r2hc Research for health in humanitarian crises | elrha

Research to support COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings

Webinar

2 April 2020

elrha

Who we are

- Anne Harmer – Head of Programme
- Simon Pickard – Portfolio Manager
- Jess Brown– Senior Programme Officer

elrha

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."

COVID-19 Research Call

Background

- WHO declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020.
- IASC has issued Guidance for scaling up the COVID-19 response in camps and camp-like settings
- Refugees, IDPs and conflict-affected people in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) are particularly vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 and the anticipated knock-on impacts on delivery of health and other essential services.
- Reported cases and government restrictions on travel/movement (ACAPS website/report)

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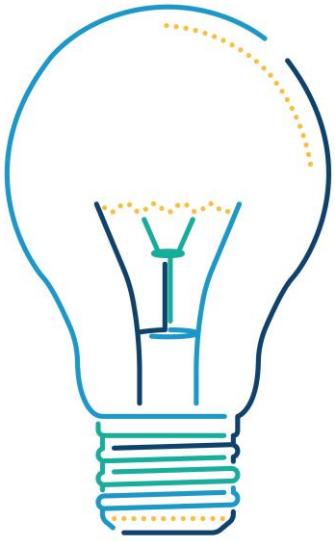
wellcome

UKaid
from the British people

NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

Key features of the Call:



Feed into COVID-19 response

Must be driven by needs/priorities of humanitarian organisations

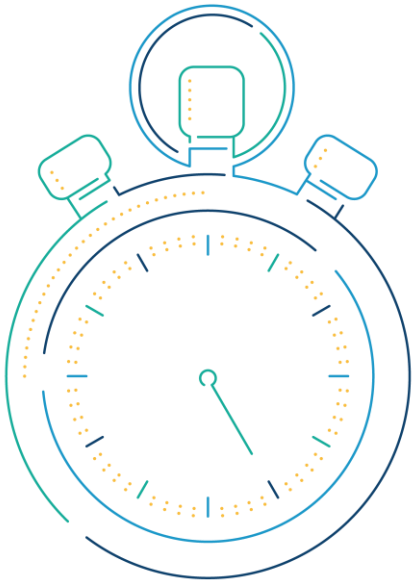
Must have partners/pathways to ensure rapid utilisation of findings

Rapid research

Must be able to start rapidly

Expect most research 3-6 months

Opportunity to justify longer studies



Key features of the Call:

Partnerships

Strong academic research team
Humanitarian partners to ensure research relevance and access to crisis-affected populations
National/global partners to utilise results

Funding

No upper ceiling for studies
All proposals must demonstrate value for money
- Expect some might require small budget as primary data collection might not be necessary/possible

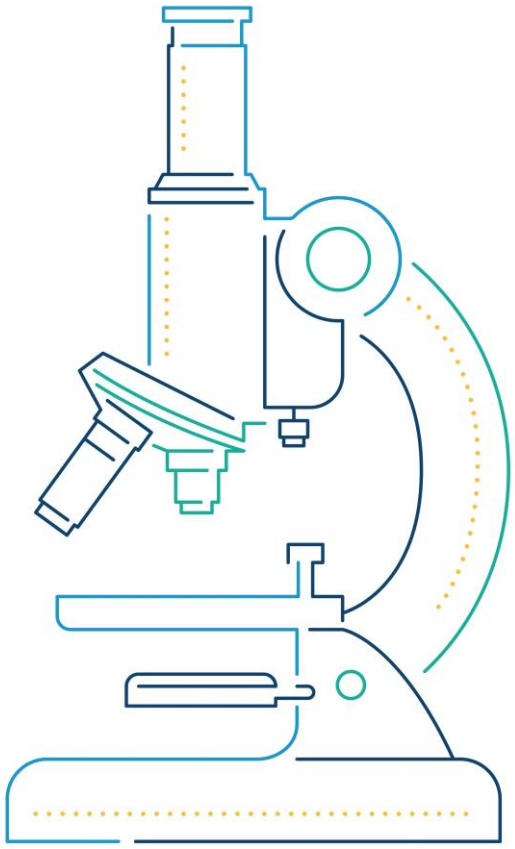
Key terms defined

Eligible humanitarian settings:

- Refugee/IDP populations; conflict-affected populations in humanitarian settings
- Within lower or middle income countries

Ineligible:

- Non-humanitarian populations/settings in LMICs or fragile states

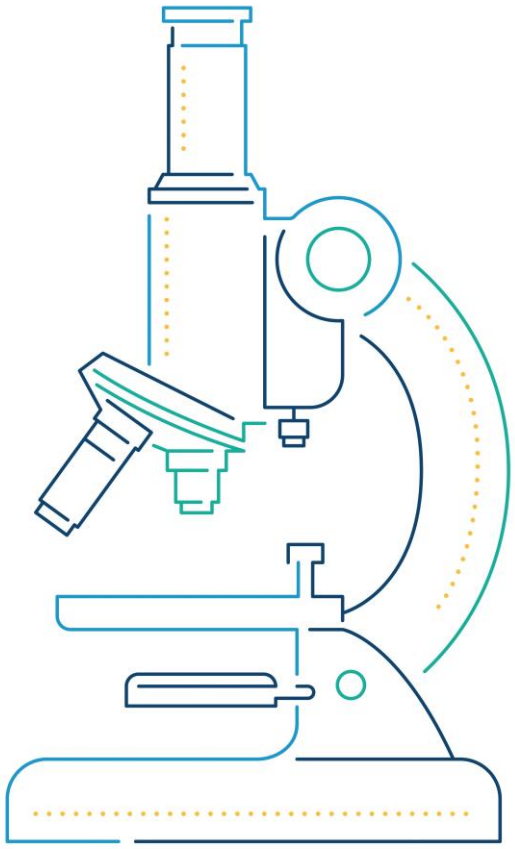


Research – what we mean:

- 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:

- Strong methodology
- Ethically sound
- Results publishable in peer-reviewed academic journals.

