

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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Grand Challenges Canada[®]
Grands Défis Canada

BOLD IDEAS WITH BIG IMPACT[®]

Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Request for Proposals

Stars in Global Health, Round 8

May 2016

Executive Summary

Grand Challenges Canada, funded by the Government of Canada, seeks Bold Ideas with Big Impact® from the best and brightest talent, both in low- and middle-income countries and in Canada, to use scientific/technical, social and business innovation to address reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, to save and improve lives in low- and middle-income countries.

In the last two decades, substantive progress has been made in tackling maternal, newborn and child mortality. However, there are still significant areas of concern relating to access to quality essential health services, nutrition, violence and discrimination, and weak health systems, which are all contributing factors that limit the ability of women and children to equally participate in society and thus realize their human rights and health. Further hundreds of millions of women in low- and middle-income countries want to delay or stop pregnancy but do not have their comprehensive family planning needs met.

The above factors contribute to the staggering number of deaths seen annually: 289,000 maternal deaths, 2.6 stillbirths and 5.9 million deaths in children under five, of which 2.7 million are newborn deaths. Even if children survive, the failure to nurture children and protect them from harm erodes their right to develop to their full potential. The burden of disease, death and disability is disproportionately felt by the poorest of the poor in low- and lower-middle income countries, many of which are fragile states.

In order to build on the momentum created by other global initiatives and to sufficiently address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), innovation is needed to efficiently focus, develop and test solutions that respond to these persistent, unsolved challenges in an equitable manner.

Through this Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Request for Proposals, Grand Challenges Canada seeks bold ideas for products, services and implementation models that could transform how persistent challenges in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health are addressed in low- and middle-income countries. The bold ideas are expected to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health through one or more of the following pathways: improving use of essential health services; reducing burden of infectious diseases that disproportionately affect pregnant women and young children, including through improving access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; improving nutrition; and promoting healthy child development.

Of particular interest to Grand Challenges Canada are innovations to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in humanitarian contexts, notably among internally displaced and refugee populations, as well as innovations that improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women.

We place a strong emphasis on supporting ideas that use an entrepreneurial approach to attain these improvements in the health of women and children, as we believe they are best positioned to transition proven innovations to scale.

These bold ideas could originate from any recognized institution in Canada or in eligible low- and middle-income countries. All implementation activities must occur in eligible low- and middle-income countries.

Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to \$100,000 for up to 12–18 months to develop and validate the proposed innovation. Assuming a sufficient number of proposals of merit are received, Grand Challenges Canada aims to award up to 70 seed grants in this round. We anticipate that approximately two-thirds of the awardees will be from low- and middle-income countries, with one-third from Canada.

By the end of the seed grant, innovators are expected to have demonstrated proof of concept of the idea, developed a plan for scale and sustainability, and attracted interest from key stakeholders and partners needed to proceed along a path to scale. Successful innovators are eligible to apply for Transition to Scale funding.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 19, 2016, AT 3:00 P.M. ET

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA

Since 2010, Grand Challenges Canada has committed \$52.1M to the Stars in Global Health program. Our vision is: **Bold Ideas. Big Impact. A Better World.** Our mission is: **Saving and improving lives in low- and middle-income countries through Integrated Innovation®.** Our primary priority is: **Solving critical global health challenges.**

Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting **Bold Ideas with Big Impact®** in global health. Through the 2008 **Development Innovation Fund in Health**, Canada was the first country to adopt a Grand Challenges approach to solving global health challenges in its official development assistance envelope.

Funding for Grand Challenges Canada's support of reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) innovations is provided by the Government of Canada. We support innovators in eligible low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and Canada, to address inequalities and catalyze scale, sustainability and impact. We have a determined focus on results, and on saving and improving lives.

The bold ideas we support integrate science and technology, social and business innovation to find sustainable solutions to health challenges; we call this Integrated Innovation. Grand Challenges Canada focuses on innovator-defined challenges through its Stars in Global Health program, and on targeted challenges through Saving Lives at Birth, Saving Brains and Global Mental Health programs. We help transition promising innovations from the proof-of-concept stage to scale. Grand Challenges Canada works with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to peer review and select innovations to fund.

In 2016, the Government of Canada contributed \$159M towards Grand Challenges Canada's Innovation Platform for RMNCH. This innovation platform is aligned with health challenges related to Canada's RMNCH goals. The basis for the platform is to enable new innovations to drive improvement, renewal and change to bring about improved RMNCH health outcomes. These innovations in approaches, technology, treatment and service delivery can make it possible to provide better and more effective, affordable and accessible solutions to address RMNCH in LMIC.

1.2 BACKGROUND

The Problem

Although substantive progress has been made in tackling maternal, newborn and child mortality in the last two decades, gaps in consistent access to quality essential health services and good nutrition remain, and are made worse by weak health systems and structural violence that limit the ability of women and children to participate fully in society, make decisions for themselves and ultimately limit them from realizing their human rights. As specific examples:

- Conflict disproportionately affects women and children, who are made vulnerable to exploitation and violence as they are forced to flee, including around the time of birth and in early life. Delays in the decision to seek, reach and receive care for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health are widened with forced migration, leading to increased death and disability. LMIC host 86% of the world's refugees, stretching already burdened systems to the point of collapse. For those unwilling or unable to flee conflict, seeking healthcare puts them at increased risk, as health staff and facilities increasingly becoming targets of violent aggression. The situation is equally dire in fragile states with low levels of conflict, where the chronic challenges of extreme poverty, weak infrastructure and poor or absent governance structures leave people without adequate care, and vulnerable to further shocks.
- Roughly 225 million women in low- and middle-income countries have a desire to delay or stop pregnancy but are not using an effective contraceptive method and/or lack access to comprehensive family planning. Without information, access and agency, women are at risk of death and disability due to births that are spaced too closely, and that occur too early or too late in life.

These factors collectively contribute to the staggering number of deaths seen annually: 289,000 maternal deaths, 2.6 stillbirths and 5.9 million deaths in children under five, of which 2.7 million are newborn deaths. Even if children survive, the failure to nurture children and protect them from harm erodes their right to develop to their full potential. The burden of disease, death and disability is disproportionately felt by the poorest of the poor in low- and lower-middle income countries, even more so in humanitarian crises.

