

Bid Solicitation: Child Development Learning Platform

Submission Deadline:
Monday March 31, 2025 – 5:00 pm EST

RFP Reference Number: RFP-VA-2025-02-24



Introduction

GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA'S OBJECTIVE

GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA / GRANDS DÉFIS CANADA (“Grand Challenges Canada”) is seeking a service provider to provide learning platform support (the “**Child Development Learning Platform**” or “**Platform**”) to support the “Child Development Portfolio” (“**Child Development**”), comprised of the “Saving Brains” portfolio (“**Saving Brains**”) and the “Play Learn Thrive” portfolio (“**Play Learn Thrive**”) for fiscal year 2025-2026 (“**FY25-26**”). The engagement will be for a term of one year with the possibility of renewal or extension up to a maximum of three times, depending on the needs of Grand Challenges Canada.

The contracted organization(s) will be responsible for providing technical support to innovators in the Child Development Portfolio, while also accelerating and tracking the overall impact of the Child Development community of innovators. To do so, the Platform team will:

1. Enable innovations within the Saving Brains and Play Learn Thrive portfolios to achieve proof of concept and work towards achieving sustainable impact at scale;
2. Collect lessons and best practices arising from the Child Development community of innovators on scaling innovation and investing in systems-level change to reach and impact children in adversity; and
3. Document and disseminate the individual and collective progress of Child Development innovations within the learning community and to relevant external stakeholders to inform learning.

The Child Development Learning Platform will serve as a key body through which an active, innovator-driven learning community, can be nurtured and engaged to support innovators through their scaling journey, thereby improving the lives of young children across low-middle income countries and emergency contexts.

The objective of this “**Bid Solicitation**” is to select a candidate, or consortium of candidates to enter into a contract with Grand Challenges Canada to provide the services described in the “Statement of Work”, attached as Appendix A. All bidders (“**Bidders**”) are invited to bid (“**Bid**”) for consideration by Grand Challenges Canada in accordance with the terms of this Bid Solicitation.

NOTE: Recognizing that no single entity may satisfy all requirements, we encourage a consortium of organizations to apply, provided that one or more meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Appendix D.

Part 1: General Information

1.1 Objective

The objective of this Bid Solicitation is to select a service provider(s) to enter into a contract with Grand Challenges Canada to provide the services described in the Statement of Work in a manner that will provide the best value for Grand Challenges Canada's funds, attached herein as Appendix A.

1.2 Period of Contract

The resulting contract will be in effect from approximately **July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026** with the possibility of renewal or extension for successive one (1)-year term(s) up to a maximum of three (3) years, depending on the needs of Grand Challenges Canada.

1.3 About Grand Challenges Canada

Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting **Bold Ideas with Big Impact**®. With funding from a variety of government partners and organizations, including Global Affairs Canada, our mission is to support innovation that saves and improves the lives of the most vulnerable across low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and Canada.

One of the largest impact-first investors in Canada, and with a feminist investment approach, Grand Challenges Canada has supported a pipeline of more than 1700 innovations in over 100 countries. Since 2010, innovations supported by Grand Challenges Canada have reached more than 80 million people who would otherwise not have had access with life-saving or life-improving initiatives.

1.4 About Child Development

The Child Development Portfolio encompasses both the Saving Brains and the newly launched Play Learn Thrive functional portfolios described below. For a detailed breakdown of the portfolio structure, please refer to Appendix E.

1.5 About Saving Brains

Grand Challenges Canada envisions a world where all children can develop in secure and enabling environments that prepare them for healthy development. Saving Brains supports bold ideas to improve early brain and child development. With 250 million children in low and middle-income countries unable to realize their full developmental potential, the early years of a child's life are critical. The ultimate goal of the Saving Brains Portfolio is to increase human capital through the development and delivery of bold ideas with real-world impact **that ensure healthy childhoods, thriving communities and nurturing environments at scale in an equitable, sustainable manner**. These ideas should be through innovative, equality-focused and cost-effective products, services and/or implementation models.

Saving Brains Investments

Innovations within the Saving Brains portfolio are primarily engaged in transitioning proven innovative products and services that nurture early brain development to scale across three primary areas: caregiver capacity building, quality childcare and systems strengthening. In FY25-26, the Saving Brains portfolio will be supporting its current cohort of mature innovators who have received Transition to Scale (“**TTS**”) Investment¹. TTS projects will be brought forward to the Grand Challenges Canada Investment Committee and Board of Directors for funding consideration on a rolling basis, these projects can last from 1-3 years. Investments will be in the portfolio's most promising opportunities, while also building new pipeline that explores private sector opportunities to scale impact in specific geographies. Innovations within the Saving Brains portfolio are actively implementing initiatives across nine countries in Latin America, Western Africa, Eastern Africa, Central Africa, as well as South and Southeast Asia.

