

The Africa Grants Programme 2019 - 20

Start-Up Grants Call for Applications

Questions and Answers

What constitutes a health partnership under the AGP?

Within the context of the Africa Grants Programme (AGP), a health partnership is any arrangement between a health organisation (see below for further guidance on eligible organisations) in the UK or in the Republic of Ireland and a counterpart organisation based in a low- or middle-income country (LMIC) in Africa. Partnerships aim to improve health services and systems in LMICs through the reciprocal exchange of skills, knowledge and experience between partners in the UK and those overseas.

Health partnerships often begin through an informal or personal connection between individuals in two institutions or organisations. It is the process of widening this connection, deciding to work on a project together and understanding the need to formalise and institutionalise the relationship that marks the beginning of a health partnership.

Health partnerships seek to address priority shortages and needs identified by the LMIC partners, and usually focus their activities on a series of projects. Often the projects implemented by health partnerships support human resources for health development through training and education of healthcare workers in the LMIC partner institutions. Activities, especially when the partnership has been well-established for a number of years, can broaden to include strengthening aspects of a health system, such as clinical pathways and policies, and scale up their activities.

THET has developed [Principles of Partnerships](#) (PoPs), which are hallmarks of good practice for health partnerships and the way they manage projects, such as working consistently with local and national plans, planning and implementing projects together with a clear commitment to joint learning.

What is the difference between an established health partnership and a new health partnership?

In the context of this programme, we define an established health partnership as one that has been working together for over 6 months, is formalised and institutionalised, and can clearly demonstrate adherence to THET's Principles of Partnership.

A new partnership has either been working together for less than 6 months or has not yet started working together but has intentions to do so. It does not need to demonstrate adherence to all of THET's Principles of Partnership but must demonstrate a commitment to do so and have a clear strategy

of how the partnership will become formalised and institutionalised. For guidance on setting up a health partnership, please refer to THET's [Links Manual](#).

Under the AGP 2019-20 Start-Up Grants, only new partnerships as defined above are able to apply. If your partnership fits into the established health partnerships category instead, then you may apply for the [AGP 2019-20 normal grant stream](#) which funds projects of up to £50,000.

What type of institutions are eligible to receive AGP grants?

The UK/Irish Lead Partner must be either a UK or Irish registered charity that is involved in health education or health delivery activities, **OR** a recognised UK or Irish health delivery institution, health education institution or professional association (including regulatory bodies).

The UK or Irish lead partner will be responsible for signing the grant contract and overall delivery and reporting of the project. The full responsibilities of the lead UK or Irish partner include:

- Signing the AGP contract with THET
- Receiving the grant funds and managing them in accordance with the contract
- Delivering project activities
- Maintaining financial records
- Reporting on finance and grant activity to THET (activity reports are expected to be written by the partnership as a whole but coordinated by the UK lead partner)
- Ensuring grant finances are audited as part of the institution's annual audit
- Taking responsibility (as laid out in the contract) for all security, insurance and registration matters related to those travelling / working on behalf of the project, and ensuring that appropriate safeguarding policies are in place.

The UK or Irish Lead Partner must work in partnership with a LMIC organisation based in Africa. The LMIC Lead Partner must be a not for profit institution based in an eligible African country, that is involved in health education or health delivery, **OR** a recognised national health delivery institution, health education institution or professional association. **Applications from a single organisation will not be eligible.**

The responsibilities of the LMIC partner institution will include:

- Delivering project activities
- Coordinating partnership activities in-country
- Associated financial and narrative reporting.

In addition to the lead UK and LMIC partners, a managing partner may also be involved. This partner supports the delivery of the project and may act as the logistical coordinator behind the partnership.

Can you provide more details on the Africa Grants Programme?

The AGP was established through a partnership between THET and Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust (J&J) in 2015. The programme involves two grant streams, namely essential surgery

and anaesthesia, and community healthcare, supporting health partnership projects to build the capacity of health workers in LMICs in Africa, as detailed in the Call for Applications document. The long-term aims of the AGP are to save and improve the lives of women and children, prevent disease in vulnerable populations and strengthen the healthcare workforce in Africa.

The AGP aims to reach this goal through strengthening the healthcare workforce in three target areas:

- Training to increase the capacity of health workers practising surgery and/or anaesthesia (particularly for maternal, neonatal or paediatric surgical conditions);
- Training for those health worker cadres who reach underserved populations (including women and children);
- Training in leadership and management for healthcare workers.

As part of the first round of AGP funding launched in 2016, seven grants between £10,000 and £50,000 each were awarded and ran for a twelve month period from May 2016 to April 2017. Please find the full list of projects below:

Partnership	Project aim	Country
Cairdeas International Palliative Care Trust - Action Sahara pour la Santé, l'Innovation, le Développement et l'Éducation	To introduce and reinforce palliative care training for community health workers.	Mauritania
Lifebox Foundation – Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre	To make pulse oximeters universally available for intra-operative monitoring by trained healthcare workers.	Tanzania
University of Oxford – Alzaeim Alazhari University, Khartoum, Sudan	To set up self-perpetuating primary trauma care teaching programme.	Sudan
The Kambia Appeal – Kambia District Health Management Team	To strengthen the capacity of maternal and child healthcare services at peripheral health units in Kambia District.	Sierra Leone
Powys Teaching Health Board – Molo Sub-County Public Health Service & Kenya Red Cross	To train and develop community health workers' capacity to identify and support disabled children and their families, enabling their inclusion in community life.	Kenya
Charity of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust – Kitovu Hospital	To improve the quality of maternal and neonatal healthcare in rural communities, reducing the number of maternal and new born morbidity and mortality.	Uganda
Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland – Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital	To increase the capacity of anaesthesia providers to deliver SAFE obstetric anaesthesia.	Malawi

At the end of this first round of AGP grants, 1,029 individual healthcare workers received training, and of those 105 were trained as trainers. More information on impact can be found on our [website](#).