In order to build on the momentum created and to sufficiently address the Sustainable Development Goals, innovation is needed to efficiently focus, develop and test innovations to respond to these persistent, unsolved challenges in an equitable manner.

2.0 APPROACH

2.1 PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of this Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health **Request for Proposals (RFP)** is to support **Bold Ideas for Big Impact** on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health from innovators in eligible countries (as outlined in Section 4.1 of this RFP).

2.2 PROGRAM SCOPE

Grand Challenges Canada seeks bold ideas that can easily be implemented in LMIC that focus on **RMNCH**, including those that will yield positive early childhood experiences that contribute to the health and well-being of all children around the world. These bold

ideas could originate from non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations, as well as other recognized institutions. Social enterprises are encouraged to apply.

Proposed innovations must be bold, innovative, transformational and ‘outside-the-box’, and must have the potential to make a substantial, equitable impact on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. The innovations are expected to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health through one or more of the following pathways:

- Improve use of essential health services, including comprehensive family planning
- Reduce the burden of infectious diseases that disproportionately affect pregnant women and young children, including through improving access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
- Improve nutrition.

The proposed innovations should:

- Have a strong likelihood of achieving substantial and measurable health gains in hard to reach populations, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings
- Maximize delivery, uptake, acceptability, sustainability and impact by integrating scientific/technological, social and business innovation. We call this Integrated Innovation. (See the Integrated Innovation white paper available at www.grandchallenges.ca/integrated-innovation).
- Demonstrate where possible alignment with relevant domestic country laws, regulations, national plans and interest of relevant institutions and organizations to the development, delivery and uptake of the innovation (i.e., local health systems).

Desirable attributes include:

Approaches that can be used effectively with minimum maintenance and training to improve RMNCH in communities with no or only basic healthcare infrastructure/personnel:

- Solutions appropriate for settings with limited infrastructure (e.g., lack of electricity or clean water, etc.)
- Solutions that address the impact of gender and other inequalities on RMNCH
- Extreme affordability
- Approaches that reflect an understanding of the target user market and address the needs of this user
- Solutions that include a solid business plan to drive market penetration and uptake in poor countries that will lead to sustainable social enterprises
- Projects that shed light on potential for long-term financial and operational sustainability – relevant testing could include assessing user demand, willingness

to pay, correct usage of products and services, viability of distribution channels, or documenting social outcomes and real world costs to implement the innovation.

Areas of particular interest:

Of particular interest to Grand Challenges Canada are ideas that:

1. Increase access to and use of high quality reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child healthcare (RMNCH) in fragile settings, including those that increase RMNCH service use by populations living in humanitarian crises, especially those beyond the reach of governments, including internally displaced and refugee populations living outside formal camp settings, focusing on innovations that:
 - Reach hard-to-reach populations in fragile and conflict-affected settings
 - Overcome the chronic challenges of extreme poverty, weak infrastructure, and poor or absent governance structures that leave citizens without adequate care and vulnerable to further shocks
 - Protect against gender-based or sexual violence in humanitarian settings
 - Overcome challenges of access by service providers to populations at risk
 - Enhance monitoring and evaluation of health outcomes in humanitarian settings
 - Are from countries hosting the largest numbers of refugees, e.g., Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Ethiopia or Jordan.
2. Expand comprehensive family planning efforts , including innovations that:
 - Improve health-seeking behaviour, and access to and use of, comprehensive family planning services
 - Empower women and girls who would want to delay or stop pregnancy but are faced with stigma, restrictive laws, and/or a lack of access to or control over resources to have their reproductive health needs met, including but not limited to approaches involving engagement of men
 - Improve the collection and visibility of disaggregated data around access and use of family planning services
 - Target local sociocultural barriers
 - Are social enterprises
 - Support the implementation of Family Planning 2020 commitments.

2.3 SIZE AND LENGTH OF GRANTS

Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to \$100,000 for up to 12–18 months to develop and validate the proposed innovation. Assuming a sufficient number of proposals of merit are received, we aim to award up to 70 seed grants in this round. We anticipate that approximately two-thirds of the awardees will be from low-and middle-income countries, with one-third from Canada.

Success for seed grants is defined as:

- Demonstrated proof of concept of the solution, i.e., provide on-the-ground evidence of improvement on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health and how the concept may be feasibly implemented, sustained and financially supported in the target region
- Secured interest, financing and/or commitments for uptake from key stakeholders, influencers and partners needed to enable transition to scale.

Please note: All successful applicants must take up the grant no later than six (6) months after the receipt of a signed grant agreement from Grand Challenges Canada. Any deferral beyond this period may result in the forfeiture of the award.

Please note: All successful applicants must complete their project within 18 months. No-cost extensions will not be provided and exceptions are at Grand Challenges Canada's sole discretion.

Transition to Scale funding

A limited number of innovations funded through this RFP may have the opportunity to apply for transition-to-scale funding to support the refinement, testing and implementation of innovative solutions that have already achieved proof of concept. Transition to scale projects are expected to demonstrate large-scale, real-world impact on reproductive, maternal, newborn and/or child health and move towards scale and sustainability. Transition to scale projects require support from partners who bring both matched funding and the necessary skillsets to the innovations to operate sustainably at scale. Please visit <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/grand-challenges/transition-to-scale/> for further information on transition to scale funding.

While matched funding is not a requirement at the proof-of-concept stage, all innovators are encouraged to secure co-funding. Initiating early strategic partnerships can improve the sustainability of an innovation by creating early buy-in, and providing resources and expertise that may prepare teams for the transition to scale process, which requires matching funds through partnerships.

2.4 TARGET BENEFICIARIES

Innovations must target women and girls of reproductive age, newborns and/or children under five years old who are among the poorest of the poor in eligible low- and middle-income countries.

2.5 FOCUS ON RESULTS

Funded projects are expected to demonstrate impact on the health and survival of women of reproductive age, newborns and/or children under five years in eligible LMIC. To this end, projects should have a monitoring and evaluation approach to clearly measure health effects, identify shortcomings and maximize impact. In the case where it

is not feasible to measure impact on health and survival during seed funding, projects are expected to demonstrate measurable change in at least one of the following outcomes:

- Improved use of essential health services to women of reproductive age, newborns and children under five
- Improved use of essential health services to prevent and treat infectious diseases by women of reproductive age, newborns and children under five
- Increased consumption of nutritious foods and supplements by women of reproductive age, newborns and children under five

Innovators are expected to report against any indicators listed in Appendix A that are relevant to demonstrating success of their innovation.

