CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/GRAND CHALLENGE FUND:

Investigator-Initiated Quality Improvement, Implementation Science, and Research-to-Action Grants

1. BACKGROUND

The Transforming Rwanda Biomedical Centre into an Excellence Hub for National and Regional Public Health (TRIBE-HUB) initiative is a flagship European Union–funded programme under the Global Gateway strategy. TRIBE-HUB aims to strengthen Rwanda's public health systems by enhancing research excellence, digital transformation, workforce capacity, and evidence-to-policy translation.

As part of this initiative, TRIBE-HUB is launching a Grand Challenge Fund (GCF) to support locally led Quality Improvement (QI), Implementation Science, and Research-to-Action projects. The Fund is designed to empower district hospitals and Level 2 Teaching Hospitals, working collaboratively with Referral Hospitals, the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) and Universities, to generate practical, scalable solutions that improve service delivery, quality of care, and health system performance.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL

To support collaborative, implementation-focused projects that: (i) Improve quality, efficiency, and equity of health services; (ii) Strengthen implementation of national policies, guidelines, and innovations; and (iii) Generate actionable evidence to inform decision-making and scale-up within Rwanda's health system, in line with HSSP V priorities.

3. WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible applicants include multidisciplinary teams led by professionals based in:

- District Hospitals
- Level 2 Teaching Hospitals
- Referral Hospitals
- Teaching hospitals
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC)

Eligibility requirements:

- The Principal Investigator (PI) must be employed by a District Hospital, Level 2 Teaching or referral hospitals.
- Projects must demonstrate institutional collaboration with Referral Hospitals, Level 2 Teaching, District Hospital.
- The project must collaborate with RBC Divisions and senior scientists

4. PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

Proposals must align with HSSP-V strategic priorities, including one or more of the following:

Quality of Care and Patient Safety

- Improving adherence to clinical guidelines
- Reducing preventable morbidity and mortality
- Strengthening maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health services

Health Systems Strengthening and Resilience

- Service delivery optimization at district and teaching hospital levels
- Human resources for health performance and task-shifting
- Referral systems and continuity of care

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Surveillance strengthening and outbreak preparedness
- Facility-level readiness and response systems

Digital Health and Data Use for Decision-Making

- Digital tools to improve service delivery, reporting, and supervision
- AI-supported decision aids for clinicians and managers

Nutrition, Stunting, and NCD Prevention

- Facility- and community-linked interventions
- Integration of nutrition and NCD services into routine care

Climate Change and Health

- Climate-sensitive disease management
- Facility-level adaptation and early warning interventions

Implementation Science and Knowledge Translation

- Evaluating how policies, guidelines, and innovations are implemented
- Identifying barriers, facilitators, and scalable solutions

5. GRANT SIZE AND DURATION

- **Funding amount:** *RWF 10,000,000 – 50,000,000 RWF per project*
- **Project duration:** *6–12 months.*
- Funding will be **milestone-based disbursement**, linked to agreed deliverables

6. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Funded projects are expected to deliver:

- Measurable improvements in service delivery or quality of care;
- Practical tools, models, or protocols ready for scale-up;
- Policy briefs or implementation reports for RBC;
- At least one dissemination product (presentation, report, or manuscript).

7. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit:

1. Completed GCF Application Form.
2. Project Concept Note (maximum 5 pages) clearly describing:
    1. *The implementation or quality gap addressed;*
    2. *The intervention and implementation approach; and*
    3. *Expected outcomes and scalability*
3. Curriculum Vitae of the Principal Investigator
4. Institutional Endorsement Letter from participating institutions
5. Ethical considerations and approval pathway (if applicable)
6. GCR -Application -use the link below:

8. MENTORSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Successful applicants will:

- Participate in a mandatory kick-off and capacity-building workshop on QI and implementation science.
- Receive continuous technical, academic and policy mentorship MOH, RBC, and academic partners.
- Be supported to translate findings into policy and practice.

9. KEY DATES

- **Call launch:** February 5th 2026

- **Orientation session (Online session):** 13rd Feb 2026, from 14h30-17h00. To connect you can use the link below:

  https://risa-rw.webex.com/risa-rw/j.php?MTID=m8813ccc38b55fad583753b77360d0cce

- **Application deadline:** 28 February 2026 (23:59 Kigali Time)
- **Notification of results:** April 2026
- **Project start:** May 2026

10. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

- **Applications must be submitted electronically using the link below:**

Or this links here

For inquiries and clarifications, contact the TRIBE-HUB Secretariat at:

eric.remera@rbc.gov.rw or **clarisse.musanabaganwa@rbc.gov.rw**