



# Small Scale Research Grants in Reproductive Health in Pakistan **2007**



The Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for  
Population and Reproductive Health

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Overview

# About us

## Population Council

The Population Council is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization that seeks to improve the well-being and reproductive health of the current and future generations around the world and to help achieve a humane, equitable and sustainable balance between people and resources.

The Council conducts biomedical, social science and public health research and helps build research capacities in developing countries.

Established in 1952, the Council has been working in Pakistan since 1958, establishing a permanent office in 1991.

The Council's work in Pakistan is in reproductive health research, population and development research, evidence-based technical assistance and capacity building. Over the past 16 years, the Council, Islamabad has worked in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, through Ministries of Population Welfare and Health and has established partnerships with multi and bi-lateral organizations and donors.

## The Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins University

The mission of the Gates Institute is to build individual and institutional capacity in countries of the developing world to strengthen the effectiveness of population, family planning, and reproductive health policies and programs.

The Institute works with leadership in the academic, private, and public sectors to build skills and enable these entities to strengthen one another and the institutions they serve.

It was established in 1999 in the Department of Population and Family Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Apart from Pakistan, it is also supporting work in China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Uganda, Nigeria, Malawi and Peru.

## Small Scale Research Grants (SSRG) in Reproductive Health in Pakistan

Population and reproductive health are major issues in Pakistan. However, most attention is channeled towards service delivery *per se* rather than towards research and evidence-based decision making. In order to promote a culture of research, it is important to encourage and build the capacity of reproductive health (RH) researchers, especially young researchers in Pakistan.

This grant initiative will fund small-scale innovative research projects in reproductive health that have direct practical relevance to the country's needs. The initiative has the dual aim of:

1. Building the capacity of young researchers and
2. Filling gaps in existing knowledge in priority areas of RH in Pakistan.

The grants are designed to enable and promote collaboration between new and experienced investigators by linking each young researcher/ Principal Investigator (PI) to a mentor. Mentors will follow the progress of the research from the beginning to the end, including the publication and dissemination of findings. The Population Council /RHRWG will identify a relevant mentor according to each project. *Each young researcher can only submit one research proposal.* The maximum funding for any single grant is US\$ 8,000 (approx. 4,80,000 rupees) and the maximum duration for any research project is one year. Co-funding / financing of research projects is strongly encouraged and it will enhance the proposal's competitiveness. At the same time, efforts towards utilization of the research results will also be appreciated.

The review process to select the projects eligible for grant funding will be rigorous, fair and transparent and conducted by a panel of independent experts comprising the Reproductive Health Research Working Group (RHRWG).

## Reproductive Health Research Working Group (RHRWG)

“The RHRWG is an independent body of reproductive health professionals (researchers, clinicians and academicians) formed in February 2002 as part of a capacity building project implemented by the Population Council with funding from the Packard Foundation. The purpose of the group is to enhance the knowledge base regarding reproductive health in Pakistan and to ensure that research is inducted into policies pertaining to improving the reproductive health indicators in Pakistan.”

More specifically the group objectives are:

Enhance the reproductive health of the people of Pakistan by expanding scientific knowledge in reproductive health;

Work with other agencies and individuals to encourage appropriate choice of research issues, valid priorities for research funding and sound quality of research;

Ensure wide dissemination of knowledge to other researchers, policy makers, the reproductive health community and the general public.

## Topic for 2007

The research topic for the year 2007 is “Reproductive Health”. The proposal must cover any aspect of reproductive health.

## Who can apply

Criteria for Eligible Researchers/ Principal Investigator (PI).

### Essential

Bachelor's degree in related subject area

Affiliated with a Pakistan based institution or organization

Less than 40 years old

### Desirable

Masters degree in related subject area

Previous research experience

Previous research publications

# How to apply

*Note: Proposals must be received by the Program Manager by close of business (16.00 hrs) on April 5, 2007.*

1. Please carefully read all the guidelines that are contained within your folder.
2. Fill in the Proposal Cover Page.
3. Attach a complete project proposal on separate sheets (maximum 20 pages) with all necessary supporting documents to the Proposal Cover Page. *If all of the necessary supporting material is not provided or all of the necessary sections of the proposal are not included, the proposal will not be reviewed. Please use the included checklist for ensuring your proposal is complete.*
4. Section lengths: The following are advised maximum lengths for each section.
  - i. Project title
  - ii. Project Abstract (maximum 1 page)
  - iii. Project Description
    - a. Background/ Literature Review- referenced in the Harvard style (maximum 3 pages)
    - b. Rationale for Project (maximum 1 page)
    - c. Research question/hypothesis/objectives (maximum 1 page)
    - d. Methodology (maximum 3 pages)
    - e. Timeline/ work plan of activities (maximum 1 page)
    - f. Data analysis methods (1- 3 pages)
    - g. Method of dissemination
  - iv. Ethical consideration (maximum 1 page)
  - v. Budget in rupees (maximum 1 page)
5. Please use A4 size paper and a font of 12, Times New Roman is preferred.
6. A soft copy of the proposal must also be submitted along with the printed material.
7. Send the proposal to the address given below.

