Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Country Innovation Platform – Ghana Pilot
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document addresses anticipated and commonly asked questions as relate to the Country Innovation Platform – Ghana Pilot Request for Proposals (RFP) launched June 14, 2023. Additional questions may be submitted to stars@grandchallenges.ca.

This FAQ document will be updated periodically, up to one week prior to the RFP deadline of August 2, 2023.

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Additional Questions
Deadlines

1. What is the difference between the registration deadline and the submission deadline?

To manage processing times on the application platform, Grand Challenges Canada will be implementing a two-stage process:

A. Registration deadline – July 26, 2023 at 11:59pm EDT (July 27, 2023 at 3:59am UTC) – This is the deadline to REGISTER for an account on Grand Challenges Canada’s Fluxx Portal at https://gcc.fluxx.io This is only to gain access to the application platform (if you do not already have an existing account) and not a submission deadline. Once you register, you can save and return to edit your application before the submission deadline. All applications MUST use Fluxx to submit their final applications. If you have any issues, please submit a ticket to report your registration issue (before the deadline) at https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/

B. Submission deadline – August 2, 2023 at 12pm EDT (4pm UTC) – This is the deadline to SUBMIT your application via Fluxx. Please remember to press the “Submit” button and ensure that you receive an email confirmation of your submission before you close the page. If you have any issues with the submission, please submit a ticket to report the issue at https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/ AND email stars@grandchallenges.ca with your application number and the issue (before the deadline). No applications will be accepted over email.

Topic Areas

1. What topics are considered relevant to this call?

Proposed innovations must seek to increase access to quality maternal and newborn health (MNH) services. These innovative solutions are expected to improve patient referrals, increase accessibility & availability of patient transport, improve delivery of quality emergency MNH services, and/or increase availability of essential MNH medicines and supplies. All this with the aim to support Ghana’s ultimate goal of reducing maternal, perinatal and neonatal morbidities and mortalities, reducing direct obstetric case fatality rates, and reducing the rate of stillbirths.

These innovative solutions are expected to address key challenges in the accessibility and delivery of MNH services at the sub-district level within the Networks of Practice\(^1\) in six regions in Ghana – Western, Upper East, Upper West, North East, Northern, and Savannah.

Proposals must present transformative ideas in at least one of the following four priority outcome areas:

1) Improved communication and real-time tracking of information along the patient referral journey for mothers and newborns

\(^{1}\) Networks of Practice is a key strategy under the results framework for Ghana’s 2030 Universal Health Coverage agenda. Networks of Practice refers to a group of health facilities (public & private), within a specified geographic area, functionally connected to each other to maximize efficiency by allowing a smooth system of managing and sharing resources.
2) Increased accessibility and availability of transport for pregnant women and mothers of newborns to reach health facilities, especially in emergencies
3) Improved skills of healthcare workers to deliver high-quality emergency MNH services
4) Increased availability of essential medicines and supplies for MNH where they are needed

For relevant innovations, applicants will be asked to describe how they would work with or possibly leverage existing data and digital systems within Ghana Health Service to deliver the proposed solution (see Section 2.6.2 of the RFP for more information on the relevant information systems).

Proposed innovations must be bold, innovative, and designed with and for people who are not adequately served by current approaches. Innovations should seek to enable more efficient and timely service delivery within the Networks of Practice without creating an additional resource burden on an already strained healthcare system.

Proposed innovations must have the potential to be sustainable at scale and resilient to future changes in the local economic and public health contexts.

2. What is considered innovative?

This RFP is open to all types of innovation, including product, service, and digital innovations. See section 2.5 of the RFP for more on each of these innovation types.

Innovation could also take the form of a new business model, policy approach or delivery mechanism. Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to consider how combining different types of innovation might best address the challenges facing MNH in Ghana. Projects are also encouraged to have an Integrated Innovation® approach that coordinates scientific/technological, social and/or business innovation, to develop sustainable solutions to these complex challenges. This does not discount the singular benefits of each innovation type or approach, but instead highlights the powerful synergies of aligning any of the three.

Given that we expect applicants to address health issues that are not new, we do not expect all proposed ideas to be entirely unique. Rather we understand that many will consist of more standard health solutions that are being approached and/or applied innovatively within the Networks of Practice context. If the solution itself is not particularly novel or bold, the applicant will be expected to satisfactorily describe why implementing it in a new context would be or how the implementation approach itself is particularly original and promising.

