

## **Implementation research and gender call for applications**

### **A contribution to implement TDR's Intersectional Gender Research Strategy**

**Deadline for submission: 28 January 2022 (17:00 CET)**  
**Submissions after this deadline will not be considered**

*Eligibility is limited to applications from research institutions from low- and middle-income countries*

TDR, the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, hosted at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, is pleased to announce a call for applications to stimulate an intersectional gender approach in infectious disease implementation research.

This call is limited to applicants from low and middle-income countries (LMICs) that have been engaged on and with expertise in gender and intersectionality research applied to public health, implementation research, infectious disease prevention and control. They are invited to submit individual research proposals including a complete research protocol ready to be submitted for national ethics approval.

**Two** research groups/teams will be selected. Under this call, 2 individual research teams from two different LMICs will be selected for twelve months' funding up to a maximum amount of **US\$ 98'000** towards each proposal.

This call aims to strengthen an intersectional gender lens in implementation research to contribute to the implementation of TDR's Intersectional Gender Research Strategy.

### **Background**

Understanding the intersection of different dimensions of gender with other social stratifiers, including age, sex, disability, class, sexual orientation or ethnicity, among others, is critical in the epidemiology, prevention and control of infectious diseases across different contexts. There is increasing yet insufficient evidence on why and how gender intersects with other key social stratifiers to shape infectious disease conditions, influence vulnerability to illness, and affect experiences in access to health care. There is also an urgent need to explore how new evidence in emerging priority areas can be efficiently translated into policy and practice, and how gender dynamics influence implementation research processes.

A renewed and strengthened gender equality and health equity focus with an intersectional lens could have a profound effect on infectious disease public health delivery for marginalized

populations globally. Prevention and control of infectious diseases and addressing gender intersecting inequalities in access to health care could result in better social justice outcomes that positively contribute to fighting infectious diseases in LMICs, and among the most vulnerable populations.

More resources must be devoted to understanding implementation of health interventions at the community level to address the nuances and challenges of health care delivery and access, from drug distribution within communities, to access, to quality healthcare across population subgroups facing social and economic intersecting inequalities (resulting from age, disability, income level or religion for example), including those related to gender inequalities. Modifications and increased monitoring at the community level may also significantly improve access to treatment and care for everyone, irrespective of their sex assigned at birth, including young and adolescent pregnant females. Implementation research strategies should include social and behavioural data in addition to accurate sex- and age-disaggregated data on the number of persons who are accessing healthcare and adhering to infectious disease programmes.

### **Call objectives and expected outputs**

The overall objective of this work is to conduct implementation research studies to generate evidence that helps to identify enablers and bottlenecks that impact the delivery of health interventions. This includes: generating evidence on how gender intersects with other social variables impacted by specific contextual and structural factors, influencing access to health systems, health care and treatment; and intersectional gender analysis in research for implementation to generate new evidence and knowledge on the intersections of gender and other social variables that influence the way implementation strategies work.

Specifically, projects could focus on one or more of the topics listed below. This list is not exhaustive; research teams may suggest slightly different titles or foci although preference will be given to closely related topics. All topics proposed should cover one or multiple aspects related to implementation research processes, taking into account an intersectional gender approach and health systems lens.

The activities conducted within the proposals submitted should include a complete research protocol with national ethics granted or with potential to be granted ethics approval in the short term. **Any research activities proposed would require national ethics approvals or an indication that have been already submitted to national ethics committees.**

Studies proposed may **focus on** at least two of the following areas:

- Research aimed at identifying bottlenecks that impact the access to interventions and delivery of health services, by generating evidence on how gender intersects with other social variables, influencing access to healthcare and treatment, through implementation research. This research may include case studies on how gender intersects with other social variables in access to health care and treatment of malaria and other infectious diseases of poverty, specifically for population subgroups such as teenage populations, the elderly and young pregnant women
- Conducting intersectional gender analysis in research for implementation to generate new evidence and knowledge on the intersections of gender and other social variables that influence the way implementation strategies work.

- How, why and for whom implementation research strategies work, considering an intersectional gender approach and health systems lens.
- Identifying how evidence-based interventions, tools and services should be modified or adapted to achieve sustained health impacts in real-world settings
- Determining the best way to introduce practical solutions into health systems and facilitating their full-scale implementation, evaluation and modification
- Evidence around what works, what doesn't work and what opportunities exist at community level to enhance the participation of the elderly, adolescents and pregnant and breastfeeding women in treatment programmes, and increase their access to healthcare.
- Studying the intersection of sex and gender with other social stratifiers to understand marginalization and disadvantage in access to health systems, services and interventions.
- Research on the intersection of gender and other axes of inequality in delivery and access to prevention and control approaches and products to prevent and control infectious diseases.
- Considering ways in which underlying gender power relations can be challenged and progressively changed during the implementation research process.
- How to optimize health interventions in structural violence conditions where the most vulnerable people live with a high burden of infectious diseases.

