

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

R2HC: Climate Emergency and Humanitarian Health Situational Analysis

January 2024

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BACKGROUND

Overview

We are Elrha. A global charity that finds solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation. We are an established actor in the humanitarian community, working in partnership with humanitarian organisations, researchers, innovators, and the private sector to tackle some of the most difficult challenges facing people all over the world.

We equip humanitarian responders with knowledge of what works, so that people affected by crises get the right help when they need it most. We have supported more than 200 world-class research studies and innovation projects, championing

new ideas and different approaches to evidence what works in humanitarian response.

Our Programmes

Elrha has two successful humanitarian programmes; Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC) and the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF).

R2HC:

The R2HC programme aims to improve health outcomes for people affected by humanitarian crises by strengthening the evidence base for public health interventions.

This globally recognised research programme focuses on maximising the potential for public health research to bring about positive change in humanitarian response and helps inform decision making in humanitarian response. Since it was established in 2013, it has funded more than 100 research studies across a range of public health fields, bringing together researchers and humanitarian practitioners to undertake vital research.

The HIF:

The HIF programme improves outcomes for people affected by humanitarian crises by identifying, nurturing and sharing more effective, scalable solutions.

The HIF is a globally recognised programme leading on the development and testing of innovation in the humanitarian system. Established in 2011, it was the first of its kind: an independent, grant-making programme open to the entire humanitarian community. It now leads the way in funding, supporting, and managing innovation at every stage of the process.

The HIF's portfolio of funded projects has informed a more detailed understanding of what successful innovation looks like, and what it can achieve for the humanitarian community. This work is leading the global conversation on innovation in humanitarian response.

The safeguarding level of this engagement is: 0₁.

BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES & KEY ACTIVITIES

In 2023 Elrha launched its "Shaping the Future" strategy, where we set out our vision for how we will use Research and Innovation funding to work with the

¹ Please refer to Annex 1 in Elrha Procurement Guidelines to determine the correct safeguarding level of the engagement; providing a brief description here for the relevant level.

humanitarian community and people affected by crisis to identify and respond to priority needs. At Elrha we recognize that the Climate Emergency “presents a fundamental threat to human health” (WHO, 2023), including extreme weather events leading to displacement, heat related injury/deaths, food system disruptions, changes in infectious disease transmission and mental health impacts. We are also signatories to the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations](#), where we have committed to increasing “our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions.”

The IPCC estimates that [over 3.6 billion people](#) are living in areas considered highly susceptible to climate change, with the negative effects disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable and marginalised, including those living in contexts of acute or complex humanitarian crisis. [14 of the 25 countries](#) considered most vulnerable to climate change are also conflict affected. The [WHO’s framework](#) on climate-sensitive health risks, vulnerabilities and exposures guides our thinking on the impacts of the climate emergency on health.

R2HC seeks to strengthen the evidence base for public health interventions in acute and complex humanitarian crises, and we are informed by [ACAPS](#) data and analysis to ensure that we are supporting people presently affected by crisis. We acknowledge the global risk of the climate emergency and the likelihood that this will push many more people into situations of crisis due to increases in natural disasters, food insecurity, and conflict, and are actively following the global conversation around [Anticipatory Action](#). However, our potential future work in the intersection of the climate emergency and health will remain focused on the health impacts of the climate emergency on those people already affected by humanitarian crisis (due to conflict, natural disaster, political upheaval, disease outbreak, drought/flooding etc). Taking a “[polycrisis](#)” lens allows us to consider how it is in the interaction of concurrent events that lead to the compounded impacts on the health of people affected by humanitarian crisis.

Example of the intersection of climate emergency and humanitarian crisis leading to poorer health outcomes:

People displaced across an international border due to conflict in their home country are living in a camp setting. They are now facing compounded crises due to climate-emergency related desertification limiting their ability to grow food and access clean water resulting in undernutrition and increases in diarrheal disease. Furthermore, the pre-existing conflict and displacement related trauma is being further exacerbated by the experience of long-term food insecurity and more frequent disease, requiring new approaches to mental health and psychosocial support.

Although we have funded a [few studies](#) that have directly or indirectly addressed the impacts of climate change on health, the R2HC has not in the past explicitly funded research to address the actual or potential health impacts of the climate emergency. We are currently undertaking an [exploration of opportunities](#) for research and

innovation in the intersection of humanitarian WASH and climate, led by our colleagues in the Humanitarian Innovation Fund.

Given the risks to human health posed by the changing climate, we seek a consultant who will help us explore our options for future thematic research calls that specifically address health and climate emergency in humanitarian contexts. R2HC funds work in Nutrition, SRHR, MPHSS, Infectious Disease Prevention and Response (including vector-borne disease), WASH, Non-Communicable Disease, and Health Systems. We anticipate that any future call focused on impacts of the climate emergency would link to one or more of these thematic areas.

