



**Paper for publication that documents the achievement and outputs
of the R2HC-funded Ebola research projects**

Consultancy Terms of Reference

Background

ELRHA (Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance) is a ground-breaking initiative hosted by Save the Children UK that is dedicated to supporting collaboration between research institutions and humanitarian organisations. ELRHA has four core programmes: i) Effective Partnerships; ii) The Humanitarian Innovation Fund; iii) Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC) and iv) Humanitarian Professionalisation.

The **R2HC programme** is the product of a strategic partnership between the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Wellcome Trust, with ELRHA leading the programme's design, execution and management. The programme aims to improve health outcomes in humanitarian crises by strengthening the evidence base for public health interventions during humanitarian crises. The specific outcome of the programme is to directly increase the quality and quantity of collaborative research on recognized public health challenges in humanitarian crises, leading to improved health outcomes through cost-effective humanitarian interventions, through partnerships between research institutions and humanitarian organisations.

The R2HC currently funds and supports high quality research addressing key evidence gaps in the humanitarian public health arena and plays a role in dissemination and uptake of the research findings within key communities and networks involved in humanitarian public health policy and practice, aiming to ensure that research findings are translated into evidence-based practice. On occasion the R2HC commissions papers, or comparative analysis, to look at the performance of new and existing response interventions.

To respond to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, in August 2014 DFID and the Wellcome Trust requested ELRHA to launch a special funding window to fund research that would produce robust findings that could contribute to the effectiveness of the outbreak response and help to draw lessons for future outbreaks of Ebola and other communicable diseases. The Call for Proposals generated significant interest on the part of the research and humanitarian communities and resulted in the funding of eight research institutions to undertake studies in support of addressing the Ebola crisis. The following research projects were funded:



Research institution	Research title
Umeå University, Sweden	Messaging to promote Ebola treatment-seeking behaviour
International Rescue Committee	Participatory behavioural change for infection prevention and control
Oxford University	Predicting the spread of EVD
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Modelling Ebola in West Africa
University of Westminster	Ebolacheck - rapid point-of-need EVD diagnostics
LSHTM/University of Sussex	Ebola Response Anthropology Platform
Institut Pasteur de Dakar	Point-of-care diagnostic testing for EVD
Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP)	How traditional healers understand and deal with EVD

Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate the value of conducting research during a serious epidemic outbreak, through documenting the achievements of the R2HC funded Ebola research projects.

Objectives

The objectives are twofold:

- i) To document the incentives and challenges for undertaking research during the height of the 2014/2015 Ebola crisis in West Africa
- ii) To undertake a review of the outputs of the 8 R2HC-funded research projects and to document the key achievements of this initiative, including the utility of the research both during the epidemic and beyond

Methodology

1. Desk review

This assignment will primarily consist of a desk-based review of documents and outputs related to the R2HC Ebola research Call for Proposals. This will include the following activities:

- Review the R2HC Ebola Call for Proposals Guidelines and documentation related to the selected projects
- Review the full proposals, reports and outputs of the 8 R2HC-funded Ebola projects, including peer reviewed publications and workshop presentations
- Compare and contrast the different research approaches, methodologies and partnerships

2. Key informant interviews

To gain an understanding of key R2HC stakeholder perspectives, including the direct experience of the R2HC grantees and the value they place on the availability of funds to conduct research during the Ebola outbreak, it will be necessary to interview selected stakeholders directly involved with the R2HC Ebola Call. This will entail:

- Development of a short survey tool and/or list of key questions to be administered to:



- Principal Investigators of the 8 funded projects and research consortium partners
- R2HC donors from the Wellcome Trust and DFID
- R2HC Funding Committee Chair and selected FC members
- ELRHA Director and the R2HC programme team
- Selected in-country partners/end users of the research products
- Conducting of survey and/or interviews with the above identified stakeholders

Deliverables

The main deliverable will be:

- a publishable paper documenting the main outcomes of the R2HC Ebola research projects, comparing and contrasting the different research approaches used, describing challenges there may have been in conducting research within the context of the Ebola crisis, and documenting lessons that can be learned about conducting research during an infectious disease epidemic such as the Ebola virus.

Documentation of Research

At the end of the project you will share with us an electronic copy (scans of publications, interview notes, screenshots from webpages, survey data, write-ups from interviews etc.) of any information captured. This is because if the source of a statistic or quote cannot be traced we are unable to use it in our public work.

Timeframe

This work will be conducted between 1 November and 31 March and is anticipated to take 30 working days.

A draft paper will be submitted by 11 March, feedback provided by ELRHA to the consultant by 24 March, and the final paper submitted by 31 March.

Work location

The desk review will be conducted from the consultant's home-base. Communication with stakeholders is expected to take place by telephone or Skype. Depending on the location of the consultant, consideration can be given to the possibility of conducting meetings in person, for which some travel costs could be reimbursable if authorised by the R2HC Programme Manager. Full briefings will take place at the ELRHA office in Cardiff.

Reporting lines

The Consultant will be accountable overall to the ELRHA Director, but will be guided by the R2HC Programme Manager on a daily basis.

Person specifications

- Masters' degree (or higher) in public health, or a related field, with a significant research component
- Experience in conducting reviews and writing papers to a publishable standard (references required)
- Understanding of public health research within the context of humanitarian crises and/or experience of conducting research in developing countries, preferably in humanitarian contexts



- Strong writing skills
- Ability to communicate with a wide-range of professionals from different organization's and backgrounds within the humanitarian and academic spheres

Candidate selection

Applications must include the following:

- Covering letter explaining your interest in this research
- Proposed time frame and work plan
- Proposed budget.
 - The budget must be presented in GBP
 - It must clearly show daily rate (net of VAT)
 - Any additional costs outside the day rate must have clear costing and justification
- CVs and evidence of past research reports/publications for each team member

Application Deadline: 21 October 2015

Submit completed proposals to: r2hc@elrha.org