



Start-Up Grants

The Africa Grants Programme 2019 - 20

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](#).

Traditionally the AGP has supported 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. In addition to a third round of funding in 2019 which will continue to support this work, THET are delighted to announce an additional pot of money which will fund the establishment of new health partnerships working in the thematic target areas highlighted below.

The funding is available for newly established partnerships, or those who have been working together for 6 months or less, and are designed to meet the costs of the activities necessary to establish and formalise a successful partnership. It will be expected that the start-up grant will fund a needs assessment and, if applicable, a Memorandum of Understanding and initial health systems strengthening activity. The results of the needs assessment will form part of the final report.

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 health workforce in Africa, and so we are particularly interested in supporting partnerships who will contribute to long term, sustainable, systemic change in the future.

2 Themes and geographic focus

Projects under the AGP 2019-20 Call for Start-Up Grants Applications must operate within LMICs in 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 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). Partnerships should be institutions working on these areas, and should use the funding available to carry out a needs assessment to discover priorities in their focus country or area.

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 the establishment of partnerships 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 focus 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, whose project matches the criteria. Priority will be given to those working in the above countries, however the quality of the application will be the deciding feature.

Applications must be submitted in English.

3 Size and Duration

Grants are available for periods of between six and twelve months, and will begin from 1st June 2019 onwards. All project activity must be completed by 31st August 2020. Grants are available from £5,000 to £10,000.

4 Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

Core Requirements and Eligibility

The core requirements for the Africa Grants Programme 2019-20 Start-Up Grants are as follows:

- Grant recipients are eligible institutions as stated in the Eligibility Criteria section of the Call for Applications document
- Grant recipients are based in eligible countries (see Call for Applications document)
- Applicants must show demonstrable commitment to forming a long-term Partnership
- The partnership must be new, or have been working together for 6 months or less
- It will be expected that the start-up grant will fund a needs assessment. The results of this needs assessment will form part of the reporting
- Based on the outcome of the needs assessment, the partnership may be formalised with a Memorandum of Understanding and an initial health systems strengthening activity may be completed. While the nature of these may not be explicitly finalised before completion of the needs assessment, these can be included in the budget
- Project budgets cannot exceed £10,000.

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 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
- The project effectively engages short- and/or long-term volunteers in order to deliver project activities.

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 partner. Applicants are encouraged to focus on quality rather than quantity.

5 Funding Restrictions

AGP will fund:

- A needs assessment
- 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 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)
- Bank charges for transfer of funds between partners and to others
- 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 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)
- Staff salaries for permanent staff, including any hired as a consequence of the project (see above with regard to project management and support costs)
- 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

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
22 nd January 2019	Call for applications opens
7 th April 2019	Application submission deadline
April 2019	Eligibility check and initial shortlisting for review
April 2019	Review of applications by internal and external selection panel Project meetings (if required) Submission of supporting documentation (if required)
April 2019	Notification of application outcomes Grants awarded and contracts signed
May 2019	Inception meetings
1 st June 2019	Grants begin
31 st August 2020	Grant activities end

Following the submission of the project application, THET will assess whether the partnership and proposed needs assessment 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 the selection panel.

All eligible shortlisted applications will be reviewed by a THET-internal selection panel. The selection will be based on an assessment of the application 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 2019. 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 22nd January 2019 until midnight on 7th April 2019.

All information should be included in the Grant Application Form 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 **collaboratively** and submit this, along with letters of support from each of the partners, in one email to AGP@thet.org **by midnight on 7th April 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.

This fund is generously provided by

The logo for Johnson & Johnson, featuring the company name in a red, cursive script font with a small red cross symbol between the two 'Johnson' words.