1.6 About Play Learn Thrive

Grand Challenges Canada is launching a new program, Play Learn Thrive, to respond to gaps in current Early Childhood Development in Emergencies (ECDiE) and Education in Emergencies (EiE) approaches.

With funding from the LEGO Foundation, the portfolio **aims to create strong support systems for children in complex crisis settings so that they can play, learn, and thrive**. It is recognized that children’s holistic development, including their physical, intellectual, psychological, cultural, and social wellbeing, is intrinsically linked to the wellbeing and capacity of their caregivers and educators, as well as other members of their community. Strengthening this support network is essential to foster children’s growth and development.

The portfolio aims to support innovators to create more robust support systems for all children from birth to 12 years of age in complex crisis settings, with a focus on those who are left behind and whose developmental and educational needs are not being met.

Play Learn Thrive Investments

The Play Learn Thrive portfolio launched its first round of funding for Proof-of-Concept (“**POC**” or “**Seed**”) and Transition to Scale (“**TTS**”) projects on January 21st, 2025. The portfolio plans to fund approximately nine (9) Seed projects and seven (7) TTS projects, with at least half of the initiatives focused on education. Applications for Seed grants are due by April 24th, 2025, while TTS grants will be accepted on a rolling basis from January to November 2025. The first cohort of Seed and TTS projects under the Play Learn Thrive program is expected to begin implementing in early 2026.

Geographic Scope

In this funding call, Play Learn Thrive will invest in innovations that support children’s education and development by strengthening their support networks across two regions: the Middle East (Jordan and Lebanon) and East Africa (Uganda and Kenya).

¹ Refer to Figure 2 in Appendix E for further detail on GCC’s Transition to Scale Framework

Additional details on the Child Development Portfolio (Saving Brains and Play Learn Thrive) can be found in Appendix E.

1.7 Place-Based Support

Grand Challenges Canada understands the importance of local, context-specific knowledge to enable innovator success, and has therefore tailored the eligibility requirements of this RFP as such; specifically, that applicants are organizations or partnerships of organizations with experience and presence in Play Learn Thrive priority countries (Kenya, Uganda, Lebanon, and Jordan). Appendix D details the specific eligibility requirements for this RFP.

Part 2: Standard Instructions, Clauses and Conditions

2.1 Submission of Bid

- a. Grand Challenges Canada requests that each Bidder submit a Bid by email only, to the email address outlined in Paragraph 2.2 below, as early as possible, between February 27, 2025 and **no later than March 31, 2025, 5:00 pm EST (“Closing Date”)**. For greater certainty, Bids will only be accepted from February 27, 2025 at 12:00 pm until March 31, 2025 at 5:00 pm EST (bid solicitation period).
- b. The Bid must include the Bidder’s name, a contact name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address.
- c. Grand Challenges Canada requests that each Bid contain a covering letter signed by the Bidder or by an authorized representative of the Bidder. The covering letter should reference the RFP Reference Number found on the first page of this document. The Bidder’s signature indicates acceptance of the terms and conditions set out and/or referenced herein. The signatory must have authority to commit the organization by making such a Bid. A contract will not be awarded until a signed covering letter from the Bidder is received by Grand Challenges Canada. If the Bidder fails to provide a signed covering letter when requested to do so by Grand Challenges Canada, then the Bidder shall be disqualified from the bidding process and be declared non-compliant.
- d. It is the Bidder's responsibility to:
 - i. Obtain clarification of the requirements contained in the Bid Solicitation, if necessary, prior to submitting a Bid;
 - ii. Prepare its Bid in accordance with the instructions contained in the Bid Solicitation;
 - iii. Submit its Bid by Closing Date;
 - iv. Send its Bid only to the **“Contracting Authority”** at the email address set out in paragraph 2.2 below;
 - v. Provide a contact name, address, telephone number and email address in its bid, as indicated in paragraph 2.1b above; and
 - vi. Provide a comprehensible and sufficiently detailed Bid, including all requested pricing details that will permit a complete evaluation, in accordance with the criteria set out in this Bid Solicitation.

- e. Bids submitted during the bid solicitation period will remain **open for acceptance by Grand Challenges Canada** for a period of not less than thirty-six (36) calendar days from the Closing Date of the Bid Solicitation. Upon notification to the responsive Bidders, Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right in its sole discretion to extend the Closing Date at any time for up to an additional thirty-six (36) calendar days.
- f. Bids and/or amendments thereto will only be accepted by Grand Challenges Canada if they are received at the email address indicated below in paragraph 2.2, on or before the Closing Date and time specified herein.
- g. Bids received will become the property of Grand Challenges Canada and will not be returned.
- h. All information within this Bid Solicitation is to be held in confidence.
- i. Except as specifically provided otherwise in the Bid Solicitation, Grand Challenges Canada will evaluate a Bidder's Bid only on the documentation provided as part of its Bid. Grand Challenges Canada will not evaluate information not submitted with the Bid, such as references to website addresses where additional information can be found, or technical manuals or brochures not submitted with the Bid.

