



Research for health
in humanitarian crises

elrha

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

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We began in **2009** and have established ourselves as a global leader of humanitarian **research** and **innovation**

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Our mission:

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

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elrha

Innovation

Research



Humanitarian
Innovation
Fund



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:





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Research for health
in humanitarian crises

elrha

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.

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NHS
*National Institute for
Health Research*

Evidence Review

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

An evidence review of research
on health interventions in
humanitarian crises



LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE

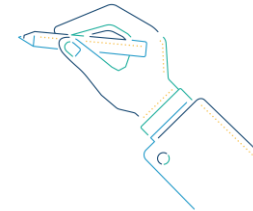
OCTOBER 2015

<p>Principal Investigators Karl Blanchet and Bayard Roberts</p> <p>Authors Karl Blanchet, Vera Sistenich, Anita Ramesh, Severine Frison, Emily Warren, James Smith, Mazeda Hossain, Abigail Knight, Chris Lewis, Nathan Post,</p>	<p>Partners The Harvard School of Public Health and the Overseas Development Institute</p> <p>Funders Department for International Development (DFID) and the Wellcome Trust</p>	<p>Commissioned by</p> 
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What R2HC programme does

Fund research:

- Research portfolio
- Research uptake
- Research prioritisation



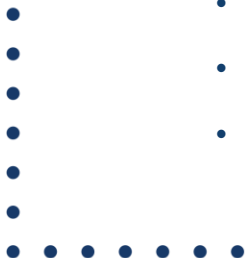
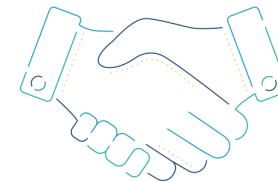
Generate and share learning:

- 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

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Five annual calls (awarded 2014–2018)

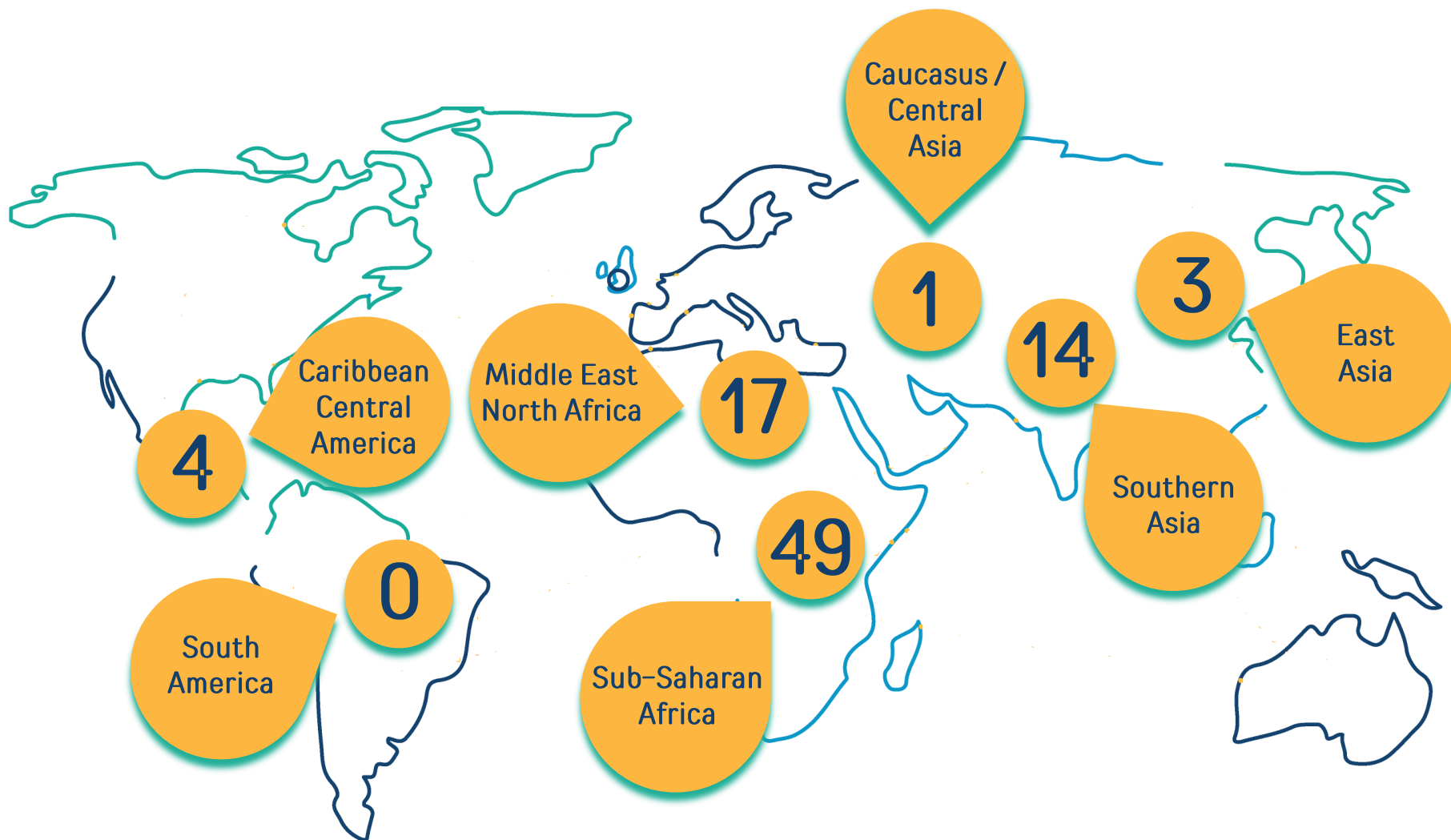
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Two responsive calls: Ebola (2014) +
Food & Nutrition (2017)

