

# GRAND CHALLENGES AFRICA

*Inspiring innovation to address Africa's health and developmental challenges*

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

### **GRAND CHALLENGES AFRICA ROUND 7 PHASE 2 (TRANSITION TO SCALE) - CLOSED CALL**

This document addresses questions that relate to the Grand Challenges Africa closed call for applications. Additional questions may be submitted to [gcafrica@aasciences.ac.ke](mailto:gcafrica@aasciences.ac.ke)

Updated FAQ document(s) will be posted periodically, up to one week prior to the call deadline.

#### **Top Questions**

##### **What is Grand Challenges Africa?**

Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa) is a scheme of the African Academy of Sciences' Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA) initiated to support the creation of extraordinary innovations that address Africa's health and development challenges. The scheme seeks to promote Africa-led scientific innovations to help countries better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by awarding seed and full grants to the continent's most impressive solutions. AESA implements GC Africa in partnership with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD Agency) the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, SIDA and other partners. This call for application is rolled out jointly with SAMRC which runs Grand Challenges South Africa.

##### **How do I apply for the transition to scale & scale up grant?**

All applications will be received through the [AAS Ishango Online Application System](#) in order to have their idea considered.

##### **Can I submit my application via email?**

No. All applications submitted to the Grand Challenges transition to scale call must be done through the Ishango portal. Any application sent via email will not be considered. For technical support, please contact [gcafrica@aasciences.ac.ke](mailto:gcafrica@aasciences.ac.ke) and provide your application number.

##### **Who is eligible to apply?**

This is a closed call targeting beneficiaries of seed funding by the Grand Challenges family in Africa and other post seed innovations that may be invited to apply by Grand Challenges Africa. Both for-profit and not-for profit entities are eligible to apply.

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## What are the criteria for selection?

GC Africa is looking for BOLD and IMPACTFUL innovations that are set on a path to SCALE. The criteria is thus set to score on these three aspects of the innovation.

## The call for applications is closed. Can I still submit my idea for consideration even if I have no invitation?

No. Any innovation outside the invited applicants will not be considered. However, we plan to roll out open calls in future.

## **Funding and Duration**

### What is the amount of funding of the transition-to-scale grant?

The amount is determined by the applicants' budget for scale for the period of up to 36 months. The budget must be justified and aligned to the scaling plan.

### What is the duration of the transition-to scale grant?

Successful proposals will be awarded transition to scale grants for up to 36 months to bring the innovation to scale.

### Are there any restrictions on indirect costs?

Yes. Indirect costs that are pertinent to the scaling plan can only be allowed up to 15% within the total budget for non-profit organizations. Indirect costs are not fundable for the for-profit applicants.

### How many awards will be funded?

The number of grants to be granted will depend on the response to the request for proposals and quality of proposals received.

## **Challenges**

### What challenges does the initiative address?

The call is focused on solutions targeting healthcare and other developmental problems in the African Continent.

### Can I submit multiple proposals for the same call?

No. A project lead may only be listed on one application to this request for proposals.

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## **Application Process**

Within a month after the submission deadline, shortlisted applicants will be notified via mail. We expect final award notifications to be sent out via email approximately five months after the submission deadline.

### **What feedback can I expect if my proposal is not selected?**

We cannot provide feedback specific to the technical content of each proposal. We will, however, communicate with applicants once a decision has been reached.

### **Will my idea be treated as confidential during the review process?**

The AAS/AESA has put in place policies and procedures exclusive to the Grand Challenges Africa initiative that is intended to restrict public dissemination of grant application materials. These policies and procedures include, when possible, having external reviewers sign confidentiality agreements and requiring that reviewers destroy or return to the AAS all copies of information acquired or created during the course of performing a review. In some instances, however, we are unable to put in place confidentiality agreements or to police the use of grant application materials.

### **Are awarded grantees announced publicly?**

The winners will be notified privately. However, Grand Challenges Africa intends to work with the successful grantees to showcase their work and successes.

## **Funding Terms and Conditions**

### **Do you publish or publicly disseminate proposals or funding application materials?**

AAS does not seek to directly own or co-own IP arising from AAS research funding. IP created by AAS-funded researchers will generally be owned by their employers or as per their employers' IP policy provisions. AAS expects AAS-funded researchers to manage their research outputs in whatever way will achieve the greatest health and socio-economic benefits for the public in a way that it enhances Global Access.

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## **Ishango (application portal) Management**

### **I can't log in. Where do I get my temporary password?**

When you first create an account, a temporary password is sent to the email address you have provided. If the email does not appear in your inbox, please check your "Junk Mail" folder. Sometimes emails are blocked by an enterprise level spam filter. When you first log in using your temporary password, you will be prompted to change your password.

### **What if I forget my password?**

If you forget your password, click on the "I forgot my password" link on the [AAS Ishango Online Application System](#), and you will be asked the security question you supplied when you first created your account. When you answer the question correctly, a temporary password will be emailed to you. Sign in with this password and then create a new one.

### **Am I able to edit my profile and proposal once submitted?**

Yes. You may edit and resubmit proposal content at any time prior to the close of the round.

## **Help/Contact**

Who can I contact if I have a question?

[gcafrica@aasciences.ac.ke](mailto:gcafrica@aasciences.ac.ke)