

## RESEARCH FOR HEALTH IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES (R2HC)

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Based on our experience from earlier Calls, the following recommendations based on our five assessment criteria may be of benefit to potential applicants:

#### **Impact**

- Ensure that the proposal is within scope (see 'What we want to fund' section of the Call Guidelines)
- Be explicit about how your research question addresses a priority evidence need, drawing from relevant evidence sources, including engagement with affected communities
- State the intended impact of the research on humanitarian policy, practice or programming
- Demonstrate how and when you plan to engage and communicate with the specific stakeholders who will apply your research findings to health policy, practice and/or programming at local, regional or global level
- If studies have already been undertaken in this field or context, clearly articulate why and how this particular study can add significant additional value
- Justify why you are testing a particular intervention (if applicable for your study design): provide evidence of effectiveness in other settings/preliminary data
- Outline how research outcomes will impact the community(s) where the research is being conducted.

#### **Methodology**

- Be precise about your research objective. Avoid having multiple unrelated objectives
- Ensure the proposal clearly explains the nature of the intervention(s) that is (are) the subject of the study (where relevant)
- Clearly specify the methodological approach, ensuring it is appropriate to address your research question(s)
- Directly relate methodology to the proposed objectives & outcomes
- Ensure that the proposal is to undertake a research study, not simply a programmatic evaluation or development of an intervention or product
- Ensure appropriate comparison groups (where relevant)
- Be clear about sample size calculations (including for control groups) and justify them
- Reference background research, other relevant studies, existing protocols/tools, and explain how this study will contribute to the body of literature
- Consider the ethics of the control group and the importance of equipoise (ie that there is genuine uncertainty as to whether an intervention will be beneficial, and as such, that an intervention that is known to be effective has not been withheld from the control or intervention group)
- Consider how bias will be avoided if research seeks to investigate humanitarian programming delivered by one of the research partners
- For studies with qualitative methods look at R2HC's [Qualitative Research Assessment Tool](#)
- For Gender Based Violence proposals look at our [Evidence Review of Gender-Based Violence Research Methodologies](#).

### **Partnerships**

- Ensure that the partnership and research team requirements are met (per Call guidelines).
- Demonstrate how the partners have the experience, attributes and qualifications to undertake the proposed research activities, including knowledge of the local context, experience in specific research methods/ approaches, and networks/ relationships to deliver uptake
- Ensure that the Principal Investigator (or co-Principal Investigators) demonstrates prior experience of leading similar research, ideally in the same context.
- Ensure the proposed roles and responsibilities of partners are clearly defined, appropriate, balanced and credible.

### **Feasibility**

- Propose a realistic timeframe, budget, research activities, and number of locations, considering the operational and ethical challenges that are likely to be faced
- Avoid including too many activities within your study design eg multiple interventions, overly broad outcomes, too many interviews for qualitative research, etc
- Provide baseline data and cite existing research (if available) to demonstrate the feasibility of your study design.

### **Value for money**

- Demonstrate value for money showing that costs are reflective of the proposed package of work, and that the overall budget amount is reasonable compared to the likely impact
- Avoid including costs that cannot be justified, for example high academic salaries or too many senior researchers relative to the scope of the work
- Consider the distribution of costs between partners, and avoid disproportionate expenses apportioned to collaborators affiliated with high-income institutions.