If you are uncertain if your proposed idea would be considered bold or if it would represent more than an incremental improvement over current approaches, we suggest that you consult relevant literature online, as well as consider solutions previously funded by GCC (find our searchable data base here) and others.
3. **Can I build on an existing project?**

   We are open to funding add-ons (additional components) to existing projects, so long as there is a proof-of-concept being tested with the GCC funding, it can be evaluated independently of the broader project and within the GCC funding period.

4. **Who are the target users?**

   The intended target users of proposed innovations must include women (including pregnant women and mothers), children, adolescents, healthcare providers and/or health facilities in communities within the target regions in Ghana - Western, Upper East, Upper West, North East, Northern, and Savannah – who are unserved and underserved by current approaches.

5. **If my innovation isn’t targeting the users mentioned in the CIP-Ghana RFP, can I still receive funding?**

   No. Proposals which do not target the users mentioned above and/or do not address at least one of the four priority outcome areas will not be considered for funding through this RFP.

6. **Is it mandatory for a proposed idea to target all the suggested target users (women (including pregnant women and mothers), children, adolescents, healthcare providers and health facilities) or can it focus on only one or two?**

   Proposed innovations should consider how they could reach at least one of the mentioned target user groups. If they do not do so explicitly, they will be expected to justify why and how their target users are considered to be unserved and underserved.

7. **Will there be another call for applications which addresses targets and/or outcomes beyond those mentioned in the CIP-Ghana Request for Proposals?**

   Further funding through the Country Innovation Platform is yet to be determined. We encourage you to check GCC’s website regularly or to subscribe to our newsletter for new funding opportunities.

**Eligibility Criteria**

1. **How do I know which countries are eligible to apply?**

   Applicants affiliated with institutions incorporated in countries in in North, West, East, Central and Southern Africa (as listed in the table below) and/or in CANADA are **eligible to apply**. While Canadian entities are eligible to apply they must identify a confirmed Ghanaian collaborating institution (not a public sector entity) in the proposal.

   This list is subject to revision by Grand Challenges Canada without notice. Notwithstanding inclusions below, all eligible jurisdictions remain subject to approval by Grand Challenges Canada based on 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.
### 2. My country is not listed in the table above. Can I still apply?

No. If your country is not listed, and is not Canada, then you are not eligible to apply to this RFP. We review and revise the eligibility criteria for each round. We encourage you to check our website regularly or to subscribe to our newsletter for eligibility changes in new Requests for Proposals.

### 3. How do I know if my desired implementation country / region is eligible?

Innovative projects funded through this RFP must be implemented in Ghana. Specifically, implementation must occur within the 6 selected regions of the country – Western, Upper East, Upper West, North East, Northern, and Savannah.

Proposed innovations must be implemented or tested within the Networks of Practice in at least two of the six focus regions during the project period. Applicants are asked to identify their preferred implementation regions within the application form.

### 4. How do I identify my preferred implementation regions in the application form?

In the ‘Application Details’ section of the form, you will be requested to indicate in which of the six (6) regions of focus, in Ghana, your team anticipates to implement the proposed innovation during the funding period. You will be asked to select and rank two (2) to four (4) preferred regions.
Please note that projects selected for funding may be asked, by Ghana Health Service, to implement in a different focus region than their selected preferences to ensure balanced implementation across the regions.

5. **Do I require co-funding?**

No. Co-funding is not a requirement at the proof-of-concept stage. However, all successful applicants are encouraged to start securing co-funding during the proof-of-concept phase to better position their innovation for scaling as this would become a requirement should your innovation be invited to apply for transition-to-scale funding.

6. **Must I be a citizen or permanent resident of the country through which I am applying?**

No. You do not have to be a citizen or permanent resident of the country through which you are applying. However, you must be formally affiliated with the applicant institution which must be incorporated in an eligible country.

7. **I am a Canadian citizen based in the United States (U.S.) and working for a U.S. institution that works in an eligible low- and middle-income country. Would I be eligible, because of my citizenship, to apply to this CIP-Ghana Request for Proposal even though the U.S. is not an eligible country?**

Grants are not awarded based on citizenship or nationality. All applicants must apply through institutions that are legally formed in an eligible jurisdiction in Canada or in eligible countries found in Appendix C in the RFP and in the response to Q1 in the Eligibility Criteria section of this FAQ document.

