

Grand Challenges Ethiopia (GCE)

Promoting Health Innovations through Grand Challenge Approach

CALL FOR APPLICATION OF HEALTH INNOVATION PROPOSALS FOR SEED GRANT PROOF OF CONCEPT FOR THE YEAR 2024- 2025

This call for proposals will be open from June 15 to July 15, 2023 until 12:00 am

Background

Grand Challenges Ethiopia

Grand Challenges Ethiopia was officially launched in 2015 during the Health Sector Annual Review meeting (ARM) with the aim of stimulating the creation, appraisal, promotion and scale up of innovation ideas and concepts. The innovative ideas are expected to be responsive to the identified health sector related challenges in order to assist in the effective implementation of Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP) and contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GCE is established under Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI). GCE has its own secretariat and national GCE taskforce. It has strategic partnership with Grand Challenges Canada, Grand Challenges Bill and Melinda Gate foundation and other partners working in the health innovation.

The three funding schemes in GCE include:

- Provide seed grant support for testing best selected proof of concepts of new ideas in priority areas
- Provide Transition to scale grant for best selected proposals with tested proof of concept and have developed prototype or already generated pilot study result at seed grant stage to refine prototype and to test its effectiveness and impact at wider scale
- Provide validation test grant for innovations and technological solutions that occurred elsewhere in the world for its applicability in Ethiopian context

Priority areas

Challenge 1. Maternal Health

Challenge 2. Newborn and childhood health

Challenge 3. Anti-Microbial resistance

Challenge 4. Pastoralist Health

Challenge 5. Adolescent and Youth Health

Challenge 6. Non communicable Diseases mainly cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases

Objective of this call

To call applications for proof of concept of idea of health innovation seed grant of up to 400,000 Ethiopian Birr per project with possibility of amendment to increase the grant amount.

Who is Eligible?

1. Applicants must be individuals or group of individuals with a project lead having an affiliation to a government organization and applicants should be citizens and currently living in Ethiopia. But foreigners resident in Ethiopia can be member(s) of the applicants as Co-PI.
2. All project implementation sites must be inside Ethiopia.
3. A project can have a maximum of two Project Leads, at least one Project Lead must be affiliated to the accountable hosting Governmental Institution
4. A Project Lead may only be listed on one (1) application. An institution may, however, be the applicant on multiple applications, if all applications have different Project Leads
5. Applicants should use the GCE application form which can be downloaded from AHRI website found under GCE menu bar and proposals not using the GCE application format will not be considered for evaluation
6. All proposals submitted should be on the specified priority areas indicated on the announced call.
7. Application must include all required information and attachment. Only complete applications will be considered for review
8. Grand Challenges Ethiopia will fund technological innovations, social and business innovations on the six priority thematic areas listed above
9. Grand Challenges Ethiopia will not fund discovery science (pure research proposal aiming at improving knowledge), routine capacity-building initiatives or ongoing programmatic funding being funded by government or partner organizations
10. Proof of concepts of innovative ideas aiming at improving equity of the health system will be encouraged

How to apply

Applicants need to apply using GCE application format that can be downloaded from AHRI official website: www.ahri.gov.et/gce/application_form; you can also request the application format from GCE secretariat via: grandchallengesethiopia@gmail.com

Application must include

- Innovation transition to scale concept note, project work plan and budget breakdown (see details on the application format)
- In the concept note, the impactful and effectiveness of your project innovative idea should be clearly described
- Description of impact and effectiveness of your project innovative idea in the concept note are subjected for verification
- The CVs of Project Lead(s) and co-lead(s)
- Support letter from project leads' organization
- Support letter from co-leads' organization(s) if different from Project lead's organization

The word document of proposals should be submitted electronically to the Grand Challenges Ethiopia secretariat using its email address grandchallengesethiopia@gmail.com within the expected date of submission. The received application is considered after an email confirmation from GCE secretariat

Evaluation Process of Summited Proposals

All proposals received within the submission deadline will undergo two stages of evaluation process using predefined criteria which includes screening the proposals for eligibility and completeness of the application by AHRI in house screening committee and detailed proposal content evaluation by the independent GCE taskforce evaluation team.

Predefined criteria for detail proposal content evaluation

This predefined detailed evaluation process will undergo two evaluation steps as follows:

Step 1: Mandatory Criteria (pass/fail mark)

- (a) **Innovativeness** of the proposed innovation solution
- (b) **Relevance and Responsiveness** of the proposed innovation solution to GCE priority challenges
- (c) **Maturity** of the Proposed Innovation Solution for its appropriateness for the call
- (d) **Compliance** of the proposed innovation solution with existing policy, relevant laws, rules and regulations

Proposals must meet all mandatory evaluation criteria through achieving a "Pass" in order to proceed to the next evaluation steps.

Step 2: Point Rated Criteria (/100 points)

- (a) **Potential societal impact** (capability to yield scalable solution & improvement) -15 points
- (b) **Clarity on likelihood of success and failure** of the proposed innovation solution – 15 points
- (c) **Feasibility of implementation** – 15 points
- (d) **Scalability and Sustainability** – 20 points
- (e) **Project execution plan** – 15 points
- (f) **Team Clarity and Leadership Capability** – 10 points
- (g) **Value for many** (Budget plan versus GCE funding scope) – 10 points

All those who have scored high points will be considered as Pre-qualified proposals for joint taskforce final evaluation and decision to select best proposals for award.

Funding

Through this call for proposals, Grand Challenges Ethiopia will award seed grant funding up to 400,000 Ethiopian Birr per project with possibility of amendment to increase the grant amount to be implemented over a maximum of 18 months. The project period must be between January 1/2024 and June 31/2025. The value for funding may vary and will commensurate with the proposed project. GCE reserves the right to fully or partially fund selected proposal(s) to increase or decrease budget as it deems appropriate and at its sole discretion.

Note

Applicants will be notified by GCE in writing of the decision concerning their application with in four (4) months after the closing date. Notice of decision will not be given before the whole assessment process is finalized. Innovators should be aware that appropriate research ethics approvals are required and must submit associated documents to GCE before implementation of the proposed innovation.

Innovators should be aware of respecting intellectual property right as appropriate and must apply only for their own innovation idea/work for this seed grant. Innovators who have already owned patent right for innovative idea at early stage but not yet tested/proofed are encouraged to submit with their CV

GCE would like to underline that funding for health innovation at proof of concept/seed level will be subjected to the availability of fund from Federal Ministry of Health. Furthermore, no financial commitment will be made by GCE until an agreement has been signed with the chosen organization.

For further information

Contact Grand Challenges Ethiopia Secretariat through:

Phone number: [+2511183566823](tel:+2511183566823), or

E-mail: grandchallengesethiopia@gmail.com