



EVIR LMIC WORKING GROUP: Strategic plan review

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The current status

- Chair: Garry Aslanyan.
- Supported by Dottie Goble and Sarah Puddicombe (NIHR)
- **Aim; To clarify the working group purpose** in relation to
 - Learning from existing EVIR forum members undertaking global health research funders
 - Increasing diversity of voice in the forum through engaging more widely with LMIC researchers and funders.
 - Establishing an outline plan to reach out to LMIC funders

Held some ongoing meetings for EVIR LMIC health research working group

LMIC working group goals



Start a dialogue with global health research funders and researchers

- To identify key players in LMIC health funding
- To understand variances, drivers and activities



Learn from EVIR members and GHR funders

Create a shared understanding and increase international recognition of EVIR principles and how they relate to LMIC countries



Establish clear mechanisms for reaching out, engaging and increase the diversity of the voice and representation from LMIC countries in the EVIR Forum

Pathways to achieve goals

To help achieve these goals, we will

- ❑ Establish an LMIC research funding interest group.
- ❑ Identify leadership and draw engagement of appropriate individuals from across the EViR membership.
- ❑ Clarify the EViR remit in relation to health-related research funders and funding in low and middle-income countries.
- ❑ Develop stronger ties with the ESSENCE Network, and explore the most effective and appropriate mechanisms for communicating with funders from low and middle-income countries.
- ❑ Undertake exploratory work to map the key players and activities in the LMIC research funding landscape.
- ❑ Create a roadmap/understanding of collaborative funder approaches to support capacity building and equitable partnerships in LMIC health research, including case studies.
- ❑ Develop, in partnership, clear mechanisms for involving relevant research funders from low and middle-income countries in EViR activity.
- ❑ Review the EViR membership model to ensure its appropriateness for funders from low and middle-income countries.

Current activity: 2024

SURVEY



LMIC survey to members had a very low response (n=5). Existing members do not have capacity or resources to support this activity



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We started to map the current global health research landscape, to show the extent of players but difficult to build a full picture without wider engagement



Plan to host 1st LMIC regional webinars for Sub Saharan African funders. Reschedule to 2025

LMIC Regional Webinars

- Series of 6 LMIC regional webinars
- For health related LMIC funders, agencies and researchers
- To explore the applicability and potential of the EVIR principles to reduce waste in research in their regions

Purpose

1. Understanding how the EVIR principles apply in LMIC setting
2. Establish contacts for future mutual activity, learning and engagement
3. Increase international reach and impact of EVIR principles
4. Expand potential diversity of Forum membership and voice

The webinars will cover the below proposed regional areas:

1. East Asia and Pacific
2. Europe and central Asia
3. Latin America and Caribbean
4. Middle East and North Africa
5. South Asia
6. **Sub-Saharan Africa***

- Due to limited resource and capacity this activity has not progressed
- We need wider engagement to reach out, shape and support this

A change of focus?!

- Despite the enthusiasm to include an LMIC working group in the EVIR strategy
- Survey responses show that the forum members are either not engaged in LMIC research activity or do not have capacity to engage or prioritise this activity
- However, we believe the original LMIC goals remain achievable and relevant
- **TO SHIFT THE LMIC FOCUS TO A COMMON THEME OF INTEREST AND ENGAGEMENT**
- This will be a longer-term drive for LMIC engagement and reach out
- Undertake wider engagement activity but may need to build this by engaging more widely LMIC funders outside of current members e.g., NIH, Wellcome Trust and Bill Gates.
- Intend to lean more on our existing leverage with NIHR and ESSENCE. Eg *ESSENCE on Health Research initiative in-person meetings, 18-20 February 2025, Rockville, MD, USA,*
- We need member volunteers to support this activity! You don't have to be funding LMIC health research

Webinar 1: Sub Saharan Africa

Webinar 2: East Asia and Pacific (South Korea?)