.....



Funded projects by region:



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.





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R2HC Call for Proposals

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



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NHS
*National Institute for
Health Research*

Key features of the Call:



£3.5m available in grants

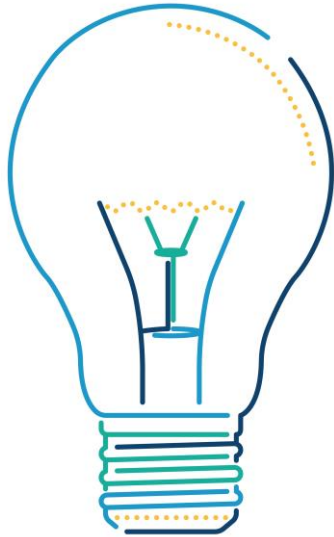
No upper limit on funding but all proposals must demonstrate value for money

Partnerships

Proposals must include a partnership between at least one research institution and one operational humanitarian organisation



Key features of the Call:

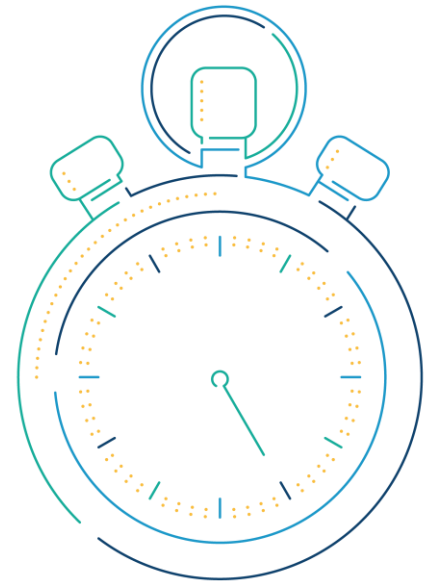


Open Call

You define the research question but we have outlined an 'encouraged' theme

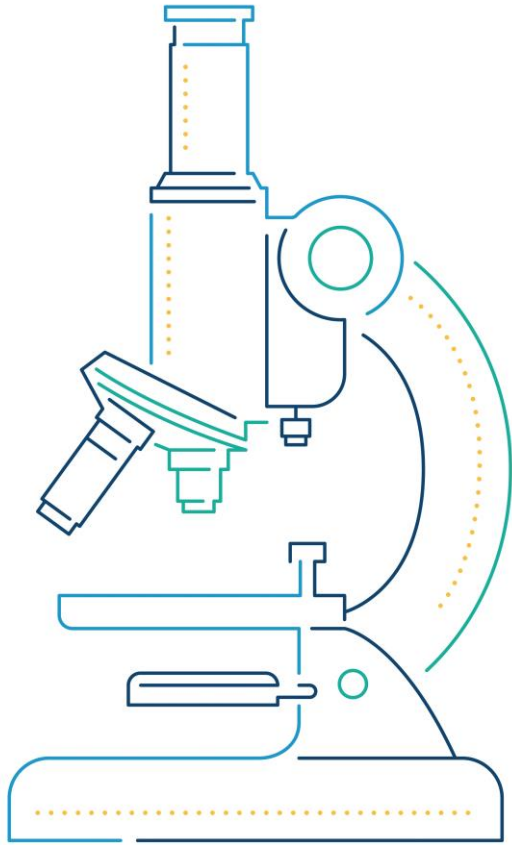
3 years of funding

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:

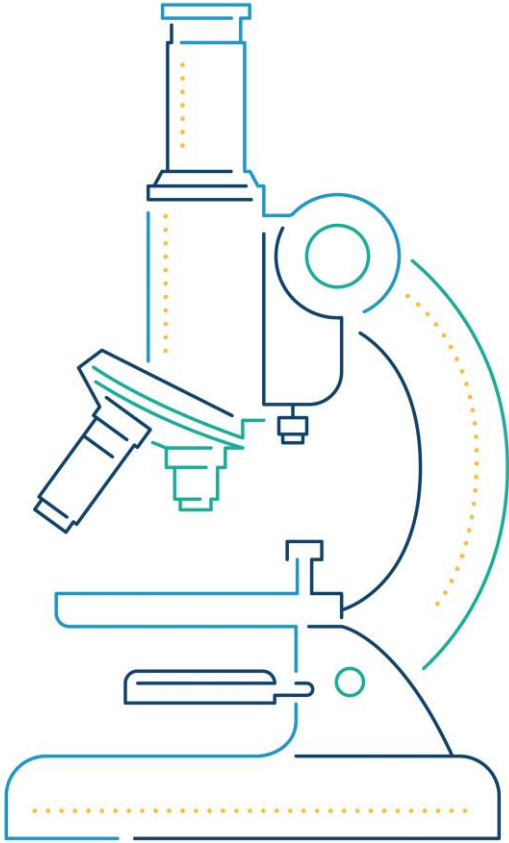
- publishable in peer-reviewed academic journals.

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



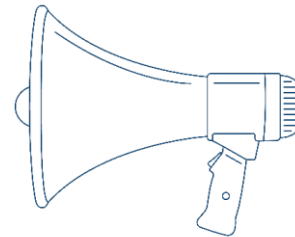
2

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



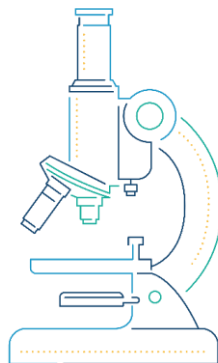
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Submit your
full proposal
Deadline: 3 December 2018