2.2 Contracting Authority

Grand Challenges Canada
MaRS Centre, West Tower
661 University Avenue, Suite 1720
Toronto, ON M5G 1M1

Attention: Child Development Team
Email: savingbrains@grandchallenges.ca

2.3 Late Bids

- a. The Bidder has sole responsibility for the timely receipt of a Bid by Grand Challenges Canada and cannot transfer this responsibility to Grand Challenges Canada.
- b. Grand Challenges Canada will return Bids delivered after the stipulated Closing Date referred to in sub-paragraph 2.1a, unless they qualify as a "delayed bid" in paragraph (c) below.
- c. A Bid received after the Closing Date but before the contract award date may be considered, provided the delay can be proven by the Bidder to have been due solely to a delay in delivery that can be attributed to incorrect handling by Grand Challenges Canada (a "**delayed bid**").
- d. Misrouting, traffic volume, weather disturbances, labour disputes or any other causes for the late delivery of Bids are not acceptable reasons for the Bid to be a delayed bid and accepted by Grand Challenges Canada.

2.4 Legal Capacity and Checks

The Bidder must have the legal capacity to contract. If the Bidder is a sole proprietorship, a partnership or a corporate body, the Bidder must provide, if requested by Grand Challenges Canada, a statement and any requested supporting documentation indicating the laws under which it is registered or incorporated, together with the registered or corporate name and place of business. This also applies to Bidders submitting a Bid as a joint venture. As a condition of being awarded a contract under this RFP, the Bidder may be requested to provide certain information for Grand Challenges Canada in order to conduct legal capacity, sanctions, and other related searches, as may be required by Grand Challenges Canada and its funders. The outcome of such searches will determine whether the Bidder is eligible for this engagement.

2.5 Rights of Grand Challenges Canada

- a. Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to:
 - i. Reject any or all Bids received in response to the Bid Solicitation;
 - ii. Enter into negotiations with Bidders on any or all aspects of their Bids;
 - iii. Accept any Bid in whole or in part without negotiations;
 - iv. During the evaluation, members of the evaluation team may, at their discretion, submit questions to or conduct interviews with Bidders, at Bidders' cost, upon forty-eight (48) hours' notice, to seek clarification and/or verify any or all information provided by the Bidder with respect to this Bid Solicitation;
 - v. To award one or more contracts, if applicable;
 - vi. Not to accept any deviations from the stated terms and conditions in the awarded contract;
 - vii. Conduct a survey of Bidders' facilities and/or examine their technical, managerial and financial capabilities to determine if they are adequate to meet the requirements of the Bid Solicitation;
 - viii. Contact any or all references supplied by Bidders to verify and validate any information submitted in their Bid, if applicable;
 - ix. Correct any mathematical errors in the extended pricing of financial Bids by using unit pricing and the quantities stated in the Bid Solicitation;
 - x. Verify any information provided by Bidders through independent research, use of any government resources or by contacting third parties deemed reliable by Grand Challenges Canada;
 - xi. Incorporate all or any portion of the Statement of Work, Bid Solicitation, and the successful Bid in any resulting contract;
 - xii. Cancel the Bid Solicitation at any time without liability;
 - xiii. Reissue the Bid Solicitation without liability;
 - xiv. Extend the Bid Solicitation deadline without liability;
 - xv. If no compliant Bids are received and the requirement is not substantially modified, re-tender the requirement by inviting only the Bidders who bid to re-submit Bids within a period designated by Grand Challenges Canada;
 - xvi. Contract with vendors outside of the Bid Solicitation process; and
 - xvii. Not to award a contract in part or at all.

- b. Bidders will have the number of days specified in the request by Grand Challenges Canada to comply with any request related to any of the above items. Failure to comply with the request may result in the bid being declared non-responsive.

2.6 Communications – Solicitation Period

- a. To ensure the integrity of the competitive bid process, all enquiries and other communications regarding the Bid Solicitation must be directed, by email, only to Grand Challenges Canada identified in the Bid Solicitation. Failure to comply can, for that reason alone, result in the disqualification of the Bid.
- b. To ensure consistency and quality of information provided to Bidders, significant enquiries received and the replies to such enquiries will be provided to all Bidders, without revealing the sources of the enquiries.

