



Africa Programme

Supporting the development of research and professional expertise in Africa

Our rationale

The Nuffield Foundation believes that all countries need qualified professional personnel for the development of their economies and the delivery of health, education and other services. In Africa, skills and knowledge are essential if countries are to find their own solutions to their own problems in areas such as health, food security and energy. With scientific skills and knowledge, African countries can begin to make the most of their natural resources, and utilise technology to accelerate economic growth. And with the development and implementation of good policies for service delivery, based on evidence of what works and what does not, essential basic services can be provided for all.

Our strategy

The funding needed to support this scale of human resource development is huge, and what the Foundation can contribute is very small. But by focusing on a level of expertise that few other funders currently support, we believe we can directly increase expertise in targeted areas. Our aim is to draw in further support by working collaboratively with other funders wherever possible and disseminating the outcomes of this investment.

Our experience from the Foundation's Commonwealth Programme between 2000 and 2008 has shown that UK institutions can play an important role in supporting African organisations to develop this expertise, and we will continue to fund projects implemented by UK/African partnerships. This experience has also convinced us of the importance of African government departments or institutions being involved in those partnerships.

How we fund

Our project grants fund UK and African universities and/or NGOs working in partnership, often together with African government departments or quasi governmental bodies such as training and research institutions, to develop training initiatives in science, technology and public service provision. In addition, we initiate funding collaborations with other foundations to support larger schemes to increase African research capacity.

Sustainable change is a long-term process; it is expected that most of the Programme's funding will be for work over several years and to be concentrated in a small number of larger grants. Our total budget for the five years 2010 to 2014 is £3 million.

The Africa Programme is jointly funded by the Nuffield Foundation and the Commonwealth Relations Trust. The Commonwealth Relations Trust is a subsidiary Trust of the Nuffield Foundation, with an endowment of £8 million, whose objective is to strengthen relationships between the UK and other Commonwealth countries.

Africa Programme project grants

These grants are for UK universities and NGOs which are working with African counterparts to train a specific group of professional, academic or research personnel for a specific purpose.

An example – mental health care in Kenya

To address the dire shortages of psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses in Kenya, the WHO Collaborating Centre, in partnership with the Kenyan Ministry of Health, the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) and the Kenyan Psychiatric Association have developed a programme to train primary care workers to provide mental health care.

The aim is to train at least one worker from each primary health care facility, provide training for higher level groups of health staff to ensure supervision of the work of these primary care staff and to get mental health included in the district annual operational plans and budgets. The Foundation provided a series of grants over a five year period to support this programme. Evaluations at the end of the training show a statistically significant shift in knowledge in those trained. Surveys are going ahead to look at impact of the training on the treatment of patients.

Key features of successful applications

Experience from the Commonwealth Programme suggests the success of these kinds of training projects is largely dependent on a number of key features. We would expect these features to be incorporated by projects funded under the Africa Programme.

- The initiative is part of the African partner's strategic plan.
- Longstanding and substantial partnership links between the UK and African institutions.
- Significant local institutional involvement and support for the initiative – in many cases the institution being either local or national government.
- Sufficient resources on both sides to carry out the initiative – including staff time for project co-ordination.
- Appropriate management structures and resources within trainees' employment to utilize/implement the training in their work; this can often include the need to also train the managers of the trainees.
- Provisions for sustainability such as post training support through on-going mentoring and/or peer networks and/or maintenance of the training structures beyond the duration of the start-up phase funded by the grant.
- Sound monitoring and evaluation of the outputs of the work and systems to assess its impact.

Eligibility – of projects, applicants and costs

The Programme operates within defined geographic and thematic areas, funding projects that:

- benefit Southern or Eastern Africa;
- develop training initiatives that focus primarily on health, science, engineering, technology and mathematics. Proposals in education, law and social welfare may also be considered;
- build expertise at research and professional level.

Only UK-based non-profit organisations - academic institutions and NGOs - can apply for funding from the Programme. These organisations must have well-established links with partner organisations in the

country/region where the proposed work is to take place and must have developed the proposal together with these partners.

