

Developing Research Excellence and Mentorship in Southeast Asia (SEA DREAM) Programme

DREAM 4 Health Call for Proposals 2026

Application Guideline

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in applying for funding from SEA DREAM!

This guide has been developed to support the application to the DREAM 4 Health Call for Proposals 2026.

It provides clear instructions on SEA DREAM's objective, and the scope, eligibility requirements, and steps involved throughout the application and assessment process.

This guide should be read in conjunction with:

- Preliminary Application Form
- Full Application Form
- Detailed Due Diligence-related Forms
- And all other information available on www.sea-dream.org.

1. Programme overview

1.1 Overview of SEA DREAM

Southeast Asia's health landscape is shaped by complex environmental, social, and systemic pressures that affect the well-being of millions. Vulnerabilities to climate change, the persistence of infectious and non-communicable diseases, gaps in mental health support, and uneven access to quality care all intersect to challenge public health across the region. These multifaceted health burdens highlight the urgent need for coordinated, evidence-based research to enhance health outcomes and resilience across the region.

SEA DREAM is designed to strengthen the research ecosystem across Southeast Asia, creating lasting and equitable multi-country and cross-disciplinary collaborations and networks, and to develop the next generation of research leaders from Southeast Asia that will identify, shape, and address questions and solutions to health challenges most relevant to Southeast Asia and the communities most affected.

In light of this, the SEA DREAM programme has launched its first funding initiative, the DREAM 4 Health Call for Proposals 2026 to fund high-impact regional consortia research on current and emerging health priorities that are critical at the national and regional level.

In alignment with the programme's strong emphasis on principles of equity, diversity, and inclusiveness, specific focus is placed on incorporating organisations from Lower Middle-Income Countries in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam) in Consortium constellations and connect high-resourced settings with emerging research organisations to support inclusive and equitable development and uplift the Southeast Asian research ecosystem.

The SEA DREAM programme is implemented by the SEAMEO Secretariat, in strategic partnerships with the Wellcome Trust and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO), which have committed USD 52 million over five years to advance regional health research as initial contribution to the DREAM 4 Health Call 2026. Furthermore, SEA DREAM will engage national funding agencies from Southeast Asia in partnerships to amplify the impact towards transformative change in the regional research ecosystem. It brings together regional and international stakeholders to drive scientific collaboration, build institutional partnerships, and align research efforts with Southeast Asia's strategic health priorities.

SEA DREAM's Programme Objectives

The SEA DREAM Programme will fund regional consortia to produce excellent and outcome-focused discovery and translational research that addresses existing and emerging national and regional health priorities.

SEA DREAM will enable the development of research excellence through:

- **Generating impactful research:** SEA DREAM will fund 'excellent' science and research which is responsive to regional health priorities and that translates into real-world solutions, policies, and interventions. SEA DREAM will support discovery and translational research that addresses national and regional health research priorities and emerging issues, including under-served areas of research, across horizontal and vertical topics, and encourage innovation and multi-disciplinary research.
- **Nurturing leadership and talent:** SEA DREAM research consortia will provide research career pathways to develop research talent and promote research leadership within Southeast Asia. SEA DREAM seeks to expand opportunities for early- and mid-career researchers and associated research staff, build mentorship relations, provide career transition opportunities and foster the next generation of competitive research leaders.
- **Fostering regional collaboration:** SEA DREAM aims to support and build equitable partnerships that leverage regional expertise and enable the sharing of resources to achieve common goals. The programme will support cross-border collaboration - both through its overall design and through targeted consortia funding - to strengthen research linkages and generate impact at scale. By connecting leading and emerging research institutions, SEA DREAM aims to facilitate joint agenda-setting, resource-sharing, and learning. Through these efforts, SEA DREAM aims to foster a collaborative and innovative regional research environment.
- **Strengthening research ecosystems:** SEA DREAM will fund research consortia that promote inclusive research culture and foster a supportive research environment conducive to innovation and excellence, thereby accelerating discovery, supporting inclusive growth and long-term sustainability of the research ecosystem, and delivering solutions of regional and global relevance.

Research Consortia proposals are strongly encouraged to address all SEA DREAM objectives.

1.2 DREAM 4 Health Call for Proposals 2026

The DREAM 4 Health Call for Proposals 2026 aims to establish high-impact research consortia that unite organisations and institutions across Southeast Asian countries and beyond, with a strong emphasis on engaging research institutions from Lower-Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) in the region. These consortia will work together to address critical national, regional, and global health priorities and create an equitable research environment.

The maximum award per research consortium is USD 6,500,000 with recommended applications ranging between USD 5,500,000 and USD 6,500,000.

Thematic Areas

SEA DREAM aims to fund discovery and translational research that responds to the [ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda \(APHDA\)](#) Health Priorities, within one or multiple of these four thematic areas: (1) Infectious Diseases; (2) Impact of Climate Change on Health; (3) Mental Health; and (4) Strengthening Health Systems and Access to Care.

By supporting the research careers of regional talent and funding research that aims to address these priorities, SEA DREAM aims to accelerate discovery and innovation that advances science, builds the foundation for the development of new solutions and products, and foster evidence generation for policymaking, tackling some of the most urgent and emerging health challenges in Southeast Asia.

Applications submitted to SEA DREAM can embrace a diversity of disciplines (e.g., from physical sciences to fundamental biology, population and public health, clinical sciences to the humanities and social sciences) and may focus on a single thematic area or address multiple themes. Exploring connections across multiple themes and priorities is encouraged only when beneficial to the proposed research and demonstrably covering major cross-cutting topics.

1. Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases remain a major health challenge in Southeast Asia, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income countries and vulnerable populations. The region faces ongoing threats from emerging and re-emerging pathogens, vector-borne diseases, neglected tropical diseases, and antimicrobial resistance, compounded by climate change, natural disasters, and inequities in care and treatment.

SEA DREAM supports innovative discovery and translational research that aims to increase our understanding of and insights relating to infectious disease threats in the region, the outcomes of which could lead to or inform future prevention, detection and public health strategies. This includes, but not limited to:

- Investigating the burden, drivers, and transmission dynamics of communicable, emerging, and re-emerging infectious diseases, including neglected tropical and zoonotic diseases.
- Building, developing, and evaluating strategies for outbreak preparedness, early detection, and regional response to public health emergencies.
- Addressing antimicrobial resistance, including patterns, drivers, and mitigation strategies.
- Examining environmental determinants of infectious diseases, including climate impacts, pollution, and ecosystem changes.
- Studying the effects of natural disasters and climate-related shocks on infectious disease risk and explores strategies to improve related regional disaster preparedness.

- Exploring factors contributing to inequities in vaccine coverage and access to preventive interventions.

2. Impact of Climate Change on Health

Southeast Asia is one of the regions most affected by climate change, with rising temperatures, extreme weather events, food insecurity, and air pollution already threatening health and livelihoods. These pressures are contributing to more heat stress, outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, malnutrition, and respiratory problems, especially among vulnerable populations.

To address these challenges, SEA DREAM supports innovative discovery and translational research that aims to increase our understanding of and insights relating to mitigating the health impacts of climate change, including topics such as, but not limited to:

- Examining the links between climate variability, heat, environmental change, and health outcomes;
- Strengthening the resilience of health systems to climate-related shocks;
- Developing and evaluating solutions for climate adaption e.g., early-warning and surveillance systems for climate-sensitive diseases, heat-health, and vector-control;
- Advancing climate and health data systems and cross-sectoral data integration to improve prediction, preparedness, and response;
- Addressing the health impacts of air pollution and other environmental exposures;
- Applying Planetary and One Health approaches connecting human, animal, and environmental health;
- Generating economic evidence on the costs, benefits, and macro-economic impacts of climate-related health risks and adaption measures to inform policy and investment decisions.

3. Mental Health

Mental health conditions are a major contributor to disability in Southeast Asia, undermining well-being, daily functioning, and social participation. Vulnerable populations, including children, adolescents, migrants, and those affected by disasters, bear disproportionate impacts. Stigma, limited access, and social and structural barriers further intensify these challenges across the region.

SEA DREAM supports research that guides future interventions, fosters innovation, and strengthens mental health outcomes and inclusion across Southeast Asia. Research must ensure meaningful involvement of people with lived experience at multiple stages of research design, governance, implementation, and dissemination. This may include topics such as, but not limited to:

- Investigating the burden, drivers, and risk factors, and understanding of the aetiology and underlying biological, psychological, social and environmental mechanisms of mental health conditions.
- Examining the impact of disasters, pandemics, and climate-related events on mental health.
- Evaluating early detection, intervention, and community-based approaches to improve mental health outcomes.
- Exploring strategies to reduce stigma, promote inclusion, and address social determinants of mental health.
- Fostering innovation to develop scalable solutions for equitable mental health care and psychosocial support.
- Understanding why mental health interventions work, for whom, and in which contexts, and identifying how they can be tailored to individual, cultural, and community-specific factors.

4. Strengthening Health Systems and Access to Care

Health inequities in Southeast Asia, rooted in social, economic, and environmental factors, limit access to quality and affordable care. Rural populations, migrants, and marginalized groups face disproportionate barriers and risks, while fragmented financing, workforce shortages, climate change impacts, and uneven technology adoption challenge health system performance.

SEA DREAM supports innovative discovery and translational research that aims to increase our understanding of health inequities that could guide or inform future policy, strengthens health system performance, and enhances equitable access to quality health services in the region, including topics such as, but not limited to:

- Improving maternal, neonatal, and child health and promoting life-saving solutions and interventions.
- Strengthening health system capacity and expanding access to universal health coverage.
- Improving inclusion of migrants and mobile populations in health services;
- Supporting the development of coordinated, integrated and accessible multi sourced data platforms along with novel analytical tools that transform fragmented and missing health information, into layered, interconnected understandings of health phenomena and inequalities.
- Exploring and evaluating digital and innovative approaches for health and public health interventions.

Cross-Cutting Theme: Health Equity

Health equity is a foundational lens that informs all SEA DREAM-funded research.

By centering equity, SEA DREAM seeks to ensure that innovations, interventions, and evidence generated from research benefit all populations, especially the marginalized and underserved. Health equity considerations are relevant across the four thematic areas, guiding research questions, methods, and implementation strategies to reduce disparities and promote inclusive health outcomes across Southeast Asia.

Applications submitted to SEA DREAM may focus on a single thematic area or address multiple themes and should align with the corresponding APHDA 2021–2025 health priorities listed. While exploring connections across multiple themes and priorities is encouraged where beneficial, it is not mandatory for applications to cover all areas and priorities.

1.3 Application Timeline

Steps	Timeline
DREAM 4 Health Call for Proposals 2026: Preliminary Application Opening	30 Jan 2026
1. Preliminary application submission	Deadline: 24 March 2026; 23:59 ICT
2. Preliminary application review and shortlisting	May 2026
3. Invitation to submit full application	14 May 2026
4. Full application submission	Deadline: 10 Jul 2026, 23:59 ICT
5. Full application screening	End of July 2026
6a. Peer Review	July - September 2026
6b. Cost Challenge	July - September 2026
7. Panel Interview and Evaluation	Mid-October 2026
8. Detailed Due Diligence	October-November 2026
9. Award Decision	End of November 2026

How to design your research project?

1.4 Project Themes

Applications can focus on a single thematic area or address multiple themes. Applicant could refer to section 1.3 for details on thematic areas.

Exploring connections across multiple themes and priorities is encouraged only when beneficial to the proposed research. DREAM 4 Health Call for Proposals 2026 Focus Areas.

1.4.1 Generating Impactful Research

An **impactful research project** is one that demonstrates high scientific merit while addressing pressing national and regional health challenges. It should include a clear, feasible strategy for achieving real-world impact—whether through informing future research, improving clinical or public health practices, influencing policy, or contributing to health systems strengthening.

SEA DREAM aims to foster research excellence by supporting high-quality, context-relevant research that is innovative, responsive to Southeast Asia’s health priorities, and capable of being translated into tangible solutions, policies, and interventions. The Programme will invest in discovery and translational research across a range of topics, including under-researched and emerging areas, with an emphasis on multidisciplinary approaches.

Proactive efforts and strategies are expected, to ensure that research findings are not only academically robust but also designed with their pathway to impact in mind.

1.4.2 Fostering Regional Collaboration

Equitable partnerships are a strategic imperative for generating impactful, context-driven research that responds to regional health priorities. In the context of SEA DREAM, equitable research partnerships are foundational to strengthening regional research ecosystems, promoting sustainability, and ensuring that the benefits of funding and research are shared fairly and meaningfully across all collaborators.

