

## EXTERNALLY FACING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### GRAND CHALLENGES AFRICA

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#### **GC Africa Round 7 Phase II Closed Call - Innovation Transition Grants**

Call opens: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 12:00 EAT

Call closes: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 23:00 EAT

#### **Background**

For Innovations to play a major role in achievement of Sustainable Development Goals they are required to successfully and sustainably go to scale. However, far too many promising innovations fail to successfully scale their impact, due to a lack of knowledge and evidence on how to manage this long and difficult process. Opportunities to learn, adapt and improve by drawing on the collective experience of others are still scarce, as is accessing appropriate resources such as funding mechanisms linked to valuable know-how and expertise. This reality inhibits the acceleration of promising solutions, their introduction and integration into systems.

Grand challenges and partners (Grand Challenges Explorations by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Africa, USAID- Center for Development Innovation, Grand Challenges South Africa and Grand Challenges Africa) have collectively invested seed funding of up to \$ 140 million in 490 innovative projects in Africa to develop solutions in health and development. A survey of the 490 legacy projects was conducted by Grand challenges Africa in November 2018 to determine their progress and important components of support that are needed to enable them transition to scale. Scale up funding was cited as the key need with 73.4% and 10.9% of the respondents stating the need for scale up funds and matching funds respectively. Extension of a validated model to other jurisdictions and geographies was pointed out by 35% of the respondents. Large scale production, establishment of necessary infrastructure for scale and business development were other key fund utilization areas as pointed out by a total 25% of respondents.

#### **Goal of the Call**

##### **Overall Goal:**

The goal of this call is to catalyze scale and sustainability – so that the bold ideas we support are closer to having big impact in a sustainable manner by the end of the funding term.

1. Identify the most promising innovations in the field of health and development in Africa that have gone beyond proof of concept.
2. Support widespread replication and/or adaptation of the innovations across large geographies and populations for transformational impact (scaling).
3. Promote Africa-led scientific innovations to help countries better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by awarding Innovation Transition Grants (ITG) to the continent's most impressive solutions. This is as a follow up to initial Innovation Seed Grants (ISG) advanced by Grand challenges partners.

### Eligibility criteria

1. Non-profit organization, for-profit company, or another recognized institution that is incorporated in an eligible jurisdiction and can receive and administer funding. Please note that we must approve any changes in applicant organization from the originally-funded grant. NB: Sole proprietors are not eligible for funding under this call.
2. Previous or current grantee of Grand Challenges family; i.e. Grand Challenges Explorations by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Africa, USAID- Centre for Development Innovation, Grand Challenges Canada, Grand Challenges South Africa and Grand Challenges Ethiopia are invited to apply (**NB: This is a closed call**). Grand Challenges Africa reserves the right to invite other applicants who align to its priorities.
3. Projects that have demonstrated proof of concept by presenting sufficient and credible evidence to substantiate that their idea has demonstrated improved health and development outcome(s) and/or the reduction of significant barrier(s) to health / development and demand for the solution in a controlled or limited setting and have a plan to transition to scale.
4. Any project from the Grand Challenges Family that has a Transition-to-Scale agreement with requirement for 1:1 matching through partnerships will be eligible for this funding. The amount of funding to be awarded to such groups will be determined by the GC Africa investment committee
5. Most of the applicant's activities and budget must be carried out/spent in an eligible African country (or countries). If the nature of the proposal means that a significant amount of funding will not be spent in one of these eligible jurisdictions, applicants must provide strong reasoning and convincing arguments that ultimately the proposal will benefit people in those countries.

6.A Project Lead may only be listed on one (1) application to this Request for Proposals. An institution may be the applicant on multiple applications, provided all applications have different Project Leads.

7.Applications must include all required information. Only complete applications will be considered by the Review Committee.

### What we will not fund

1. Programmes that do not show proper plans for Transition of Scale on the innovation pathway and those that are merely capacity-building initiatives, ongoing programmatic funding or infrastructure development.
2. Projects that involve establishing proof of concept of innovations.
3. Projects that have their core intellectual property rights owned by a third-party institution, unless either: (a) the third-party institution has granted the applicant sufficient license rights to the innovation to permit eventual scaling in relevant countries, or (b) the third-party institution is willing to sign an undertaking to Grand Challenges Africa.

All criteria are subject to change as new funders join the challenge; updates will be published in the AAS website.

### Scope of support

#### Financing

Invited phase 1 grantees are eligible to apply for a follow-on transition to scale or scaling grant with a term of up to thirty-six (36) months. Application budgets should be commensurate with the scope of work proposed and should include costs as stipulated by the AAS [Cost guidelines](#).

We will work with innovators and other partners to identify the mode of disbursement which will ideally be in tranches based on agreed milestones. The funding partners reserve the right to negotiate any of the above financing model, and to make limitations on the time, scope and amount of funding provided.

#### Technical and business support

The phase 2 grantees will automatically be eligible for technical and business development support throughout the grant period. The support programme will help to build the capacity of the innovation and fast track the achievement of scale. This will be achieved through mentorship, training, networking and collaboration arrangements.

#### Access to the Grand Challenges African Innovation Network (GCAiN).

All innovators, regardless of whether they qualify for phase 2 funding, will be eligible to join and create profiles in the platform. This will be an opportunity to showcase their innovations,

interact with fellow innovators and other stakeholders as well as learn from experts in various areas of interest.

#### Timelines.

- Call for Applications: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019- Thursday 27th June 2019.
- Communication to shortlisted applicants: July 2019.
- Curation process: July -September, 2019.
- Expert Review Panel: September-October, 2019.
- Notification of selected grantees: November, 2019.
- Due diligence: November-January, 2020.
- Inception Meeting: January 2020.
- Implementation and support: February 2020-February 2023.

All applications should be channeled through our Grants Management System - [Ishango](#)

For more information on the application process please see our Rules and Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions.

#### Enquiries.

Questions about the GCA Phase II – Transition to Scale program or the application process will be directed to [gcafrica@aasciences.ac.ke](mailto:gcafrica@aasciences.ac.ke) Responses to frequently asked questions will be periodically posted on our [website](#)