R2HC
6th Call for proposals

Webinar
5 June 2018
CONTENTS:

1) Elrha: our work
2) R2HC programme
3) Call & application process
4) Q&A
We are an independent charity based in the UK. We began in 2009 and have established ourselves as a global leader of humanitarian research and innovation.

Our mission:

“To improve humanitarian outcomes through partnership, research and innovation”
ELRHA

Innovation

HIF
Humanitarian Innovation Fund

Research

r2HC
Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises
We have supported nearly 200 collaborative research and innovation initiatives globally.

We have given grants worth £28m

Our strategic partners & donors:
CONTENTS:
1) Elrha: our work
2) R2HC programme
3) Call & application process
4) Q&A
R2HC aims to improve health outcomes by strengthening the evidence base for public health interventions in humanitarian crises:

R2HC encourages world class research through fostering collaboration between operational humanitarian agencies and research institutions.

R2HC aims to bridge the gap between research and practice in relation to public health interventions in humanitarian crises.
Evidence Review

Humanitarian Health Evidence Review: identified research gaps that have informed the focus of the Calls for Proposals
What R2HC programme does

Fund research:
- Research portfolio
- Research uptake
- Research prioritisation

Generate and share learning:
- How to conduct research in humanitarian contexts
- Ethical issues
- Convene events

Support partnerships:
- Seed funds
- Tools
- Workshops
R2HC–funded research

We have funded 52 studies: £18 million

Five annual calls (awarded 2014–2018)

Funded projects by region:

- Caucasus/Central Asia: 1
- East Asia: 3
-Southern Asia: 14
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 49
- Middle East North Africa: 17
- Caribbean Central America: 4
- South America: 0
R2HC Case-study:

Yale University:
Measuring the health and wellbeing impacts of a scalable programme of psychosocial intervention for refugee youth

- Studying psychosocial intervention (Mercy Corps)
- Study design, aims and partners
- Why the study was funded
- Study outcomes
Yale University:

- **Study design, goals and partners**
  - assess efficacy of intervention – did the programme work, for whom, over what period of time?
  - secondary goal – to test different tools and methods, to assess psychosocial, biological and cognitive outcomes.
  - RCT design – compare against a control group; collected data at three time-points.
  - data on psychosocial, biological and cognitive outcomes – used self-reports; stress biomarkers; and electronic tablet games.
  - multi-partner team: Yale and Columbia; Mercy Corps; Taghyeer (Jordan NGO); University of Western Ontario and Harvard University.
Yale University:

- **Why the study was funded**
  - rigorous design
  - experienced interdisciplinary team
  - independence between research and programme implementation
  - potential for scale-up of intervention
  - responded to identified gaps in the Evidence Review, and cited these in their application
  - introduced innovative methods, including the use of biomarkers: informs how these tools can be used in future studies.
CONTENTS:
1) Elrha: our work
2) R2HC programme
3) Call & application process
4) Q&A
R2HC Call for Proposals

- Key features & definitions
- How to apply & timelines
- Priorities in the Call
- Recommendations
- Support R2HC offers

National Institute for Health Research
Key features of the Call:

£3.5m available in grants
No upper limit on funding but all proposals must demonstrate value for money

Partnerships
Proposals must include a partnership between at least one research institution and one operational humanitarian organisation
Key features of the Call:

Open Call
You define the research question but we have outlined an ‘encouraged’ theme

3 years of funding
Research must be completed within 2 years; 3rd year activities relate to uptake and dissemination activities
What do we mean by ‘research for public health interventions in humanitarian crises’?
Research – what we mean:

- a methodical study that will prove a hypothesis or answer a specific question
- must be systematic and follow a series of steps and a rigid standard protocol
- strengthen the evidence base around public health interventions, and lead to more effective public health interventions in humanitarian crises.

Rigorous:

- publishable in peer-reviewed academic journals.
What we fund:

- Variety of methodological approaches
- Mixed methods: understand context and causality
- Encourage innovation/adaptation for humanitarian context

Guidance:

- Research question and objectives must be clear
- Methods should be appropriate to answer the question
- Study should be achievable
- Methods must lead to robust findings
“We need to move from answering simple questions such as ‘does the programme work, and for whom,’ to questions such as ‘why and how does this programme work.”

Catherine Panter-Brick, Yale University & PI on a R2HC study
Humanitarian – what we mean:

- Natural disasters, conflicts or complex emergencies
- Within lower or middle income countries

Link to humanitarian crises:

- Why couldn’t research take place in a low income setting?
- What will be the impact on humanitarian crises?
How to *apply*, and *how long* does it take to receive a decision?
Who can apply?

