

AFROHUN TRANSITION AWARD MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACTION RESEARCH [TAMAR] PROGRAM

TANZANIA SMALL GRANTS RESEARCH COMPETITION FOR A COMBINATION OF ONE FACULTY AND TWO STUDENT INTERNS

Guidelines for Proposal Submission

Submission due date: 08 June 2023; 23:59 EAT

Applications are invited from multidisciplinary teams of faculty and students from AFROHUN member universities (MUHAS and SUA) to participate in a competitive small grants award of up to US Dollars Seven Thousand [USD 7,000] in multidisciplinary action research on Zoonotic Disease and One Health. The award will focus on top priority zoonotic diseases in Africa, namely rabies, COVID-19, anthrax, and Ebola (the latter only for DRC-Uganda cross border site). Interested applicants are required to participate in all of a four-part series for orientation and re-tooling on essential foundational skills for conducting multidisciplinary One Health action research on zoonotic diseases, which will run on the proposed following dates:

- Wednesday 10/ May 2023; 16:30-18:30h EAT / 13:30-16:30h GMT
- Wednesday 17/ May; 16:30h-18:30h EAT/ 13:30-16:30h GMT
- Monday 22/May; 16:30h-18:30h EAT/ 13:30-16:30h GMT
- Thursday 25/ May; 16:30h-18:30h EAT/ 13:30-16:30h GMT

The training shall be conducted in English and French. During and following participation in the four-part-series orientation and retooling sessions, interested multidisciplinary teams of faculty and students for the country competitive small grants award will develop joint proposals specific to their countries institutional priorities and submit them to AFROHUN country offices (Country Manager). Written applications shall be accepted in English for Anglophone countries and French for Francophone countries.

Submission Instructions: All TAMAR program small grants submissions should be emailed to the Country Manager tanzania@afrohun.org and cc. AFROHUN Coordinator Technical Programs, wbikaako@afrohun.org by 23:59 on June 8, 2023. Grant applications should be no more than 15 pages single spaced in Times New Roman font with half inch margins. Curriculum Vitae will not be counted towards the 15-page limit of the proposal. Grant applications should contain the following items:

1. COVER LETTER referencing “AFROHUN TAMARP-1” signed by the participating faculty from either MUHAS or SUA. This letter should provide a statement of the staff’s commitment in terms of time and ability to work with the students and the placement site investigator to support the execution of the research. This letter is not counted towards the 15-page limitation.

2. TECHNICAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL with the following sections:
- a) **Project Abstract** (no more than half a page or 500 words): the abstract should summarize the problem statement, the research question, objectives, relevance, methodology and implementation plan in a highly concise format. The research team members, their contacts and total cost of the project should be appended to the proposal.
 - b) **Problem Statement** – this section should clearly state the research problem that shall be investigated. This section should be no more than one page.
 - c) **Statement of Research Question:** this section should outline the rationale for the action research and summarize the literature related to the research problem. A clear statement of the research questions or gaps to be addressed by the research project should be articulated. This section should be no more than one page.
 - d) **Relevance of Research:** this section should discuss the importance of the research to One Health priority goals and objectives? What impact could this action research have on policies and programs aimed at (i) contributing toward the achievement goals of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), (ii) preparing, preventing, detecting and responding to one of the selected priority zoonotic diseases in Africa, namely rabies, anthrax, COVID-19 or Ebola (the latter for DRC and Uganda cross border site only) and, (iii) taking into account gender considerations and what will be the impact of this research on policies, programs and the state of knowledge. This section should be no more than one page in length.
 - e) **Research Methodology:** this section should detail the research design (descriptive and/or analytical) of the action research; study populations and size; sampling methods; data collection instruments description; analysis plan; limitations of the study. This section should be no more than five pages in length.
 - f) **Implementation Plan:** this section should contain a chart summarizing the implementation of the study and milestones and responsible individuals. This section should be a single page.
 - g) **Research Team.** This section should be no more than 3 pages in length
 - i. **faculty.** Describe the qualifications of the faculty member/ lead faculty/ Principal Investigator at the AFROHUN university member institution and the university institutions to which the faculty belong.
 - ii. **students.** Describe how students will be incorporated into the research projects and to which university institution they belong.
 - iii. **staff.** Describe the roles of other staff members in the university or the placement site institution if any

- iv. **management structure.** Describe the management structure of the project, including the roles and responsibilities of the lead faculty, team of students, resident investigator at the placement site and other relevant staff for the project.

 - h. **Human and Other Animal Ethical Considerations:** This section should identify any ethical considerations and the process the team will use to gain approval of the study from local ethical committees. This should be no more than half a page in length.

 - i. **Curriculum Vitae** of faculty investigators (these will be included as an annex. They will not count towards the 15-page limit)
3. **Budget and Budget Justification** (see attached excel spreadsheet). Up to two pages of budget and budget narrative (justification) should be provided.
4. **Letters of Support** from School/Faculty authorities of participating universities: Each institution participating in the submission should include a letter of support that will be included as an annex and not counted towards the 15-page limit of the proposal.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria:

Relevance of research (20 points). The extent to which the research addresses important gaps in knowledge of significant obstacles to achieving NAPHS targets in the country. The extent to which the proposed research takes into account relevant gender considerations. The extent to which the action research can contribute to policy and program strategies in the region aimed at furthering the One Health agenda.

Research methodology (40 points). The scientific merit of the research approach and techniques used.

Research team (20 points). The extent to which the research team reflects the skills and experience needed to implement the project. The presence of one or more female faculty investigators is important as is a well-articulated plan for engaging students in research projects. Women leadership in the project and cross-disciplinary research teams will receive favorable weighting. The clarity of roles and responsibilities and of a credible management plan will be considered.

Financial feasibility and time sensitivity of research project (20 points). The research project and budget will be evaluated according to the practicality of the research in relation to the resources proposed and the feasibility of executing the project within six months.