Purpose

This consultancy aims to provide Elrha's R2HC programme with options for strategic engagement in the intersection of the climate emergency and health research in humanitarian contexts, across the areas of Nutrition, SRHR, MPHSS, Infectious Disease Prevention and Response (including vector-borne disease), WASH², Non-Communicable Disease, and Health Systems.

Objectives

There are three main objectives to this work:

- 1) Evidence gap identification: to establish where more research is needed in the intersection of the impacts of the climate emergency on the identified thematic areas in humanitarian crisis settings.
- 2) Horizon scanning: (mindful that this field is moving quickly) to understand what research funders, researchers, humanitarian health organisations, and relevant policy actors are doing in the climate emergency and health space in humanitarian contexts, and to identify possible pathways to impact for future R2HC research.
- 3) Identifying a Niche: to bring together objectives 1 & 2 together to recommend a path forward for R2HC to support research in climate emergency and health in humanitarian contexts, including options for funding calls and/or commissioned work.

Key Activities

Within the context of humanitarian health response, the consultant will:

- Conduct a situational analysis to identify critical evidence gaps related to impacts of the climate emergency in particular thematic areas where R2HC has a foothold. This will include searching for research prioritization exercises, literature reviews, and reports from key actors relevant to this work.

² A scoping piece on research and innovation opportunities in humanitarian WASH and climate is currently being undertaken led by Elrha's HIF team, therefore while we are including WASH here, it will likely draw heavily from that piece of work.

- As part of this activity, to identify what particular humanitarian populations/sub-populations/geographies/contexts are most vulnerable to health impacts of the climate emergency.
- Explore what other funders of public health research are already doing in the climate emergency and health space (through desk research and key informant interviews). This will likely need to extend beyond humanitarian to development, anticipatory action and other elements of the nexus.
- Explore potential research and humanitarian partners that are active in the intersection of health and climate emergency, with a particular eye to global south organisations/institutions. This may include academics, think tanks, advocacy organisations, NGOs, Networks.
- Identify what existing/future policy windows, influencing events and platforms research efforts could be tied to.
- Make recommendations for if/what niche(s) may exist for R2HC in the health and climate emergency space to generate new evidence to support humanitarian health response. This would include recommendations on potential grant sizes, lengths, partnerships and thematic foci.

DELIVERABLES

Key deliverables for this work are:

- A short (3-4 page) inception report to describe the agreed approach and timeline for the work.
- A database of stakeholders active in the climate emergency and health space, including in LMICs, with brief description of their areas of work and contact details (if appropriate)
- A report of no more than 20 pages including background, methodology, results, final recommendations and next steps for publication on Elrha's website.

Supporting deliverables for this work are:

- Kick off meeting with Elrha to agree objectives, methodology and report format
- A topic guide for KIIs, and a proposed list of potential interviewees (estimate 8-10 interviews)
- A list of key engagement opportunities (meetings, conferences, policy processes) relevant to research in humanitarian health and climate emergency.
- An internal Elrha workshop to present the findings of the analyses and recommendations for potential niches for Elrha (prior to finalisation of the report)
- An externally-facing webinar to present the analysis and findings to internal and external stakeholders.
- Other dissemination activities including presentation at relevant meetings that may be identified through the course of this work.

TIMELINE

All dates are approximate, to be finalized with selected provider

Activity	Timeline
RFP Launched	Jan 19, 2024
Proposals Due	Feb 5, 2024
Provider Selected	Feb 15, 2024
Contracting Completed	March 14, 2024
Kick off meeting	March 21, 2024
Inception report, Topic Guide and KII List	March 28, 2024
Completed Desk Research and KIIs	April 30, 2024
Internal Elrha Workshop	June 10, 2024
Draft Report	July 11, 2024
Final Report	Aug 15, 2024
External Webinar	Sept 2024
Further dissemination activities	Sept – Nov 2024

WAYS OF WORKING

The selected Provider will report to Gillian McKay, Senior Humanitarian Health Research Advisor. Other members of the Elrha team will feed in at various points as needed.

The relationship between the selected consultant and Elrha will be one of collaboration, to successfully achieve the aims of the work and to maximize the expertise of all involved.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

CVs and other provided documents should demonstrate that the consultant possesses the following criteria:

Essential criteria:

- An advanced degree in public health, epidemiology, environmental health, humanitarian health or similar
- Experience in climate change adaptation / climate action programming or research in humanitarian settings
- Strongly networked with actors in the climate emergency and health space, at global and regional levels
- Sufficient technical knowledge in the fields of Nutrition, SRHR, MPHSS, Infectious Disease Prevention and Response (including vector-borne disease),

WASH, Non-Communicable Disease, and Health Systems to competently review evidence gaps in those areas.

