

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### CREATING HOPE IN CONFLICT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document addresses frequently asked questions regarding the *Creating Hope in Conflict* Request for Proposals (RFP) announced June 2023. Additional questions must be submitted to: [info@humanitariangrandchallenge.org](mailto:info@humanitariangrandchallenge.org).

This document will be updated periodically during the application submission period. The deadline to submit any questions is **August 15, 2023**, after which we may not respond.

Please contact [fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca) for technical support with the application through Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal.

### TOPIC AREAS

***If my innovation isn't targeting the key focus areas as mentioned in Section 2.2 of the RFP, can I still receive funding?***

A. No. Proposals that do not address energy, life-saving information, or health supplies and services will not be considered for funding.

***Who is the target population?***

A. Proposals must clearly outline why the target population is vulnerable and hard-to-reach in a conflict-generated humanitarian emergency.

Factors that increase a person's vulnerability include but are not limited to physical barriers that make it even harder for people to access assistance, or social barriers that marginalize certain groups (e.g. exclusionary attitudes linked to sex, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, age, people with disabilities, minorities, or people who are stateless). See **Section 2.4** of the RFP.

***Do you consider refugees as conflict affected population, even though they are now outside the conflict zone?***

A. While we do consider funding innovations that serve refugees and internally displaced persons, priority will be given to innovations that serve those living in conflict zones. See **Section 2.4** of the RFP.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### *Who is eligible?*

A. Eligible applicants include recognized institutions (e.g., social enterprises, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies) that are formed and legally registered and can successfully execute the activities in their respective technical area, and are capable of receiving and administering grant funding. Sole proprietorships are not eligible for funding. Please see the eligibility criteria in **Section 4.1** of the RFP.

### *I am from <Country name>. Am I eligible to apply for funding?*

A. There are no geographical restrictions, therefore legally formed organizations that are not the subject of a US, UK, Dutch, European Union, World Bank, Canadian, or United Nations Security Council sanctions are eligible to apply for funding. Note however that we will give preference to locally-owned innovations. See **Section 2.1** of the RFP.

### *I would like to work in <Country name>, would this be considered a conflict-zone?*

Please note that *Creating Hope in Conflict* is focused on helping people who are hardest-to-reach as a result of conflict-generated humanitarian emergencies. We do not impose any geographical restrictions. It is incumbent upon the applicant to explain why the population they seek to serve is relevant to the challenge.

### *I would like to implement my innovation in Afghanistan, am I eligible to apply?*

A. Due to current Government of Canada legislation, at this time we are unable to consider solutions being implemented in Afghanistan. For more information, see:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2023/03/bill-c-41-an-act-to-amend-the-criminal-code-and-to-make-consequential-amendments-to-other-acts.html>

### *Are locally-led proposals given preference?*

A. Yes, we are particularly interested in funding locally-owned innovations. We believe that people living in conflict zones, and those that have been directly affected by conflict, are best placed to address the needs of their communities. Locally-owned applications will be given preference during the evaluation process.

### *We are a global organization that will seek partnership with a local organization to implement the innovation, are we eligible?*

A. Preference will be given to solutions that are owned by local humanitarian actors who are from the conflict-affected communities they aim to serve. We require that non-local organizations have at minimum an established working relationship with a local organization to be eligible for this RFP. See **Section 2.1** of the RFP.



***Can multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (UN) apply to this Request for Proposals?***

A. In our past experience, we have found that multilateral organizations, such as the UN, are typically unable to agree to the terms and conditions of our funding agreements. We highly recommend that these organizations instead apply through a local eligible partner organization. Staff from the UN office could act as collaborators on the project.

***Do I need any specific academic qualifications to apply?***

A. No. This competition is open to everyone regardless of age or academic qualifications. The Project Lead and team must have the skills to carry out the proposed activities of the innovation.

***We have two partners – one health centre and one delivery centre – can we apply as a consortium?***

A. One of the partners should apply as the lead applicant. This organization should be capable of entering into a contract with Grand Challenges Canada and be able to receive and administer funds, if the application is successful. The other partners would act as collaborators or sub-grantees on the project, with funds flowing to them via the lead organization.

***Can a Project Lead submit two different applications for the Humanitarian Grand Challenge?***

A. Project Leads are permitted to submit only one (1) application per RFP. Applications for other RFPs at Grand Challenges Canada are permitted (e.g., A Project Lead can submit an application to this RFP and another to the Stars in RMNCH RFP).

Please note: It is an expectation that if a Project Lead is submitting to multiple RFPs, each application must be unique. If an applicant is successful in more than one RFP and Grand Challenges Canada's deems that the proposals are conducting the same work, funding will only be granted through one program and the selection of which program will be up to Grand Challenges Canada. Finally, if an organization is selected for funding in multiple programs with the same Project Lead, the projects will be carefully assessed for execution risks that may undermine the likelihood of success for any or all projects selected for funding.

***Can a Project lead in one application be a collaborator in another application? A.***

Yes, a Project Lead can be a collaborator on another application.