Communicating Results

Communicating results is also an important part of the project's accountability. Proposals should include a brief overview of how they plan to engage stakeholders and disseminate results, the different audiences they intend to reach, and how this dissemination will contribute to the project's impact. While communicating results through scientific publications is important, this should not be the primary objective of funded projects without a well-articulated justification that this is on the critical path to impact.

Grand Challenges Canada has Global Access and Data Access Policies with open access considerations that must be followed; further information on these policies is available in section 2.9. Proposals should include adequate time within the funded period for analysis of results and drafting publications. Within this policy is a requirement that publications arising from Grand Challenges Canada funded research be made openly accessible, either by publishing in open access journals or by making final, peer-reviewed manuscripts freely available online, such as through open access repositories, within 12 months of publication.¹ Use of platforms such as *F1000 Research*, which offers immediate publication of articles that go through transparent peer review, are encouraged where appropriate. Reporting to Grand Challenges Canada on dissemination of results may be required past the funded period.

2.6 INTEGRATED INNOVATION

Projects are expected to take an Integrated Innovation approach, defined 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, but rather highlights the powerful synergies that can be realized by aligning all three. Integrated Innovation recognizes that scientific/technological innovation has a greater chance of going to scale and achieving

¹ Grand Challenges Canada's open access publication requirement adheres to the *Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications* (<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=F6765465-1>).

global impact and sustainability if it is developed from the outset with appropriate social and business innovations. Similarly, it recognizes that social or business innovations will not be effective on their own. (Please refer to www.grandchallenges.ca/integrated-innovation.)

Proposed solutions should therefore include a combination of:

- **Scientific/Technological Innovation:** Has a base 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

2.7 SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Grand Challenges Canada expects that the most successful innovations it funds will eventually be scaled up through partnerships, either with the private sector, the public sector or a combination of both, and that scaling will be carried out with the goal of achieving meaningful health impact for the poorest of the poor in low- and middle-income countries. Applicants should convincingly show in their application how and why they believe their projects will eventually be scaled:

- Private sector scaling paths are suitable for projects that are commercially viable or provide value to attract a private sector partner, either because production costs and sales prices are such that they are profitable, or beneficiaries demand the innovation and are willing to pay for it themselves.
- Public sector scaling paths are suitable for projects that are likely to compel host country government ministries and departments, multilateral donors or other public sector players to scale them. These should be aligned to, and have the ability to be incorporated into, the country's national health plan or strategy.

Seed funding should enable innovations to position themselves along a clearer path to scale, taking into account the following factors: the state of local infrastructure; social, political, and economic forces; the capacity of the institution and its leadership; potential strategic and implementation partners; available funding and revenue streams; and other potential barriers to scale. Projects are recommended to leverage local systems where this will lead to efficiencies and to engage end users (both women and men, or girls and boys) to increase the likelihood of scale-up. This should include an understanding of: how the innovation relates to local priorities (e.g., national/regional health plans), why the innovation would be preferred over alternatives, and push/pull mechanisms

supporting market formation and consumer demand. The plan should clearly define the geography or context of use at scale, as well as exit strategies from grant funding.

Social Entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply to this RFP. Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society's most pressing social problems. They are ambitious and persistent, tackling major social issues and offering new ideas for wide-scale change. Whereas business entrepreneurs typically measure performance in profits, social entrepreneurs seek a sustainable approach to achieve social returns to society. Grand Challenges Canada believes social entrepreneurship is a critical feature to enable scaling, sustainability and the ultimate achievement of impact.

Understanding of Local Context

To help ensure sustainable impact at scale, it is essential that projects have an understanding of the local infrastructure and governance context (including relevant laws and regulations) and the social, political and economic context. In doing so, projects can better understand the health status and needs of the community, and identify risks to project success. Innovators are encouraged to work within priority areas identified by local or domestic governments. Where they exist, innovations should build upon local systems which are able to reach the target population that support health and/or development, or address broader determinants of health. Determinants of health include: poverty, inequality (including gender inequality), and access to water and sanitation resources. Innovations should be relevant to low resource settings, and benefits of these innovations should target poor, marginalized populations of low- or middle-income countries.

2.8 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, GENDER EQUALITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Grand Challenges Canada is committed to furthering the principles of environmental sustainability, gender equality and good governance, as follows:

1. **Environmental Sustainability:** Grand Challenges Canada requires that applicants commit to ensuring that the innovation will not have material adverse environmental effects including, but not limited to, long-term and cumulative effects. Where possible, applicants should incorporate having positive environmental effects throughout the project.
2. **Gender Equality:** Grand Challenges Canada is committed to furthering principles of gender equality in the projects it funds. Innovators funded through Grand Challenges Canada must comply with the policy on Gender Governance and Environment, which has the following objectives: (1) advancing women's equal participation with men as decision-makers in shaping the sustainable development of their societies; (2) supporting women and girls in the realization of their full human rights; and (3) reducing gender inequalities in access to, and control over, the resources and benefits of development.

- a. All innovations should explicitly and systematically integrate gender equality considerations (activities, outputs and results) at all stages of the project, including budgetary provisions, where possible.
 - b. Grand Challenges Canada believes that supporting gender equality and the rights of women and girls are important objectives in and of themselves, and that, by considering gender dimensions in the development of innovations, sustained impact can be bolstered. Applicants should include a description of how they intend to address at least one of these objectives in the project and the role and engagement in this process of local stakeholders (women and men, boys and girls), including end users for whom innovations are meant to improve health outcomes. A gender analysis (how and why gender inequalities, differences, roles and relations) is required for each submission. The inclusion of gender equality results should also be considered when developing a monitoring and evaluation plan and, where relevant, integrated into the measurement activities. All initiatives must include sex-disaggregated data in their reporting.
 - c. Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.
3. **Good Governance:** Grand Challenges Canada is committed to furthering principles of good governance in the innovations it funds. This includes the promotion of good governance principles of participation, inclusion, equity, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the applicant's project. Stakeholders (e.g., governments, regulators, smart partners, etc.) needed for the eventual scaling of the innovation should be identified, and innovators should have a clear understanding of their current position with respect to the innovation, how that would need to change and how that change could be generated.

