

Science, Technology & Innovation Funding Authority

[www.stdf.eg](http://www.stdf.eg)

## Guide for Applicants

# One Health Research and Innovation Grant

## Call 1

Deadline for submission: 23 February 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

### Table of Contents

I.	Grant Goal.....	2
II.	Grant Objectives .....	2
III.	Eligibility Criteria .....	3
IV.	Budgetary Information .....	3
V.	Submission Due Dates .....	4
VI.	Submission Process .....	4
VII.	Evaluation Criteria .....	5
VIII.	Contracting.....	5
IX.	Reporting Requirements .....	5
X.	General Remarks and Conditions.....	7
XI	Further Information and Contact.....	7

## I. Grant Goal

One Health Research and Innovation Grant (OHRIG) aims to support interdisciplinary research and innovations that strengthen collaboration across multiple sectors (medical, veterinary and environmental) to improve disease management and solve current health threats in Egypt. OHRIG will fund research projects that applies One Health approach to study infectious diseases at the human-animal-environment interface to improve human health, animal population and promote environmental sustainability.

This grant is directed towards research themes addressed in the Ministry of Health and Population and Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Strategic Goals, 2030.

## II. Grant Objectives

**Proposed research should address topics relevant to at least one of the following One Health threats:**

- Zoonotic Diseases
- Vector-borne Diseases
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Food Safety

**One Health research projects should be in line with two or more of the following objectives:**

- Molecular characterization of the isolated pathogens through advanced sequencing technologies to better understand the origin, genetic mechanisms, and spread of pathogens and their responses to vaccines (if available) and drug therapies.
- Study the antibiotic susceptibility of the isolated pathogens and designing an empirical plan for using antibiotics to reduce the threats of antibiotic resistance in human and animal.
- Develop innovative methods for the rapid detection of relevant diseases to enhance preparedness, and response to epidemics and outbreaks.
- Advances in the detection and prevention of food-borne pathogens in humans, animals, plants and the implementation of novel approaches (metagenomics) for management practices.
- Identify prevalence and risk factors of current health threats in Egypt.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral information systems to promote effective national response to health threats.

### III. Eligibility Criteria

- One health proposed research projects should focus on health threats in Egypt with tangible outcome.
- An applying research team must be led by an Egyptian researcher (PI) affiliated to Egyptian research entity. The PI should hold a PhD degree with a distinguished research experience.
- Young researchers are highly encouraged to apply as a team leader and the experience will be considered according to their recent achievement in the relevant fields (other bibliometric indices may be considered).
- Proposals submitted by research consortia (partnerships between at least two research entities in Egypt) that integrates expertise in One Health approach must identify a lead applicant organization that will be responsible for managing research project and grant funds to be dispersed to each of the collaborating institute.
- The research team operating within a university, or a research institution should consist of a Principal Investigator (PI), in addition of at least another PhD qualified researcher and a number of doctoral and master postgraduate students.
- Applicant must provide the current laboratory activities, methods (sampling, sample transportation, sample preservation, pathogen isolation, gene sequencing, etc.), all present equipment and lab systems that ensure fulfilment of the research proposed.
- The implementation period of the project **should not exceed 2 years**, without any further extension.
- To achieve decisions at country level, applicants should share generated data of their research project, in compliance with STDF policies and regulations with Ministry of Health and Population.
- Proposals must be in English language; however, an Arabic summary is requested.
- According to STDF policy, all submitted proposals will be checked for plagiarism.

### IV. Budgetary Information

- Grants up to **3,000,000 Egyptian Pounds (EGP)** can be awarded to an accepted project throughout the entire duration of the project
- Grants up to **7,000,000 EGP** can be awarded only to projects that include two or more research entities in Egypt (Consortium).
- The proposal should include a well justified financial plan in accordance with STDF guidelines and not to exceed the set upper limit for each project.
- The upper limit of the grant needs detailed and concise justification.
- A proposal with an overestimated budget will be rejected by STDF.

#### Eligible costs for funding:

- Consumable reagents, supplies and materials.
- Equipment (Justification should be provided in the proposal).
- Incentives of team members including technicians.
- Travel cost (Justification for travel should be provided in the proposal).
- Sample analysis in external laboratories (inside Egypt) .
- Indirect costs.

