

**SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre
Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal**

Call for Expression of Interest for small research grants, 2024

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) seeks to accelerate the progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals with a vision to make the SAARC region free of TB and HIV/AIDS and the mission to support the efforts of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes through evidence based policy, guidance, coordination and technical support.

We are pleased to announce the opportunity for interested research institutions to submit brief Expression of Interest (EOIs) for research proposals related to the area of “Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Diseases.”

This grant will be awarded for research focused on novel TB/HIV projects of small scales. The grants awarded for projects related to Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS diseases under this program will be approximately US\$ 10, 000 and will be funded through the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal. Please note that final awards may be less than the maximum amount of US\$ 10,000 but not exceeding that. This announcement does not make any implicit or explicit guarantee of awards against EOIs/proposals submitted.

The implementation period for all projects proposed under this EOI of 2024 will be valid for maximum of 6 months, to be initiated and completed during the period of 1 June to 30 November 2024. Also, please note that applicants are restricted to submitting a maximum of two (2) EOI for Projects related to “Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS”.

Who can apply?

- Research institutions (public research institutions / government organizations / universities / national TB and HIV/AIDS programmes) from SAARC Member States who have the experience of working in the field are eligible to apply.

- Applicants/Research organizations should preferably identify an in-country subject matter expert (SME) (preferably at the national TB or HIV/AIDS programmes) who will serve as the in-country direct supervisor for the project for the duration of the grant.

Area of focus for the proposed projects:

- Improving the screening and diagnosis of TB including Latent TB and Drug resistance TB. Priority will be given to proposal which addresses active case finding and identifies adherence and case of loss to follow up in DR-TB patients.
- Expansion of TB preventive therapy in different health set up especially at PHC level
- Bidirectional screening of TB and Diabetes
- Public Private Engagement in TB and HIV/AIDS diagnosis, care and management.
- Prevention of TB especially in people living with HIV
- Gender and social determinants of TB and/or HIV/AIDS
- Evaluate and optimize the strategies to improve the case finding and reducing barriers to diagnose, treatment access for TB and/or HIV/AIDS
- Evaluate of public health programs such as advocacy programmes; infection prevention and control (IPC) practices etc.
- Public health impact of the pandemic on the TB and/or HIV/AIDS programme
- Any other identified policy/programme gaps in TB and/or HIV/AIDS
- Community lead approach to testing (Innovative technology)

Check list for submitting the EOI

- A cover letter
- Complete Project proposal mentioning the Principle / Co-investigators along with their affiliation, contact, e-mail address, signature; concept note with budget breakdown and projected timeline
- CV of the Principle investigator/s
- An organizational profile if it is from other than the National Programme (TB or HIV/AIDS)
- Support letter from the relevant National Programme (TB or HIV/AIDS) or the concerned institutions and from the site where project is going to be implemented.
- Contact details of the focal person identified for the proposed study

Review Process

The proposal will be screened for completeness and will be reviewed by steering committee members under the following heading;

- Potential impact of the proposed study
- Clear and specific aims
- Novelty
- Appropriate study design and analytic methods
- Research team
- Letter of support
- Appropriate Budget Break Down
- Addressed priority areas

Interested eligible research organizations are requested to submit the EOI/s, with complete supporting documents, to the following e-mail address, within 15 May 2024.

director@saarctb.org, with a copy to research@saarctb.org