An equitable research partnership is one characterised by mutual participation, regular, transparent, and culturally informed communication, trust, and respect. Each partner’s contribution regardless of their location, institutional status, or resource base is valued equally throughout all stages of the research process. This includes agenda-setting, decision-making, implementation, authorship, and dissemination of results. Equitable partnerships aim to actively address and balance the systemic power of asymmetries in the entire research.

SEA DREAM is committed to fostering inclusive consortia that co-develop research questions, co-own data and outputs, and share capacity, credit, and benefits equitably. Therefore, it is recommended to avoid extractive practices and models that perpetuate inequality and undermine the relevance, quality, and sustainability of research.

1.4.3 Nurturing Leadership and Talent

Training and Development should aim to build holistic research capacity at the individual, institutional, and ecosystem levels. It should go beyond traditional coursework by incorporating active learning approaches that encourage hands-on experience, critical thinking, and practical application. Key areas of focus may include research management, grantsmanship, and effective engagement with policymaking. Rather than merely allocating funding for training, a robust development program should be intentionally designed to empower researchers with the skills and tools needed to thrive and drive impact within their disciplines and beyond.

1.4.4 Strengthening Research Ecosystem

Research Culture should be grounded in principles that foster integrity, transparency, and accountability while promoting collaboration, mutual respect, and ethical conduct across all levels of research. A positive research culture supports diversity and inclusion, upholds academic

freedom and intellectual honesty, and encourages continuous learning and improvement. It is essential to create an environment where researchers feel empowered to take ownership of their work and are supported in building their capabilities to address their own development priorities. Strengthening research culture should not be seen as a short-term goal tied solely to grant cycles, but rather as a long-term, systemic effort aimed at creating sustainable change within institutions and research ecosystems.

1.4.4.1 Ethics and Research Governance

SEA DREAM places a strong emphasis on ethical integrity, underscoring its commitment to the highest standards of conduct in all supported research activities. Applicants must demonstrate a thoughtful and well-articulated understanding of the [ethical implications of their proposed work, clearly addressing these considerations within their submissions](#).

Researchers are expected to maintain rigorous scientific and ethical standards throughout the entire research lifecycle. This includes acknowledging the broader societal, legal, and ethical responsibilities that accompany research governance. Proposals should reflect adherence to established regulations, frameworks, and best practices that promote responsible and high-quality research.

Any methodological constraints or limitations related to ethical considerations should also be transparently outlined.

1.4.4.2 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

The programme affirms its strong commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), expecting applicants to embed these principles throughout the design, implementation, and governance of their projects. In line with Wellcome's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy [[Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy | Funding Guidance | Wellcome](#)], all proposals should demonstrate how they will promote equitable participation and leadership, ensuring fair opportunities for individuals of all genders, backgrounds, and abilities to contribute to and lead research activities.

Applicants are required to clearly outline their EDI strategies, including how their projects will address barriers to participation and foster inclusive practices across research teams and among stakeholders. Projects should be conducted in environments that are safe, respectful, and free from unlawful discrimination. Embracing diversity is essential to enhancing research outcomes, broadening perspectives, and advancing equitable health outcomes for all.

Moreover, access to SEA DREAM funding must be equitable, and all funded research must be carried out in open, inclusive, and fair settings. Where applicable, the programme allows for funding of EDI-related needs such as additional childcare costs or accessibility measures for researchers and team members with disabilities.

For Further Guidance: [Bullying, harassment, abuse and harm policy](#)

1.4.4.3 Safeguarding

The programme upholds a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of harm and abuse, including bullying, harassment, exploitation, and any other conduct that may cause physical, emotional, or psychological harm. As part of this commitment, all applicants are required to integrate safeguarding risk management into their proposals. This includes identifying potential safeguarding risks, outlining strategies for prevention and mitigation, and providing a safeguarding risk assessment as part of the application.

Successful grantees will be expected to fully comply with the SEA DREAM policy on safeguarding, ensuring that all research activities are conducted in a manner that prioritises the safety, dignity, and well-being of all individuals involved.

A comprehensive safeguarding assessment will be conducted as part of the due diligence review process. For applicants recommended for funding, all required safeguarding policies (i.e., Bullying, harassment, abuse and harm policy) must be in place.

1.5 SEA DREAM Logical Framework

The SEA DREAM programme uses a logical framework (log frame) approach to clarify how each programme objective addresses a specific problem, outlines the strategy to achieve the objective, and identifies the expected outcomes and long-term impacts. This framework provides a structured way for applicants to align their proposals with the programme's goals and measure success consistently.

For each objective, the log frame outlines the following components:

Problem Statement – Describes the specific challenge the programme seeks to address.

Objective – States the intended result the programme aims to achieve.

Activities/Interventions – Details the actions to be undertaken to achieve the objective.

Outputs – Tangible products or deliverables resulting from the activities.

Outcomes – Short- to medium-term changes expected as a result of the outputs.

Impact – Long-term improvements or benefits aligned with the programme's vision.

Indicators – Quantitative or qualitative measures used to assess progress.

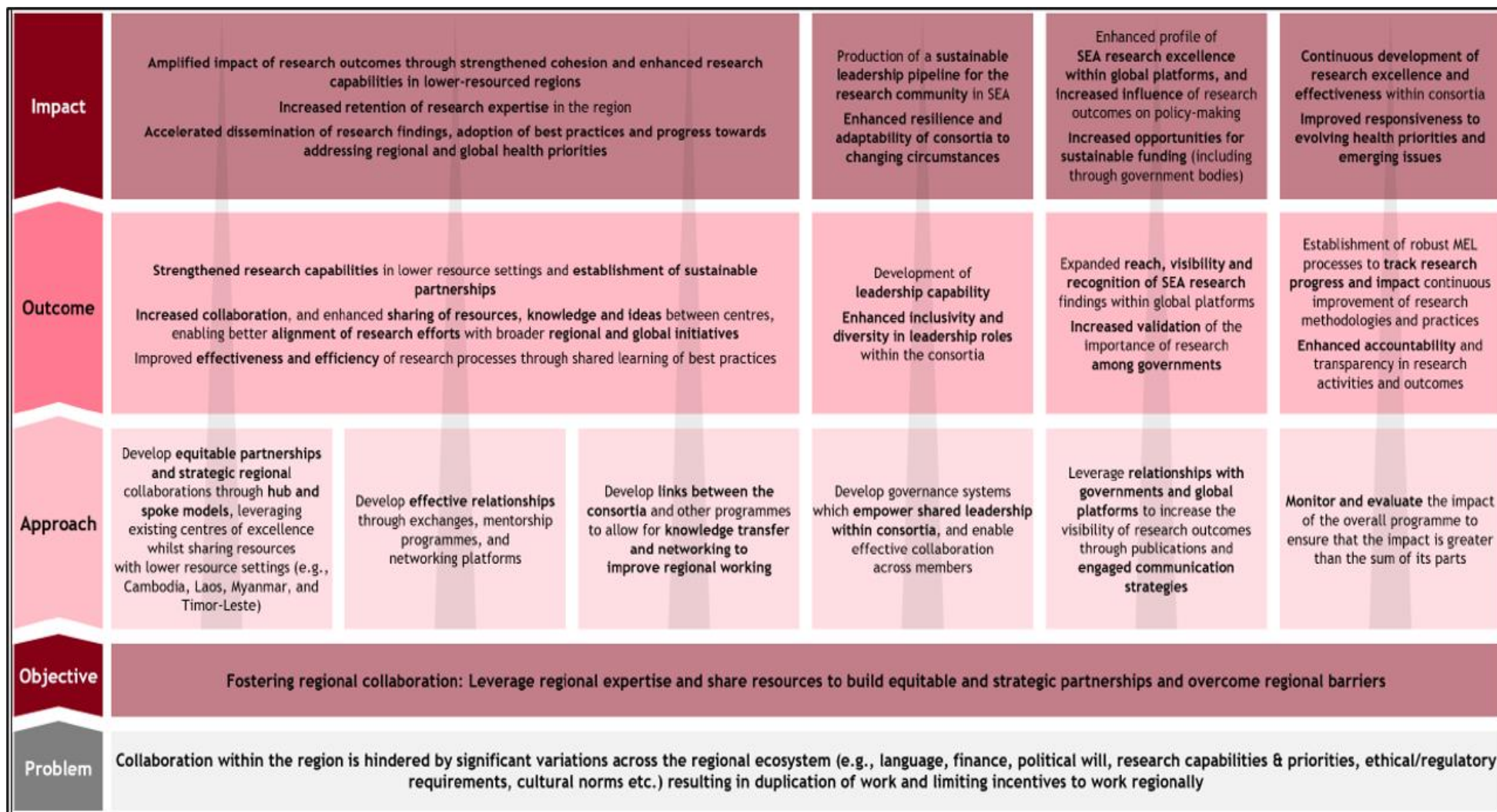
Assumptions/Risks – External factors that may influence success or failure.

Below is an example log frame for each SEA DREAM objective for applicants to reference when developing their own project proposals:

[SEA DREAM | How to Develop Your Theory of Change](#)

Impact	Accelerated progress towards achieving impact on timely, effective and relevant responses to health issues through targeted interdisciplinary research Improved preparedness of the region to anticipate and mitigate future health risks	Sustained translation of research outcomes into policy and practice at the national, regional and global level	Increased impact of more comprehensive and contextually relevant research excellence produced across the region Strengthened trust and collaboration across the research consortia	Increased impact of translated research outcomes into real-world solutions and interventions tackling regional health priorities Accelerated uptake and implementation of evidence-based practices and policies	Continuous development of research excellence Informed decision-making based on evidence of research impact Accelerated progress towards addressing regional priorities through collective action	
Outcome	Increased inter-disciplinary collaboration and identification of innovative solutions responsive to the needs and priorities of SEA Enhanced resilience and agility of the research ecosystem to respond quickly to developing issues within the region	Research questions are developed to be relevant actionable and informed by diverse perspectives Enhanced engagement, ownership and validation of the research with key stakeholders	Strengthened research capabilities and innovation through the integration of varied perspectives and expertise Development of an inclusive research environment through the implementation of measures to address inequities	Increased engagement with policymakers and other stakeholders, facilitating the adoption of research outcomes	Establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track research impact and outcomes, enable continuous learning and enhance accountability and transparency in research activities and outcomes Outcomes are sustainably utilised and built upon	
Approach	Support interdisciplinary research which is timely, regionally relevant and scientifically tractable Enable consortia to remain open/dynamic to change to be able to respond to emerging issues	Co-develop research questions with key stakeholders including other researchers, external organisations, policy-makers and communities most impacted	Prioritise equity, diversity and inclusion through the utilization of hub and spoke models across the region to strengthen research capabilities and leverage diversity of skill, perspectives and approaches	Support the development of genuinely equitable partnerships across institutions Provide mentorship support to weaker institutions e.g., language & copy-editing support, pre-submission review to strengthen research questions and social value	Provide commercialisation support from basic research to translation e.g., reactive communication, policy engagement and strategies to enable adoption and adaptation by communities	Ensure research outcomes are measured, evaluated and utilised in a sustained way Ensure research is available to be built upon and lower-resourced institutions have the capabilities to utilise it
Objective	Generating impactful research: Support 'excellent' science and research which is responsive to regional health priorities and that translates into real-world solutions, policies, and interventions					
Problem	Research excellence is commonly defined as research which demonstrates the basic criteria of scientific rigor (objective, original, ethical and robust), builds upon a body of evidence, and is utility focused. However, to enable research excellence within SEA, a more holistic approach is required beyond this.					

Impact	Accelerated translation of research findings into real-world practices, policies and interventions Strengthened research leadership, with improved adaptability and resilience		Expanded networks and partnerships facilitating career opportunities within the research field Strengthened research capabilities and expertise through retention of leadership and cross-pollination of ideas and experiences Access to international funding, resources and expertise		Increased productivity and impact of research outcomes over time, retention of research leadership and production of a conducive environment of research excellence	Accelerating progress towards achieving research excellence and equity within the region Strengthened research ecosystems, and empowered research leadership across the region and from under-represented countries
Outcome	Strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration and capabilities of researchers to contribute to policy-making, industry and other non-traditional research sectors and understand their priorities, and vice versa Development of holistic and adaptable research leaders capable of navigating complex challenges Retention of individuals within fields that can still have a positive influence on the research ecosystem		Expanded opportunities for knowledge exchange, skill development, and networking opportunities across research institutions and regions Enhanced visibility and collaboration opportunities within the wider research community Recognition and reward systems that incentivise research excellence and innovation and increase retention rates within the research workforce		Long-term sustainability and continuity of research protects and careers Reduced burden of non-research responsibilities on individuals	Enhanced leadership capabilities and mentorship opportunities for researchers at all career stages Increased collaboration and knowledge sharing among researchers from diverse backgrounds and institutions
Approach	Create opportunities for interdisciplinary research and provide exposure to alternative career opportunities for research individuals (e.g., policy makers, government industry etc.)	Enable cross-consortia and cross-sector learnings (including between academia and government) to develop well-rounded research leaders	Develop methods for mobility amongst both early career and established researchers to areas with more established research settings, while creating attractive long-term opportunities in lower resource settings Connect researchers into global networks to leverage technical and scientific connections	Influence institutions to promote a merit-based culture within research (e.g., adapting criteria for promotions or recognition awards for research) rather than time-served	Ensure researchers are supported individually over a longer period of time with the required institutional capacity (people, government, recruitment, communication and research management) to focus on the research	Develop equitable and regionally targeted leadership and mentorship programmes
Objective	Nurturing leadership: Support the development of attractive career opportunities leading to research leadership and excellence					
Problem	Research career opportunities in SEA are limited by insufficient financial incentives, lack of institutional funding, bureaucracy overloads, training and mentorship gaps, or opportunities not being created and rewarded on a merit basis . As a result, movement is disincentivised, progression takes a long time and research career opportunities narrow as you move up .					



