

STJF funding programme 2023-2025: call document

**Improving the health of vulnerable people in and
from fragile settings**

20 October 2022 final version

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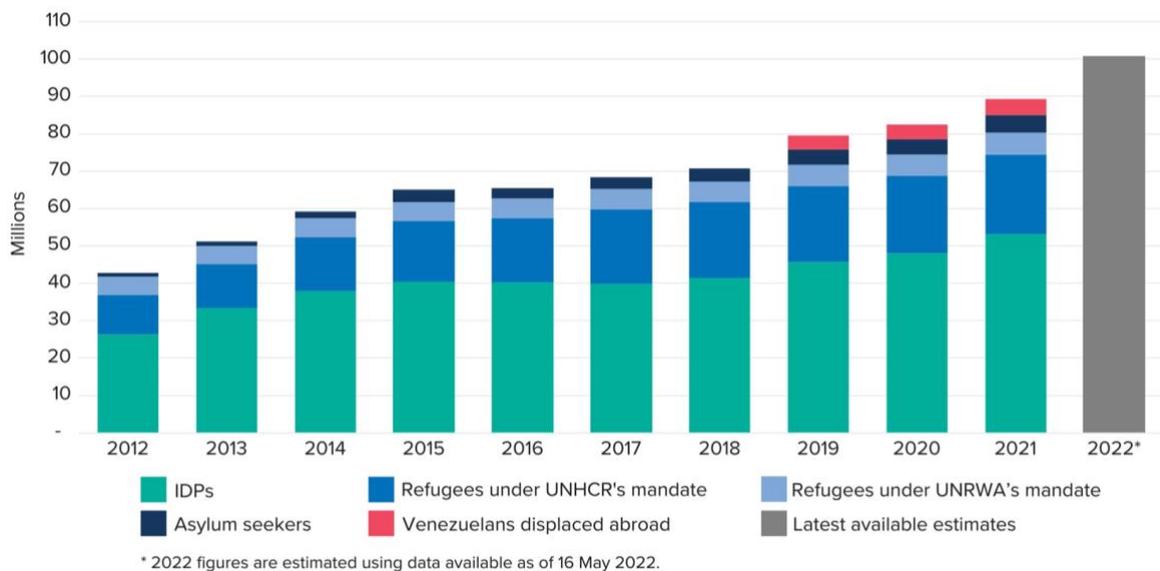
1. Introduction

In the framework of a strategic reorientation, the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation (STJF) since 2018 has funded projects that combine health interventions and research for people who are affected by conflict and violence. In a first phase (2018-2022), the STJF supported two projects of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute on improved diagnosis and management of diseases among refugees in Chad and Ethiopia. With the present call *Improving the health of vulnerable people in and from fragile settings 2023-2025*, the STJF launches the second phase of the funding programme.

2. Purpose and scope of the funding programme

Today, more than 100 million people worldwide are forcefully displaced, half of them in their own country. They fled from their homes because of armed conflicts, generalized violence, human rights violations, or disasters that are increasingly caused by climate change. The graph below shows the global trend of displacement during the last 10 years and a most recent increase of more than 10 million since 2021, caused by the war in Ukraine.

Figure 1: People forced to flee 2012-2022 (Source: UNHCR Global Trends Report 2021)



Before displacement, many refugees live in fragile settings experiencing humanitarian crises. During the escape, refugees often face harsh and dangerous conditions that have severe consequences for their physical and psychological wellbeing. Arriving in their new host community or in a camp, refugees often do not have access to affordable health services. They may not be able to visit health providers, get medicines and medical supplies, laboratory tests and other life-sustaining health services. Treatment for chronic conditions, including noncommunicable diseases and malnutrition, is often interrupted.

Whilst 100 million people are on the move, many more remain and live in fragile places characterized by chronic political and economic instability, where the most vulnerable are exposed to food insecurity, violence, and exploitation. Today, the vast majority of the world's poorest live in such a fragile environment.

The STJF launches a funding programme with the overall goal to improve the health of vulnerable people affected by conflict, violence and disasters. In addition to refugees and displaced persons, the target group of the funding programme also includes vulnerable population groups who have remained in or returned to such fragile contexts. The target group also includes refugees in Switzerland.

The funding programme's focus on health includes the physical, mental and psychosocial wellbeing of the affected people as well as the health care system that provides services to prevent, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate diseases and disabilities.

