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| Stage 1 - Concept Application  Ascend Learning & Innovation Fund |

**Instructions**

Before completing this form, please review the **Fund Guidelines** for challenge statements, fund logistics and eligibility criteria. The Concept Application is the first stage of the application process for the Ascend Learning and Innovation Fund. It is meant to provide an overview of the proposed project. Each Concept Application will be reviewed by the fund team to assess the eligibility, impact and suitability of the proposal for the fund. You can find additional information on how the proposal will be assessed by our reviewers in the **Fund Scoring Criteria** document.

To be considered, applications must:

* Be in English
* Be submitted in PDF or Word format
* Must not exceed the specified word limits
* Must not use a font smaller than 11 point

Once you have completed the application, please email it to [fundteam@ascendwest-innovationfund.org](mailto:fundteam@ascendwest-innovationfund.org). If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the fund team at the same email address.

We look forward to receiving your Concept Application!

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| Project Summary |
| Project title:  [Your text here] |
| Project summary: Please summarise the project in 3-5 sentences addressing the following questions:   * What is the problem you are addressing? * How will your project address the problem? * What potential benefits would your project deliver?   [Your text here] |
| Innovation: Please describe the innovative or inventive aspect of the project in 1-2 sentences.  [Your text here] |
| Project timing: Please state the length of time for which you are applying for funding and proposed start and end dates. Projects must be concluded by March 2022, including all reporting.  [Your text here] |
| Funding amount: Please state the total amount of funding you are applying for in GBP (£).  [Your text here] |

# Applicant Summary

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| Organisation Information |
| Main application contact: Please include name, email and phone number (with country code).  [Your text here] |
| Organisation name:  [Your text here] |
| Registration or charity number (if applicable):  [Your text here] |
| Organisation address:  [Your text here] |
| Organisation website:  [Your text here] |
| Link to your organisation’s audited accounts for the last financial year, or equivalent, to demonstrate your organisation’s economic/financial standing:  [Your text here] |

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| Organisation Experience |
| Experience summary: Please provide a summary of your organisation’s project management experience that is relevant to neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and the project proposed here. 150 words maximum, bullet point format will suffice.  [Your text here] |
| Additional Information: Please list links to any relevant websites, published reports, annual reviews, etc.  [Your text here] |

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| Implementation Partners (If Any) |
| Please provide the following details on implementing partners for this project, i.e. those that will be managing project funds. This must include all offices of the applicant that have a role in the project.  Organisation name:  [Your text here] |
| Organisation address:  [Your text here] |
| Organisation website:  [Your text here] |
| Brief description of their roles and responsibilities in this project: 100 words maximum, bullet point format.  [Your text here] |
| Brief description of engagement with proposed implementation partners: 250 words maximum.   * Who has been involved in the project design process and over what period of time? * If implementation partners are yet to be engaged, please outline your planned consultation process?   [Your text here] |

**Concept Summary**

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| Disease & Thematic Area |
| Please select the disease(s) that this project will address.  Lymphatic Filariasis  Onchocerciasis  Schistosomiasis  Soil-transmitted Helminths  Trachoma  Other – please specify |
| Please select the thematic area(s) that this project will address.  Service Delivery (e.g. supply-chain management)  Health Workforce (e.g. training of human resources)  Programme Effectiveness (e.g. treatment coverage)  Patient & Provider Safety (e.g. compliance with surgical protocols)  Medical Products & Equipment (e.g. maintenance/storage of surgical equipment)  Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) (e.g. hygienic services)  Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) (e.g. facial cleanliness campaign)  Other – please specify |

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| Geography and Population |
| Project location(s): Please name the countr(y)(ies) and region/district(s) where this project will take place.  [Your text here] |
| Target population: Please name and describe the target beneficiaries for this project. If applicable, please also state the estimated number of expected beneficiaries. 100 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Inclusion: Please outline the approach for adhering to DFID’s commitment to leave no one behind ([**link**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise)) – how will you prioritise reaching the most marginalised and vulnerable population groups, including persons with disabilities? 200 words maximum.  [Your text here] |