Impact	<p>Promotion of a supportive and inclusive research culture and environment conducive to innovation and excellence, long-term sustainability and impact towards achieving research objectives through collective action</p> <p>Improved IP protection, fair use of research outcomes and facilitated exchange of ideas and experience to foster a culture of continuous improvement and learning</p>		<p>Increased relevance and applicability of research findings to community needs and priorities</p>	<p>Accelerated dissemination and uptake of research findings and expanded impact and research of research outcomes into real-world solutions and policies</p> <p>Enhanced research efficiency and effectiveness through iterative learning and improvement</p>	<p>Increased participation and diversity among researchers and research institutions</p> <p>Reduced barriers to entry for less-resourced regions with less experience</p>	
Outcome	<p>Improved research integrity, transparency and credibility within the consortia, fostering a collaborative environment that crosses borders and breaks down research silos</p> <p>Cultivation of an inclusive and collaborative research culture and environment</p> <p>Shared knowledge and best practices in ethical research conduct and intellectual property management</p>	<p>Increased communication and engagement, enhanced understanding of a positive research environment and culture, and strengthened partnership opportunities</p>	<p>An improved, supportive and dynamic research ecosystem and environment focused on communities most impacted</p> <p>Increased trust and cooperation between researchers and communities</p>	<p>Increased accessibility of research to diverse audiences and enhanced reproducibility and reliability of research outcomes within and beyond consortia</p> <p>Reduction of research waste and optimisation of resources through lessons learnt from research setbacks</p>	<p>Improved accessibility and inclusivity of research funding and support mechanisms</p>	
Approach	<p>Create common/minimum standards/frameworks for research ethics, research environment and research culture across the consortia</p> <p>Develop a community of practice for ethical approaches, agreements on IP use, dissemination of the outcomes etc.</p>	<p>Ensure well-articulated strategies on minimum levels of engagement and strategies to work together within the consortium</p>	<p>Develop an engagement platform or annual conference to facilitate information exchange on developing a positive research environment within the consortia, how it is done and who benefits</p>	<p>Provide an appropriate approach to community engagement, ensuring sufficient recognition to the contributors of the research</p>	<p>Require open access, strong data management approaches and methodologies to disseminate the research, including "failed research" to key stakeholders including global networks</p>	<p>Provide user-friendly and transparent processes including end-to-end support for applications (e.g., language translation, ethics support and technical support) for programme implementation until publication</p>
Objective	<p>Strengthen research ecosystems: Strengthen research culture and environment to be ethical and equitable</p>					
Problem	<p>SEA faces many challenges in enabling equitable research environments given the differences in languages, terminology, funding restrictions, frameworks, government support, bureaucracy burden, risk of corruption and institutional support to share facilities/infrastructure. As a result, there is a lack of a standardised approach to ethical guidelines IP ownership and approval processes</p>					

1.6 Funding and Budget

1.6.1 Overview of Eligible and Ineligible costs

*Note: Below are a brief overview and a non-exhaustive list of eligible costs that SEA DREAM will consider within your application. Please refer to the **Cost Eligibility Guide** ([Link](#)) for complete information and for guidance to complete the **Full Application Budget Template** ([Link](#)).*

Eligible Costs

a. Staff Costs

Staff costs including basic salary, employer's contributions, statutory obligations, pension scheme costs and locally recognized allowances for both full and part-time staff working on a SEA DREAM funded project can be claimed proportionate to the time individual staff contributes to the project. Associated expenses such as visa, work permit and mandatory medical check-up for employment are also eligible. Additionally, cost for disability-related adjustment support as well as removal and relocation expenses can also be covered under this category if specific conditions are met.

b. Travel and Subsistence

Essential and justifiable travel costs can be claimed for staff employed on the grant or others (e.g., collaborators) contributing to the research to attend research meetings and conferences, policy dialogue, workshops, trainings, short-term study visits and other research-related travel.

Childcare and any other caring responsibility costs for staff fully or partially employed on grant to attend a conference, policy dialogue, workshops, trainings, short-term study visits, or similar, that is directly related to the grant.

Subsistence/per diem costs can be claimed for staff fully or partially employed under the grant or others contributing to the research to work away from employing organisation.

If the employing organisation has a subsistence policy, those rates may apply as per the policy. All travel and subsistence costs must be auditable, and the employing organisation must be able to justify proposed travel and subsistence budget and rates. If the employing organisation does not have a subsistence/per diem policy, it is required to develop an appropriate policy upon instalment of the grant.

Furthermore, we also cover the cost of providing special needs education for long-term assignments.

c. Materials and Consumables

SEA DREAM will cover the cost of essential materials and consumables required to carry out the proposed research. These include but are not limited to:

- Laboratory chemicals and supplies (e.g., reagents, enzymes, isotopes, antibodies, gases, cultures, plasticware, glassware)

- Project-specific personal protective equipment (PPE) that is above the standard expected for the setting
- Research-related computing expenses (e.g., software licenses, computer consumables)
- Shipping, delivery, and freight charges related to materials
- Printing associated with fieldwork and empirical research

d. Equipment

SEA DREAM will fund the purchase, delivery, installation, maintenance and training for basic items of equipment that are essential to the success of the research project.

Maintenance costs: for equipment purchased on grants for the length of the award and existing equipment that is essential for the research activities and is environmentally sustainable and cost effective to maintain.

Procurement of computing equipment: can be requested for staff whose salary is fully or partially funded by the grant. This includes computing hardware, for example, laptops, up to a maximum of 2,000.00 USD for each item, unless more expensive items have been included in your award letter as well as software, software licenses and other recurring computing costs linked to the project. Items exceeding these limits require justification within the application.

e. Training and Development

Continuing professional development costs

Cost for Individuals can be claimed for:

- Project-specific skills training as required by your research
- Career-based continual professional development
- Professional training and capacity development for research support staff

Organisations can claim costs for conducting Training and Development Workshops and Meetings related to funded activities such as:

- Research specific skills
- Leadership and mentorship skills
- Knowledge transfer
- Cross-organizational and cross-sector learning

Research Master's and PhD fees, and Fellowship related costs – (i) Master's and PhD

Studentship/scholarship costs for Research Master's and PhDs directly related to the funded research activities such as:

- Tuition fees
- Stipend/living allowance
- Research expenses or additional expenses related to dual/joint Master's or PhD (e.g. travel, equipment, data access) if not already covered within other cost categories of the funded activities.

Research Master's and PhD fees, and Fellowship related costs – (ii) Fellowships

Post-Doctoral Fellows and Other research fellowships related to funded research activities including:

- Stipends/living allowance, if no salary is provided.
- Research expenses (e.g. travel, equipment, data access) if not already covered within other cost categories of the funded activities.
- Expenses for conference travel, or mentorship activities if not already covered within other cost categories of the funded activities.

f. Direct Research

SEA DREAM will cover the following costs to successfully contribute to research related activities:

- Animal research costs
- Clinical, epidemiological and qualitative research studies costs
- Fieldwork costs
- Subject and volunteer expenses
- Communication and data collection devices
- Data management and sharing plan costs
- Ethical approval
- Equipment access charges
- Facility access charges

g. Outreach and Dissemination

Research articles

SEA DREAM will fund reasonable article processing charges (APCs) for research articles published in fully Open Access (OA) journals or platforms that:

- Are indexed by [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#)
- Have a [agreement \(Participation Agreements and Options or PMC\)](#) with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to deposit the [Version of Record \[PDF\]](#) in PMC and allow that content to be shared with Europe PMC.

SEA DREAM will **not** cover the costs of open access publishing in subscription journals. Grant applicants cannot ask for these costs in their grant application, and grant holders will not be allowed to use their grant funds to pay for these costs. You cannot use this funding to cover any non-open access publication costs, including page and/or colour charges.

If your organisation receives open access block funding from other sources, you can ask them to cover eligible open access article processing charges.

Monographs and book chapters

SEA DREAM will also provide funds to support reasonable open access fees for monographs and book chapters. Additionally, project costs associated with producing posters, public engagement, patient involvement and research dissemination, can be included.

The costs of hosting or contributing to the following outreach and dissemination focused activities can also be included:

- A conference
- A session within a conference
- A policy dialogue
- A symposium
- A seminar series/webinar
- Advisory board meetings

h. Other Costs


SEA DREAM will cover other costs related to funded research activities such as:

- Convening and catering costs
- Furniture
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Patent and registered design filing costs
- Service charges and consultancy fees
- Health and safety
- Publication procurement costs (specialist publications)
- Recruitment costs

i. Overheads

Up to a maximum of 20% of the total project costs that directly support the funded activities can be claimed as overheads. Eligible overhead costs may include but are not limited to:

- Estates, for example building and premises.
- Utilities such as electricity, gas and water costs, and landline phone charges, based on an estimate proportionate to activities funded under the grant.
- Standard IT charges, based on an estimate proportionate to activities funded under the grant.
- Technical, administrative and institutional support services to the research activities, such as grant management costs, personnel, IT, procurement, finance, library, and room hire; not covered within staff costs.

Applicants should contact the programme team for clarification should they have any queries. 

1.6.2 Tax Treatment

Applicants must ensure that all applicable taxes are clearly identified and incorporated into the project budget. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Taxes applicable in all countries or regions where project activities will take place;

- Tax implications arising from contractual and invoicing arrangements between consortia members and the consortia lead;
- Tax obligations associated with financial transfers between the funder and the consortia lead.

All applicable taxes (e.g., VAT, withholding tax, service tax) must be identified and included in the budget. The applicant is responsible for complying with national tax regulations, including:

- Taxes related to employment and procurement
- Tax liabilities in fund transfers between lead and partner institutions (Taxes should not be separated out from other direct costs - tax should be included in sub-award category rather than overheads in the full application budget template)
- Cross-border tax obligations

Tax liabilities in fund transfers between lead and partner institutions need to be included in the category where taxes are incurred, instead of considering as overhead cost. Taxes should not be separated out from other direct costs included in the budget to which they relate.

All applicants are encouraged to apply for the relevant tax exemptions for sub-awards.

All potential tax liabilities should be anticipated, appropriately justified, and included in the budget narrative. Failure to include applicable tax costs in the submitted budget shall be deemed the sole responsibility of the applicant, and the SEA DREAM shall bear no obligation to reimburse or cover such tax costs.

Failure to account for relevant tax costs may result in budget shortfalls or ineligible cost determinations. The funder is not liable for unbudgeted tax-related expenses.

2. Application process

2.1 Eligibility requirements

2.1.1 What are the requirements for a Consortium?

A Consortium must consist of a Lead Organisation (Consortium Lead) and Co-Applying Organisations (Consortium Members), working in a [hub-and-spoke](#) model.

- A Consortium must include a minimum of three organisations, each from a different Southeast Asian country.
- Recommended total size of one Consortium is between three to five organisations*, including the Consortium Lead.

**In exceptional cases a Consortium may have more than five members where it is beneficial to the overall proposed activities. This must be justified within the application form.*

- A Consortium must include at least one organisation from a Southeast Asian Lower Middle-Income Country (per [World Bank](#) 2025 definition) either as Consortium Lead or Consortium Member:
 - Cambodia
 - Lao PDR
 - Myanmar
 - The Philippines
 - Timor-Leste
 - Viet Nam
- Organisations from countries outside of Southeast Asia can be Consortium Members and are eligible to receive funds but are not eligible to be the Lead Organisation.
- A Consortium must establish a Consortium-level agreement between the respective Lead Organisation and Consortium Members. Organisations may use their own agreement formats or use the agreement template provided by SEA DREAM ahead of the invitation for full application.

