

## **FINAL REVIEW - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. Background and Context**

The Netherlands Global Health Policy and Health Systems Research (GPHSR) programme (8.5 million euros) started in 2009 and is a joint initiative of NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development, the Netherlands Platform for Global Health Policy and Health Systems Research and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Health, Welfare and Sport. NWO-WOTRO conducts programme coordination/management.

As the last projects will come to a close in 2017, NWO-WOTRO is planning to conduct a programme-level final review. The review should assess the performance of the programme in terms of results (accountability) and identify recommendations and learning from the programme setup and conceptualisation.

The aim of the [Global Health Policy and Health Systems research programme](#) was to contribute to better health by pursuing the following objectives:

- conducting research aimed at strengthening health systems in LICs;
- strengthening research capacity in LICs;
- strengthening collaboration in the Dutch research and knowledge community in order to enhance utilisation and international competitiveness of Dutch research capacity.

Specific conditions of this programme are: multidisciplinary collaboration in consortia of researchers from the Netherlands and Africa; transdisciplinary cooperation and engagement throughout the research process with representatives of government policymakers, NGOs and the private sector so as to enhance the uptake of results; focus on 'systems thinking' and synergy between the six building blocks of health systems identified by WHO. The programme was framed in the United Nations 2000-2015 agenda on Millennium Development Goals. As part of the learning component in the review, the relevance of programme results to the more horizontally oriented and inter-sectoral Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) will be described.

Eight projects, each with a duration of four to five years, were granted in two successive competitive calls for proposals between 2009 and 2011, around the following interlinked themes: organisation and delivery of essential and quality health services; financial and human resources; governance and decision-making; global influences and their impact on national health systems. In 2012, a third call was commissioned, aimed at networking and synergising activities between the projects awarded in the first and second call, and at embedding the research coalitions within global structures. The cross-cutting Knowledge Translation Network Africa (KT-NET) project was awarded in the third call.

### **2. Objectives of the Final Review**

In the review, programme results will be assessed to reflect on past actions and to inform (possible) future research programming. The objectives of the review are:

**Results:** assessment of programme results, including aggregation of project-level findings<sup>1</sup>, with regard to the formulated output/outcome targets:

- increased generation of high-quality knowledge aimed at strengthening health systems in LMICs;
- increased use (especially in policy) of high-quality knowledge aimed at strengthening health systems in LMICs;
- strengthened individual and organisational research capacity;
- strengthened uptake capacity in LMICs;
- strengthened collaboration in Dutch research and knowledge community;
- improved utilisation of Dutch research capacity for LMICs.

**Programme design:** assessment of the relevance and adequacy of the programme design, including foci, targets, criteria, regulations and arrangements; recommendations for future research programming in this field.

**Links and leads:** inventory of tangible and potential programme output/outcome links and leads to relevant Global Health agendas – e.g. to more horizontally oriented and inter-sectoral UN agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030), in particular to SDG 3.8 (UHC) – research initiatives and networks; recommendations for enhanced contribution of programme results to these agendas, research initiatives and networks.

### 3. Key deliverables

The review will yield the following key deliverables:

#### **Inception phase:**

- A detailed protocol, approved by the NWO-WOTRO secretariat, including interpretation of these Terms of Reference and a detailed description of the approach, scope and methodology for the assignment.

#### **Execution phase**

- A comprehensive and structured report (max. 50 pages, excl. annexes) with at least the following sections: Executive summary; Table of contents; List of acronyms and abbreviations; Introduction, Description of the programme; Review scope and objectives; Review approach and methods; Findings, lessons learnt and conclusions; Recommendations; References; and which provides:
  - Final review of the programme for the dimensions of results and programme design, in which aggregated results (output and outcome), synthesis, lessons learnt, best practices and weaknesses are documented, with succinct conclusions and recommendations;
  - Inventory and description of programme links and leads to current Global Health agendas, research initiatives and networks, with succinct conclusions and recommendations;
- Concise presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the report.

Review results will be communicated to relevant governing boards and funding and oversight agencies (Netherlands Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Health and NWO-WOTRO).

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<sup>1</sup> Project evaluations are not part of the review exercise. Each project has been evaluated (mid-term/final) by external experts on the Programme Committee, based on project workshops and self-assessments. This portfolio of project evaluations will form significant input for the review.