***Can two or more proposals be submitted from the same institution/organization?***

A. Yes, multiple applications may come from the same applicant institution/organization, but a Project Lead is permitted to submit only one (1) application per competition.

***Can one institution hold multiple grants?***

A. Yes, an institution can hold multiple grants.



## FUNDING AND DURATION

***My innovation has already achieved proof-of-concept, can I apply for Transition-to-Scale funding?***

A. No, this Request for Proposals is solely for seed stage funding. Proposals for Transition-to-Scale level projects will be accepted by invitation only. If you have any questions about Transition-to-Scale funding, please send an email to [info@humanitariangrandchallenge.org](mailto:info@humanitariangrandchallenge.org).

***How many projects will be funded?***

A. **Up to 20 Seed projects** will be funded through this RFP. Successful proposals for seed funding will each be awarded grants of up to **\$250,000 CAD over a maximum of twenty-four (24) months** to support the validation and testing of new approaches

***Can the proposed project exceed the time limits?***

A. No. Please ensure that the proposed project is feasible within the time limits (i.e., 24 months) set in the RFP. Please note that this will be evaluated under the 'Project Execution Plan' evaluation criterion as set out in **Section 4.5** of the RFP.

***Can you share a sample Grant Agreement so that we can ensure we are able to comply with the award terms and conditions?***

A. We are not able to share a sample Grant Agreement template with you at this stage. The full due diligence process will begin once successful applicants have been chosen, at which point the full list of requirements will be shared.

Some key policies that must be complied with are contained in **Section 5** of the RFP. We recommend reviewing the entire RFP in detail.

## PROJECT SCOPE

***Do you emphasize certain elements in the Integrated Innovation® approach (i.e., science and technology versus social and business innovation)?***

A. Grand Challenges Canada defines Integrated Innovation® as the coordinated application of scientific/technological, social and business innovation to develop solutions to complex challenges. This approach does not discount the singular benefits of each of these types of innovation alone. While proposals may emphasize innovation in one of these areas more than others, all proposals should describe how they apply Integrated Innovation within their proposals. Proposals will be reviewed according to the criteria laid out in the Request for Proposals. For more information on our Integrated Innovation approach, please refer to our website: [grandchallenges.ca/integrated-innovation](http://grandchallenges.ca/integrated-innovation).

Proposed solutions should include a combination of:

- **Scientific/Technological Innovation:** Based in the psychological, natural, health or behavioural sciences or in engineering or economics; can be simple, i.e., there is no requirement for high-tech solutions
- **Social Innovation:** Recognizes and/or addresses the broader social, structural and/or political determinants of health, with a particular focus on gender and intersectional inequalities; addresses local and/or cultural contexts that factor into implementation and scaling
- **Business Innovation:** Maximizes the value, relevance and unique quality of the solution to create demand and **financial sustainability**; addresses barriers to affordability and accessibility.

***What does “Systems Change” mean and why is it relevant to this call for proposals?***

A. Systems change is defined as changing the underlying models through which humanitarian assistance is delivered, thereby impacting relationships and power dynamics as well as deeply held values and norms. For example, developing a new process, product or approach that encourages a structural shift towards the local manufacturing of relief items instead of importing ready-made items shifts production away from traditional humanitarian supply chains and empowers local markets and populations. Often, systems change requires a combination of complementary product or process innovations to be fully realized.

We will favour innovations that, in addition to impacting the lives of communities involved during the project period, can bring about wider systems change to the way humanitarian assistance is delivered.

***If the program or model proposed is already being implemented, can it still be eligible for funding?***

A. Our definition of innovation includes trying existing ideas in new contexts. Something that works in a stable context that has never been tried in a conflict setting could be considered for funding. Applicants will need to clearly define why they believe the idea would apply in another context.

***The application asks us to “list the assumptions made about the plan of your proposed project and the expected results”. What type of assumption do you mean?***

A. In this section, applicants can describe any major assumptions that are made when describing the project's timelines, activities and execution plan for the project. Some examples include assumptions around partners that need to be secured, regional unrest, ability to reach target population, or other important considerations or risks to the project's success.

***Can proposals cover multiple countries/regions, or must we focus on one country/region?***

A. There is no restriction on the number of implementation countries/regions. We recommend carefully considering feasibility within the project timeframe/budget.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

***What is the application deadline?***

A. Applicants must submit an application no later than **August 22, 2023, 11:00 am Eastern Time (North America)/ 15:00 GMT**.

***What is the deadline to create an account?***

A. Applicants should create an account no later than **August 15, 2023** (see more below).

***Are there specific application questions or templates we need to use to apply?***

A. The application questions can be accessed online via our community portal.

To access Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal ([gcc.fluxx.io](https://gcc.fluxx.io)), you must **first** create an account to identify yourself and the organization that will be applying for a grant. A response will be provided within **one business day**. To create an account, please visit: [gcc.fluxx.io/lois/new](https://gcc.fluxx.io/lois/new).

