

Global Health and Development Fund

Supporting highly-impactful, evidence-based, and neglected solutions to the global challenges of poverty and inequality.

Solving a Global Problem

Despite substantial progress in recent decades on development goals, nearly half the world lives on less than \$2.50 per day. This poverty leads to a huge amount of hardship and unnecessary loss of life. In 2019, more than five million children under five years old died, mostly from preventable causes like diarrhoea, malaria, and respiratory infections.

Poverty is also associated with hunger, exposure to conflict, and limited access to education and other opportunities. We believe that all individuals, regardless of where they were born, deserve the chance to live happy, healthy, and prosperous lives.

Global inequality in mortality, health, poverty and more is a tragic, but not unsolvable, problem. Researchers, advocates, and organisations around the world are working to scale up solutions to these problems. By taking a thoughtful, evidence-based approach to philanthropy that accelerates the best of these solutions, we can do immense good.



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Meet the Fund Managers



Sam Carter is a Research Advisor based in New York. Sam previously worked at MIT's Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), where she led global policy outreach on cash transfers and financial inclusion, and supported government scale-ups of evidence-based programmes. Sam has a Master's degree in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University. She has also worked at the World Bank and numerous organisations in the U.S., Bolivia, Indonesia, and Peru.



Stephen Clare is an Applied Researcher based in London. Stephen previously worked as an Analyst for the UN in Rwanda and Panama, where he evaluated development programs in entrepreneurship and conservation and advised local program officers. Stephen has published multiple peer-reviewed papers and holds a Master's in Renewable Resource Sciences from McGill University.



Our Perspective

As co-managers of the Global Health and Development Fund, we are here to find opportunities for Founders Pledge members to support highly-impactful and neglected development initiatives. This is a complex mission. In our first year, our decision-making will be guided by three core values: impact, learning and collaboration.



Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images/Images of Empowerment

To **maximise impact**, our grant portfolio will include both direct interventions where outcomes are highly certain and indirect interventions whose success is less certain but which have the potential to improve many more lives if they succeed. Direct interventions include programmes such as providing bednets to those at risk from malaria or transferring cash directly to those living in extreme poverty. Indirect interventions include efforts to encourage evidence-based policymaking through advocacy for specific, effective interventions or technical assistance to increase the effectiveness of government programmes. Overall, we aim to strike a balance between scale and certainty of impact. By seeking opportunities that are neglected by other funders, we aim to ensure that our Fund provides unique value in the ecosystem.

We are committed to **learning**, improving, and sharing lessons learned. We will support our community of Fund contributors as we build a deeper understanding of global health and development together. We will iterate on our sourcing and evaluation processes to minimize the burden imposed on potential grantees. We will better understand the contexts where we aim to make a difference so that our grants are both research-driven and context-specific.

Finally, we will **collaborate** with other organisations to ensure that our fund fills a unique gap in the ecosystem. We will communicate with partners including [GiveWell](#) and [IDinsight](#) to leverage their expertise in identifying specific and neglected opportunities for impact. We will coordinate with funders including the [Open Philanthropy Project](#) and [Co-Impact](#) to ensure that our efforts complement theirs. Most importantly, we will connect with charities and policymakers to better understand the preferences and values of the individuals whom our fund is designed to support.

In line with the values above, we will devote time to understanding the implications of COVID-19 on global health and development. Doing so will be crucial to ensure that the fund addresses the evolving needs of individuals living in poverty.



Our Approach to Grantmaking

When evaluating potential grants, we consider several key points:

- **Counterfactual impact.** Our grants are designed to create a meaningful outcome that would not otherwise have happened. In particular, we aim to make grants that otherwise wouldn't have been made, rather than those which just take the place of other philanthropists' donations. This means that you can rely on the Funds to create meaningful, real change, rather than just maintaining the status quo.
- **The grant's potential outcomes.** We focus on outcomes (e.g. how many lives were saved), rather than outputs (e.g. how many products were delivered). We review all the available evidence and take into account cost-effectiveness to assess whether the grant money could produce more good if donated elsewhere.
- **Funding gaps.** Not all organisations are set up to scale up their programming and many can't productively absorb large amounts of unsolicited funding. We evaluate all potential grantees' capacity for growth and consider how much money they could put to good use. This means that there will be many great organisations that we do not recommend because they are already sufficiently funded.
- **Organisational strength.** Particularly with unrestricted funding, it's important to have trust in the leadership and capacity of the organisations we support. We look at their track record of success and their transparency about failures as well as successes, and we only support those organisations which are exceptionally well run. We also look for organisations that demonstrate a strong commitment to measuring outcomes and evaluating the impact of their programmes.
- **Time-sensitive opportunities.** It's important to have trust in the leadership and capacity of the organisations we support, particularly if funding is unrestricted. We look at their track record for success and their transparency about past failures. We will only support organisations that are exceptionally well-run. We also look for organisations that demonstrate a strong commitment to measuring outcomes and evaluating the impact of their programmes.



