



# THE HEPATITIS FUND GRANTMAKING STRATEGY, GUIDELINES, AND FUNDING PRIORITIES 2024-2029

## INTRODUCTION

The Hepatitis Fund (THF) is a grant-making organisation dedicated exclusively to the mission of ending viral hepatitis, in accordance with the [Global Health Sector Strategy for Viral Hepatitis](#) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which called for specific action to combat viral hepatitis ([Sustainable Development Goal 3 target 3.3](#)).

THF seeks to increase funding for viral hepatitis programmes globally and foster new public and private investments and financing mechanisms, fully exploit synergies in global health, enhance hepatitis awareness, and leverage domestic funding by providing direct catalytic grants that have a sustained impact beyond agreed deliverables,

A number of barriers keep countries from properly addressing viral hepatitis. By funding highly effective activities to increase awareness of the problem and accelerate prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, THF can help partners to overcome those barriers. THF's catalytic funding will speed the elimination of viral hepatitis by supporting high-impact initiatives.

Through its partnerships with experts working in middle- and low-income countries, THF has developed and funded high-impact signature initiatives that tackle difficult, yet solvable, problems for reaching elimination goals, thus preventing deaths associated with severe liver disease, including liver cancer.

This document describes THF's grant-making strategy, guidelines, and funding principles and priorities for the period 2024-2029.



## THE HEPATITIS FUND GRANTMAKING STRATEGY

THF mobilises public and private resources to eliminate viral hepatitis as a global health threat. This document outlines THF's strategic approach to grant making, detailing how it identifies, funds, and supports initiatives aimed at making significant strides towards hepatitis elimination.

Through its partnerships with experts in middle- and low-income countries, THF has developed and funded high-impact initiatives designed to address the complex challenges hindering the elimination of hepatitis. THF primary focus is on reducing deaths associated with severe liver diseases, including liver cancer, by supporting interventions that demonstrate potential for lasting impact.

THF primary criteria for funding a project or programme is its potential public health impact, and its goal and objective is **to advance towards the elimination of hepatitis as a global health threat.**

This is assessed in terms of need (e.g., focusing on high-prevalence areas), feasibility (e.g., health system readiness for the intervention and commitment from local political health authorities), and effectiveness (evidence-based priority interventions). THF's work is focused on the elimination of hepatitis in low- and middle-income countries, especially in Africa and Asia the two regions with the highest disease burden.

THF-funded projects are designed to demonstrate effective interventions that can accelerate hepatitis elimination to reach Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3), with the intention that national and regional domestic health systems adopt them. THF works within the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) framework, creating incentives for countries to include hepatitis elimination in their UHC programme and integrate hepatitis with primary care, sexual and reproductive health, perinatal and immunisation services.

THF allocates financial and technical resources to partners such as non-governmental organizations, research institutes, hospitals, and clinics that support the development and implementation of national action plans including the most effective evidence-based interventions with catalytic impact. THF does not provide direct funding to the government.

Projects funded by THF may include the procurement of commodities (e.g. medicines and diagnostic equipment) for the purposes of the project and within the agreed budget.



## THF PROGRAMMATIC DIRECTIONS

THF's grant making strategy focuses on three areas, guided by the WHO Global Health Sector Strategies on respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2022-2030.

- a. **Accelerating planning and implementation of national elimination strategies, by:**
  - o Decentralising hepatitis services and task shifting of hepatitis care
  - o Raising awareness about the viral hepatitis challenge and solutions
  - o Supporting advocacy and technical assistance for increased financing at global and national level.
  
- b. **Integrating people-centred hepatitis services delivery within Universal Health Coverage, with a specific focus on:**
  - o Ending vertical transmission of hepatitis B via antenatal screening and antiretroviral treatment
  - o Rolling out of hepatitis B virus birth-dose vaccine in every national immunization schedule
  - o Prevent all new viral hepatitis B and C infections among children and address the treatment and care needs of affected children and adolescents
  - o Ensuring equitable access to essential medicines and technologies to address hepatitis B, C and D viruses, including by improving procurement systems
  - o Screening key populations and addressing stigma associated with viral hepatitis infections
  - o Integrating hepatitis care into other relevant health programmes.
  
- c. **Strengthening national health systems capacity, for example by:**
  - o Improving and integrating data systems for better policy formulation, surveillance, and modelling
  - o Deliver high-quality evidence-based people-centred services. This should be aligned with universal health coverage benefit coverage
  - o Increase general health workforce competencies relating to viral hepatitis testing and treatment
  - o Developing and use of e-health tools and cost-effective and secure communication technologies as a key enabler in healthcare services
  - o Providing technical expertise to key decision-makers in government to advance their priorities to test and treat viral hepatitis.



Based on WHO's Global Health Sector Strategy 2022-2030 and THF programmatic directions outlined above, THF defines tracks for grants for the new call of proposals (see section below on call of proposal 2024)

## **THE HEPATITIS FUND GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES**

- Grant awards from THF share the following characteristics:
- The primary purpose of the work is to advance the efforts of grantees to eliminate viral hepatitis.
- The award recipient retains principal control over the project design and content.
- The role of THF is to monitor whether progress is consistent and aligned with the proposal and agreement.
- The grant recipient retains ownership of any intellectual property developed during the grant-funded project and will provide THF with a royalty-free license for the use of said intellectual property.
- Grant recipients must align with programmatic directions and one or both tracks specific to the related call of proposal they are applying to.

## **GRANT ELIGIBILITY**

The proposal is eligible for consideration if it complies with the following criteria:

- ✓ The primary purpose of the project is to advance the efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis
- ✓ The proposal addresses at least one the THF programmatic directions
- ✓ The proposed approach is innovative
- ✓ The proposal is sustainable and scalable
- ✓ The proposal targets low- and middle-income countries in Africa or Asia
- ✓ The organisation has the capacity to implement the project
- ✓ The project has a strong community engagement approach



### Organisational eligibility criteria

In order to apply for a grant, organisations must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ✓ Have demonstrated success and proven record in carrying out similar or related efforts
- ✓ Have strong working relationships with host governments and other partners and/or a clear plan for developing and maintaining such relationships
- ✓ Be in good financial standing\*
- ✓ Are able to fulfil required due diligence requirements
- ✓ Are able to launch project activities within 90 days of receiving project funds

\* If a deficit exists in either of the two previous fiscal years, include a letter signed by the Chief Executive Officer/Director outlining the reason for the deficit and corrective action taken to overcome it.

The following **categories/purposes** are **NOT** eligible for funding:

- × Basic research and early development work
- × Direct funding to government entities
- × Grants for individuals and scholarships
- × Sponsorship of events
- × Seed funding for newly created organisations
- × Funds intended to pay off existing debts/financial obligations
- × Funds for retroactive purposes
- × Grants for graduate research papers
- × Funds to support lobbying activities
- × Funds to support subgrantees for the implementation of the project

The following **types of organizations** are **NOT** eligible for funding:

- × Entities without a bank account under its business registration
- × Non-charitable organisations
- × Government entities
- × Entities under legal proceedings
- × Entities that have declared bankruptcy