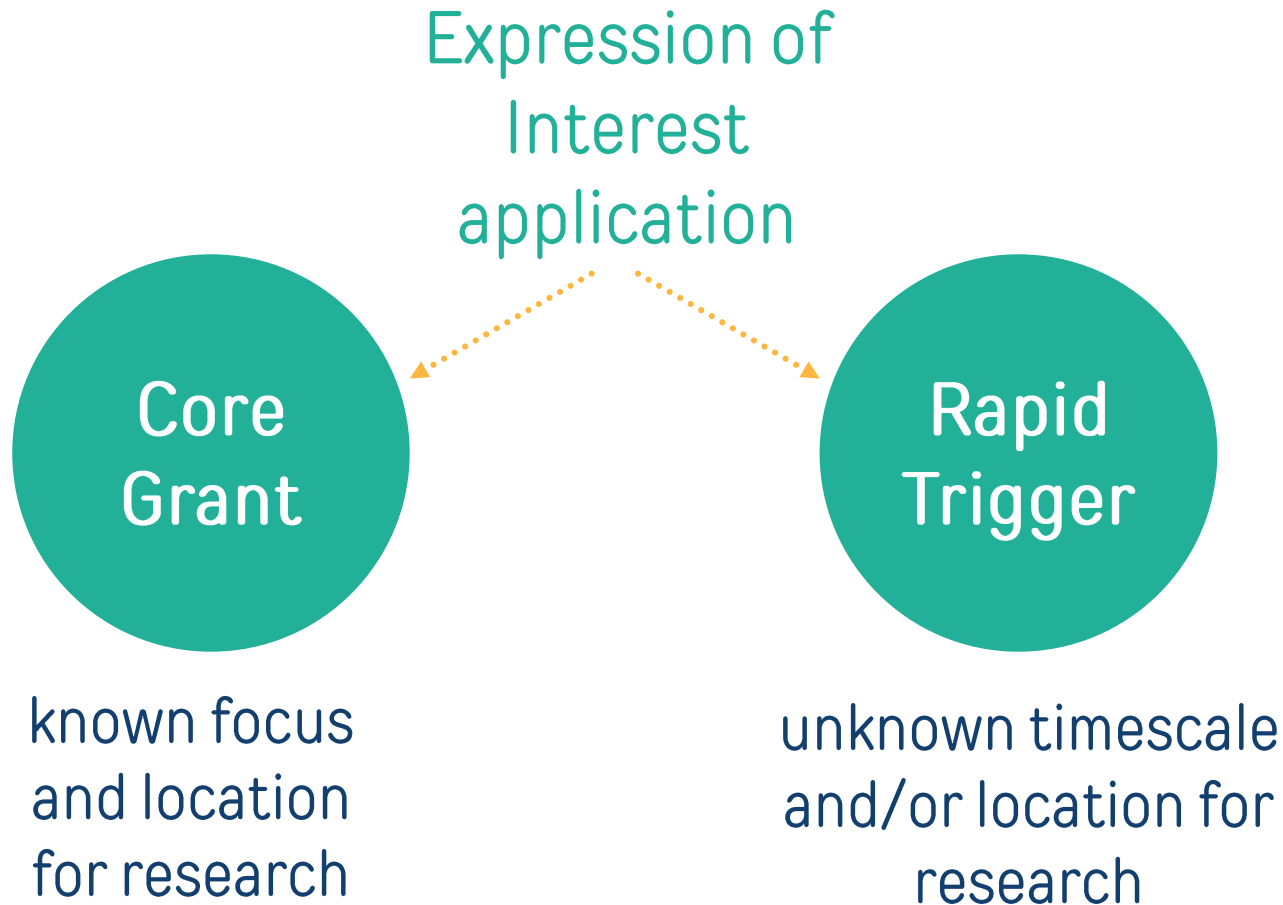


6

Decisions made on
Full proposals
By 31 March 2019



Types of grant?