Organizations incorporated in other countries can be noted as collaborators of eligible country institutions that are the lead applicants to this Request for Proposals.

8. **What do you define as an eligible institution?**

Entities eligible under this funding call include social enterprises and other legally recognized organizations (such as non-governmental organizations, non-profit, for-profit, and limited liability companies, as well as research/academic institutions, or any other appropriately registered legal entity) that:

- is formed and legally incorporated in an eligible country listed in Appendix C of the RFP
- is active (status) and in good standing with their respective registration body
- is capable of entering into a funding agreement with Grand Challenges Canada
- can receive foreign funding and administer grant funding
- can successfully perform activities in their technical area

2 The following must apply to the entity under its current name.
3 Where relevant, required fillings (such as regular reports or tax fillings) related to institutional incorporation or registration are up to date. The registration body in question should be, in jurisdictions where relevant, the governing authority for your entity type according to the country’s laws.
These are ineligible:
- individuals
- sole proprietorships
- unincorporated trusts and partnerships
- government organizations
- United Nations country offices

9. What does “incorporated” mean in terms of eligibility?

The meaning of ‘legally incorporated’ will vary across different jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of every applicant to understand how this applies to their own jurisdiction. Typically, ‘legally incorporated’ means that the entity is incorporated as its own legal person (having separate and distinct legal identity), can enter into binding contracts, can own property in its own name, can sue and be sued, etc. For example:

- Local registration of an international non-profit would not meet this eligibility requirement in most jurisdictions.
- Unincorporated Trusts or Partnerships, or any business structure that places liability on an individual or individuals, would not meet this eligibility requirement. However, an incorporated trust or incorporated partnership (sometimes a limited liability partnership in certain jurisdictions) would be eligible.

While this requirement will be screened during the Eligibility Screen, Grand Challenges Canada will also conduct a more in-depth due diligence of this criteria (and others) during negotiations process for selected projects.

10. Do I need any specific academic qualifications to apply?

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

11. Is it a requirement that the applicant have specific expertise or experience in global/public health?

The expertise and experience of the team must align with the proposed innovation. Should there be gaps in the expertise and experience of the team, identifying experienced mentors, advisors or supervisors with relevant expertise will strengthen the application.

12. Do I need a collaborator?

Applicants from Canada:
- It is mandatory for all applicants from Canada to identify a confirmed Ghanaian collaborator. The collaborating institution and investigator(s) must be identified in the application form.
Applicants from other eligible countries:
  • It is not mandatory for applicants from eligible countries other than Canada to have a collaborator.

13. Can Grand Challenges Canada assist me in arranging a collaborator?
Applicants must seek collaborations independently. Grand Challenges Canada will not assist applicants in arranging collaborations.

As a suggestion, applicants can review prospective collaborators by joining the Global Health Innovation LinkedIn group at https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3839474/

14. May the proposal include collaborations with academic and/or industry partners in the United States or other ineligible countries?
It is not the intention of this RFP to exclude existing productive collaborations. If appropriately justified, these collaborations may be part of a proposal.

These collaborators can be reflected as consultants/contractors or sub-grantees. Please note the budget limits on these categories (20% and 50%, respectively; see Section 5.1 of the RFP for details).

Note: The Project Lead must still be affiliated with an eligible institution.

15. Can my collaborator be provided access to our application form?
Not at the application stage. The lead entity and Project Lead will be able to input all the relevant details of the collaborator in the application form without the collaborator requiring a Fluxx account. The application questions are provided (here) so that collaborators can work together (offline) before application submission.

Should the proposal be successful, at the negotiation stage, a Project co-Lead from the collaborating institution can be identified and provided access to the project account should the lead entity agree.

16. Can a group of people submit a proposal together with one or more co-applicants?
Yes, but the lead applicant entity must be considered eligible. The application must be submitted with the institutional and individual details pertaining to the eligible lead applicant.

The Project Lead can list co-applicants and other team members in the application as collaborators, if they so wish.

