

Translated from Spanish

Ministry of Health of Costa Rica  
International Health Affairs Unit

Matrix for the presentation of proposals relating to innovative sources of financing

Objective: To develop a proposal to stimulate R&D activities related to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries

**1. Name of the proposal**

Development of innovative sources of financing for health research and technical development in Costa Rica

**2. Department and/or unit implementing the proposal, contact point:**

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Director, Department of Scientific and Technical Development for Health  
Ministry of Health of Costa Rica

**3. Proposal summary**

The project involves the creation of a revolving fund to finance research and technical development projects related to Type I, II and III diseases affecting developing countries such as Costa Rica.

In addition, the proposal will enable developing countries to get involved in the field of research and innovation in a dynamic, decisive and egalitarian way with a view to tackling important public health issues in an effective, opportune and appropriate manner.

Lastly, the proposal will enable us to strengthen our national scientific and technical system by pioneering the introduction of the science and technology for health subsystem. We shall therefore be able to utilize our existing infrastructure systemically, thereby enabling all concerned stakeholders to work in a coherent and harmonized manner over the longer term.

**4. Proposal objectives**

General objective:

To build national capacity to finance research, technical development and innovation related to the diseases that disproportionately affect Costa Rica against the backdrop of strengthening the national system for health research and technical development.

Specific objectives:

1. To secure financing for development and make available services and innovative techniques to control diseases or events that have a significant negative impact on public health.

2. To channel funds to research organizations or public- or private-sector institutions that carry out research in the area of public health.
3. To strengthen public-private sector partnerships and R&D institutions in Costa Rica.

#### **5. Specific actions under the proposal**

1. Creation of a revolving fund\* initially worth between US\$ 100 000 and US\$ 1 million contributed to this project by WHO with a view to financing research, technical development and innovation projects under two headings:

(a) Projects leading to innovations which, thanks to their commercial potential, could generate income enabling the resources originally invested from the fund to be reimbursed either wholly or in part;

(b) Projects whose pay-off involves focusing on the improvement of public health and thereby translates into lower health costs.

2. Formation of a Board of Management coordinated by the Ministry of Health as the governing body.
3. Definition of the fund's operating procedures.
4. Definition of criteria and mechanisms to guarantee the sustainability of the fund.
5. Definition of rules and procedures for the allocation and reimbursement of funds.
6. R&D priority-setting within the framework of the National Agenda for Health Research and Technical Development.
7. A feasibility study to develop arrangements to ensure that fund beneficiary institutions devote a portion of their annual budgets to research, technical development and innovation.
8. Identification, consolidation and performance assessment of public-private sector partnerships that could ensure the sustainability of the seed fund.
9. Identification and implementation of information, education, communication and notification strategies.
10. Monitoring and evaluation of progress and expected outcomes.

\* Revolving fund: The initial investment is reimbursed out of resources generated by the projects that were financed, thereby guaranteeing socioeconomic profitability and the continued existence of the fund over time.

#### **6. Other institutions associated with the proposal**

Through funds, seeking assistance, supporting forums, etc.

National Council for Research in Science and Technology, Costa Rican Social Security Fund, public and private-sector universities, research institutes.

## **7. Timetable**

The proposal will be implemented in three phases:

1. Technical and administrative groundwork to start up and manage the revolving fund: 12 months.
2. Establishment and consolidation of the fund: 24 months
3. Management and development of the fund: 36 months\*

\* Upon completion of the time allocated for this project, it is envisaged that the fund will be self-sustaining

## **8. Contribution to promoting innovation and R&D capacity-building**

Costa Rica will derive the following benefits from projects of this type:

- Consolidation of the system for health research and technical development through innovative projects.
- Enhanced ability to respond efficiently and effectively to emerging diseases, thereby enabling Costa Rica to focus on Type I and II diseases.
- Making best use of current infrastructure, i.e. the National Council for Research in Science and Technology (CONCIT), which is the body responsible for administering funds in the area of science and technology and carrying out objective and impartial assessments.
- Better control over administration of resources allocated to health research, technical development and innovation.
- Development of capacity to become a regional reference point.