



# CREATING HOPE IN CONFLICT:

A HUMANITARIAN  
GRAND CHALLENGE

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### HUMANITARIAN GRAND CHALLENGE: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document addresses frequently asked questions regarding the Humanitarian Grand Challenge Request for Proposals (RFP) announced February 2018. Additional questions must be submitted to: [humanitarian.gc@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:humanitarian.gc@grandchallenges.ca).

This document will be updated periodically during the application submission period. The deadline to submit any questions is **April 9, 2018**, after which we may not respond.

Please contact [fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca) for technical support with the application through Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal.

### ENGAGEMENT WITH PRIVATE SECTOR, AFFECTED PEOPLE AND/OR HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

#### *What does "Private Sector engagement" mean?*

A. We place strong emphasis on supporting innovation that engages the private sector in its design and evaluation, as we believe that it is best positioned to more effectively, quickly, and cost-efficiently produce or deliver goods or services that cannot be otherwise delivered by traditional forms of humanitarian assistance (see Section 2.6 of the RFP).

Private sector includes small, medium and large enterprises in any relevant country.

Engagement is loosely defined at **seed stage** and can include distinct engagement such as discussions, or close engagement like partnerships. Seed applicants are not required to partner with the private sector at this stage, but those who do, will be viewed positively.



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Innovators in the **transition-to-scale** program are expected to engage private sector actors for technical expertise, distribution channels, local knowledge, financial banking, or other core capacities. Though it is strongly preferred, secured commitment of matched funds may not be required at the time of application. In some circumstances, the Humanitarian Grand Challenge partners may be able to assist in finding appropriate private sector partners as long as applicants are able to articulate their needs.

## TOPIC AREAS

### ***If my innovation isn't targeting the key focus areas as mentioned in Section 2.2 of the RFP, can I still receive funding?***

A. No. Proposals that do not address water, sanitation (WASH), electrical power, life-saving information, or health supplies and services will not be considered for funding in this RFP.

### ***Who is the target population?***

A. Proposals should outline how they are focused on reaching those who are vulnerable and hard-to-reach in a conflict-generated humanitarian emergency.

Factors that increase a person's vulnerability include but are not limited to physical barriers that make it even harder for people to access assistance, or social barriers that marginalize certain groups (e.g. exclusionary attitudes linked to sex, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, age, people with disabilities, minorities, or people who are stateless). See Section 2.3 of the RFP.

### ***Do you consider refugees as conflict affected population, even though they are now outside the conflict zone?***

A. Yes, refugees are considered conflict-affected persons and are a relevant target population for this opportunity. That said, we encourage innovations that also are able to assist internally displaced persons.

### ***Under the area of focus on Energy, would you consider alternative energy solutions?***

A. Alternative energy sources are within scope of this program.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### ***Who is eligible?***

A. Eligible applicants include recognized institutions (e.g., social enterprises, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies) that are formed and legally registered and can successfully execute the activities in their respective technical area, and are capable of receiving and administering grant funding. Please see the eligibility criteria in Section 4.1 of the Request for Proposals.

### ***I am from <Country name>. Am I eligible to apply for funding?***

A. There are no geographical restrictions, therefore legally formed organizations that are not the subject of a USA, UK, UN Security Council, EU, or World Bank sanction are eligible to apply for funding.

***Can multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (UN) apply to this Request for Proposals?***

A. In our past experience, we have found that multilateral organizations such as the UN are typically unable to agree to the terms and conditions of our Grant Agreement. We highly recommend that these organizations instead apply through a local eligible partner organization. Staff from the UN office could act as collaborators on the project.

***Do I need any specific academic qualifications to apply?***

A. No. This competition is open to everyone regardless of age or academic qualifications. The Project Lead and team must have the skills to carry out the proposed activities of the innovation.

***We have two partners – one health centre and one delivery centre – can we apply as a consortium?***

A. One of the partners should apply as the lead applicant. This organization should be capable of entering into a contract with GCC and be able to receive and administer funds, if the application is successful. The other partners would act as collaborators or sub-grantees on the project, with funds flowing to them via the lead organization.

***Can a Project Lead submit two different applications for the Humanitarian Grand Challenge?***

A. Project Leads are permitted to submit only one (1) application per Request for Proposals. Applications for other Request for Proposals at Grand Challenges Canada are permitted (i.e., an application may be submitted to each of the Humanitarian and the Stars in RMNCH Requests for Proposals).

Please note: It is an expectation that each proposal for each submission is unique. If an applicant is successful in more than one program and Grand Challenges Canada's deems that the proposals are conducting the same work, funding will only be granted through one program and the selection of which program will be up to Grand Challenges Canada. Finally, if an organization is selected for funding in multiple programs with the same Project Lead, the projects will be carefully assessed for execution risks that may undermine the likelihood of success for any or all projects selected for funding.