17. Can I or my institution submit ‘on behalf of’ a partner?
Technically, yes. However, one would need to submit using all the details of the eligible and intended grantee. The application would need to be completed in such a way that it would read as though it had been submitted by the partner (intended grantee).
18. Can multilateral organizations such as United Nations apply to this RFP?

In our past experience, Grand Challenges Canada has found that multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (UN) are typically unable to agree to the terms and conditions of our Grant Agreement. We highly recommend that these organizations, instead, apply through a local eligible partner organization, with staff from the UN office acting as collaborators on the project.

**Integrated Innovation®**

1. **Is this challenge only concerned with medical and scientific technologies or is it also possible to submit a proposal on a topic regarding policies/social sciences?**

As outlined in the earlier section ‘Topic Areas’ Q2, this RFP is open to all types of innovation, including product, service, and digital innovations. Innovation could also take the form of a new business model, policy approach or delivery mechanism. Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to consider how combining different types of innovation might best address the challenges facing MNH in Ghana. Projects are also encouraged to have an Integrated Innovation® approach that coordinates scientific/technological, social and/or business innovation, to develop sustainable solutions to these complex challenges.

The proposed innovations would need to:

   A. Have a strong likelihood of achieving substantial and measurable impact in hard-to-reach and underserved populations.
   B. Maximize demand, delivery, uptake, acceptability, sustainability and impact by integrating scientific/technological, social and/or business innovation – what GCC refers to as Integrated Innovation®. (See the Integrated Innovation white paper available at [http://www.grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities/integrated-innovation/](http://www.grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities/integrated-innovation/))
   C. Demonstrate alignment with relevant Ghanaian 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). This must include integration of implementation within Networks of Practice (see Section 1.2.3 of the RFP for more information).

2. **Do you encourage applications from social entrepreneurs?**

Social entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply to this Request for Proposals. Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social problems. Social entrepreneurs tackle major social issues, offer new ideas for wide-scale change and 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.

Social entrepreneurs interested in applying should ensure they have the legal capacity to enter into a contract with Grand Challenges Canada. Grand Challenges Canada does not fund individuals, sole-proprietorships, partnerships, unincorporated trusts or any entity that does not have the legal capacity to enter into a contract.
Funding and Duration

1. What is the amount of funding of the proof-of-concept seed grant?
   Applicants can apply for funding of $200,000 to $250,000 CAD. Please ensure that the requested funding amount is appropriately justified, as ‘value for effort’ is one of the evaluation criteria.

2. What is the duration of the proof-of-concept seed grant?
   Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants with project periods of up to 18 months to develop and validate the proposed innovation. Please ensure that the selected project period is appropriate and aligned with the proposed scope of work.

3. What costs are allowed in the budget of the proposal?
   For allowable costs, please refer to Section 5.1 of the CIP-Ghana RFP. Further information on eligible and ineligible costs can be found in the Institutional Support Grant (HIP) Cost Directive document on the GCC website: https://www.grandchallenges.ca/innovator-resources/

4. Are there any restrictions on indirect costs?
   Yes. Innovators are entitled to indirect costs, calculated as 10% of all direct costs. Indirect costs are costs that cannot be directly traced to a specific project activity.
   
   Innovators must consistently charge costs as either indirect or direct costs and must not double charge or inconsistently charge the same cost, or categories of costs, as both.
   
   A list of examples of costs that could be considered as indirect under the Innovator’s Project can be found in the Institutional Support Grant (HIP) Cost Directive document on the GCC website: https://www.grandchallenges.ca/innovator-resources/

Application Submission

1. How do I submit an application?
   If the Project Lead already has an existing account on Fluxx, they should utilize this account. Otherwise, applicants should create an account using the following link: Create an account. Once you have created an account, please allow for up to three (3) business days for Grand Challenges Canada to process your information.
   
   Once your information has been processed, you will be emailed login credentials to access Fluxx (https://gcc.fluxx.io) where the application template is available. You will need to input and submit answers to the application questions through this template. Please note that you can save and come back to an application (to edit, complete) until such time as you submit the application.
Additional information on the application process can be found in the RFP’s section 3.2 and in the Fluxx Reference Guide, which can be found here: https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/

2. What happens if I experience technical issues with submitting my application via Fluxx?

If you encounter technical issues with submitting your application, please submit a ticket before the submission deadline to the Grand Challenges Canada support team at https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/ outlining the nature of the problem. Please include your application number.

