

Rules and Guidelines

Grand Challenges Africa Round 11 Transition to Scale Innovation Call 2

1. Application instructions

- Only applicants that satisfy all the Eligibility Criteria outlined in the Request for Proposals should apply.
- Applications should be submitted in English.
- To be considered applicants are required to submit their application through the AAS Grants Management System -[Ishango](#)

2 Application schedules

Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa) will accept electronic applications from 22nd May 2020 through the Ishango system. The application portal will cease receiving applications on 30th June 2020 at 23:00hrs EAT.

3 Selection Process

The selection process for GC Africa Calls is executed in seven steps:

3.1 Triage

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) will constitute a triage team from its pool of experts. The triage teams will code proposals based on pre-defined criteria designed by the AAS to ensure quick distribution to reviewers as well as remove incomplete proposals or those that are not responsive to the topic or other grant conditions.

3.2 Independent review of proposals

Responsive proposals will be sent to expert reviewers who will be given an opportunity to evaluate and identify strong proposals to reflect a merit-based process for subsequent consideration by the decision-making committee. The aim is to have each application reviewed by at least 2 independent reviewers.

3.3 Rebuttals

The top applicants in the independent review will be provided with an opportunity to respond to issues raised by the reviewers and by so doing improve their applications.

3.4 Interviews/pitch

After rebuttals, the successful applicants will pitch their innovations in person to the African Academy of Sciences.

3.5 Review and portfolio selection

The final funding decision will be made by a committee comprising of experts, funders and other partners to Grand Challenges Africa.

3.6 Decline emails

All applicants will be notified of the status of their application, regardless of outcome. All feedback will be provided after the final decision by the Final Decision Committee in December 2020.

3.7 Due Diligence

We will initiate the due diligence and legal review as appropriate and before issuing grant award letters to winners, this due diligence review ensures that the investigator and institution or enterprise have the basic capacity to receive the award and perform the work described. Our process may apply the principles and guidelines of [Good Financial Grant Practice](#) where deemed applicable.

4. Management of Conflict of Interest

To identify and avert conflicts of interest among reviewers, reviewers will not be permitted to review proposals from organizations with which the reviewer has self-identified conflicts of interest in accordance with the AAS [Conflict of Interest Policy](#).

5. Evaluation criteria

5.1 Independent Scientific and Business Review Criteria

An independent review will evaluate, where applicable, the Health and development Impacts Questionnaire based on the criteria below. Reviewers are also requested to provide their input and recommendations regarding ways to improve or modify the proposal.

- i. Credibility of the Innovation.
- ii. Impact of the intervention.
- iii. Relevance of the model in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and target population.
- iv. Sustainability of the solution.
- v. Vision and drive of the of the founders and teams behind the innovation.
- vi. Smart partnerships and user engagement.

5.2 Investment Criteria

In addition to the above criteria, the projects will be evaluated by our Final Decision Committee based on the following criteria:

- Integrated Innovation – How strong is the coordinated application of scientific/technological, social and business innovation to maximize the likelihood of going to scale and achieving sustainable impact at scale?
- Impact – What is the potential for future health outcomes in addressing a global health challenge?
- Entrepreneurship – Does the team have the capacity, skills and ability to implement on their proposed vision and strategy?
- Smart Partnerships – Does the team have sufficient strategic alliances and/or partnerships that will enable scaling of the innovation?
- Sustainability – Is there a viable path to reach financial sustainability via private and/or public channels (without further funding from us)?
- Intended Scope of Work – Are the scope of the proposed plan and the funds requested reasonable and commensurate with the proposed goals for Transition to-Scale?

- Execution – Can the proposed plan be feasibly implemented, sustained and financially supported during the Transition-to-Scale funding period and beyond?
- Compliance – Will the proposed plan be compliant with relevant laws and regulatory regimes? Applicants must be conversant with current laws, regulations, national health plans, local health systems and policies, and institutions that are relevant to the development, delivery, and uptake of funded innovations, and must indicate how they will comply and work within these rules and institutions.

6. Global Access and Data Access

Grand Challenges Africa will also evaluate Transition-to-Scale investment opportunities based on the following:

Intellectual Property – Has the innovator obtained legal access to and/or managed intellectual property rights in a manner that enables the innovator to comply with our [Grant Terms and Conditions](#) and [Intellectual Property and Commercialization Policy](#) around this area. (this applies to all applicants). For-profit applicants will also need to comply with the for-profit guidelines.

Global Access Is the innovator’s Action Plan likely to lead to meaningful access to the innovation for target beneficiaries, particularly those among the marginalized and poor populations in LMICs? (refer to our [Grant Terms and Conditions](#))

Data Access – (refer to our [Data Privacy and Protection Policy](#)) Does the innovator’s Action Plan contemplate publication and/or dissemination of results and data in an open, timely manner.

7. Financial Terms

Application budgets should be commensurate with the scope of work proposed and should include direct and indirect costs for non-profit grantees. Indirect costs are not eligible for for-profit organizations under this grant. The AAS [Cost Guidelines](#) provides details into the eligible and ineligible costs.

8. Submission materials and privacy notice

To help us in the evaluation and analysis of projects, all proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted to Grand Challenges Africa (collectively, “Submission Materials”) may be shared with other funding partners.

The proposals will be subject to external review by independent subject-matter experts and potential co-funders (the results of which will be confidential), in addition to analysis by our staff.

Applicants to carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If they have any doubts about the wisdom of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information (including information related to inventions), we recommend they consult with their legal counsel and take any steps deemed necessary to protect their intellectual property. They may wish to consider whether such information is critical for evaluating the submission and whether more general, non-confidential information may be adequate as an alternative for these purposes.

We will attempt in good faith to respect the confidentiality of information we receive in Submission Materials, if it is clearly marked “Confidential”. Nonetheless, notwithstanding your characterization of any information as “Confidential”, we reserve the right to publicly disclose all information contained in Submission Materials as may be required by law, and as is necessary for potential co-founders and external reviewers (such as government entities) to evaluate them and the manner and scope of potential funding, consistent with appropriate regulations and their internal guidelines and policies. Grand Challenges Africa expressly disclaims any and all liability that may arise from disclosure of confidential information contained in Submission Materials.

9. Warranty

By providing any Submission Materials, applicants represent and warrant to Grand Challenges Africa that they have the right to provide the information submitted. Applicants with questions concerning the contents of their Submission Materials may contact Grand Challenges Africa on gcafrica@aasciences.africa

10. Intellectual Property & Partnerships.

The solutions supported by this program comprise innovative technologies, services, business models, knowledge and/or products to promote global health in LMICs. The successful development and deployment of these solutions in order to ensure meaningful access for target beneficiaries in LMICs may require involvement by, support of, and/or collaboration with multiple organizations, including the private sector, government, and academic and/or non-profit research institutions. Accordingly, it is the intent of this program to support the formation of appropriate partnerships that are essential to meet these urgent global health and development needs. Successful applicants retain ownership of intellectual property rights in supported innovations, including those rights that arise in outputs of funded projects. Grand Challenges Africa aims, however, to ensure that any such intellectual property rights are utilized and managed in a manner that is consistent with achieving the goals of this program as guided by the AAS Intellectual Property and Commercialization Policy.