

GHIT Fund Target Research Platform (TRP) Request for Proposals

Reference Number: GHIT-RFP-TRP-2026-001

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1. GHIT Fund Background

With over a billion people in the world suffering from infectious diseases, especially in low-income countries (LICs) and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs), there is a need for new low-cost, high-impact health technologies. Responses to this need in recent years have led to the development of new products, mostly as a result of partnerships between healthcare companies, academia and research institutions, and Product Development Partnerships (PDPs). These partnerships have proved to be an effective method for developing impactful global health technologies.

The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) is a non-profit organization focused on promoting the research and development of new health technologies, including drugs, vaccines and diagnostics for infectious diseases prevalent in LICs and LMICs. The first fund of its kind in Japan, the GHIT Fund is supported by the Japanese Government, healthcare enterprises, the Wellcome Trust and the Gates Foundation. The GHIT Fund aims to advance Japanese innovation for the research and development of new technologies for vulnerable patients and populations affected by neglected infectious diseases. To this end, the GHIT Fund will catalyze R&D partnerships between Japanese and non-Japanese organizations and support these partnerships through investments.

2. Funding Opportunity

The Target Research Platform (TRP) is intended to support the crucial, earlier phase of R&D discovery of new approaches, concepts, constructs and solutions to fight neglected infectious diseases.



The TRP is intentionally broad and offers support for innovative global health R&D as follows:

1. Standard TRP Award

The main award type under the TRP platform: this award aims to support early-stage research into novel technologies and approaches.

2. Strategic Innovation and Market Assessment Award (SIMA Award)

This award focuses on:

- Disease/technology landscape analysis
- Market strategy analysis for specific technologies/products.

Contact the GHIT Fund before submitting an application for the SIMA Award.

3. Pandemic Preparedness and Response Award (PPR Award)

This award aims to support the development of diagnostic prototypes and/or Target Product Profiles to respond to pandemic outbreaks.

Contact the GHIT Fund before submitting an application for the PPR Award.

3. Eligibility

● Project:

The proposal must align with the Project Scope, Disease Scope, Project Duration, and Budget of each Award as outlined in this document.

● Partnership:

Each proposal must have **at least one Japanese organization and one non-Japanese organization.**

Notes:

- ✓ All organizations in the partnership must be legally registered.
- ✓ Whether the organization is Japanese or non-Japanese is defined by the location of its headquarters. e.g., Example Corp. is headquartered in Japan and has a subsidiary in the United States, Example Corp. U.S. Even if only Example Corp. U.S. participates in the project, it will be considered a Japanese organization.
- ✓ Group companies are considered a single organization. e.g., If Example Corp. has a subsidiary, Example Corp. Technologies, and employees from both companies participate in the project, register one of the organizations as the representative.
- ✓ The following table presents examples of organization types.

Organization Types (examples)
● Life science/healthcare companies ● Academic institutions ● Non-profit research organizations and foundations ● Government research institutions ● Product Development Partnerships (PDPs)

● Organizational Information:

Each organization must submit a certified copy of its registration and financial statements (audited by an independent auditor) from the most recent three fiscal years.

If the organization is less than three years from establishment, it must submit the financial statements that are available at the time of application.

4. Project Scope

4.1. Project Scope for Standard TRP Award

Project Scope:	<u>Early-stage R&D project primarily originating from or materially involving Japanese science, technology and/or know-how</u>
	- Projects based on innovations originating outside Japan may still be eligible, provided the Japanese partner plays a central and indispensable role in advancing or refining the technology. - Projects in which the Japanese partner's role is limited to minor tasks (e.g., generating supporting data or supplying control samples) are not eligible. - Proposals must include preliminary data or supporting evidence. Hypothesis-driven proposals without data will not be considered.

Disease Scope:	- Malaria - Tuberculosis (TB) - Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)* - Diseases with pandemic potential** - Diseases with public health emergency*** There is limited funding availability for diseases with pandemic potential and public health emergency. <i>*All WHO-listed NTDs are eligible; however, it is recommended to also look at the funding scope and the type of intervention mentioned in the RFP for the GHIT Fund Product Development Platform. Careful consideration is required when preparing a TRP application, where the funding scope and type of intervention differ between each platform.</i> <i>**For diseases with pandemic potential, we particularly welcome proposals that address one or more virus families with epidemic or pandemic potential, excluding COVID-19-specific approaches and on HIV. Clear justification with relevant references is required for consideration. Diseases included in the WHO NTDs list will be considered as NTDs.</i> <i>***For diseases with public health emergency, the disease has to be declared as public health emergency in at least one country, excluding COVID-19. Diseases included in the WHO NTDs list will be considered as NTDs.</i>
Project Duration:	Not to exceed two years
Budget:	max. JPY 100,000,000

The tables below provide examples of potentially eligible and ineligible project scopes for the Standard TRP Award.

