



**INDEPTH Network**  
Better Health Information for Better Health Policy

## CALL FOR THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### TO HOST THE

### INDEPTH HEADQUARTERS

**Deadline for submission of applications: 28 February 2018**

**INDEPTH Network** is a global leader in health and population research, providing robust answers to some of the most important questions in development. The lack of a reliable information base to support the identification, prevention and treatment of health problems is a major hurdle to addressing the high burden of disease in low- and middle-income countries. INDEPTH— through its global network of 49 health and demographic surveillance system (HDSS) sites run by 42 research centres in 19 countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific region — is the only organisation in the world capable of developing that information base. It tracks a total population of over 4 million people, providing high quality longitudinal data not only about the lives of people in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), but also about the impact on those lives of development policies and programmes.

INDEPTH is at the heart of this network of HDSS centres, which is recognised for the data it generates, its multi-site collaborations and its potential as a cross-site trials platform. Our vision is to be a trusted source for evidence supporting and evaluating progress towards health and development goals. Our mission is to lead a coordinated approach by the world's health and demographic surveillance systems to provide timely longitudinal evidence across the range of transitioning settings to understand and improve population health and development policy and practice. It is the only sustainable source of longitudinal data that can provide the knowledge and policy-relevant evidence needed to serve health and development in the Global South.

The Network provides HDSS centres with the capacity to undertake cross-site scientific research and to pool findings, including by developing standardised tools and methodologies for health and population research. The Network also helps to improve the technical strength and scientific value of site-specific studies, by providing support for scientists working in HDSS centres to share methodologies, exchange ideas on best international practices in health, and learn new analytical skills and methodological innovations.

**INDEPTH Network is looking for an established university or research institution to host its headquarters team of about 5-6 staff.**

**Important Note:**

- The host institution will make it possible for INDEPTH Network to operate as an independent entity, i.e., manage all its activities including its finances. INDEPTH staff will manage INDEPTH grants and facilitate the implementation of work on those grants.
- The host institution will allow INDEPTH's governance structure to function as described below.
- The Executive Director will be exclusively recruited by the INDEPTH Board. The Executive Director will report to the INDEPTH Board and INDEPTH Staff will be recruited by the Executive Director in consultation with the INDEPTH Board. INDEPTH salary and benefits packages will be determined by the INDEPTH Board.
- In addition to the Executive Director, it is anticipated that approximately the following senior staff will form the INDEPTH team to be hosted by the institution. A final decision on staffing will be made in early 2018:
  - A Senior Science Programme Manager;
  - A Finance Manager;
  - An ICT/Data Manager; and
  - An Administrator.
- INDEPTH academic publications will be affiliated in the style "INDEPTH Network, University of Somewhere, CountryX", so that the host institution gains academic credit from hosting INDEPTH.

***The main purpose of this move is to partner with an established research institution in a way that allows the headquarters of the Network to leverage the scientific research environment and capabilities of the host institution in the facilitation of INDEPTH's own research activities.***

Institutions interested in hosting the INDEPTH Headquarters are now invited to submit applications.

Applications from universities and legally registered and well-established research institutions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific will be accepted (physical location in Africa, Asia or the Pacific is required, though a host's parent institute may be headquartered anywhere in the world).

Applications should be submitted by email as a single PDF file (developed from the template provided below) to:

**Prof. Tumani Corrah**  
**Executive Director, African Research Excellence Fund, The Gambia**  
**Chair of the INDEPTH Board**  
**Email: [tcorra@mrc.gm](mailto:tcorra@mrc.gm)**

INDEPTH Network will be registered as a legal international entity in the country where it is hosted.

A Selection Committee will be established by the INDEPTH Board. The Selection will be based on criteria specified below.

The selected institution will host the INDEPTH Headquarters starting no later than **June 2018** for an initial period of five (5) years, renewable based on satisfactory performance as the host.

### **The role of and benefits for the hosting institution**

The hosting institution's **key role** will include:

1. provide an institutional home for the INDEPTH Headquarters to operate as an autonomous entity;
2. allow INDEPTH to leverage institution's staff to take part in research activities of common interest;

The **benefits** of the hosting institution will include:

1. INDEPTH staff may be accredited as honorary staff at no additional cost;
2. Collaborate in INDEPTH Network research projects;
3. Access INDEPTH data for joint research activities and teaching;

## **Background on the INDEPTH Network**

### **INDEPTH Governance**

#### **Registration**

INDEPTH Network is registered as a charitable, tax-exempt organisation in the United States under section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code. It is also registered in Ghana. INDEPTH will register as an international organization in the host country

#### **The Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting is the overall forum for discussing organisational matters of the Network, electing officers, reviewing reports from the Executive Director and gauging progress of work at the INDEPTH Headquarters.

#### **Board of Trustees**

The primary role of the Board is to provide oversight and accountability for the activities of the INDEPTH Headquarters and the Network as a whole. It consists of the following members: six elected members representing the HDSS centres and are elected by them; three appointed members to reflect key donor perspectives; the Chair of the SAC as co-opted member; and the Executive Director as an ex-officio member. The members elect their Chair and co-Chair. The Board appoints and supervises the Executive Director.

#### **Centre Leaders**

INDEPTH membership is given to institutions that run health and demographic surveillance systems

(HDSSs). These are the parent institutions which we refer to as member centres of INDEPTH. A director of such a centre or his/her designee is referred to by INDEPTH as a centre leader. However, some centres have two or more HDSS field sites. Each of these HDSSs may have heads (field station managers, for example). INDEPTH considers these heads as Site Leaders. ALL centre/site leaders receive communications from the INDEPTH Headquarters.

### **The INDEPTH Headquarters**

INDEPTH is co-ordinated by a permanent executive body ('the headquarters') headed administratively by a full-time Executive Director appointed by and accountable to the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director is supported by full-time staff, comprising both scientific and non-scientific personnel working collectively as a team.

### **The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)**

The SAC consists of 15 members selected on their personal merits. It advises the INDEPTH on matters relating to the scientific activities of the Network thereby assisting it to focus on health, population and social issues of greatest potential policy impact. It is the SAC's responsibility to ensure that the highest scientific standards are upheld.

### **Strategic Groups/Working Groups/ Interest Groups**

INDEPTH actively utilises Strategic Groups/Working Groups/ Interest Groups dedicated to key issues of interest to the Network to act as generators and incubators for multi-site research and development projects. Each group is chaired by a leader who is responsible for reporting on the group's progress and is also accountable to its members and participating HDSS sites.

## **Key Achievements of INDEPTH Network**

Since its inception in 1998, INDEPTH and its growing network have strengthened demographic and health science in low- and middle-income countries by improving data collection tools, uniting research efforts and sharing results. The work has resulted in multiple monographs on population, health and cause of death as well as studies that have influenced policy and improved outcomes in LMICs, including:

■ **Identifying risk factors for epilepsy:** INDEPTH member centres in five countries collaborated on the largest study to date of epilepsy in Africa. The study of more than half a million people was the first to reveal the true extent of the problem, showing that adults who had suffered parasitic diseases were 1.5 to 3 times more likely to have epilepsy, and that complications during delivery were a major risk factor for children.

■ **Enabling trials for Malaria Vaccines & Therapies:** The Malaria Clinical Trials Alliance (MCTA) under INDEPTH leadership has provided training and improved infrastructure to ensure the successful execution of clinical malaria vaccine and therapeutic trials in ten countries across Africa. The project has increased the number of centres in Africa with the up-to-date capacity for clinical trials.

■ **Assessing the Effectiveness of Anti-Malarials:** The INDEPTH Effectiveness and Safety Studies of Antimalarials in Africa (INESS) has brought together seven HDSS centres to conduct effectiveness studies of anti-malarial drugs in Africa. It is the first time this kind of Phase IV study for anti-malarials has taken place in Africa under the leadership of African researchers.

■ **Evaluating Child Health Interventions:** The OPTIMUNISE multi-centre study (Optimising the impact and cost-effectiveness of child health intervention programmes of vaccines and micronutrients in low-income countries) uses HDSS sites in Asia and Africa as a platform to assess the effect of major child health interventions including vaccines, micronutrient supplementation and de-worming programmes. In 2011 and 2012, INDEPTH member centres published 23 papers on their effectiveness. Plans are underway to extend these efforts to other HDSSs.

■ **Understanding the Impact of Aging in the LMICs:** As part of the WHO's SAGE (the WHO Global Survey on Adult Health and Global Aging) eight INDEPTH sites in Asia and Africa conducted field-tests and now help drive the programme. It aims to strengthen empirical understanding of aging across countries and to assess follow-up strategies.

■ **Developing an Oral Cholera Vaccine:** The Matlab HDSS rural intervention for vaccine trials yielded important findings on the effectiveness of injectable and oral cholera vaccines and diarrhoea disease control. The oral cholera vaccine tested by the Centre is now recommended by the World Health Organisation.

■ **Improving Family Planning:** Family planning strategies first tested at Matlab and rolled out throughout Bangladesh led to the country's recognition as a family planning success story at the 1994 United Nations Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

■ **Ensuring the Adoption of Vitamin A:** The Navrongo Health Research Centre in northern Ghana found that providing Vitamin A supplements to children below the age of five reduced the number of child deaths by one fifth, and led to the programme's adoption throughout Ghana. Each member HDSS site organizes a regular full demographic census of all residents in its community — using detailed interview guides ... Here an interviewer uses a specially designed hand held device to record up-to-date information from a respondent.

■ **Identifying the Importance of Treated Bed Nets:** Studies in Navrongo found that bed nets soaked in permethrine cut child deaths by 17 per cent, which led to bed net provision being incorporated into health policies across Africa.

■ **Demonstrating the Effectiveness of Hib Vaccine:** A study by the Kilifi HDSS in Kenya found that the Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine was highly effective — and cost-effective — in reducing incidence of meningitis, pneumonia and sepsis in children, resulting in the Kenyan government reversing its decision to withdraw the vaccine.

■ **Proving the Value of Retroviral Therapies for HIV:** The Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies, based at Mtubatuba in KwaZuluNatal South Africa, has shown for the first time in real life (as opposed to just lab-based models) that when 30% or more of all HIV-infected adults in a community are on HIV treatment incidence rates significantly decrease. A second paper in Science showed the impact of antiretroviral therapy on increasing life expectancy.

■ **Launching Programs to Reduce Anaemia:** A study of iron deficiency anaemia by the Vadu HDSS in India led to the implementation by Indian states of programs to distribute micronutrient Sprinkles. The Vadu site has also conducted vaccine trials for rotavirus, typhoid and aerosol measles vaccines.

## Template for the development of a full proposal to host the INDEPTH Resource & Training Centre

### I. Information about applicants

Name of the applicant(s)

Institution/Organisation

Contact details

### II. Information about the institution

A. Mission, history, and activities of the applying institution including organizational and scientific capacity.

B. Describe your institution's international experiences in initiating and managing national and international networks.

C. Describe your institution's experience in communication through publishing newsletter, annual reports, teleconferencing, web-site maintenance.

D. Describe your institution's experience in organizing major international conferences, Research training (short- and long-term), and other similar activities.

E. Provide a brief description of the country's comparative advantage and its national health research coordination structures and stakeholders.

### III. The INDEPTH Headquarters

F. The institution will host the INDEPTH Headquarters for an initial period of five (5) years, renewable

G. Proposed organisation of the new INDEPTH Headquarters will have a maximum requirement of 5 offices.

Proposed interactions with host institutions include provision of logistics for the INDEPTH Headquarters.

H. Describe how the host institution will support the INDEPTH activities in relation to fundraising for INDEPTH, maintaining relationship with the chairs and members of the INDEPTH Board and Scientific Advisory Committee, and any support to INDEPTH that your institution may consider appropriate.

I. The expectations of INDEPTH Network from the host institution comprise at least:

- Provision of two support staff to be determined;
- Provision of office space for two support staff and 5-6 senior staff including the Executive Director;
- Availability of meeting room (for group meetings);
- An administrative infrastructure and IT platform;

- Facilitating the process for the relocation of the office and international staff; and
- Ability to register INDEPTH Network as an international organisation in the country of applying institution with potential for a headquarters agreement that would accord INDEPTH tax-exempt status.

#### **IV. Budget:**

J. Proposed budget: Please specify which items your institution will finance for INDEPTH Network and those that will be billed to INDEPTH Network as specified in the appended budget form (Appendix A).

#### **V. Conclusion**

Provide a strategy analysis showing your institution's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with regard to hosting the INDEPTH Headquarters

#### **VI. Selection procedure**

To ensure that the selection procedure for the institution to host the INDEPTH Headquarters is conducted in a fair and transparent manner, the following process will be respected:

K. A Selection Committee established by the Board will conduct the initial review of the applications and make recommendations to the INDEPTH Board.

The selection criteria will include but not limited to the following:

1. Host institution's history, reputation and experience in the areas of work of the Network;
2. Experience in hosting similar or other institutions/organizations;
3. Visibility of the host institution;
4. Accessibility of the hosting country – including location, ease of transportation to/from country ;
5. Stability of host country ; and
6. Facilities and support to be granted to INDEPTH Network.

The recommendation shall indicate the most suitable host in order of decreasing preference.

L. There will be a visit to the top two institutions by **February 15, 2018**

M. The INDEPTH Board will make the final decision regarding the selection by **February 28, 2018**.

#### **2. Motivation for Budget**

Please provide detailed motivation and basis for the requests made above.

Outline details and status of any funding that has been received, applied for or committed to the proposed transfer and maintenance of the INDEPTH Headquarters to your institution.

## Appendix A

<b>Budget</b> (itemized list of financial requirements to successfully host the INDEPTH Headquarters, with a substantive motivation for the listed requirements or levels of funding)					
<b>Item</b>	<b>Description (provide details)</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Total Cost per year (US\$)</b>	<b>Amount requested from INDEPTH</b>
1. Office Space Facility	Office space, meeting room, electricity, water				
2. Support Staff	1. .... 2. ....				
3. Administration, Infrastructure, IT Platform	Admin, Infrastructure, Internet, Telephone				
4. Specialised Services	Equipment maintenance				
5. Fundraising	Funding to support the INDEPTH Scientific Conference every two years				