***Can a Project lead in one application be a collaborator in another application?***

A. Yes, a Project Lead can be a collaborator on another application.

***Can two or more proposals be submitted from the same institution/organization?***

A. Yes, multiple applications may come from the same applicant institution/organization, but a Project Lead is permitted to submit only one (1) application per competition.

***Can one institution hold multiple grants?***

A. Yes, an institution can hold multiple grants.

## FUNDING AND DURATION

### *What is the difference between seed and transition-to-scale grants?*

A. Seed grants provide up to \$250,000 Canadian Dollars (CAD) in funding to support the development and validation of innovative ideas over a maximum project duration of 24 months. Proposals must explain clearly what the expected outcomes of the projects are and if successful, how they would scale up.

Transition-to-scale grants provide up to \$1,000,000 CAD in funding to support refinement, testing and implementation of innovative solutions that have already achieved proof of concept, to bring them toward scale over a maximum project duration of 24 months. Applicants will be asked to submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) by the application deadline and will be notified directly if invited to submit more information if selected for further consideration.

### *We have an innovation that has been tested already and would like to take it to scale. Can we apply for Transition-to-Scale now, or do we need to apply for Seed funding first, and after 24 months trial, depending on the results, apply for the Transition to Scale funding?*

A. There are two separate, simultaneous funding streams – one for Seed projects and one for Transition to Scale. You should determine which stream is appropriate for your innovation. See section 2.4 of the RFP, as well as the evaluation criteria in section 4.5.

Based on your description, assuming Proof of Concept has been successfully achieved, you could submit a Letter of Intent for Transition to Scale funding.

### *Is my innovation best suited to Seed or to Transition to Scale funding?*

A. We are not able to provide specific guidance on your innovation. However, at the Transition to Scale level, we would be looking for strong proof of concept that the solution works in *conflict settings*. If your solution has yet to be tested in a conflict setting then a seed proposal may be more appropriate. We would strongly recommend reviewing the evaluation criteria in the RFP (section 4.5) to determine which funding stream your innovation is best suited for

### *How many projects will be funded?*

A. Funding for approximately **10-15 Seed projects** is expected to be awarded. Successful proposals for seed funding will each be awarded grants of up to **\$250,000 CAD over a maximum of twenty-four (24) months** to support the validation and testing of new approaches

Funding for between **2 and 4 Transition-to-Scale projects** is expected of up to **\$1,000,000 CAD with technical support over a maximum of twenty-four (24) months** to support the refinement, testing, and implementation of innovative solutions that have already achieved proof of concept.

### *Can the proposed project exceed the time limits?*

A. No. Please ensure that the proposed project is feasible within the time limits (i.e., 24 months) set in the Request for Proposals. Please note that this will be evaluated under the 'Project Execution Plan' evaluation criterion as set out in Section 4.4 of the RFP.

***Can you share a sample Grant Agreement so that we can ensure we are able to comply with the award terms and conditions?***

A. We are not able to share a full Grant Agreement template with you at this stage. The full due diligence process will begin once successful applicants have been chosen, at which point the full list of requirements will be shared.

Some key policies that must be complied with are contained within the RFP, in sections 2.9 and 2.10. Financial terms are also contained within the RFP, see section 4.7. We recommend reviewing the entire RFP in detail.

***I am applying for Transition to Scale funding but I am not sure what can be considered as match? Can it be a mix of cash and in-kind?***

A. In your proposal you should describe all of the resources you believe you can/will secure, whether it be cash or in-kind. Should your proposal move through to the next phase of the review process, we will explore what can be considered as match funding in more detail. Most awardees will be required to secure a 1:1 match within the TTS funding period; however, this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis during the due diligence process.

***The RFP states that the minimum for Transition to Scale match funding is 25%. It also states that 1:1 match is required. Please can you clarify?***

A. Awardees will be expected to secure 1:1 matching funds over the course of the funding period. Match funding requirements will be determined on a case by case basis during our due diligence/negotiation process.

***Can you define further what Transition to Scale match funding means?***

A. We define match funding as cash received directly from strategic partners that furthers the development of the innovation. Note that typically, we would not consider funds received more than a year ago to be match funding, the idea being that match funds should represent 'new money' that can help grow the innovation beyond the proof of concept phase. The match funding principle is designed to encourage "smart partnerships" that can optimize the impact of the innovation. Ideally, a "smart partner" is not simply providing money, but also helping to scale the innovation via their distribution channels, local knowledge, entrepreneurial experience, etc.



