## Multi-Hazard Research Network (MHRN) Expression of Interest Application Form

**For reference only – please apply through the** [**RCC grant management system**](https://rcc.smartsimpleuk.com/s_Login.jsp) **(from 8 September 2025)**

## Section 1 – Administrative & eligibility information

1. **Lead Organisation Details**
	* Organisation name
	* Organisation type (academic institution, multilateral organisation, public sector body, other non-profit, other, please explain)
	* Country of registration
	* Organisation address
	* Website
	* Lead contact person (name, title, email, phone)
	* Authorised signatory for contracts (name, title, email)
2. **Eligibility Confirmation** (checkboxes)
	* Lead organisation is a UK-based non-profit organisation (including academic institutions)
	* Lead organisation is submitting only one application as lead
	* Commitment to FCDO’s Value for Money, safeguarding, open science, and ethical research [standards](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fcdo-programme-operating-framework)

## Section 2 – Strategic and technical fit

1. **Understanding the scale and ambition** (up to 500 words)
	* Explain, in your own words, what your ambition for the MHRN is and how you plan to build a network of equitable, collaborative partnerships.
	* Briefly describe the main challenges you envision in delivering this ambition and building the network (you do not need to detail how these will be mitigated, as details on risk management and mitigation will be requested during the full proposal stage).
2. **Alignment with research objectives** (up to 500 words)
	* Briefly explain how the network you are proposing will meet the research objectives in the Statement of Need.

## Section 3 – Network strength and collaboration model

1. **Network overview** (up to 500 words)
	* Provide a short narrative describing the overall network structure and geographic scope.
	* Provide a brief description of the governance approach you would use in delivering the MHRN.
2. **Partner organisation details** *(repeatable fields for each partner)*

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| **Partner status**  | **Organisation name**  | **Country/ies of registration**  | **Area(s) of primary/ secondary expertise**  | **Key individuals (if known), provisional role within network** (e.g., Academic Director, Operations Director, Workstream Lead, etc.) |
| Confirmed / Prospective |   |   |   |  |

1. **Leadership and thought leadership** (up to 500 words)
* Describe how you will adopt a proactive and visionary approach to leadership in delivering the MHRN, including setting a clear strategic direction, fostering a culture of innovation, and encouraging collaborative problem-solving? Please demonstrate with examples.

## Section 4 – Technical expertise

### **Subject matter expertise** (up to 500 words)

* + Outline the areas of subject matter expertise covered by the research network, with particular reference to:
		- Natural hazards (e.g. hydrological hazards, atmospheric hazards)
		- Infectious diseases (e.g. outbreaks of epidemic and pandemic potential, particularly in LMICs)
		- Cascading impacts (e.g. systems thinking, impact modelling)
		- People-centred approaches (e.g. social and behavioural sciences, user research)
		- Innovation and advanced technology (e.g. design thinking, AI, big data)
	+ Specify the coverage of local expertise in key geographies and the capacity to reflect the lived experience of populations at risk.
1. **Disciplinary and methodological expertise** (up to 500 words)
	* Outline the academic disciplines to which the network would provide access (e.g. earth sciences, biological and medical sciences, social and behavioural sciences) and describe the proposed approach for ensuring collaboration between disciplines.
	* Outline experience and expertise in research methods and methodological approaches for emergency preparedness and response, including: prediction and forecasting tools, preparedness planning, emergency response research, and community engagement.
2. **Outputs and communication to end users** (up to 500 words)
* Describe experience producing user-centred outputs, providing expert advice for decision-making, and communicating complex findings to non-technical audiences. Outline how this expertise will be applied in the delivery of the MHRN.

Section 5 – Operational and delivery capacity

1. **Network coordination** (up to 500 words)
	* Describe how the lead institution has the capacity to act as an effective central operational hub, including experience managing large multi-year, multi-country research programmes, distributing funds to partners, coordinating across complex environments, and managing uncertainty.
	* Explain how the lead institution will maintain the network, ensure continued buy-in, and involve partners in decision-making.
2. **Rapid response** (up to 500 words)
	* Highlight experience in, and capacity for, convening and coordinating across a network to meet urgent needs.
	* Describe how the lead institution and partners will have the capacity to prioritise urgent requests and provide rapid access to thematic experts without disrupting routine research or creating undue burden on certain partners or individuals.

EOI scoring criteria

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| **Strategic and technical fit**  | **30%** |
| * Clear understanding of the purpose and ambition of the MHRN.
* Strong alignment with the five core objectives (RO1–RO5): Prediction research, preparedness research, emergency response research, deployment of tools and products, expert advice.
* Evidence that the network will provide relevant, high-quality, timely, and actionable tools and advice.
* Incorporation of user-centred, interdisciplinary, and adaptive design principles.
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| **Network strength and collaboration model** | **30%** |
| * Strength and relevance of the lead institution, including capacity to serve as the operational and administrative hub.
* Strength of leadership and thought leadership of the lead institution.
* Quality and complementarity of proposed partners (UK and international), including engagement with LMIC-based institutions.
* Effective governance model and coordination strategy to manage a diverse network and respond to FCDO needs.
* Demonstrated commitment to, and prior evidence of, equitable, inclusive and mutually beneficial partnerships.
* Expertise in research capacity strengthening and capability building.
* Experience of convening multi-disciplinary, active learning networks.
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| **Technical Expertise**  | **20%** |
| * Breadth and depth of subject matter expertise across natural hazards, infectious disease, and cascading impacts.
* Methodological and multi-disciplinary expertise across fields, such as earth sciences, biological and medical sciences, and social and behavioural sciences.
* Context expertise in key at-risk geographies and the lived experience of affected populations, particularly low- and middle-income countries and low resource contexts.
* Experience conducting applied, rapid, and policy-relevant research and communicating findings to varied audiences.
* Innovation expertise and approach, including horizon scanning, experimentation, technological and methodological innovation.
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| **Operational and Delivery Capacity** | **20%** |
| * Experience managing large multi-year, multi-country research programmes.
* Evidence that the lead institution has the capacity and capability to maintain the network, ensure continued buy-in, and involve partners in decision-making.
* Demonstrated ability to deliver outputs in high-pressure, time-sensitive environments.
* Capacity for rapid mobilisation of expertise and responsiveness in emergency contexts.
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