REDe
Research Capacity Network

Funding and delivering collaborative research training workshops in low resource settings

A step by step toolkit

Engaging local research communities to enhance long-term capacity building and increase equity in access to engagement in health research.

Research Preparedness:
Running a Workshop Proposal Call

AUTHORS: Luiza Madia Lourenço, Mercedes Rumi, Bonny L Baker

Design: Steffani Herring-Hall

This toolkit is based on the 2019 REDe Workshop Series that was coordinated by Luiza H. M. Lourenço, Gregorio Dias, Nina Jamieson and Bonny Baker, integrating "in person" and online learning opportunities to strengthen a community of practice that is relevant to local needs.

The toolkit describes the design and implementation of a series of workshops, demonstrating the value of integrating a practical workshop series format with digital dissemination of research resources and training materials, to generate a vibrant and robust community of practice that can facilitate more and better health research within our communities. The approach described here shows one way to pursue this and therefore might be useful to other institutions that want to help strengthening research skills in low and middle-income countries such as Brazil. Bringing visibility to this successful approach, will inspire and foster more initiatives like this, ultimately contributing to local ownership in the field of global health.

We are always keen to hear from researchers and teams who have used these resources, and perhaps adapted and modified them further. Please do share your experiences or refined tools with us at: info@theglobalhealthnetwork.org or redebrazil@tghn.org

> **Engaging local research communities to enhance long-term capacity building and increase equity in access to engagement in health research.**

You can browse the online toolkit using the buttons below, follow it from beginning to end, or download Research Preparedness in Brazil guide PDF to read offline.

INTRODUCTION   HOW   IMPACT   DOWNLOAD PDF

Introduction

Introduction
Research preparedness: Running a Workshop Proposal Call

Goal

Strengthen research capacity by developing and supporting "Communities of Practice" that are relevant to local needs to guide, advance and sustain a robust research environment. In this way, enabling lasting research capacity in challenging settings will help to create better capabilities to fight enduring and emerging threats.

Why

1. Global health emergencies produce devastating consequences especially in LMICs
2. The role of international organisations and funders in response to emergencies, by issuing protocols and recommendations, is vital but can be disconnected from the local realities
3. Appropiate response to an emergency requires local ownership of evidence and public policies that arise from a strong local research culture
4. LMICs such as Brazil, still have an unmet need for research training, with incredibly strong local and regional expertise apt to share and deliver these learning experiences. The support to enable such opportunities is lacking
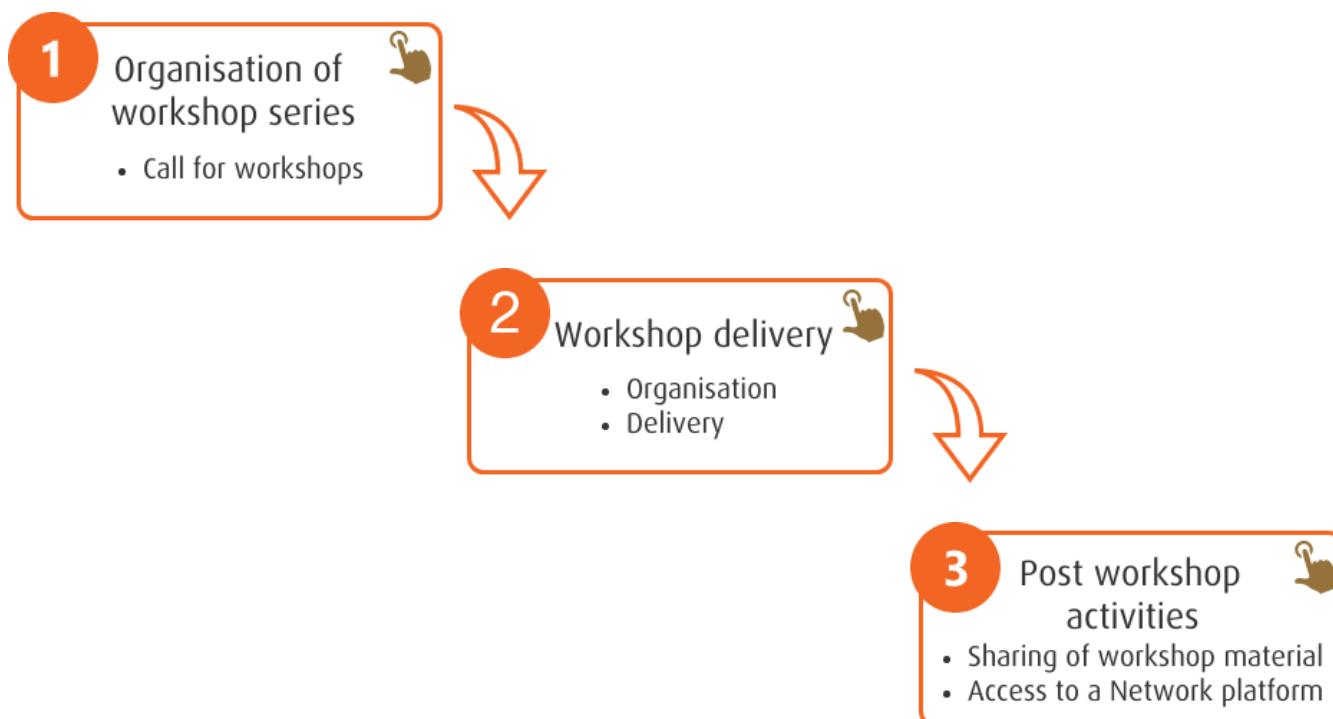
< Home   **How >**

