

HORN Sandpit Event
29th September – 3rd October 2019
Nairobi, Kenya

Closing Date for Applications: Wednesday 31st July 2019 (5pm BST)

To apply visit: www.onehealthhorn.net/sandpit-2019/

We are pleased to announce the second HORN Sandpit event. The focus for this event is the United Nations' **Sustainable Development Goal 3, "Good Health and Well-Being"**.

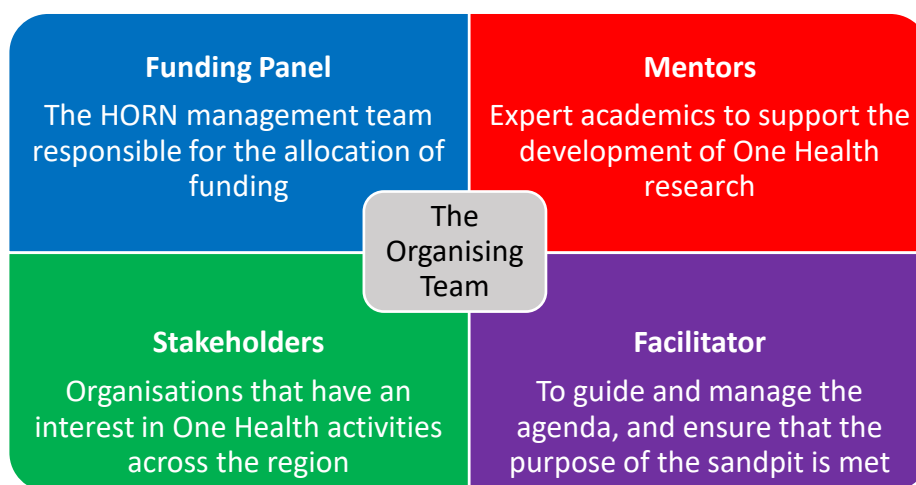
What is a sandpit?

The purpose of a sandpit is to generate research ideas and high quality research proposals, through a 5 day event that encourages networking, collaborative working and interdisciplinarity. Research ideas generated through a sandpit should have impact within the Horn of Africa region by responding to national (and regional) priorities using a One Health approach.

Sandpits provide an opportunity for participants to develop, refine and present research ideas. As part of the event, you will be provided with lectures and guided learning around One Health, ethics, grantsmanship, and how to present research proposals.

Day 1 Sunday 29 th September	'Network' Informal opportunity to meet mentors and peers
Day 2 Monday 30 th September	'Clarify & Conceive' Consider initial research ideas and learn more about One Health
Day 3 Tuesday 1 st October	'Collaborate & Create' Develop project ideas collectively in groups with peers and mentors
Day 4 Wednesday 2 nd October	'Develop & Prepare' Grow ideas into projects, and learn how to pitch proposals in groups
Day 5 Thursday 3 rd October	'Pitch' Project teams to present their proposals to the funding panel.

Alongside participants who attend the sandpit, there is a team to support you to develop research projects:



About HORN

The One Health Regional Network for the Horn of Africa (HORN) project (<http://onehealthhorn.net/>) is an interdisciplinary, collaborative partnership of the University of Liverpool (UK), Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (UK), International Livestock Research Institute (Kenya & Ethiopia), the University of Nairobi (UoN), Addis Ababa University (AAU), Hamelmalo Agricultural College (Eritrea), IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School (Somaliland) and Amoud University (Somaliland).

One Health is the concept that the health and well-being of people is linked to the health of their animals and the environment. It is nowhere more true than in the Horn of Africa where many people's livelihoods are highly, or in some cases entirely, dependent on livestock. Animals are culturally, socially and economically vital in the region. Livestock provide, for example, over 60% of agricultural GDP in the Horn, but can also be a source of human disease. Outbreaks of disease in animals thereby directly affect people's health, but also their wealth and nutrition.

Livestock production and human health and wellbeing in the Horn of Africa can be increased through research, leading to improved agricultural systems; more food and less malnutrition; more financial resilience; and better detection, diagnosis, prevention and control of disease.

HORN's mission is to improve the health and wealth of the people of the Horn of Africa by increasing the local capacity to undertake high quality research in the interactions between people and animals - One Health.

