



Grand Challenges Canada®
Grands Défis Canada

BOLD IDEAS WITH BIG IMPACT®

**Stars in Global Health
Request for Proposals**

Round 12 – Health Impacts of Climate Change

October 26, 2022

(Revised & reposted Dec 15, 2022 – extended deadlines)

In partnership with



Executive Summary

The climate emergency is now widely acknowledged alongside the existential threat climate change poses to the health and wellbeing of people across the globe, particularly to minority groups and underserved populations who have contributed the least to this ongoing crisis. While climate change has captured the world's collective attention for several decades now, widespread recognition of the intersection between climate change and human health is relatively limited. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report highlights how limited climate adaptation financing is constraining the ability of the health sector to respond to climate change.

There is a clear need for funding directed specifically towards the implementation of adaptation efforts in low- and middle-income countries. There is also a role for innovation as implementers explore the cross-sectoral collaboration needed to effectively address the health impacts of climate change.

We seek bold ideas that address the human health impacts of climate change in low- and middle-income countries. These innovative solutions are expected to address the adaptation gaps and build resilience against the effects of climate change on the human health and wellbeing of underserved communities. Solutions should consider the fact that older adults, women, young people, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+¹ individuals, and other traditionally underserved and minority groups are most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change in many contexts.

Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to CAD \$150,000 for a period of up to 18 months to develop and test the proposed innovation. We aim to award approximately 30 seed grants in this round, of which a minimum 60% will be those implementing in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Organizations incorporated in Canada or a low- or middle-income country are eligible to apply. Successful South Africa-based applications may be funded in part or in full by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), who have joined as a partner in this funding call.

Proposed innovations must be bold, innovative and designed with and for people who are not adequately served by current approaches. Innovations should seek to enable communities – in either (or both) urban and rural environments – to prepare for and protect health and wellbeing as the climate emergency makes the way we've lived unsustainable.

Applicants will be required to describe how the health challenge being addressed is specifically being worsened by climate change in the proposed implementation context. They will also need to explain how the proposed solution will address the selected human health impact as exacerbated by climate change.

¹ LGBTQI+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and other gender identities

**APPLICATION DEADLINE (extended): 2:00pm UTC (9:00am EST)
January 23, 2023**

Proposals will not be accepted after this date and time.

Due to processing times, you MUST register for a Fluxx account no later than 2:00pm UTC (9:00am EST) January 16, 2023. Account registrations received after this date and time will not be processed. If you have an existing Fluxx account, there is no need to re-register.

To apply for funding, applicants **MUST** use the online application form provided, which is **ONLY** accessible via Grand Challenges Canada's Fluxx Portal <<https://qcc.fluxx.io>>. Existing users should login to their account and new users must register for an account on the main application portal on Fluxx. (See Section 3.2 *Instructions for Application Portal*.)

For technical assistance with registration or the online application, contact Grand Challenges Canada's Fluxx Technical Support team at: <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/>

Email stars@grandchallenges.ca with 'Request for Proposals' in the subject line for questions not answered in the supplemental Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.

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1. Introduction

1.1 GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA

GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA / GRANDS DÉFIS CANADA (“**Grand Challenges Canada**”) is dedicated to supporting **Bold Ideas with Big Impact**®. With funding from a variety of government partners and organizations, including Global Affairs Canada, our mission is to support innovation that saves and improves the lives of the most vulnerable in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and Canada. Our vision is a world in which innovation accelerates the achievement of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the largest impact-first investors in Canada, and with a feminist investment approach, Grand Challenges Canada has supported a pipeline of over 1,400 innovations in 96 countries. Grand Challenges Canada estimates that these innovations have the potential to save up to 1.78 million lives and improve up to 64 million lives by 2030.

Grand Challenges Canada is hosted in Toronto at the Sandra Rotman Centre at the University Health Network.

For more information, please see: <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/>

1.2 THE STARS IN GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Stars in Global Health (Stars) program supports Bold Ideas with Big Impact® from the best and brightest scientists and innovators, both in low- and middle-income countries and in Canada, to address some of the most pressing global health challenges. It provides funding to explore transformative ideas at proof-of-concept that apply Integrated Innovation® in order to sustainably bring solutions to scale.

Stars in Global Health is Grand Challenges Canada’s flagship portfolio to test the potential of new pipeline in areas of strategic interest for Grand Challenges Canada and our funders. It is designed as a flexible portfolio to allow adaptability at each round of funding to meet the most salient development needs. The Stars program also provides responsiveness to changing global priorities with an ability to fill funding gaps and take a critical role in the ecosystem, such as providing innovation funding to address the human health impacts of climate change in low- and middle-income countries.

1.3 THE PROBLEM

Climate change is already impacting human health in a number of ways via:

- Direct risk pathways such as increasing temperatures, drought, flooding and other extreme weather events, and,
- Indirect ecosystem and societal pathways, such as air pollution, food & nutrition security, infection disease threats, migration, conflict, and damage to health infrastructure & services.

The adverse effects of climate change on human health range from injuries, mental health impacts, cardiovascular & respiratory disease, undernutrition, and communicable diseases (vector-, water-, food-borne) – just to name a few. Additionally, a growing body of evidence strongly suggests that climate change amplifies existing gender inequalities leading to unique health threats for women and girls.ⁱ It is widely believed that these consequences could ultimately reverse progress made towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.ⁱⁱ

The World Health Organisation has recognized climate change as the “single biggest health threat facing humanity”ⁱⁱⁱ and the COVID-19 pandemic has only served to highlight the deep inequities and health sector vulnerabilities across the globe. However, despite the fact that 54% of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement feature adaptation and identify health as a priority sector, climate change adaptation in health represents less than 1% of international climate finance.^{iv} Implementation of health adaptation has been incremental largely because of these significant financial constraints.^v

In fact, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report indicates that “the overwhelming majority of global tracked climate finance was targeted to mitigation”, which refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases and has largely been focused in high-income countries.^{vi} While these investments are absolutely needed, populations in less industrialized countries who have contributed the least to this climate crisis are now the most widely impacted by climate change and its negative health impacts.^{vii} These same low-income and resource-exploited countries and communities are least able to protect themselves and receive relatively miniscule investment towards much needed adaptation and resilience efforts.^{viii}

There is a clear need for funding directed specifically towards the implementation of adaptation efforts in low- and middle-income countries. There is also a role for innovation as implementers explore the cross-sectoral collaboration needed to effectively address the health impacts of climate change.

2. Program Scope

2.1 AREAS OF FOCUS

Through this Stars in Global Health funding call, GCC seeks to create an opportunity to landscape the state of innovative ideas seeking to address adaptation needs as climate change continues to impact health and wellbeing. The learnings from this call – the proposals received, selection process and eventual implementation results – will serve to inform the feasibility and direction of future partnerships and investments in the space. It is also our goal that the research and evaluation undertaken as part of the funded innovations will further serve to contribute to the wider evidence base, particularly at the local level.

We seek bold ideas that address the human health impacts of climate change in low- and middle-income countries. These innovative solutions are expected to address the adaptation gaps and build resilience against the effects of climate change on the human health and wellbeing of underserved communities. Solutions should consider the fact that older adults, women, young people, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other traditionally underserved and minority groups are most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change in many contexts.

We encourage locally-led organizations who are meaningfully connected with the communities they are looking to work with and for to apply to the Request for Proposals. We also want to particularly encourage Francophone entities based in Western and Central Africa, and organizations led by women or non-binary individuals to apply.

Proposed innovations must be bold, innovative and designed with and for people who are not adequately served by current approaches. Innovations should seek to enable communities – in either (or both) urban and rural environments – to prepare for and protect health and wellbeing as the climate emergency makes the way we've lived unsustainable.

Applicants will be required to describe how the health challenge being addressed is specifically being worsened by climate change (current and anticipated) in the proposed implementation context. They will also need to explain how the proposed solution will address the selected human health impact as exacerbated by climate change.

