

WEBINAR FOR APPLICANTS

Call for Applications: Catalysing Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use to Improve Global Health

WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2023



Patrick J McGovern
FOUNDATION

Artificial Intelligence

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significant potential to transform healthcare around the world.
- Through this call for proposal, we are emphasizing AI solutions that are **locally driven and owned** hence more relevant to address the needs of people they intend to serve and more likely to be accepted and used by local communities.
- Responsible global use of **AI entails a safe, equitable, transparent, reliable, and beneficial process** that is adhered to with a high level of accountability.
- As the world rapidly moves to seize AI's opportunities, it is imperative to monitor and mitigate the safety, ethical, equity, and reliability dimensions of AI deployment.

Joint call by GC partners

Six Grand Challenges (GC) partners

GC Brazil, GC Ethiopia, GC India, GC Senegal, GC South Africa, and GC Africa (pan-African).

Partnering with the BMGF, the PJMF, and the Pasteur Network.

Link with specific country/region call details
<https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/grant-opportunities>



Grand Challenges South Africa: Catalyzing Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use to Improve Global Health

INITIATIVE

Grand Challenges South Africa

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Oct 9, 2023 to Nov 7, 2023

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Grand Challenges Ethiopia: Catalyzing Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use to Improve Global Health

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Grand Challenges Ethiopia

APPLICATIONS OPEN

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Grand Challenges Africa: Catalyzing Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use to Improve Global Health

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Grand Challenges Africa

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Oct 9, 2023 to Nov 7, 2023

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The Call for Applications Announcement by GCA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Catalysing Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use to Improve Global Health

This Request for Proposals seeks innovative approaches to the use of large language models to advance global public health and digital health.

www.scienceforafrica.foundation/funding

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 7 NOVEMBER 2023,
1700HRS EAST AFRICA TIME (EAT)**



Patrick J McGovern
FOUNDATION

Application announcement date:
**9 October 2023, 1200hrs East
Africa Time (EAT)**

Submission of Request for
Proposals Close date: **7
November 2023, 1700hrs East
Africa Time (EAT).**

The Challenge

This RFP seeks innovative approaches to the use of Large Language Models (such as ChatGPT-4, or other credible sources with equivalent capability) to advance global public health.

Given the numerous open and non-open-source AI tools, **we encourage/expect the applicant to select the tool most appropriate to their use case and context.**

Areas of focus

We are looking for projects that seek to solve problems in the five areas:

1. Clinical Decision Support

- a) Tools that can be used by frontline health workers or clinicians for improving the diagnosis and management of health conditions and/or healthcare delivery
- b) Support for health guidelines refinement and adherence
- c) Diagnostics interpretation, reducing costs, and overcoming at-a-distance barriers.

2. Population Health and Policymaking

- a) Support for policymakers in leveraging new and timely insights through routinely available, underutilized, or unused data sources of text and voice
- b) Reduce time delays to transition new evidence into policy and implementation, as well as optimizing resource allocation
- c) Approaches that can distill information and make timely recommendations from complex and evolving datasets (e.g., forecasting disease epidemics and progression).

Areas of focus cont..

3. Support for Frontline Health Workers

- a) Personalized coaching for semi-skilled FLWs that is tailored, highly relevant, and leads to an improved quality of service and/or lower costs
- b) LLM supported solutions for workflow management (e.g., writing discharge summaries, etc.)
- c) Use of LLMs to support skilled FLWs in delivering higher quality services and improved efficiency.

4. Health Communications and Patient Journeys

- a) Develop impactful and targeted communications tools that bridge language and literacy gaps when communicating health-related knowledge, messaging, and advice (i.e., translating from local dialects, text-to-voice, etc.)
- b) Provide timely, trusted, and tailored advice to end users who are marginalized and in so doing overcome significant cultural, access and stigma concerns
- c) Support patients in understanding and managing their own health status and care regiment.

5. Health Systems Strengthening

- a) Use of LLMs to improve interoperability of health data, systems, and programs.

Geographical sites for Applications

- African researchers located in Ethiopia, Senegal, and South Africa, should apply through the corresponding country-specific Grand Challenges portal;
- Brazilian and Indian researchers should apply through the GC Brazil and GC India portal.
- African researchers located in all other African countries should apply through the Grand Challenges Africa portal;
- Eligible Pasteur Network sites located in Africa should apply through Grand Challenges Africa and Pasteur Network sites located in Brazil should apply through Grand Challenges Brazil. All other eligible Pasteur Network sites (not located in Africa or Brazil) should apply through Grand Challenges Senegal.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- ✓ An explicit request for an AI-supported project in Africa.
- ✓ Those projects that have already completed a pilot before this Grand Challenges call, and/or
- ✓ Projects that have lessons/tools that can be transferred to other use cases / situations/ contexts with minimal change
- ✓ Emphasize the importance of community-specific, culturally appropriate, and representative AI. Cases/situations

Eligibility Criteria and Evaluation

Eligibility Criteria

1. Proposals demonstrating clear applications of Large-Scale Language Models (such as GPT-4, Laude, LLaMA or other credible sources with equivalent capabilities) to address specific global health challenges in the relevant geographic area.
2. Proposals showing that the recipient has a good understanding of the demand, has conducted a preliminary stakeholder analysis, and has established a plan for engagement with local decision-makers to ensure the success of the project.
3. Proposals with leverage and the possibility of expansion.
4. Proposals outlining a clear, achievable and replicable methodology.
5. Proposals that provide rapid access to data and allow decision-makers to devote time and interest to the use of AI.

