Background

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (AHPSR) is launching a new programme of work to support learning, collaboration and capacity strengthening of young health systems researchers and leaders. This programme will complement the Alliance’s efforts in strengthening participatory leadership to strengthen health systems and address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To strengthen capacity for participatory leadership and innovation in research across the levels of the health system, the Alliance is focusing on providing young leaders with the financial and technical support to pursue participatory approaches and innovation in research and practice. Candidates from fragile or conflict-affected settings, especially women, will be encouraged to participate. The multi-pronged programme will include the following components:

- Linking individuals with robust networks of health systems researchers and practitioners
- Providing access to teaching and training programmes
- Supporting participation in Health Systems Research symposia
- Providing technical support in research, advocacy and implementation
- Creating formalized relationships between research and policy institutions to encourage cross-learning through fellowships, internships and mentorship programmes

This will be done with support from a coordinating centre that demonstrates capacity in working with young leaders and in providing mentorship and learning infrastructure. The Alliance is therefore seeking institutions who: a) provide teaching and training support for young researchers and policy makers; b) have relationships with leading institutions in health systems research and practice; and c) support an existing network of young researchers and leaders

Specific Tasks of the Coordinating Centre

The coordinating centre will support the responsible technical officer at the Alliance Secretariat in the development and management of this programme by:

a. Developing a programme document to provide an overview of work planned – and to be undertaken over the proposed two year duration of the programme
b. Developing a call for proposals to invite applications from young researchers and decision-makers from LMICs to join the programme
c. Playing a leading role in the selection of the ten applications received based on pre-defined screening and eligibility criteria and a clearly defined process with consultation from AHPSR
d. Administering the grant awards to the selected candidates
e. Developing the technical content for and organizing face to face training programmes
f. Providing technical support to the candidates including working with them towards the development and submission of deliverables such as: conference presentations, advocacy pieces and/or reports on fellowship and internship experiences.
Institution’s Profile

The selected institution will have an established reputation in the field of health systems research as well as strong linkages to teaching and training support for health policy and systems research in LMICs. This reputation should be based on both: a) Proven track record of training, mentorship and building of networks; and b) visibility within the HPSR community.

Given the expected focus of the programme on supporting young leaders from fragile and conflict affected states, linkages with experts in the area are strongly desirable.

The selected institution will be expected to work independently, regularly completing and reporting on agreed products, while maintaining an ongoing collaborative relationship with the AHPSR Secretariat.

A negotiated budget to support coordination activities, programme scholarships, travel and training will be granted to the selected institution for the completion of above tasks according to agreed ToRs.

Application Process

Deadline: 24 February 2018

Bids submitted after this deadline will not be considered. Successful applicants can expect to be notified within three weeks 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. Request for Coordinating Centre: Young Leaders

Submissions of not more than 5 pages should include the following:

- Motivation for applying: how this work fits in with the bidder’s expertise
- Name of the institution including contact details and name of a key contact person
- Description of the institution’s expertise in supporting networks of researchers and practitioners and in advocating for the field of HPSR
- Description of the institution’s broader work on teaching and training of health systems researchers in LMICs
- Description of the approach that will be used to provide ongoing support to selected young leaders
- Itemized budget for three years based on ToRs
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.