

Global Health Policy & Systems+ Research (Global HPSR) Programme



Researcher-led Call Webinar

8 June 2021

9.30 - 11.00am

& 15:00 - 16:30pm (GMT+1)

NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre



Housekeeping



- All cameras and microphones, apart from the panellist are set to off/mute
- We are recording this webinar – the recording will be made available afterwards on the NIHR YouTube channel
- **Q&A button:** Add your questions during the course of the webinar. Please 'like' the question if you would like it answered by the panel
- **Chat button:** If you have any connection or sound problems, please let us know

Presenters:

Stephanie Russell

Global Health Research
Portfolio Delivery Manager,
Department of Health and
Social Care, UK



Dr Sarah Puddicombe

Assistant Director for
Global Health Research,
NIHR Evaluation Trials and
Studies Coordinating
Centre (NETSCC), UK



Tess Green

Senior Research Manager,
Global Health Research
NIHR Evaluation Trials and
Studies Coordinating Centre, UK



NIHR Webinar support

- Abby Bull, Research Manager
- Asia Pracz, Administrator

www.nihr.ac.uk/globalhealth

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Webinar agenda



-  About the NIHR Global Health Research Portfolio – **Stephanie Russell**
-  About the Global Health Policy & Systems Research (HPSR) programme and Global HPSR Researcher-led Call – **Sarah Puddicombe**
-  Eligibility and selection criteria – **Sarah Puddicombe**
-  Application process, hints and tips – **Tess Green**
-  Finance guidance – **Tess Green**
-  Panel question and answer session - **ALL**



About the NIHR Global Health Research Portfolio



Stephanie Russell,
Portfolio Delivery Manager
Department of Health and Social Care
(DHSC)

www.nihr.ac.uk/globalhealth



NIHR's mission is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research



We fund,
support and
deliver high
quality
research



We engage
and involve
patients
carers and
the public



We attract,
train and
support the
best
researchers



We invest in
world-class
infrastructure
and a skilled
delivery
workforce



We partner
with other
public funders,
charities and
industry



We fund
applied global
health
research and
training

Our Global Health Research Portfolio - Aims



- Invest in applied health research relevant to the unmet needs of communities in low and middle income countries
- Work collaboratively with global health partners to ensure a cohesive and sustainable approach to health challenges
- Train, develop and connect future leaders in applied global health research and strengthen research capacity



Our Global Health Research Portfolio - Approach



The high quality applied global health research we fund:

1. Meets Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility criteria
2. Builds on NIHR's principles of impact, excellence, effectiveness, inclusion and collaboration
3. Strengthens research capacity through equitable partnerships



NIHR Global Health Research Programmes



Global Health Research Units

- Well-established, equitable research partnerships with existing track-record of delivering internationally recognised applied global health research – **Call closed 18 May 2021**

Global Health Research Groups

- Collaborations of specialist researchers who are either new to delivering applied health research globally or wish to expand an existing partnership – **Call closed 18 May 2021**

Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT)

- Interdisciplinary applied health research in key areas where a strategic and targeted investment can result in a transformative impact – **Call closed 10 March 2021**

Global Health Research Centres

- Developing a critical mass of sustainable, competitive research and institutional capacity strengthening within LMICs in NCDs – **Call closed 31 March 2021**

Global Health Policy and Systems Research

- Delivering global health research to improve health systems and services for people in LMICs, aligning with commitments to UHC and SDG3. Researcher-led call – **Call opened 12 May 2021; mandatory ITS 7 July; Call closes 4 August 2021**



About the Global Health Policy & Systems Research (Global HPSR) programme and Global HPSR Researcher-led Call



Dr Sarah Puddicombe
Assistant Director,
Global Health, NETSCC

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/global-health-policy-and-systems-research.htm>



About the Global Health Policy & Systems Research (Global HPSR) programme and Global HPSR Researcher-led Call



Dr Sarah Puddicombe
Assistant Director,
Global Health, NETSCC

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/global-health-policy-and-systems-research.htm>



Overview of NIHR Global Health Policy & Systems Res (Global HPSR) programme calls to date:

Funds high quality applied health research which aims to improve whole health systems and health in ODA-eligible countries on the [DAC list](#).



