are successful in both applications. Specifically they must state whether they prefer to:
  o be invited to submit a full-scale application for the IRT
  -OR-
  o be an HPRO, either as lead or part of a consortium.

In the case of a proposed HPRO consortium, all leads from each organization will need to have ONE agreement on their preference.

If we are a consortium applying, do we all have to submit a proposal?

• Research consortia comprised of institutional partners may apply, however one partner must be designated as the lead institution. The lead institutions should submit the application to IDRC on behalf of the consortium.

Can the proposed project/research be connected to existing research agendas funded from other sources?

• Yes, provided the proposal clearly shows the added value of the work funded by this call and it is possible to clearly separate and attribute costs. It will also be important to be able to demonstrate that the proposed work is also largely self-standing – i.e. there are no critical dependencies on the work being funded from other sources that could result in the proposed work failing if there were problems with the other work.

What happens if I or my institution are already being funded by DFATD, CIHR or another unit of IDRC/GHRI?

• IDRC can offer complementary funding when the projects can show that one of the following conditions will apply: 1) when the additional grant will establish a synergy between two related lines of research benefitting both, and the same costs are clearly not covered by both grants at the same time; 2) when previously awarded funds are on an unrelated project and the institution clearly demonstrates the capacity to manage one project without draining resources from the other.

Where can we learn more about how to complete the budget forms and the maximum indirect cost allowable?

• Please consult the IDRC guidance note on Acceptable Project Expenditures and Indirect Costs for more information:
Is an organisation not based in any of the targeted countries eligible to apply to the HPRO call?

• To be eligible, organisations do not have to be based in a targeted country but they must work in at least one of the targeted countries and demonstrate their willingness and capacity to expand their work in all the other targeted countries in the selected HPRO region (East Africa or West Africa).

What is meant by a non-partisan organisation?

• This is the definition used for a non-partisan organisation:
  o Organisation based on, influenced by, affiliated with, or supporting the interests or policies of no single political party.

How can I access a copy of the HPRO online application and eligibility forms?

• In order to have a copy of the online application and eligibility forms, you will have to go to the online application platform and log in using a username and password (https://ghri-irms-comp.fluidreview.com/a/). Once logged in, you can go to the Resources tag at the top right of the screen.

How were the targeted countries selected?

• The list of targeted countries includes countries that have amongst the lowest maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality rates. This list was developed following the sub-Saharan countries of focus for the Government of Canada’s Aid Effectiveness Agenda, in addition to the sub Saharan African countries of focus of the DFATD Muskoka Initiative. Canada’s countries of focus were identified by three criteria: need, capacity to benefit meaningfully from Canada’s assistance, and alignment with Canada’s foreign policy. These countries have also shown that they can make progress on maternal, newborn and child health.

My organization’s financial statements are not audited, can I still apply?

• IDRC could enter in a grant agreement with a lead organization which does not have audited financial statements; this possibility would be evaluated on a case by case basis. Un-audited financial statements could be accepted in-lieu of audited statements. Clear and valid rational and reasons for not having such documentation must be provided. Only the lead applying organization should provide legal and financial documentation.

What is the total duration of the Health Policy and Research Organizations?

• The proposal for the Health Policy and Research Organizations should be prepared for a duration of 68 months.

Are the references included in the 22 pages (max 22 page plus 1 page for the abstract) limit of the proposal? And is there a type of referencing that is preferred?

• Yes the references should be include in the 22 pages proposal and there is no preferred type of referencing for the proposal.
Can an organization make two applications to the HPRO Call with different PI and different consortia for each application?

- An organization can only submit a proposal to be an HPRO in one region (West or East Africa), not both. However, yes an organization could be part of two applications with a different lead and different consortia for each application.

Can the HPRO submit a specific scientific research proposal or, instead, submit a proposal that demonstrates its ability to function as a catalyst and enabler for moving evidence stemming from the IRT’s research to policy and practice in the countries of the region where the HPRO operates?

- The HPRO should (as noted above) submit a proposal that demonstrates its ability to function as a catalyst and enabler for moving evidence stemming from the IRT’s research to policy and practice in the countries of the region where the HPRO operates.

For the call for proposals for HPROs, is a Canadian co-applicant required?

- For the call for proposals for HPROs, the organization must be an African organization. Canadian applicant(s) are not required.