

## Terms of Reference (ToR)

### Research Grants Awards for the Country Led Implementation Research for Universal Health Coverage (CIRU)

#### I. Background and Rationale

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a key strategy to make progress towards health-related and broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving UHC is dependent on strong health systems through which effective health and financial protection services can be introduced and scaled up. Implementation research (IR) is an important field of research that can help to understand and address challenges in the implementation and scaling up of proven interventions and health systems improvements that contribute to UHC.

Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) has started the Country led IR initiative for UHC (CIRU) in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) and World Health Organization (WHO) to assist program implementers and build capacity in the identification of their needs and priorities on implementation. Health system should be the primary beneficiary of IR and intervention is expected to strengthen IR capacity in health systems. This initiative is supported by WHO and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. As a part of this initiative, NHRC and WHO organized a series of meetings and a capacity building workshop on embedded IR on UHC in Nepal. As a next step, NHRC plans to award research grants on IR in following areas.

- Uninterrupted supply of commodities and its barriers in the federal context,
- Interventions to strengthen implementing quality medical recording (or any initiative to introduce electronic medical reporting) in tertiary hospitals in Nepal,
- Interventions involving innovative incentives (e.g. health insurance for workers) to retain health workers at the provincial and local levels,
- Interventions to strengthen implementation of local governance model of health care (health systems transition) to improve immunization coverage at the federal context,
- Interventions to strengthen the Health Management Information System (HMIS) reporting system in those areas there are reporting errors, and interventions to reduce burden of tropical diseases
- Innovative interventions for community engagement for strengthening the implementation of the PEN (Package of Essential Non-communicable diseases), and
- Interventions to strengthen communication skills to health workers for increasing institutional delivery in rural communities and interventions to strengthen reproductive and sexual health.

#### II. Objective of the Assignment

- To enhance national capacity on implementation research for health in Nepal.

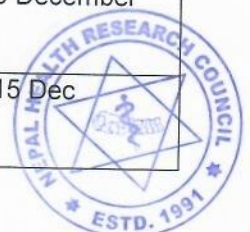
#### III. Scope of Works

The NHRC will award research grants to eligible organizations to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Design and conduct IR that contributes to UHC and research topic should be selected from one of the above prioritized areas.
2. Selected research team should work under close mentorship of NHRC team
3. Engage with health programme managers and/or policy makers of Government of Nepal
4. Attend the meeting and training workshop organized by NHRC.
5. Prepare research report and policy briefs

#### IV. Deliverables and Schedule

S.N.	Deliverables	Timeline	Due Date
1	Submission of proposal	Three weeks	26 November
2	Selection of proposal and notification to research teams	One week	3 December
3	Participate in Four Days Residential Training workshop on Implementation research methodology including research tools development organized by	One week (08-14 Dec 2019)	15 Dec





	NHRC and WHO in Kathmandu valley		
4.	Research Grant Award	January 2020	
4.	Submission of inception report	Within one month from date of signing contract	February, 2020
5.	Submission of mid-term report	As per agreed work plan (March-June 2020)	30 June 2020
6.	Submission of final report including articles published if any and financial report	As per agreed work plan(June-Dec 2020)	31 December 2019

## V. Budget and Terms of Payments

The total amount of grants money available will be US\$ 50,000. NHRC will award 5 to 7 proposals from this total fund in 2020. Payment will be released in three installments (25%, 50% and 25%) upon timely submission of respective deliverables to NHRC.

## VI. Eligibility

The eligible organization should have

- (i) Principal Investigator with at least Master's degree in relevant subject areas of research and prior experience of conducting implementing research would be preferred , and
- (ii) Registered with the concerned agencies of Nepal Government
- (iii) Research team (PI and Co-I) are encouraged to apply for one proposal only for this call

NHRC will ask selected research team to attend the four days residential training workshop to finalize research proposal and research tools.

## VII. Ownership

All materials conceptualized, designed and produced shall be owned by NHRC with full and exclusive rights on future use thereof in the Nepal and abroad.

## VIII. Rights for awarding proposal

NHRC keeps right for accepting or rejecting the proposal based on the merit of proposal and funds availability.

## IX General Evaluation criteria for proposal selection

- a) Technical part (Rationale of study; research design and research questions; feasibility and expected outcomes of research) [60%]
- b) Research team composition (team composition and relevant experience) [20%]
- c) Estimated budget (Justification of budget/financial feasibility) [20%]

## X. Format of proposal

The proposal should be submitted in following format

1. Title of the research
2. Introduction, including description of intervention
3. Implementation Research questions
4. Methodology
5. Expected Outcomes
6. Plans to collaborate between researcher and health programme managers
7. References
8. Annexure
  - o CVs of investigators
  - o Study Team Composition including roles and responsibility of team members
  - o Letter of support from head of Principal Investigator
  - o Letter of support from head of health program manager
  - o Estimated budget breakdown
9. Font Size and Type.

The proposal should be three pages except annexure. The font style should be Arial with size10.

