

# GACD Multisectoral Approaches call, Stage 1.

## Application Guidance

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### Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases 11<sup>th</sup> Funding Call 2026

Implementation research maximising collaboration and coordination with sectors and in settings beyond the healthcare system to tackle chronic non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC: as defined by the world bank) and underserved populations in high-income countries

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**Submission Deadline: June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (16:00 UTC)**

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### Formatting Guidelines

Please follow the format as outlined in this document when preparing your application. The completed application form must be uploaded as part of your application in the relevant section by the deadline.

It is mandatory to follow the formatting guidelines when preparing the proposal. Applications that do not meet the formal criteria will be rejected.

- **Format:** DIN A4 format
- **Margins:** All margins at least 2cm
- **Text:** Arial 11 pt. (no Arial Narrow; references and figure legends min. 6 point)

Please upload your application form as **one PDF** document – letters of support should be uploaded separately, also all together as one PDF document.

Please complete all sections of the application.

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### Tables and Figures

Tables and figures may be included in your application form - please ensure these are of a suitable size and resolution. Tables and figures constitute a part of the proposal itself and must not be included as additional pages or documents.

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### Application – [Airtable Portal](#)

#### Applicants' details

**Name(s) of Principal Investigator(s) (PI):**

Applications for joint funding (from more than one funder) should include co-principal investigators eligible to receive funding from their respective funding agency.

**Affiliation of PI - Host institution(s):**

**Country of residence of principal investigator:**

**Email of principal investigator:**

**Name, affiliation, country of residence, email address for co-principal investigator:** fill in as required, not mandatory fields.

**Names and affiliations of co-investigators**

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#### Funding agencies details

**Primary Funding agency:**

List the funding agency to which you are applying.

**Additional funding agency/ies:**

List any additional funding agencies you are requesting funding from.

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## Project details

**Full Project Title:**

**Project location(s):** List the country/ies in which the project will be carried out.

**Total budget requested:** USD

Please make sure that the total funding requested is not exceeding the budget limitations of the funding agency/ies and is consistent with the funding requested in the application form.

**Project start date:**

**Project duration in months:**

**Scientific abstract** (max 500 words including spaces)

You should include the following information in your abstract:

- What is the implementation research question?
- Describe the intervention around which implementation issues will be explored (for projects proposing co-creation, please list interventions that would be considered)
- What study design will be used?
- What outcomes are expected? (please include health, sectoral and implementation outcomes)

The summary will be sent to potential reviewers to determine if your application is in their field of expertise, so do not include any confidential or sensitive information.

**Lay Abstract** (max 500 words including spaces)

This should be a public facing piece and must not use the same wording as the scientific abstract.

You should write it in plain English to ensure it can be understood by a variety of readers, for example:

- opinion formers
- policymakers
- the general public
- the wider research community

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## Application – Uploads

All files should be completed offline and uploaded using the [Airtable portal](#).

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### Full list of uploads:

- [Project participants table](#)
- Application form (combined into one pdf file using provided application template on the webpage) – including:
  - Application details, funders and project details, and abstracts, as submitted via [AirTable portal](#).
  - Project description (maximum four A4 pages).
  - Diagram of the workplan and project timeline (maximum one A4 page).
  - Study design annex (maximum one A4 page).
  - Statistical analysis and data management annex (maximum one A4 page).
  - References (maximum one A4 page).
  - Budget justification (maximum two A4 pages) and GACD budget form.
  - CVs for each investigator and non-researcher applicants profiles
  - mERA Checklist form (only required for projects focussing on digital health – see a [separate guidance](#))

- Letters of Support (combined into one pdf file)
- [IREC form](#) for NHMRC proposals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

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## Description of uploads

### Project Participants (excel template provided)

Please complete the [excel template](#), entering details of all project team members (including non-researcher members). Add rows to the table as required.

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## Application Form

Please prepare your application form using the official [application form template](#). **Ensure that all instructional or guidance text included in the template is removed from the final version before submission.**

The completed form should include applicants' details, funding agencies, project details, and the abstracts, consistent with the information entered in the [Airtable application](#).

You will be able to upload only one PDF file under the "Application Form" section. This single PDF must contain the completed application form together with all required annexes, CVs, and other details as shown in the template, combined into one document.

### Project Description (maximum 4 A4 pages)

Proposals **must** be organised according to the following headings:

- **Background**
- **Aims and objectives**
- **Study team and research environment**
- **Research plan, methodology, implementation strategy and outcomes**
- **Stakeholder engagement**
- **Governance and ethics**
- **Sustainability, dissemination, and potential impact**

The GACD recognises that each proposal is unique. The points listed under each heading are provided for guidance only; applicants are not required to address every point explicitly. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposal anticipates and addresses all reasonable questions that reviewers may have.