Innovators are required to commit to compliance with Grand Challenges Canada policy regarding these themes.

2.9 GLOBAL ACCESS, DATA ACCESS AND ETHICS

Grand Challenges Canada is committed to fostering meaningful access to supported innovations for the target beneficiaries of each funded project, particularly those beneficiaries among the marginalized and poor in low- and middle-income countries; to promoting prompt and open dissemination of research findings and data arising from funded activities; and to ensuring that funded research is conducted in a manner that complies with relevant ethical standards. These commitments are embodied in Grand Challenges Canada's Global Access Policy, Data Access Policy and Ethics Policy, which should be carefully reviewed by all applicants.

1. **Global Access:** Grand Challenges Canada is committed to ensuring that (1) funded innovations will be made meaningfully accessible, both in terms of price and availability, to the target beneficiaries of each funded project, particularly those

among the marginalized and poor in low- and middle-income countries;
(2) knowledge and information gained through funded projects will be disseminated broadly and promptly to the global research community and beyond;
(3) commercialization of funded innovations is encouraged, so long as it is consistent with these principles.

2. **Data Access:** Grand Challenges Canada is committed to ensuring that (1) data will be shared as broadly and as promptly as possible to foster innovation and optimize prospects for the translation of knowledge into life-saving solutions; (2) respect for attribution, cultural diversity, scientific integrity, and the privacy of individuals and communities that contribute data will be appropriately considered in all data access activities; (3) collection, production, sharing and use of data will be consistent with applicable laws, regulations and standards of ethical research conduct; (4) the individuals and communities who enable and support inquiry, particularly those in low- and middle-income countries, be they research participants or investigators, benefit from data to the extent possible.
3. **Ethics:** Grand Challenges Canada requires that (1) research involving human participants be conducted in a manner that demonstrates, protects and preserves respect for persons, concern for the welfare of individuals, families and communities, and justice; (2) research involving animals be conducted in a manner that ensures their humane care and treatment; (3) certain research endeavours, including but not limited to research with recombinant DNA, biohazards and genetically modified organisms, be subject to enhanced regulation and oversight, as appropriate.

Innovators are required to: (1) commit to compliance with the above policies; (2) ensure that intellectual property rights, including those of third parties, do not impede meaningful access to innovations and widespread dissemination of knowledge; (3) grant Grand Challenges Canada a limited, non-exclusive license to intellectual property rights in their innovations, applicable only in the event of an inability to secure meaningful access for target beneficiaries in low- and middle-income countries.

Further information on these requirements is provided below in Section 6 and onwards.

3.0 ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Innovators funded under this effort will be expected to engage in the activities and provide the specific deliverables listed below, which will help to demonstrate project progress and success:

1. Quarterly progress reporting, focused on utilization of funds, performance and outcomes achieved. **Please note** that funds may only be advanced to innovators to cover budgeted expenses for a period of two quarters, and that advances to cover the budgeted expenses for a third quarter will be contingent on the first quarter being fully accounted for.

2. Working with Grand Challenges Canada on modeling potential health impacts, etc.
3. Dissemination of knowledge in a timely manner, including through social media, open access publications, depositing of data into publicly accessible repositories, press releases, conferences, stakeholder engagement, etc. **Please note** that innovators will be expected to publish their findings on open access publishing platforms, e.g., *F1000Research*, within 12 months of completing their seed grant.
4. A final report that accounts for financial expenditures and captures a clear assessment of the impact of the project, including progress towards achieving meaningful access to innovations and widespread dissemination of knowledge. **Please note** that a 5% hold back of funds will be applied to all funding under this program, to be released to innovators upon submission of satisfactory final report and full justification of costs.
5. Continued post-investment updates on global access, data access and management of intellectual property rights in supported innovations.

Instructions for reporting will be provided to successful applicants. Written progress reports and conversations via teleconference may be required to satisfy reporting requirements.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, innovators will be expected to:

1. Participate in public engagement activities
2. Contribute to the learning agenda for specific challenges, including through participation in meetings with other Grand Challenges Canada innovators, when invited.

Please note that funded innovators may be audited by Grand Challenges Canada, Global Affairs Canada, and/or the Auditor General of Canada at any time up until the end of 2028; associated requirements will be reflected in funding agreements.

4.0 RULES AND GUIDELINES

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research oversees the peer review process and Grand Challenges Canada's Board of Directors makes the final funding decisions.

4.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Eligible applicants include social enterprises and other recognized institutions (e.g., non-profit organizations and for-profit companies) that are legally registered or incorporated in an eligible jurisdiction, as set out below, that can successfully execute the activities in their respective technical area, and are capable of receiving and administering grant funding.

2. **ONLY** applicants from the following list of countries are eligible to apply to this Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health RFP. For the purposes of determining eligibility, Grand Challenges Canada may consider both the applicant's home jurisdiction and any other jurisdiction within which project activities will be implemented.

This list is subject to revision by Grand Challenges Canada without notice. Notwithstanding inclusion below, all eligible jurisdictions remain subject to approval by Grand Challenges Canada on the basis of compliance with all relevant Canadian and international laws and policies. Whenever possible, Grand Challenges Canada will provide reasonable notice of a determination of ineligibility for applicants located within jurisdictions listed below.

List of Countries Eligible to Apply

Afghanistan	Guyana	Philippines
Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti	Rwanda
Armenia	Honduras	Samoa
Bangladesh	India	São Tomé and Príncipe
Benin	Indonesia	Senegal
Bhutan	Jamaica	Sierra Leone
Bolivia	*Jordan	Solomon Islands
Burkina Faso	Kenya	Somalia
Burundi	Kiribati	South Sudan
Cambodia	Kosovo	Sri Lanka
Cameroon	Kyrgyz Rep.	St. Kitts-Nevis
Canada	Laos	St. Lucia
Cape Verde	*Lebanon	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Central African Rep.	Lesotho	Sudan
Chad	Liberia	Suriname
Columbia	Madagascar	Swaziland
Comoros	Malawi	Tajikistan
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Mali	Tanzania
Congo, Rep.	Mauritania	Timor-Leste
Côte d'Ivoire.	Micronesia, Fed.Sts	Togo
Djibouti	Moldova	*Turkey
Dominica	Mongolia	Uganda
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Montserrat	Ukraine
El Salvador	Morocco	Uzbekistan
Eritrea	Mozambique	Vanuatu
Ethiopia	Myanmar	Vietnam
Gambia	Nepal	West Bank and Gaza
Georgia	Nicaragua	Yemen, Rep.
Ghana	Niger	Zambia
Grenada	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
Guatemala	Pakistan	
Guinea	Papua New Guinea	