2.1.2 Who can be a Lead Organisation?

The Lead Organisation, is responsible for managing the grant and ensuring that the proposed activities are delivered in accordance with the SEA DREAM's grants conditions. Therefore, the Lead Organisation holds overall legal and financial accountability, and is required to ensure compliance with SEA DREAM grants conditions across all Consortium Members.

The Lead Organisation is responsible for establishing Consortium-level agreement between the respective Consortium Members. Organisations may use their own agreement formats or use the agreement template provided by SEA DREAM ahead of the invitation for full application.

The Lead Organisation supports the Principal and Deputy Principal Investigator to act as the primary point of contact with SEA DREAM, overseeing:

- Consortium coordination and partnership management
- Operational oversight and risk management of Consortium activities
- Financial management of overall Consortium budget and disbursement to Consortium Members
- Reporting & Communication, including Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
- The Lead Organisation is the organisation responsible for submitting the application to SEA DREAM.

Key eligibility requirements:

- The Lead Organisation must be:
 - A public university,
 - A not-for-profit organisation, or
 - A private university, involved within a not-for-profit division or clearly marked as not-for-profit generating activities.
 - Eligible types of organisations include:
 - **Academic and Research Institutions**
 - Public or private universities
 - Public research institutes
 - University-affiliated research centres
 - Independent not-for-profit research organisations
 - Research centres embedded in hospitals or medical schools
 - National academies of science or medicine
 - **Government and Public Sector Entities**
 - Public health institutions
 - National public laboratories
 - Regional and local government agencies involved in research
 - **Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations**
 - International and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
 - Community-based organisations (CBOs)
 - Health and development networks or alliances
- The **Lead Organisation must be a legal entity registered in one of these 11 Southeast Asian countries:**
 - Brunei Darussalam
 - Cambodia
 - Indonesia
 - Lao PDR
 - Malaysia
 - Myanmar

- The Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam
- The Lead Organisation must be able to **enter into legal agreements** in its own name and on its own account.
- The Lead Organisation must be able to **sign up to SEA DREAM's Grant Conditions** and ensure that its Co-Applying Organisations (Consortium Members) sign up to the same conditions. This includes all checks, policies, and procedures that a Grantee needs to abide by as outlined in the SEAMEO Secretariat Award letter and Grant Agreement*.
- **SEA DREAM Grant Conditions and SEAMEO Secretariat Grant Agreement will be available on the SEA DREAM Website by March 2026.*
- Organisations may submit up to two applications per thematic area as the Lead Organisation.
- An organisation may be awarded up to two DREAM 4 Health grants as a Lead Organisation, provided the awards are held in different faculties or schools and address different thematic areas. For non-academic/non-university organisations these conditions can be met by demonstrating that the two proposed projects will be managed and implemented by distinct research units while addressing different thematic areas.
- Organisations can participate as Consortium Members in multiple Consortia within the same funding round, including serving as the Lead Organisation for one Consortium while also being a Consortium Member in others.
- The Lead Organisation must appoint a **Principal Investigator and a Deputy-Principal Investigator**, who should both be named in the application.
- **All awards will be issued in USD.** Any Lead Organisation which is not able to receive funds in this currency should contact the SEA DREAM at grants@sea-dream.org before submitting a preliminary application.

2.1.2.1 Who can be the Principal Investigator?

Definition:

The Principal Investigator (PI) is the individual that leads the Consortium, employed by and based at the Lead Organisation. They are responsible for the management and integrity of the design, conduct, and reporting of the proposed activities, and for managing, monitoring, and ensuring the integrity of any collaborative relationships. Additionally, the Principal Investigator is responsible for the direction and oversight of compliance, financial, personnel, and other related aspects of the proposed activities.

The Principal Investigator should be an established researcher with experience in leading and managing multi-country research projects and partnerships, and should actively promote a diverse, inclusive and supportive environment within the team and across their organisation.

Application requirements:

Within the application PIs will be asked to provide details about their:

- International standing as a research leader in their field
- Experience of leading innovative and creative multi-country research
- Track record of leadership, management and training of others

Eligibility Criteria:

A Principal Investigator must:

- Be employed by and based at an eligible Lead Organisation that can sign up to SEA DREAM's grant conditions.
- Hold a permanent, open-ended or long-term rolling contract, or the guarantee of one, for the grant period; including contracts that require to source salary from external grant funding.
- Have the support from their department and organisation to take on the responsibility of delivering the commitments made and be able to dedicate a significant percentage of their time to the project.
- Be the Principal Investigator in only one application within this funding round. Principal Investigator can apply to lead only one application but may be Co-Principal Investigators in several applications.

2.1.2.2 Who can be the Deputy Principal Investigator?

Definition:

The Deputy Principal Investigator (D-PI) is an individual who is also based at the Lead Organisation. The D-PI will support the Principal Investigator with the overall leadership of the Consortium and management of the grant. They should have the necessary skills and experience to manage the Consortium if required.

They should be an established researcher with experience of leading and managing large research grants, partnerships and/or training and development programmes.

Application Requirements:

Within the application, D-PIs will be asked to provide details about their:

- International standing as a research leader in their field
- Experience of leading innovative and creative research
- Track record of leadership, management and training of others

Eligibility Criteria:

A Deputy Principal Investigator must:

- Be employed by and based at the Lead Organisation.
- Have a permanent, open-ended or long-term rolling contract, or the guarantee of one, for the grant period; including contracts that require to source salary from external grant funding.
- Have the support from their department and organisation to take on the responsibility of delivering the commitments made and be able to dedicate a significant percentage of their time to the project.

2.1.3 Who can be a Co-Applying Organisation (consortium member)?

Co-applying Organisations (Consortium Members) will receive funds through the Lead Organisation in a hub-and-spoke model and play a substantial role in delivering the proposed activities alongside the Lead Organisation.

Consortium Members are responsible for supporting the Co-Principal Investigators in completing agreed project activities, meeting technical and reporting requirements related to their contributions, and complying with the terms set out in their respective individual Consortium agreement.

Consortium Members will host individuals and teams that contribute specific expertise, resources, or capabilities to complement the overall objectives of the Consortium. This could include, but is not limited to, leading a strand of research, or meaningfully engaging in training and development or research ecosystem strengthening activities. We expect all Consortium Members to be involved in designing the proposed activities and preparing the application.

Whilst they do not manage the grant directly, Consortium Members work closely with the Lead Organisation to ensure the successful execution of the proposed activities.

The commitment of each Consortium Members to delivering on the aims of the Consortium must be demonstrated within a Letter of Support in the application, which includes a commitment to signing up to a consortium agreement if the application is successful.

Key eligibility requirements:

- A Consortium must include at least one organisation whose legal entity is registered in a Southeast Asian Lower Middle-Income Country (per [World Bank 2025](#) definition) either as a Consortium Lead or Consortium Member:
 - Cambodia
 - Lao PDR
 - Myanmar
 - The Philippines
 - Timor-Leste
 - Viet Nam

- Organisations whose legal entity is registered in a country outside of the specified Southeast Asian countries can be Consortium Members and receive funds.
- All Consortium Members must be:
 - Public or private universities,
 - Not-for-profit organisations, or
 - Commercial organisations, involved within not-for-profit divisions or clearly marked as not-for-profit generating activities.
 - Eligible types of organisations include:
 - **Academic and Research Institutions**
 - Public or private universities
 - Public research institutes
 - University-affiliated research centres
 - Independent not-for-profit research organisations
 - Research centres embedded in hospitals or medical schools
 - National academies of science or medicine
 - **Government and Public Sector Entities**
 - Public health institutions
 - National public laboratories
 - Regional and local government agencies involved in research
 - **Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations**
 - International and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
 - Community-based organisations (CBOs)
 - Health and development networks or alliances
 - **Hospitals and Health Service Providers**
 - Private or public hospitals and medical centres conducting research
 - **Private Sector (conducting research activities that are non-commercial in intent)**
 - Commercial organisations (e.g. pharmaceutical, biotech, or health tech firms working under grant-funded models)
 - Social enterprises
- All Consortium Members must be able to sign up to SEA DREAM Grant Conditions. This includes all checks, policies, and procedures that a Grantee needs to abide by as outlined in the SEAMEO Secretariat Award letter and Grant Agreement*.

**SEA DREAM Grant Conditions and SEAMEO Secretariat Grant Agreement will be available on the SEA DREAM Website by March 2026.*

- The Co-Applying Organisation must be able to enter into legal agreements in its own name and on its own account.

2.1.3.1 Who can be Co-principal Investigator?

Definition:

A Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) is a named individual representing the Consortium Member(s), or the Lead Organisation in addition to the PI and D-PI. **Each Consortium Member must be represented by at least one Co-PI.**

The Co-PIs will work in partnership with the Principal Investigator and D-PI, contributing specific expertise, resources, or capabilities that complement the overall objectives of the Consortium. A Co-PI must make a significant and essential contribution to the proposed activities. This could include, but is not limited to, leading a strand of research, or meaningfully engaging in training and development or research ecosystem strengthening activities. We also expect all Co-Principal Investigators to be involved in designing the proposed activities and preparing the application.

Co-Principal Investigators will be responsible for the administrative, financial, and scientific management of their Co-Applying Organisations' contribution to the proposed activities.

Application Requirements:

Within the application, Co-PIs will be asked to provide details about their:

- Technical and methodological experience within their field
- Strong track record of leading on, managing, or supporting high quality research
- Track record of working collaboratively, with contributions to training and development of others

Eligibility Criteria:

A Co-Principal Investigator must:

- Be an experienced researcher, demonstrated through a strong track record of leading on or supporting high quality research. Co-PIs who are Early- or Mid-career are encouraged and should be embedded in a formal mentorship arrangement with a named, experienced researcher at their organisation.
- Be employed by and based at an eligible Co-Applying Organisation that can sign up to SEA DREAM's grant conditions.
- Hold a permanent, open-ended or long-term rolling contract, or the guarantee of one, for the grant period; including contracts that require to source salary from external grant funding.
- Have the support from their department and organisation to take on the responsibility of delivering the commitments made and be able to dedicate a percentage of their time to the project.

Potential ways to connect with a Co-Principal Investigator:

- Leverage existing network

- Utilise online platforms and databases to search for researchers publishing in similar field
- Research publication website, e.g., ResearchGate
- Grant Databases, e.g., Pivot-RP, Konfer
- Professional network, e.g., LinkedIn
- Attending conferences
- Target universities & research institutions depending on target country/ region, e.g., top medical health faculties in SEA (NUS, Mahidol, University of Philippines)
- Leverage on SEA DREAM's in-house networking tools [here](#).

2.1.4 Who can be a Collaborator?

You can involve collaborators in your application and grant. Collaborators support the delivery of the project but do not lead on a specific component of the research. For example, collaborators could support by:

- Sharing facilities
- Providing access to resources
- Providing expertise, sharing subject-specific knowledge and guidance.

Collaborators are not paid for their input, but you can request costs for their expenses. In your application, you will need to confirm that you have contacted your proposed collaborators, and they are willing to participate. Collaborators do not need to confirm their participation themselves.

2.2 Preliminary Application

2.2.1 Instructions

- **Context of Preliminary Application Form:** The Preliminary Application Form serves as the initial step in the SEA DREAM selection process, designed to capture essential information about the proposed research and the consortium. The form enables a thorough yet efficient assessment to shortlist candidates who demonstrate strong potential to contribute to SEA DREAM's objectives. Only applicants who submit a Preliminary Application and are subsequently shortlisted will be invited to submit a Full Application.
- **Timeline:** Preliminary application opens on 30 January 2026 and **closes on 24 March 2026**
- **Link to Preliminary Application Form in GMS:** https://grants.sea-dream.org/s/login/?language=en_US (Note: Applications must be submitted via the GMS portal. Offline templates are available in the link below for applicant's ease of reference)
Preliminary Application Structure
- For details on the Preliminary Application Form structure, refer to the SEA DREAM website here: <https://sea-dream.org/guidelines/developing-your-preliminary-application/how-complete-your-preliminary-application-form>

2.3 Full Application Form

2.3.1 Instructions

- **Context of Full Application Form:** The Full Application Form is the second, more detailed stage of the SEA DREAM selection process, open only to applicants shortlisted from the Preliminary Application. The comprehensive proposal covers information such as Team Structure including consortium information and collaborations; a Technical Focus covering the research proposal, a Workplan and Budget outlining the project timetable, milestones, etc. While this is an invite-only stage, unsuccessful preliminary applicants may still participate as Co-Principal Investigators alongside shortlisted candidates, fostering collaboration and inclusivity.
- **Timeline:** Full Application Form opens on 14 May 2026 and closes on 10 July 2026
- **Link to Full Application Form in GMS:**
https://grants.sea-dream.org/s/login/?language=en_US
- **List of all supporting documents**

Supporting Document	Section	Attachment Naming Convention
Gantt Chart (template provided)	10. Timetable and Milestones	10_Timetable_GanttChart.xlsx
Full Application Budget Template (mandatory)	11. Consortium Budget Overview	11_Full_Budget_Template.xlsx
Theory of Change diagram	13. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	13_MEL_TOC.pdf
Logical Framework diagram (template provided)	13. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	13_MEL_Logframe.pdf
Risk Register (template provided or equivalent)	15. Project Risk Evaluation	15_ProjectRisk_RiskRegister.pdf

Note: As part of the Full Application Form submission, the Research Office is required to provide their approval of the submission. We encourage all applicants to invite their Research Office (RO) early in the application process to ensure they have sufficient time to complete the approval process within the GMS.