Visit the [GHIT Fund Website](#) for examples of previously funded projects.

Scope for Drugs	
Examples of Eligible Projects	1. Novel mechanisms of action, e.g., targeting critical host components essential for infection and disease with little or no toxic effect on the host 2. Conventional drug discovery approaches including; ● Standard high-throughput screening against pathogens ● Hybrid-drug approaches/strategies ● Target-based drug development for potential novel biological targets or pathways 3. Novel assay technologies that allow screening for therapeutics against pathogens within GHIT's scope 4. Pharmacogenomics studies to understand the drug metabolism and disposition in malaria, TB, NTDs and diseases with pandemic potential 5. Innovative drug delivery modality/methods such as lipid nano-particles, nucleic acid delivery system and use of microneedle patches etc. 6. Repurposing of existing health technologies (e.g. approved drug and platform technologies) for use in new indications (malaria, TB and NTDs) and diseases with pandemic potential
Ineligible	1. Mathematical analysis, modeling and prediction of the evolution, spread and fitness of resistant mutants during drug treatment, both within a single individual and in an epidemiological context 2. Project that specifically targets pathogens that cause diseases not listed in this RFP 3. Basic studies of pathogens or human biology

	4. Community-based interventions aimed at improving adherence to drug treatment regimens
Scope for Vaccines	
Examples of Eligible Projects	1. Novel vaccine concepts, targets and constructs inspired by new observations or understanding about the nature of the targeted organism or human response to that organism 2. New vaccine constructs that target specific tissue or cell types for appropriate induction of local and systemic immunity 3. Use of cutting-edge technologies to enhance vaccine development, such as utilizing synthetic biology or novel genetic engineering strategies to design and produce next-generation immunogens 4. New interventions targeting hard-to-reach human and vector populations, e.g., vaccines for malaria parasites that remain underserved by current tools, such as <i>P. vivax</i>, <i>P. malariae</i>, <i>P. ovale</i> and <i>P. knowlesi</i>.
Ineligible	1. Development of dengue vaccines 2. Identification of malaria or TB antigens without demonstrable improvement in efficacy or efficiency 3. Projects targeting molecular pathways already targeted by antigens or adjuvants currently in late-stage clinical development or in market 4. Approaches that represent incremental improvements to conventional solutions 5. Basic studies of pathogens or human biology
Scope for Diagnostics	
Examples of Eligible Projects	1. New and improved approaches to traditional immune and molecular assay methods 2. Biochemical amplification or analysis of non-invasive samples such as urine, saliva, sweat or other excreted fluids 3. Development of cost-effective diagnostics by utilizing or repurposing off-patent/ discontinued/novel technologies that are anticipated to encounter minimal regulatory and safety barriers 4. Innovative design for customizable multiplexing which can be delivered to endemic regions 5. Customizable multiplex diagnostics designed for deployment in endemic regions 6. Repurposing of approved medical devices, diagnostic tests or platform diagnostic technologies for uses in malaria, TB, NTDs, or diseases with pandemic potential
Ineligible	1. Technical improvements or enhancements of a diagnostic with little or no apparent relevance to or impact on a global health problem 2. Improvements focused solely on microfluidic design, signal detection, or other platform elements without a clear pathway to application in GHIT priority diseases

4.2. Project Scope for Strategic Innovation and Market Assessment Award

Applicants wishing to apply for this Award should contact the GHIT Fund in advance for a pre-discussion before submitting their application.

