

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

P.O.BOX:84 KIGALI

Web site: www.moh.gov.rw

The District Operational Research Challenge Fund: A call for Research Proposals_2019

In collaboration with its partners, the Ministry of Health would like to invite all interested staff from district hospitals, district health units and graduate students to submit research proposals under the District Operational Research Challenge Fund (the DORCF).

DORCF aims to build and grow the capacity of MOH's district hospital staff and young health researchers to research and implement sustainable public health programs. DORCF's core strategy is to promote research activities in district hospitals preferably using data that is already available i.e. secondary data; to improve program implementation or service delivery in their respective districts/facilities.

The District Operational Research Challenge Fund has two main objectives:

- To incentivize evidence based decision making at sub-national level in the health sector.
- To support the translation of “knowledge into practice” processes, skills sharing and peer learning.

Application requirements and Eligibility Criteria

To be considered under the DORCF, these requirements have to be met:

- The research topic must be aligned with the national health research agenda or the district health action plan.
- Applications on research topics related to **Nutrition, Health Systems Strengthening (e.g.: Digital Health, Health Financing, etc.), Reproductive Health, Maternal Newborn Child Health(MNCH) and Non Communicable Diseases** (preferably on hypertension, diabetes, cancer, mental health and hepatitis) will be given highest priority.
- The study should aim at responding to specific issues faced at the health facility/district where it will be conducted. Research findings should lead to new interventions or improvement of service delivery or health promotion.
- **Studies should mainly use secondary data** (preferably data from RHMIS, DHS and other routine data sources or surveys). Applications collecting limited qualitative primary data will also be considered.
- Applicants should be staff from decentralized health facilities (e.g.: Health centers, district and provincial hospitals as well as district pharmacies). District Health Units(DHUs) staff and

students from public health and medical schools (in support of a specific district) are also encouraged to apply.

- Staff from academia or teaching/referral hospitals, MoH and RBC **are not eligible to apply**.
- Applicants must submit quality/completed study proposals (i.e.: with a clear research question, objectives and methodology).
- Applicants must have *basic skills* in scientific writing and statistical analysis skills (with Excel, SPSS, STATA or R).

The Review/ Selection process

Activity	Time frame
Call for research proposals	December 21 st 2018
Applications Close	February 10 th 2019
DORCF offers made	February 28 th 2019
Orientation workshop	March 4 th -March 8 th 2019
Implementation phase	March 8 th - August 30 th 2019
Finding Dissemination Workshop	September 2019

The grant Size

Each DORCF grantee will receive the same amount of money;(3000\$). Prizes will be awarded to the best studies presented at the dissemination workshop.

Since the challenge fund is designed to encourage use of available data, investigators should not be expected to incur costs some costs such as data collection related costs. The funding is expected to cover communication costs (internet and telephone) and transportation within districts and occasionally to Kigali for meetings and trainings. To keep the grant management simple, applicants do not need to submit a budget. If a study requires additional funding, applicants are encouraged to seek resources from other sources. In some cases, the mentoring institutions may be able to provide additional resources.

Grants will be disbursed based on a set of deliverables (i.e.: submission of an approved protocol, preliminary findings, a final report and abstract). Following their selection, applicants will have to sign a commitment contract with RBC.

All applications should be submitted via: <https://goo.gl/forms/OPk95QdGshKS75Uz1>

For further Queries

For more information about the District Operational Research Challenge Fund, the application process please **email us** at districtresearch.rw@gmail.com. Or call **0788553137**. For in person support, please find us at the Medical Research Center at RBC.