2.3.2 Full Application Structure

Section Name	Description
<u>Application and Team Overview</u>	Describes the consortium's composition, expertise, and roles to demonstrate that the capacity required to deliver a multi-country research programme.

Section 1: Application Summary	Provides a high-level overview of the proposal including title, duration, start date, funding requested, participating organisations, investigator details, research themes, and countries, forming the core snapshot of the application. Also captures information on financial arrangements and team composition.
Section 2: Applicant Details	Captures detailed education, career history, research contributions, leadership roles, and required letters of support for the PI, Deputy PI, and Co-PIs to demonstrate capability and suitability.
Section 3: Collaborations	Documents the consortium’s regional expertise, roles of each partner, external collaborators that strengthen multi-country research.
Technical Focus	
Covers the scientific rationale, study design, ethics, infrastructure, and methodological plans that demonstrate the feasibility and quality of the proposed research	
Section 4: Research Proposal	Contains the full scientific narrative including background, aims, methodology, interdisciplinary components, outputs, prior study linkages, and references, with options to upload figures or supporting material.
Section 5: Research Involving Human Participants, Human Biological Material and Identifiable Data	Collects detailed human subjects research information including study design, statistical justification, ethics approvals, participant involvement, consent processes, and additional clinical trial specific details when applicable.
Section 6: Research Involving Animals	Requires justification for animal use, species selection, numbers, severity assessments, welfare protocols, and compliance with NC3Rs, with further questions for higher order or genetically altered species.
Section 7: Research Management and Infrastructure	Describes research management structures, staffing, and institutional infrastructure that will support delivery of the proposed research.
Section 8: Research Outputs Management and Sharing	Outlines how data, software, materials, publications, and intellectual property will be produced, stored, shared, and governed, including dual use risk mitigation and open access commitments.
Section 9: Research Training & Development	Details capacity building plans at individual and institutional levels, including training programmes, trainee selection, professional development, and project-specific skills training.

Workplan and Budget	
Outlines how the programme will be delivered over time and details the financial resources needed to implement the planned activities.	
Section 10: Timetable and Milestones	Defines key milestones and timelines for research and consortium activities and requires a Gantt chart illustrating planned delivery across the grant period.
Section 11: Consortium Budget Overview	Auto populates the five-year consortium budget from the budget template and requires submission of an overhead justification.
Section 12: Additional Support Opportunities	Captures information on any additional financial support opportunities that complements the DREAM 4 Health funding.
Expected Results	
Explains how progress, outcomes, and learning will be monitored and evaluated to understand the programme's effectiveness and impact.	
Section 13: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	Outlines plans for monitoring, evaluation, indicators, learning processes, stakeholder engagement, and requires upload of the Theory of Change, Log frame, and a narrative on EDI integration.
Stakeholder Engagement	
Describes how the programme will engage public audiences and policymakers to support ethical conduct, knowledge sharing, and evidence uptake.	
Section 14: Public and Policy Engagement	Captures planned engagement with the public, communities, and policymakers, describing how these groups will inform or benefit from the research.
Programme Management	
Sets out the systems safeguarding delivery of the programme, including risk management, ethical compliance, and environmental sustainability.	
Section 15: Project Risk Evaluation	Requires applicants to describe risk identification, mitigation, monitoring processes, and submit a detailed risk register. https://pwcapac-my.sharepoint.com/personal/joshua_xh_chia_pwc_com/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc={0E5E019C-A440-409E-95E1-E48DF972D6DB}&file=TestFAF.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true
Section 16: Environmental Sustainability	Asks applicants to explain environmentally sustainable practices embedded in the research, including resource efficiency, waste reduction, and minimizing travel emissions. https://pwcapac-my.sharepoint.com/personal/joshua_xh_chia_pwc_com/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc={0E5E019C-A440-409E-95E1-E48DF972D6DB}&file=TestFAF.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true
Review Administration	
Outlines optional reviewer suggestions or exclusions to support SEA DREAM's management of an independent and conflict-free peer-review process.	

Section 17: Reviewer Suggestions	Provides optional fields to propose or exclude reviewers, along with justification and any conflict-of-interest declarations, while SEA DREAM retains full discretion. https://pwcacapac-my.sharepoint.com/personal/joshua_xh_chia_pwc_com/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc={0E5E019C-A440-409E-95E1-E48DF972D6DB}&file=TestFAF.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true
Declarations Confirms the accuracy of submitted eligibility information and the applicant’s authorisation and compliance with SEA DREAM requirement.	
Section 18: Eligibility Information	Confirms whether eligibility details have changed since the preliminary submission and allows retrieval of previously submitted information.
Section 19: Certifications	Contains formal declarations for the PI to sign, confirming accuracy of information, nonoverlap of funding, authorisation, and compliance with SEA DREAM requirements.

2.3.3 Completing the Full Application Form

2.3.3.1 Application and Team Overview

Section 1: Application Summary

- **Proposal Overview:** Provide the proposal title, duration, intended start date, and total funding requested.
- **Lead Organisation Details:** Identify the lead organisation, its country, type, and funding preferences (arrears vs advance), with justification if advance payment is required.
- **Co-Applying Organisations:** List all consortium member organisations with their detail.
- **Principal Investigator (PI) and Deputy Principal Investigator (PI) Information:** Provide names, roles, affiliations, and contact details of the PI and Deputy PI.
- **Co-Principal Investigators (PIs):** List all CoPIs with names, roles, organisational details, and locations.
- **Countries of Research:** Specify all countries where research activities will take place.
- **Thematic Areas:** Select primary and secondary SEA DREAM thematic areas.
- **Sub-Themes:** Provide key words describing sub-thematic focus using MeSH terms.

Refer to Section 3.1 Eligibility requirements for the complete list of eligibility criteria for each organisation and applicant.

Further guidance on Funding Preferences

SEA DREAM provides quarterly payments in arrears based on milestone achievements and reporting, but advance payments may be approved for applicants with limited financial resources who justify the need in their proposal; the amount granted varies by assessed need and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Any unused funds for example which are arising from advance payment, is deducted from subsequent arrear payments. If another request for advance funding is made, any unused funds may be deducted from the subsequent payment. Unused funds at the end of the grant duration are returned to SEAMEO Secretariat.

Section 2: Applicant Details

For each named Principal Investigator, Deputy Principal Investigator, and Co-Principal Investigator: Provide the following:

- **Education & Training:** List formal qualifications and training history.
- **Career History:** Outline all positions held, including contract type for current role.
- **Background & Expertise:** Summarize relevant experience and methodological competencies.
- **Career Breaks:** Disclose any work interruptions.
- **Salary Funding Sources:** Identify salary source, percentage covered, contract type, and clinical roles.
- **Research Contributions:** Describe your role in the consortium and contributions to research activities.
- **Knowledge Generation:** Summarize contributions to discoveries, tools, methods, and up to 10 key outputs.
- **Development of Others:** Explain mentorship, supervision, leadership, and collaboration roles.
- **Contributions to Research Community:** Describe reviewing, committee work, culture-building, and service.
- **Research Environment Contribution:** Describe your approach to fostering inclusive, collaborative research culture.
- **Letter of Support:** Upload institution-signed letter confirming endorsement

Section 3: Collaborations

- **Consortium Expertise:** Describe regional research experience, capacity building, health research relevance, and research culture/equity practices. Additionally, provide an overview of the collaboration mechanisms, resource sharing, and institutional capacity strengthening.
- **External Collaborators:** Indicate whether external collaborators (individual or networks/institutions) are essential, list them, describe roles, and upload support letters.
- **Additional Networks/Institutions:** List additional collaborating institutions, describe contributions, and upload support letters.
- **Confirmation Statement:** Confirm collaborator agreement.
- **New Collaborations:** Describe plans to establish new relationships if applicable.

2.3.3.2 Technical Focus

Section 4: Research Proposal

Proposal Summary: Provide a concise overview of the proposed research, highlighting its purpose, major goals, and intended contribution, written clearly for an expert audience within the character limit.

Research Background and Problem Statement: Briefly outline the existing knowledge that underpins the proposed work to show how research builds on current evidence and why it is relevant. Clearly define the specific problem or knowledge gap aimed at addressing, explain its significance, and situate it within the broader scientific or health context.

Aims and Objectives of the Research Activities: Outline the key objectives or research questions the activities will pursue, specify the health issue(s) to be tackled, and explain how these aims align with SEA DREAM's thematic priorities.

Approach of Research Activities and Outputs: Summarise overall research approach by explaining the study design, methods, planned activities, expected outputs, and partner roles, and show how these align with the project milestones while addressing any ethical, logistical, or technical considerations relevant to the research.

Section 5: Research Involving Human Participants, Human Biological Material and Identifiable Data

Human Research Involvement: Indicate whether the study involves human participants or biological materials.

Details of Study Design: Describe the study design, including key methodological elements and associated risks; explain how participants and communities are involved; outline oversight and governance structures; specify required ethics and regulatory approvals; and explain legal and consent requirements for handling data and samples, including any secondary or commercial use.

Clinical Trial Section (if applicable): Provide clinical trial design, outcomes, recruitment strategy, inclusion/exclusion criteria, underserved group inclusion, statistical justification, infrastructure, and ongoing patient involvement.

Further Guidance: [Research involving human participants policy](#)

Section 6: Research Involving Animals

- **General Animal Use and Study Design Requirements:** Describe the fundamental scientific and ethical justification for animal use, including why animals are necessary, which species and numbers will be used, how sample size and statistical design are determined, expected severity and welfare considerations, and compliance with NC3Rs guidelines.

- **Non-Human Primates (if applicable):** Provide details on welfare, housing, transport, restraint, enrichment, staff training, and compliance requirements specific to primate studies, ensuring the highest standards of justification, oversight, and mitigations for these regulated species.
- **Cats, Dogs and Equidae (if applicable):** Provide details on sourcing, transport, housing, enrichment, single housing justification, welfare monitoring, restraint use, adverse effects, and staff training for these species, ensuring humane treatment and adherence to NC3Rs principles.

Genetically Altered Animals (if applicable): Provide details if genetically altered animals are used and demonstrate appropriate welfare assessment and management in line with NC3Rs guidance for genetically modified lines.

Further Guidance: [Use of animals in research policy](#)

Section 7: Research Management and Infrastructure

- **Research Management and Support Staff:** Provide a staffing plan and written summary of the proposed research management arrangements. Include diagrams (e.g., Finance, Research support staff) if required using the required file name format stated in the Full Application Form.
- **Research Management and Support Infrastructure:** Provide a summary of the proposed physical resources for research management, explaining how they will support and enhance research activities with details on current gaps, etc.

Section 8: Research Outputs Management and Sharing

- **Output Management Plan:** Complete this section with close reference to the Output Management Guidance which is available for download in the Full Application Form. Provide overview of output management plan with details on data and software outputs, research materials, publications of research outputs, and managing risks of research misuse. In addition, provide resources and cost required, and details around intellectual property such as how intellectual property will be protected and used to achieve benefits, etc.

Freedom to Operate and Conflicts of Interest (Optional): Describe any freedom to operate or other intellectual property related issues that might affect applicants' ability to do the proposed research or to use, share or commercialise the research outputs and how these will be addressed. Alternatively, answer not applicable with brief explanation.

Further Guidance: [How to complete an outputs management plan](#)

Section 9: Research Training and Development

Capacity Strengthening Activities: Provide an overview of approach to develop research talent and leadership as well as organisational management approach to develop capacity strengthening capabilities including training programme needs details.

Candidate Selection: Describe the procedures in place for managing and reviewing applications, including how diversity among applicants will be monitored. Outline the eligibility and selection criteria, as well as the structure and composition of selection committees and interview panels.

Project-specific skills training: Describe plans to support project-specific training for researchers.

Professional development: Describe if proposal include career-based continual professional development for researchers or professional training and capacity development for research support staff.