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 EOIs are shortlisted and eligible for Seed Funding

24% of shortlisted EOIs 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
 - Woodward et al – Health systems research in fragile and conflict-affected states: a research agenda-setting exercise – BMC, 2016



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

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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:

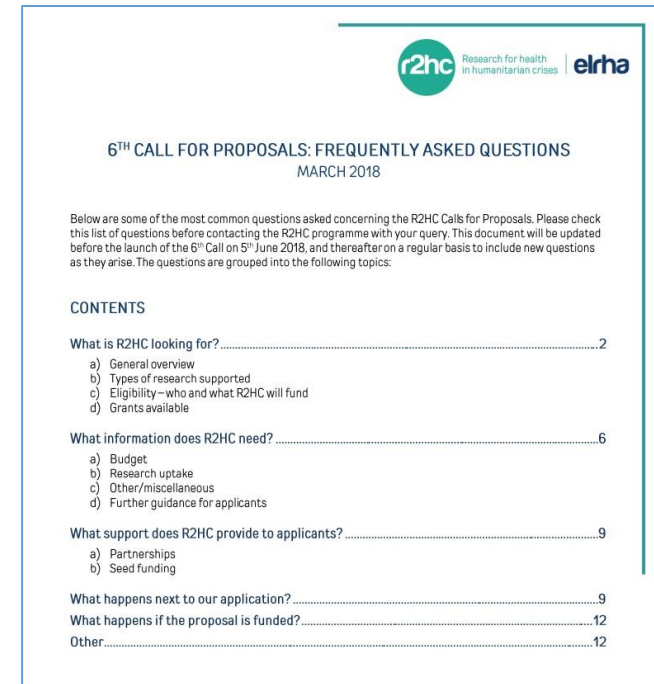
- Call Guidelines for Applicants
- Instructions for on-line applications
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Support for Francophone applications

3. Other reference documents

www.elrha.org/r2hc

4. If you have other questions, please submit these to:

r2hc@elrha.org



What **support** does R2HC offer?



Seed funding

Grants up to £10,000

Available to successful EOIs

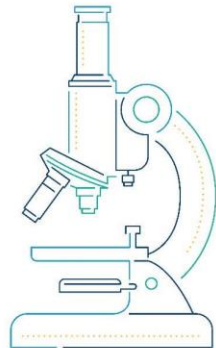


Strengthen partnerships

Convene partnership workshop

Strengthen proposals

Undertake field visits

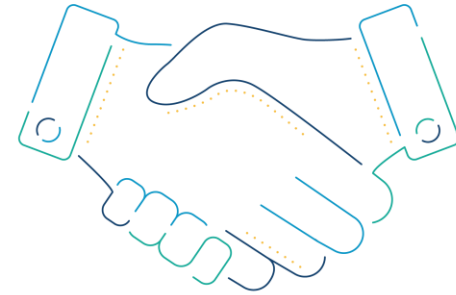


Strengthen research

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
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Research uptake

R2HC Research Uptake Guidance Note

- *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)



R2HC: RESEARCH UPTAKE GUIDANCE NOTE

SEPTEMBER 2016

INTRODUCTION

This document provides R2HC applicants and grantees with advice on developing clear and achievable uptake plans for their research projects.¹ It is complemented by Elrha's wider *Uptake and Diffusion Strategy*² as well as the Appendices detailed below, which provide specific and practical examples of research uptake strategies and tools developed and used by other organisations.

For the R2HC, it is crucial that all funded work should have a measurable, positive impact on improving the public health response during humanitarian crises. This means that all research should be designed so that humanitarian stakeholders can and will access the evidence produced, understand it, trust it and be able to apply it to policy and practice. It is also important that, when possible, affected populations, local actors and beneficiaries are also engaged, so as to enable them to adopt evidence that may benefit their own recovery from crisis.

The R2HC does not provide guidance on the specific level of budget that should be allocated for uptake of research findings, but it is important that sufficient resources are allocated to cover effective and creative research uptake, through delivery of targeted activities and products.

