

## APHRC's Competitive Advantage



APHRC is building on more than a decade (2001-2014) of success. This is because the Center:

- Is Africa-based and African-led;
- Combines scientific rigor with policy relevance in improving understanding of the continent's key development challenges;
- Attracts highly-skilled, multi-disciplinary staff from across Africa who generate groundbreaking research on the continent;
- Has extensive practical experience in public health and population-related research that addresses priorities of key decision-makers in the region;
- Has achieved great success in guiding evidence-based policy and practice decisions at the local, national and regional levels;
- Has fostered high-level scholarly skill of more than 250 doctoral candidates in various African universities in the last six years;
- Publishes nearly 100 peer-reviewed articles in international scientific journals each year;
- Serves on international, national, and regional expert committees which guide the setting of research, policy, and program agendas;
- Maintains a longitudinal health and demographic surveillance system in urban informal settlements that has shone spotlight, stimulated evidence-based actions, and provides evidence on the links between urbanization, poverty and health;
- Has earned the trust and support of major funders and partners such as Ford Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, IDRC, Wellcome Trust, SIDA, DFID/UKAid, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Rockefeller Foundation, Wellspring Advisers and many more.

## Our Vision

That the people of Africa enjoy the highest possible quality of life through policies and practises informed by robust scientific evidence.

## Our Mission

To be a global center of excellence, consistently generating and delivering relevant scientific evidence for policy and action on population, health and education in Africa.



Africa Population and Health Research Center  
 APHRC Campus, Kitisuru  
 P.O. Box 10787 - 00100 Nairobi, Kenya  
 +254 20 400 1000  
 info@aphrc.org | www.aphrc.org

## African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship Program (ADDRF)



## Overview



“ In line with its mission to build sustainable research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa, the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), in partnership with the International Development Research Center (IDRC) established the African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship (ADDRF) program in 2008. ”

The goals of the ADDRf program are to facilitate more rigorous engagement of doctoral students in health systems research, to provide them with an opportunity for timely completion of their doctoral training, and to launch fellows as independent scholars and support them to generate and contribute to health systems and policy evidence.

ADDRf fellowships target doctoral students with strong commitment to a career in training and/or research and whose dissertation topics show great promise of contributing significantly to efforts to strengthen health systems in the region. Fellowships are awarded to doctoral students who are within two years of

completing their thesis at an African university. In 2014-2016, the ADDRf Program will also provide short-term postdoctoral fellowships and re-entry grants on a competitive basis to ADDRf program graduates. These new initiatives are intended to enable ADDRf fellows secure their future as research-active scholars

Previous phases of the ADDRf program have been co-funded by the Ford Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through a project grant to APHRC, and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) through a grant to the Population Council for the STEP UP (Strengthening Evidence for Programing on Unintended Pregnancy) Research Programme Consortium.

## Expected Outcomes

The fellowship program is expected to result in several high-quality doctoral dissertations from sub-Saharan African universities. Successful applicants will be required to publish at least one peer-reviewed article from their dissertation within two years of completing their thesis. The postdoctoral fellowship and re-entry grant program components are expected to strengthen the capacity of at least sixteen postdoctoral fellows to conduct rigorous research on health systems in sub-Saharan Africa. Overall, the program is expected to contribute to the production and retention of skilled capacity at various academic and research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Eligible Fields of Study:

Applicants are advised to read an article by Remme et al, "Defining Research to Improve Health Systems" to guide them in identifying research focus area that fall within the health systems research scope. The article is available online:

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001000>

Note! Lab-based studies must show immediate relevance to health systems strengthening to be considered.

## Selection Criteria

- Candidates whose dissertation topics address health systems issues and show great promise of making substantive contribution to strengthening health systems in Africa are given priority.
- The fellowship will support original qualitative and quantitative research that addresses a clear research question, employs appropriate and rigorous design, and has unambiguous national or regional policy implication(s).
- Candidates must demonstrate interest in pursuing a research career and dissertations must be sufficiently linked to future research interests.
- The dissertation should ideally be related to other work going on in the department or should have received strong endorsement and support from the department.
- Female applicants and those from Francophone and/or Lusophone countries are especially encouraged to apply.

## Evaluation Criteria

The applications are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Candidate's scientific background and potential to develop a strong research career,
- Scientific merit of the proposed research project including originality of research question(s), clarity and adequacy of the study design; demonstrated knowledge of relevant/current literature; detailed analysis plan, and ethical considerations,

- Research environment including commitment of main supervisors and department to facilitate timely completion of the dissertation,
- Well-elaborated statement on the policy relevance of the research, and
- Budget summary and justification, including clear plan to complete the dissertation within 24 months.