1. Development Awards (17 awards funded - March 2020)

- Partnership development, planning, needs assessment and stakeholder engagement
- Up to 9 months, up to £100,000 per award

2. Commissioned Awards (5 awards funded- Oct 2020)

- Focused on addressing specific priority themes towards UHC and meeting SDG3
- Up to 4 years, up to £4M per award

3. Researcher-led Awards (call opened – 12 May 2021)

- Open competition for LMIC or UK contracting institutions
- Research consortia of up to 5 Institutions:
2 Joint Leads (LMIC/LMIC or LMIC/UK) and up to 3 additional Co-Applicant LMIC research institutions
- Up to 4 years, up to £4M (typical range £1-4M) per award
- A maximum limit of 2 applications for each Joint Lead institution to this call



NIHR Global HPSR Researcher-led Awards



Aims to:

Support applied research to strengthen health policy, health services and systems to ultimately lead to improved access to high quality, appropriate and affordable, health services, through:

- production and dissemination of high quality, contextually relevant **research on health policy, health services and whole health systems strengthening** to inform policy and practice in LMICs.
- supporting **equitable partnerships and networks** between LMICs and/or LMIC and UK researchers to generate new research knowledge and evidence.
- **stakeholder and community engagement and involvement** throughout the research lifecycle to identify and address LMIC priorities for health systems strengthening.
- supporting **capacity strengthening activities** and knowledge sharing to address needs and improve the health outcomes of people in LMICs.



Scope of Researcher-led call

- Any area of applied health services and systems research which can ultimately strengthen and improve health systems for people in LMICs at the:
 - patient and practitioners (micro-level)
 - organisation and delivery of health care (meso-level)
 - national health policies and systems (macro-level)

- Applied research on wider elements of health systems, including but not limited to governance, financing, health workforce, information systems, quality, and service delivery

- Involving an appropriate range of disciplines driven by the research questions and needs, and relevant to a low resourced health system setting

Eligibility and selection criteria

Dr Sarah Puddicombe
Assistant Director,
Global Health, NETSCC

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/global-health-policy-and-systems-research-researcher-led-call/24751>



ODA eligibility

Applications MUST demonstrate how the proposal meets key ODA funding requirements and outline:

- which country or countries on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of ODA-eligible countries will directly benefit;
- how the application is directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of those countries; and
- how the outcomes will promote the health and welfare of people in a country or countries on the DAC list

N.B. Where some elements of the research is not undertaken in an ODA-eligible country during the course of the award the application must clearly state the reasons for this with due consideration to the benefit of the research to ODA-eligible countries



Eligibility – Joint Leads

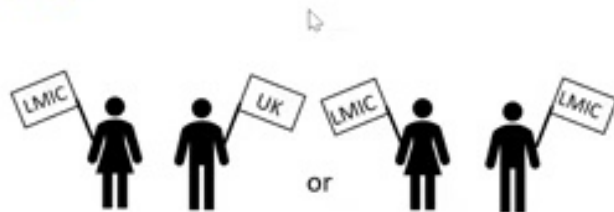
- The research must be high-quality applied health research for the direct and primary benefit of people in ODA-eligible countries
- All Applications MUST have:
 - Two Joint Lead Applicants who will normally be Principal Investigators employed by a Higher Education Institution (HEI) or Research Institute in either an LMIC (on the DAC list) or the UK
- A **LMIC Joint Lead Applicant** may propose joint leadership with another **LMIC** HEI or Research Institute or **UK** HEI or Research Institute.
- If the contracting institution is to be UK based, then it is mandatory for them to **jointly lead** with an LMIC institution.

Team Structure



J
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re
Within their employing organisations and demonstrable ability to lead a substantial large-scale global health research programme.

Collaborators
provide specific expertise on aspects of the project and form part of your wider research team. Do not share in the responsibility for the delivery of the project.

