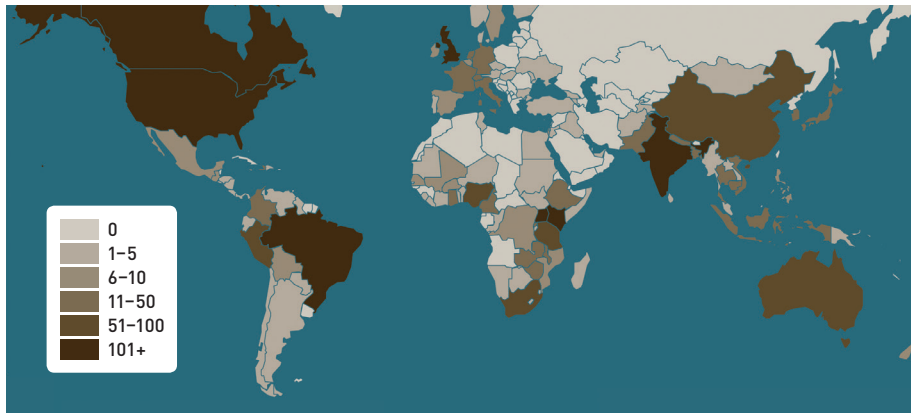


GRAND CHALLENGES

Grand Challenges is a family of initiatives fostering innovation to solve key global health and development problems

HISTORY

Grand Challenges can be traced back to the mathematician David Hilbert, who over a century ago defined a set of unsolved problems to spark progress in the field of mathematics. Today, the Grand Challenges family of initiatives uses challenges — launched as open requests for grant proposals — to focus attention and effort on solving key global health and development problems for those most in need.



Grand Challenges funders worldwide have awarded over 3,400 grants to investigators in over 110 countries, with an intentional and increasing shift over time towards direct funding for locally-led programs in the countries most affected by health inequities (please explore the play button to animate the grant map at grandchallenges.org).

WHAT MAKES GRAND CHALLENGES UNIQUE?

The Grand Challenges family of initiatives is about going further and faster together. It catalyzes a research and funding network that fosters collaboration among researchers and implementors and alignment of funders. Initiatives launch challenges in partnership and independently, refining the process of sourcing innovation over time. Each challenge is an experiment in focusing innovation for impact. Each addresses some of the same problems but from differing perspectives. Each builds a grant program fostering collaboration across projects to speed impact.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Grand Challenges partnership network seeks to engage the world's most creative minds and empower those with the local perspective to direct the right approaches to the right parts of the problems to ensure success. Guided now by the lessons of Covid-19, their collective action and directed energy is helping solve today's key problems in global health and development, while building a resilient mechanism ready to solve tomorrow's.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Grand Challenges Annual Meeting supports a global community of problem solvers who work together to set an innovation agenda and do the breakthrough science to deliver on it. Meetings have been held in 11 countries since 2005: the United States, South Africa, Thailand, Tanzania, India, Canada, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, Germany, Ethiopia, and most recently in virtual format.

Please visit grandchallenges.org for more information.

TIMELINE

- 2003** Grand Challenges in Global Health is launched
- 2005** Grand Challenges in Global Health funds 43 projects targeting 14 Grand Challenges; first Grand Challenges Annual Meeting
- 2007** Grand Challenges Explorations is launched
- 2010** Grand Challenges Canada is launched
- 2011** Grand Challenges for Development is launched
- 2012** Grand Challenges Brazil is launched
- 2013** Grand Challenges India is launched
- 2014** Grand Challenges South Africa and Grand Challenges Israel are launched
- 2015** Grand Challenges Africa, Grand Challenges Ethiopia, and Grand Challenges China are launched
- 2021** Grand Challenges Botswana is launched, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launches Grand Challenges Global Call to Action



INITIATIVES

Grand Challenges (formerly Grand Challenges in Global Health):

Launched in 2003 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges continues to launch open requests for proposals, independently and in partnership, and has targeted over 25 challenges since the original set. A new use case begun in 2018 is the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting Call to Action, a request for proposals open to meeting participants to support new ideas and collaborations inspired by the meeting.

Grand Challenges Explorations

(GCE): Launched in 2007 by the Gates Foundation to engage more of the world's innovators more quickly through \$100K pilot grants, GCE has funded over 50 challenges with over 1,500 initial grants awarded in over 70 countries.

Grand Challenges Canada:

Launched in 2010, Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting Bold Ideas with Big Impact®. Funded by the Government of Canada and other partners, Grand Challenges Canada funds innovators in low- and middle-income countries and Canada, supporting ideas that integrate science and technology, social, and business innovation — known as Integrated Innovation® — as well as Humanitarian Innovation and Indigenous Innovation.

Grand Challenges for Development:

Launched in 2011 by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Grand Challenges for Development has played a critical role in expanding Grand Challenges to address a range of global health and development issues. To date, USAID and its partners have launched 10 Grand Challenges for Development and mobilized over \$530 million to identify, pilot, and scale solutions to support humanitarian response, early-grade literacy, maternal and child health, access to off-grid energy, responses to Ebola and Zika, and access to water and clean energy for agriculture.

Grand Challenges Brazil:

Launched in 2012 by the Brazilian Ministry of Health, the Brazil National Council of Technological and Scientific Development, and the Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Brazil is the first country-specific Grand Challenges initiative, catalyzing innovation for impact in Brazil and for the world.

Grand Challenges India:

Launched in 2012 as a partnership between the Indian Government's Department of Biotechnology and the Gates Foundation, the initiative is housed at the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in New Delhi. Grand Challenges India aims to foster Indian innovation and research to develop affordable and sustainable solutions to improve health, in India and across the globe.

Grand Challenges South Africa:

Launched in 2014 by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the South African Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) in partnership with the Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges South Africa introduces joint challenges aimed at catalyzing innovative health research within South Africa. It works closely with Grand Challenges Africa and other Grand Challenges partners to nurture and strengthen the innovation ecosystem in Africa.

Grand Challenges Africa:

Launched in 2015, the vision of Grand Challenges Africa is to support the creation of extraordinary innovations that address health and developmental challenges in Africa. It works in partnership with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and is implemented with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3D).

Grand Challenges China:

Launched in 2015 by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Gates Foundation to jointly fund investigators in China and international collaborations.

Grand Challenges Ethiopia:

Launched in 2015 by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and hosted at Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), Grand Challenges Ethiopia aims to stimulate the creation, appraisal, promotion and scale-up of innovative ideas and concepts that respond to Ethiopia's defining health-related challenges and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Grand Challenges Botswana:

Launched in 2021 by the Botswana Innovation Hub as a unique collaborative initiative within Grand Challenges Africa, Grand Challenges Botswana will support local innovators in developing and implementing bold scientific solutions to accelerate progress toward national development priorities.

Grand Challenges Global

Call to Action: Launched in 2021 by the Gates Foundation to build on lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic, it seeks to fund cutting-edge science projects that together advance high-priority global health objectives while supporting and expanding a locally-led research and development ecosystem with a balance of women investigators. Through a 10-year approach to enable transformational partnerships, it will invest in platforms that link the local institutions that train and connect innovators, and it will directly support the local people that co-create and implement global health programs, including through the Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship in Africa.