Guinea-Bissau

Peru

**Proposed ideas from these countries MUST target RMNCH in refugee/migrant populations only.*

3. It is mandatory for all **applicants from Canada** to have a collaborator based in an eligible country other than Canada. (See Section 4.1.) Existing and new collaborations are equally encouraged, particularly those that will bring additional components of Integrated Innovation to your project: scientific/technological, social and business innovation. **Please note:** It is not mandatory for **applicants from eligible countries other than Canada** to have a collaborator; however, collaborations are likewise encouraged.
4. A project can only have one Project Lead who must be affiliated with the institution from which the proposal is being submitted.
5. Applications must include all required information and attachments. Only complete applications will be considered for peer review.
6. Proposed ideas must be aligned with the Program Scope. (See Section 2.2.)
7. Grand Challenges Canada may, at any time and at its sole discretion, modify eligibility criteria with respect to individual applicants, Project Lead and/or eligible countries, to the extent that such modifications do not materially undermine the review process. (See Section 4.3.)

What We Will Not Fund

We WILL NOT consider funding drug or vaccine development , discovery science, capacity-building initiatives, ongoing programmatic funding, or ideas that are not applicable to poor women, children and families in low- and lower-middle income countries.

4.2 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications MUST be submitted to the Stars in Global Health program through the Grand Challenges Canada Community Portal. **In order to gain access to the Portal, applicants must first create an account using the following link: [Create an account](#).** Once you have created an account, please allow for up to one (1) business day for Grand Challenges Canada to process your information. Once your information has been processed, you will be emailed login credentials to access the Portal and submit your application. For technical support, please contact support@grandchallenges.ca.

A **two-minute** video explaining the target reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health problem, the proposed solution, and why it is a creative, bold and innovative

approach should also be uploaded to the application website. The video must not exceed two minutes; any videos that are longer than two minutes will be truncated at two minutes before being reviewed. Please note you must get permission to use someone else's song, images or footage in your video. Please refer to the Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health RFP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) found on our website for more information.

These videos will be submitted to Grand Challenges Canada as part of the application for its Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Request for Proposals. Grand Challenges Canada does not endorse the content of these videos and takes no responsibility for the accuracy of their content or the process by which they were filmed.

Both the application and the video can be submitted in either **English** or **French**. Applications in other languages will not be considered.

Proposal Development Resource

Applicants are encouraged to access Grand Challenge Canada's Online Proposal Development Resource at www.grandchallenges.ca/proposaldevelopment, which contains materials to help researchers and innovators around the world to develop their project proposals and to plan for how their innovation will go to scale, be sustained and have global impact.

Questions about the Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Request for Proposals or the application process should be addressed to stars@grandchallenges.ca. Responses to frequently asked questions will periodically be posted on our website at www.grandchallenges.ca/grand-challenges/stars-phase-i/.

Please note: Applicants are required to seek and obtain sign-off from their affiliated organization/institution(s) before submitting their application.

4.3 REVIEW PROCESS

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) manages an independent scientific peer review process, which follows an Eligibility Screen and Innovation Screen conducted by Grand Challenges Canada. Based on the results of the peer review, a funding recommendation will be made to Grand Challenges Canada's Board of Directors, which will make the final funding decisions at the Board's sole discretion. The applicant's performance on other projects funded by Grand Challenges Canada and its partners will be taken into account at all points in the process. The review process is outlined below.

Eligibility Screen

Applications will be internally screened on the basis of the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 4.1. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria may be removed from the competition at any time.

Innovation Screen

Applications will be internally scored for strategic relevance to the Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health RFP. The innovation screen will evaluate only the proposed idea (not the feasibility or quality of the project plan) for novelty and potential to contribute uniquely to the problem. (See Section 1.2.) Proposals that lack innovation and relevance will be removed from the competition at this stage.

Applications will be scored against the criteria below using the **project summary paragraphs** only (the criteria are equally weighted):

1. Innovation

- Is the proposed idea clearly articulated?
- Does the proposed idea represent more than an incremental improvement over current approaches?
- Is there a coordinated application of integrated scientific/technological, social and business innovation proposed, as defined in Sections 2.6 and 2.7?

2. Relevance

- Does the proposed idea address the problem, as described in Section 1.2?
- Does the proposed idea align with areas of particular interest, as described in Section 2.2?
- Does it apply to poor populations in low- or middle-income countries?
- Is there a clear description of the potential scale at which the concept could be applied, and the path to scale and sustainability? Markers of potential for scale and sustainability include: involvement of partners who can help the innovation to scale, potential to leverage or generate funding to sustain the innovation, and alignment to the health plan of the region in which it is being implemented.

Peer Review

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research manages an independent peer review of the applications that pass the eligibility and innovation screen. A review committee of external scientific, social and business reviewers, including experts from low- and middle-income countries, will advise on the merit of proposals and rate each application, based on the evaluation criteria in Section 4.4.

Funding Decision

Upon completion of peer review, Grand Challenges Canada will receive a ranking list and ratings from CIHR. Selection decisions will be based on the ranking list and ratings

received from CIHR as well as Grand Challenges Canada's objective to fund approximately two-thirds of the awardees from low-and middle-income countries, and one-third from Canada. The final selection decisions will be made by the Board of Directors of Grand Challenges Canada at the Board's sole discretion, including its reserved rights set out in Section 4.1.

4.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Impact – 18%

- Is the potential impact of the proposed innovation on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health important, both in terms of number of people reached and impact per person?
- Does the proposed idea apply to poor, marginalized populations in low- or middle-income countries?
- Does the proposed idea aim to address inequalities, including gender inequality?

2. Integrated Innovation – 18%

- How bold, novel and/or a departure from incremental improvements is the innovation over current approaches?
- How well does the proposed idea integrate scientific/technological, social and business innovation?