Examples of areas we are interested in funding are innovations that:²

- Increase nutrition or water security
 - Such as interventions that ensure the affordability of healthy diets or protect nutritious food supplies
 - This could also include the community-level water management interventions that improve stable access to safe water
- Address mental & psychological health challenges resulting from or amplified by climate-related displacement and migration
- Reduce the impact of poor air quality on health
- Reduce the impact of heat stress on health
- Address vector-, water- and food-borne disease threats
 - Specifically, threats that are moving into new populations and/or geographies due to climatic variability and change
- Develop or adapt monitoring, modelling and forecasting solutions

Where possible, all innovations should seek to build the resilience and response capacity of the communities and systems they are intervening within (healthcare, food & nutrition, water & sanitation, etc.).

² Please note that this is an illustrative list only. All innovations that seek to address a climate-sensitive health risk are welcome to apply, so long as other eligibility criteria are met.

Given the role and limitations of proof of concept (pilot) funding, as well as our desire to address funding gaps, we will NOT fund:

- Mitigation efforts, such as interventions to reduce emissions or address carbon capture and sequestration
 - This includes energy solutions such as bio-fuels, batteries, solar panels, nuclear plants and new materials
 - Interventions that address deforestation, such as clean cook stoves & clean cooking fuels, will not be considered either
- Innovations that address transportation infrastructure or socio-economic systems
- Innovations that broadly address food systems & crop yields
- Monitoring, modelling and forecasting solutions that do not offer a clear and feasible mechanism for acting upon either data or predictions generated from more advanced monitoring and modelling systems

Proposed innovations must have the potential to be sustainable at scale and resilient to future climatic changes.

2.2 GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Proposed innovations must be implemented or tested in low- and middle-income countries (see Appendix A for the list of eligible countries) during the project period.

2.3 TARGET USERS

The target users of solutions funded through this call are unserved and underserved communities in low- and middle-income countries.

Where possible, proposals should seek to address the increased vulnerability of women and girls to the health impacts of climate change. More broadly, solutions should consider the fact that older adults, women, young people, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other traditionally underserved and minority groups are most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change in many contexts.

2.4 AVAILABLE FUNDING

Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to CAD \$150,000 for a period of up to 18 months to develop and test the proposed innovation.³ Assuming a sufficient number of proposals of merit are received, we aim to award approximately 30 seed grants in this round, of which a minimum of 60% will be those implementing in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

While matched funding is not a requirement at the seed funding stage, all innovators are encouraged to secure co-funding. Initiating early strategic partnerships can improve the sustainability of an innovation by creating early buy-in and providing resources and

³ As this is the first time Stars in Global Health awards will exceed CAD \$100,000 over 12 months, applicants are expected to reflect a strong justification for proposals that exceed this baseline and seek up to the maximum grant value and project period.

expertise that may prepare teams for the Transition-to-Scale process, which requires matching funds through partnerships.

Please note: All successful applicants must take up the grant (begin the project period) within 6 months of being notified of their selection. Any deferral beyond this period may result in the forfeiture of the award.

Please note: All successful applicants must complete their project within 18 months of the final negotiated project start. Exceptions are at Grand Challenges Canada's sole discretion.

2.5 PARTNERSHIP & CO-FUNDING

The South African Medical Research Council's (SAMRC) mission is to advance the nation's health and quality of life and address inequity by conducting and funding relevant and responsive health research, capacity development, innovation and research translation. Recognizing the important impact climate change is having on the country and the health of its people, SAMRC, host institution of Grand Challenges South Africa, has joined as a partner on this funding call.

Following the criteria and review process laid out in this Request for Proposals, successful South Africa-based applications may be funded in part or in full by the SAMRC. Projects co-funded by GCC and SAMRC will be subject to two separate funding agreements, one with GCC and one with SAMRC, which may contain different terms and conditions, such as without limitation, applicable policies, eligible expenses, intellectual property terms, and reporting obligations. Any innovations selected for partial or full funding by SAMRC will need to comply, as relevant, with the SAMRC's own funding terms which are laid out in Appendix B.

2.6 INNOVATION

Given that we expect applicants to address health issues that aren't new but instead existing challenges that are being worsened by the impacts of climate change, we do not expect all proposed ideas to be entirely unique. Rather we understand that many of the applications will consist of more standard health innovations that are, for the first time, being approached from an explicitly intersectoral perspective. If the solution itself is not particularly novel or bold, the applicant will be expected to satisfactorily describe why implementing it in a new context would be or how the implementation approach itself is particularly original and promising.

Projects are encouraged to have an [Integrated Innovation](#)® approach that coordinates scientific/technological, social and/or business innovation, to develop solutions to complex challenges. This does not discount the singular benefits of each of these innovation types, but instead highlights the powerful synergies of aligning any of the three. Therefore, your solutions should include any combination of the following three areas:

- **Scientific/technological innovation** – has a base in the psychological, natural, health or behavioral sciences or in engineering or economics; can be simple as there is no requirement for high-tech solutions

- **Social innovation** – recognizes and/or addresses the broader social, structural and/or political determinants of health, with a particular focus on gender and intersectional inequalities; addresses local and/or cultural contexts that factor into implementation and scaling
- **Sustainability/business innovation** – maximizes the value, relevance and unique quality of the solution to create demand and financial sustainability; addresses barriers to affordability and accessibility.

2.7 ESTABLISHING PROOF OF CONCEPT

Grand Challenges Canada's ultimate goal is to save and improve lives in low- and middle-income countries and fund projects with real-world impact through addressing the adaptation gaps and building resilience against the effects of climate change on the human health and wellbeing of underserved communities. All proposals, should provide an overview of the monitoring, evaluation and learning activities that will take place during the project period, including:

- How proof of concept is defined and how this will be assessed;
- Plans to evaluate the effects on the target health issue and climate adaptation; and
- A strategy to identify shortcomings, challenges, and unexpected results.

Proposals must include proposed indicators (including process and proxy indicators), and a description of how these will be monitored and evaluated over the life of the project. For innovations that are not able to demonstrate proof-of-concept, it is expected that innovators will be able to articulate why their innovation did not work in order to accelerate progress in the sector.

Projects are expected to demonstrate measurable change in at least one of the primary outcomes. How we define success:

- Evidence that the innovation has the intended impact (adaptation that addresses the human health impacts of climate change) in a controlled or limited setting
- Feasible plans for how the innovation can be sustained in the target region and/or scaled across a larger region
- Evidence of demand from key stakeholders for ongoing implementation and scale

Communicating results is an important part of the project's accountability to Grand Challenges Canada and other key stakeholders. Innovators should consider how results will be disseminated in order to drive the innovation's impact, scale and sustainability. While communicating results through scientific publications is encouraged, this should not be the primary objective of any funded project without a well-articulated justification that this is a critical path to impact.

2.8 SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Grand Challenges Canada expects that the most successful innovations it funds will eventually be scaled up through partnerships, either with the private sector, the public sector or a combination of both, and that scaling will be carried out with the goal of achieving meaningful health impact for unserved and underserved populations in low- and

middle-income countries. Applicants should convincingly show in their application how and why they believe their project will eventually be scaled by private and/or public pathway(s).⁴

Seed funding should enable innovations to begin positioning themselves along a preliminary path to scale, taking into account the following factors:

- the state of local infrastructure;
- social, political, and economic forces;
- the capacity of the institution and its leadership;
- potential strategic and implementation partners;
- available funding and revenue streams; and
- other potential barriers to scale.

Projects are recommended to leverage local systems where this will lead to efficiencies and to meaningfully engage the older adults, women, young people, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other traditionally underserved and minority groups who are meant to benefit from the proposed innovation in order to increase the likelihood of scale-up. This should include an understanding of:

- how the innovation relates to local priorities (e.g., national/regional health plans);
- why the innovation would be preferred over alternatives; and
- push/pull mechanisms supporting market formation and consumer demand.

The plan should clearly define the geography or context of use at scale, as well as exit strategies from grant funding.

2.9 TEAM LEADERSHIP

To achieve impact at scale, bold ideas need to be championed by effective, results-driven leaders with the capacity to convene and engage with key influencers. Multidisciplinary and cross-sector teams are strongly encouraged. Effective project teams need experience, or a plan to engage relevant expertise, in:

- the health issue they are seeking to address;
- the climate change challenge amplifying the aforementioned health issue;
- monitoring and evaluation;
- data analysis and statistics;
- business and/or public sector engagement; and
- working in the implementation region/country.