Please ensure to give yourself plenty of time to register (if needed) and to submit your application ahead of the deadlines. **ALL applicants who need to REGISTER for a Fluxx account MUST do so by the deadline of July 26, 2023 at 11:59pm EDT (July 27, 2023 at 3:59am UTC).**

**ALL applications must be received via Fluxx on or before the deadline of August 2, 2023 at 12pm EDT (4pm UTC). Applications received after this time will NOT be considered for funding.**

3. How do I access the application in French?

When creating a Fluxx account (or accessing an existing account), you will be asked to select your ‘preferred language’. The application form will then display in the selected language (English or French).

You can also change your ‘preferred language’ at any time by editing your account settings (clicking on the gear icon in the bottom left). You can safely change the language at any time without losing answers already entered and saved in the application form.

4. Is there a template for the written proposal? I would like to learn about the word limit and other requirements.

Grand Challenges Canada has posted the application template on the Stars in Global Health webpage (https://www.grandchallenges.ca/programs/stars-in-global-health/) for reference. You CANNOT submit your application using the template over email. Applications will ONLY be accepted via Fluxx.

Applicants with a functional Fluxx account and access to Fluxx (https://gcc.fluxx.io/) can also view the application questions and character limits through the portal (Fluxx). Please note that Fluxx uses character counts not word counts; a character count refers to the number of letters and spaces within a written passage.

**Please note that you can save and come back to an application (to edit, complete) until such time as you submit the application.** After saving your application on Fluxx, you will see a “Printable” button at the top right of your screen, which you can click to print the application questions and any inputted responses.
5. **Will I need to provide any additional information or documentation beyond the online application?**

No additional information is required at the time of application, however successful applicants will be asked to provide supporting documentation during the negotiations phase, including institutional information, team CVs and a number of other materials that will be outlined at that time.

6. **Can an applicant submit more than one application?**

A Project Lead may only be listed on one application to this Request for Proposals. An institution from an eligible country may, however, be the applicant on multiple applications, if all applications have different Project Leads and distinctly different proposals.

7. **Can I submit my application via email?**

NO. All applications to the CIP-Ghana Request for Proposals must be submitted through the Fluxx (https://gcc.fluxx.io/). Any application sent via email will NOT be considered.

8. **In the application guidelines for the CIP-Ghana RFP, there is a note that applicants are required to seek and obtain sign-off from their affiliated organization/institution(s) before submitting their application. I am wondering in what format this permission should be granted?**

Applicants are required to obtain internal approval from their institution before submitting an application, however there is no form or signature that needs to be completed at the time of application. If a grant is awarded, certain documents will be requested at that time.

9. **What are the different roles mentioned in the application form?**

   **Application form**
   In the application form, you will find the following ‘role’ types –

   **Project Lead (required):** Project Leads are ultimately responsible for the implementation of the funded project and must comply with GCC requirements for this same purpose. Project Leads must be formally affiliated with the grantee institution. The Fluxx account & profile used to create and submit the application must be that of the Project Lead. This is an important consideration, given the Project Lead and team makeup will be assessed as part of the review process.

   **Signing Authority (required):** This must be a person formally affiliated with the grantee institution and who has been appointed with the powers to commit the authorizing organization to a binding agreement. Their name and role title should be provided.

   **Additional contact (optional):** We have added this field for teams where someone is submitting the application on behalf of the project lead (in other words, where the primary point of contact for the application & review phase is not the Project Lead). Their name, role title and email address should be provided. While GCC will endeavour to include this person in
communications, it will still be the responsibility of the Project Lead (whose contact details are part of the automated system) to pass along any relevant information.

**Successful applicants (negotiations)**
Successful applicants who are selected to proceed to the negotiation phase will be asked to confirm additional ‘roles’ for their project –

*Project co-Lead (optional)*: As with Project Leads, co-Leads are ultimately responsible for the implementation of the funded project and must comply with GCC requirements for this same purpose. Project Leads can be affiliated with a collaborating or partner institution. They will have their own Fluxx profile and be connected to the project to access its profile, reports and receive system communications.

