

2020-2021 Joint EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme

Call for Applications

Implementation Research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty

Grant funding: up to US\$ 15 000

Deadline for submission: 1 June 2020

Only applicants from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region are eligible.

The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) are pleased to announce the 2020–2021 call for applications of the Joint EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme for implementation research in infectious diseases of poverty.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The goal of the TDR Strategy 2018-2023 is 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 supports translation of research results into policy and practice by improving health and promoting the engagement of individuals and communities in using research evidence to reduce the disease burden in their respective countries.

This call supports the generation of evidence from local research for the prevention and control of tropical diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region countries and takes into account the outcomes of two activities at the Regional Office: *“Supporting Research for Health in the EMR”* (EM-ACHR Meeting, 17-18 February 2020); and the *“Regional Health Research Prioritization”* workshop (13 February 2020). It emphasizes the importance of using implementation/operational research for ALL priority topics listed below. In addition, the call welcomes research which links more than one priority in the list below, as well as involving EMR-based healthcare delivery and disease control programmes with research / academic institutions.

[More information about implementation research](#)

2020–2021 PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)

Comparative assessment of the current treatment protocols for cutaneous leishmaniasis in use (e.g. intralesional injectable regimens, regimen of cryotherapy & thermotherapy)

Cost-effectiveness of vector and reservoir control in endemic foci of leishmaniasis

Risk factors related to the severity and fatality of the visceral leishmaniasis cases

Comparative efficacy of miltefosine in the treatment of *L.tropica* and limitations on use of antimonials with higher parenteral doses

Host feeding preference/habits of the main vectors of anthroponotic cutaneous leishmaniasis

Malaria

Assessment of integrated community case management in the context of humanitarian emergency (e.g. in Yemen)

Improving adherence of private practitioners to national malaria treatment policy

Assessment of implementation of intermittent preventive therapy (e.g. Somalia and Sudan)

Cost estimation of the minimum package of health services for malaria in different settings

- Roles of invasive *Anopheles stephensi* in malaria transmission in HoA countries in the Region

Tuberculosis

Improving access, screening and diagnosis of TB

Effective models for programmatic management of drug-resistant TB for universal access and quality of care

Measuring the catastrophic cost of diagnosis, treatment, care and support on people and families affected by tuberculosis

Ensuring effective and sustainable collaboration with all care-providers for TB care and control

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Health care workers and researchers are eligible to apply for this grant, including those working in institutions such as regional or national tropical/communicable disease control programmes embedded within ministries of health, academic institutions, research institutes, and non-governmental organizations (including professional societies and civil service organizations involved in tropical disease research activities). Applications that involve researchers from different institutions, especially from more than one country in the region, are strongly encouraged. ***Applications from EMR first-time qualified young researchers, female researchers and under-represented countries are also strongly encouraged.***

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals will be selected on a competitive basis by WHO staff in the Regional Office and TDR. Scoring will depend on scientific merit and the public health impact of the project. **Publications resulting from the supported projects and data are required to:**

- follow the WHO open-access policy
- clearly refer to the Joint EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme support indicating grant number.

FUNDS: US\$ 10 000–15 000 per grant. Co-funding from domestic or other sources is encouraged.

STUDY DURATION: 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **1 June 2020**

SUBMISSION

The completed application form should be signed by all investigators and submitted by e-mail to Coordinator, Research Development and Innovation and TDR Focal Point, WHO Regional Office at: emrgotdr@who.int.

[Download the application form](#)

RELATED LINKS

[Research promotion and development](#)

[Regional operational research supported by TDR](#)

[TDR research](#)