

## Call for Applications

### Joint EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme for Implementation Research in Infectious Diseases of Poverty

**Deadline for submission: 1 June 2018**

*Only applicants from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region are eligible*

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The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) and the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) are pleased to announce the 2018-2019 call for applications of the Joint EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme (SGS) for implementation research in infectious diseases of poverty.

#### Research priorities

The goal of the TDR strategy is to foster research on infectious diseases of poverty that lead to health improvement, strengthen research capacity of individuals and institutions in developing countries and develop implementation strategies and solutions that respond to the health needs of these countries. It also aims at translating research results into policy and practice, 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 evidence generated from local research for the prevention and control of tropical diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) countries and takes into account the outcomes of two EMRO activities: a workshop on Regional Health Research Prioritization (Feb 2018) and a special meeting for identification of TDR priorities by WHO/EMRO technical units (April 2018). The call emphasizes the importance of using implementation/operational research for ALL of the priority topics listed below and welcomes research which links more than one priority in the list.

More information about implementation research may be accessed through the following link:  
<http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/topics/ir-toolkit/en/>

### **The 2018-2019 EMRO/TDR SGS priority areas are:**

- Evaluation of new models/interventions for implementation of ambulatory MDR-TB.
- Cost-effectiveness of new diagnostic tools for multiple drug resistance (MDR) detection in both public and private health sectors.
- Improving collaboration and reporting of TB cases with the private sector in high TB burden countries.
- Assessing catastrophic cost of TB diagnosis and management on families.
- Plasmodium vivax burden in EMR endemic African countries.
- Improving access to malaria interventions, including surveillance for remote, migrant and mobile populations.
- Enhancing community engagement for implementation of vector control interventions, especially for remote and vulnerable populations.
- Assessing the burden of co-infection of malaria and Aedes-borne arboviral diseases.
- Evaluating and comparing preventive measures to reduce/interrupt transmission of leishmaniasis.
- Innovative approaches to increase detection of new cases of leprosy.
- Investigating determinants of transmission of schistosomiasis in hotspots in late stage of elimination.
- Innovative approaches for facial cleanliness and environmental improvement components of the SAFE<sup>1</sup> strategy for trachoma elimination.
- Analysis study of the economic impact of hepatitis C prevention and treatment intervention scenarios.
- Integrated bio-behavioural surveys and population size estimates among key populations<sup>2</sup>.
- Improving access to diagnostic and management tools for HIV, hepatitis B, C infections.
- Integrated use of multi-disease diagnostic devices for HIV, hepatitis B & C.
- Effective and feasible strategies for engagement of the private sector for effective case management and reporting (TB, malaria, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis).

### **Eligibility criteria**

Health care workers and researchers are eligible to apply for this grant, including institutions in EMR national tropical/communicable disease control programmes embedded within ministries of health, academic institutions, research institutes, nongovernmental organizations (including professional societies and civil service organizations involved in tropical disease research activities).

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<sup>1</sup> Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, and Environment improvement

<sup>2</sup> Key populations: IDU (intravenous drug users), MSM (men having sex with men), CSW (commercial sex workers), prisoners, trans-gender, etc.

Applications that involve researchers from different institutions, especially from more than one country in the region, are also strongly encouraged.

Applications from qualified young researchers, female researchers and under-represented countries are strongly encouraged.

### **Selection process**

Proposals will be selected on a competitive basis by external reviewers and WHO staff in EMRO and TDR. Scoring will depend on scientific merit and the public health impact of the project. Publications and data resulting from the supported projects are required to follow the WHO open-access policy, and should clearly refer to the Joint EMRO/TDR Small Grants Scheme support, indicating the grant number.

### **Funds**

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

**Study duration:** 1 September 2018 - 31 August 2019

**Application deadline:** **1 June 2018**

### **How to apply**

The completed application form should be signed by all investigators and submitted by e-mail to: Coordinator, Research Development & Innovation & TDR Focal Point, EMRO at: [emrgotdr@who.int](mailto:emrgotdr@who.int).