3. Scale and Sustainability – 18%

- Does the proposed idea have a path to, and potential for, impact at scale? Markers of potential for scale and sustainability include: involvement of partners who can help the innovation to scale, potential to leverage or generate funding to sustain the innovation, and alignment to the health plan of the region in which it is being implemented.
- Does the applicant identify relevant laws, regulations, national plans, and interest of relevant institutions and organizations to the development, delivery and uptake of innovations (i.e., local health systems)?

4. Project Lead and Team – 18%

- Do the Project Lead and team have the skills to carry out the proposed activities?
- Do they demonstrate the commitment and leadership needed to transition ideas to scale?
- Is the Project Lead able to present their approach to the public in an engaging manner?

5. Technical Merit/Project Execution Plan – 18%

- Is the project designed to demonstrate proof of concept of the idea?
 - Provide on-the-ground evidence of improvement on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, and how the concept may be feasibly implemented, sustained and financially supported in the target region.
 - Is there a commitment to disaggregate all indicators by sex?

- Is the project technically sound and feasible within the seed grant funding and timeline?
- Does the proposal take into account and aim to address the environmental sustainability, gender equality, and good governance objectives in Section 2.8?
- Does the environment in which the work will be performed contribute to the probability of success?
- Does the approach and budget represent an efficient use of resources?

6. Transformative – 10%

- Does the proposed idea have the potential to fundamentally transform how a reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health challenge is addressed?

4.5 APPLICATION SCHEDULE

Completed applications must be submitted by Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. ET.

Key Deadlines	Event
July 19, 2016	Application deadline at 3:00 p.m. ET
December 2016	Notification of award
March 2017	Execution of award

5.0 FINANCIAL TERMS

5.1 ELIGIBLE COSTS

The following costs directly related to the implementation of the project are eligible:

Remuneration – Organization's Employees

Daily rates actually paid to employees for time actually worked on the implementation of the project, based on a work day of seven and one-half (7.5) hours with a maximum of five (5) days per week. A timesheet system must be in use. Rates can include the following costs: direct salaries (excluding overtime pay and bonuses) and benefits in accordance with internal policies.

Fees – Subcontractors with an Arm's Length Relationship to the Organization

The actual and justifiable cost of sub-contractors' fees under a sub-contract concluded with the organization, where the organization and the sub-contractor have an arm's length relationship. Individual rates or amounts negotiated shall not exceed the fair market value that applies to the specific type of service in the regular place of work of the sub-contractor or for similar work being performed under this agreement and shall exclude any increased rate for overtime. The total sub-contracting shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total value of Grand Challenges Canada's contribution.

Reimbursable Costs

The actual and reasonable costs directly related to the implementation of the project, such as:

1. **Travel costs**, including the following travel costs incurred by the organization, in accordance:
 - The cost of commercial transportation based on the lowest available fares, using the most direct routing
 - The cost of meals, incidentals and private vehicle usage
 - The cost of registration, photographs and courier services related to obtaining a visa
 - The actual and reasonable cost of a single room in commercial accommodation
 - All other actual and reasonable costs deemed legitimate project expenses.
2. **Recipient country government employees**: costs (such as local transportation costs and living expenses while travelling) incurred by government employees of the recipient country who have been identified by the recipient country to work with project personnel for the purpose of the project.
3. **Goods and supplies**: Actual costs of publications and promotional materials directly related to the Project, such as business cards for Project personnel, posters and signage.
4. **Project administration eligible direct costs** related to the project:
 - Long-distance communications, including means of telecommunications (internet, fax, cellular), mail and courier costs
 - Printing and production costs associated with project reporting and production of reading material
 - Meeting, workshops and conference costs
 - Legal fees: legal costs directly related to sub-agreements
 - Due diligence prior to signing a sub-agreement
 - Bank transfer fees.

Indirect/Overhead Costs

Indirect/overhead costs are not eligible under Grand Challenges Canada's agreements.

5.2 BUDGET

Grant funds may be used for the following cost categories. Budget categories should not exceed the allowable costs per category, as listed below. Total budget should not exceed \$100,000 CAD.



Category	Description	Maximum allowable cost
Remuneration - Organization's Employees	Daily rates actually paid to employees for time actually worked on the implementation of the Project, based on a work day of seven and one-half (7.5) hours with a maximum of five (5) days per week. Timesheet system must be in use. Timesheets shall be signed by the employee and the employee's supervisor. Timesheets shall also indicate the Project, the name of the employee, the date, location, nature of the work, number of hours worked per day specifically on the Project as well as the total number of hours worked per week on all projects. Rates can include the following costs: direct salaries (excluding overtime pay and bonuses) and benefits in accordance with internal policies.	\$ 40,000
Fees - Subcontractors	The actual and justifiable cost of Subcontractors' fees under a Sub-contract concluded with the Organization, where the Organization and the Subcontractor have an Arm's Length Relationship. Individual rates or amounts negotiated shall not exceed the fair market value that applies to the specific type of service in the regular place of work of the Subcontractor or for similar work being performed under this Agreement and shall exclude any increased rate for overtime. The total subcontracting (Fees - Subcontractors on main grant + Fees - Subcontractors on Subgrants) shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total value of Grand Challenges Canada's Contribution.	\$ 20,000
Reimbursable Travel Costs	Travel Costs, including the following travel costs incurred by the Organization in accordance: - The cost of commercial transportation based on the lowest available fares, using the most direct routing. - The cost of meals, incidentals and private vehicle usage. - The cost of registration, photographs, and courier services related to obtaining a visa. - The actual and reasonable cost of a single room in commercial accommodation. - All other actual and reasonable costs deemed legitimate Project expenses.	\$10,000
Reimbursable Goods and Supplies	Actual and Eligible Costs arising from the purchase, rental, maintenance and transportation of goods, and supplies (excluding office supplies), such as publications and promotional material (i.e. business cards for Project personnel, posters and signage), provided that such costs do not exceed the fair market value that applies to the specific type of goods, and supplies.	\$25,000

Reimbursable Equipment	All equipment that has a useful life of more than one year and costs more than \$1,000 CAD . Costs may include the basic purchase price, freight, and installation of the equipment.	\$25,000
Reimbursable Project Administration costs directly related to the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long distance communications, including means of telecommunications (internet, fax, cellular), mail and courier costs; - Printing and production costs associated with Project reporting and production of reading material; - Meeting, workshops, and conference costs; - Legal fees: Legal costs directly related to sub-agreements; - Due diligence prior to signing a Sub-agreement; - Bank transfer fees. 	\$25,000
Sub-Grants	<p>Sub-grants are grants made by you to other organizations to complete work for this project. The costs should not include Indirect/Overhead costs as these are ineligible costs under the Project.</p> <p>The distinction between sub-grants vs. sub-contracts should be made primarily based on the following definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sub-grants will be responsible for some of the research activities and will be compensated accordingly. - Sub-contractor will provide technical services (for example, a lab doing tests for the Principal Investigator/grantee) and will be paid based on services provided. 	\$22,400
Indirect Costs	Please note indirect costs will not be allowed.	0

At least some of the budget and activities **MUST** be spent/carried out in an eligible country other than Canada. (See Section 4.1.)