## PROJECT SCOPE

### ***Do you emphasize certain elements in the Integrated Innovation® approach (i.e., science and technology versus social and business innovation)?***

A. Grand Challenges Canada defines Integrated Innovation® as the coordinated application of scientific/technological, social and business innovation to develop solutions to complex challenges. This approach does not discount the singular benefits of each of these types of innovation alone. While proposals may emphasize innovation in one of these areas more than others, all proposals should describe how they apply Integrated Innovation within their proposals. Proposals will be reviewed according to the criteria laid out in the Request for Proposals. For more information on our Integrated Innovation approach, please refer to our website: [grandchallenges.ca/integrated-innovation](http://grandchallenges.ca/integrated-innovation).

Proposed solutions should include a combination of:

- **Scientific/Technological Innovation:** Based in the psychological, natural, health or behavioural sciences or in engineering or economics; can be simple, i.e., 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
- **Business Innovation:** Maximizes the value, relevance and unique quality of the solution to create demand and **financial sustainability**; addresses barriers to affordability and accessibility.

### ***If the program or model proposed is already being implemented, can it still be eligible for funding?***

A. Our definition of innovation includes trying existing ideas in new contexts. So, if something that works in a stable context, or a natural disaster had never been tried in a conflict setting, that would be considered for funding. Applicants will need to clearly define why they believe the idea would apply in another context.

### ***The application asks us to “list the assumptions made about the plan of your proposed project and the expected results”. What type of assumption do you mean?***

A. In this section, applicants can describe any major assumptions that are made when describing the project's timelines, activities and execution plan for the project. Some examples include assumptions around partners that need to be secured, regional unrest, ability to reach target population, or other important considerations or risks to the project's success.

### ***Can proposals cover multiple countries/regions, or must we focus on one country/region?***

A. There is no restriction on the number of implementation countries/regions. We recommend carefully considering feasibility within the project timeframe/budget.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

***What is the application deadline?***

A. Applicants must submit an application no later than **Thursday, April 12, 2018, 11:30 am Eastern Time (North America)/ 15:30 GMT.**

***What is the deadline to create an account?***

A. Applicants should create an account no later than **Monday, April 9, 2018** (see more below).

***Are there specific application questions or templates we need to use to apply?***

A. The application questions can be accessed online via our community portal. As well as responding to the questions, you will also submit a budget using the template provided on the form. Letters of support, letters of recommendation and additional biographical Information can also be submitted through the application site, but are not required.

To access Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal ([gcc.fluxx.io](http://gcc.fluxx.io)), you must **first** create an account to identify yourself and the organization that will be applying for a grant. A response will be provided within **one business day**. To create an account, please visit: [gcc.fluxx.io/lois/new](http://gcc.fluxx.io/lois/new).

Once your account has been approved, you will receive an email with your user name and password. You can then visit [gcc.fluxx.io](http://gcc.fluxx.io) to start your application. Please answer all the mandatory questions, as incomplete applications will not be considered. For technical support, please contact [fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca). You can also access all Grand Challenges Canada Request for Proposals, as well as frequently asked questions, on our Funding Opportunities web page: [grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities](http://grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities).

***In what language should the application be completed?***

A. Applications must be submitted in English.

***What evidence or data should be included in the application?***

A. The review committee assesses each proposal against the evaluation criteria stated in the Request for Proposals. Any evidence or data that supports the proposed idea with respect to the evaluation criteria should be included.

***Can I arrange a meeting with Grand Challenges Canada to discuss the call/my proposal in more detail?***

A. Unfortunately, given the number of applications we receive and in the interest of being fair to all applicants, we cannot discuss individual proposals in detail. Please review the Request for Proposals available at [humanitariangrandchallenge.org](http://humanitariangrandchallenge.org) for information on the eligibility criteria, areas of interest and evaluation process. If you think your proposal is a fit with the call, you are most welcome to apply.

***Can I submit my proposal by email, mail or in person?***

A. Proposals cannot be submitted by email, mail or in person. All applications **must** be submitted to the Humanitarian Grand Challenge program through Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal. In order to gain access to the Portal, applicants must first create an account: [gcc.fluxx.io/lois/new](http://gcc.fluxx.io/lois/new).

The deadline to create account is April 9, 2018. Note that it takes one (1) business day for Grand Challenges Canada to process your account request. Requests made after this date will not be processed.

***Is there room for an extension beyond the submission deadline?***

A. There are no extensions possible on our deadline.

**Please consider submitting your application early, as technical support may take up to one business day to respond.** If you have any technical challenges submitting a completed proposal through our Community Portal, please contact technical support immediately ([fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca)). We will do our best to respond to requests received prior to the submission deadline.