- At least 5 years' experience in conducting situational analyses and evidence reviews on public health topics.
- Demonstrated experience conducting key informant Interviews and analysing results.
- Strong English writing skills with a proven record of publication.

Desirable criteria:

- Lived experience of humanitarian crisis
- Proficient in French, Arabic or another UN language

Elrha is dedicated to "shifting the power", by supporting actors and organisations engaged in locally-led humanitarian research and innovation. Therefore applications from consultant from climate emergency affected humanitarian settings are strongly encouraged and will be favourably weighted in the qualifications, experience & networking section of the scoring sheet.

AVAILABLE BUDGET AND EXPECTED STRUCTURE OF FINANCIAL OFFER

We anticipate that this will take a maximum of 25 days of work. We have allocated a budget of £15,000 (excluding VAT), but this may be slightly negotiable depending on the level of experience of the consultant. No travel is expected for this consultancy.

The budget submitted to us should be broken down by activity and with any allocations for individual team members shown clearly. The budget submitted by the consultant should not include VAT. Please indicate if you/your Company is VAT registered and where.

Please note that payment is in arrears and linked to satisfactory completion of specific tasks by the deadlines specified in timeline section above.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals should be in English and should include:

- A concise summary of individual's relevant experience and demonstration of suitability as per the above (maximum 3 pages)
- Your proposed approach and methodology to achieve the required deliverables, including suggestions for organisations to prioritize for interview. We strongly encourage you to describe in your approach how you understand the polycrisis and how polycrisis research could contribute to R2HC's aim to

improve health outcomes of those affected by humanitarian crises.
(Maximum 8 pages).

- Your proposed budget broken down by activity.
- CV.
- A completed due diligence form (form linked on RfP webpage)

You may wish to include (attached as links or appendices):

- examples of relevant work and materials produced
- references or testimonies from previous partners or clients (the selected provider will be required to share these prior to contracting).

We are looking for proposals to demonstrate a concise and clear communication style. Proposals can be submitted as Word documents or PDFs.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The application deadline is **23:59 GMT on 05/02/2024**. We will not be able to consider incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline.

Please submit proposals to Gillian McKay with the subject line '*Climate Emergency and Humanitarian Health Situational Analysis – your name*' to g.mckay@elrha.org

Questions about this Request for Proposal may also be directed to Gillian McKay.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

The quality of each proposal will be evaluated in accordance with the award criteria and the weighting detailed in the evaluation grid below. The award criteria will be examined in accordance with the requirements indicated in these terms of reference.

Upon completion of the technical evaluation, the financial offers will be evaluated. Financial offers exceeding the maximum budget available for the contract are unacceptable and will be eliminated.

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum score
Approach and Methodology	[25]
Timeline	[10]
Qualifications, Experience and Network of consultant	[25]

Evidence of Strong Global and Regional Networks in Climate Emergency and Health	[10]
Financial offer	[30]
Overall total score	[100]

DUE DILIGENCE CHECKS AND CONTRACTING

We must ensure any potential supplier is evaluated for compliance to relevant statutory and quality requirements, and that appropriate due diligence checks are carried out, proportionate to the nature and value of the contract.

Due Diligence is our process of reviewing your organisation’s finances, governance structure and business activities (including vetting key team members and/or board members, as applicable). We carry out this process on all our suppliers before we can enter into an agreement. **The due diligence form can be downloaded on the Request for Proposal webpage.**

At the conclusion of the evaluation process and subject to the provisions contained in these ToR, Elrha will decide to which supplier the contract will be awarded and the successful provider will be expected to enter into a formal agreement. The formal contract agreement will be in a form prepared by Elrha. You may request a copy to contracts@elrha.org. If you have any questions about this, please include them in your submission.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Documentation in relation to this Request for Proposal and any proposals received by Elrha in response to it shall be treated as private and confidential save where the disclosure is required by law.

Provider shall not:

- a) Release any information relating to the Request for Proposal and the proposal that they intend to make; other than with professional advisers who need to be consulted with regards to the preparation of the proposal;
- b) Canvass directly or indirectly with any other bidder concerning the award of the contract or directly or indirectly obtain, or attempt to obtain information;
- c) Canvass directly or indirectly with a member of Elrha or their trustees concerning the award of the contract or directly or indirectly obtain or attempt to obtain information from said individuals.

If a Provider does not observe points a), b) and c) above, Elrha will reject their proposal and may decide not to invite the agency to bid for future business opportunities.

Thank you.