Proposals with thoughtful and efficient use of resources will be preferred over proposals representing comparable efforts that do not have the same value for the investment. In some circumstances (e.g., rapidly changing technologies), subcontracting specific project activities to an outside institution with the infrastructure and expertise to deliver results may be considered advantageous over establishing in-house capacity.

5.3 TERMS OF PAYMENTS

5.3.1. **Advance payments:** An initial advance equal to the estimated cash flow requirements for eligible costs forecasted for the two quarters will be made upon signature of the Agreement. Subsequent payments will be made through quarterly advances, based on the estimated cash flow requirements for eligible

- costs. Advances will be subject to a 5% holdback on the amount forecasted.
- 5.3.2. All advance requests and financial reports submitted shall be signed by a senior executive holding a certified professional accounting designation.
- 5.3.3. **Outstanding advance:** Advance payments cannot cover more than two periods and at no time shall there be outstanding advances covering the cash flow requirements of more than two periods. For example, before an advance payment is issued for a third period, the first period must be accounted for.
- 5.3.4. **Separate bank account and interest earned on advance payments:** A separate bank account, bearing interest, shall be maintained for the project.
- 5.3.5. Final payment will be subject to the following conditions:
- i. The Project is completed in accordance with the Agreement.
 - ii. Grand Challenges Canada has received and accepted the Final Report.
 - iii. Grand Challenges Canada has received a certificate stating that financial obligations to employees, sub-contractors or suppliers in respect of Grand Challenges Canada's contribution to the project have been fully discharged.

5.4 AUDIT

Project costs will be subject to audit by Grand Challenges Canada, Global Affairs Canada and/or the Auditor General of Canada at any time up until the end of 2028.

6.0 SUBMISSION MATERIALS AND PRIVACY NOTICE

To help us in the evaluation and analysis of projects, all proposals, documents, communications, videos and associated materials submitted to Grand Challenges Canada in response to this Request for Proposals or in connection with due diligence thereafter (collectively, "Submission Materials") may be shared with Global Affairs Canada, members of the Development Innovation Fund–Health consortium (which includes, in addition to Grand Challenges Canada, the International Development Research Centre and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research) and/or with other funding partners, and may be publicly disclosed.

By submitting any Submission Materials to Grand Challenges Canada, each applicant thereby grants to Grand Challenges Canada and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada ("Her Majesty") a worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, non-commercial, free of charge and royalty-free license to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, improve, develop, translate, publish, disseminate, distribute, communicate to the public by telecommunication and display the Submission Materials, in whole or in part, in any form, media or technology now known or later developed, including the right to authorize others to do such acts and the right to sublicense such rights to others on the same terms.

Each applicant also thereby waives any and all moral rights that it has in the Submission Materials in favour of Grand Challenges Canada, Her Majesty, and each of their sub-licensees, successors, representatives, assigns, employees and agents. The proposals will be subject to external review by independent subject-matter experts and potential co-funders (the results of which will be confidential), in addition to analysis by our staff.

Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you have any doubts about the wisdom of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information (including information related to inventions), we recommend you consult with your legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your intellectual property. You may wish to consider whether such information is critical for evaluating the submission and whether more general, non-confidential information may be adequate as an alternative for these purposes.

We will attempt in good faith to respect the confidentiality of information we receive in Submission Materials, if it is clearly marked “Confidential”. Nonetheless, notwithstanding your characterization of any information as “Confidential”, we reserve the right to publicly disclose all information contained in Submission Materials, as may be required by law and as is necessary for potential co-funders and external reviewers (such as government entities) to evaluate them and the manner and scope of potential funding, consistent with appropriate regulations and their internal guidelines and policies. Grand Challenges Canada expressly disclaims any and all liability that may arise from disclosure of confidential information contained in Submission Materials.

7.0 WARRANTY

By providing any Submission Materials, applicants represent and warrant to Grand Challenges Canada that they have the right to provide the information submitted and to grant the above licenses.

Applicants with questions concerning the contents of their Submission Materials may contact Grand Challenges Canada by email at stars@grandchallenges.ca.

8.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The solutions supported by this program comprise innovative technologies, services, business models, knowledge and/or products to promote global health in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The successful development and deployment of these solutions in order to ensure meaningful access for target beneficiaries in LMICs may require involvement by, support of, and/or collaboration with multiple organizations, including the private sector, government, and academic and/or non-profit research institutions. Accordingly, it is the intent of this program to support the formation of appropriate partnerships that are essential to meet these urgent global health needs. Successful applicants retain ownership of intellectual property rights in supported innovations, including those rights that arise in outputs of funded projects.

Grand Challenges Canada aims, however, to ensure that any such intellectual property rights are utilized and managed in a manner that is consistent with achieving the goals of this program. Grand Challenges Canada's Global Access Policy will guide our approach to intellectual property, and we urge all applicants to consider their willingness to submit an application in compliance with Grand Challenges Canada's Global Access Policy, the guiding principles of which are as follows:

- Breakthrough solutions to global challenges are made accessible to those in need, particularly in the developing world. Accessibility relates to both price and availability.
- Knowledge gained through discovery is broadly, and as promptly as possible, distributed between related projects and to the global scientific community.
- Commercialization of resulting outputs is encouraged, as long as the first two principles are achieved.