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Why Contribute to the Global Health and Development Fund?



> **A focus on impact.** Fund Managers conduct detailed, comparative analyses of potential funding opportunities to find those where financial support will lead to substantial improvements in health and well-being for people living in poverty.

> **Access to leveraged funding opportunities.** By pooling donations with others, the Founders Pledge Funds give donors access to opportunities that are not available to individuals (e.g., organisations may only accept grants above a certain threshold).

> **Zero administrative burden.** Contributing to the Founders Pledge Funds is as easy as emailing your Research Advisor. We charge zero fees, and your donations are fully tax deductible. Every dollar contributed to the Fund will be granted to a highly impactful organisation.

> **Learning opportunities.** Fund contributors will have unique opportunities to learn alongside the Fund Managers about effective philanthropy within the space of global health and development. Fund Managers will facilitate conversations with the leaders of grantee organisations and other topic-area experts, grant review sessions, and other sessions requested by Fund contributors.

Learn More and Contribute

To learn more about the Founders Pledge Global Health and Development Fund, or to make a contribution, please send an email to your Research Advisor or to funds@founderspledge.com. You can also [book a call](#) with Sam and Stephen anytime



Sample Grants

The organisations below have been selected as examples of the kind of organisations that score highly on the points above. The fund will grant to a range of organisations similar to, but not limited to, those mentioned below.

Malaria Consortium's Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention Programme



Direct, well-evidenced approach



Populations at risk of malaria in Africa and Asia



Partnership approach



Evidence-based

- *What problem does this funding opportunity address?* In 2017, over 435,000 people died from malaria, 92 per cent of whom were located in Africa. In children, malaria is also linked to severe anaemia and cerebral malaria, both of which can cause medical challenges later in life. Although well-tested, low-cost prevention strategies exist, current levels of investment are less than half of what is needed to eliminate malaria.
- *What will this funding achieve?* Malaria Consortium supports seasonal malaria chemoprevention programmes by funding anti-malarial medicine distributions, providing technical assistance for distribution campaigns, training health workers, and advocating for additional campaigns. GiveWell estimates that Malaria Consortium can provide malaria chemoprevention for a full season for less than \$7 per person.
- *Why is this funding important now?* Malaria Consortium currently faces a substantial funding gap. In addition, the increased pressure that COVID-19 has placed on health systems in malaria-prone countries means that prevention is especially important.



The Taimaka Project

The Taimaka Project



Research and innovation



Low-income farmers in Nigeria



Early-stage



Evidence-based

- *What problem does this funding opportunity address?* In many low-income contexts, farmers have limited capacity to store their crops after harvest. Farmers are therefore forced to sell their crops immediately after harvest, even though prices in the post-harvest period are low due to high levels of supply.
- *What will this funding achieve?* Taimaka provides two services to farmers in Nigeria: (1) finances the purchase of storage bags that allow farmers to sell when prices are higher, and (2) provides bridge loans to farmers during the harvest season to allow farmers' households to maintain consumption despite earning limited income. With a grant of \$45,000, Taimaka could scale their work from 50 to 200 households in Nigeria.
- *Why is this funding important now?* The Taimaka project is a young organisation that has the potential to achieve large impacts on poverty reduction as it scales up. In general, grants to nonprofits at a relatively early stage have the potential to be incredibly impactful, as they can be the difference between a highly impactful organisation existing or not existing. These organisations are also more likely to be neglected, as they are more difficult for established donors to find.



J-PAL's Innovation in Government Initiative



Direct,
well-
evidenced
approach



Populations at
risk of malaria in
Africa and Asia



Partnership
approach



Evidence-
based

- *What problem does this funding opportunity address?* Despite meaningful global progress in reducing poverty, the World Bank estimated that, in 2015, more than 736 million individuals lived on less than \$1.90 per day, the international benchmark for extreme poverty. The vast majority of these individuals live in low- and middle-income countries where governments are the primary actor focussed on reducing poverty. Given the scale of government activities, improving the effectiveness of policymaking in low- and middle-income countries offers an exceptional opportunity for leverage.
- *What will this funding achieve?* The Innovation in Government Initiative (IGI) is a competitive re-granting fund housed at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). J-PAL is a global research centre and network of researchers whose mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. IGI funds projects that provide technical assistance to governments to scale up evidence-informed innovations that have the potential to improve the lives of many individuals living in poverty. IGI is Founders Pledge's recommended funding opportunity in the space of evidence-informed policymaking.
- *Why is this funding important now?* IGI holds biannual funding rounds, during which eligible applicants submit proposals and an academic Advisory Board selects the projects that they believe to be most likely to contribute to IGI's mission. IGI also accepts and occasionally funds off-cycle proposals for particularly time-restricted projects. IGI has consistently reported that demand from promising projects outstrips their available funding.