Further Guidance: [Continuing professional development policy](#)

2.3.3.3 Workplan and Budget

Section 10: Timetable and Milestones

- **Timetable and Milestone:** Provide a timeline for the completion of each objective with descriptions of milestones, category and expected delivery date. Optional to provide additional details on how they key activities will help in achieving the milestones.
- **Gantt Chart:** Upload the Gantt Chart using the template provided in the form showing the timeline of key milestones against time using the required file name format stated in the Full Application Form.

Further guidance on Gantt Chart

Applicants must complete the **Gantt Chart template** provided, outlining the milestones and key activities against the project's five-year timeline.

Formatting Tips and Recommendations:

- Use consistent time intervals (e.g., monthly)
- Apply colour coding to differentiate workstreams or partners
- Label all milestones and key activities clearly

Section 11: Consortium Budget Overview

Full application budget and funding: Upload the completed **Full Application Budget Template** via GMS

Manually populate the “Consortium Budget Overview”.

Provide a Letter of Justification if asking for overhead costs.

Further guidance on Full Application Budget Template

Applicants should refer to Section 2.4.1 Overview of Eligible and Ineligible Costs as well as the Cost Eligibility Guide to ensure all costs meet eligibility requirements.

Section 12: Additional Support Opportunities

Singapore-Southeast Asia Fellowship (S-SEAF)

The National Research Foundation (NRF) Singapore and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) Singapore is supporting the Developing Research Excellence and Mentorship in Southeast Asia (SEA DREAM) Programme through Singapore-Southeast Asia Fellowship (S-SEAF) Awards.

As an ecosystem fellowship programme, S-SEAF aims to strengthen research networks between Singapore and other Southeast Asian countries. It drives regional capability-building through talent mobility, knowledge exchange, and high-impact collaborative research.

The S-SEAF provides selected fellows with up to two years of support, including salary, living allowance, and airfare. There are two modalities under S-SEAF:

Inbound S-SEAF: Supports outstanding researchers from Southeast Asia to work on projects at Singapore host institutions.

Outbound S-SEAF: Supports Singapore-based researchers to work on projects at host institutions in Southeast Asian countries outside Singapore.

S-SEAF is open to researchers (PhD holders only) who will be part of a SEA DREAM consortium (as Co-PI or named collaborator), whose research focuses on the programme’s four thematic areas: Infectious Diseases, Impact of Climate Change on Health, Mental Health, and Strengthening Health Systems and Access to Care.

Research consortia including a Singaporean Institution that have applied to the DREAM 4 Health Call 2026 and are invited to submit a Full Application may apply for up to two (2) S-SEAF awards in addition to their DREAM 4 Health proposal.

The DREAM 4 Health Award is not contingent and will be made independently from any S-SEAF awards. However, any S-SEAF awards submitted as part of the DREAM 4 Health proposal are contingent on the DREAM 4 Health award.

S-SEAF applications can only be submitted as part of the DREAM 4 Health full application.

For more information on eligibility, the S-SEAF application form to upload as part of your DREAM 4 Health application, and the full application guidelines, please visit [SEA DREAM | Singapore-Southeast Asia Fellowship \(S-SEAF\)](#).

2.3.3.4 Expected Results

Section 13: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The proposal should describe a monitoring and evaluation plan which clearly links the project activities with the expected results and intended outcomes. This strategy should provide indicators to assess the project's progress in reaching these expected results and outcomes, at interim and final stages, and should also describe what data will be collected to assess this information.

Note: On an annual basis, projects will be asked to provide data on specific indicators of relevance to IDRC, including innovation, policy change, leadership and knowledge generation.

For Further Guidance: [IDRC guidelines for developing a full proposal](#)

MEL approach: Describe monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework, including key indicators, data collection methods, timelines, responsibilities, and how insights will inform adaptive management. Applicants should upload the required Theory of Change and Logical Framework.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI): Describe how the programme will embed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) across its design, implementation, and governance, ensuring equitable participation and leadership. Explain the steps that will be taken to remove barriers, foster inclusive practices, and support any EDI-related needs to create a safe, fair, and accessible research environment.

Further guidance on Theory of Change (ToC)

Applicants may refer to the [SEA DREAM website](#) for detailed guidance on how to construct a ToC, including key steps, examples, and recommended formats. The website also provides access to SEA DREAM's own programme-level Theory of Change, which applicants should review to ensure that their proposed pathways, outcomes, and assumptions are aligned with the overarching vision of the initiative.

Further guidance on developing your Logical Framework

Applicants are expected to design their project objectives and activities in alignment with the **SEA DREAM programme's expected results**. This includes clearly demonstrating how the proposed project will contribute to the **outputs and outcomes** identified in the programme's log frame.

1. Alignment with Programme Objectives

- The proposal should show **direct and logical contributions** to one or more of the programme's focus areas, such as:

- Generating impactful research
- Nurturing leadership
- Strengthening the research ecosystem
- Fostering regional collaboration and programme governance

2. Explain Causal Links to Intended Impact

- Applicants must clearly describe the **causal logic** between their proposed activities and the intended impact.
- This includes:
 - Explaining how and why the selected interventions will lead to measurable change.
 - Outlining **assumptions and enabling conditions** required for success.
 - Demonstrating a **clear theory of change**, including inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and long-term impact.

3. Define Clear and Measurable Indicators (upon programme inception)

- Applicants should identify **specific, measurable indicators** to track project outputs and outcomes.
- Indicators must be **quantifiable, time-bound, and aligned with programme objectives**.

Note: It is not compulsory for applicants to develop indicators when submitting the completed Logframe as part of the Full Application Form submission.

Examples of Output Indicators:

- Number of peer-reviewed publications produced
- Number of research training workshops conducted
- Number of early-career researchers trained
- Number of research collaborations established between countries

Examples of Outcome Indicators:

- Increased research capacity among participating institutions.
- Improved policy engagement or influence through evidence-based research
- Strengthened regional research networks and partnerships
- Demonstrable improvements in health outcomes or service delivery (where applicable)

Applicants are encouraged to use SMART indicators (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) and ensure they are logically connected to the activities and objectives described in the proposal. Applicants must ensure that indicators are specific to their project's goals and measurable within the proposed timeline.

2.3.3.5 Stakeholder Engagement

Section 14: Public and Policy Engagement

Public engagement: Explain if applicant plan to engage with the public and non-academic communities about your work and how they could inform, use and find value in your research. Describe the planned activities.

Policy engagement: Explain if applicant plan to engage with policymakers at a local, national, regional or global level to inform your research questions and share evidence for policy making. Describe the planned activities.

For Further Guidance:

- [How to use an engaged research approach](#)

2.3.3.6 Risk Management and Environmental Impact

Section 15: Project Risk Evaluation

Project risk management: Describe the approach to identifying, assessing, and managing project risks, including key processes, responsibilities, and mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and escalation.

Risk register: Upload a completed Risk Register, including all identified risks associated with the proposed activities and the corresponding mitigation measures.

Applicants may align their project risk management approach with the **SEA DREAM programme's Risk Management Framework**. The provided optional risk register template may be completed in accordance with its instructions; however, applicants may use their own template if it offers comparable structure and detail.

[Further guidance on developing your Risk Register](#)

Section 16: Environmental Sustainability

Minimise environmental impact: Explain how the activities and methodologies incorporate measures to minimise environmental impact and outline any consortium-wide practices that support sustainability.

For Further Guidance: [Environmental sustainability funding policy](#)

2.3.3.7 Reviewer Suggestions

Section 17: Reviewer Suggestions

Suggest reviewers for inclusion: Recommend reviewers who can provide an objective assessment and are not employed by the Lead or Co-Applying Organisations. Information entered here will not appear in the public facing PDF but may be visible to participating organisations.

Name reviewers for exclusion: Identify individuals who should not be approached. SEA DREAM retains full discretion over reviewer selection, regardless of suggestions provided.

2.3.3.8 Declarations

Section 18: Eligibility Information

Changes on Eligibility: State whether there have been any changes to the Eligibility Information submitted in the Preliminary Application Form.

Applicants are required to **resubmit the Eligibility Information** only if there have been changes since the Preliminary Application. Examples include:

- Additions or removals of consortia members
- Structural changes within existing consortia member organisations

Supporting documentation (e.g., organisational status, financial statements) are **not required** at this stage. However, such documentation will be requested from potential awardees (and Co-Principal Investigators, if needed) prior to the final funding decision. Applicants are advised to begin preparing these materials in advance to ensure timely submission when requested.

Section 19: Certifications

- Applicants must complete the Certification section to confirm:
 - **Authorisation & Consent:** The Principal Investigator (PI) is authorised to submit the application on behalf of the Lead and Co-Applying Organisations, and all individuals named have agreed to participate. Applying Organisations, and all individuals named have agreed to participate.
 - **Accuracy of Information:** The PI affirms that all information provided is true, complete, and accurate, and commits to informing SEA DREAM of any material changes during the application or award period.
 - **Note:** As part of the Full Application Form submission, the Research Office is required to verify the accuracy of the submission and confirms organisational compliance with SEA DREAM's eligibility and grant conditions. The Research Office will receive a request to approve or reject the submission. For further information, refer to this link: <https://sea-dream.org/guidelines/managing-application-portal/how-can-research-office-review-applications>.

2.3.4 Submitting the Full Application Form

- Applications are to be submitted through the application portal.
- Applicants who are successful at the preliminary stage and invited to proceed to the next step will be required to submit the full application form through the Grant Management System. The submissions must be made via the designated online portal, which will be accessible through the link provided here: https://grants.sea-dream.org/s/login/?language=en_US
- Please ensure that all documents attached are complete and formatted as required before submission.

2.3.5 Full Application Form support and guidance

You may refer to SEA DREAM Programme FAQs [here](#) for further details which are not covered in this section.

2.4 How SEA DREAM protects applicant's data

The SEA DREAM programme is committed to protecting the personal and institutional information of all applicants.

- [SEA DREAM's Data Protection Policy](#)

The following data protection principles apply throughout the application and grant process.

Purpose of Data Use

Applicant information will be used solely for purposes related to the grant process, including the processing and review of applications, the awarding and management of grants, and the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of funded projects.

Types of Data Collected and Use

- **Organisation details:** Used for monitoring, reporting, and compliance purposes.
- **Personal data (e.g. name, gender, country of origin):** Used in aggregate form for statistical reporting and analysis only.
- **Contact and background details:** Used to support due diligence, communication, and capacity assessments.

Data Sharing and Consent

Applicant data may be shared with the following parties, solely for purposes related to the programme:

- Peer reviewers

Independent panel members

Programme partners and funding bodies

Personal data will not be used or shared beyond these partners without explicit consent

Anonymised and aggregated data may be shared with broader stakeholders (e.g. for reporting or learning purposes)

Data Protection Compliance

The SEA DREAM programme adheres to recognised data protection standards, including the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** and any applicable local regulations in participating countries.

Applicants are asked to **confirm their consent** to the terms of data use upon submission of their application. Additional details regarding data use and protection are provided in the programme's privacy policy.

3. Selection and evaluation process

3.1 What is the preliminary application assessment process?

All preliminary applications will be reviewed by the **programmatic reviewers from the SEA DREAM team and scientific reviewers who are representatives or nominees from the Wellcome Trust and the FCDO**. This review is designed to evaluate the overall relevance, alignment, and readiness of proposed projects.

- Applicants whose submissions do not meet the required criteria will be informed of their rejection.
- **Successful applicants** will receive an invitation to proceed to the Full Application stage, along with **feedback on their preliminary proposal** to guide further development.

