South Caucasus Small Grants Program 2021-2022
August 16, 2021 – August 31, 2022

Dear South Caucasus FELTP Alumni Association members,

We are pleased to announce the opportunity for interested candidates to submit brief Letters of Intent (LOIs) for project proposals related to the topic area of “Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases.”

Grants will be awarded for non-research investigations focused on surveillance, program evaluation, or public health activities. More information on non-research activities can be found in the Non-Research Proposal Reminder document provided on the application website.

Small grants awarded for projects related to “Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases” under this program will be approximately US$5,000 and will be funded through the generous support of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) South Caucasus Office (SCO). Please note that final awards may be less than the maximum amount of US$5,000. All grant awards are contingent upon receipt of funding from associated donor(s). This announcement does not make any implicit or explicit guarantee of awards against LOIs/proposals submitted.

The implementation period for all projects proposed under the 2021-2022 South Caucasus Small Grants Program will be a maximum of 8 months, to be initiated and completed during the period January 1 to August 31, 2022. Also, please note that applicants are restricted to submitting up to two (2) Letters of Interest (LOIs) for projects related to “Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases”. If two LOIs are submitted, they must encompass two distinct focus areas or activities. More than two LOI submissions by the same applicant will result in disqualification.

Who can apply?
- Only applicants from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine who have graduated from the South Caucasus advanced Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (SC-FELTP) and graduates from Frontline FETP are eligible to apply.
- Candidates awarded in previous years are not eligible to apply.
- The applicant must be the Principal Investigator (PI).
- Applicants should preferably identify an in-country subject matter expert (SME) at their ministry of health, academic institution, or public-private partnership who will serve as
the PI’s in-country mentor for the duration of the grant-funded project. The CDC South Caucasus Office may be able to help applicants identify local/in-country mentor(s) if applicants are unable to do so.

**Proposed projects should focus on:**
- Piloting a surveillance system; or
- Evaluating a surveillance system; or
- Analyzing surveillance or related data; or
- Implementing and evaluating prevention efforts; or
- Evaluation of public health programs such as immunization programs; or
- Evaluation of Infection prevention and control (IPC) practices.

**Guidance for topic area – “Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases”:**
The CDC SCO aims to support mentored, well-defined small grants through TEPHINET for graduates of SC-FELTP to collate, analyze, synthesize, interpret, and use epidemiologic data to inform activities relevant to advancing global health security. Additional travel support may also be provided towards the PI’s travel to present their work at national, regional or international workshops/conferences. Such travel support would be in addition to the grant award but will require prior approval from TEPHINET.

CDC seeks to accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats and to promote global health security as an international security priority in order to:
- Prevent and reduce the likelihood of outbreaks;
- Detect threats early to save lives;
- Respond rapidly and effectively using multi-sectoral international coordination and communication; and
- Encourage use of data for evidence-based policymaking via data analysis and interpretation.

Epidemiologic data is essential to a country’s national infectious disease control planning efforts. Such data provide the evidence base that informs the infectious disease control plan; supports identification of needs, level of readiness, and prioritization of implementation strategies; and helps a country understand whether implemented programs are having the desired impact.

With the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, CDC encourages applicants to consider the secondary impact of COVID-19 on both communicable and non-communicable diseases and the gaps identified in national public health systems for their project proposals.