## **Mrs Seemin Ashfaq**

Program Manager

Population Council

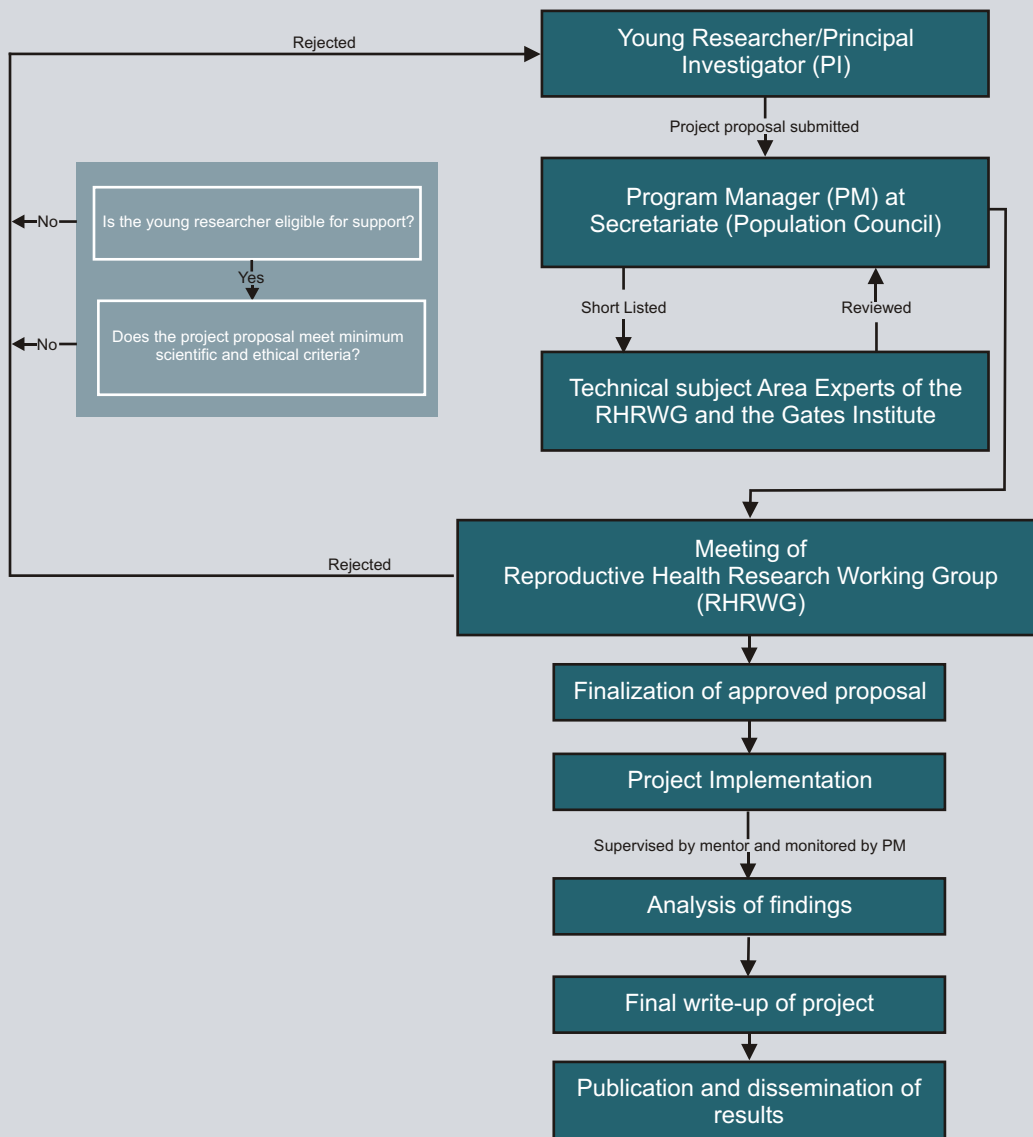
House 7, Street 62, F-6/3, Islamabad, Pakistan

Phone: 051-2277439 (Ext. 116) Fax: 051- 2821401

Email: [ssrg@pcpak.org](mailto:ssrg@pcpak.org)

The proposals will be reviewed and you will be informed of the outcome of the review process by May 25, 2007.

# Project Selection Process





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