



**Michigan State University
Mekong One Health Innovation Program (MOHIP)
Call for the Research Proposals 2024**

1. Project Background

The Mekong One Health Innovation Program (MOHIP) at Michigan State University in partnership with U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP) is implemented in collaboration with the One Health University Networks of Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Thailand. The overarching goal of MOHIP is to create a transnational network of One Health researchers and practitioners to facilitate the sharing of One Health research, educational, and evaluation tools, thereby enabling Mekong researchers and practitioners to develop evidence-based and informed health security policies and programs suitable for their region. MOHIP has three core activities: organize a series of virtual webinars on issues pertinent to the region (outreach), offer a course on “Health Security, One Health, and Zoonoses” (education), and provide grants for local researchers in Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Thailand to undertake research in issues pertinent to their countries and region (research).

2. Background

Many anthropogenic changes such as rise in human population, increase in migration of people, deforestation, rise in the use of agrochemicals, illegal trade of wildlife, loss of wildlife habitat, dam building and climate change are affecting global ecosystems. This has created a conducive environment for new pathogens to thrive; spillover from one species to another; and possibly create another pandemic. SARS COVID-2 is a recent example. These issues are complex, wicked, and need a holistic, systems, and coordinated approach to deal with them. One such approach is One Health. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines One Health as “a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach -- working at the local, regional, national, and global levels -- with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.”

MOHIP is committed to supporting local led research endeavors based on the One Health approach in the Lower Mekong sub-region that aim to examine outstanding issues, threats, and uncertainties in public health and identify solutions to minimize their effects. MOHIP is expected to foster stronger and sustained relationships between the U.S. and Mekong researchers and create a vibrant network that they will use to conduct timely research on health security issues involving the One Health approach. It is expected that Mekong researchers will learn about successfully applying new One Health tools to research health security issues in the Lower Mekong sub-region and will apply findings to share with policy makers and communities, and devise health security solutions suitable to the Lower Mekong sub-region.

MOHIP is calling for research proposals from Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam researchers and practitioners that could examine priority health security issues of the respective countries. The MOHIP team will work closely with the award recipients for project monitoring and to develop deliverables (i.e., publications and reports, new data sets, etc.) that will be used to inform policies,

facilitate planning and stakeholder engagement, drive implementation of research objectives, and contribute to the regional and global collection of evidence regarding best practices for One Health.

3. Award Information

The MOHIP intends to award three proposals, one from each of the three MOHIP countries of up to USD 30,000 for each proposal. Interested applicants may submit applications with a research performance period of up to one year.

Final funding decisions will depend on a range of criteria and conditions, including content, quality, number of applications received, needs, and availability of funding. Applicants may be required to revise their budget, project scope, and timeline upon feedback from reviewers. Applicants are required to keep costs realistic in relation to the scope of their proposed activities. This solicitation does not constitute an award commitment on the part of MOHIP, nor does it commit MOHIP to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any application.

4. Eligibility

Applicants for MOHIP Research include the following:

- Not-for-profit organizations.
- Social service agencies, hospitals, medical groups, medical schools, etc.
- State-controlled entities (government or social service departments).
- Academic institutions (colleges, universities, research centers).
- Consortia among non-governmental organizations, academic, and public entities.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) should be a citizen of one of the three MOHIP countries (Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam).
- Not serving as MOHIP country coordinators and advisors.

We will not consider proposals focused solely on the development of teaching or academic programs, and those from commercial, industrial, and for-profit entities.

5. Partners/Collaborators:

Applicants are permitted to have international/ U.S.-based researchers or institutions as volunteer research partners. Joint research proposals to study issues spanning three MOHIP countries are welcomed. **Women led projects are strongly encouraged to apply. One Health University Network members are encouraged to apply.**

6. Scope of Work and Deliverables

6.1. Objectives

The main objective of the MOHIP research program is to conduct One Health research project in the Lower Mekong sub-region (i.e., Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam). The research project can address the disciplines of animal health, human health, and environmental health utilizing a One Health approach involving the study of critical problems and issues facing the Mekong sub-region countries. As envisioned by the One Health approach, proposals with multisectoral or multidisciplinary efforts to address One Health and health security issues are encouraged. Projects examining the role of the environment in One Health issues will get additional consideration.

Deliverables: Award recipients should i) develop a comprehensive report covering the research details; ii) be prepared to provide a presentation at the Mekong One Health Symposium to be held

in the fall of 2025; and iii) prepare and submit a manuscript in at least one peer-reviewed international journal to disseminate findings of the research project.

6.2. Timelines

Date of release of call for proposals: April 10, 2024

Deadline to submit the proposal: May 31, 2024, 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time or New York Time

Notice of selection: July 31, 2024

Anticipated projects start date: September 1, 2024

7. Instructions for applying.

Applicants are encouraged to review the process outlined below prior to completing their applications.