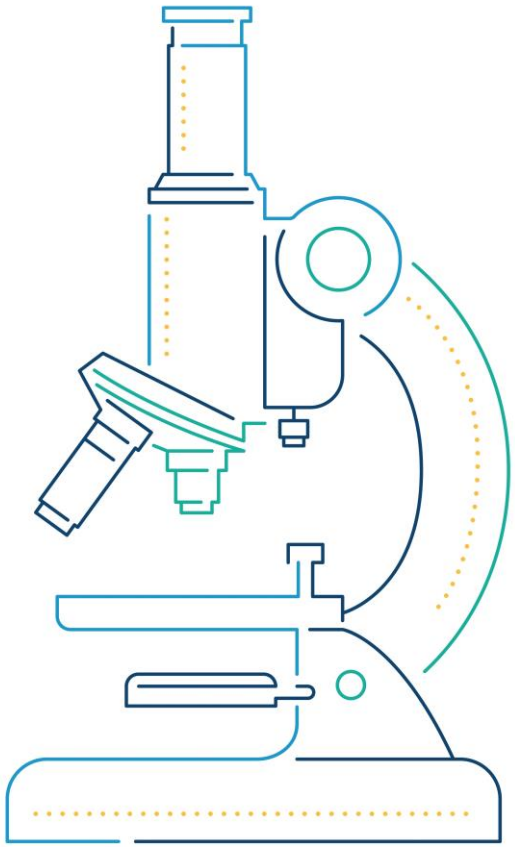


Methodology:

- Appropriate methodology for proposed study
- Encourage innovation/adaptation for humanitarian/COVID-19 context
- Primary and/or secondary data analysis
- Must be feasible and ethical, especially for primary data collection

Guidance:

- Research question and objectives must be clear
- Methods should be appropriate to answer question
- Study should be achievable
- Methods must lead to robust findings



Ethics:

- Given humanitarian settings, COVID-19 transmission risks, possible restrictive access, **ethical considerations are critical**
- R2HC Ethics Tool
- UNICEF Minimum Standards for Community Engagement
- Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)/WHO International Ethical Guidelines

Feasibility:

- Is it *possible* to collect primary data?
- Can I think of alternative, creative ways to conduct my research?

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 should 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.
- In-country humanitarian partners: from country/region where research is planned to take place.

Application process

Five week application window*

Review round deadlines:

- Round 1: 18.00 (GMT+1) on 13 April 2020
- Round 2: 18.00 (GMT+1) on 20 April 2020
- Round 3: 18.00 (GMT+1) on 4 May 2020

Eligibility review

Technical review(s)

Funding Committee review and recommendations

Donor approval

*We'll be in touch with you to ascertain topic of your research, and which round you're aiming for

Application process II

What you need to submit:

- Full proposal
- Research team and CVs
- Budget
- Letters of support if available

Budgets:

- Ineligible costs: interventions; overheads <10%

Decision-making timeline

Funding decisions:

- Round 1: 27th April
- Round 2: 4th May
- Round 3: 18th May

Research to start quickly:

- Letter of Award
- Due diligence and contracting: you must be willing to sign Elrha's Grant Agreement
- Ethics approvals

Research priorities for COVID-19 Call

Targeted research focus:

- Refugees and IDPs living in camps or urban settings, and conflict-affected people, in LMICs
- Health systems and health care workers supporting the COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings in LMICs.

Potential research topics:

- Innovative solutions
- Supporting health care delivery
- Predicting outbreaks
- Social science behavioural research
- Co-ordination and sharing

Target groups:

- Potentially vulnerable older people, people with disabilities or those with pre-existing health conditions
- Women and girls at risk of IPV

Ineligible

- Vaccine and therapeutic research
- Development of diagnostics
- Systematic reviews
- Research in non-humanitarian LMIC contexts, or which could be done in non-humanitarian settings

Application review criteria

- Impact
- Methodology
- Feasibility
- Value for money
- Research partnership

Recommendations from earlier calls

1. Ensure research is addressing a priority in COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings.

2. Be clear how the study team will ensure research findings can be quickly utilised.

3. Be precise about your research objective and have a clear research question

4. Make sure your methodology is clearly described and designed to answer the research question(s).

Recommendations from earlier calls

5. Make sure the research is feasible, ethical and can be undertaken rapidly.

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

7. Ensure that the Principal Investigator is able to demonstrate prior experience of leading similar research.

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. Resources: Elrha/others

4. If you have other questions, please submit these to:
   r2hc@elrha.org

Over to you: Questions and Answers

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Partnership . Research . Innovation .