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| Project Background |
| Context: Please describe the problem/challenge that this project is addressing. 200 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Evidence: What evidence do you have that this is an effective and appropriate approach to address the identified problems at this time, in this location? 200 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Beneficiary feedback: Please provide details of beneficiary input or feedback from previous programmes which can inform this project? 150 words maximum.  [Your text here] |

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| Challenge Statement |
| Please select the challenge statement(s) that this project will address.  COVID-19 Response – How can NTD programming provide entry points for COVID-19 response and readiness?  Integration – How can NTD interventions leverage synergies arising from integrations across diseases, sectors and/or borders?  Universal Health Coverage (UHC) – How can we enhance access to, and quality of, integrated NTD treatment and prevention services in the context of UHC?  Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) – How can we ensure long-term in-country sustainability for integrated NTD programmes?  Data – How can we increase the quality, availability and usage of NTD data at all levels?  Other – please specify |
| Objectives and impact: Please describe the project’s objectives and how they will make an impact in line with the challenge statement(s) selected above. 200 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Project design: Please describe the activity plan for achieving the project’s objectives, including methods to be used. 250 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Key outputs: Please describe the measurable outputs and key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be used to monitor the project. 150 words maximum.  [Your text here] |

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| Innovation |
| This fund uses the following definition of innovation: Innovation can range from the ‘brand new’ to creative ways of applying / adapting / scaling existing approaches for the first time in a particular location or thematic field. It is not necessarily high-tech, but addresses a known challenge, is driven by learning and supports a vision for scalability and accelerating impact.  Innovation: Please select whether you would categorise this project as Core, Adjacent or New innovation.  Core – Incremental improvements on what is currently being done  Adjacent – Transferring methods or approaches from one context (e.g. country, sector or scale) to another  New – Novel inventions or ways of doing things |
| Innovation description: Please provide a description of the innovative aspect of the concept and why you have chosen the innovation category above. 150 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Innovation process: What was the process that led to your idea? 100 words maximum.  [Your text here] |

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| Future Steps |
| Sustainability, replication and scaling: Please describe your next steps if this project is effective. 200 words maximum.   * How you will make this project sustainable for the long-term? * What future replication and/or scaling opportunities are there? * What will you commit to if this project is successful?   [Your text here] |

**Country-level Engagement**

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| Country-level Engagement |
| Country consultation: Please provide details of any engagement and consultation with national governments and their support for this project to date. Include details of ministry departments consulted if relevant. 100 words maximum.  [Your text here] |

**Budget**

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| Budget |
| Total budget: Please provide an estimate for the total funding request for this project in GBP (£).  [Your text here] |
| Cost drivers: Please list the main cost drivers for this project, i.e. what factors will most impact the cost of this project? Please briefly describe how costs relate to planned activities and target outcomes. 150 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Equipment: Are you requesting funding for any equipment purchases over £500 ($650 USD) or other valuable assets (e.g. phones, tablets or computers)? If yes, please provide a brief description of the equipment, reason and estimated cost. 100 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Risks and mitigations: Please identify the main risks for this project and any plans to mitigate those risks. 150 words maximum.  [Your text here] |
| Co-funders (if any): Please list co-funders for this project, if any, and how much funding they are expected to provide.  [Your text here] |

**Compliance**

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| Compliance |
| Compliance and due diligence: Please check all of the following that apply, so that we may understand compliance requirements for the project. Note that all successful applicants will need to sign up to the DFID Supply Partner Code of Conduct ([link](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/750988/Supply-Partner-Code-August-2018.pdf)) and the Sightsavers Code of Conduct, and due diligence checks will be undertaken before any funds are awarded.  My organisation is an Ascend West and Central Africa partner  My organisation has previously received Sightsavers funding  My organisation has previously received DFID funding  My organisation is a UK-based entity  This project proposal includes research involving human subjects |
| Additional Information: Please provide any additional information you feel may be relevant for compliance or due diligence.  [Your text here] |

**Additional Information**

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| How did you hear about this fund? |
| Please check all that apply.  Internal Ascend West and Central Africa consortium communications  Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine website and/or communications  Mott MacDonald website and/or communications  Schistosomiasis Control Initiative website and/or communications  Sightsavers website and/or communications  Word of mouth  Other: please specify |