***Is there a requirement for all authors/researchers of the proposal materials to be acknowledged?***

A. Grand Challenges Canada does not require the authors of the proposal materials to be formally acknowledged on the submitted proposal. The proposal must be uploaded by the Project Lead, who certifies their authorization to submit the application on behalf of their organization. The Project Lead would also be signing on to Grand Challenges Canada's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.grandchallenges.ca/terms-and-conditions/>) which indicate, among other things, that the user-generated content uploaded is wholly their original work or that they have the necessary right, title, interest and licenses to upload and/or make available to Grand Challenges Canada.

## **BUDGET, USE OF FUNDS, ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

***Are indirect costs or overhead considered eligible expenses?***

A. Indirect and overhead costs are not eligible under Grand Challenges Canada's agreements. A detailed list of all eligible costs and a breakdown of budget categories can be found in the Request for Proposals.

***When converting our budget, what currency should we use?***

A. Please submit your summary budget in Canadian Dollars (CAD). You can find the current exchange rate using this site: [anda.com/currency/converter](http://anda.com/currency/converter).

***Is time spent working on the application an eligible cost?***

A. No. The time dedicated to writing/submitting the proposal is not reimbursable. Salaries to execute the project, if it is selected for funding, may be included in the budget.

***Can we include part of the office renting cost and utilities for our local partner where project implementation will take place?***

A. You cannot include part of office renting cost and utilities for your local partner. Only costs directly related to project activities are allowed under this Request for Proposals. For example, rent would only be an eligible expense if a space is being rented for participants/research



directly (e.g., a daycare centre). If it were office space for administrative work to be completed, then it would **not** be an eligible expense.

***Is there any difference between a Project Lead and a collaborator in terms of what funds they can receive?***

A. A collaborator may receive funding as remuneration if they are an employee of your organization or a sub-grant organization, or they may be compensated through subcontractors' fees. If selected for funding, more information would be provided during grant negotiations.

***Are organizations allowed to hire additional staff (i.e. NOT subcontracting) specifically for the purpose of implementing the Project?***

A. Yes, you may hire new staff to support project implementation as appropriate.

***What do you mean by the term 'sub-grant'?***

A. Sub-grants are agreements that you might have with partners who are collaborating on core and integral elements of your innovation. In such instances, our funds would flow from your organization to these partnering organizations.

## OTHER

### ***What claim does Grand Challenges Canada make on IP ownership, or requirements for licenses or publications?***

A. The solutions supported by this program comprise innovative technologies, services, business models, knowledge and/or products to promote humanitarian action in conflict-affected contexts. In order to ensure meaningful access for target populations, the successful development and deployment of these solutions 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 Global Access Policy will guide our approach to intellectual property, and we urge all applicants to consider their willingness to submit an application in compliance with Grand Challenges Canada's Global Access Policy

Successful applicants will be required to commit to compliance with Grand Challenges Canada's Global Access Policy and to sign a Global Access Agreement with Grand Challenges Canada, in line with the Guiding Principles, applicable to the innovative solutions and project outputs supported by this program. The Global Access Agreement will provide a non-exclusive license to intellectual property rights in supported innovations (including background intellectual property) permitting Grand Challenges Canada and its funding partners 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. Applicants should note that Grand Challenges Canada may be required to provide sub-license or sub-distribution rights to the funding partners, or one or more persons appointed by the funding partners. Applicants should note that the above global access commitments survive the end of project activities.

### ***Is there any way to connect with potential collaborators in eligible countries?***

A. Grand Challenges Canada has established a Global Health Innovation Group on LinkedIn for the purpose of connecting potential collaborators. Please see the Members Guide at [linkedin.com/groups/3839474](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3839474) to navigate LinkedIn's features to find other members to collaborate with.

The Humanitarian Grand Challenge also has a Facebook Group:  
[facebook.com/groups/HumanitarianGC](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HumanitarianGC)

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

The deadline to submit questions submitted is April 9, 2018, after which we may not respond. Please contact [fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca) for technical support with the application through Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal.

Please contact [humanitarian.gc@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:humanitarian.gc@grandchallenges.ca) for any questions that are not addressed in this FAQ.

For information on all Grand Challenges Canada programs, please find us at [grandchallenges.ca](http://grandchallenges.ca), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

For information on the Humanitarian Grand Challenge, please see:

- [humanitariangrandchallenge.org](http://humanitariangrandchallenge.org)
- [facebook.com/HumanitarianGC/](https://facebook.com/HumanitarianGC/)
- [twitter.com/HumanitarianGC](https://twitter.com/HumanitarianGC)

**This document was last updated on March 7th, 2018.**