2.7 Costs

- a. No payment will be made for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a Bid in response to the Bid Solicitation. Costs associated with preparing and submitting a Bid, as well as any other costs incurred by the Bidder associated with the evaluation of the Bid, are the sole responsibility of the Bidder.
- b. No costs incurred relating to the work outlined in Appendix A: Statement of Work (“**Work**”) before the receipt of a signed contract or specified written authorization from Grand Challenges Canada can be charged to any resulting contract. In addition, the successful Bidder is not to perform Work in excess of or outside the scope of any resulting contract based on verbal or written requests or instructions from any Grand Challenges Canada personnel other than those specified by Grand Challenges Canada in the final contract.

2.8 Governing Law

This Bid Solicitation and any resulting contract for services shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein. Each Bidder agrees that any and all disputes, actions or proceedings relating to this Bid Solicitation whether as to interpretation, validity, performance or otherwise, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Province of Ontario and each Bidder and Grand Challenges Canada irrevocably attorn to the jurisdiction of the courts of such province.

Part 3: Bid Preparation Instructions and Evaluation Procedures

3.1 Format of Bid

All bids should include the following two clearly identified sections –

Section 1: Technical Proposal

In its technical proposal, the Bidder must demonstrate its understanding of the requirements described in the Bid Solicitation, as well as demonstrate how the Bidder will meet the requirements of the Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Selection, as described in Appendix B. The technical proposal **must not exceed 10 pages**, including the cover sheet and any appendices. The technical proposal should consist of:

- A brief narrative of the proposed contributions and how they relate to the program goals articulated in Appendix A
- A work plan conveying all proposed activities, corresponding timelines and proposed deliverables for each activity, and the process by which the activity would be accomplished including any expected inputs or time needed from GCC staff or innovators/grantees, including both frequency, duration and mechanism (e.g., face-to-face, telephone, etc.)
- An outline of team, their roles and responsibilities within the proposed activities, including a clear management structure for all team members. Please also include specifics regarding the level of responsiveness that Grand Challenges Canada can expect on a regular basis. This section should include details about measures in place for when the primary contact/support staff are not available.
- Biographical sketches of each team member describing relevant experience and specific expertise that they will bring to this role. This section should demonstrate the ability of the Bidder to deliver on the specific items outlined in Appendix A.

Section 2: Financial Proposal

The Bidder must submit its financial bid in accordance with the Basis of Fees, attached herein as Appendix C. The total amount of any taxes (e.g., the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), Goods and Services Tax (GST), etc.) is to be shown separately, if applicable.

3.2 Evaluation Procedures

- a. Bids will be assessed against all mandatory and rated requirements identified herein and evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria specified in Appendix B.
- b. Any firm currently providing audit services to Grand Challenges Canada cannot be considered for this Bid Solicitation due to the need for independence and perception of independence.

Appendix A: Statement of Work

A. Title

This Bid Solicitation seeks to engage an organization or consortium of organizations for hire in the role of:

- a. Child Development Learning Platform²

B. Scope of Work and Deliverables

The Child Development Learning Platform will be expected to support the following objectives for approximately seven (7) Transition to Scale (TTS) projects and nine (9) Proof-of-Concept (POC) or Seed projects under Play, Learn, Thrive, as well as eleven (11) TTS projects under Saving Brains³. Where an objective aligns with a specific program, this is noted accordingly.

- 1. Enable innovations within the Saving Brains and Play Learn Thrive (PLT) portfolios to achieve proof of concept and work towards achieving sustainable impact at scale; while also supporting the Portfolios to meet their own objectives (as outlined in Appendix E).**
- Maximize the potential for innovations to achieve impact and scale by leveraging in-country and regional networks. Provide tailored support to innovation teams to reach Proof-of-Concept (POC) and scaling milestones through one-on-one sessions, workshops, expert coaching, and provide venture advisory services as appropriate. Areas of support will be tailored to each innovator based on the innovator's organizational maturity, capacity and needs, and should leverage global and in-country opportunities that could include but are not limited to:
 - Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation frameworks, selecting metrics and assessments that can effectively demonstrate the impact of innovations on child development;
 - Identify and utilize tools or approaches that could refine innovations and influence stakeholders' interest – such as government, private sector, and other scale partners for future adoption and implementation at scale;
 - Conduct individual needs assessments and provide capacity-building and advisory support in organizational governance, fundraising, business strategy, and financial modeling to help establish and scale local organizations nationally and into new contexts as needed.
 - Enable innovators to access return on investment and/or costing analyses and pricing services to support the longer-term uptake and scale of innovations; and

² The title "Child Development Platform" is currently being used as a placeholder. We encourage applicants to propose alternative titles for consideration in their bid submissions.