The first project sandpit was held in 2018, and 21 participants attended from across the Horn of Africa. Participants from the first sandpit commented:

'The sandpit event was amazing....I want to thank all HORN team and their partners. This event really motivates me to do more problem solving research and contributed to my knowledge'

'The support was overwhelming. The mentors were really devoted to help us all around'

'It is a learning experience, a bed of new ideas and views around varied subjects. It is very innovative'

'I learnt how to work with people with multi-disciplinary background. I will use in the future to development One Health integrated project'

Eligibility

1. Researchers at all levels are eligible to participate in a HORN sandpit, but we especially welcome applications from early career/junior researchers
2. Research projects are co-created and developed at the sandpit event. Therefore, we will not be funding research projects that have already been developed prior to the event
3. Applications are open to researchers from Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somaliland and Somalia
4. We particularly encourage applications from women
5. Applicants from a wide range of backgrounds are welcome to apply, including (but not limited to): microbiology, economics, data scientists, public health, medicine, veterinary medicine, epidemiology, zoo-archaeology, vector biology, anthropology and social science
6. Attendance at the full five days is required, and please ensure you are able to attend all five days before you apply

Note: do not apply to attend the HORN sandpit if your research plans are already established and you are merely looking for funding. Through the sandpit approach we intend to fund newly conceived and developed research proposals.

Information for Applicants

Through this Sandpit event, all participants who successfully obtain funding for research projects will become HORN Research Fellows, and those who attend but are unsuccessful in obtaining research funding will be invited to become HORN Training Fellows. All fellows will be able to access HORN e-learning materials, and HORN research fellows will be invited to training events, including summer schools and One Health masterclasses. You will also be supported throughout your research projects by expert mentors.

Field Sites and Research Areas

As part of the application process, you will be asked to select which country, research site and research project idea/area you are interested in. You can choose **up to five** research areas. At the sandpit, you will then develop these ideas collaboratively in groups & teams using a One Health approach. On the last day of the event, you will then pitch your project to the funding panel, and you will be notified the same day whether you have been successful.

1. Maekel, Debub, Anseba, & Gash-Barka Regions, Eritrea

Maekel Region (also known as Central Region) is the administrative region in central Eritrea and contains the country's capital city Asmara. As the administrative centre for the country, the main economic activities of the region are sales, domestic services and professional and managerial employment. Debub Region (also known as Southern Region) lies along a portion of the national border with Ethiopia, and Anseba Region is located in Northern Eritrea bordering Sudan. The main economic activity in both regions is agriculture. Gash-Barka Region is situated in the south-west of the country (Sudan lies to the west and Ethiopia to the south), and whilst the main economic activity in the region is agriculture, a large number of people are also employed in sales and services.

Research areas:

- Surveillance of zoonotic diseases at slaughterhouses (**all regions**)
- Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis at animal and human interface (**Maekel & Debub regions**)
- Role of environmental mycobacteria (nontuberculous mycobacteria) in animal and human diseases (**all regions**)
- Hydatidosis in municipal slaughterhouses and humans in Eritrea (**Anseba & Gash Barka regions**)

2. Butajira, Gilgil Gibe, & Kilite Awlaelo HDSS, Ethiopia

Butajira, Gilgil Gibe and Kilite Awleolo are part of Health and Demographic Surveillance (HDSS) network in Ethiopia and are major sources of longitudinal data on humans. Butajira is located in Guraghe Zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Region. Gilgel Gibe HDSS is located surrounding the Gilgel Gibe Hydroelectric dam, in Jimma Zone, Oromia Region, southwest Ethiopia. Kilite Awleolo HDSS is located in Eastern zone, Tigray Region, northern Ethiopia. All sites include rural and urban districts and have the benefit of a strong existing infrastructure for community-based research. Projects can occur in 1 or more of these sites (i.e. multi-centre study).

Research areas:

- Approaches to integrated (human, animal, environment) surveillance
- Zoonoses knowledge, attitudes and practices
- Climate change and health (human and animal)
- Antimicrobial resistance and its prevention

3. Bishoftu, Ethiopia

Bishoftu (Debre Zeyit) is located in East Shewa Zone, Oromia Region, central Ethiopia, around 50km from Addis Ababa. Approximately 25% of the population of East Shewa Zone reside in urban areas. Bishoftu is the location of the AAU College of Veterinary Medicine and National Veterinary Institute, and associated laboratories.