Project and Disease Scope:	<u>(A) Disease landscape analysis to address the priority needs for therapeutics</u> Project Scope: ● Landscape analysis of an eligible disease to identify unmet and priority needs together with a technology landscape analysis of Japanese technology/know-how, which could play a significant role in addressing the priority needs. The objective will be to identify areas and/or projects with potential for future GHIT investment. Disease Scope: - Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)* <u>(B) AI technology landscape analysis for therapeutics/vaccines/diagnostics</u> Project Scope: ● Landscape analysis of AI technology that can be applied to therapeutics/vaccines/diagnostics against eligible indications. ● Technologies may originate either from Japan or outside of Japan. Disease Scope: - Malaria - Tuberculosis (TB) - Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)* - Diseases with pandemic potential** - Diseases with public health emergency*** <u>(C) Technology landscape analysis to address the challenges for pandemic potential and public health emergency pathogens</u> Project Scope: ● Technology landscape analysis to address the challenges identified for therapeutics/vaccines/diagnostics against selected pathogens. ● Technologies both from Japan and outside of Japan to be analyzed. Disease Scope: - Diseases with pandemic potential** - Diseases with public health emergency*** <u>(D) Market strategy analysis for specific technologies/products</u> Project Scope: ● Applicability to address unmet and/or priority needs compared with similar modality or use cases ● Applicability in LICs and LMICs ● Manufacturing strategy and capabilities ● Regulatory strategy as part of concept development. ● Supply chain analysis ● Technologies originating from Japan will be prioritized. Disease Scope: - Malaria - Tuberculosis (TB) - Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)*
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	- Disease with pandemic potential** - Disease with public health emergency*** <u>(E) Gap and Needs assessment on the effect of climate change on therapeutics/vaccines/diagnostics/medical devices development and the technology landscape analysis to address the challenges</u> Project Scope: ● Gap and needs assessment on the effect of climate change on therapeutics/vaccines/diagnostics/medical devices (for example, effects on product/reagent storage conditions, improvement of thermostability, eco-friendly formulation/configuration) and its potential mitigation strategies. ● Technologies may originate either from Japan or outside of Japan. Disease Scope: - NA
Project Duration:	Not to exceed 6 months
Budget:	max. JPY 50,000,000
Additional Requirement:	The outcome of the project should be made publicly available, such as via publications, conference presentations, or policy recommendations. In addition, the outcome will be published on the GHIT Fund website.

4.3. Project Scope for Pandemic Preparedness and Response Award

Applicants who wish to apply for this Award, should contact the GHIT Fund in advance. Submission without prior notice will be considered ineligible.

Project Scope:	<u>Diagnostics development to respond to pandemic outbreaks</u> - Diagnostics prototype development and field evaluation using clinical samples - Development of TPP and publication
Disease Scope:	- Diseases with pandemic potential** - Diseases with public health emergency***
Project Duration:	Not to exceed 6 months
Budget:	max. JPY 20,000,000

5. Partnership Roles

Upon applying to the GHIT Fund, each partner organization in a partnership are called Collaboration Partners (CPs). The partnership must nominate one CP as a Designated Development Partner (DDP), who holds primary responsibility for the execution of the project, while the other CPs support the project through compliance with their respective obligations.

The roles and responsibilities of the DDP and the CPs are summarized below. Note that DDP must comply with the roles of DDP as well as the roles of CP.

5.1. Roles and Responsibilities of the Designated Development Partner (DDP)

From Proposal Submission to Evaluation:

- Acts as primary point of contact with the GHIT Fund.
- Coordinates and submits proposals and relevant documents on behalf of all the CPs.

When Awarded:

- Primary Representative: Main liaison between the CPs and the GHIT Fund.
- Funding Recipient: Receives the funding from the GHIT Fund and is responsible for distributing funding to other CPs.
- Project Oversight: Ensures overall project performance and monitors each CP's work and compliance with the terms of the Investment Agreement.
- Investment Management: Manages the use of the investment in accordance with the approved budget; oversees audits, financial reporting, and related requests.
- Reporting: Oversees and submits the Progress Reports, including itemized expenditure reports, and ensures proper documentation and compliance with the GHIT Fund's guidelines.
- Dual Role as CP: In addition to the roles and responsibilities unique to the DDP, the DDP must adhere to the roles and responsibilities of a CP to the extent it does not interfere or conflict with its role as a DDP.

5.2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Collaboration Partners (CPs)

From Proposal Submission to Evaluation:

- Provides necessary input and information to the DDP for the proposal preparation.

When Awarded:

- Project Participation and Obligations: Each CP delivers their assigned portion of the project and complies with all the terms of the Investment Agreement.
- Collaboration Agreement: Enters into a separate contractual relationship with the other CPs, subject to the GHIT Fund's approval, to formalize their collaboration.
- Approval of Subcontractors: CPs must adhere to the limitation on the hiring of subcontractors, under which CPs may not hire subcontractors without the GHIT Fund's approval unless the subcontractors have been previously identified in the project proposal.
- Audit and Financial Compliance: Each CP maintains accurate financial records and provides access to all relevant documentation; subject to potential audits by both the DDP and the GHIT Fund.
- Legal and Ethical Compliance: CPs must comply and adhere to all applicable laws and ethical standards, including those regarding anti-corruption, anti-terrorism.
- Legal Responsibility: CPs must indemnify the GHIT Fund and its affiliates from and against any legal actions or liabilities arising out of the Investment or the project, except to the extent such action or liability is attributable to any gross negligence or willful misconduct by the GHIT Fund.