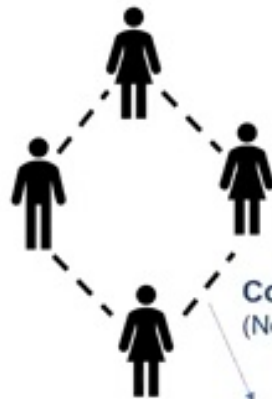


Two Joint leads



Co-Applicants (3 maximum)

Joint Lead and Co-Applicants need to be invited and to accept their participation in the application within REALMS. Non-LMIC Co-Applicants will need to be well justified.



Collaborators
(No limit on numbers)

Details on collaborators to be included within the detailed research plan.



Eligibility – submitting multiple applications

- Submitting applications to more than one Global Health Research programme call

NIHR will **not accept the same or substantially similar applications** across multiple NIHR Global Health Research calls.

NIHR will only accept applications from the same or similar teams across more than one NIHR Global Health Research call where the aims and research proposals are substantially different.

- Submitting multiple applications to the Global HPSR Researcher-led Call

An individual cannot be named as Joint Lead Applicant on more than one HPSR Researcher-led Call application.

- Limit of **two** applications per each Joint-Lead Institution (**UK and LMIC**)

Key Criteria for Funding



Key Criteria	
Relevance of proposed research	<p>It fulfils a significant gap, addresses unmet needs & priorities in ODA-eligible countries within the scope of the call. Proposed research plans should be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• review of the local context/health system(s)• review of existing evidence
Research excellence	<p>Research is high quality, context-specific, needs-driven and addresses a significant policy, health system or health service gap in applied global health research which is of primary and direct benefit to LMICs</p>
Strength of research team	<p>The research team has relevant expertise and promotes interdisciplinary approaches. Equitable partnerships should exist within and across research teams</p>
Equitable partnerships	<p>Research plans will establish equitable partnerships within research teams. Equity and collaboration should be demonstrated across all aspects of the research proposal</p>
Capacity Strengthening	<p>Clear plans for a focussed programme of research, and research management capacity and capability strengthening at individual and institutional level</p>
Community Engagement and Involvement	<p>Should be evident throughout all stages of the research lifecycle</p>
Impact and Sustainability	<p>There is a clear and implementable strategy for pathways to impact including research uptake and dissemination, the potential to improve practice, inform policy, and support implementation and scalability</p>
Value for money	<p>Evidence of a clear, well-justified budget that represents good value for money. Planned expenditure should be proportionate and appropriate to the planned research activities and should consider Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity</p>



Selection Criteria

- All Eligibility Criteria and Key Criteria for Funding are met:
- Relevance
- Excellence - quality of the research design and work plan
- Strength of the research team
- Equitable partnerships
- Capacity strengthening
- Strength of plans for Community Engagement and Involvement
- Impact and sustainability of the proposed work
- Value for money

Global HPSR Researcher-led Awards will support applications which:



- Are in remit, and meet all eligibility and key funding criteria.
- Propose whole systems approaches to research based on findings from feasibility studies, existing pilot data collection (including assessing data quality), or previous research.
- Propose applied health-related research to inform delivery of interventions that will lead to improvements at micro, meso or macro-level and will relate to and affect wider elements of a low resourced health system, such as governance, financing, health workforce, information systems, quality, service delivery etc.
- Include interdisciplinary applied research teams to support a whole-system approach to tackle one or more priorities identified by LMICs.
- Seek to address issues of equity by incorporating research questions around gender, age, social barriers to health, and economic impact.
- Consider the impact of COVID-19 on wider health services and health systems resilience.

Global HPSR Researcher-led Awards will not support applications which:



- Limit their focus to only address the impact of a specific disease (e.g. COVID-19 on health systems).
- Only deliver sub-national benefits, with no potential for scale-up to the whole health system level or for wider generalisability.
- Request costs for delivery of health services and delivery of training for health care staff unless essential to the development and improvement of these services, as part of a research programme.
- Plan to evaluate an existing service or roll out of new services in isolation rather than as part of an integrated research programme and not solely e.g. an RCT, implementation science etc.
- Primarily focus on establishing new patient cohorts, biobanks or bio-sample collections, or data collection studies (samples or data from existing cohorts may be used).

