



# Health Partnership Scheme

## Call for Applications: Sustainability, Scale-up and Access - Small Grants

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### 1 Background

The Health Partnership Scheme (HPS) supports the development of health services in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and engages the UK's health sector in a programme that harnesses UK health institutions and professionals in partnerships with LMIC counterparts. The purpose of the partnerships is to improve health systems and services through skills transfer, capacity development, and other collaborative work.

DFID has awarded an extension to the HPS until February 2019 to sustain partnership momentum until a decision on a potential successor programme is made. The focus of the extension period is on responding to some of the findings of an external HPS evaluation conducted by Triple Line and Health Partners International in 2016 and maintaining the momentum built for health partnerships over the course of the HPS. Evaluation findings demonstrated the effectiveness of the partnership and volunteering approach in supporting health worker capacity strengthening. The HPS has also been successful in strengthening partnerships and project approaches enhancing the potential for sustainability and wide-scale change. The evaluation also provided recommendations for the current and potential future programme.

It is against this background that THET is in a position to invite health partnerships to apply for funding as part of this HPS extension. The focus of the grant stream is on the other hand different from previous HPS grant rounds and the timeframe shorter. It has been agreed by DFID with reference to the findings and recommendations of the HPS evaluation, DFID's health systems strengthening and country priorities, the limited time and funding available for projects.

### 2 Focus countries and themes

#### Countries

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Grants under this funding round are restricted to projects in a small number of countries, selected on the basis of existing health partnership work and THET's capacity to support new projects. These countries are:

- Ghana
- Burma/Myanmar
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia.

Exceptionally, grant applications for work in neighbouring countries (i.e. that share a border with at least one of these five countries) will be considered, if they closely match the themes below and THET has the capacity to support them. Please note that this only applies to neighbouring countries that are low-income countries and DFID priority countries.

## Themes

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The theme for grants allocated under the final HPS extension period is ‘Sustainability, scale-up and access’. Small grants are available for projects designed to:

- **Sustain improvements:** For partnerships to attempt to make the health system improvements they have previously achieved sustainable in one health institution or at community level, without further input from the UK partner once the project proposed has been completed.
- **Scale-up improvements:** For partnerships to scale-up the health system improvements they have previously achieved, by supporting other departments in one health institution to adopt them or by embedding them at a higher level of decision-making in one health institution (e.g. getting an institutional improvement adopted across all departments in one health institution).
- **Make improvements accessible:** For partnerships to make the health system improvements they have previously achieved accessible to poor and socially excluded groups among the health workforce or health service users in one health institution or at community level, including where possible to women, girls and people with disabilities

## 3. Approach

The intention of the Sustainability, scale-up and access grants is to build on the successes of health partnership work to date and embed them in the wider health system. They may require partnerships to engage with other departments and individuals who have not previously been involved, who can offer specific knowledge, skills, access or authority in order to strengthen their work and impact.

Funded projects will emphasise approaches such as learning, policy engagement, leadership and management that strengthen project outcomes and partnership development, for instance:

- **Learning:** Promoting joint learning among partners and stakeholders. Identifying and sharing lessons learnt from the project with others. Using learning to make improvements to the project and informing future partnership work.
- **Policy engagement:** Engaging with senior management and decision makers at institutional or national level to secure long-term support for particular issues and approaches relevant to project work and/or influence national priorities and adequate implementation of policies.
- **Leadership and management:** Supporting partners, decision makers and health workers to develop and strengthen their leadership skills. Assisting people in management, training and mentorship

roles to effectively support and inspire health staff, influencing the efficiency and quality of services delivered.

## 4 Size and Duration

Grants are available for a period of twelve months, and will begin from 1 November 2017 onwards. All project activity must be completed by 30 November 2018. Grants of £15,000–£50,000 are available.

## 5 Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

### Core requirements and country eligibility

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The core requirements for small grant applications under Sustainability, scale-up and access are:

- Applications must be made by established health partnerships between UK health institution(s) and an overseas health institution(s) that have received funding under the HPS or from other sources in the past.
- Grants are for single, time-bound projects that are deliverable within the budget and timeframe proposed and agreed with THET.
- Projects must be operating within Ghana, Burma/Myanmar, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Exceptionally, grant applications for work in neighbouring countries that meet project and partnership requirements will be considered. Please note that this only applies to neighbouring countries that are low-income countries and DFID priority countries.
- Projects must be operating in one or more LMIC health institution.

### Institutional Eligibility

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In order to be eligible for this grant stream, the UK institution must be formally recognised as a health education, regulatory or healthcare delivery institution. This includes Professional Associations.

**Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are not eligible to apply for this grant stream.** We acknowledge that some Health Partnerships have a charitable arm to support fund-raising activities, and these charitable entities are eligible to have a role as Managing Agent for a grant. However, the applicants must be able to show that the project will be delivered by the eligible UK and low-income country health institutions and not the NGO.

UK partners (and not an NGO) will be responsible for signing the grant contract and overall delivery and reporting of the project.

NGOs are not eligible as overseas partner institutions unless they are an overseas not-for-profit clinic or hospital.

### Project and partnership requirements

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The HPS Sustainability, scale-up and access grant stream will fund a wide variety of projects in which the ultimate goal is to strengthen health systems and services in LMICs. If the core requirements and country eligibility are met, applications will then be judged throughout the application process against

the project and partnership criteria outlined below. Please refer to the Q&A document for a more detailed explanation of each point below.