REDe
Research Capacity Network

How

How

Research preparedness: Running a Workshop Proposal Call

CLICK below to follow steps 1 through to step 3

1 Organisation of workshop series
- Call for workshops

2 Workshop delivery
- Organisation
- Delivery

3 Post workshop activities
- Sharing of workshop material
- Access to a Network platform

< Introduction   **Step 1 >**

Organisation of workshop series

Step 1

Identifying target groups

- Local experts: identified by scoping documents from MoH, Universities and other relevant local research institutes
- Research groups within research consortia

Defining the call criteria related to proposal content and format

- Choose a theme/topic
- Proposed workshop training should be relevant to public health and aimed at improving research skills (for example, academic writing, funding proposal submission, implementation of public policies and public engagement)
- Workshop Design: highly interactive format with practical activities and tasks in groups
- Target: academics, researchers, health professionals, laboratory staff and/or students
- Collaborative proposals involving more than one research group or institution were encouraged

Format:

- English or local language
- 1,500-word limit to describe the programme proposal
- Submissions made to a central email account

Call dissemination

- An email was sent to the identified target groups with the call information and the application form
- A 2.5 week-period was given to submit proposals

- Reminder emails sent 5 and 2 days before the deadline. Download email templates

Selection of proposals

- Submissions were scored by a panel according to pre-determined criteria. Download scoring system
- Compatibility with the Network's goals
- Proponent capacity building experience
- Proponent research expertise
- Basic host site infrastructure for training activities
- Target audience and date
- Only proposals with a minimum score of 50% across all criteria were considered
- Proponents were informed of the selection outcome within 2 weeks from the deadline. Download email templates

< How   Step 2 >

REDe
Research Capacity Network

Workshop delivery

Skills-focused workshops with training in situ and the generation of repository resources in local Language

Step 2
Workshop delivery

Step 2

Invite workshop proponents to an introductory meeting

The objective of this meeting is to get to know the organising team and advise on the proposed programme, especially to guarantee that interactive and practical activities will be included.

A workshop planning form can be sent to them in advance to help structuring the event.

In addition, this opportunity (or a future meeting) can be used to define the outputs that will be generated by the event (see an email text with suggested outputs here).

Set up a webpage to host the event information and registration link
(and generated resources after the event)

Include logos and description / abstract	Consent for future use of the collected data	Download Registration questionnaire
		• Basic demographic information • Professional role • Research experience • Reasons to attend

- Research skills self-evaluation

Generation of comms including posters, social media, newsletters, email dissemination

Event delivery

A representative of the organisation team attended the 'in person' events to advertise the platform and interact with participants, speakers and organisers.