Once your account has been approved, you will receive an email with your user name and password. You can then visit [gcc.fluxx.io](https://gcc.fluxx.io) to start your application. Please answer all the mandatory questions, as incomplete applications will not be considered. For technical support, please contact [fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca).

***In what language should the application be completed?***

A. Applications may be made in English or French. Applications in any other language will be rejected without review.

***What evidence or data should be included in the application?***

A. The review committee assesses each proposal against the evaluation criteria stated in the RFP. Any evidence or data that supports the proposed idea with respect to the evaluation criteria should be included.

***Can I arrange a meeting with Grand Challenges Canada to discuss the call/my proposal in more detail?***

A. Unfortunately, given the number of applications we receive and in the interest of being fair to all applicants, we cannot discuss individual proposals in detail. Please review the RFP available at [humanitariangrandchallenge.org](https://humanitariangrandchallenge.org) for information on the eligibility criteria, areas of interest, and evaluation process. If you think your proposal is a fit with the call, you are most welcome to apply.

***Can I submit my proposal by email, mail or in person?***

A. Proposals cannot be submitted by email, mail or in person. All applications **must** be submitted through Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal. In order to gain access to the Portal, applicants must first create an account: [gcc.fluxx.io/lois/new](http://gcc.fluxx.io/lois/new).

The deadline to create account is **August 15, 2023**. Note that it takes one (1) business day for Grand Challenges Canada to process your account request. Requests made after this date may not be processed.

***Is there room for an extension beyond the submission deadline?***

A. There are no extensions possible beyond the deadline.

**Please consider submitting your application early, as technical support may take up to one business day to respond.** If you have any technical challenges submitting a completed proposal through our Community Portal, please contact technical support immediately ([fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca)). We will do our best to respond to requests received prior to the submission deadline.

***Is there a requirement for all authors/researchers of the proposal materials to be acknowledged?***

A. Grand Challenges Canada does not require the authors of the proposal materials to be formally acknowledged on the submitted proposal. The proposal must be uploaded by the Project Lead, who certifies their authorization to submit the application on behalf of their organization. The Project Lead would also be signing on to Grand Challenges Canada's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.grandchallenges.ca/terms-and-conditions/>) which indicate, among other things, that the user-generated content uploaded is wholly their original work or that they have the necessary right, title, interest and licenses to upload and/or make available to Grand Challenges Canada.

**BUDGET, USE OF FUNDS, ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

***Are indirect costs or overhead considered eligible expenses?***

A. Funding Recipients are entitled to indirect costs of up to 10% of all eligible direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and sub-awards and subcontracts up to the first \$30,000 CAD of each subaward or subcontract. Please review our [Eligible & Ineligible Expenses Directive](#).

***When converting our budget, what currency should we use?***

A. Please submit your summary budget in Canadian Dollars (CAD). You can find the current exchange rate using this site: [oanda.com/currency/converter](http://oanda.com/currency/converter)

***Is time spent working on the application an eligible cost?***

A. No. The time dedicated to writing/submitting the proposal is not reimbursable. Salaries to execute the project, if it is selected for funding, may be included in the budget.

***Can we include part of the office renting cost and utilities for our local partner where project implementation will take place?***

A. You cannot include part of office renting cost and utilities for your local partner. Only costs directly related to project activities are allowed under this RFP. For example, rent would only be an eligible expense if a space is being rented for participants/research directly (e.g., a daycare centre). If it were office space for administrative work to be completed, then it would **not** be an eligible expense.

***Is there any difference between a Project Lead and a collaborator in terms of what funds they can receive?***

A. A collaborator may receive funding as remuneration if they are an employee of your organization or a sub-grant organization, or they may be compensated through subcontractors' fees. If selected for funding, more information would be provided during grant negotiations.

***Are organizations allowed to hire additional staff (i.e. NOT subcontracting) specifically for the purpose of implementing the Project?***

A. Yes, you may hire new staff to support project implementation as appropriate.

***What do you mean by the term 'sub-grant'?***

A. Sub-grants are agreements that you might have with partners who are collaborating on core and integral elements of your innovation. In such instances, our funds would flow from your organization to these partnering organizations.

**OTHER**

***What claim does Grand Challenges Canada make on IP ownership, or requirements for licenses or publications?***

A. Please carefully review **section 5.3** of the RFP.



## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Please contact [fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:fluxsupport@grandchallenges.ca) for technical support with the application through Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal.

Please contact [info@humanitariangrandchallenge.org](mailto:info@humanitariangrandchallenge.org) for any questions that are not addressed in this FAQ.

For information on *Creating Hope in Conflict*, please see:

- [humanitariangrandchallenge.org](http://humanitariangrandchallenge.org)
- [facebook.com/HumanitarianGC/](https://facebook.com/HumanitarianGC/)
- [twitter.com/HumanitarianGC](https://twitter.com/HumanitarianGC)

For information on all Grand Challenges Canada programs, please find us at [grandchallenges.ca](http://grandchallenges.ca), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

**This document was last updated on June 29, 2023.**