Successful applicants will be required to commit to compliance with Grand Challenges Canada's Global Access Policy, and to sign a Global Access Agreement with Grand Challenges Canada, in line with the Guiding Principles, applicable to the innovative solutions and project outputs supported by this program. The Global Access Agreement will provide a limited, non-exclusive license to intellectual property rights in supported innovations (including background intellectual property) permitting Grand Challenges Canada and its sub-licensees to implement and disseminate products, processes, knowledge or solutions in low- and middle-income countries in which applicants or their partners are unable to achieve meaningful accessibility.

Applicants should note that Grand Challenges Canada may be required to provide sub-license or sub-distribution rights to one or more persons appointed by Her Majesty, if Her Majesty reasonably determines that meaningful accessibility has not been achieved. Finally, upon request, applicants must agree to provide persons appointed by Her Majesty with a non-exclusive license to supported innovations to address an emergency situation that is subject to a declaration by the World Health Organization of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Applicants should note that the above global access commitments survive the end of project activities.

9.0 DATA ACCESS

Grand Challenges Canada is committed to optimizing the use of data to translate knowledge into life-saving solutions. To fulfill this objective, data must be made available widely and rapidly to Grand Challenges Canada's community and the broader global health community through ethical and efficient data access practices. In accordance with global access, data access represents an elaboration of the second guiding principle of the Global Access Policy, which states that knowledge gained through discovery is

broadly, and as promptly as possible, distributed between related projects and to the global scientific community.

At a minimum, ‘data’ refers to final, annotated quantitative and qualitative datasets, and accompanying information, such as metadata, codebooks, data dictionaries, questionnaires and protocols.

Grand Challenges Canada recognizes the value of intellectual property and commercialization, and the benefits of first and continuing use of data, but not prolonged or exclusive use. In some cases, intellectual property protection, laws or regulations may delay or preclude access to data. In cases where an adequate justification has been provided, Grand Challenges Canada may grant a partial or complete waiver of the data access requirement.

10.0 RIGHTS OF GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA

This Request for Proposals is part of a discretionary granting program. Submission of an application does not create a contractual relationship between the applicant and Grand Challenges Canada.

Furthermore, all applicants acknowledge that this program is being tested through this Request for Proposals and that all terms are subject to change. In particular, Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right, in its sole discretion and without notice, to:

1. Cancel this Request for Proposals at any time and for any reason.
2. Amend and reissue the Request for Proposals at any time and for any reason. This Request for Proposals is valid commencing on May 16, 2016, and supersedes any previous Request for Proposals of this nature. The terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals apply to all applications submitted from May 16, 2016, going forward and may be replaced by a revised Request for Proposals in the future. We recommend checking for any revisions to the Request for Proposals prior to the submission of your proposal.
3. Accept or reject any application that is non-conforming because it does not meet the eligibility criteria, does not comply with the application instructions and/or does not comply with the instructions for allowable costs.
4. Not award an application based on performance on a previous Grand Challenges Canada grant or project, or based on the award of a grant to the applicant for the same or similar research by one of Grand Challenges Canada’s partners or collaborating institutions.
5. Disqualify any application at any stage where there is an indication that the proposal was, in any way, plagiarized.
6. Accept or reject any or all applications, regardless of an application’s rating, based on the evaluation criteria, with or without providing an explanation.
7. Award fewer awards than expected.
8. Award applications with different funding amounts, different durations and/or different conditions than set out above.
9. Verify any information provided by applicants through independent research or by

- contacting third parties deemed to be reliable by Grand Challenges Canada and use that information to inform Grand Challenges Canada's funding decision.
10. Modify eligibility and evaluation criteria, including but not limited to criteria assessed at the Innovation Screen, at any time.
 11. Use video or other visual representation submitted by applicants on Grand Challenges Canada's website for public engagement.
 12. Not provide critiques or feedback regarding the reasons a proposal was or was not selected.
 13. Design grant awards to link to possible funding partners, including private sector investors.

11.0 RESEARCH ASSURANCES

It is the policy of Grand Challenges Canada that research involving human subjects, research with animals and research subject to additional regulatory requirements must be conducted in accordance with the highest, internationally-recognized ethical standards. In order to receive funds from Grand Challenges Canada, initially and throughout the course of a research project, researchers must affirm and document compliance with the guiding ethical principles and standards outlined below.

- Research involving human participants must be conducted in a manner that demonstrates, protects and preserves respect for persons, concern for the welfare of individuals, families and communities, and justice.
- Research involving animals must be conducted in a manner that ensures their humane care and treatment.
- Certain research endeavours, including but not limited to research with recombinant DNA, biohazards and genetically modified organisms, may be subject to enhanced regulation and oversight.

While not necessary for this application and as applicable to the individual project, Grand Challenges Canada will require that, for each venue in which any part of the project is conducted (either by your organization or a sub-grantee or sub-contractor), all legal and regulatory approvals for the activities being conducted will be obtained in advance of commencing the regulated activity. We will further require the applicant to agree that no funds will be expended to enroll human subjects until the necessary regulatory and ethical bodies' approvals are obtained. For further details, please see Grand Challenges Canada's [Ethics Policy](#).

Questions about the Stars in Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Request for Proposals or the application process should be addressed to stars@grandchallenges.ca. Responses to frequently asked questions will periodically be posted on our website at www.grandchallenges.ca/grand-challenges/stars-phase-i/.

APPENDIX A

INDICATORS RELEVANT TO THE STARS IN RMNCH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Innovators are expected to report against any indicators listed below that are relevant to demonstrating success of their innovation.

Outcomes	Potential Indicators
Improve the use of essential health and development services	Number of women, newborns and/or children under five using essential health and development services, including but not limited to any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Comprehensive family planning b. Antenatal care c. Skilled attendant at birth d. Early postnatal visit e. Thermal/newborn care f. Responsive parenting approaches. g. Early childhood development services
Reduce the burden of illness and disease	Number of women, newborns and/or children under five using essential health services related to infectious diseases, including but not limited to any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Immunization b. Preventative measures for infectious diseases c. Use of appropriate care or treatment for infectious diseases d. Use of improved drinking water and/or improved sanitation facilities.
Improve nutrition	Number of women, newborns and/or children under five using appropriate nutritional practices and/or supplementation, including but not limited to any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nutritional support during pregnancy b. Early initiation of breastfeeding c. Exclusive breastfeeding d. Appropriate feeding practices or nutritional support for children