The Programme supports a range of project sizes, from small pilot projects of £5,000 to larger projects of up to £400,000 over five years. These larger projects are funded in phased stages. Applications for co-funding are welcome, for example, where the Programme would fund the training element of a larger project.

The Africa Programme will fund

- Actual salary costs of partner UK and overseas staff and consultants directly delivering the project.
- Rent and other premises costs in-country
- Training costs – tuition fees, accommodation, living costs, travel etc. Please note that we will not contribute towards the salaries of trainees/participants or the salaries of their replacements, nor will we pay a per diem on top of actual living costs.
- Travel costs of partner staff both within country and between UK and project country.
- Internal monitoring and evaluation costs
- Direct administrative and office expenses of UK and overseas partners. Please note that the Foundation does not pay a straight percentage overhead.

The Africa Programme will not fund

- General appeals
- Activities that are primarily about community development, advocacy and rights-based work.
- Work that has already begun, unless it is for an identifiably new phase.
- Applications primarily concerned with the career development of individuals.
- Support for in-country projects with no direct UK involvement.
- Support for the day to day running costs of existing organisations or services.
- Administrative costs that are not directly related to the application.

Other costs not listed above, such as capital costs of equipment etc, will be considered on a case by case basis.

The application process

The Foundation's Trustees make the final decisions on grant applications under the Africa Programme. They are supported by experts in specific subject areas to help shortlist outline proposals and assess detailed final proposals.

There are no guaranteed processing times for these grants. It is likely, however, that the whole process will take at least six months - although some smaller grant applications may be decided upon sooner. Guidance will be provided to applicants from the early stages of the application process through the various stages. With the Programme in place for at least 5 years, there is ample opportunity to submit applications, and we strongly advise applicants to take time over the application process.

The first formal stage of applying for a grant is to send a written outline application. Prior to this, however, you are encouraged to first contact Sarah Lock, Programme Head, by telephone or email, to talk through the proposal to get a preliminary view on its eligibility. The purpose of the outline proposal is to save the time of both the applicants and the Foundation by ensuring that only applications with a reasonable chance of success reach the full application stage. Having considered your outline we will advise you whether the proposal is suitable for further consideration and whether there are any particular questions or issues you should consider.

Although you can send in an outline at any time, actual decisions on suitability will be made three times a year. The cut off dates for submission of outlines, in March, July and November each year, will be published on our website, www.nuffieldfoundation.org

If your proposal is suitable for consideration by Trustees we will ask you to submit a detailed final proposal. These will be sent by the Foundation for comment to independent external referees. In some cases – particularly for the larger grant applications – we may ask applicants for interview.

Information required in an outline proposal

There is no application form for the outline, but the summary page must be sent with the proposal. The narrative proposal should be no longer than 3 pages and in no smaller than 12 pt font.

The narrative proposal should provide the following information in the given order, ensuring that coverage of points 4-8 comprises at least 75% of the proposal. Applicants should refer closely to the section **Key features of successful applications**.

1. A short description of your organisation's work, particularly in training and professional development.
2. A short description of the work of your partner organisation, particularly in training and professional development, and how the proposed work fits in with its strategic plan for its overall work.
3. The length of the partnership and a short description of previous collaborative work.
4. A description of the objectives of the training and the profiles of proposed trainees.
5. Information about local institutional support and employer support for the project, including recognition of training.
6. Outline timetable of proposed activities.
7. Information on how you plan to monitor and evaluate the project's success. This should include the impact of the training upon the *individual* **and** the impact of the work *subsequently undertaken* by those individuals.
8. Information about what will happen after the work is finished; in particular, where appropriate, how activities will be maintained.
9. An outline budget; if the Nuffield Foundation is not being asked for the full cost of the project you should still submit the total budget and make it clear how much co-funding will be sought and from what source.

Full proposals

Full proposals cover the same ground as outline proposals but in greater detail along with coverage of any additional points raised at the outline stage.

Contact and further information

Further information about the Africa programme is available at www.nuffieldfoundation.org

Contact: Sarah Lock, Programme Head, Nuffield Foundation Africa Programme

Telephone: 0207 631 0566

Email: slock@nuffieldfoundation.org