³ Approximate ranges provided. Actual portfolio composition may vary depending on number of active agreements at time of contract

- When relevant, enable innovators to access expertise grounded in local and regional contexts, drawing from in-country resources particularly in PLT focus countries.⁴
- Develop resources and provide support to enable effective, evidence-based innovations to achieve proof of concept and uptake at scale.
 - Seed projects (PLT) should be “investment ready” by the end of their grants, positioning them to be well-placed to apply to GCC’s TTS program and/or to secure external stakeholders and funder support;
 - Early phase TTS projects (Saving Brains and PLT) should be prepared to progress towards further investment, having successfully met their initial funding objectives and demonstrating readiness to achieve greater scale by the end of their funding period;
 - Late-phase TTS projects (Saving Brains) should be prepared for eventual GCC exit, and supported to identify and connect with new anchor funders, or scale partners;
 - Support innovators to identify new opportunities and innovative for-profit and non-profit business models to reach more children and families;
 - Provide innovators with assistance in establishing smart partnerships, strategies to engage with governments, developing financially sustainable models or fundraising strategies, and identifying and developing team capacities needed for scale;
 - Plan and execute in-person and virtual events and/or pitch sessions to foster collaboration among innovators and attract scale partners, including key stakeholders, new donors, and investors.

Anticipated distribution of resources across activities: 65%

2. Collect lessons and coordinate action in the Child Development community of innovators to improve success and to inform the wider community of learning

- Support a learning community where innovators learn from the strategies, approaches, challenges and successes of others in the Child Development community (including the grantees of co-funders) and from other innovative learning communities through webinars and in-person meetings;
- In local and regional contexts, to coordinate joint and collaborative efforts to achieve common outcomes, such as joint government advocacy for shared goals or shared measurement and evaluation frameworks
- Harvest, synthesize, articulate, and disseminate clear lessons, best practices, and strategies to be used by Play Learn Thrive and Saving Brains innovators, portfolios, partners, and other global actors; thereby build connections between local and regional innovators with global communities to enable cross learning and shaping of global knowledge and goals

⁴ As referenced in Section 1.5 *About Play, Learn, Thrive – Geographic Scope*

Anticipated distribution of resources across activities: 25%

3. Document and disseminate the individual and collective progress of Child Development innovations within the community and to relevant external stakeholders

- Document and analyze the progress of Play Learn Thrive and Saving Brains innovations and of the portfolio.
- Effectively communicate and disseminate the impact of innovations across internal and external stakeholders through learning briefs, webinars, support for academic journal publications, and other knowledge sharing methods.

Anticipated distribution of resources across activities: 10%

Deliverables:

A deliverables list was intentionally omitted from this RFP. We encourage bidders to propose deliverables they feel will best achieve the objectives outlined in the Scope of Work. These deliverables will be used to measure the bidder's performance during service implementation and will be tied to payment schedule in the contract.

NOTE: The percentage allocations are to indicate the initial proposed distribution of resources across the above goals only and are not final. Grand Challenges Canada will finalize this based on the proposals and comments received.

The successful applicant ultimately engaged by GCC will be required to communicate over email, phone or meet face-to-face, as needed. We expect the majority of the engagement between the platforms and the Child Development innovators will be conducted through audio/video conference with periodic in-person innovator community learning initiatives and workshops.

Overview of Support

The selected Child Development Platform will report to Grand Challenges Canada and will define the process and implement the infrastructure needed to provide the contracted services.

Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Selection

Evaluation Criteria and Process

- a. Only those Bids that meet all mandatory requirements identified in this Bid Solicitation will be further evaluated, based on the criteria listed below.
- b. The Bid should be concise and should address, at a minimum, all mandatory criteria identified below. It is suggested that the Bidder address these criteria in sufficient depth in the bid.
 - i. The Bid must identify the qualifications and experience of the personnel who will carry out the tasks, by systematically addressing each of the experience criteria as detailed below.
 - ii. The firm's profile and resume for each proposed resource must be included in the Bid.
 - iii. For each resume submitted, the Bidder should ensure that:
 - The name of the individual is clearly indicated; and
 - The resume clearly demonstrates where, when and how the stated qualifications/experience of the individual were acquired.
 - iv. For evaluation purposes:
 - **Where** means the name of the institution, as well as the position/title held;
 - **When** means the start date and end date (e.g., from January 2000 to March 2002) of the period during which the individual acquired the qualifications/experience; and
 - **How** means a clear description of activities performed and the responsibilities assigned to the individual in this position and during this period.
 - v. Listing experience without providing any supporting data will not be considered to be "demonstrated" for the purpose of this evaluation. Full details should be included that describe the number of projects completed and in progress, the period of the work performed in number of months, years in past and present employment, and other relevant information.