Proposals will be assessed against the following equally weighted criteria:

- relevance and quality of the project in relation to the grant call;
- quality and expertise of the team;
- feasibility of the project; and
- expected impact.

We recommend that you check the [review and evaluation process](#) when preparing your proposal.

The following information offers some guidance and suggestions for the proposal content.

### Background

Describe background of the research and preliminary results. Highlight any prior work related to proposal. Explain the knowledge gap, unmet societal need and NCD challenge that is addressed by the proposed project.

### Aims and objectives

- Clearly articulate your implementation research question(s) and hypothesis.
- Justify how the proposed study fits within the objectives and remit set out in the call text.
- Identify which chronic condition(s) you will focus on.

- Citing the current literature, demonstrate how and why the multisectoral approaches you are researching may be effective in your chosen study setting(s). Ensure that you include details about the current situation in the selected community or context that will receive the intervention and why there is a need for it.
- Describe the intervention(s) that you are researching, and provide evidence (case studies are acceptable) or theoretical justification supporting its effectiveness in
  - LMICs or other disadvantaged communities that your research will target;
  - in the particular life stage(s)/transition(s) that your research will target; and
  - in preventing or reducing common NCD risk factor(s) (i.e., risk factor(s) that can help prevent or manage at least two NCDs).
- If you plan to identify/develop interventions using a co-selection/co-creation approach, please provide a list of interventions to be considered.
- Explain how the project can help advance the ‘expected impacts’ listed in the call text.

#### **Study team and research environment:**

- In addition to the information provided in the CVs you have uploaded; you may elaborate on why the group is well-qualified to do this research, especially in tackling sectors beyond healthcare. If applicable, please describe previous successful collaborations with research team members, including but not limited to examples of successful facilitation of the uptake of your research results into policy and practice.
- Describe how the environment(s) in which the research will be done will facilitate the success of the proposed research. For example:
  - Describe how the community, scientific, clinical, and/or other environment(s) in which the research will be done will facilitate the success of the proposed research.
  - Explain how the research will benefit from facilities provided by the project participants’ affiliated research institutions.
- Include information on how you will encourage capacity and capability development for all team members (both senior and junior) in implementation research or other relevant area of expertise.
- Describe any non-research collaborations, and why these are important for the development and sustainability of this project.
- Provide information on any support for statistical and study design aspects (e.g., inclusion of a biostatistician or a clinical trial support unit).

#### **Research plan, methodology, strategy and outcomes**

- Describe how you will develop a theory of change.
- Provide a brief description of the methodology proposed (detailed information, including justification of outcomes, qualitative design etc should be included in the **study design annex**, samples sizes and other statistical consideration, etc **in Statistical design, and data management annex** as appropriate)
- Create a project timeline that highlights key milestones and provide justification for the length of time needed to conduct the project.
- Identify specific implementation outcomes and impacts, including interim outcomes, and provide a clear plan for how to measure these variables, using tools that are validated in your study setting(s) whenever possible.
  - Explain how you will measure the cost-effectiveness and/or other health economic considerations of the intervention in your study design.
  - Include appropriate measures of process and implementation outcomes evaluation. Projects that are able to track public health, policy, equity, and/or health related other system’s outcomes are expected.
- Describe how you plan to address context, for example using methods such as unstructured ethnography, ensuring that you account for complexity.
- Describe how you will adapt your project to the local context and overcome any specific local challenges to implementation.

- Demonstrate how your project will address equity, taking into account the socio-political, cultural, policy, and economic contexts of your study settings. Articulate how these factors and their impact will be analysed.
  - Explain how you will identify and address sex, gender, and/or intersectional differences in access, uptake, and/or effectiveness of the intervention.
  - Explain how you will identify and address access, uptake, and effectiveness barriers in other disadvantaged groups.
- Identify any major scientific, technical, or organizational challenges, and provide realistic plans to tackle them.
- Identify any external factors that might disrupt the project, such as travel restrictions or anticipated political unrest and develop appropriate contingency plans.
- Explain how your project appropriately leverages existing programs and platforms (e.g., research, data, delivery platforms), if relevant.

### Stakeholder engagement

- Describe how your team has identified, engaged with, and involved relevant stakeholders, including people with lived experience, in the development of this proposal; what changes have happened as a result of their involvement; and how their involvement will contribute to the project's sustainability.
  - Relevant stakeholders may include the direct beneficiaries of the intervention.
  - Other relevant stakeholders may include those who are in positions of power to drive the implementation and sustainability of your intervention at the state/province/department, national, or international levels, such as private companies, sectoral leaders, policymakers, and/or other decision-makers.
  - Applicants may wish to consider presenting a [stakeholder analysis table](#).
- Explain how your team will ensure continuous demonstrable engagement (from project ideation, throughout the project duration, and afterwards through knowledge translation) with all stakeholders.
- Please explain how you have managed ethical considerations and ensured safe, respectful and equitable collaborations with stakeholders who are members of disadvantaged groups.

