



World Health  
Organization



For research on  
diseases of poverty  
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## IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH TRAINING WORKSHOP

7 – 12 JULY 2013 GABORONE, BOTSWANA

Request for applications

Submission deadline 26 May 2013

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TDR invites applications from research teams in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) currently conducting Implementation Research (IR) projects on infectious diseases of poverty to participate in a pilot training workshop. The workshop is part of the development of a module-based Toolkit designed to strengthen IR capacity in the following areas: contextualizing research, ethics, planning & conducting an IR project, data collection & management, analysis of results, dissemination of findings, and monitoring and evaluation of the uptake of evidence in the health system.

### Background

TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, ([www.who.int/tdr/en](http://www.who.int/tdr/en)) is a global programme that coordinates, supports and influences global research efforts against a portfolio of major infectious diseases of poverty. Established in 1975, TDR is based at the World Health Organization (WHO), and is sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and WHO.

TDR strategic plan (2012-2017) built on its track record of research and capacity building aims to:

- develop innovative solutions and implementation strategies that respond to health needs of disease endemic countries
- strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions to conduct research on local priority health issues
- translate innovation, knowledge, solutions and implementation strategies to policy and practice

The past decade has seen an unprecedented expansion in the number of new tools developed to control infectious diseases of poverty which have the potential to significantly improve health. However, the implementation of many of these new tools has been slower than expected. Even where policies, tools and strategies have been formally adopted, using them in “real life” settings is often constrained by contextual factors resulting in ineffective implementation. The value of implementation research (IR) in addressing these challenges and finding solutions is widely accepted. TDR with the support of its core funders and additional support from USAID, PEPFAR and the WHO Implementation Research Platform (IRP) has developed a six-module Toolkit for training researchers and decision-makers in public health programmes/institutions to:

- conduct, disseminate and implement research findings in public health
- enhance functional partnerships with experienced researchers
- respond proactively to funders, development programmes and other related stakeholders

The Toolkit includes a series of workshops covering the different modules. The initial Proposal Development module has already been piloted in Durban and Entebbe in March 2012. TDR now wishes to pilot the modules related to “Planning and conducting the research”; “Analyzing the research results”; “Presentation and dissemination of research findings”; and “Monitoring and evaluation of uptake”.

## **Workshop**

Up to eight research teams (with three members each) will be selected and invited for the workshop conducted in English, to be held in Gaborone, Botswana, 7–12 July 2013. TDR will cover the cost of participation, including economy class return airfare, accommodation and full board.

A five-day training including theory, readings and practices, through group participatory sessions will assist to further develop the participants research projects. As part of the process the participants are expected to provide feedback on the content and value of the training package, and be willing to receive mentorship during the conduct of their own project from July 2013 to January 2015. The workshop will be facilitated by researchers with a proven track record in implementation research in developing countries, and by researchers from ministries of health, global health programmes/development agencies, and academia.

## **Eligibility**

Applications are expected from health research teams initiating or conducting a funded project to improve the delivery of health interventions or efficiency of health systems. The lead applicant must be employed by a national governmental or non-governmental organization in a LMIC with long-term commitment to public health. Preference will be given to multi-disciplinary teams including researchers, public health personnel and policy makers. The applications must be endorsed by the head of the institution hosting the research project and the applicants must be ready to contribute to continuing IR capacity building in the home country/institution.

## **How to apply:**

The following information and documentation should be provided (use Times New Roman font 12 and 1.5 line spacing):

- composition and one-page CV of each of the three members of the research team to attend the workshop, including educational and employment history
- a two page (A4) synopsis of the ongoing research project to be discussed during the workshop, including the rationale and expected contribution to policy and practice
- confirmation that funding is available for the project
- an official letter of endorsement and support from the home institution

## **Submission:**

Applications should be sent in a single e-mail with attachments in pdf format to [TDRToolkit@who.int](mailto:TDRToolkit@who.int) On the subject line indicate: "family name of the applicant – IR workshop 2013. The research team will be selected based on relevance and feasibility of their project, contextual and implementation barriers to be addressed, and potential impact on health outcomes.

Applications from women are particularly encouraged

**Submission deadline is 26 May 2013**

**Incomplete documentation and applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed**

Invitation letters, pre-workshop reading materials and information on travel and accommodation arrangements will be sent to selected candidates by 7 June 2013.

## **For further information contact:**

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