3.1.1 What are the preliminary application assessment criteria?

<p>Criteria 1 Research Quality and Appropriateness Research Quality and Appropriateness</p>	<p>1.1 Does the proposed research contribute significantly to address SEA DREAM thematic areas and capture ASEAN Health Priorities?</p> <p>1.2 Is there likely potential for the research findings to lead to advance science and discovery, lead to new solutions and products, or serve as a basis to inform health policies or interventions?</p> <p>1.3 Does the proposed research include clearly defined research questions, objectives, and methodologies that are ethically sound and consistent with accepted standards?</p> <p>1.4 Does the proposed research demonstrate contextually relevant innovation in approach, methodology, or technology?</p> <p><i>See Scheme Sheet in “ANNEX 2” for full information on SEA DREAM Thematic Areas.</i></p>
<p>Criteria 2 Contribution to SEA DREAM Objectives</p>	<p>2.1 To what extent does the proposal demonstrate a deliberate and credible approach to ensuring research impact and uptake (e.g., meaningful engagement of patients, communities, policymakers, and other users throughout the research lifecycle including dissemination and output management)?</p> <p>2.2 Is there a clear indication of equitable, well-structured pathways to develop research talent and leadership in Southeast Asia, including early- and mid-career researchers and associated research staff?</p>

	<p>2.3 To what extent does the proposal demonstrate equitable and meaningful regional collaboration (e.g., shared agenda-setting, resource-sharing, and partnerships that strengthen research linkages and enable impact at scale)?</p> <p>2.4 To what extent does the proposed consortium contribute to strengthening inclusive, sustainable research ecosystems (e.g., fostering a supportive research culture, institutional capacity, and long-term conditions for innovation and excellence in the region)?</p> <p><i>See Scheme Sheet in “ANNEX 2” for full information on SEA DREAM Objectives.</i></p>
<p>Criteria 3 Appropriateness of Indicative Budget and Milestones</p>	<p>3.1 Is the proposed budget appropriate for the scale and scope of the proposed research and project activities?</p> <p>3.2 Is the budget distributed equitably and fairly among consortium partners, considering the proposed research activities and the geographical and economic contexts in which the research is conducted in?</p> <p>3.3 Have the expected milestones been clearly defined with an appropriate timeline and sequence relevant to the consortium and research objectives?</p> <p><i>Please note that the preliminary assessment does not encompass a comprehensive review of the budget.</i></p>
<p>Criteria 4 Principal Investigators and Team’s High-Level Skill Set and Capabilities</p>	<p>4.1 Do the qualifications and experience of the Principal Investigator (PI), Deputy PI, and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) align with the proposed activities, and do PI and Deputy PI have an established record of leading and managing large-scale research projects and partnerships?</p> <p>4.2 Is there a clear rationale for team composition and distribution of responsibilities among investigators, and is there evidence that Co-PIs will make a significant contribution to the proposed activities, such as leading a strand of research or engaging meaningfully in training, development, or research ecosystem strengthening activities?</p> <p>4.3 Do(es) the institutional support letter(s) provide evidence of strong institutional support for the delivery of the proposed activities and adequate detail of the institutional support that will be provided?</p>

Note: Due Diligence Screening

As part of the preliminary review process, a **high-level due diligence check** will also be conducted.

3.2 What is the full application screening process?

All full applications will undergo a comprehensive screening process to assess **completeness** and **eligibility**. This initial evaluation ensures that applications meet the minimum standards required for further review.

Eligibility screening Reminder:

A second round of eligibility screening will be carried out during this stage as part of the responses provided in the “Eligibility Information” tab. These checks will focus specifically on any **modifications made to the checklist** submitted during the preliminary application phase.

SEA DREAM might reach out for additional information at this stage.

3.3 What is the peer review process?

After full application screening, applications that meet the required standards will be forwarded for **independent peer review**.

As part of this independent and structured process, reviewers assess proposals solely on the information provided in the written submission. Each application will be assigned to qualified peer reviewers based on their **subject-matter expertise** and **alignment with the proposed research area**.

The application is evaluated against **five weighted domains** (see 3.3.1. What is the peer review criteria) and reviewers score each domain using a standard 1–4 scale and provide clear, evidence-based written feedback that identifies key strengths, weaknesses, risks, and gaps, with particular attention to scientific rigour, feasibility, innovation, ethical practice, sustainability, and relevance to programme priorities.

Peer reviewers do not assess presentation style or reputation; instead, they focus strictly on what is clearly demonstrated in the application. The scores and qualitative feedback from this stage are consolidated to inform shortlisting and to shape any follow-up questions or areas for clarification in the subsequent panel interview stage.

3.3.1 What are the peer review criteria?

Peer reviewers will assess the application against established evaluation domains:

1. Generating impactful research
2. Nurturing research leadership
3. Fostering regional collaboration and programme governance
4. Strengthening research ecosystems
5. Qualifications and operational feasibility

Applicants are advised to ensure their proposals are robust, well-structured, and address each of these criteria clearly.

Domain	Domain Components	Weightage
1. Generating Impactful Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance: The proposed activities are informed by and address national and regional health challenges fulfilling a significant gap in the existing science and literature. • Scientific Merit: The proposed activities develop and test concepts, methods and technologies that hold potential to contribute to scientific advancement by leveraging transformative, innovative, ethical, novel, and/or inter-disciplinary approaches informed by the relevant communities and the current evidence base, including consideration of their applicability, replicability and adaptability in LMIC settings. • Impact: The proposed activities include a clear and implementable impact strategy that demonstrates the potential for the research to inform further research, improve practices, inform policy and achieve real-world impact, with attention to sustainability and equitable uptake in diverse settings and resource-constrained contexts. 	25%
2. Nurturing Research Leadership and Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership: The proposed activities focus on leveraging the consortia in developing leaders through expansion of networks, engagement with reputable scientific communities, and attractive and long-term research career opportunities and progression. • Skills Development: The proposed activities demonstrate a comprehensive approach across the consortia to training and mentorship to strengthen holistic research skills and capacity at individual, institutional and ecosystem level that includes research management, grantsmanship, organisational leadership, and engagement with policy making. 	20%
3. Fostering Regional Collaboration and Programme governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitability: Exemplary plan for equitable and meaningful partnership within consortia, especially Lower Middle-Income countries - in decision making, participation, governance and outputs. Partnerships should be transparent, grounded in mutual respect, and considerate of cultural norms and values. There should be clear evidence of resource sharing, especially for the Lower-Middle Income countries. 	25%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practicality: The applicant has a clear, comprehensive strategy for regional collaboration, with well-defined roles and equitable distribution of resources among partners. There is also evidence of a sustainable partnership plan for continued collaboration post-SEA DREAM Grant period. • Good Governance: The application demonstrates high-level institutional commitment with strong letters of support from partner organisations. It includes a detailed multi-country stakeholder engagement plan and a tech transfer plan with institutional support. 	
4.Strengthening Research Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability and Contribution to Systemic Change: The application demonstrates how the proposed consortium will strengthen the research ecosystem within the partnership itself, including institutional capabilities, research culture, infrastructure and environment, and enhances researchers' ownership, agency and capability to define and address their development priorities. The application shows credible pathways for sustaining these gains beyond the grant period and outlines potential to contribute positively to national and regional research ecosystems beyond the consortium. • Ethical Practices: The application promotes ethical research practices and upholds integrity, transparency and credibility. • Inclusivity and Equity: The application incorporates a practical and robust approach to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). • Output management: The application includes a fair output management plan that demonstrates and ensures quality, transferability, openness, and sovereignty for research data access for all outputs. 	20%
5. Qualifications and Operational feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications and Expertise: The qualifications, skills, and previous research contributions of the applicants will be reviewed to evaluate the experience and expertise of the grantees in: (1.1) Relevant research areas and; (1.2) Specifically within the Southeast Asian (SEA) and national context. And (1.3) The team members are suitably chosen in terms of both number and diversity of expertise, and they have experience 	10%

	<p>with mentorship arrangements. The overall team configuration is designed to support the successful delivery of the project, and (1.4) Responsibilities are allocated reasonably.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management Experience: The applicant has successfully managed large-scale collaborative projects and grants at a national and/or regional level.• Budget and Resource Allocation: The project's achievability with the given budget is assessed through a detailed plan for resource allocation and management, including fair distribution between partners. There is a clear and feasible connection between the budget and the proposed activities, outputs, and objectives.• Risk Management: A comprehensive risk management strategy is in place, addressing potential challenges with proactive and innovative solutions. The plan demonstrates an ability to adapt to emerging priorities, including built-in steps to revise the approach throughout the project duration.	
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3.4 What is the cost challenge process?

The cost proposal will be reviewed in parallel with the peer review process to ensure the completeness, consistency, and financial integrity of the submission. Budget will also be reviewed at this stage.

3.4.1 What are the cost proposal review criteria?

Applicants must ensure that:

- The budget template is fully completed, with detailed budget justifications that are clearly aligned with the proposed activities and work plan.
- All costs are appropriately categorized, with associated expenses demonstrating value for money and being allocable to the project scope.
- In addition, the review will identify any areas requiring special conditions or clarification. Comments may be issued to highlight high-level due diligence concerns, particularly regarding the feasibility or financial soundness of the proposal. All comments will be considered and may inform further discussions to support a robust financial due diligence process.

Refer to the SEA DREAM's Cost Eligibility Guide [here](#).

3.5 What is the panel interview process?

Applicants shortlisted after peer review will be invited to participate in a **panel interview** conducted by the Selection and Evaluation Committee as part of the final evaluation process.

The panel interview is a targeted follow-up rather than a reassessment from scratch, where applicants are expected to clearly explain, and expand on their proposal, particularly in areas previously scored lower during the peer review process or flagged as concerns. Panel interviewers may adjust scores if interview responses provide new, credible evidence, and final funding decisions are based on the combined assessment of the written proposal and interview performance, with a strong emphasis on clarity, robustness, ethical practice, feasibility, and demonstrated potential for real-world impact.

The following outlines how shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their proposals, prepare for and participate in interviews (primarily in person), receive logistical support for travel where applicable, and be assessed by the Selection and Evaluation Committee using a structured, weighted scoring framework.

1. Presentation of the Proposal

Representatives of each selected application will be invited to present their proposal to the Selection and Evaluation Committee.

2. Interview Preparation

Applicants will receive interview questions in advance to allow sufficient time for preparation.

3. Interview Format

In-person interviews are preferred for PIs and up to three Co-PIs.

Virtual interviews may be arranged on an exceptional basis, subject to prior approval.

4. Travel and Accommodation Expenses

The programme will arrange logistics and cover reasonable travel and accommodation expenses for in-person interviews in accordance with the established expense policy.

3.5.1 What are the panel interview scoring and evaluation criteria

The Selection and Evaluation Committee will assess and rank applications using a detailed scoring framework that is aligned with Section 3.3.1 peer review criteria, with the same evaluation domains, criteria and weightings to ensure consistency between the written application and interview assessment.

3.6 What is the detailed due diligence process?

After the panel interview and evaluation and prior to the final award decision, all shortlisted applicants will undergo a **comprehensive due diligence process** to confirm organisational capacity.

Applicant is required to complete the **The following documents will be updated and provided by 01 July 2026** (i) [Due Diligence Organisational, Operational and Programme Management Checklist and Evidence](#) and (ii) [Due Diligence Other Relevant Policies, Checklist and Evidence](#) by referring to [Due Diligence Overview of Organisational, Operational and Programme Management](#) for information required. SEA DREAM will review the submitted documentation and conduct an in-person due diligence interview to discuss the responses in detail. Where further clarification or additional information is required, SEA DREAM may arrange for a follow-up online meeting to address any outstanding points.

SEA DREAM staff will contact applicants as part of this process and consolidate recommendations from the panel for evaluation. The Steering Committee will make the final decision based on these evaluations and recommendations.

3.6.1 What will be reviewed for detailed due diligence?

Organisation, Operational and Programme Management (Mandatory)

- Organisational Governance & Structure
- Financial Management & Systems
- Grant & Funding Management
- Compliance, Ethics & Safeguarding
- Research & Output Governance

Other Relevant Policies

- Cybersecurity and Data Protection
- Sanctions and Politically Exposed Persons (PEP) Screening
- Monitoring and Evaluation Capability

Critical issues identified during the due diligence process may have **significant consequences for the applicant**. Such findings could result in disqualification from funding or the imposition of additional award conditions that must be satisfied prior to or within reasonable time after the signing of the grant agreement. These conditions are intended to address identified risks and ensure compliance with programme requirements, and failure to meet them within the stipulated timeframe may affect the applicant’s eligibility to receive further funding.

3.7 What is the award decision process?

The final funding decision will be made by the **SEA DREAM Steering Committee**, based on recommendations from the Selection and Evaluation Committee.

Key Points:

1. **Decision-Making Process**
 - The Steering Committee will consider both **technical merit** and **strategic portfolio balance** when making final funding allocations.
2. **Grant Signing Process and Timeline**
 - A notification will be sent to successful applicants as well as an award letter to confirm the grant award
 - A detailed grant agreement will be prepared and shared with successful applicants.
 - The signing timeline may vary depending on:
 - Completion of due diligence
 - Any required **in-person verification visits** or additional conditions that must be fulfilled

4. Post-Grant Award

4.1 Grant Agreement

- A formal **grant agreement** will be signed between the **Principal Investigator Institution** and **SEAMEO** for all successful awards.
- All successful applicants must **adhere to the terms and conditions** set out in the grant agreement, including full compliance with **SEAMEO policies and procedures**.
- Administering Organisation are expected to establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure that **all consortia members** comply with the requirements of the grant. This may include adopting or adapting the **template for within-consortium agreements** provided by SEAMEO.
- A sample grant agreement will be made available here by 01 June 2026: [\[Link\]](#).

4.2 Policies and Procedures

Upon successful award, grantees must have in place and maintain institutional policies that ensure compliance with the following SEA DREAM policies, where applicable.

