R2HC
7th Call for proposals

Webinar
11 June 2019
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1) Elrha & R2HC: overview
2) Call & application process
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We are a global charity that finds solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation.

Our vision for change:

“A world equipped to mitigate the impact of humanitarian crises.”
What we do

• We empower the humanitarian community to improve humanitarian response.
• We find what works.
• We support and champion the outcomes of robust research and proven innovations.
• We transform evidence-based knowledge into practical tools and guidance for humanitarian responders.
Our work in Research and Innovation

• Our combined focus on research and innovation defines us. It is central to our belief that the humanitarian system urgently requires robust evidence-based solutions.

• We carry out our work through our two funding programmes: our research-focused R2HC programme and our innovation-focused HIF.
R2HC aims to improve **health outcomes** by strengthening the **evidence base** for public health interventions in humanitarian crises:

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

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R2HC aims to **bridge the gap** between research and **practice** in relation to public health interventions in humanitarian crises.
R2HC-funded research

We have funded 59 studies: £21.5 million

Six annual calls (awarded 2014–2019)

R2HC 7th Call for Proposals

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

Open Call
You define the research question based on humanitarian operational needs

4 years for research
Research can be undertaken for (up to) 48 months, with research uptake activities in parallel
Key features of the Call:

No upper £ limit for grants
All proposals must demonstrate value for money

Partnerships
Must include a partnership between a research institution and an operational humanitarian organisation; and a research institution from the country/region where research is taking place
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
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:

*Eligible:* Research institution, non-profit, UN, public, government – can be from any country

*Ineligible:* Individual, profit seeking enterprise

Research team members to include:

- Principal investigator(s). *Must have previous experience of relevant research*
- Academic and operational partners. *These may be from local, national, or international institutions/organisations.*
- Academic partner (or lead): *from country/region where research is planned to take place.*
**Timetable**

**Stage 1: Expression of Interest**
- Launch of R2HC Call 7
  - 4 June 19
- Deadline for Expressions of Interest
  - 16 July 19
- Applicants informed of decisions
  - Sept 19

**Stage 2: Full Proposals**
- Deadline to submit Full Proposals
  - 20 Dec 19
- Technical reviews & Rebuttals
  - January 2020
- Applicants informed of decisions
  - April 2020
Success rate

2018/19 (Call 6):
• 196 EOI applications
• 175 EOIs were eligible
• 31 EOIs were shortlisted (18% of eligible EOIs)
• 7 Full Proposals were funded (4% of eligible EOIs)

Previous years:
• 35% of EOIs shortlisted
• 8% Full Proposal funded
What are the priority areas of interest in this year’s Call?
Priorities

Research context(s):
- Comparative (multi-country) research
- Research that is replicable in multiple contexts
- Multi-sector integrated responses
- Acute contexts
- Health systems, including coordination of the public health response in humanitarian contexts and health system strengthening in conflict-affected countries

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

Methods:
- Innovative/adapted for humanitarian contexts
- Inclusion of cost-effectiveness analysis component
Evidence Review

Humanitarian Health Evidence Review: identified research gaps that have informed the focus of the Calls for Proposals
Are there any recommendations for submitting a successful application?
Application review criteria

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

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

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).

4. Value of mixed methods and propensity score approaches
Recommendations from earlier calls

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

6. Make sure research question addresses a priority need.

7. Select a research team/partners to meet the study objectives, including uptake of findings and avoidance of bias.
New features in Call 7

- 4 years for research activities; uptake activities in parallel
- Need a research institution partner from country or region in which research will take place
- No rapid trigger grants available
- New EOI template
- New seed fund application process
New in recent Calls

- Research uptake focal point in study team
- More emphasis on gender & vulnerable populations
- Rebuttal stage: applicants can comment on technical reviews
Available on Elrha website:

1. Link directly to on-line application

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

3. Other reference documents

4. If you have other questions, please submit these to:
   r2hc@elrha.org
What support does R2HC offer?
Seed Funding

Seed Funding is a unique feature of the Annual Call, enabling shortlisted applicants to strengthen their partnerships.

Up to £10,000 GBP available per proposal to successful Expression of Interests

Example activities:

- In-person meeting with research partners
- Visit proposed study location(s)
- Preliminary data collection
Seed Funding

Seed Funding activities need to be delivered between October and December 2019.

Grants are subject to due diligence and contracting. We can cover seeding funding activities during this process.

Seed Funding will be paid in arrears at the end of activities and subject to the submission of a final report.

If you wish to be considered for a grant please complete the final section in the application form. We will contact successful applicants in September 2019 to complete a short plan and budget for their Seed Funding activities.
Partnerships

Seed funding: Partnership workshops
Help teams consider: roles and responsibilities, ways of working, partnership principles

Partnership management training, advice and support
On-going partnership support for grantees including training and online resources

Resources
Elrha Guide to Constructing Effective Research Partnerships

Lesson Learning
- Sharing learning on academic–humanitarian partnerships with wider research community (review of R2HC partnerships – Q3/4 2019)
Research impact support

- For applicants:
  - R2HC Research Uptake Guidance note
  - Webinar for shortlisted applicants (October)

- For grantees:
  - Research impact workshops
  - Webinars
  - Ad hoc support on impact plans
  - Writing support (blogs, policy briefings, etc)
What is research impact at R2HC?

• Impact of research on ‘wider world beyond academia’.
• Impactful R2HC studies:
  ➢ Informed by priorities of humanitarian health community (relevant)
  ➢ Set path: research → influence (planned)
  ➢ Targeted to humanitarian health stakeholders
  ➢ Based on listening/dialogue
  ➢ Translated into useful/usable/applicable formats
Over to you: Questions and Answers
Partnership • Research • Innovation