

Call for Proposals

Innovation Projects - Global Health Research

1. Background

UBS Optimus Foundation (UBSOF) is a philanthropic organisation that was established by UBS in 1999. Within a needs-oriented focus of two core areas, "Education and Child Protection" and "Global Health Research", the foundation aims to finance high-quality, innovative, impactful projects around the world. More information about the aims and interests of UBSOF is available on our webpage (www.ubs.com/optimus).

This call for projects in the innovation phase is a part of the UBSOF mission to comprehensively and sustainably improve the lives of children worldwide. With this call, UBSOF intends to achieve greater impact within our 4-phase value chain that promotes the development, validation, promotion, and dissemination of innovative approaches.

Within the innovation phase, we are looking to support unconventional and even risky, yet interesting, research ideas. However, projects must meet the subject focus and display potential for upward scalability. Important project features include reaching across disciplines, generating knowledge, building and/or strengthening of capacity, and influencing policy.

Research topic areas – with a special emphasis on transdisciplinary approaches:

- **Ecosystems and health** – possible topics include controlling the spread of communicable diseases (with special attention to neglected tropical diseases [including zoonoses]), improving health and well-being by transformative architecture or agriculture, health in the urban environment, etc.
- **Maternal and newborn health** – possible topics include improving prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal outcomes, care, and nutrition through activities such as community-based interventions, novel ways to increase vaccination coverage, and more equitable access to health services, etc.
- **Access to care /services** – possible topics include achieving high and equitable access to adequate care and services within rural communities, slum dwellers, and the poorest of the poor etc., via improved community engagement, novel cooperation and partnerships between public and private partners

Excluded from this call are projects which exclusively focus on malaria or HIV/AIDS.

Priority geographic regions are Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

So long as the project proposal addresses one of the abovementioned thematic areas, project proposals can focus on one of the following approaches:

- Development of new tools or technologies (inventions) for low-resource settings
- New approaches, methods, models for problem solving
- New combination/bundling of researchers and/or stakeholders within communities or across regions
- Transdisciplinary approaches featuring North-South or South-South global health partnering/core curricula, academic competencies and models of partnered research and service

Project details:

- Short application of no more than 2 pages using the UBSOF application form¹
- Novel, unconventional ideas
- Term of 12 - 18 months
- Funding of CHF 100,000 – CHF 150,000

2. Who can apply and how**Who can apply?**

Any organization or institution is welcome to apply. We would particularly like to encourage organizations who are investing in South-South or South-North research collaboration (with an emphasis on capacity strengthening of southern partners) or those who are engaging researchers from outside traditional global health disciplines.

How to apply?

Proposals must be submitted in English and must use the standard **innovation project proposal form** which can be downloaded from our website (www.ubs.com/optimus). Proposals must be emailed electronically to sh-optimus-research@ubs.com no later than 1200, noon, CEST (1800, PHT; 1000, GMT; 0300, PDT), 30 November 2009.

Receipt of all project proposals will be acknowledged within 5 days of submission. Projects will then undergo a thorough, multi-step, expert review managed by the UBS Optimus Foundation management team.

3. Selection process and criteria**Selection process:**

- Applications will be assessed, according to the specified criteria below, by a panel of experts (office, external Foundation board, external experts if needed)
- Recommendations will be provided to the Foundation board who will ultimately approve funding in early March 2010
- Notifications of acceptance will be sent by end of March 2010

Selection criteria:

- Topic relevance and responsiveness – how well does the proposal address a key need within the topics
- Innovative, state-of-the art approach – how well does the proposal provide 'out-of-the-box' thinking to overcome a current global health hurdle
- Feasibility – are goals and milestones clearly defined and achievable, is there a clear organization structure on the part of the applicant, and is there scale-up potential that provides a clear path for further support?

What happens afterwards?

All funded "Innovation" projects will provide a report within 1 year of the start of project funding. The funding of most projects will naturally end at this point, however, after accessing each project's

¹ Applicants are strongly encouraged to electronically fill out the PDF form as provided as this will greatly aid the UBSOF review process. You can download the latest version of Adobe reader at no cost by visiting www.adobe.com.

Otherwise, if you have difficulty using Adobe, applications may be submitted in Word format, but they must be no longer than 2 pages, using Arial 11 Point.

further potential within the global long-term funding strategy of UBSOF, we will invite particularly interesting projects to submit a more detailed project application for the “Core Projects” phase.

A project is considered promising for UBSOF longer term funding consideration if:

- the project idea has potential for success
- the achievement of milestones can be presented
- the organization has sufficient competencies to execute the project
- local partners are included and motivated for the continuation
- project outlook fits into long-term strategic vision of UBSOF

4. For further information

All applicants are encouraged to consult the UBS Optimus Foundation webpage (www.ubs.com/optimus) prior to proposal submission.