

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (HSS/AHPSR)
The Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)
The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)
Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (FCH/CAH)

WHO (The Alliance HPSR, HRP, TDR, and CAH) is pleased to announce the

**Call for Letters of intent for Evidence Synthesis on Strategies for
Implementing Interventions for Achieving MDGs 4, 5 or 6
as part of the 2010-2011 Implementation Research Platform**

Deadline: 30 November 2010

The international implementation research platform

Despite increased support at both national and international levels, three health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs 4, 5 and 6) are unlikely to be reached. Recognizing the role of implementation research, within the broader framework of health systems research, in improving access to efficacious interventions and thus accelerating progress towards the MDGs, an Implementation Research Platform supported by a grant from the Norwegian Government has been established. In this initiative, implementation research is defined as research that:

- a. Identifies common implementation problems and their main determinants which hinder effective access to interventions;
- b. Develops and tests practical solutions to these problems that are either specific to particular health systems and environments, or that addresses a problem common to several countries in a region; and
- c. Determines the best way of introducing these practical solutions into the health system and facilitates their full scale implementation, evaluation and modification as required.

As part of the Implementation Research platform, this call is issued to promote synthesis of evidence on strategies to implement interventions. This evidence synthesis should be in the form of systematic reviews with clear, focused questions, and explicit and detailed methodology to search, appraise and analyse the results. Synthesis of studies addressing the various barriers and enablers to the implementation of effective interventions, and innovations to overcome these barriers would be within the scope of the grant programme.

The systematic review questions should be relevant to 'accelerating progress and achieving' MGDs 4, 5 or 6 in low and middle-income countries (LMIC). The evidence synthesis will need to identify quick wins for implementation and up-scaling towards the respective MDG targets.

Objectives of the Grants Programme for Evidence Synthesis

- Support evidence synthesis that contributes to the understanding of the state of knowledge on strategies for implementation and wider scaling-up of effective health interventions and health services relevant to the MDGs 4, 5 or 6;
- Strengthen institutional research synthesis capacity with an emphasis on low- and middle-income countries;
- Improve methodologies for the synthesis of evidence on scaling up implementation of interventions;
- Develop improved tools for communicating evidence synthesis documents to stakeholders such as policy-makers and the wider public as appropriate

Call for Letters of Intent

Through this call, we are inviting proposals to conduct or update existing systematic reviews from individuals and institutions in LMIC. The reviews should focus on the synthesis of evidence on implementation strategies for MDGs 4, 5 or 6, related to the following:

- **effectiveness** of implementation strategies;
- **facilitators** and **barriers** for implementing such strategies;
- **context** in which implementation occurred
- **inputs** required for the implementation in terms of human, material and financial resources

At the end of the project, each completed systematic review should be accompanied by a plain language evidence summary which can be easily understood by policy makers, and which can be used to prepare policy briefs.

Eligibility criteria

1. The implementation strategy should be applicable to MDGs 4, 5 or 6
2. Proposals should be led by an individual or institution from a LMIC.
3. Duration of the project should not exceed 12 months. (Full review written and submitted for publication)
4. The LOI should be written after conducting a thorough search for systematic reviews on the proposed topic. The strategy for this search as well as the results should be included in the LOI.
5. Each LOI should have a brief outline of the protocol, budget and time-line and full review completion date.
6. Reviews conducted using the Cochrane Collaboration framework or as non-Cochrane systematic reviews are eligible.
7. The proposals should not be for a primary research question, i.e. they should not include new data collection in the field.

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Budget

The size of the budget for each grant will be based on the scope and focus of each project. The budget for any individual proposal should be no more than US \$ 40,000. Additional funding from other sources can be sought if the budget is anticipated to exceed this amount. Proposals should indicate the approximate amount of literature that will be required to search, scan and evaluate to facilitate the evaluation of the budget.

Potential review areas could include implementation or up-scaling of interventions to improve:

- quality of care;
- service delivery
- access to services;
- retention of staff;
- task sharing (optimizing health worker roles);
- community innovations for prevention, care and referral
- health financing

Address for additional information and where to send the letter of intent

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IMPORTANT: Please make sure to include the following wording in the subject line of the e-mail:
Letter of Intent, Evidence synthesis - Implementation Research Platform