Application process

Tess Green
Senior Research Manager,
Global Health, NETSCC

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/global-health-policy-and-systems-research-researcher-led-call/24751>

Global HPSR Researcher-led timeline

➤ Single stage application process



Submitting an application

➤ Submit an online mandatory **Intent to Submit** and an **application** online via REALMS



➤ **REsearch Awards Lifecycle Management System** -
<https://realms.nihr.ac.uk/>

A screenshot of the REALMS (Research Awards Lifecycle Management System) login page. The page has a dark blue header with the NIHR logo and the text 'National Institute for Health Research'. Below the header, there is a section for 'Registered Users login here:' containing fields for 'Email' and 'Password', a 'Log In' button, and a 'Forgot Password?' link. To the left of the login fields is a graphic of a staircase with a white arrow pointing up. To the right of the login fields is a 'Register' button and a note about existing NIHR NI users. Further right, there is a section titled 'REALMS' with a sub-header 'Research Awards Lifecycle Management System'. Below this, there is a welcome message and a note about the system's transition from the previous NIHR system. At the bottom of the page, there is a graphic of a staircase with a white arrow pointing up.

Queries can be submitted by raising a ticket via the REALMS system
REALMS user guides can be accessed within the REALMS system

Sources of guidance



Tess Green

Call remit and guidance	Core guidance	Finance guidance	Application form g
Background	Team structure and partnerships	ODA eligibility	Intent to Submit
Rationale	Training and capacity strengthening	Types of organisations	Adding key application information
Aims	Management and governance	Direct and Indirect costs	Adding team details
Scope	Risk management and assurance	Ineligible costs	Scientific Abstract
Eligibility	Contracting, Agreements and IP	Justification of costs	Plain English Summary
Selection criteria	Regulatory approvals		Detailed Research Plan headers and guidance
Process and timetable	Impact and dissemination		Signatures
	Reporting requirements		Required uploads
	Success criteria and barriers to proposed work		
	Community Engagement and Involvement		
	Value for money		

A Word version of the application form and an Excel version of the Global HPSR budget template is available on the NIHR website:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/global-health-policy-and-systems-research-researcher-led-call/24751>

All applications must be submitted using the online application via REALMS

A Global HPSR Theory of Change is available on the NIHR website: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/nihr-global-health-policy-and-systems-research-programme-theory-of-change/27697>

Intent to Submit form



- Applicants for the HPSR Researcher-led Call must submit an online **mandatory Intent to Submit** the **NIHR REALMS** System
- The Intent to Submit form aids NIHR in the identification of peer reviewers for applications. No feedback will be provided on the Intent to Submit form and no applications are rejected at this stage
- NIHR recognise the intent may not fully represent your final application, but no substantial differences are expected (i.e. same research focus, Joint Leads)
 - Lead and Joint Lead Applicant details
 - Administrative contact details
 - Research team details
 - Research location
 - Plain English Summary – high level description of research only
 - Estimated research costs
- After submitting the Intent to Submit form applicants should not wait for a formal response from NIHR and should continue to work on completing their full stage 2 application



Submitting your application – required upload

Submit online via the
REsearch **A**wards **L**ifecycle **M**anagement **S**ystem (REALMS) -
<https://realms.nihr.ac.uk/>

- Detailed Research Plan
- Delivery Chain Risk Map
- Gantt chart/ Project Management Plan
- References (limited to 2 pages)

Submission checklist

A graphic of a clipboard with a blue clip at the top. The checklist contains four items, each with a circular icon on the left and a square checkbox on the right. A context menu is open over the first item, listing various presentation options.