Social entrepreneurs interested in applying should ensure they have the legal capacity to enter into a contract with Grand Challenges Canada. Grand Challenges Canada does not

⁴ **Private sector** scaling paths are suitable for projects that are commercially viable or provide value to attract a private sector partner, either because production costs and sales prices are such that they are profitable, or users demand the innovation and are willing to pay for it themselves.

Public sector scaling paths are suitable for projects that are likely to compel host country government ministries and departments, multilateral donors or other public sector players to scale them. These should be aligned to, and have the ability to be incorporated into, the country's sub-national or national health plan or strategy.

fund individuals, sole-proprietorships, partnerships, unincorporated trusts or any entity that does not have the legal capacity to enter into a contract.

2.10 UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL CONTEXT

To help ensure sustainable impact at scale, it is essential that project teams and their collaborators have an understanding of the local infrastructure and governance context (including relevant laws and regulations) and the social, political and economic context. This includes local cultures, traditions and beliefs and the stigma and discrimination faced by older adults, women, young people, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other traditionally underserved and minority groups. Similarly, it is also important that project teams and their collaborators are meaningfully connected to the target populations and communities.

This will help projects better understand the health status and needs of the community, as well as identify risks to project success. Innovators are encouraged to work within priority areas identified by local or domestic governments. Where they exist, innovations should build upon local systems which are able to reach the target population that support health and/or development or address broader determinants of health. Determinants of health include poverty, inequality (including gender inequality), education and literacy, age, gender identification, race, and access to water and sanitation resources. Innovations should be relevant to low resource settings, and benefits of these innovations must target underserved and vulnerable populations of low- or middle-income countries.

2.11 ROLE OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

In line with the importance of understanding the local context is the essentiality of respecting and learning from Indigenous approaches. Indigenous communities across the globe have deep spiritual, cultural, social and economic connections with their environment. As a result of these connections, these communities have acted as stewards of the environment despite, in far too many cases, having been dispossessed of their traditional lands and resources. As part of this stewardship, many Indigenous communities have developed strategies to mitigate and adapt against the impacts of climate change.

With this in mind, project teams should consider, where relevant, how their proposals may be informed and enhanced by Indigenous and traditional knowledge, teachings and practices. This should be done only with the expressed consent and meaningful collaboration of the same communities and their knowledge keepers.

2.12 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Success and acceptability of any innovation in the climate-health space is predicated on fruitful and strong engagement with the following key stakeholders:

- impacted & vulnerable populations (including older adults, women, young people, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other traditionally underserved and minority groups)
- local communities
- health and social programs and services

- programs and services responding to and/or addressing climate change
- regional, national and, potentially, international regulatory bodies

Stakeholders should be engaged from beginning (project design) to end (results dissemination). Based on this, your project should be guided and supported by:

- youth
- vulnerable populations (including older adults, women, young people, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other traditionally underserved and minority groups)
- communities, including community leaders and gatekeepers
- businesses
- healthcare providers and institutions (including public health authorities)
- city administrations
- climate activists and scientists
- policy makers
- governments
- international agencies

2.13 WHAT WE WON'T FUND

We won't fund:

- 1) Projects establishing proof-of-concept of innovations for which the core intellectual property rights are owned by a third-party institution, unless that third party:
 - a) grants the applicant sufficient license rights to the innovation to permit eventual scaling in low- and middle-income countries; or
 - b) signs an undertaking to comply with our [Sharing and Access for Impact Strategy](#).
- 2) Projects similar to ones Grand Challenges Canada has already funded – please review our [searchable database of funded innovations](#) for more information on previously funded projects.
- 3) Projects implementing in countries **NOT** listed in Appendix A.
- 4) Projects that are focused strictly on capacity building and/or advocacy and do not involve the testing of an innovative proof of concept.

3. Application and Review Process

3.1 APPLICATION & REVIEW TIMELINE

All proposals go through a multi-step review process by Grand Challenges' Canada's senior management before Grand Challenges Canada makes a final funding decision.

SEED FUNDING SELECTION PROCESS



*Grant negotiations are estimated to take three to six months depending on complexity.

Key Dates	Event
<i>[EXTENDED]</i> January 16, 2023 at 2:00pm UTC (9:00am EST)	Deadline to register for a Fluxx account (https://gcc.fluxx.io) Note: If you have applied for funding in the past, you already have an account. If you do not remember your password, you can reset it and gain immediate access to the Portal. Simply click on Reset or create password .
<i>[EXTENDED]</i> January 23, 2023 at 2:00pm UTC (9:00am EST)	Application submission deadline
May to June 2023	Notification of approval or rejection
May to October 2023	Negotiation of award
August to November 2023	Anticipated project start date

3.2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION PORTAL (FLUXX)

To apply for funding, applicants must use the online application provided, which is only accessible via the Grand Challenges Canada's Fluxx Portal (<https://gcc.fluxx.io>). You **MUST** register for an account by 2:00pm UTC (9:00am EST) January 16th, 2023.

Grand Challenges Canada cannot provide application questions via email and proposals submitted through email will **not** be considered. Google Chrome is the recommended browser (DO NOT use Internet Explorer).

Please note: The application must be submitted using the account of an eligible individual and an eligible organization/entity. Once an application is created, the details from the account used will be displayed (as Project Lead and applicant entity) on the application form; these cannot be changed without contacting Grand Challenges Canada. Only applications submitted by accounts that meet eligibility criteria will be considered and reviewed.

- 1) Go to <https://gcc.fluxx.io>.

Existing users:

- a) If you have applied for funding in the past, you **already** have an account and do not need to register for a new one.
- b) If you do not remember your password, you can reset it and gain immediate access to Fluxx – simply click on the *Reset or create password* link.
- c) If your email address or organization affiliation has changed since you last registered, you will need to register for a new account.

New users:

- a) If you are a new user, click the *Create an account* button. It will take at least one (1) business day but could take up to three (3) business days, to process your request. Be sure to do this as soon as possible, so you have sufficient time to review and complete the application.
 - b) Once your information has been processed, you will be emailed a username and a URL link to set up a password of your choice. If you do not receive your login email, check your junk/spam folder. Click on the URL link provided in the email to input a password of your choice.
- 2) Once you have your account details, input your username and password. Click *Sign in*.
 - 3) Click on the *Welcome/Bienvenue* link on the left menu, navigate to the Stars in Global Health application section, click on the *Start an Application* button.
 - a) You can *Save your work* at any time and return to it later by logging into your account and clicking on *Drafts*, then clicking on *Edit*.
 - b) When you are done editing, save your form and click the *Submit* button. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to edit.
 - c) **You MUST submit your application via Fluxx by 2:00pm UTC (9:00am EST) January 23, 2023.**

The steps above (including screen shots), are detailed in the **Fluxx Quick Reference Guide**. The Fluxx Quick Reference Guide describes how to create a Fluxx account, how to reset the password on an existing account and other helpful tips on navigating Fluxx and the application form. If you still require technical assistance with registration or the

online application, you may also *Submit a Ticket*. Please visit <https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/> to access the **Fluxx Quick Reference Guide** and/or to *Submit a Ticket* to GCC's Fluxx Technical Support Team.

Innovator Toolbox

Applicants are encouraged to access Grand Challenge Canada's online [Innovator Toolbox](#), which contains materials to help researchers and innovators to develop their project proposals and to plan for how their innovation can be sustainably scaled and have global impact.

Our [Gender Equality Portal](#) provides a set of gender equality tools.

3.3 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Grand Challenges Canada will screen applications on the basis of the eligibility criteria outlined below. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be removed from the review process. The eligibility criteria is listed below.

1. Entities eligible under this funding call include social enterprises and other legally recognized organizations (such as non-governmental organizations, non-profit, for-profit, and limited liability companies, as well as research/academic institutions, or any other appropriately registered legal entity) that:⁵
 - is formed and legally incorporated⁶ in an eligible country listed in Appendix A
 - is active (status) and in good standing with their respective registration body⁷
 - is capable of entering into a funding agreement with Grand Challenges Canada
 - can receive foreign funding and administer grant funding
 - can successfully perform activities in their technical area

These are ineligible:

- Individuals
- sole proprietorships

⁵ The following must apply to the entity under its current name.

⁶ The meaning of 'legally incorporated' will vary across different jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of every applicant to understand how this applies to their own jurisdiction. Typically, 'legally incorporated' means that the entity is **incorporated as its own legal person (having separate and distinct legal identity), can enter into binding contracts, can own property in its own name, can sue and be sued, etc.** For example:

- Local registration of an international non-profit would not meet this eligibility requirement in most jurisdictions.
- Unincorporated Trusts or Partnerships, or any business structure that places liability on an individual or individuals, would not meet this eligibility requirement. However, an incorporated trust or incorporated partnership (sometimes a limited liability partnership in certain jurisdictions) would be eligible.

⁷ Where relevant, required filings (such as regular reports or tax filings) related to institutional incorporation or registration are up to date. The registration body in question should be, in jurisdictions where relevant, the governing authority for your entity type according to the country's laws.

- unincorporated trusts and partnerships
 - government organizations
 - United Nations country offices
2. Applications must be submitted by the eligible applicant entity.
 3. Applications must include all required information and address all questions.
 4. Applications must be submitted in either English or French.
 - Note that quality of the English or French language proposal will not play a factor in the evaluation of the proposal unless it affects the clarity of the information.
 5. A majority of the applicant's activities and budget must be carried out/spent in an eligible implementation country listed in Appendix A.
 6. The Project Lead listed on the application must be affiliated with the applicant organisation.
 - The Project Lead should be the person with the highest level of responsibility working directly on the project and will be the point of contact for Grand Challenges Canada during the review and negotiation process, unless another contact is added to the application ('reporting contact' field).
 7. A Project Lead can only be listed on one (1) application.
 - Single institutions can submit multiple applications, but each needs a different Project Lead.
 8. Applicants must be able to obtain any legal and/or regulatory approvals, consents or reviews required to accept foreign grant funds and/or conduct the project activities, before finalizing a funding agreement.
 - For example, project activities in India may require prior registration with the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010 (FCRA). As such, successful applicants would have to provide either FCRA registration or written certification. Failure to comply with FCRA requirements may result in financial and/or criminal penalties against your organization. Get advice to determine if FCRA applies.
 9. GCC may, at any time and at their sole discretion, modify eligibility criteria with respect to an applicant, Project Leads and/or eligible countries, to the extent that such modifications do not materially undermine the review process.

Please note:

- Project Leads must get their affiliated institution's sign-off before submitting any application
- Grand Challenges Canada must approve any change in Project Lead, applicant organization or country of implementation from the originally submitted application.
- Grand Challenges Canada will require Canadian applicants to demonstrate collaboration with innovators from the country of implementation.

3.4 INNOVATION SCREEN

Applications that are deemed eligible will move forward to the Innovation Screen stage. During this stage, the Project Summary section will be assessed by Grand Challenges Canada staff and external volunteers, based on the below criteria. At Grand Challenges Canada's discretion, we may require applicants to participate in the innovation screen process. ONLY a subset of questions (identified in the application form) will be read at this stage to determine if applications will proceed to the next evaluation step, so ensure these questions are adequately addressed.

Applications are scored against the below criteria using only a subset of questions (identified in the application form). 'Relevance' and 'Innovation' criteria categories carry equal weight.

1. **Relevance** (Yes/No)

- Does the proposed idea address a human health impact of climate change?
- Does the proposal explain how the selected human health impact is amplified/worsened by climate change?
- Does the proposal explain how the proposed solution will address the selected human health impact as exacerbated by climate change?
- Is the proposed idea designed for communities in low- or middle-income countries who are not served by current approaches?

2. **Innovation** (Scored 1–5)

- Is the proposed idea bold and does it demonstrate more than an incremental improvement over current approaches?

3.5 EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW

Applications that are deemed relevant and score highly at the Innovation Screen stage will move forward to the External Peer Review stage. At this stage, an independent expert peer review panel of external scientific/technological, social and business/sustainability experts will review the full applications using the criteria below.

1. **Impact** (weighted for 30% of score)

- Is the selected human health impact of climate change important to address?
- Does the proposed solution have the potential to address the selected human health impact, as amplified by climate change?
- Is the proposed idea designed for and with communities in low- or middle-income countries who are not served by current approaches?
- Does the proposed idea have the potential to fundamentally transform how the human health impact of climate change is addressed?
- Is there a potential for scale and sustainability after proof-of-concept is established?

2. Innovation (weighted for 25% of score)

- Is the proposed innovation bold and does it demonstrate more than an incremental improvement over current approaches?
- Does the proposed idea integrate scientific/technological, social and/or business innovation?

3. Project Execution Plan (weighted for 25% of score)

- Is the project designed to demonstrate proof-of-concept of the idea?
- Is the monitoring and evaluation plan designed to demonstrate proof of concept of the idea by the end of the project?
- Is the project technically sound and feasible within the seed grant funding and timeline?
- Does the proposal take into account and aim to address the gender equality, environmental sustainability, and human rights-based approach objectives?
- Does the project recognize potential risks and present potential mitigation strategies?

4. Leadership Capability to Champion Change (weighted for 10% of score)

- Does the proposal convey the team's understanding of the value of an inter-sectoral approach to the health and climate challenge?
- Are the Project Lead and key team members appropriately experienced to carry out the proposed scope of work?
- Are the project team and collaborators from or meaningfully connected with the target communities?

5. Value for Effort (weighted for 10% of score)

- Are the scope of the proposed work and the funds requested reasonable and commensurate with the proposal goals?

3.6 FUNDING DECISIONS

The External Peer Review will result in a ranked list of applications scored as fundable. Based on these results, Grand Challenges Canada and, if applicable, partner organizations will make the final funding decisions and inform their relevant Board of Directors, as per their reserved rights set out in this RFP.

Based on the results of the review panel or during the negotiations process, refinements to the proposed project plan, structure, amount and oversight may be required before a funding agreement is finalized.

4. Activities and Deliverables

Innovators funded under this program will be expected to engage in the following activities and provide the specific deliverables listed below in order to demonstrate project progress and success:

- 1) Performance reporting focused on utilization of funds, learnings and outcomes achieved. The frequency of reporting will be every three or six months, depending on our assessment of project and institutional risk.
- 2) Dissemination of knowledge in a timely manner, including through:
 - social media
 - open access publications
 - depositing of data (with individual identities protected) into publicly accessible repositories
 - press releases
 - conferences
 - stakeholder engagementGrand Challenges Canada must be acknowledged in any dissemination of knowledge activities.
- 3) A final report accounting for financial expenditures, that captures a clear assessment of project impact. Please note that a 5% hold back of funds will be applied to all funding under this program, to be released to innovators upon submission and approval of a satisfactory final report and full justification of costs.
- 4) Continued post-grant updates on impact, sharing and access for impact and management of intellectual property rights in supported innovations.

Instructions for reporting will be provided to successful recipients. Written progress reports and conversations via teleconference may be required to satisfy reporting requirements.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, innovators will be expected to:

- participate in safe public engagement activities; and
- contribute to the learning agenda for specific challenges, including participation in meetings such as annual Grand Challenges meetings, as requested.

Funded innovators must retain supporting project documentation until March 31, 2031 after the end of the Grant Agreement, including financial records, and may be audited by Grand Challenges Canada or any funders of this initiative. Associated requirements, as well as the full and detailed listing of activities and deliverables will be reflected in the Grant Agreement.

5. Financial Policies

5.1 ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

a. Remuneration

Remuneration includes salary and daily wage rates paid to employees for work directly related to the Project. Salary and wage rates should be comparable to the local market for similar types of work.

Salaries paid by the Innovator to its employees may be increased in accordance with Global Affairs Canada's Policy on Salary Increases Under Contribution Agreements for the Delivery of International Development Assistance found at:

https://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/partners-partenaires/bt-oo/policy_salary_ida-politique_salariales_adi.aspx?lang=eng.

The following costs are considered remuneration: direct salaries and benefits in accordance with internal policies.

b. Subcontractor Fees

Subcontractors are external individuals or groups who are engaged by an Innovator to provide goods and/or services as part of the Project. Payments are made under a subcontract agreement. The Innovator and the subcontractor must have an arm's length relationship to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest. The total **subcontracting fees shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total value** of Grand Challenges Canada's contribution, unless expressly approved by GCC.

Individual rates or amounts negotiated under a subcontract agreement must comply with the requirements of GCC's [Procurement Policy](#), and shall not exceed the fair market value for the service or good in question. Contracts greater than \$40,000 in services and \$25,000 in goods annually, must be tendered competitively, unless there is a valid reason not to, which would require prior approval from GCC.

Legal fees related directly to the Project are eligible subcontractor costs.

Subcontractor costs are subject to the same eligible and ineligible expense requirements, as applicable to the Innovator.

c. Travel Costs

Actual and reasonable travel costs directly related to the implementation of the Project and incurred by the Innovator in accordance with the provisions of GCC's [Travel Policy](#) are eligible expenses.

d. Goods and Supplies

Actual and reasonable costs arising from the purchase, rental, maintenance, transportation, and installation of goods, assets and supplies directly related to the Project, provided that such costs do not exceed the fair market value and are eligible expenses. Office administration expenses should be included in 1.6 Project Administration Costs.

e. Equipment Costs

"Equipment" is defined as a good with a useful life of more than one year and costs more than \$1,000 CAD per unit. The price paid for this expense must be reasonable compared to alternative options in the market. Costs may include the basic purchase price, freight, and installation of the equipment.

Innovators are required to submit a Disposal of Assets plan at the end of their Project. If equipment purchased for the project is still valuable at that time but will no longer be used

towards project activities, GCC can request that the Innovator sell the equipment at fair value and refund GCC the proceeds from that sale.

Equipment which costs more than \$25,000 annually must be tendered competitively in accordance with GCC's [Procurement Policy](#), unless there is a valid reason not to, which requires prior approval from GCC.

f. Project Administration Costs

Examples of actual and reasonable administrative costs directly related to the implementation of the Project include:

- Telecommunication expenses (internet, fax, cellular), mail and courier costs;
- Translation and word processing costs, printing and production costs associated with Project reporting and production of reading material;
- Meeting, workshops, conference costs (includes; meal and travel costs for participants);
- Bank transfer fees;
- Costs related to office space and associated utilities, required to implement the Project;
- Publication fees during the funding period;
- Purchase of advertisement space to promote project activities;
- Hosting services, such as servers or databases required to implement the Project;
- Software subscription services directly required to implement the Project;
- Ethical approvals and review board costs;
- Patent costs required to implement the Project, as deemed reasonable by GCC;
- Other administrative type of expenditures relating directly to project activities.

g. Sub-grants

A sub-grantee is defined as an external organization that acts like a partner to provide key services required to complete the Project and cannot be easily replaced by a vendor or supplier. Sub-grantee costs are eligible expenses as long as the following requirements are met:

- Sub-grantees must be legal entities, which can enter into legal agreements.
- Sub-grantees are subject to the same eligible expense requirements and policies as the Innovator.
- Sub-grantees must keep track of expenses incurred in a detailed general ledger and submit this detailed general ledger to GCC with the Innovator's final financial report.

The total **subgrants shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total value** of Grand Challenges Canada's contribution, unless expressly approval by GCC.

h. Indirect Costs

Innovators are entitled to indirect costs, calculated as a percentage and **not exceeding 10% of all direct costs**.

Innovators must consistently charge costs as either indirect or direct costs and must not double charge or inconsistently charge the same cost, or categories of costs, as both.

Examples of costs that could be considered as indirect under the Innovator's Project include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Advertising and promotion (non-project specific);
- Amortization/depreciation;
- Bank charges (non-project specific);
- Board activities;
- Business development activities;
- Capital taxes;
- Financing costs (e.g. interest expense, costs to obtain irrevocable letters of credit);
- General Staff training;
- Insurance (e.g. office, board of directors, liability, vehicle, travel);
- Internal or external audits of the organization;
- Office supplies and equipment of the Organization's office(s) (non-project specific);
- Professional fees relating to the administration of the organization (e.g. accounting);
- All legal costs other than those identified in Sections *Subcontractor Fees* and *Project Administration Costs* above;
- Proposal preparation activities;
- Rent and utilities for shared office space (head office);
- Repairs and maintenance expenses (non-project specific);
- Salaries and fringe benefits relating to the administration of the organization (i.e. indirect staff);
- Recruitment fees and staff recruitment;
- Strategic planning activities;
- Employee bonuses;
- Maternity and paternity leaves;
- Administrative IT System (e.g. financial or HR system) (non-project specific);
- Workstations of indirect staff, including computers;
- Membership fees;
- Travel (non-program/Project specific);
- Severance;
- Immunizations and medications;
- Costs related to obtaining passports;
- Expenses above cost of lowest economy flight (e.g. Business Class);
- Gratuities/tips;
- Other indirect/overhead type of expenditures relating to the organization's office(s) or employees deemed as indirect staff;
- Any other costs that GCC considers indirect cost elements.

i. Ineligible Expenses

Costs that are considered as ineligible under the Innovator's Project include, but are not limited to the following:

- Costs incurred before and after the effective date of the funding agreement for the Project;
- Entertainment expenses (non-project specific);
- Gifts (non-project specific);
- Costs related to non-authorized accompanying family members;
- Costs specifically disallowed under the Travel Policy included in Section *Travel Costs* above;
- Statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties;
- Bad debts;
- Costs related to replacing or refunding any funds lost to fraud, corruption, bribery, theft, terrorist financing or other misuse of funds;
- Foreign exchange gain or loss adjustments;
- Alcohol and Cannabis;
- Any other costs that GCC considers ineligible cost elements.

GCC commits to providing Innovators with adequate support to enable appropriate financial reporting. Live or recorded training(s) for financial reporting will be made available to all successful applicants.

5.2 TERMS OF DISBURSEMENT

1. **Advance Disbursement:** An initial advance equal to the estimated cash flow requirements for Eligible Costs forecasted for the first period will be made upon execution of the Agreement and confirmation of bank account information. Subsequent payments will be made through quarterly or semi-annual advances based on the estimated cash flow requirements for Eligible Costs. Advances will be subject to a 5% holdback on the amount forecasted.
2. All advance requests and financial reports submitted shall be signed by a qualified finance professional, whose qualifications shall be reviewed and approved by GCC during project negotiations. Any changes to this qualified finance professional must be reviewed and approved by GCC.
3. **Outstanding Advances:** Advance Disbursements are limited to covering a maximum of 6 to 9 months of forecasted expenditure, depending on the reporting frequency.
4. **Separate Bank Account and Interest Earned on Advance Disbursements:** a separate bank account, bearing interest, shall be maintained for the project, unless an exemption has been granted by GCC.
5. An overall 5% holdback shall apply on project disbursements and will only be disbursed with the final disbursement (see below).
6. Final disbursement will be subject to the following conditions:
 - The Project is completed in accordance with the funding agreement;
 - Grand Challenges Canada has received and accepted the Final Report; and

- Grand Challenges Canada has received a certificate stating that financial obligations to Employees, Subcontractors or suppliers in respect of Grand Challenges Canada's Contribution to the Project have been fully discharged.

5.3 AUDIT

Project expenses will be subject to audit by Grand Challenges Canada, up to seven (7) years or until March 31, 2031 (whichever is longer) following the termination of the funding agreement between Grand Challenges Canada and the funding recipient.

5.4 APPLICATION COSTS

No payment will be made for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application in response to the Request for Proposals. Costs associated with preparing and submitting an application, as well as any other costs incurred by the applicant associated with the evaluation of the application, are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

6. General Policies and Terms

6.1 SUBMISSION MATERIALS AND PRIVACY NOTICE

To assist in the evaluation and analysis of projects, all proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted to Grand Challenges Canada (collectively, "Submission Materials") may be shared with funding partners and other members of the Development Innovation Fund – Health Consortium (which includes, in addition to Grand Challenges Canada, the International Development Research Centre and Canadian Institutes of Health Research) with Global Affairs Canada, and/or with other funding partners, and may be publicly disclosed. By submitting any Submission Materials to Grand Challenges Canada, each applicant thereby grants to Grand Challenges Canada and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada ("Her Majesty") a worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, non-commercial, free of charge and royalty free license to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, improve, develop, translate, publish, disseminate, distribute, communicate to the public by telecommunication and display the Submission Materials, in whole or in part, in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed, including the right to authorize others to do such acts and the right to sublicense such rights to others, on the same terms. Each applicant also thereby waives any and all moral rights that it has in the Submission Materials in favor of Grand Challenges Canada, Her Majesty, and each of their sub-licensees, successors, representatives, assigns, employees and agents.

The proposals will be subject to external review by independent subject-matter experts, advisors, and potential co-funders (the results of which will be confidential), in addition to analysis by staff. Please be advised that a copy of the external reviews for each submitted proposal will be shared with Grand Challenges Canada staff and may be disclosed to Grand Challenges Canada Investment Committee.

Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you have any concerns about the disclosure of confidential or proprietary information (including information related to inventions), please advise as soon as possible and in any event prior to disclosure of such materials to Grand Challenges Canada. It is recommended you consult with your legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your intellectual property. You 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.

Grand Challenges Canada will attempt in good faith to respect the confidentiality of information that is received in Submission Materials, if it is clearly marked “Confidential”. Nonetheless, notwithstanding your characterization of any information as “Confidential”, Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right to publicly disclose all information contained in Submission Materials as may be required by law, and as is necessary for potential co-funders, advisors, 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 Canada expressly disclaims any and all liability that may arise from disclosure of confidential information contained in Submission Materials.

Privacy Notice

In order to conduct due diligence and audits, and to manage and monitor the performance of a funding agreement, Grand Challenges Canada may collect personal information (such as names, addresses, employment history, criminal and other legal checks where legally permissible) about some of a successful applicant’s directors and officers, employees, project lead(s), and others engaged on the project before and during the course of the funding agreement. Some of this personal information is collected for the purpose of complying with applicable legal and policy requirements that apply to Grand Challenges Canada and our funders in order to provide the funding and services by Grand Challenges Canada under a funding agreement. Refusing to provide information that Grand Challenges Canada needs in order to conduct required legal and contractual due diligence may impact Grand Challenges Canada’s ability to provide such funding and services and may result in not being able to enter into a funding agreement with you or early termination of a signed funding agreement. Grand Challenges Canada’s Privacy Policy explains how Grand Challenges Canada collects, use, discloses, and protects the personal information that it collects and receives. By submitting any personal information about others, you represent and warrant that you are authorized to do so. If applicable law allows or requires you to supply the information without authorization, you represent and warrant that you have abided by that law and that it allows Grand Challenges Canada to receive and disclose the information under the Privacy Policy without any further action on the part of Grand Challenges Canada. You agree to indemnify and hold harmless Grand Challenges Canada against any failure by you to comply with the requirements set out here.

6.2 WARRANTY

By providing any Submission Materials, applicants represent and warrant to Grand Challenges Canada that they have the right to provide the information submitted.

6.3 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND SHARING AND ACCESS FOR IMPACT STRATEGY

Grand Challenges Canada is not able to fund projects for which the core intellectual property rights are owned by a third-party institution, unless that third party; (i) grants the applicant sufficient license rights to the innovation to permit eventual scaling in low- and middle-income countries; or (ii) signs an undertaking to comply with Grand Challenges Canada's Sharing and Access for Impact Strategy and the Grant Agreement.

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 needs. Successful applicants retain ownership of intellectual property rights in supported innovations, including those rights that arise in outputs of funded projects. Grand Challenges Canada 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. Grand Challenges Canada's Sharing and Access for Impact Strategy guides the organization's approach to intellectual property and all applicants are urged to consider their willingness to submit an application in compliance with Grand Challenges Canada's Sharing and Access for Impact Strategy, which includes a respect for the inherent right to self-determination and sovereignty of Indigenous and other communities around the world.

The purpose of the Strategy is to outline how Grand Challenges Canada will work with innovators to: (1) help innovators achieve the greatest possible impact through sustainable, affordable, and as widespread as is appropriate, access to their innovations for the public good; and (2) enable responsible sharing of *new* knowledge and data they generate, in a manner that enables scale and sustainability, addresses (rather than perpetuates) inequities and power imbalances, and honours the diverse needs, priorities and values of self-determination of innovators and their communities.

Successful applicants will be required to commit to compliance with the Grand Challenges Canada Sharing and Access for Impact Strategy; to develop an Access Plan for making their innovations meaningfully accessible to target beneficiaries in LMICs, meaning broadly and quickly available at costs that are reasonable in the context; and to sign a Sharing and Access for Impact Agreement with Grand Challenges Canada, in line with the guiding principles, applicable to the innovative solutions and project outputs supported by this program.

The Sharing and Access for Impact Agreement may provide to Grand Challenges Canada a non-exclusive license to intellectual property rights in supported innovations (including background intellectual property) and/or an agreement for distribution and supply of products, in each case permitting Grand Challenges Canada and its sub-licensees to implement and disseminate products, processes, knowledge, or solutions in low- and middle-income countries in which applicants or their partners are unable to achieve meaningful accessibility.

The Sharing and Access for Impact Agreement will require all applicants to enter into covenants:

1. to employ best efforts and endeavour in good faith to provide widespread, affordable and equitable access to the supported innovations to achieve the greatest possible impact for those most in need;
2. to employ best efforts and endeavour in good faith to (i) openly and publicly disseminate results and conclusions of the project, whether positive, neutral, or negative, within 12 months of project completion; (ii) make publications arising from the project immediately openly discoverable and accessible online under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) or equivalent license; and (iii) deposit data outputs into a relevant open access repository within 12 months of project completion or immediately upon publication, whichever is sooner; and
3. to acknowledge GCC in all publications arising from the project.

Applicants will be required to develop and submit an Action Plan that specifies when and how the those most in need will be afforded access to the supported innovation, findings and publications will be made openly accessible, data access will be implemented, and the timeframe for data release, while respecting the inherent right to self-determination and sovereignty of Indigenous and other communities around the world.

At a minimum, 'data' refers to final, annotated quantitative and qualitative datasets, and accompanying information, such as metadata, codebooks, data dictionaries, questionnaires and protocols.

Grand Challenges Canada recognizes the value of intellectual property and commercialization, and the benefits of first and continuing use of data, but not prolonged or exclusive use. In some cases, intellectual property protection, laws or regulations may delay or preclude access to data. In cases where an adequate justification has been provided, Grand Challenges Canada may grant a partial or complete waiver of the data access requirement.

Applicants should note that the above sharing and access for impact commitments survive the end of project activities.

6.4 RESEARCH ETHICS POLICY

It is the policy of Grand Challenges Canada that research involving human subjects, research with animals, and research subject to additional regulatory requirements must be conducted in accordance with the highest internationally recognized ethical standards.

In order to receive funds from Grand Challenges Canada, initially and throughout the course of a research project, researchers must affirm and document compliance with the guiding ethical principles and standards outlined below:

1. Research involving human subjects must be conducted in a manner that demonstrates, protects, and preserves respect for persons, concern for the welfare of individuals, families and communities, and justice.
2. Research involving animals must be conducted in a manner that ensures their humane care and treatment.
3. Certain research endeavors, including but not limited to research with recombinant DNA, biohazards, and genetically modified organisms, may be subject to enhanced regulation and oversight.

While not necessary for this application and as applicable to the individual project, Grand Challenges Canada will require that, for each venue in which any part of the project is conducted either by the applicant organization or a sub-grantee or sub-contractor, all legal and regulatory approvals for the activities being conducted will be obtained in advance of commencing the regulated activity. It is required for you to agree that no funds will be expended to enroll human subjects until the necessary regulatory and ethical bodies' approvals are obtained. For further details, please see the Grand Challenges Canada [Ethics policy](#).

6.5 COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, GENDER EQUALITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Grand Challenges Canada is committed to furthering the principles of environmental sustainability, gender equality and human rights-based approach as follows:

Environmental Sustainability: Grand Challenges Canada requires that applicants commit to ensuring that the innovation will not have significant adverse environmental effects including, but not limited to, long-term and cumulative effects. Applicants shall ensure that the management of environmental effects, including any analysis, is carried out in accordance with the environmental processes and requirements of Grand Challenges Canada. Where possible, applicants should incorporate having positive environmental effects throughout the project.

Gender Equality: Grand Challenges Canada is committed to furthering principles of gender equality in the innovations it funds and across the organization. Specifically, Grand Challenges Canada is supportive of the following objectives: (1) advancing women, girls, boys, men and LGBTQI+ people's equal participation as decision-makers in shaping the sustainable development of their societies; (2) promoting the realization of the human rights of all genders; and (3) reducing gender inequalities in access to and control over the resources and benefits of development. It is believed that supporting gender equality is an important objective in and of itself, and that by using a gender lens in the sourcing and management of development innovations, sustained impact will be bolstered.

Human Rights Based Approach: Grand Challenges Canada is committed to furthering a Human Rights Based Approach. This includes the recognition that inequality and

marginalization deny people their human rights. This particularly includes the promotion of principles of participation, inclusion, equity, transparency, and accountability in an applicant's project.

6.6 RIGHTS OF GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA

This Request for Proposals is part of a discretionary granting program. Submission of an application does not create a contractual relationship between the applicant and Grand Challenges Canada.

Furthermore, all applicants acknowledge that this may evolve and that all terms are subject to change. In particular, Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right, in its sole discretion and without notice, to:

1. Cancel this Request for Proposals at any time and for any reason.
2. Amend and re-issue the Request for Proposals at any time and for any reason. This Request for Proposals is valid commencing on **October 26, 2022** and supersedes any previous Request for Proposals of this nature. The terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals apply to all applications submitted from **October 26, 2022**, going forward and may be replaced by a revised Request for Proposals in the future. Grand Challenges Canada recommends checking for any revisions to the Request for Proposals prior to the submission of your application materials.
3. Accept or reject any application that is non-conforming because it does not meet the eligibility criteria, does not comply with the application instructions and/or does not comply with the instructions for allowable costs.
4. Not award an application based on performance on a previous Grand Challenges Canada grant or project or based on the award of a grant to the applicant for the same or similar research by one of Grand Challenges Canada's partners or collaborating institutions.
5. Disqualify any application at any stage where there is an indication that the proposal was, in any way, plagiarized.
6. Accept or reject any or all applications, regardless of an application's rating based on the evaluation criteria, with or without providing an explanation.
7. Award fewer awards than expected.
8. Award applications with different funding amounts, different durations and/or different conditions than set out above.
9. Verify any information provided by applicants through independent research or by contacting third parties deemed to be reliable by Grand Challenges Canada and use that information to inform Grand Challenges Canada's funding decision.
10. Modify eligibility and evaluation criteria, including but not limited to criteria assessed at the triage stage, at any time.
11. Use video or other visual representation submitted by applicants on Grand Challenges Canada's website for public engagement.

12. Not provide critiques or feedback regarding the reasons a proposal was or was not selected.
13. Design grant awards to link to possible funding partners, including private sector investors.

6.7 GOVERNING LAW

This Request for Proposals and any resulting agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein. Each applicant agrees that this any and all disputes, actions or proceedings relating to this Request for Proposals whether as to interpretation, validity, performance or otherwise, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Province of Ontario and each applicant and Grand Challenges Canada irrevocably attorn to the jurisdiction of the courts of such province.

6.8 RISK MANAGEMENT, SAFETY, ANTI-TERRORISM, ANTI-CORRUPTION, AND ANTI-BRIBERY

Proposals must comply with all relevant Canadian legislation, as well as any applicable international anti-bribery and anti-terrorism legislation. Any person or organization named in Canadian or United Nations Security Council sanctions will not be funded. We may add to this list as more partners join the challenge.

Innovators are to manage material risks.

Proposals for projects that include work in insecure locations, must detail how they'll manage the safety and security risks faced by people and assets. If selected for funding, during negotiations innovators will be required to explain how they'll avoid corruption and the diversion of funding from its intended purpose.

For example, during negotiations innovators will be asked to provide a description of the organization's policies and procedures to address conflicts of interest and financial or other irregularities, including without limitation, adequate procedures:

- requiring the organization and its representatives to declare any personal or financial interest in any matter concerning the funded activities, and exclude that individual from the matter concerned;
- identifying steps to investigate an irregularity; and
- a timely and appropriate plan of action to recover any funds that have been subject to proven fraud.

During negotiations, innovations will also be required to include a description of the organization's policies and procedures to adequately implement internal controls for preventing bribery, corruption, fraud, and other situations of misuse of funds.

Appendix A: Country Eligibility

Eligible countries (with regards to applicant institution jurisdiction of incorporation AND implementation location) are listed in this Appendix.⁸

The below official development assistance (“ODA”) list of countries (LMICs”) is based on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (“OECD”) Development Assistance Committee (“DAC”) classification of low- and middle-income countries. ODA is defined by DAC as government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

Institutions incorporated in Canada are also considered eligible to apply (if the applicant also meets all other eligibility criteria as detailed in Section 3.3 of this RFP, including implementing project activities in one or more of the countries listed in this Appendix).

Least Developed Countries	Other Low-Income Countries (per capita GNI ≤ \$1,045 in 2020)	Other Lower Middle-Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$1,046-\$4,095 in 2020)	Other Upper Middle-Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$4,096-\$12,695 in 2020)
Afghanistan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Algeria	Albania
Angola	Syrian Arab Republic	Belize	Argentina
Bangladesh		Bolivia	Armenia
Benin		Cabo Verde	Azerbaijan
Bhutan		Cameroon	Belarus
Burkina Faso		Congo	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Burundi		Côte d'Ivoire	Botswana
Cambodia		Egypt	Brazil
Central African Republic		El Salvador	China (People's Republic of)
Chad		Eswatini	Colombia
Comoros		Ghana	Costa Rica
Democratic Republic of the Congo		Honduras	Cuba
Djibouti		India	Dominica
Eritrea		Indonesia	Dominican Republic
Ethiopia		Iran	Ecuador
Gambia		Kenya	Equatorial Guinea
Guinea		Kyrgyzstan	Fiji
Guinea-Bissau		Micronesia	Gabon
Haiti		Mongolia	Georgia
Kiribati		Morocco	Grenada

⁸ Such list might be updated by the OECD DAC from time to time – please see most up to date list here: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm>

Lao People's Democratic Republic		Nicaragua	Guatemala
Lesotho		Nigeria	Guyana
Liberia		Pakistan	Iraq
Madagascar		Papua New Guinea	Jamaica
Malawi		Philippines	Jordan
Mali		Samoa	Kazakhstan
Mauritania		Sri Lanka	Kosovo
Mozambique		Tajikistan	Lebanon
Myanmar		Tokelau	Libya
Nepal		Tunisia	Malaysia
Niger		Ukraine	Maldives
Rwanda		Uzbekistan	Marshall Islands
Sao Tome and Principe		Vanuatu	Mauritius
Senegal		Viet Nam	Mexico
Sierra Leone		West Bank and Gaza Strip	Moldova
Solomon Islands		Zimbabwe	Montenegro
Somalia			Montserrat
South Sudan			Namibia
Sudan			Nauru
Tanzania			Niue
Timor-Leste			North Macedonia
Togo			Panama
Tuvalu			Paraguay
Uganda			Peru
Yemen			Saint Helena
Zambia			Saint Lucia
			Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
			Serbia
			South Africa
			Suriname
			Thailand
			Tonga
			Turkey
			Turkmenistan
			Venezuela
			Wallis and Futuna

Appendix B: South African Medical Research Council – Terms and Conditions of Funding (2021)

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) plays a key role in developing, facilitating and supporting high quality and relevant health research in South Africa. The SAMRC has a number of ongoing research and career support mechanisms and continues to enter into new partnerships with local and international partners to bring in additional funding to support key health research and product development priorities. These Funding Terms and Conditions set out the general terms under which funding is provided by the SAMRC and the obligations of funding recipients. Terms and conditions specific to the different funding mechanisms can be found in the relevant Request for Proposals/ Applications (RFP/RFA) documents.

The SAMRC reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions from time to time at its discretion. Changes will be applicable from the date of posting on the SAMRC website. Any funding terms and conditions in specific funding calls that are contrary to these SAMRC Funding Terms and Conditions will take precedence for that particular funding mechanism only.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs for most SAMRC funding mechanisms include the following (all direct line items must be auditable):

- Personnel: Soft-funded posts for individuals working on the project (e.g. post-docs, students, technicians, project managers) will be funded, provided an accurate estimation of time allocation is provided and they are not already funded from other means.
- Consultants: These may include both local and/or foreign consultants who provide a service or capability that is not available among the project partners but is essential for the completion of project deliverables.
- Equipment: Partial or full support for the cost of equipment may, in some instances, be requested, provided that it is directly required for the project. A budget limitation may apply.
- Supplies, consumables and other direct laboratory or research costs.
- Sub-contracts: These may be to any local or international organization that provides a service or capability that is not available among the project partners but is essential for the completion of project deliverables.
- Travel and accommodation that is directly related to the execution of the project.
- Institutional overhead: An indirect costs rate of 5% to a maximum of R250k per year (or any revised indirect costs rate specified by the SAMRC from time to time) is allowed on selected funding mechanisms only, e.g. for SHIP grants. An institutional overhead is not permissible on self-initiated research and Extra Mural Unit funding.

Non-allowable costs include the following:

- Salaries of permanent or fixed term staff, e.g. tenured staff, professors etc., that are fully covered by the host institutions.

- Purchase or construction of a building.
- Rental costs for space that is owned by the institutions participating in the project.
- Recruitment or retrenchment costs for staff.
- Purchase of office furniture.

If research equipment is purchased using SAMRC funding, unless specified otherwise by the specific funding mechanism, it becomes the property of the host institution. Under no circumstances may equipment become the property of the individual researcher to whom the funding was allocated. The equipment may not be removed from the host institution and/or transferred to another institution without the express written approval of the host institution and concurrence by the SAMRC. The institution must take responsibility for any necessary maintenance of and insurance on the equipment.

Disbursement of Funds

Successful applicants must enter into a Funding Agreement or sign a Letter of Acceptance of Grant Conditions with the SAMRC before any funds are disbursed. The Funding Agreement will usually be with the primary /lead institution (lead consortium member), which will also be responsible for managing all sub-contracts with and disbursements to project partners. No administration fee may be charged by the institutions for disbursements to sub-contractors or other project partners.

The frequency of funding disbursements will be as stipulated in the approved budget. Funding disbursements are subject to the submission of ethics approvals and satisfactory progress and financial reports. The MRC may, in some cases and at its sole discretion, withhold a total amount of 10% of the final instalment amount until the final report for the project has been received and approved.

Funding disbursements will only be processed on receipt of an original VAT invoice in a format acceptable to the SAMRC. The standard payment term of 30 (thirty) days from receipt of the invoice will apply for all invoices.

Fund Management

The host institution and Principal Investigator are required to ensure that the procurement of any goods, equipment and/or services for the purposes of the project are in strict accordance with the provisions of the institution's procurement and travel policies. Funds may be spent solely according to the approved project budget and proposal and any required movement of funds between budget categories that exceeds 10% of the annual budget or roll-over of funding to the following period shall be subject to the agreement of the SAMRC in writing in advance. If this agreement is not obtained, the institution will be responsible for covering the non-approved amounts.

The institution must open a separate project or book of accounts to record all sums received from the SAMRC for the project and all expenses incurred, and is obliged to invest unexpended funds from the funding in a separate interest bearing cost centre at the institution. Any interest earned on such unexpended funds shall accrue to the

institution to disburse on the project and must be reported in the financial statements. At the end of the contractual term and/or upon completion of the project deliverables, any surplus funds are to be re-paid to the SAMRC unless an alternative use for the funds by the institution has been agreed in writing by the SAMRC.

The SAMRC is entitled, at any reasonable time during or after the project, to appoint an independent team of auditors to inspect and take copies of the project books of account, records and supporting documents of the institution to the extent necessary to verify any statement on reasonable notice and during office hours. The institution must for this purpose provide the auditors with reasonable access to the books of account, technical reports and all records relating to the management of the project together with any other information required by the auditors for this purpose.

The Institution is also required to inform the SAMRC in writing of any and all prospective funding for the project from third parties, which is used in the furtherance of the project. The institution may not accept any funding from a third party for the purposes of furthering the project without the prior written consent of the SAMRC.

Reporting

The reporting requirements differ depending on the type of funding. For most SAMRC funding mechanisms, Principal Investigators are required to submit to the SAMRC written biannual reports within 14 (fourteen) days of the end of each 6 month period following execution of the Funding Agreement and a final report within 30 (thirty) days of completion of the project. The reports must follow the format provided by the SAMRC and provide details on the progress in terms of completion of deliverables as set out in the approved project proposal. Each report must be accompanied by a financial statement in a manner and form prescribed by the SAMRC.

Funds must be used for the purpose and the research activities for which they were intended and approved by the SAMRC. Any deviations to the approved project and budget (of >10%) must be approved by the SAMRC in writing prior to implementation.

Publication

Recipients of SAMRC funding are expected to maximize the impact and utility of their work, including through timeous dissemination of their findings, preferably through open access publication. Recipients may delay the publication of data and results generated from the projects in order to first protect any potential intellectual property therein.

All publications, press releases and other documents which include results obtained in projects funded by the SAMRC must acknowledge the SAMRC in the form indicated in the relevant Funding Agreement or Letter of Acceptance of Grant Conditions. Publications, press releases and other documents from Extra Mural Research Units of the SAMRC must further include the SAMRC as a secondary affiliation of any authors from the Unit. Principal Investigators are required report on their publications in their progress reports and as requested by the SAMRC, and to submit a copy of each

publication to the SAMRC. Publications which do not contain the correct acknowledgement and/or affiliation will not be accepted as outputs of the project or Unit.

Intellectual Property

Ownership of any intellectual property (IP) and associated rights arising from SAMRC-funded projects (Foreground IP) shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act, 51 of 2008 and associated regulations as amended from time to time (IPR Act) and the institution's Intellectual Property Policy. The institution is obliged to appropriately protect, manage and commercialize the Foreground IP in accordance with all applicable provisions of the IPR Act and, in the case of some funding mechanisms, in consultation with the SAMRC. The institution / Principal Investigator is required to report any Foreground IP developed to the SAMRC as part of the reporting requirements.

The SAMRC is committed to ensuring that any Foreground IP resulting from research conducted with public funds (through the SAMRC) is commercialized to the benefit of the people of South Africa. Recipients of SAMRC funding are therefore required to ensure that any agreement concluded for the commercialization of Foreground IP provides that any resulting products shall be made available and accessible at an affordable price to people most in need within developing countries, including the Republic of South Africa.

In some instances, the SAMRC may require participation in the sharing of benefits that may arise from the commercialization of Foreground IP. The participative interest of the SAMRC will be negotiated with the institution and any other relevant parties on a case by case basis, based on the relative contributions of the parties.

Regulatory and Ethical Compliance

All SAMRC grantees are required to obtain approval for any research involving human or animal subjects or samples therefrom from the appropriate institutional review board or ethics committee and provide the SAMRC with a copy of such approval prior to embarkation on the research. This requirement extends to all sites participating in the research. Any such research must, in addition to ethical approval compliance, be conducted in accordance with the generally accepted principles of "Good Clinical Practices", which shall include but not be limited to, requiring prior informed consent from the human subjects and shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable national and international regulations and guidelines pertaining to research involving human subjects, management of data confidentiality, research involving animals, use or release of genetically modified organisms, research use of recombinant DNA, and/or use of any organism, substance or material considered to be a biohazard, including adherence to all applicable standards for transport of specimens, both locally and internationally, as appropriate.

Contact

Any queries in relation to these SAMRC Funding Terms and Conditions, as part of this Stars in Global Health Round 12 Request for Proposals partnership, may be addressed to:

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South African Medical Research Council

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Website: <https://www.samrc.ac.za/>

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^{viii} Ibid.