### **Eligibility criteria**

**This research programme has a selective nature.** It seeks to identify unique established research groups or institutions with expertise and a track record in implementation research, health systems, gender, intersectionality and infectious disease research that would benefit from a new influx of funding to advance their research work.

TDR is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity in science. Researchers are encouraged to apply irrespective of gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religious, cultural and social backgrounds, or (dis)ability status.

When data is included, it should be disaggregated at least by sex and age (and other social stratifiers as appropriate, e.g. education level, income, self-reported gender identity, social status or (dis)ability) wherever possible).

Plans for ensuring sex and age disaggregated data and gender analysed data should be clearly stated in the research application and considered in early stages of the project design process.

Grants will be awarded to the beneficiary research institution where the lead researcher/s is/are based.

### **Funding scope**

The duration for the award will be 12 months with an estimated start date in February 2022. Proposals will be considered for a total funding envelope of up to US\$ 196,000, supporting a maximum of 2 applications.

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis according to criteria including scientific merit, relevance, innovation and feasibility of the project.

## **Evaluation process and criteria**

The proposals should be submitted in English.

Proposals will be selected through a competitive process. The selection of projects for funding under this call will be conducted independently by an ad hoc committee established by TDR, which will review the eligible proposals based on criteria such as scientific merit, relevance to the call and feasibility, taking into account gender and equity dimensions.

The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated taking into consideration the following criteria:

### **1. Scientific merit**

- Well-articulated implementation research vision and plans, clearly linking and highlighting the impact of previous research and/or the innovative intersectionality and gender lens of the proposed implementation research project.
- Well-articulated health systems lens and intersection gender approach.
- Appropriate problem statement and rationale.
- Clear and well-defined objectives.
- Appropriate and feasible research questions.
- Appropriate study design, methodology and data collection and analysis plan and reporting.
- Considerations of ethical issues arising from the research.
- Feasible implementation timeline (Gantt chart).
- Soundness and appropriateness of budget. Risk assessment and management approach to the project.
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### **2. Relevance**

- Fitness with the theme and scope of the call.
- Appropriateness of the methodology to the problem and the social and geographic context.
- Quality and suitability of the multi-disciplinary research team (with complementary and integrated expertise), transdisciplinarity of research framework, and involvement of multisectoral stakeholders (both at the national policy as well as at the local policy implementation level, e.g. communities, development partners).
- Community engagement/participation and plans to engage non-researchers and stakeholders throughout the research process.
- Consideration of gender equality and health equity issues.
- Potential for strengthening existing capacity (including organizational) of the research team, institutions and communities.

- Dissemination and utilization plan for research results.
- Ability of the principal investigator to manage the project based on track record of innovative and impactful research.
- Outcome-oriented monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Potential to influence policy through best practices and policy linkages.
- The extent to which the proposed project is likely to contribute to improved implementation research objectives and health outcomes for people affected by infectious diseases; How will achievement of the research objectives change the concepts, methods, technologies, services, or preventative interventions that drive advancement of infectious disease prevention/control?

### 3. Feasibility

- Feasible implementation timeline (Gantt chart).
- Quality/suitability of the institution(s)/team (composition, expertise) for the proposed tasks.
- Ability of the principal investigator to manage the project based on track record.
- Risk assessment and management approach to the project.

### 4. Budget

- Sound and appropriate budget.
- Budget well justified.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be submitted online **no later than 28 January 2022 – 17:00 CET**, through the **eTDR Community Site** at the link below.

<https://who.force.com/etdr/s/gs-solicitation/a0p3X00000fnMWN>

**You will need to create a new account (if you don't have it already) on the site and log in before you can apply.**

Before you start the online application process, please complete the form linked below:

[Download the application form](#)

Application form must be completed and signed appropriately and uploaded in eTDR as part of your online application. Please also include current curriculum vitae of all investigators.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

In case of questions/information related to administrative documentation, please contact:

**TDR Scientist Mariam Otmani del Barrio**

[otmanidelbarriom@who.int](mailto:otmanidelbarriom@who.int)

In case of technical issues with the online submission, please consult [document with instructions on how to apply to call for proposals in eTDR system.](#)

If your issue is still not resolved, please contact:

**Mr Daniel Hollies**

[holliesd@who.int](mailto:holliesd@who.int)