#### V. Submission Due Dates

- Launch of Call for full proposals submission: 28 December 2022
- Deadline for Submission of full proposals: 19 February 2023 at **2:00 pm**

#### VI. Submission Process

- Once all required documents have been completed, these must be submitted electronically by the PI on the STDF website ([www.stdf.eg](http://www.stdf.eg)), before deadlines. Proposals shall be submitted using the STDF- OHRIG Call 1 application form. Submitted proposals that will not follow the exact format required in the application form will not be considered. Applicants will receive a notification e-mail by STDF and the status of their application will be updated on the website.
- Generally, the proposal should include the following sections:
  - Cover page
  - Research team (Annex 1: Research team Information Table - Annex 2:CV of the principal investigator (PI) and all other members of the research team)
  - Abstract, written in English and Arabic
  - Introduction and background information (including adequate literature review)
  - Objectives
  - Project Description, Methodology, and Key references
  - Equipment
  - Expected Project Outcomes
  - Project Management
  - Budget justification
  - Budget table (Annex 3)
  - Time Schedule - Gantt chart
  - Acknowledgement form (Annex 4)
  - Institutional endorsement letter/s together with the submitted proposal (signed by the university/ research entity President)
  - Appendices (any additional documents)

## VII. Evaluation Criteria

- Upon eligibility check phase, eligible proposals are technically evaluated for final decision.
- Evaluation of proposals is carried out by STDF with the assistance of national/international independent experts.
- STDF staff ensures that the evaluation process is transparent, robust and fair, and in alignment with STDF rules and regulations.
- Based on the evaluation process; the PI will be notified with STDF final decision.
- During the evaluation process, PI will be invited for a meeting to discuss his proposal.

## VIII. Contracting

- For accepted proposals, a contract agreement will be signed between STDF, the Principal Investigator (PI), and the legal representative of the endorsing University or Research entity.

### The project budget installments will be disbursed as follows:

- The first installment will be disbursed at the beginning of the project.
- The following installments will be paid after the receipt and approval of the required technical and financial reports, which will be submitted to STDF and will be detailed in the funding contract.
- The disbursement of the final installment of the project (10% of the budget) is conditional upon the delivery of the outputs mentioned in the proposal in the scheduled time, and will cover only the rest of the incentives and the indirect costs.

## IX. Reporting Requirements

- All reports must be submitted using the standard STDF templates.
- All submitted reports will be evaluated by STDF, and feedback will be provided to the project's PI and the host institution.
- In case of a rejected progress report by evaluators; the PI may require to present additional follow-up reports.

### Follow-up reports:

**A-Technical Reports:** Biannual progress reports should be submitted by the PI from the official start date of the project. Any modifications in the research team and/or original work plan must be pre-approved by STDF, and the progress reports should include an updated Gantt chart.

Final and Achievements reports of the project should be submitted no later than one month after the official end date of the project. A presentation for the achieved objectives will be requested by the end of the project.

If the submitted progress/final reports show that the team did not achieve the set objectives as specified in the original proposal -- or provides convincing reasons for following and achieving a related set of updated objectives -- and/or the team is performing poorly, STDF will take all measures in order to stop the project and recover the budget allocated.

**B- Financial Reports:** Biannual financial progress reports should be submitted by the PI including copies of all expenses signed and stamped from the Institution as well as all the expenditure vouchers.

**C- Site Visit Evaluation report:** Regular site visits will be arranged by STDF experts for assessing the progress of the project according to the approved proposal.

## X. General Remarks and Conditions

- All proposals must be uploaded to the STDF website, proposals submitted by e-mail or sent as hard copies will not be considered.
- All proposals must use the exact formatting requirements for the current call given in the attached Application Form. Failure to adhere to the exact format required will result in rejecting the proposal.
- Proposals must be in English Language; however Arabic summary is requested.
- The application must include a signed and stamped endorsement letter from the institution's legal representative -President- as shown in the Application Form.
- Same proposal should not be submitted in more than one grant. (Duplicate submission of the same proposal is not allowed).
- Each PI can only submit a maximum of two proposals until notified with the evaluation results of his/her submitted proposals.
- At any time, a contracted STDF project team member should only be participating in a maximum of 3 projects (or a maximum of 2 projects as a PI/Co-PI).
- A plagiarism check will be applied to all proposals. Accordingly, the proposal must be submitted in a readable PDF format (i.e., not scanned), to facilitate plagiarism checks.
- Do not submit proposals previously funded either by STDF or any other funding agency, Proposals deemed to be funded by other grants will be disqualified & applicants will be banned from submitting proposals to STDF.
- Any publications delivered as a result of STDF funded proposals, should acknowledge STDF funding in the publication.
- STDF's intellectual property rules (IPR) and regulations in addition to STDF code of ethics are applied to all submitted proposals.
- If more than one institution is involved it has to be clearly stated which institution is in charge and the role of each partner institution has to be specified.
- Extending a project's duration is not allowed. Only under very strict justified conditions shall STDF allow project extension.
- Having members from different departments or research institutes in the same research team is allowed and encouraged.
- Conflict of interest should be avoided in any proposal application.
- All proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis according to STDF law and regulations.

## XI Further Information and Contact

If you have any queries, please contact,

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