# Grant Overview: Virtual Volunteering Bursaries for Health Partnerships

## 1 Purpose

Given the unprecedented changes in global health due to the Covid-19 pandemic, THET is now seeking to expand the ways in which the UK health workforce can continue its support to partners in LMICs. We believe that remote or virtual volunteering provides an exciting opportunity for health workers in both the UK and LMICs to engage in capacity development projects related to Covid-19 response or to support the delivery of quality essential services. We are therefore looking forward to support existing health partnerships, previously funded by THET, to deliver virtual volunteering support for training and capacity development in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somaliland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

We have therefore secured funding to facilitate UK health work force volunteers to provide remote support and guidance to meet needs identified in-country where this remote support would be appropriate. With a focus on mentorship and capacity development, support could be provided for example for developing and supporting the delivery of training sessions and the adaptation of global standards and protocols.

Virtual Volunteer bursaries are designed for health partnerships with a history of implementing capacity development projects in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somaliland, Tanzania and Uganda, that have identified a specific area for capacity development in a health delivery institution which could be supplemented through a remote volunteers or volunteers from the UK NHS workforce. Partnerships have the opportunity to bid for volunteer bursaries of up to £5,000 for volunteering placements of three to five months.

The partnership must be able to show that the volunteer(s) will add value and help achieve outcomes and benefits for the health partnership, and the volunteer(s) themselves. The focus of these bursaries can be on any health theme but must focus on capacity development of LMIC health workers or those training them.

## 2 Size and Duration

Bursaries are available from 1st January 2021 for a time bound project that must be complete 31st December 2021.

Each bursary can be a maximum of £5,000 in value. Applications will be judged on value for money so please ensure that the size of the bursary adequately reflects the costs involved in volunteering remotely. A maximum of three bursaries can be applied for per health partnership.

## 3 Core Requirements and Responsibilities

Core Requirements:

* Applications must be made by the UK or LMIC lead within an existing health partnership that has received THET funding between 2011 and 2021.
* Applications must be made by the UK or LMIC lead within an existing health partnership that have implemented projects together previously in the facility in which the volunteer will be placed.
* Volunteers must support an LMIC health delivery institution
* Volunteers must have clear terms of reference with clear objectives and activities aligned to the partnership’s aims. These objectives and activities should lead to clear results and generate lessons learnt and good practice.
* Volunteer objectives should be linked to the capacity development, training or mentoring of LMIC health care workers.
* Partnerships must be able to demonstrate relevant processes and policies to support volunteers and provide adequate duty of care.

Responsibilities of the UK/LMIC lead partner:

* Signing the volunteer bursary contract with THET
* Receiving bursary funds and managing them in accordance with the contract
* Maintaining financial records
* Reporting on finance and bursary activity to THET
* 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
* Demonstrating safeguarding compliance, including having a safeguarding policy and ensuring that volunteers have read and will abide by it.

## 4 Project Requirements

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

* The bursary is time-bound and the proposed activities are deliverable by 31st December 2021
* The partnership clearly demonstrates a need for a volunteer and how this type of intervention will result in measurable outcomes for the partnership.
* The approach to the project is appropriate and relevant to the local context
* The partnership shows how they will evidence the volunteer’s contribution to the project and partnership, as well as their own personal and professional development
* The project demonstrates value for money

## 5 Funding Restrictions

Volunteer Bursaries will fund:

* Local travel and associated costs, e.g. national economy class travel, travel insurance (if not already covered by a central institution policy), accommodation and subsistence
* Bank charges for transfer of funds
* Monitoring, evaluation and learning costs related to the volunteer placement
* Communications costs (telephone, teleconferencing, video conferencing, etc.)
* Reasonable volunteer management costs, e.g. recruitment, induction and communications

Volunteer Bursaries will not fund:

* Backfill funding for UK volunteers
* Staff salaries for permanent staff, including any hired as a consequence of the project (but see above with regard to volunteer management and support costs)
* Entertainment costs
* Costs relating to the delivery of health services
* Sitting allowances (for individuals to attend training)
* First or business class travel
* Capital costs
* Medical Equipment and consumables

## 6 Application and Selection Process

Please read the below outline for THET’s selection process carefully.

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| 1st January  31st August  Rolling until 31st August  Four weeks after approval | Call for applications  Application submission deadline  Review by selection group and grants awarded  Contracts issued and signed |
| Six weeks after approval | Grants begin |

Applicants should complete their project outline and budget collaboratively and submit to [**application@thet.org**](mailto:application@thet.org) by **23:59 on 31st August 2021** Applications received after this date will not be considered. If you do not receive an acknowledgement from us within 48 hours, please assume we have not received your application and re-submit.

Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis and THET reserves the right to close this call early.

All information should be included in the body of the project outline and budget. Additional documents or footnotes will not be considered by the selection panel.

Applications will be reviewed by the Country Programmes Team against the eligibility criteria and grant requirements listed above, and applicants will be informed of the outcome within four weeks of the application deadline.

Project development is a consultative process with THET. Applicants must be willing to engage in this process.