### Governance and ethics

- Describe how your team will address the governance of the research project described in your proposal. You might consider issues such as those listed below:
  - ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all study participants, particularly disadvantaged study populations (e.g., young people, pregnant women, older adults);
  - ultimate accountability;
  - shared strategic leadership;
  - transparency in decision-making;
  - management of conflicts of interest;
  - articulating clearly defined roles/responsibilities/contributions of each team member (demonstrating that all key participants are highly engaged and committed);
  - intellectual property provisions (e.g., intellectual property rights and patenting);
  - management of communication, task delegation, and conflict resolution.
- Describe the ethical review that would apply to the work being done and your plans for obtaining informed consent. Ensure you address:
  - Societal considerations
  - Any direct and/or indirect harm that may come to participants/third parties (e.g. working with vulnerable groups).
  - Environmental concerns
  - Any other concerns you can think of, that may be harmful to anyone else.
- Explain how your team will promote equitable partnership and decision-making, as well as cultural sensitivity, among high-income country and low- and middle- income country team members and stakeholders (or between non-Indigenous and Indigenous team members and stakeholders).

- Explain how your project team has embraced equality, diversity, and inclusion practices appropriate for the context in which you are working, referring to the guidance of the funding agency to which you are applying, if available
- Adequate information should be included in each proposal to enable the evaluation of any physical or psychological hazard to which participants may be exposed. Each proposal should specify the number, sex, age range, and state of health of the human participants. Applicants will need to indicate how informed consent will be obtained and whether the participants are, for example, patients, healthy volunteers, or individuals in a control cohort.

### **Sustainability, dissemination and potential impact**

- Detail how the proposed research addresses the opportunities for, or barriers to, effective implementation of the intervention(s).
- Describe how the research being undertaken will contribute to implementation or scale up of the intervention.
- Please describe any planned knowledge translation and communication activities.
- Is the proposed research likely to generate commercially exploitable results?
  - If so, what arrangements and experience do the research group, or the host research institution have to take forward the commercial exploitation of research in this area?

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## **Application Form Annexes**

### **Work plan and timeline as diagram**

(maximum one A4 page)

The diagram must demonstrate the work plan, timeline, sequencing of work packages, the contribution of the partners to each work package and their interactions (i.e., Gantt chart, Pert or similar).

You can find more information about [creating Gantt charts at atlassian.com](https://www.atlassian.com/guides/gantt-charts).

### **Study design annex**

(maximum one A4 page)

Provide a clearly articulated and robust research methodology for answering [implementation research](#) questions.

You must:

- Provide information on the context, what sector(s) will you tackle, how and for whom proposed strategies will be used, ensuring that you are accounting for the complexity of the system. For more information regarding implementation strategies, please see: <https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1748-5908-8-139>.
- If you plan to use an implementation research framework(s) this must be clearly described and justified. If you do use a framework, you will need to explain how this will be operationalised in your research (e.g., sampling, data collection methods, analysis).
- Where relevant, you must provide a clear plan and justification for:
  - Choice of study design to evaluate programme.
  - How you will understand the context in which you will implement the proposed intervention
  - How you will evaluate for how context influences the implementation of the proposed intervention.
  - Qualitative and/or quantitative data analysis plans;
  - Plans for testing the effectiveness of the proposed intervention against a comparator; if relevant
  - Description of how participant loss-to-follow-up will be addressed;
  - Description of how participant engagement will be maintained throughout study duration;
  - Details about how the sustainability of the intervention will be monitored;
  - Details about how, when, and for whom health and implementation outcomes will be monitored.

## Statistical design and data management annex

(maximum one A4 page)

Where applicable, the annex should describe the statistical and analytical approaches, including justification of methods, sampling strategy, power calculations, bias mitigation, and plans for data analysis, demonstrating that the proposed design is appropriate to address the research objectives. Its purpose is to set out the methodological rigour of the implementation research by explaining the rationale for the chosen study design and analytical approach, rather than restating detailed methods.

Sampling procedures should include proposed sample size and power calculations. While these may not be fully finalised at Stage 1, an informed estimate should be provided wherever possible. Where feasible, studies should also be designed and powered to examine sex and/or gender differences, and other relevant intersectional differences in outcomes.

You must briefly summarise how you will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project, in particular addressing the following issues:

- What types of data will the project generate/collect?
- What standards will be used?
- How will this data be used, shared, and made accessible for verification and re-use? If the data cannot be made available, explain why.
- How will this data be curated and preserved?
- Taking into account concerns about Indigenous data sovereignty where relevant, who will own the data and how it will be protected?

