

## **UK International Health Links Funding Scheme (IHLFS)**

### ***Supporting Health Links between developing countries and the UK***

#### **What is the UK International Health Links Funding Scheme?**

The UK IHLFS is a 3-year scheme that provides grants, information and support to Health Links. Funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID) and the Department of Health (DH), it is jointly managed by THET and the British Council. The Scheme makes £1.25 million available to support the work of Health Links each year. The primary purpose of the Scheme is to build the capacity of developing country health services.

#### **What are Health Links?**

Health Links (Links) are long-term partnerships between UK health institutions and their counterparts in developing countries. Links aim to improve health services in developing countries through the reciprocal transfer of skills and knowledge between partners in the UK and those overseas.

The IHLFS will achieve its purpose by funding effective Links that contribute to priorities defined in the national health plans of target developing countries. Lessons learnt from Links within the Scheme will inform the development of good practice.

#### **What types of links are funded?**

3 types of grants are available:

**Small grants (up to £ 3, 000):** Grants to support the development of new and young Links. Applications will be considered at any time during the IHLFS.

Small grants are open to health organisations and institutions in all DfID's Public Service Agreement (PSA) countries working with partner institutions in the UK. PSA countries are:

**Africa:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam and Yemen.

**Medium grants (up to £ 15, 000 per year for one or two years):** Grants to help existing Links carry out a needs assessment, develop plans for a larger initiative, or carry out modest development programmes. Applications will be considered once a year.

Medium grants are available to health organisations and institutions in any of the 14 IHLFS target countries. Target countries for Year 1 are:

**Africa:** Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia.

**Asia:** Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

**Large grants (up to £ 60, 000 per year for up to three years):** Grants to support strategic capacity building programmes implemented via a Link partnership. Activities could include, for example, curricula development; working with faculties to

strengthen pre and post qualification training; improvements to the teaching or clinical environment; interventions to strengthen professional conduct; or practice based research.

Applications for three year grants can only be considered in Year 1 of the Scheme.

Large grants are available to established Links with a proven track record, a strong partnership, and clear development plans in any of the IHLFS target countries (see list under 'Medium grants').

### **Other criteria**

A wide range of not-for-profit health institutions and organisations can apply for IHLFS funding, including developing country hospitals, health training institutions and professional associations, and their UK counterparts such as NHS Trusts, university teaching hospitals and professional associations. Universities can participate but not as the lead partner, since they are eligible for the DfID-funded DelpHE scheme.

The IHLFS works with institutions that are committed to making health services accessible to the poor. Private sector for-profit organisations are usually excluded from the Scheme. In exceptional circumstances, they may be eligible provided that they can demonstrate a substantial contribution to meeting the needs of poor people.

The IHLFS will fund a wide variety of programmes that have the ultimate goal of strengthening the capacity of developing country health services.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate that their plans are:

- aligned with national or district health plans and priorities
- benefiting the poor
- consistent with the developing country partner institutions' development plans
- based on good health and development practices
- developed and agreed by all Link partners
- focused on capacity building
- not duplicating existing development activities.

Links must show a commitment to share learning with IHLFS.

### **How to apply**

Full application details, including application guidelines and forms to download, are available at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-healthlinks>.

The deadline for the first round of medium and large grant applications is **5.00pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009**.

You can expect to hear whether your application has been successful approximately 8 weeks after the application deadline.

All queries about the IHLFS should be directed to [HealthLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:HealthLinks@britishcouncil.org).

A copy of the IHLFS press release IHLFS from 28/09/09, can be read at [www.thetftp.users44.donhost.co.uk/FundingSchemePR.pdf](http://www.thetftp.users44.donhost.co.uk/FundingSchemePR.pdf).

### **Stop Press!**

Workshops for potential applicants are being planned for the end of October. The workshops will be held in London, Leeds, Cardiff and Edinburgh. If you would like to register interest, please e-mail [HealthLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:HealthLinks@britishcouncil.org).