Call for expression of interest

HRP Alliance for research capacity strengthening: Regional hubs for research and knowledge transfer in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) research in WHO regions – Eastern Mediterranean, European, and Western Pacific.

The UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) is the main instrument within the United Nations system for identifying research priorities on sexual and reproductive health and rights; for promoting, conducting, evaluating and coordinating related interdisciplinary research; for collaborating with countries to build national capacity to conduct research; and for promoting the use of research results in policy making and sexual and reproductive health programmes. HRP is administered through the World Health Organization’s Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR). The HRP Alliance for Research Capacity Strengthening (RCS) aims to bring together RCS grant recipients with collaborating centres and other long-standing HRP research partners, together with HRP and regional WHO offices, within the frame of research capacity strengthening. For more information on HRP Alliance http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/hrp_alliance/en/

Objectives of HRP Alliance:

1. To strengthen the research capacity of institutions in low resourced settings
2. To promote RCS within prioritized SRHR research areas globally and regionally
3. To support equitable research capacity strengthening within SRHR by implementing HRP Alliance core values (promoting gender equality, human rights and equitable outcomes by prioritising investments in the least resourced settings)
4. To monitor and evaluate the impact of RCS activities by applying a theory of change, including qualitative and quantitative indicators.

The HRP Alliance is seeking to identify regional hubs in knowledge transfer and implementation research within SRHR research in the following WHO regions¹: Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), European (EURO), and Western Pacific (WPRO) to complement the existing hubs in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South East Asia. The collaboration is anticipated to be long-term with yearly work plans and 5 – year long-term goals.

The main aim of the engagement with regional HRP Alliance hubs is to support the selected institutions to become independent resources of expertise for SRHR research and knowledge transfer to strengthen SRHR research capacity in other research centres in the region.

Eligibility criteria for LID-hubs:

- Located in a low- or middle-income country within the region² (preference given to low- or lower-middle-income countries as relevant per region)
- Eligible entities include: universities, research and higher education institutions or similar non-profit entities

¹ http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/definition_regions/en/
- Engagement in SRHR research proven by records of publications, external grants, and/or ongoing research projects
- Existing research capacities in implementation research, health systems research, knowledge transfer and use of research by decision-makers
- Committed leadership with diverse staffing characterised by a range of research expertise and with a balance of gender and age
- Administrative competence and infrastructure for managing grants
- Adequate language skills among staff to be able to function as a regional resource (in EURO, applicants from institutions with Russian speaking staff are encouraged).

Individual members of current committees of the Special Programme – Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG), Gender Advisory Panel (GAP), and Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC) – cannot have managerial responsibilities within applicant organisations; committee members would in relevant cases be asked to resign.

**Applications**

A short letter of interest from the Principal Investigator (PI) with recent curriculum vitae and a completed institutional profile form should be submitted by e-mail to HRPAlliance@who.int indicating “HRP Alliance regional hub” in the subject line.

**Download the institutional profile form**

**Deadline for application is 15 August 2018.**