

Stars in Global Health

Request for Proposals

The Stars in Global Health program supports Bold Ideas with Big Impact® from the best and brightest scientists and innovators, both in low- and middle-income countries and in Canada, to address some of the most pressing global health challenges. Since 2019, the program has focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are fundamental to gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls, adolescents, children and LGBTQI+ people. Although substantive progress has been made, these advances have been inequitable across and within countries.



Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the associated economic and social impacts of the pandemic, significant barriers to access key sexual and reproductive health and rights education and services have been heightened, reversing years of progress.

It is projected that, for every 3-month lockdown period:



- An additional 2 million women and adolescent girls will be unable to access modern contraceptives, and
- 15 million additional cases of sexual and gender-based violence will occur.

Additionally, it is projected that between 2020–2030:

- 13 million additional child marriages will occur, and
- An additional 2 million cases of female genital mutilation will occur.

In response to these challenges, the Stars in Global Health program is seeking bold ideas that will improve the SRHR of women, adolescents, children and LGBTQI+ people in Sub-Saharan Africa. The bold ideas are expected to improve the access, use and quality of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education and services and to be resilient to pandemic control measures.

Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to \$100,000 CAD for up to 12 months to develop and test the proposed innovation.

Proposed innovations must be bold, innovative and accessible to underserved women, adolescents, children and LGBTQI+ people, have the potential to be sustainable at scale, and demonstrate their relevance to COVID-19 and future pandemic settings.

All innovations must demonstrate a rights-based approach, the principle of “do no harm”, and be gender-affirming and inclusive to the extent possible. Of particular interest to Grand Challenges Canada are innovations that improve response to sexual and gender-based violence.

Ultimately, innovations should seek to improve the access and demand for quality sexual and reproductive health and rights information, supply and services that lead to at least one of the following priority outcomes:



Proposed innovations must be appropriate, affordable and accessible to the target population and demonstrate how the innovations are better alternatives to current approaches.

We highly encourage organizations based in Western and Central Africa, and organizations led by women or non-binary individuals to apply. Please visit the Stars in Global Health page at bit.ly/GCCStars for more details.

All applicants must register for a Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal Fluxx account at gcc.fluxx.io no later than 11:59 EDT May 20th, 2021.

The application submission deadline is 11:59 EDT on June 3rd, 2021. Proposals will not be accepted after this date and time. Applications submitted by email will not be considered.



Please submit questions related to the Request for Proposals that are not answered in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to stars@grandchallenges.ca.