Research areas:

- Investigations into priority zoonoses (rabies, brucellosis, leptospirosis, echinococcosis; excluding anthrax) and food safety.
- Antimicrobial resistance and its prevention

4. Busia County, Kenya

Located in the west of Kenya, Busia is the capital and largest town of Busia County. Being a cross-border centre, the main economic activity is trade with neighbouring Uganda, but away from town, the county economy is heavily reliant on fishing and agriculture. The small-holder, crop-livestock production system in Busia characterises the western region of Kenya close to Lake Victoria. Multiple research questions can be proposed for this site, which benefits from a well-equipped field laboratory, and which can also host activity focussed in the field in Siaya County, the location of the Yala Swamp ecosystem

Research areas:

- Burden of disease due to acquired epilepsy
- Structure of, and risks within, food value chains
- Social and economic acceptability of control options for porcine cysticercosis
- Characterising microclimatic change in relation to arbovirus disease transmission

5. Kajiado County, Kenya

Bordering Tanzania in south-eastern Kenya, Oloitoktok is a small but growing town. The region is a semi-arid zone with a predominantly pastoralist livestock production system. It also has a field laboratory supported by the HORN project.

Research areas:

- Community led disease prioritisation and risk mapping
- Mobile based syndromic surveillance in humans or animals
- Household socioeconomics and health

6. Laikipia County, Kenya

Laikipia County is semi-arid region located in central Kenya . Economic activity in the county consists mainly of tourism, wildlife conservation and agriculture; chiefly grain crops, ranching and greenhouse horticulture.

Research areas:

- Study of camel health in semi-arid regions of Kenya
- Organisation of vegetable and animal course food systems in a rapidly emerging market town in central Kenya

7. Awdal Region, Somaliland

The Awdal region in Somaliland borders Ethiopia in the North West and South West, and Djibouti and the Gulf of Aden in the North. It consists of four districts: Boroma (the regional capital), Baki, Lughaye, and Zeylac. The major economic activities of the region are pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, fishing and trade including education and health. Livestock is a mainstay of Somaliland economy. More than 60% of the population depends directly or indirectly on livestock products and by-products for livelihood.

Research areas:

- Zoonotic bacterial disease control and knowledge, attitudes and practices
- Immunisation and nutrition among children and mothers

Research Projects

Research projects will be developed during the sandpit, and it's important to not have pre-defined projects. However, before applying, you should be aware of the following conditions should your project be successfully funded:

- Research projects are expected to be 3-12 months in duration
- The cost of each project will vary depending upon the number of researchers in each project team, however we do not expect to fund more than 15-20 researchers, with an approximate financial value of £5,000 to £10,000 (GBP) per researcher
- Costs are permitted to cover consumables, travel, field costs, subsistence and salary replacement (where necessary). Please note that equipment cannot be covered, except under exceptional circumstances. Further information on budget conditions will be provided at the event
- Projects should be undertaken at one of the field sites mentioned previously, and you should select your research area(s) of interest on the application form

- Projects are likely to be developed as teams and groups, and therefore if your project is funded following the sandpit, you will work collaboratively with others to refine and conduct the research study
- All research projects should have full local and international ethical approval before commencing, and the time taken to obtain approval should be taken into consideration. You will be supported throughout this process by your mentor/s

To Apply

Applications can be completed online at: www.onehealthhorn.net/sandpit-2019/

Application deadline: **31st July 2019 (5pm BST).**

The application form requires you to complete a number of questions, as well as uploading copies of:

- CV (maximum 2 pages)
- Signed letter of recommendation from your employer, confirming that you are able to attend the 5 day sandpit event, and can be available for training and research leave
- Names, addresses and emails of two referees

Please note, you must register to become a member of HORN in order to access the registration form. Member registration allows you to access e-learning materials and connect with the wider HORN community.

Applicants will be notified whether they have been awarded a place by the middle of August 2019. The cost of attending the sandpit event will be paid for by HORN.

If you are unable to access the online form, you can request a Word version by emailing HORN@liverpool.ac.uk.