#### Project requirements:

- The project clearly contributes to the overall aims of the HPS and the grant stream.
- The project has a clear goal that is achievable with the resources and time available
- The project is aligned with overseas country health priorities and plans
- The project builds on a successful health systems strengthening intervention by a health partnership
- The approach to the project is appropriate and relevant to the local context.
- The project pays careful attention to issues of equity, i.e. access of women and girls and people with disabilities to training and services
- The project has clear learning objectives for UK volunteers
- The project has a clear methodology and resources for measuring success, including engagement with researchers where possible
- The project demonstrates value for money
- The project is based on recognised good practice
- The project demonstrates critical reflection on previous work and builds on lessons learnt.

#### Partnership requirements:

- Stakeholders in the LMIC community and / or LMIC and UK health systems are involved in project design and management.
- The partnership has a clear understanding of other health partnerships and other health actors operating in the field and is taking opportunities for learning and collaboration
- The partnership demonstrates the Principles of Partnerships (PoPs) and has clear development objectives
- The partnership has the capacity to deliver the project.

THET particularly welcomes applications that take a holistic approach to improving health systems and services by engaging with the key areas of medical equipment (Health Technology Management); patient safety and quality improvement; and/or leadership and management, in order to maximise the potential for interventions to have a sustainable and institution-wide impact. THET encourages grant applications for innovative projects or projects that can demonstrate elements of innovation in its approach. THET will look for innovation in any aspect of the project, such as the clinical approach, the approach to sustainability, the ways that activities or improved services are made accessible to hard-to-reach service users, or the structures used to scale improvements up beyond a single institution. Innovation is, however, not a project requirement. THET will also look for grant applications that respond to the recommendations in the HPS evaluation.

Please use the THET application form and budget template when submitting your applications. Only applications using THET templates will be accepted. Please also read the Q&A document for more details on the grants call, criteria and selection process.

## 6 Funding Restrictions

### **This Call for applications will fund:**

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- Training and workshop costs, e.g. venue costs, refreshments and training materials (but not per diems – please see below)
- National and international economy class travel only
- Travel associated costs, e.g. travel insurance (if not already covered by a central institution policy), accommodation, subsistence, visas and vaccinations
- Activity communications costs (costs related to activity overseas), e.g. teleconferencing, telephone and eLearning
- Publications and the development of web pages
- Equipment up to a maximum of 20% of the total grant (this includes both medical and office equipment)
- Bank charges for transfer of funds between partners and to others
- Reasonable project management costs. This can include project staff salary contributions for part time or full time posts required to deliver the project within the set project period. THET would not expect this to ever exceed 20% of the total budget and this will form a key component of the value for money assessment. Communication around management, e.g. telephone and internet costs, office costs and administration support, is included here
- Consultancy costs up to 5% of the total budget. THET would expect technical expertise to be delivered by volunteers
- Contingency up to 1.5% of the total budget to factor in exchange rate variances and/or bank charges.
- Monitoring and evaluation costs. THET would expect this to form 5 – 20% of your budget.

### **This Call for applications will not fund:**

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- Entertainment costs
- Costs relating to the delivery of health services outside of the scope of the project
- Per diems

## 7 Application and Selection Process

### **Pre-application webinar**

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THET will hold two webinars to run through the application process and project planning. It will also be an opportunity for applicants to ask questions about the grants calls and application process. These will be held from 12pm to 1pm UK time on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August and from 9am to 10am UK time on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. They are designed especially for LMIC partners. To register, please click on one of the links below or copy and paste it in your browser, according to the webinar session you'd like to attend:

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7331194274049681665>

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4372875776146290433>

Please note that the content covered at each session will be the same therefore, there is no need to attend both. The webinars will be recorded and be made available for potential applicants until the application closing date.

Once you have registered, you will receive webinar joining instructions and reminders from GoToWebinar. If you have not received confirmation of your registration from GoToWebinar within the next hour, please contact [hps@thet.org](mailto:hps@thet.org) for assistance.

**THET strongly advises potential applicants to join one of these webinars, or access the recordings online if unable to attend.**

## Application and selection process

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The selection of grant applications will be a one stage process. The table below provides an estimate timeframe of the selection and award process as well as the implementation phase.

Timeframe	Stages
21 August 2017	Call for applications
1 October 2017	Application submission deadline
October 2017	Review of applications by internal and external selection panel Grants awarded and contracts signed
November 2017	Grants begin Inception meetings
November 2018	Grants end

Following an initial check by THET for eligibility, all eligible applications will be reviewed by a joint THET–external selection panel. The selection will be based on an assessment of the grant application and budget in the areas detailed in Section 4. Applications that best meet the criteria will be awarded.

**THET’s decision to award grants will be final.**

Project development after the award of funding is a consultative process with THET. Applicants must be willing to engage in this process. Please note that project meetings are expected to take place in October. THET recognises that diaries are busy during this period but applicants must be willing to take part in this stage of the process in order to be considered for funding.

## How to apply

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This opportunity is now open for grant applications from 21st August until 1st October 2017.

Applicants should complete their grant application form and budget template collaboratively and submit to [application@thet.org](mailto:application@thet.org) by **midnight of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

All information should be included in the body of the grant application (see separate grant application form). THET is also requesting a budget in excel format (see separate budget template). Additional documents or footnotes will not be considered by the selection panel.

If you do not receive an acknowledgment from us within 48 hours, please assume that your application has not been received and re-submit. If you plan to submit more than one application, these need to be submitted in separate emails.