*Reporting Contact (optional)*: Where this may differ from the Project (co)Lead(s), the Reporting Contact is the primary point of contact for GCC for all matters pertaining to project reporting. Alternatively, a Reporting Contact may simply be an additional team member from the grantee organisation who requires access to the reporting portal (Fluxx), such as the Finance Officer or lead Monitoring & Evaluation staffer. Either way, any communications sent to the Reporting Contact will also be sent to the Project (co)Lead(s).

**Review Process**

1. **Will the selection process use a peer review or champion-based review in evaluating application to the CIP-Ghana RFP?**
   Grand Challenges Canada will subject all eligible applications to a robust review process, which will first comprise of an Eligibility Screen and Innovation Screen. Following these steps, selected applications will undergo an external peer review process conducted by experts from across the Ghanaian health ecosystem. Please refer to Sections 3.3 to 3.6 of the RFP for details on the review process.

2. **Will successful applicants continue to undertake public engagement activities after securing the grant?**
   Possibly. Where relevant and appropriate, Grand Challenges Canada and other CIP-Ghana Partners will work with successful grantees to showcase their work and successes.

3. **Will applicants be advised if they are rejected during the screening and review process?**
   Yes, at every step of the screening and review process, applicants will be advised if their submission is rejected. If rejected following the Innovation Screen, applicants will be provided with brief reviewer comments. All those who move on to the Peer Review stage will receive comprehensive reviewer feedback.
Application Timelines

1. When will the funding decision be announced?
   The schedule of key deadlines is outlined below as per the RFP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 26, 2023 at 11:59pm EDT</td>
<td>Deadline to register for a Fluxx account (<a href="https://gcc.fluxx.io">https://gcc.fluxx.io</a>) Note: If you have applied for funding in the past, you already have an account. If you do not remember your password, you can reset it and gain immediate access to the Portal. Simply click on Reset or create password.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2, 2023 at 12pm EDT</td>
<td>Application submission deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2023 to January 2024</td>
<td>Notification of approval or rejection</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2023 to May 2024</td>
<td>Negotiation of award</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2024</td>
<td>Anticipated project start date</td>
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2. Is the start date flexible to accommodate relocation to start a new employment position?
   All successful applicants must take up the grant (begin the project period) within 6 months of being notified of their selection. Any deferral beyond this period may result in the forfeiture of the award.

General Program Questions

1. Is the intent of the grant to support specific technology development that is already underway (i.e., development of a new technology platform) or to support the more left-field ideas that have not yet been tested in the lab?
   Both. However, we will not consider funding drug or vaccine development, discovery science, strictly capacity-building or advocacy initiatives, ongoing programmatic funding, or ideas that are not applicable to target users and geographies.

2. Are there any restrictions that apply to the tenure of concurrent grants or fellowships?
   No. This RFP is focused on seeking projects demonstrating Integrated Innovation that could be easily implemented to increase access to quality maternal and newborn health (MNH) services in the six target regions of Ghana. However, please ensure that you are proposing to test an original, bold and innovative idea that is not already funded as a component of another grant (i.e., an independent component that is novel or a follow-on project).
3. **Does Grand Challenges have offices or representatives in other countries? If not, how is collaboration defined?**

Grand Challenges Canada does not have a formal presence in other countries, though we have several valued partners and collaborators across the globe. The in-country partner for this call for proposals is the Ghana Health Service.

Funded institutions are entirely responsible for the implementation of their innovations, with the Grand Challenges Canada team and CIP-Ghana Partners managing these investments and providing connections to technical support whenever possible. Targets and objectives for the project period are set collaboratively during the negotiation process.

4. **If I am successful, what kind of country approvals will I need in order to accept the funding from Grand Challenges Canada? When should I start this process?**

It is up to you and your institution to identify and secure all relevant approvals. Ethics approval will be required of all projects. Certain projects may require additional implementation approvals and certain institutions may require other permissions or approvals.

Because these processes can be lengthy, we recommend that you start as soon as possible, even at time of application for grant funding where possible. If you need to state information about Grand Challenges Canada in an application, please note that Grand Challenges Canada is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in Canada and the Stars in Global Health program is funded by the Government of Canada.

**Additional Questions**

Any additional questions should be sent to stars@grandchallenges.ca.

For information on all Grand Challenges Canada programs, please find us at grandchallenges.ca and on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn.