

## **Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) Pathfinder Health**

*The Pathfinder Health Program helps Mekong sub-regional health authorities identify and respond to emerging infectious diseases. Pathfinder fellows will be eligible to submit proposals and receive funds for pilot research programs to help communities prevent disease emergence and spread. The Pathfinder program complements long-standing U.S. support for public health to Southeast Asia, including ongoing U.S. assistance to combat COVID-19 and is a prime example of non-traditional security programming.*

### **Proposal Preparation Guidance**

- Please remember that your project must use one of the tools presented applied to emerging infectious diseases in the Mekong region
- One of the Principal Investigators must be one of the nominees
- Please make sure to carefully consider how your project may need to operate given the challenges of Covid-19. Projects can operate across national boundaries, however travel and field work expectations should be limited according to feasibility under lockdown circumstances.

### **Sections of the Proposal**

Please include all of the following items when you submit your proposal. Only complete proposals are eligible for consideration.

1. Cover Sheet
2. Project Summary/abstract (300 words or less limit)
3. Project Description/Research Plan (maximum three-pages)
4. References Cited
5. Accommodation of restrictions due to covid-19
6. Timetable/schedule of project
7. Biographical Sketch(es) (maximum of one-page each)
8. Budget and Budget Justification

### **Section I: Cover Sheet**

There are four major components of the Cover Sheet. The information requested on the Cover Sheet is as follows:

1. Principal Investigator(s) (Name, organization, address, email(s), and WhatsApp number)
2. Title of Proposed Project (Descriptive title)
3. Requested Budget and Proposed Start Date (Projects shall be for up to 1 year, starting no later than January 30, 2022.)
4. Co-principal Investigator(s) (Co-PI) (Name, organization, address, email(s), and WhatsApp number)  
Requested Budget Amount and Start Date

## **Section II: Project Summary/Abstract (300 word limit)**

**Project Summary/Abstract:** The purpose of the Project Summary/Abstract is to succinctly describe your proposed project. Please be sure to state your proposal's objectives, your methods, , and why your project relates to public health in the Mekong sub-region.. Please take time to careful when you write your summary. It will help readers quickly form an impression about the significance and innovation of your proposals. The audience reviewing your panel will not all be scientists, please use plain language that people from many backgrounds will be able to understand.

Please make sure that your summary is 300 words or less, and that it uses a **Times New Roman 12pt font** with **one-inch margins**. . The project summary/abstract should not contain proprietary confidential information.

## **Section III: Research Plan**

### **Research Plan**

Please organize your Research Plan into three sections: **Specific Aims, Significance, and Approach**. The maximum length of the research plan is **three pages**. Please use your Research Plan to answer the following questions:

- Why does your proposal matter? What is the significance of your research? How does it apply one of the tools? How does it relate to the goals of the Pathfinder Health Program and community needs?
- How will your plan add to research in your field? How will your research be accomplished? By who? When? Where? Using what method?
- How does your project relate to emerging infectious diseases in the Mekong region? What ways can your story be told to the public?

### **Specific Aims**

**Please** describe your proposal's goals and summarize your proposal's expected outcome(s), including the impact of the proposed research will exert on emerging infectious diseases issues in the Mekong region.

### **Significance**

Please explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier in emerging infectious disease that your proposal seeks to address. One approach to this could be explaining how your proposal will improve scientific knowledge, technical capacity, and/or standard practice for communities or public health authorities in the region. Another approach could be describing how the concepts, methods, technologies, services, or preventative interventions in the region could be improved by your proposal.

## **Approach**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the approach section is to describe how the research will be carried out. **This section is crucial to how favorably an application is reviewed.**

## **Section IV: References Cited**

Reference information is required. Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. If the reference has a website address readily available, that information can be included in the citation. This section must include bibliographic citations only and must not be used to provide parenthetical information outside of the three page Project Description.

## **Section V: Accommodation of Restrictions due to COVID-19**

The purpose of this section is to demonstrate how the project's implementation will be completed despite current or new limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please explain potential barriers posed by effects of the pandemic (such as limitations on travel, fieldwork, or in-person meetings) and ways the project's design is able to be carried out despite these limitations.

## **Section VI: Project Timetable**

Please include a timetable for your project, specifying the stages of your approach and when you estimate they will occur. This should cover any reasonable element of preparation and implementation that must take place before completion of the pilot project.

## **Section VII: Biographical Sketch(es)**

Senior Personnel

A separate biographical sketch (limited to two pages) must be provided through use of an Mekong-U.S. Partnership-approved format, for each individual designated as senior personnel.

The biographical sketch must include: **professional preparation, appointments, and products.**

**Do not submit any personal information in the biographical sketch.** This includes items such as: home address; home telephone, fax, or cell phone numbers; home e-mail address; ID number; marital status; personal hobbies; and the like. Such personal information is not appropriate for the biographical sketch and is not relevant to the merits of the proposal. The Mekong-U.S. Partnership is not responsible or in any way liable for the release of such material.

## **Section VIII: Budget and Budget Justification**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the budget and justification is to present and justify all expenses required to achieve project aims and objectives. For multi-institutional applications, there must be a separate budget for each subcontractor or consortium member. There is a limit of USD \$75,000 for each proposal.

**Recommended Length:** Please provide a budget in table form, in addition to a written justification that includes an explanation for each line item in the spreadsheet, as well as the source and description of any cost share offered. If there is a co-investigator at another institution, for whom funds are requested, be sure to include his/her budget.

**Suggested Content:** The budget and justification should cover personnel, consultants, equipment, supplies, travel, and other expenses.