### 4. Methodology

The reviewer(s) is / are expected to develop a methodological framework for the review, which should at least include both primary and secondary data, and the following approaches for data collection and analysis:

#### *Desk study:*

- Programme: background documents, calls for proposals, annual plans and progress reports, mid-term review documents, M&E plan of the GPHSR programme, GPHSR final publication, communication products;
- Projects: project proposals, self-assessment reports, mid-term and final review reports;
- Context analysis: relevant publications, reviews, agendas in the field of Health Systems Research.

#### *Participatory processes in the review:*

- Design and administer a questionnaire. Target groups of the questionnaire include relevant Health Policy/Systems researchers, policymakers, practitioners and research councils, GPHSR funded researchers (including members of the networking project KT-Net), members of the Dutch GPHSR Platform, as well as members of the GPHSR Steering and Programme Committees (approx. 50 people in total);
- Interviews with current and former programme staff and members of the Steering and Programme Committees and the Netherlands Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Health;
- Interviews/sessions with key stakeholders: scientific and non-scientific collaborators, targeted users, beneficiaries or other stakeholders who are directly involved to use or take the results to further stages in getting the research into health systems reform practice and policy.

#### *Report:*

- Document results, lessons-learned, best practices and recommendations in a report.

### 5. Planning

The review is scheduled to take place from June-December 2017:

- Inception phase (June): Agree on Terms of Reference, desk review of relevant documents; protocol approved by WOTRO secretariat;
- Evaluation phase (July-October): conduct desk study, context analysis, questionnaire, interviews and discussions, documentation;<sup>2</sup>
- Reporting phase (November), including feedback round for WOTRO secretariat; presentation of draft evaluation report to GPHSR Steering Committee;
- Finalisation (December): incorporation of SC comments into final version of report; presentation of results.

### 6. Required expertise

The review will be conducted by one or two external experts (preferably one Dutch expert and one expert from Africa). Required skills and experience include the following:

- PhD degree in a relevant field of expertise;
- Familiarity with research into the field of Health Policy and Health Systems in LMICs;
- At least 10 years of experience in monitoring and evaluation of research and innovation;
- Proven experience in scientific research, co-creation and the linking of research to development policy and practice;

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<sup>2</sup> Two projects will have their final evaluations assessed by the Programme Committee in July-August 2017; and one in October 2017; results of these evaluations will have to be incorporated into the review.



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- Professional experience in Africa;
- Proven excellent writing and analytical skills;
- Fluency in English is a necessity; knowledge of French is an asset;
- Ability to meet tight deadlines.

The review is subject to [NWO conditions and procedures](#) regarding scientific integrity and independence to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

### 7. Support from the NWO-WOTRO secretariat

The NWO-WOTRO secretariat of the GPHSR programme will:

- Provide the external experts with all the necessary administrative and logistic support (not under the external expert's control) to ensure that the external experts undertake the studies with reasonable efficiency;
- Collect background documentation;
- Organise briefing meetings between the reviewer(s) and representatives of the Steering Committee.

### 8. Remuneration

The maximum granted budget is €50,000. Reviewer(s) will be recruited and paid in accordance with NWO conditions and procedures. A percentage of the total cost will be paid against the completion of specific, measurable deliverables as identified in 'Key Deliverables'. Cost-efficiency may be part of the selection procedure.

### 9. Application procedures

Eligible applications for the review assignment comprise:

- cover letter in which you briefly motivate your interest in the assignment and summarize your competencies for the review;
- concise work plan, including an explanation of proposed approach and methodology;
- budget proposal indicating the number of days proposed as well as the fee;
- CV (max 2 pages), highlighting relevant past experience and including reference to relevant publications.

Applicants are required to submit an application to [m.wienia@nwo.nl](mailto:m.wienia@nwo.nl) by **13 April 2017, 10 am CET**.

Joint applications are encouraged. Selection takes place by (a delegation of) the Steering Committee; the SC may charge the WOTRO secretariat to execute the selection procedure on their behalf. A maximum of three potential candidates for each vacancy will be invited for an interview (possibly through Skype) before 15 May 2017. A decision on the assignment will be taken immediately after this interview round.

### 10. Additional information and Contact

For additional information on the programme, including summaries of the awarded projects, please consult the website: [www.nwo.nl/global-health](http://www.nwo.nl/global-health). During the 4<sup>th</sup> Health Systems Research Symposium in Vancouver (November 2016), a final programme publication was launched. A digital version of this publication can be retrieved from the [NWO-website](#).

Applications or queries for further information can be sent to the GPHSR coordinator, Dr Martijn Wienia ([m.wienia@nwo.nl](mailto:m.wienia@nwo.nl); +31 70 34 94 352).