Guidelines:

In order to improve our understanding of risk factors which can be modified to enhance maternal and child health and development, CISMAC invites its affiliated researchers to submit proposals for short-term projects relevant to maternal and child health and development. These projects can involve the systematic review and meta-analysis of existing papers, as well as the analysis of datasets both from external projects or CISMAC supported studies. In case data from CISMAC supported studies are used, the analysis should not be in conflict with the pre-defined objectives of the study.

An important requirement for this call is that researchers from at least 2 of the partner institutions in the CISMAC consortium collaborate. The required product of this activity is a manuscript submitted to an international peer-reviewed scientific journal indexed in the Norwegian register for scientific journals (https://bit.ly/2OhtqY0), no later than 9 months after project selection. As indicated in CISMAC’s “Guidelines for publication and payment of article processing charges”, CISMAC favours Open Access Publishing (see attachment). The manuscript should therefore if possible be submitted to an open access journal that either provides waivers for authors from certain countries or satisfies criteria to release support by the UiB publication fund.

The requested grant should be used to facilitate the dedication of time and attention needed to analyse the data, write the manuscript and submit it for publication. CISMAC encourages that the results of the analyses are also presented at scientific conferences. Anticipated travels and conference fees need to be reflected in the budget. The wide dissemination of findings linked to CISMAC research is an integral part of the consortium strategy and complements the investment in the implementation of research being carried out. CISMAC will in this round fund up to 5 projects. CISMAC should be acknowledged in the papers generated by this initiative.

1. Application process

The application for the Existing data analysis grant is open to the CISMAC researchers affiliated with any of the studies which are part of the CISMAC consortium as well as to researchers working at partner institutions not (yet) involved in a particular CISMAC study. The CISMAC applicant can choose to collaborate with researchers who are not affiliated with institutions in the CISMAC consortium, however, a prerequisite for this call is that researchers from at least 2 of the CISMAC partner institutions collaborate on the paper and will co-author the resulting scientific article(s). In addition to the ICMJE recommendations for defining the role of authors and contributions

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1The contribution by [name of the investigator] was supported by the Centre for Intervention Science in Maternal and Child Health (CISMAC; project number 223269), which is funded by the Research Council of Norway through its Centres of Excellence scheme and the University of Bergen (UiB), Norway.
(https://bit.ly/1ruKdnU), who contributed to generating the data, not only its analysis will be key to authorship. Please also see Annex 5 of CISMAC’s Consortium agreement (https://www.uib.no/sites/w3.uib.no/files/attachments/consortiumagreement_2015_web.pdf)

The applicants should complete the attached application form outlining the contributing partner institutions, the key contents of the proposed manuscript, intended journal(s) it targets, and any planned conferences where the findings will be presented. The applicants should describe from which study the data emanates, provide a realistic timeline and a budget. The application and the budget outline shall be sent electronically (a signed, scanned version) to CISMAC Management no later than 15th March 2019. If approved, following the instructions provided by the applicant, the funds will be transferred to the partner institution(s) or be handled by the CIH to cover expenses incurred by the project in Norway or in another country.

There is no limit to the number of applications for the Existing data analysis grant that an individual researcher can submit. However, an individual applicant will only be entitled to receive a second grant after successful publication of the paper resulting from the previous grant.

2. Assessment of proposals

Only proposals that comply with the requirements stated above will be assessed. The assessment will be carried out by independent reviewers who will rank the proposals based on:

a. Relevance of study question
b. Data quality
c. Analysis plan
d. Qualification of the research team which will carry out the analysis and write the manuscript.
e. Likelihood of publication in a high impact journal

The final decision on grant allocation will be made by the chair of CISMAC’s publication committee based on the reviewers’ recommendations.

3. Budget

Each of the grants targets a total amount of NOK 60,000, of which up to one third could be dedicated to cover costs incurred by producing the paper (such as costs associated with the analysis and writing, travel and accommodation). The remaining amount can be paid as consultancy to the institutions. The amount paid to any of the individual institutions should not exceed one third of the total budget. Consultancy cannot be paid to full time employees of the University of Bergen, CMI or NIPH². The consultancy portion of the grant will be paid to the institutions after the manuscript has been submitted to an open access peer-reviewed journal and assessed to be appropriate for such a journal by the CISMAC Publication Committee.

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² Applicants that are part time employees of the University of Bergen, CMI or NIPH should in the application briefly describe the percentage of their position and state that the work relating to the grant will not be carried out in their working hours for the respective institution.
4. Reporting
A brief report is to be submitted to CISMAC Management within 2 months of project completion, presenting the paper that was developed, indicating the scientific journal where it was submitted and quoting the initial response from the journal to which it was submitted. The report should also list conference(s) where the findings were presented, with abstract identification. Abstracts from conference proceedings and, later, published papers, should be sent to CISMAC management, which will ensure that the communication is reflected in CISMAC’s progress and annual reports. CISMAC funding should be acknowledged in such publications and abstracts. The project report should include an account statement. Any surplus funds after project completion should be returned to CISMAC or, if approved by CISMAC management, used for additional analysis and/or manuscript writing.

For clarification linked to the application process please contact the CISMAC Administration attn. Catherine Schwinger (email: c.schwinger@uib.no) and Ane Straume (ane.straume@uib.no).