

The Africa Grants Programme 2019 - 2020

Call for Applications

1 Background and purpose

The Africa Grants Programme (AGP) supports the training of health workers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Funded by Johnson and Johnson (J&J) and managed by the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET), the AGP engages partnerships between organisations in the UK and Ireland, and their counterparts in Africa.

From 2017 to 2019, the second round of AGP funding supported seven health partnership projects in four African countries, ranging from setting up palliative care training programme for community health workers in Uganda, to improving primary trauma care services in Sierra Leone, and training health workers in laparoscopic surgery techniques for children with cancer in Ghana. A full list of projects and their impact is available on our [website](#).

The AGP supports projects that mobilise UK and Irish health workers to develop the capacity of health workers in Africa through skills transfer, training, mentoring and other collaborative work. The funding is available for projects designed to improve the standards of clinical training (at all education levels), the technical skills of staff, and/or the efficiency and capacity within healthcare systems.

The aims of the AGP are to save and improve the lives of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa (in particular women and children), prevent disease in vulnerable populations and strengthen the health workforce in Africa. THET and J&J are particularly interested in projects which affect systemic change and contribute to sustainable outcomes and impact.

2 Themes and geographic focus

Projects under the AGP 2019-20 Call for Applications must operate within LMICs in sub-Saharan Africa and will focus on strengthening the healthcare workforce in one of the following two target areas.

Stream 1: Essential Surgical and Anaesthetic Care

This stream will focus on reducing morbidity and mortality from conditions requiring essential surgical intervention and/or enhancing patient safety as a result of improved anaesthetic care through the training of relevant health workers. The aim of this stream is to improve the access to, and availability of, quality essential surgery and anaesthetic care (particularly for maternal, neonatal or paediatric

surgical conditions). Projects which focus on surgery rather than anaesthesia should also demonstrate that they have considered how their work will impact on, or be impacted by, anaesthesia services in their focus country, and vice versa.

Stream 2: Community Healthcare

This stream will focus on increasing the availability and quality of essential healthcare (including attended births) and health information to underserved populations, including women and children, by training those who work and serve on the frontline of healthcare systems. The stream will support projects focused on the training of cadres working in the community (Clinical Officers, Community Health Workers, etc.), which are aligned with the national strategy and policies in-country. Partners will work at the rural and district level, and generally outside of the central hospital systems.

Geographic focus

There are 13 priority countries for this round of the AGP.

Benin	Lesotho	Senegal
Cote d'Ivoire	Madagascar	Somalia (including Somaliland)
Eritrea	Malawi	Togo
Ethiopia	Mozambique	
Gambia	Rwanda	

We will also consider exceptional applications from other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa where the project and partnership matches the criteria, though priority will be given to those working in the above countries.

While THET understands that some of the partnerships may operate in other languages, all applications must be submitted in English.

3 Size and Duration

Grants are available for periods of between six and sixteen months, and will begin from 1st May 2019. All project activity must be completed by 31st August 2020. Grants are available from £15,000 up to £50,000. THET does not guarantee that partnerships will be awarded the exact amount that they have applied for.

4 Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

Core Requirements and Country Eligibility

The core requirements for the AGP 2019-20 are as follows:

- Grant recipients must be eligible organisations under this programme (see Q&A document)
- Applications must be made by eligible partnerships under this programme (see Q&A document)
- Projects must fit within the parameters of either stream 1 or stream 2, as outlined above
- Project budgets cannot exceed £50,000

- Projects must operate within LMICs in Sub-Saharan Africa, preferably in the countries noted above
- Applications must be submitted in English.

Project and Partnership Requirements

If the core requirements and country eligibility are met, applications will then be judged throughout the application process against the following criteria:

- The project is single, coherent and time-bound, and deliverable within the budget and timeline proposed and agreed with THET
- The project contributes to the overall purpose of the AGP
- The project is aligned with overseas country policies and plans
- The approach to the project is appropriate and relevant to the local context
- The project is based on recognised good practice
- The project considers how it will benefit women, children and underserved communities
- The project considers how it will engage health workers working at all levels, in particular nurses, midwives, and clinical officers
- The project aims are clear and logical with a focus on measurable outcomes
- The project demonstrates value for money
- The partnership has the capacity to deliver the project, demonstrated through past successes
- The project effectively engages short- and/or long-term volunteers in order to deliver project activities
- The project impact will be sustained once the life cycle of the project has come to an end.

Applications that are clearly rooted in a sustainable partnership which promotes multi-disciplinary team working will be regarded favourably.

Partnerships may submit more than one application. However, applicants should be aware that there is a limited amount of funding available and as such THET is unlikely to fund more than one project per partnership. Applicants are encouraged to focus on quality rather than quantity.

5 Funding Restrictions

AGP will fund:

- 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. For environmental reasons, travel for international trips of 3 days or less will not be funded
- Travel and associated costs, e.g. travel insurance (if not already covered by a central institution policy), accommodation, subsistence, visas and vaccinations
- Activity communication costs (cost 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 budget (this includes both medical and office equipment)

- Project management costs. This can include project staff salary contributions for part 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 of grant applications. Communication around management, e.g. telephone and internet costs, office costs and administrative support is included here
- Consultancy costs up to 5% of the total budget. THET would expect technical expertise to be delivered by volunteers
- Monitoring and evaluation costs. THET would expect this to form 5 – 20% of your budget
- Contingency up to 1.5% of the total budget, to factor in exchange rate variances and/or bank charges.

AGP will not fund:

- Entertainment costs (costs associated with entertaining individuals and/or groups of people, usually involving eating, drinking and other hospitality)
- Costs relating to the delivery of health services outside of the scope of the project
- Capital costs (costs which cover the building or construction of new facilities or infrastructure)
- Per diems (daily allowances given to individuals to cover living expenses whilst travelling. Travel expenses such as accommodation, subsistence should be claimed as per expenditure – see above).

6 Application and Selection Process

Please read the following outline of the AGP application and selection process carefully.

Pre-application Webinar

A pre-application webinar will take place on Wednesday 16th January, from 11am to 12:30pm UK time. This will explain the purpose of the AGP 2019-20 Grants Call and run through the application process in more detail, including explaining details of the application form and the financial budget. It is recommended that a representative from each side of the partnership (UK/Irish partner and LMIC partner) interested in applying attend the webinar.

To attend the webinar, please click on this link or copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/291761837>

If you are unable to attend the webinar, please note that the recording will be made available online on THET’s website and YouTube channel until the application closing date.

THET strongly advises potential applicants to join this webinar or access the recording online if unable to attend.

Application and Selection Process and Timeframe

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

Timeframe	Stages
10 January 2019	Call for applications opens
16 January 2019	Call for applications webinar

28 February 2019	Application submission deadline
Early March 2019	Eligibility check and initial shortlisting for review
Mid- late March 2019	Meetings with LMIC and UK/Irish partners
Early April 2019	Review of applications by internal and external selection panel Project meetings (if required) Submission of supporting documentation (if required)
Mid-late April 2019	Notification of application outcomes Grants awarded and contracts signed Inception meetings
1 May 2019	Grants begin
31 August 2020	Grant activities end

Following the submission of the project application, THET will assess whether the partnership and proposed project are eligible for funding under the AGP (see core requirements under Section 4 and Section 5 funding restrictions above) and will also conduct an initial shortlisting of applications to be fully reviewed by an internal THET selection panel.

Once this initial shortlisting by the internal THET selection panel has been done, THET will invite LMIC and UK and Ireland partners to meet with the grants management team, in order to further explore the project, the strength of the partnership and the delegation of roles and responsibilities.

All eligible shortlisted applications will then be reviewed by a joint THET-external selection panel. The selection will be based on an assessment of the application and budget against the grant application criteria (see project requirements under Section 4 above). Applications that best meet the criteria will be awarded. **THET's decision to award grants will be final.**

Please note that if the selection panel considers that your application is strong but lacking crucial information that would influence the review outcomes, your partnership might be invited to attend a project meeting with THET staff in April. THET recognises that diaries may be busy during this period but, if invited, applicants will be required to take part in this stage to be considered for funding.

Shortlisted and awarded applications must also be prepared to provide additional documentation to support their application as requested by THET.

Shortlisted applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications in April 2019.

How to apply

This opportunity is open for grant applications from 10th January 2019 until midnight on 28th February 2019.

All information should be included in the Grant Application Form and the Budget Template within the stated sections and word limits. Additional documents or footnotes will not be considered by the selection panel.

Applicants should complete their grant application form and budget template **collaboratively** and submit these documents, along with letters of support from each of the lead partners and any managing

partners, in one email to AGP@thet.org by midnight on 28th February 2019. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

If you do not receive an acknowledgment email from us within 48 hours of submitting your application, please assume we have not received it and re-submit. If you plan to submit more than one application, these need to be submitted in separate emails.

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