Scope of Policies

No	SEA DREAM Policy	Description	Own Organisational Policy Required (Internal)
1	Bullying, harassment, abuse and harm policy	What SEA DREAM expects from the people and organisations which we fund, how allegations are handled, why reporting is required, and possible sanctions.	Yes
2	Clinical trials policy	What researchers and organisations must comply with before, during and after a clinical trial.	
3	Conflicts of interest policy	How researchers and organisations must identify and manage potential conflicts, requirements for compliance, and consequences of breaches.	Yes
4	Consent and revenue and equity sharing policy	What researchers and organisations must do if they want to commercialise SEA DREAM-funded intellectual property, including seeking consent and reporting IP-related activities.	
5	Continuing professional development policy	How researchers and organisations should undertake and promote continuing professional development.	
6	Data, software and materials management and sharing policy	How researchers and organisations should manage and share data, software and materials that arise from SEA DREAM-funded research, and outputs management plans.	
7	Environmental sustainability funding policy	What SEA DREAM expects from organisations and researchers that it funds in adopting sustainable research practices.	Yes (for high-income countries)
8	Equity, diversity and inclusion policy	Definitions of key terms, expectations for funded organisations, and requirements for notifying SEA DREAM of allegations of discrimination.	Yes

9	Intellectual property policy	What the policy covers, what it applies to, and expectations from funded researchers and organisations with regard to managing intellectual property.	
10	Managing risks of research misuse	How researchers and organisations should identify and manage dual-use concerns in life sciences research, balancing benefits with public safety and trust.	
11	Open access policy	What the policy applies to, how to comply, guidance on Version of Record (VoR), Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) and Preprints, publishing under a Creative Commons No-Derivatives licence (CC BY-ND), and eligible costs.	
12	Overheads policy	When researchers and organisations can ask for overheads, and what costs are included.	
13	Research involving human participants policy	What SEA DREAM expects from the researchers and organisations that it funds to protect participants' rights, interests and safety, including requirements for ethical approval, legislation, consent and best practice.	Yes
14	Research misconduct	What research misconduct means in SEA DREAM, responsibilities of organisations to prevent it and handle allegations, and sanctions	Yes
15	Researchers funded by the tobacco industry	Why SEA DREAM does not support researchers and organisations funded by the tobacco industry, and expectations from the grant recipients throughout the funding period.	
16	Responsible conduct of research	Expectations for research design, sharing research outputs, research records, research culture and maximising the impact of research.	
17	Use of animals in research policy	What SEA DREAM expects from the researchers and organisations that it funds, types of animals covered by the policy, 3Rs standards, peer review process, and when	

		researchers and organisations must contact SEA DREAM.	
18	Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)	What the researchers and organisations must ensure when using generative AI in preparing funding applications, and when applying AI in proposed research activities	

The detailed policies will be made public ahead of the Full Application window.

In addition, awarded grantees are expected to have the following **internal organisational policies** — or, at a minimum, a clear plan to develop them during the grant period — to ensure that their research is conducted ethically, minimizes the risk of research misconduct, and safeguards research participants.

- Policy on handling research misconduct
- Policy on protecting human participants from harm and exploitation
- Policy on preventing and addressing bullying, harassment, abuse and harm (safeguarding)
- Policy on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) or equivalent policy
- Policy on managing conflict of interest
- Organisation-wide climate sustainability policy with science-based targets to reduce scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions to net zero (only for organisations based in high-income countries)

SEA DREAM encourages and supports awarded grantees to incorporate key elements of SEA DREAM policies into their internal policies to the extent possible.

Responsibilities of Awarded Grantees

As an outcome of SEA DREAM Due Diligence Processes and Operational Review of applying organisations, applying organisations might be required to develop additional organisational policies as part of their award conditions.

For example, should your research include use of animals, but your applying organisation does not have adequate policies in alignment with SEA DREAM policies in place, we will likely include a condition for you to develop a *Use of Animals in Research* policy within a reasonable timeframe at the start of your award.

As required by the aforementioned policies, the consortium lead will need to submit the following documents to SEA DREAM according to the specific timeline below:

Document Name	Timeline for Submission	Required by
Mandatory (1-3)		

<p>1. Outputs Management Plan</p>	<p>At the full application stage and revised later as needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data, software and materials management and sharing policy • Intellectual property policy • Clinical Trials policy
<p>2. Ethical approvals from Institutional Review Board (IRBs)</p>	<p>Before starting the research activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant policies
<p>3. Consolidated Intellectual Property (IP) and Commercialisation Report [including NULL report]</p>	<p>As part of the annual progress report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual property policy • Consent and revenue and equity sharing policy
<p>Where relevant (4-8)</p>		
<p>4. National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) or equivalent body's peer review</p>	<p>Before starting the research activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of animals in research policy
<p>5. Approvals of local regulatory bodies</p>	<p>Before starting the research activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of animals in research policy
<p>6. Trial steering committee (TSC) report</p>	<p>Frequency defined by TSC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical trials policy
<p>7. Creative Commons Attribution–No Derivatives (CC BY-ND) License exception application form [if CC BY-ND is opted]</p>	<p>Before publication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open access policy

8. Incident and investigation report	When the incident happens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying, harassment, abuse and harm policy • Equity, diversity and inclusion policy
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4.3 Reporting and Meeting Cadence

Across the programme duration, grantees are required to use a detailed project plan, developed from the Gantt Chart to facilitate progress monitoring. Grantees must report regularly on both **technical progress and financial expenditure** in accordance with SEA DREAM’s reporting schedule.

Meeting Cadence:

- **A kick-off meeting** within the first month, at the beginning of your award which will be set up by the SEA DREAM Programme team
- **Quarterly review meetings** following each quarterly report
- **Ad-hoc meetings** as necessary to address project needs or issues

Reporting Cadence and Objectives

Report Type		Objective	Submission Deadline
Quarterly	Financial Report	Include expenditure budget and variance, budget forecast.	20 th Jan/ Apr/ Jul/ Oct
	Technical Progress Report	Outputs and milestone achievements, as well as risk management.	20 th Apr/ Jul/ Oct
Annual Report		Provides a comprehensive overview of the programme’s yearly progress, including outputs, outcomes, key achievements, and impact. It highlights accomplishments through select grantee case studies and includes analysis of risks, challenges, and lessons learned.	15 th Feb
Midterm Report		At the half-way point of your grant, focusing on reviewing progress, challenges and lessons in achieving the programme's objectives. It includes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-year grant: 15th Feb after Year 3

Report Type	Objective	Submission Deadline
	necessary adjustments, as well as analysis of the political and economic context and stakeholder engagement.	• 4 or 3-year grant: 15 th Feb after Year 2
End of Grant Report	Provides a clear narrative towards the impact achieved towards strengthening the research ecosystem of Southeast Asia and lessons learned from all activities across the consortium.	60 days after the end of the grant activities
IP and Commercialisation Report	Covers all IP-related activities for the previous calendar year that should include new invention disclosures, new patent applications and granted patents, copies of commercialisation agreements and transactions, revenue generated by commercialising IP, and revenue retention request (if relevant). If there is no IP-related activity within the grant, the grantee needs to submit the NULL report.	Annually

4.4 Grant Payment

Grants will be disbursed **quarterly** from SEA DREAM to the **Consortia Lead Institution**.

Payment Schedules:

1. Arrears (Default)

- Payments are made after submission and acceptance of quarterly reports.
- Grantees must submit fund requests by the 20th of the month following the end of each quarter, based on expenditures incurred during that quarter.
- Grants are disbursed within the last week of the second month of the following quarter, approximately one month after the submission and approval of quarterly reports.

2. Advance Payment (Exceptional Basis Only)

- May be approved for grantees operating in **resource-constrained settings**.
- Calculated using a **Reserve Funding Ratio** and agreed upon at award stage.
- Can take the form of a **mobilisation payment** (one-time) or **ongoing advance funding**.

Disbursement Within the Consortium:

- Lead Organisation is responsible for transferring funds to **Co-applicant Institutions** as outlined in the approved budget.

4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

SEA DREAM maintains a robust Monitoring and Evaluation framework to ensure accountability and learning.

Performance Monitoring:

- Each grantee will report on performance against indicators included in the **grant-specific logical framework**, as detailed in annual reports.
- A **mid-term programme review** will assess:
 - Progress toward outputs and outcomes
 - Financial performance
 - Risk management and mitigation

Compliance Monitoring:

- SEA DREAM will monitor adherence to all programme policies, including funding policy compliance.
- At least **one site visit** per consortium will be conducted annually.

Audit Requirements:

- All grantees may be subject to **independent external audits** organised by the programme.
- These audits will evaluate financial management and spending practices to minimise fund misuse risk
- Audit findings and recommendations will be shared with the grantee and followed up to ensure practical improvements.

Consequences of Policy Breaches:

- Technical assistance or corrective action
- Formal warning letter
- Suspension from future funding opportunities
- Termination of the grant

4.6 Output Management

Grantees are expected to manage and share outputs in a way that supports **programme visibility, accessibility, and impact**.

Requirements:

- Collaborate with SEA DREAM and funders on **promotional efforts**
- Seek programme approval before **public communications or media releases**
- Make outputs accessible to **non-specialist audiences**
- Provide multimedia content (photos, videos, etc.) to the programme
- Secure **written consent** from individuals or property owners featured in outputs

Use of Outputs:

- Policy briefs
- Media and press releases
- Social media content
- Programme communications
- Community outreach or engagement activities

Communication Expectations:

- Guided by a **strategic communications plan**, not ad-hoc
- Begin at **project inception** and continue throughout the project lifecycle
- Use **appropriate methods and channels** for relevant audiences

4.6.1 Intellectual Property

Grantees must address potential **joint ownership of intellectual property (IP)** within their consortium early in the application process.

The **Principal Investigator** is responsible for negotiating and formalising IP arrangements among partners.

Refer to SEA DREAM's Intellectual Property Policy for further details [[Link to be updated by 01 June 2026](#)].

5. Contact Details

Applicants can contact the SEA DREAM Programme Team via the following email: grant@sea-dream.org

- Responses can be expected within **two working days**.
- Commonly asked questions and answers will be posted on the **FAQs page**, which will be updated regularly.

Annex I: Output Management and Branding Guidelines

Branding Requirements:

- All outputs must clearly display **SEA DREAM and/or funder identity**.
 - For Wellcome-funded activities, use of the **Wellcome logo** and the statement: **“Funded by Wellcome”** is mandatory on:
 - Websites
 - Presentations
 - Printed materials
 - Promotional content

Co-branding:

- Funded organisations are permitted to display their own branding, alongside SEA DREAM and funder branding, in accordance with branding guidelines.

Brand Guidelines:

- Refer to the [Wellcome Brand Guidelines](#) for detailed instructions on logo placement, size, colour, and acceptable uses.
- Co-branding must reflect the **collaborative nature** of the programme and maintain consistency across all outputs.

Annex II. Use of Generative AI policy during proposal development

To ensure the integrity, originality, and confidentiality of submitted proposals, the SEA DREAM programme has established the following policy on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools during the proposal development process.

Permissible Use of Generative AI

Applicants may use Generative AI tools **only in limited, clearly defined circumstances** to support proposal preparation. All usage must be fully **declared** in the application.

Permitted uses include:

- **Language Editing:**
 - Improving grammar, spelling, clarity, sentence structure, and readability of pre-written text
- **Formatting Assistance:**
 - Organising proposal content
 - Generating tables of contents or section headings
 - Reformatting text for consistency

Prohibited Use of Generative AI

Generative AI tools **must not be used** for any of the following purposes:

- **Scientific Content Creation or Editing:**
 - Drafting or rewriting substantive scientific, methodological, or technical content without full human oversight and rewriting
- **Data Analysis and Interpretation:**
 - Generating statistical analysis, interpreting data, or producing results using AI tools
- **Handling Sensitive or Proprietary Information:**
 - Uploading confidential, unpublished, or proprietary data into AI platforms, including:
 - Research datasets
 - Participant or personal information
 - Intellectual property
 - Institution-specific internal documents

Declaration Requirement

All applicants **must disclose** any use of Generative AI in the development of their proposal, specifying the tools used and their purpose (e.g., “Used ChatGPT for grammar correction in the executive summary”).

This declaration should be included in the designated section of the application form.

Programme Monitoring and Compliance

- The SEA DREAM programme may use **AI detection or plagiarism-checking software** to identify unacknowledged use of generative tools.
- All proposals remain subject to review for originality, accuracy, and authorship.

Consequences of non-compliance

Intentional concealment or undisclosed use of Generative AI in restricted areas will be considered a **breach of ethical standards** and may result in:

- **Disqualification** of the application from the current funding round
- **Exclusion** from future SEA DREAM funding opportunities
- **Additional investigations** in line with the programme’s research integrity and misconduct policies.