Mandatory Criteria for Technical and Financial Proposals

In addition to those elements described above, the Bidder shall also provide:

1. **Basis of fees**, which will be evaluated separately, as described in Appendix C
2. **History of the firm and location**, affiliation with any relevant partners or networks, size, etc.
3. **Description of support team**, including bios, relevant experience and specific expertise that they will bring to this role – this section should demonstrate the ability of the Bidder to deliver on the specific items outlined in **Deliverables** in Appendix A
4. **Description of support process**, including specifics regarding the level of responsiveness that Grand Challenges Canada can expect on a regular basis – this section should include details about measures in place for when the primary contact/support staff are not available.
5. **Two (2) client references ONLY**, for whom you have provided the services described in the statement of work – any Bidder who provides less or more than (2) references will be automatically disqualified from the bidding process and be given no further consideration.
6. **Value-added services**, including whatever the Bidder may want to add to its proposal.

SCORING RUBRIC FOR EVALUATION

1. Experience (60%)

- a. Functional, technical and geographic/population – does the bidder have expertise in relevant:
 - i. Functional areas needed to accomplish their proposed deliverables (i.e., monitoring and evaluation, theory of change, public sector engagement, scaling interventions, supporting business plan development etc.)?
 - ii. Technical areas of expertise needed to accomplish their proposed deliverables (i.e., early child development assessment tools, nurturing care and child development, early learning pedagogy, maternal health and nutrition, education in emergencies, early childhood development in emergencies etc.)
 - iii. Sectoral expertise – has worked with or shows demonstrated understanding of global external stakeholders, strategies and developments within the field?
 - iv. **Geographic/populations-based expertise and language competency necessary to accomplish their proposed deliverables (i.e., in low- and middle-income countries, low resource settings, with vulnerable communities)?**
 - i. **Applicant team includes a place-based team in Jordan or Lebanon, and Kenya or Uganda with expertise in education and early child development in emergencies.**
 - ii. Applicant team includes language capabilities in English and Arabic. Additional language capabilities in French and Swahili would be considered an asset
 - v. Last mile/base of pyramid client/user expertise needed to accomplish their proposed deliverables?
 - vi. Experience working effectively within complex governance structures?
 - vii. Clarity of vision and long-term plan for the establishment of a self-sustaining learning platform/ knowledge hub for the broader ECD and Education community
 - viii. Is the bidder an effective, results-driven leader/team with the proven capacity to deliver on their objectives?
 - ix. Is the team structure appropriate with clear management and accountability structures?

2. Fees (20%)

- a. Are the scope of the proposed work and the funds requested reasonable and commensurate with the proposed goals?
- b. Does the proposal represent a particularly thoughtful and efficient use of resources?
- c. Is there an appropriate balance of resources between senior and other team members?

3. Ability to achieve program goals (20%)

- a. Does the proposal show strong feasibility to move forward the key deliverables on schedule?
- b. Does the proposal clearly articulate the key activities needed to achieve these deliverables?
- c. Will the completion of the proposed activities and deliverables help the program achieve its goals?

Evaluation of Bids will also be guided by the Objective and Principles of Grand Challenges Canada's Contracting & Procurement Policy, found at www.grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities/resources/.

Based on the evaluation of the criteria described above, competitive Bids could be invited for an interview. The purpose of the interview would be to further assess the capacity of the Bidders to best deliver the scope of work outlined in the Bid Solicitation.

Appendix C: Fees

Bidders are required to provide their estimated fees in Canadian dollars, excluding applicable taxes, for each deliverable listed in Appendix A. Bidders are requested to provide the hourly fee for personnel involved in delivering the proposed deliverables.

Appendix D: Eligibility Criteria

Grand Challenges Canada will screen all prospective applicants on the basis of the eligibility criteria outlined below. Bids that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be removed from the review process. The eligibility criteria are listed below:

- Applicants must be organizations or partnerships of organizations with experience and presence in Play Learn Thrive priority countries (ie in either Kenya, Uganda, Lebanon, Jordan. Or in multiple of the above contexts)
- Applicants must be organizations or partnerships of organizations where one (1) or more organizations are incorporated in an applicable low-middle-income country (LMIC)
 - *Applicable LMICs” means Official Development Assistance (“ODA”) eligible countries as outlined in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee list as set out here: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm>.*

Appendix E: About the Child Development Portfolio

Grand Challenges Canada has developed extensive internal expertise and external networks in early childhood development (ECD) through its Saving Brains initiative, which seeks to improve early brain and child development for children in adversity and focused on Low- and Middle-Income Countries world over. To date, the Saving Brains initiative has supported 163 innovators across 42 countries, with 9.7 million lives reached, and 5.4 million lives improved. The Saving Brains initiative is housed within Grand Challenges Canada’s overarching **Humanitarian Innovation Program**, which supports bold life-improving innovations that better meet the needs of the most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach people impacted by humanitarian crises.