6. Applicant Instructions

Editorial Manager®:

To receive and manage applications, the GHIT Fund uses **Editorial Manager® for Target Research Platform** (https://www.editorialmanager.com/ghitfund_trp), an online document submission system dedicated to this funding platform.

Note that the *Intent to Apply* (ITA) form or the full proposal that is not submitted through the above-mentioned system will not be accepted.

Language:

All correspondence and documents relating to this RFP shall be written in English.

Associated Expenses:

The applicant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the proposal, including costs associated with proposal presentation and contract negotiation.

Step 1 - Intent to Apply (ITA) Form Submission

Interested applicants must complete the ITA form and submit the form to the GHIT Fund via Editorial Manager® no later than:

10:00 am on November 27, 2025 (Japan Standard Time)
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The ITA form is available on the GHIT Fund website:

<https://www.ghitfund.org/applyforfunding/trp/en>

Notes:

- The ITA form must be reviewed and approved by all Collaboration Partners prior to submission
- Any application not using the designated ITA form for the current RFP round will not be accepted
- Do not attach any documents to the ITA form
- When submitting your ITA form on the Editorial Manager®, list all the Collaboration Partners participating in the project; the name and details (including email address) of at least one representative from each organization must be indicated
- After submitting the ITA form, you will receive a confirmation email

The GHIT Fund Management Team will then perform an initial partnership and scope eligibility assessment.

Only eligible applicants will be invited to submit the full proposal and receive access to the proposal templates.

The eligibility assessment will be conducted upon receipt of the ITA form, and applicants will be notified of the results once it is complete. Applicants are encouraged to submit the ITA form well in advance of the deadline to secure sufficient time to prepare a full proposal.

Step 2 – Full Proposal Submission

Applicants invited to submit a full proposal are required to do so via Editorial Manager® no later than:

10:00 am on January 16, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

Notes:

- Proposals must be reviewed and approved by all Collaboration Partners prior to submission
- The *Collaboration Partners' Approval* form must be signed by all Collaboration Partners, and a PDF copy must be submitted along with other proposal documents (Electronic signatures are acceptable)
- Each organization must submit a certified copy of its registration and financial statements audited by an independent auditor from the most recent three fiscal years, as an attachment to *Exhibit A* form
- Applicants who successfully submit their proposal documents will receive a confirmation email
- Proposals may not be modified after submission. Incomplete proposal documents (such as those that do not adequately address the proposal questions or contain inconsistencies within the documents) will be deemed ineligible
- Additional documents, including additional data and/or supporting documents, cannot be accepted after the deadline
- The GHIT Fund may, at its sole discretion, extend or advance the deadline, with prior notice to applicants
- Proposals received after the closing date for submission will be ineligible but may be resubmitted in future RFPs

7. Full Proposal Evaluation

The following evaluations will be conducted for the submitted full proposal.

7.1. Preliminary Screening

Proposals will initially be examined to determine or evaluate:

- whether the partnership meets GHIT Fund eligibility criteria stated in the current RFP
- whether the project objectives are aligned with the scope stated in the current RFP
- whether the proposal is complete and addresses all required content
- that the required organizational documents have been submitted for each organization

Applicants will be notified by email of their proposal's readiness for technical evaluation.

The GHIT Fund Management Team may ask clarifying questions or request additional information, as needed, to qualify proposals for technical evaluation.

7.2. Technical Evaluation

All eligible proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Potential impact
- Partnership
- Project management

Evaluation Process:

- Eligible proposals will initially be reviewed by three External Reviewers (ER), typically including both Japanese and non-Japanese reviewers with expertise in the field.
- The aggregated ER review results and the proposals will then be shared with the GHIT Fund Selection Committee (SC) for evaluation.
- After the evaluation, the GHIT Fund will invite selected proposals for an interview with the SC. **Selected proposals will be notified of the SC interview invitation approximately one month prior to the scheduled interview date and time.**
- ER and SC members have signed non-disclosure agreements with the GHIT Fund prior to the evaluation.
- Following the interview, the SC will make funding decisions with appropriate conditions for the Standard TRP Award and report the decisions to the GHIT Fund Board.
- For proposals applying for Strategic Innovation and Market Assessment Award (SIMA Award) and R&D Accelerator Award, where limited funding opportunity is available, eligible proposals are subject to an internal review and funding decision involving the SC, the GHIT Fund Management Team, and other appropriate reviewers. The decisions will be reported to the GHIT Fund Board.
- Evaluation procedures and their format may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances.