Feedback from participants

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to complete a questionnaire with the same set of questions asked in the registration form (to evaluate research skills aquired), as well as information on their opinion on the event.

Download Feedback questionnaire

< Step 1   Step 3 >

Post-workshop Activities

After the workshop

Step 3

Consensus meeting

Workshop organisers met in person, in a dedicated meeting after all workshops had been delivered. This opportunity was designed to allow for them to collectively identify the main challenges and hurdles for research capacity strengthening and discuss ways to overcome them.

Presentation sessions and discussions

The workshop teams draws on lessons learnt, strengths and recommendations arising from their programmes.

Sharing of workshop material

- Open and free sharing of training materials generated throughout the workshops are in the dedicated webpage on the platform (same one used for registration and workshop dissemination)

- Host photos, presentation slides from the talks, summary reports, testimonial videos from participants and, when available, talk recordings

REDe
Research Capacity Network

Impact

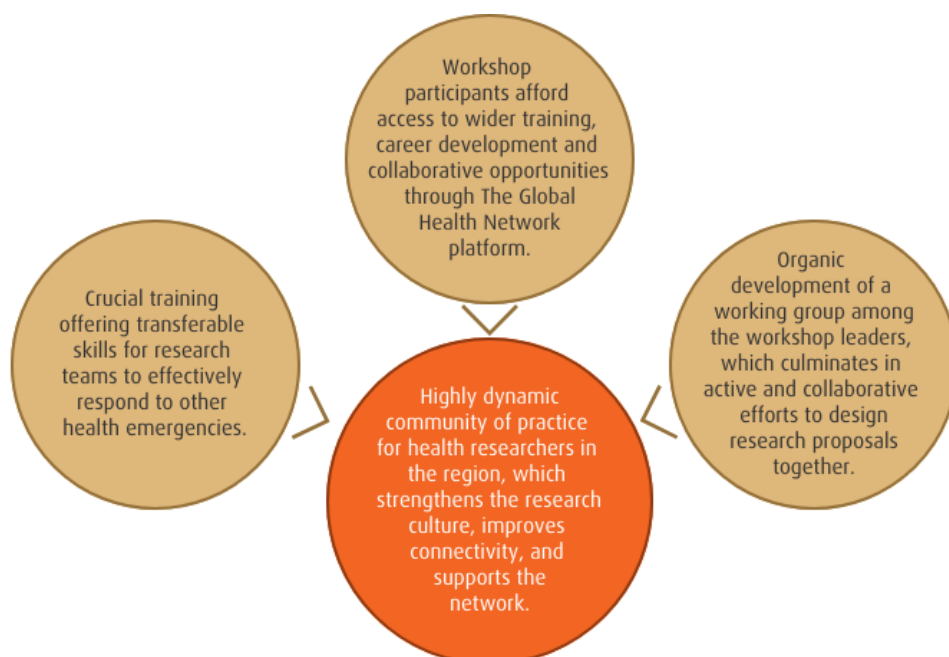Impact
Research preparedness: Running a Workshop Proposal Call

Combining in-person training with further online knowledge disseminations widens the outreach of key learning resources to the teams.

The digital components help to mitigate issues with accessibility and the limitations presented by on-site training, such as travel expenses or time commitments. Hosting the workshop materials in the online platform attracts more members to the community of practice.

Click on the image for large view

Workshop participants afford access to wider training, career development and collaborative opportunities through The Global Health Network platform.

Crucial training offering transferable skills for research teams to effectively respond to other health emergencies.

Organic development of a working group among the workshop leaders, which culminates in active and collaborative efforts to design research proposals together.

Highly dynamic community of practice for health researchers in the region, which strengthens the research culture, improves connectivity, and supports the network.

Participants agreed that there is a pressing need to bring scientists and policymakers closer. Active communication mechanisms are necessary to foster science-based policymaking and public understanding of the importance of science.

(Check out our hub on Applying Research to Policy and Practice for Health)

< Home