

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Grand Challenges Africa Round 11 Transition to Scale for Innovations Call 2

This document addresses questions that relate to the Grand Challenges Africa call for applications. Additional questions may be submitted to gcafrica@aasciences.africa

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' (AAS). The scheme seeks to promote Africa-led scientific innovations to help countries better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by awarding seed and full grants to the continent's most impressive solutions.

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

All applications will be received through the [AAS Ishango Grants Management System](#) in order to have their idea considered. No applications will be processed outside the ISHANGO grant management system.

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.africa and provide your application number.

Who is eligible to apply?

This is an open call targeting beneficiaries of seed funding by the Grand Challenges family in Africa and other post seed innovations that have gone beyond proof of concept and meet the eligibility criteria as set out in the call for applications. Both for-profit and not-for profit entities are eligible to apply.

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 open. Can I still submit my idea for consideration even if I have no invitation?

Yes. Any African, science-based innovation that meet the eligibility criteria as set out on call for application is welcome to apply

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 funding available for the various levels of Transition to scale are as follows;

- Transition to scale 1. (TTS1)-From \$100,000 to \$250,000
- Transition to scale 2. (TTS2)-From 250,001 to \$500,000
- Transition to scale 3 & 4 (TTS 3&4) -From 500,001 to \$1,000,000

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.

- Transition to scale 1. Up to 24 months.
- Transition to scale 2. Up to 36 months.
- Transition to scale 3 & 4 (TTS 3&4) - Up to 36 months.

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.

What challenges does the initiative address?

The call is focused on solutions targeting healthcare and other developmental problems in the African Continent. For a more concise document on the areas of interest for this call please refer to the acceptable categories documents.

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.

When should I expect to get feedback?

All applicants will be notified of the outcomes by January 2021.

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 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 announced publicly after the due diligence process is completed.

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.

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.africa

NB: Additional resources for the application are available through Grand Challenges Innovation Network-GCAiN.