Below, brief guidance is presented on four critical strands of research uptake and planning – (1) **stakeholder engagement**, (2) **capacity-building**, (3) **communicating** research findings, and (4) **monitoring and evaluation** of research uptake.³

APPENDIX 1 provides a checklist of these considerations across all four areas, adapted by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). In APPENDIX 2, there are links to further resources and tools that can be used to design and implement research uptake plans in greater detail. APPENDIX 3 provides examples of actions and a potential outline that can be used to complete an uptake plan. Inputs to the plan would need to be tailored to specific research projects.

Ethics

R2HC Ethics Framework 2.0 & Tool (2017)



1 Ethics reflection questions as the research is developed

1

Community perspectives and concerns, as well as cultural context and norms, should be considered in all categories, not just those explicitly mentioned.

Why?

Why are you doing this research?
What is the question you are trying to address?
What evidence are you seeking?
Why does this research need to be done in a humanitarian crisis and not in a non-crisis context?
How was the local community, including relevant subgroups, consulted to determine their interest in engaging with this research?

How?

What methodology best addresses the question in your research?
What ethical issues does your methodology raise in the context of your research?
How has the feasibility of the proposed research been evaluated for your setting?
Might any part of this research be perceived as coercive by the participants or their community, and how will this be addressed?
What competencies are required by all those involved in different phases of the research?
What partnerships or collaborations are needed for the research?
Have various types of resources been secured for all stages of the research and do any of these raise challenges for the local community?

Benefits

What are the scientific/knowledge generation benefits from doing this research?
What are the key benefits that will realistically derive from this research for participants and their community?
Are there any benefits in regards to people's rights or legal protections from this research?
What benefits beyond the physical might also arise from this research, such as emotional, psychosocial, spiritual or other benefits?
Are there different benefits for individual participants compared to their communities?
What benefits may also immediately compared to those potentially arising in the future?
What are the benefits for individuals or organisations conducting this research?
How will the benefits of this research be shared with participants and their communities?

Risks

What are all the risks that participants are likely to be exposed to? Consider the physical, environmental, emotional, psychosocial, spiritual and other holistic risks.
Are anyone's rights being put at risk through this research? How will the views on this issue of participants and their communities be determined?
Are there different risks for individuals or various subgroups compared to larger communities?
How do issues of vulnerability impact on the potential risks? What subgroups are particularly vulnerable in the context of this research and what mitigation strategies are in place?
What are the short-term and the long-term risks?
What safeguards, referral mechanisms, security factors, exit strategies and other mitigation factors need to be introduced? e.g. for you, your research team or participants in a deteriorating local situation
What steps have been taken to explore differences in the risks identified by participants compared to researchers?
What are the risks for researchers or organisations conducting this research?
Are there risks attached to sourcing or availability of any required resources?

Balancing benefits against risks

How will the various risks and benefits be balanced against one another?
How have local priorities been considered and do they differ from those of the researchers? How will any differences be reconciled?
How will risks or benefits to one subgroup be balanced against risks or benefits to another subgroup?

2

2 Ethics reflection questions as the research is conducted

Fieldwork

How will unanticipated ethical issues be identified and addressed during the research?
If human rights violations are identified in the research, how will this be addressed? Will researchers be assumed to take the role of advocate or neutral observer?
How will ethical issues arising during participant recruitment or retention be identified and responded to?
How will protocol changes and deviations be determined and approved to mitigate any ethical problems or concerns?
How will ethical concerns and conflicts be managed during the research (for example, within the team or with stakeholders, with the community, over withdrawal of consent or ethical approvals, etc.)?
How will ethical problems within partnerships or collaborations be addressed?

Engagement

How will safety concerns be monitored during the research? How will all stakeholders be engaged with to identify safety concerns?
Who will have responsibility to introduce new safeguards if required?
How will ethical issues regarding exit strategies after the research be monitored and addressed?

3

3 Ethics reflection questions after the research is completed

Chesmal Siriwardhana, Sapfo Lignou, Shannon Doherty
and Dónal O'Mathúna. 2017. R2HC Ethics Framework 2.0.



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Over to you: Questions and Answers



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Partnership • Research • Innovation •