Eligibility Criteria continuation.

6. Proposals explaining how the project can generate short-term impact and how these benefits will last beyond the life of the project.
7. Proposals driven by a shared commitment to open science, data sharing, and the creation of an infrastructure for collaboration and analysis, fostering discoveries that benefit the entire world's population.
8. We particularly encourage applications from women-led organizations and applications for women-led projects.

We will **not** consider funding proposals that:

1. Do not explicitly use or refer to Large-Scale Language Models (LLMs) in the execution of their project.
2. Do not provide timely access to necessary data, do not generate engagement and interest from decision-makers (a letter of recommendation/request would be an asset).
3. Do not demonstrate that the majority of the proposed work will be carried out by researchers and teams based in the relevant geographical area mentioned above.
4. Do not include a validation plan.
5. Do not take into account the issue of scalability and sustainability.

Budget Review

Funding Levels

The funding level is a grant of up to **USD \$100,000.00**, for each project, provided to the organization, with a term of up to 12 months.

GC Africa is looking to fund **18 African innovators**.

Global partners may be included, but proposals must demonstrate at least 80% of the funding is going to an organization within the geography of interest.

Application budgets should be commensurate with the scope of work proposed.

Budget details

The budget cost categories have been categorized as explained below:

1. Personnel Costs
2. Travel Costs
3. Materials and Consumables
4. Equipment
5. Subcontracts- No awardee is permitted to make sub-grants, but all awardees will be permitted to contract for services, up to a maximum of \$20,000 USD.
6. Other Research Costs- specific to the program but are not part of the other budget categories. These costs should be very specific and direct to the award.
7. Institutional administrative costs- direct and indirect administrative costs for managing the grants within the host institutions. This should be limited to 15% of the direct award costs.

GC Africa Budget Guidelines link <https://scienceforafrica.foundation/funding-resources/budget-guidelines-phase-i-round-15-ai-call>

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

1. *Who is eligible to apply?*

African investigators working in African-based, domestic organizations, including non-profit organizations, international organizations, government agencies, research, and academic institutions. This call is open to both for-profit and not for profit making organizations.

2. *What are the criteria for selection?*

- a) Challenge Responsiveness: Does the proposal address the problems described in the challenge?
- b) Innovative Approach: Does the idea offer an unconventional or creative approach to the problem outlined in the challenge? Does it demonstrate the application of a new or pioneering approach? Does the proposal describe how the project varies from current approaches, offer new premises or hypotheses to test, and does it provide a rational basis for expecting success?

FAQs

3. The call is closed. *Can I still submit my idea?*

No. We can only accept ideas during an open round. Any proposals submitted via email or otherwise will not be reviewed. You can see if a current round is open by visiting our website.

4. *Can I submit multiple proposals for the same challenge?*

Only one proposal can be submitted per applicant, so please submit your best idea.

5. *What if I forget my password?*

If you forget your password, click on the "I forgot my password" link on the SFA Agaseke Online Application System, and you will be asked the security question you supplied when you first created your account. When you answer the question correctly, a temporary password will be emailed to you. Sign in with this password and then create a new one.

Questions and Answers

Available resources and contacts for more information

For the GC Africa applicants kindly find the Science for Africa webpage [Catalysing Equitable Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Use to Improve Global Health | Science for Africa Foundation](#) with

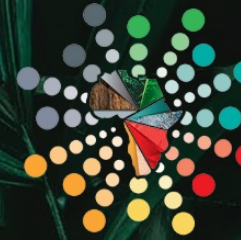
1. Applicant Instructions
2. Budget Guidelines
3. Applicant Tips
4. Frequently Asked Questions
5. Rules and Guidelines

For more inquiries write to gcafrica@scienceforafrica.foundation

For the GC South Africa applicants kindly find the SAMRC webpage <https://www.samrc.ac.za/funding/catalyzing-equitable-artificial-intelligence-ai-use-improve-global-health> with :

1. Applicant Instructions
2. Budget Guidelines
3. Rules and Guidelines
4. Supporting Documentation

For more inquiries write to Karabo Kgomo (Karabo.Kgomo@mrc.ac.za)



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