The second round of AGP funding is running from 1st February 2018 to 30th April 2019. Again, seven grants were awarded, between £35,000 and £48,000, with projects being run in four countries.

Partnership	Project aim	Country
Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh – Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra – World Child Cancer	Develop the capacity of surgeons and nurses in the use of laparoscopy for paediatrics in Ghana	Ghana
Royal College of General Practitioners – Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), Sierra Leone	REACH -RCGP Education for Advancing Community Health, Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
The Kambia Appeal – Kambia District Health Management Team	Expansion of MCHA Mentoring Across Kambia District, Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
King’s College London, Kings Sierra Leone Partnership – University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospitals, Connaught Hospital	Implementing the Surgical Safety Checklist and Structured Primary Trauma Care in Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Cairdeas International Palliative Care Trust – Palliative Care Education and Research Consortium (PcERC)	Integration of palliative care into community healthcare provision for South Sudanese refugees in Adjumani district, Uganda	Uganda
Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) – Association of Anaesthesiologist of Uganda (AAU)	SAFE Operating Rooms Uganda	Uganda
World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) – The South African Society of Anaesthesiologists (SASA)	Safe Anaesthesia from Education (SAFE) Paediatrics, South Africa	South Africa

Subsequently, J&J and THET have agreed to continue the AGP and launched a new call for grant applications in January 2019 for projects running from 1st June 2019 until 31st August 2020.

What is different about this Call, as opposed to past Calls?

This new grant call is not significantly different from previous ones. It has the same purpose, objectives and grant streams, however in consultation with J&J, THET has made a few changes to the Call in order to improve the quality of the grant selection and management process:

- In the past, projects funded through the Africa Grants Programme have been run by established partnerships - partnerships which have been working together for 6 months or longer. Though this round there is again the opportunity for [established partnerships](#) to apply for funding, THET is also looking to fund start-up grants for new partnerships who have worked together for 6 months or less.
- Unlike in previous rounds, this year the countries which the programme is hoping to fund projects in have been more specifically identified. Though we will still be accepting applications from projects running in other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, preference will be given to those 13 identified priority countries.

Can you define the project and partnership criteria more clearly?

1. The project is single, coherent and time-bound, and deliverable within the budget and timeline proposed and agreed with THET.
 - The project should be realistically deliverable within the timeframe proposed and agreed with THET. All project activities should be completed **by 31st August 2020**.
2. The project clearly contributes to the overall purpose of the AGP.
 - Please see our answer to the question: 'Can you provide more details on the Africa Grants Programme?' on pages 2 and 3 for more details on the purpose of the AGP. The project should contribute to meeting these wider AGP aims and approach.
3. The project aims are clear and logical with a focus on measurable outcomes.
 - THET will look for information demonstrating that the type of activities and approaches that grant applicants plan to implement as part of their project are relevant to the project goal.
4. The project is aligned with overseas country health priorities and plans.
 - THET will look for evidence that the project is in line with the LMIC health priorities, policies and strategies stated by the government. Applicants may want to include reference to published government policies in applications.
5. The approach to the project is appropriate and relevant to the local context.
 - THET will look for evidence that grant applicants have considered and understood the local context that the project will be implemented in. This might involve consulting other agencies organisations such as government bodies or local health institutions and community-based organisations that are crucial to involve for the success of your project.
6. The project demonstrates value for money.
 - THET will look for evidence that the project demonstrates the different elements of a value for money (VFM) assessment including economy (keeping costs low), efficiency (getting the most out of an activity for the money spent and in a timely way), effectiveness (maximising the change achieved) and equity (the degree to which the results of the project are equally distributed among the population, or address the greatest needs). For more information, please refer to our [VFM and Health Partnerships website page](#).
7. The partnership has the capacity to deliver the project.
 - THET will look at the capacity, knowledge and skills the partnership has to successfully complete the project. This is not limited to clinical expertise, but also includes experience in project management, financial management, education, and working internationally in similar low-resource settings. Referring to THET's [Principles of Partnership](#) might be helpful when considering this.

8. The project effectively engages short- and/or long-term volunteers in order to deliver project activities.
 - The grant application should be explicit about how volunteers will be engaged in the project and what they will contribute to achieving the intended aims. This will also be considered as part of the value for money assessment of grant applications.

How will THET assess the project and partnership criteria?

The review panel will score grant applications against the project and partnership criteria outlined above. Please note that the scoring will not determine whether or not a project is funded, but it will provide the basis for a discussion of all applications received.

How do I apply?

Download the [Start-up Grant Call for Applications](#) and the [Application Form](#). Submit your completed application form, along with letters of support from each of the partner institutions, to AGP@thet.org by **midnight on Sunday 7th April 2019**.

Grants will be awarded by the beginning of May, with projects starting from 1st June 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact THET's Grants Management Team on 020 7290 3891 or AGP@thet.org.