☒ Clear application that follows call guidance (including submission of an intent to submit) ☐

☐ Eligibility met ☐

☐ Key criteria for funding are met ☐

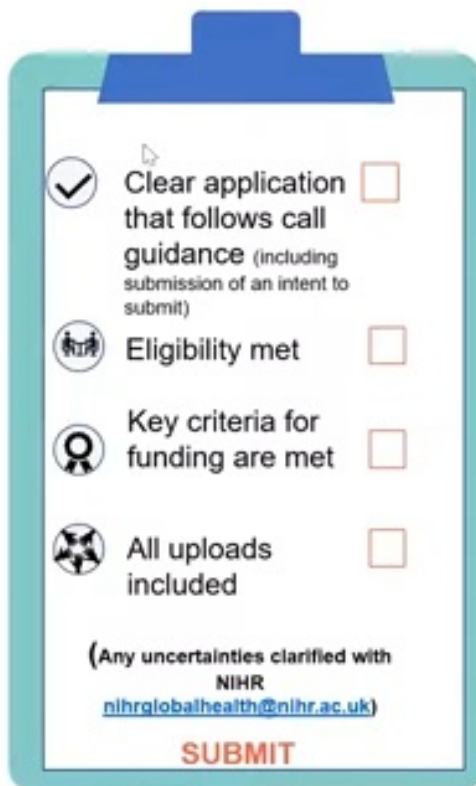
☐ All uploads included ☐





(Any uncertainties clarified with
NIHR
nihrglobalhealth@nihr.ac.uk)

SUBMIT

- Quit
- Previous
- Next (disabled)
- See all slides
- Zoom In
- Customize Slides
- Show Presenter View
- Screen
- Presenter Options
- Start Subtitles
- Subtitle Settings
- Keep Video Updated
- Unhide Slides
- Help
- Print
- End Show

Submission checklist



-  Clear application that follows call guidance (including submission of an intent to submit) ☐
-  Eligibility met ☐
-  Key criteria for funding are met ☐
-  All uploads included ☐

(Any uncertainties clarified with
NIHR
nihrglobalhealth@nihr.ac.uk)

SUBMIT



Tips and things to avoid

Tess Green
Senior Research Manager,
Global Health, NETSCC





Tips for applying

Vision and global health need

- Is your programme of research within the HPSR Researcher-led Remit, what knowledge gap will be filled?
- Clear health endpoints and patient benefit in LMICs

Governance and project management

- What support will your contracting organisation provide?
- % of lead applicant's time and wider resourcing for effective project and financial management of the research collaboration
- Can the programme be delivered within the timeframe/budget to achieve desired impact?

Partnerships and collaborations

- How will you engage with potential partners and communities and develop research plans?
- What is the track record and strength of your interdisciplinary team?



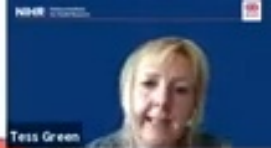
Things to avoid

- Being too ambitious - the Funding Committee need to be convinced the programme can be delivered within the timeframe and budget
- Missing a key part of the remit for the call, for example: don't forget to include a clear and implementable strategy for pathways to impact with the potential to improve practice, inform policy, and support implementation and scalability
- Having more partners than you need - this could make your programme more difficult to manage
- Presenting a programme that is difficult to follow or overly-complex
- A high percentage of the funds allocated to the UK organisations, unless this is justified because of the nature of the research
- A Plain English Summary that is not in plain language