Lead applicant (can be from any part of the world):

*Eligible*: Research institution, non-profit, UN, public, govt

*Ineligible*: Individual, profit seeking enterprise

In collaboration with research team members to include:

**Principal investigator:**

Must have previous experience of relevant research

Research team must include both academic and operational partners. These may be from local, national, or international institutions/organisations.
1. Launch of R2HC Call 6
5 June 2018

2. Submit your Expression of Interest
Deadline: 17 July 2018

3. We will invite successful applicants to submit full
By 10 Sept 2018

4. Start your Seed funding activities
From 21 Sept 2018 onwards

5. Submit your full proposal
Deadline: 3 December 2018

6. Decisions made on Full proposals
By 31 March 2019
Types of grant?

Expression of Interest application

Core Grant
- known focus and location for research

Rapid Trigger
- unknown timescale and/or location for research
Rapid Trigger grants

Rapid trigger grants
Research in rapid-onset crises, outbreaks or natural disaster

Pre-approved funding
Triggered when emergency occurs

Answer an identified research Question
Where location(s) & timescales are unpredictable

Preparatory work
Support for work undertaken before crisis occurs e.g. protocol development & training

- Mechanism for rapid disbursement of funds if and when ‘trigger event’ occurs
- Grant approval conditional and dependent on event actually occurring at uncertain future date
Success rate?

35% of EOI s are shortlisted and eligible for Seed Funding

24% of shortlisted EOI s receive funding at the Full proposal stage
What are the **priority areas** of interest in this year’s Call?
Priority theme for Call 6

- Evaluation of interventions focused on health system strengthening in fragile states and protracted crises

- Resources:
  - Prof Sophie Witter webinar (ReBUILD Consortium): health systems in fragile situations
Other priorities

Vulnerable groups:
- Gender equality and social inclusion
- People with disabilities, the elderly, women and girls, and hard-to-reach groups

Research context(s):
- Comparative (multi-country) research
- Research that is replicable in multiple contexts
- Multi-sector integrated responses

Methods:
- Innovative/adapted for humanitarian contexts
Are there any recommendations for submitting a successful application?
Application review criteria

- Impact
- Methodology
- Feasibility
- Value for money
- Research partnership
- Research uptake
Recommendations from earlier calls

1. Ensure research is within scope of the call (research and humanitarian context).

2. Be precise about your research objective and clear about the intervention that you plan to study.

3. Make sure your methodology is clearly described and designed to answer the research question(s).
Recommendations from earlier calls

4. Make sure the research outcome will be applicable beyond the immediate context of the study.

5. Make sure research question addresses a priority need.

6. Select a research team/partners to meet the study objectives, including uptake of findings.
New for Call 6

• Research uptake:
  • Uptake focal point in partnership
  • Year 3 available for uptake activities

• More emphasis on gender & vulnerable populations

• Rebuttal stage:
  • applicants can comment on technical reviews
Available on R2HC website

1. Link directly to on-line application

2. Application documents:
   - Call Guidelines for Applicants
   - Instructions for on-line applications
   - Frequently Asked Questions
   - Support for Francophone applications

3. Other reference documents
   [www.elrha.org/r2hc](http://www.elrha.org/r2hc)

4. If you have other questions, please submit these to:
   [r2hc@elrha.org](mailto:r2hc@elrha.org)
What **support** does R2HC offer?
Seed funding

Grants up to £10,000
Available to successful EOI's

Strengthen partnerships
Convene partnership workshop

Strengthen proposals
Undertake field visits

Strengthen research
Collect preliminary data
Partnerships

Seed Funding Partnership Workshops

“We didn’t know how much we needed this workshop until it actually happened. With partners being spread geographically communication is, at times, very challenging. We needed a platform to connect with each other, exchange ideas, and build our relationships, which is what the R2HC partnership development workshop offered. It was very useful and very timely. It provided us with an opportunity to clarify our roles, responsibilities, and expectations, and therefore cleared up any assumptions or misconceptions we had about each other”

(Lead Applicant, Call 4)

Partnership management training, advice and support

On-going partnership support for grantees including training and online resources

• Lesson Learning
• Sharing learning on academic-humanitarian partnerships with wider research community
Research uptake

➢ Have you identified how this research will build on the existing evidence base to deliver improved health outcomes?

➢ Does a sound plan exist for the uptake and dissemination of research findings?

➢ Are publications foreseen in respected academic journals?

Webinar for shortlisted applicants

R2HC Research Impact Toolkit (available 2019)
CONTENTS:

1) Elrha: our work
2) R2HC programme
3) Call & application process
4) Q&A
Over to you: Questions and Answers