Innovation Fund

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AAWG meeting
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Ideas behind the IF

• Inspiring and financing new activities that further the Coalition’s strategic goals and those of its Working Groups.
• Ensure that all of the Coalition’s working groups had equal access to the funds needed to carry out their objectives
• Catalyst for bridging all the sectors—advocacy, technical, commercial—that make up the Coalition’s large and diverse membership.
• Bring about positive change:
  • No radical departure from previous practice but rather new approaches to existing processes.
  • Can apply to systems or processes and the generation of new knowledge.
  • Apply an existing strategy in a new context for the first time, thereby shedding light on how best to replicate and scale-up new approaches at the country level
Eligibility

• Member of the Coalition
• Active participants of an Implementing Mechanism (IM):
  • Advocacy & Accountability, Market Development Approaches, and Systems Strengthening Working Groups
  • the Regional Forums SECONAF and ForoLAC
  • the Generic Manufacturers for Reproductive Health, Maternal Health Supplies, and New and Underused Reproductive Health Technologies Caucuses.
• They should make a convincing case that the proposed activity increases access to affordable, quality health supplies in one or more countries
• Preference is given to implementing organizations based in low- and middle income countries.
• To avoid delays before contracting and funding of the activity, research proposals requiring approval by an ethical review board are not eligible
**How Ideas Become Reality**

1. **Generate Ideas**
   - Innovation Fund Call for Proposals
   - Discuss Ideas with Peers
   - Vet Proposals
   - Refine Proposal
   - Deadline for Submission to Group Leader

2. **Group Leader Submits Proposal to Innovation Fund**
   - 2 Weeks

3. **Subaward Issued**
   - 3 Weeks

4. **Review Committee Meets and Announces Decision**
   - 6 Weeks
   - If Necessary, Make Required Changes
   - 2 Weeks

5. **Project Initiation**
   - #RHSupplies2016
Consequences of an expansion of the Coalition

- Proposals do not always focus on carrying out the objectives of the Coalition’s IMs
- Themed Innovation Fund calls make direct link with IMs not always possible
- Application process has become longer and more complicated
- High burden of work for IM Chairs/RHSC staff

→ Need to update the IF process
Suggested changes

- Notify chairs earlier when IF call is coming up so they are better prepared
- Inform IM Chairs better about the objective of the IF and the process when they become a chair
- Pair the announcement of the IF call for proposals with a webinar on what ‘innovation’ means
- Clarify the responsibilities of the IM chairs vs the secretariat leads
- Clarify what membership exactly means (e.g. being on a listserv is not enough)
Suggested changes

- Strengthen the role of IMs and IM chairs in the process:
  - submit one-page concept note to their IM chair (2 weeks)
  - Chairs start conversations with applicants and collect feedback from IM chairs (2 weeks)
  - The IM selects 3 ideas to be developed into a full proposal
  - Applicants send official proposal to IM Chair (2 weeks). Dialogue should continue during this period so the proposal is very familiar to the chair and the IM as a whole.
  - Chair works with applicant on final changes and translation and submits to IF manager (1 week)
Suggestions?

- How to relate the IF back to the IMs?
- Division of labor between IM Chairs/RHSC staff/Review Committee
- How to make the process more user-friendly?
- How to link themed IF calls to the IMs?