Our work has demonstrated that children’s needs and challenges in emergency settings are both unique and dire, requiring dedicated and continued investments. To address this, we have launched an additional Child Development portfolio, **Play Learn Thrive**, to respond to gaps in current Early Childhood Development in Emergencies (ECDiE) and Education in Emergencies (EiE) approaches. In parallel to Saving Brain’s boarder investment and learning community approach to ECD in low- and middle-income countries, the new Play Learn Thrive portfolio will take a place-based approach focusing on crisis and emergency settings in four priority countries to start: Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, and Uganda.

GCC believes that through our continued work under Saving Brains and our new Play Learn Thrive portfolio, we have the potential to unlock untapped innovations within ECD, ECDiE and EiE spaces and also work towards addressing critical challenges within humanitarian assistance delivery models.

Table 1: Overview of Child Development Portfolios

	Play Learn Thrive Nurturing Children in Crisis	Saving Brains Unlocking the Potential for Development
Context	Crisis and emergency settings. Specifically, Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya, and Uganda with potential to expand to more	LMIC settings with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa
Age Group	0-12	Focus on 0-6 (measure impact up to age 8)
Investment Type	Seed and Transition to Scale (<i>forthcoming – first funding call is launching on January 21st, 2025</i>)	Transition to Scale (<i>subject to change under strategy renewal</i>)
Focus	ECD and Education (in emergencies)	ECD only (includes early childhood health, and early learning outcomes)
Organization Type	Not-for-profit only	Academic, not-for-profit, hybrid, for profit
Funder	LEGO Foundation (LF)	Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Function	We aim to create strong support systems for children in complex	Saving Brains seeks bold ideas for products, services and implementation models that

	crisis settings so that they can play, learn, and thrive.	protect and nurture early brain development in a sustainable manner.
Is play a necessary component for innovations to be considered for funding?	Yes!	No, but we tend to see play integrated in most innovations.

Figure 1: Overview of Child Development Portfolio Structure

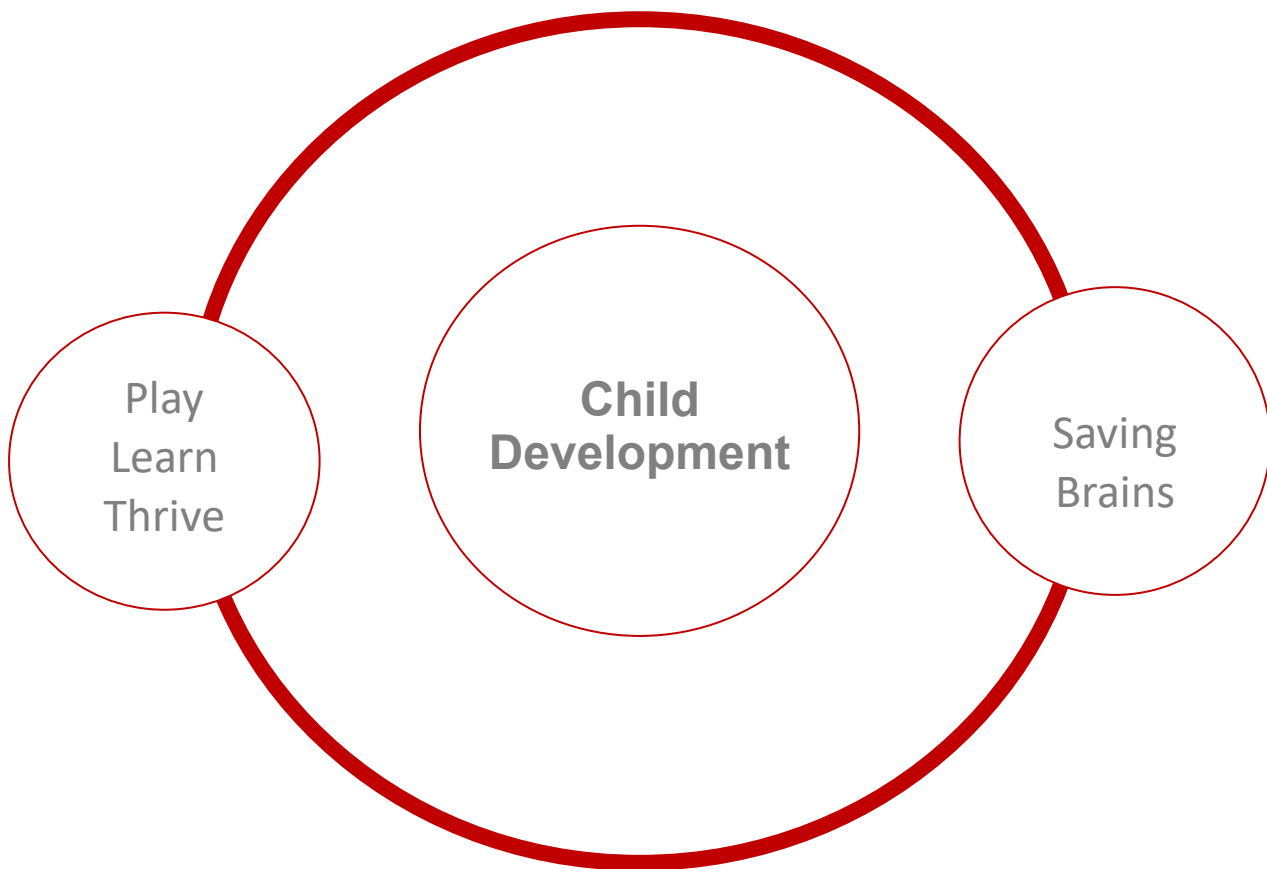
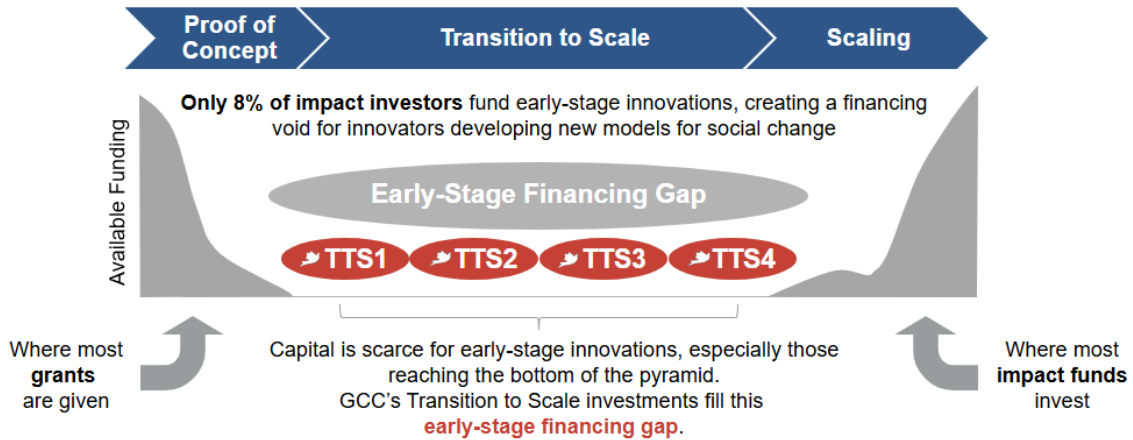