## The Awards

### Doctoral Fellowships

The doctoral fellowships will primarily support research (including data collection and/or analysis). Funds will not be used to support coursework. Applicants must:

- Be citizens or permanent residents of a sub-Saharan African country
- Be undertaking doctoral training at a recognized African university
- Have completed all pre-dissertation requirements
- Provide a detailed time-frame for completing their dissertation which should be endorsed by the head of department or the chair of the dissertation committee
- Have a research topic that has been approved by their doctoral dissertation committee, as well as the official body overseeing ethical review of the research protocol
- Be able to complete their dissertation within 24 months of the start of the fellowship.

Each individual award is up to a maximum of US\$ 10,000. This amount includes a completion award of US\$ 1,000; allowances for a laptop computer and analytical software (e.g. STATA, SPSS, Nudist, Atlas/ti) (US\$ 1,500); research/data collection (US\$ 5,500); and participation in one regional or international conference or workshop (US\$ 2,000).

Successful candidates are required to attend two one week-long training workshops over the course of the fellowship period. During the workshops, grantees receive training and mentorship on various aspects of research (design and methods, ethics, data analyses, scientific writing, proposal development and communication of research results, etc.). The working language for these workshops is English.

The students' home institutions may receive a facilitation grant to support the department and dissertation committee in ensuring timely review of dissertation chapters. The facilitation grant is paid to the fellow.

### Supervisors' Travel Awards

Supervisors, whose students complete their PhD within 2 years and who, during the fellowship duration, publish at least one research paper in a peer-reviewed international journal or book with the ADDRf fellow under their supervision, will be eligible to apply for travel awards amounting to US \$2,500. Three travel grants will be awarded each year (2015-2017). Awards will be subject to the supervisor having a paper accepted for oral presentation in a health systems-focused conference. Africa-based supervisors of fellows studying at Francophone universities will be given special considerations for travel grants. Travel awards will be made directly to the supervisors.

## Postdoctoral Fellowships

Only ADDRf fellows who have completed their doctoral studies are eligible for the postdoctoral fellowships. Preference will be given to fellows working in research or academic positions in sub-Saharan Africa and those who propose projects that involve other fellows. Applicants must

- Engage in research addressing health systems during the postdoctoral fellowship
- Have obtained their PhD certificate.

The postdoctoral fellowship includes round-trip airfare to the country where the host institution is located; allowances for room and board, medical insurance, and local transport; and a modest monthly stipend to cover other expenses during the postdoctoral fellowship. Because of the short-term nature of the postdoctoral research fellowships, the fellowships cover travel plus subsistence of the fellow only and not of any accompanying dependents.

## Re-entry grants

Only ADDRf fellows who have completed their doctoral studies are eligible for the re-entry grants. Preference will be given to fellows working in research or academic positions in sub-Saharan Africa and those who propose projects that involve other fellows. Applicants must

- Engage in research addressing health systems as part of the re-entry grant
- Have obtained their PhD certificate.

Each re-entry grant is up to US\$ 30,000. The grant covers research costs including field personnel, supplies, local fieldwork travel, conference participation, and publication costs. Training and library costs, as well as travel and meeting costs for collaborative projects may be included.

## Evaluation Criteria

The applications are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Candidate's scientific background and potential for development of a strong research career evidenced by sample of recent publications, etc.
- Scientific merit of the proposed research activities to be based on a written concept note, clear plans for the fellowship, and future career aspirations.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**When is the call for applications announced?**

The call is announced in October every year on the APHRC website. ([www.aphrc.org](http://www.aphrc.org))

**When is the application deadline?**

The deadline for applications is typically in mid-January.

**Am I eligible for the doctoral fellowship if I am employed in a sub-Saharan African (SSA) university but enrolled in a university outside of SSA?**

No, only candidates who are enrolled in a degree program at a sub-Saharan African university are eligible. However, students who are enrolled in sandwich programs in institutions outside of SSA may be considered.

**I have never received an ADDRf award, am I eligible for the ADDRf post-doctoral fellowships and re-entry grants?**

No, only ADDRf doctoral fellows who have completed their PhD studies are eligible to apply for the ADDRf post-doctoral fellowships and re-entry grants.

**How do I apply for the doctoral fellowships?**

Application materials are available on the APHRC website ([www.aphrc.org](http://www.aphrc.org)) when the call is announced.

**Whom may I contact for more information?**

Questions about the ADDRf Program may be directed to the ADDRf Manager. ([addrf@aphrc.org](mailto:addrf@aphrc.org))



**RESEARCH CAPACITY  
STRENGTHENING**

**We build the capacity of Africans to generate and  
utilize research**