Available Budget

HPSR
Researcher-Led
Call

- £1-4m maximum
- Up to 4 years



Types of Organisations and what costs they claim



Available Budget

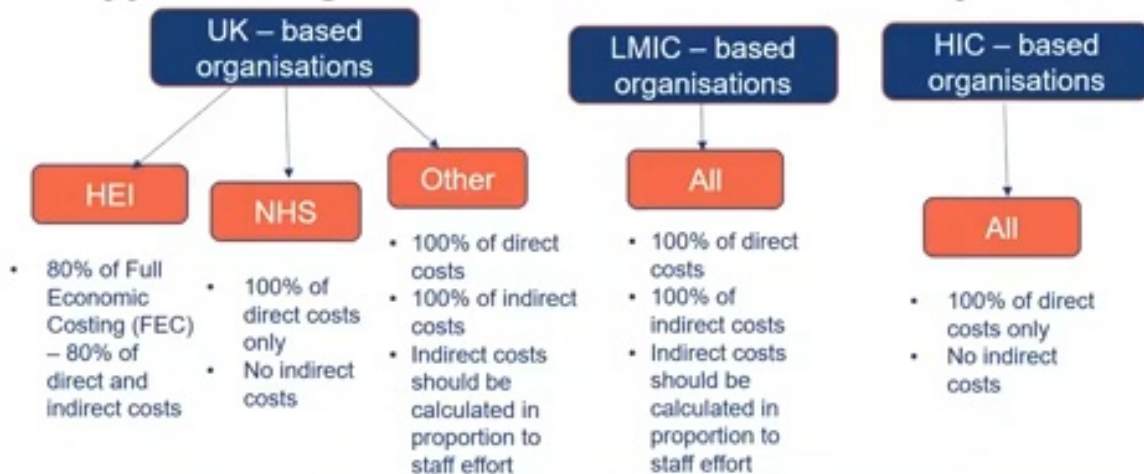
HPSR
Researcher-Led
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Tess Green



Types of Organisations and what costs they claim



Available Budget

HPSR
Researcher-Led
Call

- £1-4m maximum
- Up to 4 years

Tess Green



Types of Organisations and what costs they claim



Main points to note:



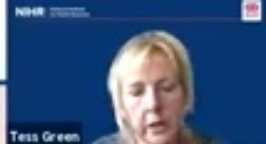
All costs must be ODA eligible and:

- should be costed using current prices – no inflation;
- staff costs should be based on current salary and should include increments and Employers' contribution towards pension, national insurance and apprenticeship levy, but not inflation;
- resources required to support monitoring, reporting, programme management, financial management and assurance can be requested across all collaborating institutions;
- all costs must be in GBP;
- exchange rates must be provided for all international organisations;
- contingency will not be funded;
- justification and breakdown must be provided for all costs;
- UK HEI equipment, including laptops, are not normally supported. If requested, a comprehensive justification as to how the purchase will be of direct and principal benefit to LMIC community must be provided.



UKaid
from the British people

Training & Development Costs



Funds can be requested for:

- ✓ Full or partial formal training posts;
- ✓ Training in technical research skills and personal development;
- ✓ Institutional capacity strengthening (incl. financial / research / data management, legal & assurance training);
- ✓ Coaching, mentoring, peer-mentorship.

Studentship costs – formal training posts.

Students from ODA
eligible countries who
are registered to
attend a LMIC
institution

↓
NIHR will fund full
studentship costs:

- Stipends
- Student fees

Students from ODA
eligible countries who
are registered to
attend a HIC
institution

↓
NIHR will fund:

- Stipends
- It is expected that student fees are reduced to the level paid by the national students – evidence must be provided

Students from High
Income Countries
(HIC)

↓
Student fees and
stipend are not
eligible for funding

Stipends



- Stipends can be claimed for students from ODA eligible countries;
- Eligible for all academic training posts (where support or salary is not received from other sources);
- Courses are expected to be for a minimum duration of 12 months.



Equipment

Items purchased are to be used only for research / ODA-eligible activities during and after end of the project;

Cannot be used for commercial purpose;

Must be sustainable after the project end date;

Will become the property of partner or contractor;

Equipment items for the use in the UK will not be supported, unless clear justification is included as to how the purchase will be of direct and principal benefit to the LMIC community.

Asset register must be kept and reported on annually.

For finance queries contact the

NIHR finance team:

Nets-finance@nihr.ac.uk



Reminders and further opportunities

➤ Global HPSR closing dates:



➤ A Global HPSR common application queries document will be developed after the webinar and made available on the NIHR website



Website: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/global-health-policy-and-systems-research.htm>

Email: globalhealth@nihr.ac.uk

Twitter: [@NIHRglobal](https://twitter.com/NIHRglobal)