7.3. Due Diligence

Due diligence (compliance and credit check) will be conducted for all the CPs in detail according to the following criteria:

- Detailed budget for each category provided by each CP is reasonable and appropriate to address the project's R&D activities to be conducted by each CP by phase/activity/milestone
- Results of the compliance and credit check reveal no significant issues or concerns

Depending on the outcome of the due diligence process, conditions may apply for the funding from the GHIT Fund (e.g., milestone-based payments, deliverable-based payments and any other installment payments etc.) or may be considered not fundable.

8. Award Administration and Conditions

Notification of Results:

- Following the funding decision, applicants will receive the award decision by email, with a notification letter attached.
- **Note that the GHIT Fund is not able to provide additional feedback to applicants receiving a non-award decision beyond what is stated in the notification letter.**

Agreements:

- If the applicant receives an award notification, all CPs are required to sign an Investment Agreement with the GHIT Fund and put in place a contractual agreement among the CPs, which clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all CPs **within two weeks to one month from the award notification**
- The Investment Agreement template will be shared with the applicants who are invited to submit the full proposal
- The award may be revoked or considered void if any of the conditions are not met
- Please note that (1) the GHIT Fund may update the Investment Agreement template from time to time, and (2) while the GHIT Fund is open to discuss the terms of the Investment Agreement on a case-by-case basis, the template represents the GHIT Fund's positions generally except in certain circumstances where the CPs can present reasonable grounds for exceptions or modifications (such as undue burdens). The GHIT Fund has the right to terminate the Investment Agreement if:
 - The partnership disbands prior to satisfying its investment project obligations.
 - The progress of work is such that the obligations undertaken by the partnership will not be fulfilled.
 - The partnership fails to meet the milestones or goals specified in the Investment Agreement.

9. Access Policy

The applicants are required to agree to the Access Policy of the GHIT Fund to ensure that GHIT's objectives of providing equitable and affordable access are met.

Details about the GHIT Access Policy can be found here:

<https://www.ghitfund.org/applyforfunding/accesspolicy/en>.

10. Privacy Policy

Details about the GHIT Fund Privacy Policy can be found here:

<https://www.ghitfund.org/general/privacypolicy/en>

11. Disclaimer

The GHIT Fund Management Team does not have any influence, authority or decision-making power with respect to: (i) review and evaluation, (ii) funding recommendations and (iii) funding decisions of submitted proposals by the ER, SC and the Board of Directors.

In addition, submission of the ITA form or the full proposal, or participation in the SC interview, does not guarantee funding of your proposal.

Submitted documents will be shared with GHIT Fund reviewers and external consultants for the purpose of review and evaluation.

GHIT Fund will treat application materials as if they are confidential and use them only for evaluation and internal purposes. If applicants submit any information on not publicly available sensitive intellectual property and essential for the review, the applicants should contact the GHIT Fund Management Team before submission.

12. Key RFP Milestone Dates

Award Type	Standard TRP Award	SIMA Award
RFP Release	October 31, 2025	
Intent to Apply Due	No later than 10:00 am on November 27, 2025 (Japan Standard Time) *Applicants are encouraged to submit the <i>Intent to Apply</i> (ITA) form well in advance of the full proposal submission deadline shown below to secure sufficient time to prepare the full proposal Submit via Editorial Manager® for Target Research Platform (https://www.editorialmanager.com/ghitfund_trp)	
Full Proposal Due	No later than 10:00 am on January 16, 2026 (Japan Standard Time) Submit via Editorial Manager® for Target Research Platform (https://www.editorialmanager.com/ghitfund_trp)	
Proposals Evaluation and Interview Processes	January - July 2026	January - March 2026
Award Notification to All Applicants	July 2026	March 2026 or later
Investment Agreement Fully Executed (Awarded Proposals)	September 2026	March 2026 or later

(The schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.)

For the PPR Award, proposals may be submitted outside the above-mentioned timeline. Contact the GHIT Fund for more details.

13. Inquiries

For any inquiries, please contact RFPresponse@ghitfund.org (please use the email subject line: **GHIT-RFP-TRP-2026-001_Questions**)

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page is available on the GHIT Fund website: (<https://www.ghitfund.org/applyforfunding/investmentfaq/en>).

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