The STJF will provide grants to projects that combine interventions with applied research to better understand the context and needs of the affected people and/or the effectiveness of the chosen intervention. As the health needs of displaced and vulnerable people in fragile settings are multi-dimensional, the programme will prioritize interdisciplinary and innovative projects that pursue a holistic approach and that are well embedded in the social structures and networks of the people concerned.

The financial volume of this programme is approx. 3 million CHF. Selected projects will be funded for a period of 36 months.

3. Funding conditions

3.1 Approach: Interdisciplinary research and implementation

The supported projects must combine research and implementation and follow an interdisciplinary approach. They can be either application-oriented research projects or implementation projects with a research component:

- **Research projects** must have an application orientation, which means that the research project generates evidence for practice (e.g. implementation research, evaluation) or directly includes an implementation component (e.g. action research, citizen science). Following this approach, the target group must be involved in the planning and implementation of the research activities and already benefit directly from the project during the research phase. Interdisciplinary approaches that holistically consider the health needs of the target group are preferred.
- **Implementation projects** must have a research component. Again, projects with a holistic understanding of health are preferred, for example by being multisectoral and involving different stakeholders.

3.2 Further eligibility criteria

In addition to the above mentioned basic requirements – improving the health of displaced and vulnerable people in fragile settings through combined research and implementation – , the following criteria will be taken into account when selecting projects:

- **Interdisciplinarity:** Improving the health of vulnerable people requires a multidimensional understanding of health and, accordingly, interdisciplinary or multisectoral interventions.
- **Strong local anchoring:** The STJF would like to contribute to anchoring international cooperation and related research in civil society and among the beneficiaries. Thus, implementation projects must be significantly owned by a local partner organization and linked with or embedded in the public health system. Research projects must follow the principles for transboundary research partnerships of the Swiss Academy of Sciences and cooperate with a local partner organisation.

- **Innovation:** Projects that apply novel/innovative intervention approaches with a scaling-up potential will be preferred.
- **High relevance for women and girls:** Projects must be designed in a gender-sensitive way and should particularly take into account the experiences, needs and potentials of women and girls.
- **Do no harm:** The projects must be designed in such a way that, in accordance with the principle of "Do No Harm", they do not promote existing social or political conflicts, and in the best case positively influence them.

3.3 Eligible organisations

NGOs and research institutions based in Switzerland are eligible to submit proposals. A large part of the project should be implemented by a local partner organization in the NGO, government or academic sector.

NGOs must be Zewo certified.

The involved organisations must have a compliance policy on anti-corruption and on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH).

3.4 Budget range

The STJF intends to provide funding to small-scale (e.g. civil society initiatives or pilot tests) and medium-sized projects (e.g. research project with full-time employed research staff). The project budget can range between 150'000 and 1'000'000 Swiss Francs for a period of 36 months.

3.5 Financial conditions

For international projects, following the above-mentioned principle of local ownership, at least 50% of the grant must be spent in the targeted intervention area.

Project management and overhead costs can be included in the budget.

3.6 Reporting

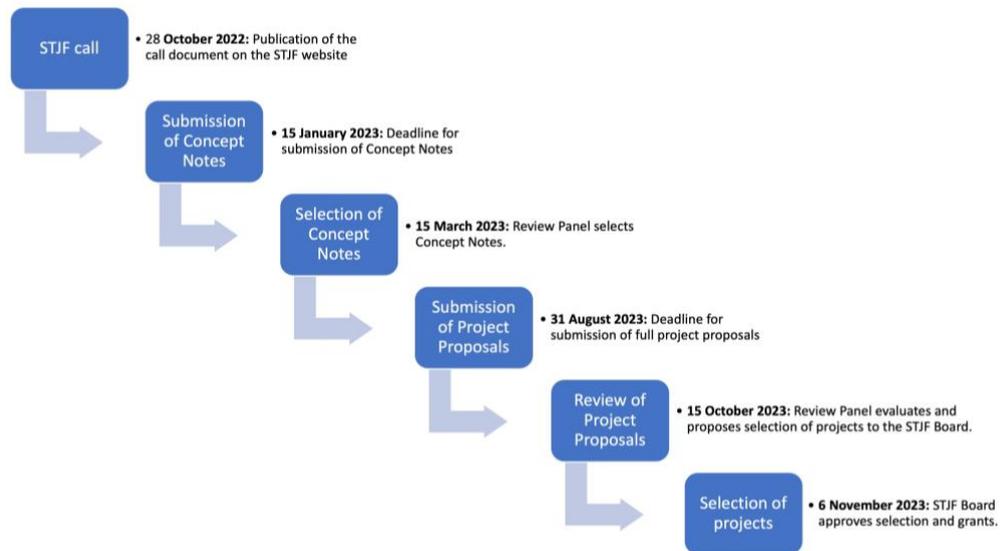
Financial and narrative reports are due every 12 months. The report of the third year will be the final report, covering the full 36 months.