The content should complement, not duplicate, information provided elsewhere in the application.

## References

(maximum one A4 page)

Include a list of relevant references to justify the need and feasibility of your proposal. These can include preprints and/or policy documents.

## Budget justification

**(maximum 2 pages)**

Please break down your costs, explaining why the resources requested are appropriate for the research proposed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the proposal. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the requested budget items are eligible for funding by the relevant funder. Applicants should refer to each funder's specific grant policies.

The budget and budget justification should be feasible and realistic for the context where the research will occur. They must account for the full range of costs necessary to complete the project.

The guidelines below list general criteria that should be addressed when justifying the budget needs:

- **Personnel:** e.g., Person-Months, position of employment, salary. Please state the roles and explain why you require the level (in terms of qualifications and salary) that you are requesting.
- **Material and equipment:** e.g.; consumables, numbers of subjects, devices. Please provide the name/description of the item, the total value of the item and a justification for the particular item requested. This information must be aligned with the proposed aims of the study. In the case of equipment, please provide information on why the equipment cannot be provided by the Institution.
- **Travel:** e.g., conferences, team meetings. Please indicate the purpose of the trip(s), the people that will be traveling, and their destination(s). Please note that travel costs for two team members to the GACD Annual Scientific Meeting should be budgeted. GACD recommend US\$5,000 per person, per year to attend this event.

### Budget form

Please complete in USD (for peer review purposes budgets are required in USD, however grants will be paid by funders in local currency); please state the exchange rate used and date checked:

- Local currencies and USD exchange rate(s) used (add more rows as necessary):

| Currency | Date rate checked | Exchange rate to USD |
|----------|-------------------|----------------------|
|          |                   |                      |
|          |                   |                      |
|          |                   |                      |

Budget form:

| Project Institution/Organisation No.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Principal Investigator/Co Investigator lead  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Country  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Funding Agency   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Personnel USD  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Consumables USD  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Equipment USD  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Travel* USD  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Other direct costs USD   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Overheads USD**  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Total requested budget USD</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Total cost of the project USD</b>   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| * Please include budget for two team members to attend the GACD ASM each year (at least one should be from LMIC or ECR); we suggest USD5,000, per person, per year (for a three-year project, this would be USD30,000) |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ** Overhead costs: according to funder regulations. Please check if these can be claimed from your funding organisations.  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

### CV for each investigator

(maximum one A4 page per applicant):

Please include the following information:

- Name:
- Title/role:
- Affiliation:
- Areas of expertise
- Relevant experience

The CV for each Principal Investigator should include a description of PIs main domain of research and a list of the five (5) publications most relevant to the project, and if applicable, a list of 5 patents and/or freely available computer programs that the PI has developed and that are relevant for the project.

### Non-Researcher applicant profiles

(maximum one A4 page per applicant):

Please include the following information:

- Name:
- Title/role:
- Affiliation/community:
- Areas of expertise/knowledge and/or education:
- Relevant experience

This non-researcher applicant profile aims to capture information about key members of the project team who will **not** contribute research expertise to the proposed work. These might include, but are not limited to, project managers/administrators, policymakers, representatives from implementing organisations, and community leaders.

### mERA form - Projects focusing on digital health

The GACD hosted a Digital Health Workshop in July 2021, focused on good practice and pitfalls when using digital health interventions to manage and prevent NCDs in LMICs and Indigenous communities, drawing from the experience of current GACD awardees, as well as external experts. [A summary of the discussions from the July 2021 Digital Health Workshop and a copy of the slides are available here.](#)

- One of the outputs of the workshop was an adapted version of the [mHealth evidence reporting and assessment \(mERA\) checklist](#). We have repurposed the original guidance developed by the WHO mHealth Technical Evidence Review Group, which focused on the reporting of mobile phone interventions in academic manuscripts, to facilitate project planning. We have also expanded the focus to be inclusive of digital health projects more broadly (rather than just mobile health projects). This form is intended as guidance to support applicants who are submitting applications that focus on digital health technology.

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## Letters of Support

- A letter of support from the **host institution(s) of principal investigators is mandatory**. Letters of support should be issued on headed paper and should be signed and dated. Letters of support should be written by the head of department, or other relevant senior manager within the research organisation. Letters of support must have been written within six months of the submission deadline.
- We strongly recommend that you upload letter(s) of support from any policymakers you are engaging with in the planning and conduct of your study. Please consider which policymakers may be the most relevant for achieving impact. It is expected that policymakers will be involved in all stages of the research project, from project ideation to knowledge translation, and the letter should express a commitment to such sustained engagement.
- We also recommend that you provide letters of support from any other project partners critical for the success of this project, including but not limited to representatives from organisations that will lead and finance the implementation of the proposed intervention.