7.1 Budget

Applicants are required to include a detailed budget with justification for the proposed research project in the template provided (Here is the link to the template). Applicants must indicate whether they are proposing any indirect costs (up to 10% allowed) or will charge all costs directly. Please note, depending upon the country contexts and local partners, there could be additional overhead costs incurred on top of the 10% IDC. The entity implementing the research should have a business account in the country.

7.2 Format for proposal

Application should include the following components.

- A. Cover page
- B. Project narratives must include the following. **The narrative should be of maximum ten pages, excluding the cover page, references, and resumes.**
 - a. Summary (250 words maximum)
 - b. Problem statement and/or rationale of the project (two pages)
 - c. Literature review (one page)
 - d. Research questions and aims (half page)
 - e. Research strategy (including One Health approach) (two pages)
 - f. Research methods (two pages)
 - g. Deliverable(s) (half page)
 - h. Work plan/timeline (half page)
 - i. How the research will contribute to improve health security in the Lower Mekong sub-region and its policy implications (one page)
- C. Budget and budget justification
 - a. Budget: Use the budget [TEMPLATE](#) as a guide for completing the project budget.
 - b. Provide the rationale or justification in maximum two pages for requested funds.
 - c. Items ineligible for inclusion in the budget justification include equipment, construction materials, etc.
 - d. Personnel: List all key personnel who will support the research project. Include their biographies and intended role in the project.

- D. Resumes of PIs and all Co-Investigators (Co-Is) (maximum 2-pages each): Should list education, professional positions; up to five recent and relevant publications, if applicable; and former and current research grants, if applicable.
- E. Letter of support from the chair or division head that includes endorsement and commitment to support to complete the project.
- F. Letter of support from primary institution and collaborating institution(s), if relevant.
- G. Letter of support from the country One Health University Network (OHUN) if relevant.
- H. Formatting: The proposal should be in 8.5x11 (portrait), 1-inch margins on all sides, no smaller than 11-point font (no restrictions on font), and single space.

Note: Submissions not meeting the above guidelines may be disqualified and not considered for review.

7.3 Proposal selection process

A panel of experts from the US Department of State Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP), Michigan State University (MSU), the International Advisory Board, and U.S. and Mekong-based agencies will evaluate the research proposals. The MOHIP team along with MOHIP country coordinators, will monitor the research project milestones, deliverables, and outcomes.

7.4 Evaluation criteria

The criterion will be scored on a scale of 0 to 10 (unless otherwise mentioned in the individual criteria) with “zero” as “not at all addressed” to “ten” representing “effectively addressed”.

The reviewers will look at the following criteria when assessing eligibility of proposals for funding:

- 1) Significance of the study: How effectively will the study address the gap in applying One Health approach and improving health security in the Lower Mekong sub-region (Laos, Thailand, Vietnam)? (10 points)
- 2) Innovativeness: Is the proposed research model grounded on innovative methods? Is there any likelihood of research leading to any innovative solution to address existing health issues? (20 points).
- 3) Data Analysis: Is there a clear sample size, data management and analysis plan? Does the proposed analysis appropriately address the research questions? (10 points)
- 4) Researcher Readiness: Are the PI and coinvestigators belonging to early and mid-career groups qualified to lead the research study? Do they have the necessary training and expertise to manage the study to completion? How appropriate is the staffing plan? (10 points)
- 5) Institutional Support: What is the extent of support provided by the institution(s) housing the study or the PIs toward the proposed research? (10 points)
- 6) Likelihood of Completion: Are the research operational conditions described in the proposal consistent with the proposed timeline for completion? (10 points)
- 7) Budget Efficiency: To what extent does the proposed budget conform with the goals and methods of the study? Is the budget making efficient use of MOHIP funding? (10 points)
- 8) Selection & Protection of Human Subjects and Publishability: Where applicable, how will the subjects be selected? Is there a clear Institutional Review Board (IRB) review process in place to uphold integrity in research? Is the research design rigorous and scholarly enough to generate the publication(s)? (10 points)

- 9) Proposals with the Principal Investigator (PI) from the One Health University Network (OHUN) universities/institutions will get seven points and those who completed the MOHIP short course on “Health Security, One Health, and Zoonoses” will get three points (total 10 points). PIs must provide details of this information in their resumes to be considered for these points. The review panel may ask for proof if required.

7.5 Submission deadline and portal: Completed proposal should be submitted in electronic pdf or word form to mohip@msu.edu by email on or before May 31, 2024, 11:59 PM EDT with subject line ‘MOHIP Proposal.’ Proposals received after the submission deadline, and incomplete proposals will not be considered for evaluation.

8. Orientation: There will be an orientation and question and answer session to address questions related to this call for proposals. The date for the orientation will be announced later.

9. Contact: If you have questions about the submission process or encounter technical difficulties submitting your proposal, please contact mohip@msu.edu with the subject line ‘MOHIP Proposal Inquiry.’