4 Submission and selection procedure

4.1 Two-stage selection process

The submission and selection process includes two submission stages, as shown in the figure below. The first stage is a call for Concept Notes that include an outline of the project idea. A Review Panel of external experts will evaluate and select the Concept Notes based on the criteria defined in section 4.4. In the second stage, applicants whose Concept Note was selected will be invited to submit a full project proposal. In the invitation, the Review Panel may include recommendations or set conditions for the full proposal. During the evaluation of the full proposals, the Review Panel might invite

applicants to present their project. Based on the recommended selection by the panel, the STJF Foundation Board will approve the grants.



4.2 Submission of the Concept Note

The Concept Note must be submitted by email to research@johnsonstiftung.ch. The deadline for submission is 15 January 2023.

The Concept Note must include the following information:

- Basic data (name of the principle project manager / investigator, names of lead organisation and partner organisations, project title, start and end of project, budget)
- Short description of the organisations with their roles
- Context information relevant to the project
- Justification and overall approach of the project
- Statement and description of expected impact and outcomes
- Major activities foreseen
- Budget estimate

The document must be written in English and submitted in PDF format, not exceeding 5 pages.

In addition, the following supporting documents must be provided in PDF format:

- a cover letter, signed by all partner organisations;
- CVs of the principle project manager / investigator (lead organization) and of the responsible persons of the partner organisations.

4.3 Submission of the full proposal

Applicants whose Concept Note was approved will be invited to submit a full project proposal. The proposal must be submitted through the STJF online application tool.

The deadline for submission of the full proposal is 31 August 2023.

The basic data of the project proposal must be entered directly in the STJF online application tool.

The full proposal must be written in English and uploaded in PDF format, including the following information:

- Context analysis, current evidence, problem statement, description of the project area;
- Relevance and approach of the project, intervention strategy, research questions, methodology, interdisciplinary set-up, gender-sensitive measures, conflict-sensitive measures;
- Partners, cooperation model, roles of the partners;
- Description of impact, outcomes and outputs (including a results framework);
- Knowledge utilization and scaling-up strategy;
- Timeframe and major activities planned, milestones;
- Project organization and steering;
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting;
- Budget;
- Financial controlling procedures.

The document must not exceed 15 pages (excluding appendices).

In addition the following supporting documents must be uploaded in PDF format:

- a cover letter, signed by all partner organisations;
- CVs of the principle project manager / investigator (lead organization) and of the responsible persons of the partner organisations;
- Detailed budget.

4.4 Evaluation criteria

A Review Panel will evaluate the Concept Notes and full proposals against the following criteria:

- 1) The lead and partner organisations has/have a track record in the thematic field of this programme.
- 2) The project is relevant and well justified.
- 3) The project combines research and implementation.
- 4) The project pursues an interdisciplinary approach.
- 5) The project is well anchored in the local social setting, with a strong ownership of (a) local partner organization(s).
- 6) The project addresses needs and potentials of girls and women.
- 7) The project is conflict-sensitive.
- 8) The project intervention is original/innovative and preferably has the potential to be replicated or scaled up.
- 9) The proposal includes a clear and well justified results framework.
- 10) The project is cost-effective and the budget plausible and well structured.

5 Organisation

The STJF created a Review Panel that will evaluate Concept Notes and full project proposals and recommend a selection of projects to the STJF Board for approval. During



project implementation, the Review Panel will serve as a review and advisory board to the implementers and to the STJF.

The Review Panel will be composed of external experts and two delegates of the STJF Board.

The funding programme will be managed by the Director of the STJF, Guido Münzel. An external consultant (Thomas Gass, DrPH) will be mandated to facilitate the application process, moderate the Review Panel and support the partnership dialogue between the STJF and the implementing partners.

Deadline for Concept Notes is 15 January 2023.

Questions on the funding programme and the application procedure can be addressed to Thomas Gass, project coordinator: contact@thomasgass.dev.

Please send your concept note to Florine Lauper, administrative coordinator.
Email: research@johnsonstiftung.ch