Figure 2a: Grand Challenges Canada’s Transition to Scale Framework

Early-Stage Financing Gap

Scaling global health, humanitarian or Indigenous innovation is predicated on overcoming the persistent misalignment of **available investment capital** and the **economic realities of building businesses serving under-resourced communities**.



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Figure 2b: Grand Challenges Canada’s Transition to Scale Framework

Scaling Stage Gates

	Ready to begin transitioning to scale (TTS1)	8-16 years		Successfully Transitioning to Scale (TTS4)
Attract new partners to help fill gaps in the capacity for scaling	Potential partners identified	Initial contact and communication with potential partners	Relationship established with potential partners (i.e., they've expressed interest in a partnership)	Relationship with partners growing, with early commitments (i.e., funding or in-kind support)
Horizontal scaling expanding impact through replication with another partner or within a new geography	Opportunity for horizontal scaling is identified	Scoping of horizontal scaling opportunity(ies) is complete	Partnerships in place to enable horizontal scaling/ replication	Funding in place to enable horizontal scaling/ replication
Building team capacity to meet evolving needs as the innovation transitions to scale	The right capacity in place to develop a viable plan for scale and sustainability and/or generate evidence needed for next phase	The right capacity in place to validate the viability and scalability of business/scaling plan, address gaps in evidence needed to scale, and address key personnel gaps	The right capacity in place to further improve and iterate upon business/scaling plan based on lessons learned	The right capacity in place to enhance the conditions required for scaling in multiple locations and/or via government uptake
Fundraising	On track to achieve 0.5 matched funding	1:1 matched funding achieved	1:1.5 matched funding achieved	Sufficient funding to sustain operations after GCC funding
Public sector scaling – fundraising	100% grant funding	100% grant funding, with in-kind commitment from gov't	95-99% grant funding; ~5% from gov't	75-94% grant funding; ~25% from other sources (i.e., gov't)
Public sector scaling – vertical scaling by changing the policy / institutional environment through higher level influencing	Demand articulated	Initial connection with relevant government ministries	Relationship established with government (i.e., government has expressed interest)	Relationship with government is growing, with early commitments in place (i.e., regular meetings or communication, MoU signed, etc.)
Private sector scaling – fundraising		Breakeven point expected to be reached 2-5 years out	Breakeven point expected to be reached within 2 years	Breakeven point reached

High quality technical support

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