

Externally Facing Call for Applications

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

Call opens: 22nd May 2020 at 17:00 EAT

Call closes: 30th June 2020 at 23:00 EAT

Background

For Innovations to play a major role in achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) they are required to successfully and sustainably go to scale. However, far too many promising innovations fail to successfully scale their impact, due to a lack of knowledge and evidence on how to manage this long and difficult process. Opportunities to learn, adapt and improve by drawing on the collective experience of others are still scarce, as is accessing appropriate resources such as funding mechanisms linked to valuable know-how and expertise. This reality inhibits the acceleration of promising solutions, their introduction and integration into systems.

Grand Challenges and partners (Grand Challenges Explorations by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, USAID- Center for Development Innovation, Grand Challenges South Africa and Grand Challenges Africa) have collectively invested seed funding of up to \$140 million in 490 innovative projects in Africa to develop solutions in health and development. A survey of the 490 legacy projects was conducted by Grand Challenges Africa in November 2018 to determine their progress and important components of support that are needed to enable them transition to scale. Scale up funding was cited as the key need with 85.3% of the respondents stating the need for scale up funds and matching funds. Extension of a validated model to other jurisdictions and geographies, large scale production, establishment of necessary infrastructure for scale and business development were the key fund utilization areas as pointed out by a total 60% of respondents.

Through the first round of Transition to scale (TTS) call of 2019, Grand Challenges Africa acknowledges the unique challenges and opportunities that innovations at different stages of development face. Consequently, we have purposed to give specific attention to each of the four stages of development being Transition to Scale 1 (TTS 1) up to Transition to Scale (TTS 4). The evaluation criteria, funding amounts, grant period and post funding support is tailored for each of the four stages of innovation development so as to ensure responsiveness and equity in the support we provide.

Overall Goal of the Call

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

Objectives

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

Eligibility criteria

1. Non-profit organization, for-profit company, or another recognized institution that is incorporated in an eligible jurisdiction in Africa and can receive and administer funding. Please note that we must approve any changes in applicant organization from the originally-funded grant.
2. Founders or PIs should be African Citizens or residents of Africa. Where there is local international ownership, applicants should have adequate control to make executive decisions about the project. They should demonstrate a strong grip on research expertise (being the PI or collaborator) and ownership of the venture.
3. Previous or current grantee of various organizations including Grand Challenges family (Grand Challenges Explorations by Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Africa, USAID- Centre for Development Innovation, Grand Challenges Canada, Grand Challenges South Africa and Grand Challenges Ethiopia), other innovation incubators and accelerators and partners who align with Grand Challenges Africa priorities will be invited to recommend innovators in their pipeline to apply for the funding.

NB: The applicant should NOT have another running TTS grant from Grand Challenges Africa.

4. Projects that have demonstrated proof of concept by presenting sufficient and credible evidence to substantiate that their idea has demonstrated improved health and development outcome(s) and/or the reduction of significant barrier(s) to health / development and demand for the solution in a controlled or limited setting and have a plan to transition to scale.
5. Any project from the Grand Challenges Family that has a Transition-to-Scale agreement with requirement for 1:1 matching through partnerships will be eligible for this funding. The amount of funding to be awarded to such groups will be determined by the GC Africa investment committee
6. Most of the applicant's activities and budget must be carried out/spent in an eligible African country (or countries). If the nature of the proposal means that a significant amount of funding will not be spent in one of these eligible jurisdictions, applicants must provide strong reasoning and convincing arguments that ultimately the proposal will benefit people in those countries.
7. A Project Lead may only be listed on one (1) application to this Request for Proposals. An institution may be the applicant on multiple applications, provided all applications have different Project Leads.
8. Applications must include all required information. Only complete applications will be considered by the triage and review committees.

What we will NOT fund

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

All criteria are subject to change as new funders join the challenge; updates will be published in the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) website and The Grand Challenges Africa Innovation Network (GCAiN).

Scope of support

Financing

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

Further guidance on the funding and timelines across the various TTS levels are available in the TTS definition document.

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

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

The selected innovators will be funded through grants or a blend between Grant and debt.

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

Technical and business support

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

Access to the Grand Challenges African Innovation Network (GCAIN).

All applicants and innovators, regardless of whether they qualify for phase 2 funding, will be eligible to join and create profiles in the platform. This will be an opportunity to showcase their innovations, interact with fellow innovators and other stakeholders as well as learn from experts in various areas of interest.

Timelines

Activity	Data
Call for Applications	22nd May-30th June 2020
Science Expert Review Panel	July/ August 2020
Business expert review Panel	September 2020
Rebuttals	October 2020
Interviews at the AAS	November 2020
Investment Committee Decision	November 2020
Feedback to all Applicants	December 2020
Due Diligence	January-March 2021
Grant Start Date	May 2021

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

For more information on the application process please see our [Rules and Guidelines](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Enquiries

Questions about the GC Africa Transition to Scale program or the application process can be directed to gcafrica@aasciences.africa Responses to frequently asked questions will be periodically posted on our website. Additional resources for the application are available through the Grand Challenges Innovation Network- [GCAiN](#).

NB – Only those applications received through the Grants Management System - [Ishango](#) will be considered for funding.