



FALCON AWARDS FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION WESTERN PACIFIC

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document addresses various frequently asked questions relating to the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination – Western Pacific.

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GENERAL

What is the Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE)?

The Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) is the result of a long-standing partnership between His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, dating back to their pledge to fight diseases and put an end to polio in 2011. The concept for an Abu Dhabi-based institute to develop policies to combat infectious diseases materialised in 2017, with an announcement by His Highness at the *Reaching the Last Mile Forum*. Two years later, during the *Reaching the Last Mile Forum* in November 2019, GLIDE was formally launched.

As the first and only institute of its kind in the region, GLIDE helps build capacity within the region and establishes a new epicentre of global health and development. With unique positioning and a panoramic view, GLIDE will help ensure the legacy of philanthropy in the UAE is continued and expanded upon, and help to achieve a world free from preventable infectious diseases of poverty.

What are the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination?

The Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination is an awards scheme that aims to help partners go further and faster towards their disease elimination goals. In 2021, GLIDE launched its [first iteration of the Falcon Awards](#) where four applicants received funds to deliver projects to advance the elimination of GLIDE's four focus diseases (malaria, polio, onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis) in endemic countries. In 2023 GLIDE launched a [second iteration of the Falcon Awards – The Climate Edit](#) focusing



on supporting formative research to expand the evidence base on the intersection of climate change and infectious diseases. Nine winners were selected, and the findings of their six-month research projects were showcased in December 2023. This year, GLIDE's third iteration of the Falcon Awards is focusing on accelerating disease elimination in the Western Pacific Region.

What is the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination - *Western Pacific*?

This third iteration of the Falcon Awards aims to advance the elimination of infectious diseases in the Western Pacific Region in countries aligned with GLIDE's areas of interest. Through these awards, GLIDE aims to support both formative research and advocacy initiatives with the overarching goal of:

1. **Generate evidence** to advance the elimination of infectious diseases in the Western Pacific Region
2. **Disseminate knowledge** to enhance understanding and catalyse action for disease elimination
3. **Support local or regional advocacy** efforts to advance disease elimination
4. **Raise awareness** for disease elimination strategies and approaches
5. **Cultivate partnerships** with civil society aimed at advancing elimination through new approaches that enhance knowledge or evidence around the transmission, control, elimination, and eradication of infectious diseases

Up to 10 winners will be announced in June 2024 following a thorough evaluation by a jury of global health experts. Formative research proposals selected by the jury will receive a sum of up to US\$30,000 to conduct their 6-month research projects. Advocacy initiative proposals will receive up to US\$10,000 to implement their initiatives over a 6-month period.

DEFINITIONS

What is the definition of “disease elimination” in the context of the Falcon Awards?

The definition of elimination in the context of the Falcon Awards is based on [WHO guidelines](#).

- Elimination (interruption of transmission): Reduction to zero of the incidence of infection caused by a specific pathogen in a defined geographical area, with minimal risk of reintroduction, as a result of deliberate efforts; continued action to prevent re-establishment of transmission may be required.
- Elimination as a public health problem: A term related to both infection and disease, defined by the achievement of measurable targets set by WHO in relation to a specific disease. When reached, continued action is required to maintain the targets and/or to advance interruption of transmission.

What countries are included in the “Western Pacific Region” in the context of the awards?

Below is a list of countries of focus that are eligible for this award:

1. American Samoa
2. Cook Islands
3. Federated States of Micronesia
4. Fiji
5. French Polynesia
6. Kiribati
7. Marshall Islands
8. Nauru
9. New Caledonia
10. Niue
11. Papua New Guinea
12. Solomon Islands
13. Tonga
14. Tuvalu
15. Vanuatu
16. Western Samoa



What is the disease scope for the awards?

Proposals should aim to advance the elimination of one or more diseases that fall within the following categories; Vector Borne Diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases, and climate-sensitive infectious diseases.

What is meant by “formative research” in the context of the awards?

For the purposes of these awards, formative research is defined as preliminary research conducted to inform program design, future interventions, and original research. Some examples of formative research and methods that will be considered for this iteration of the Falcon Awards include: systematic literature reviews, needs assessments, process evaluations, secondary analysis of existing data, qualitative methods, quantitative methods as well and mixed methodology.

What is meant by “advocacy initiative” in the context of the awards?

For the purposes of these awards, advocacy initiative is defined as any activity conducted to promote more and/or better use of resources, effective policies, and greater visibility of efforts to eliminate infectious diseases in the Western Pacific. Some examples of advocacy initiatives that will be considered for this iteration of the Falcon Awards include events, workshops, briefing documents, advocacy reports/scorecards, civil society training, advocacy for budget/resource allocation, and communications and/or media engagement.

ELIGIBILITY

Is my institution eligible?

Applications must come from within an organisation or entity with demonstrated experience in disease elimination in the Western Pacific Region. The following entities are eligible to apply:

1. National or regional academic or research institutions.
2. Public, private or non-governmental sector institutions.
3. Consortia, coalitions or networks may apply but must meaningfully include an academic institution, Civil Society Organization (CSO) or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) based in the eligible countries list.
4. Any interested Pacific Island national with demonstrated experience in infectious disease elimination in the Region, as well as early career researchers are encouraged to apply.

Is the topic of my Formative Research Project topic eligible?

If you are choosing to submit a proposal to conduct formative research to advance the elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases, Vector Borne Diseases or climate sensitive diseases in the Western Pacific Region, your proposal should aim to address one or more of the following themes:

1. **Integrated approaches to disease elimination** including cross-disease (e.g. malaria, LF), cross-programme (e.g. immunization, Health Management Information Systems), or cross-sector e.g. (education, WASH, One health).
2. **Generating evidence** around the impact of climate change on disease elimination.
3. **Improved tools and approaches** for disease elimination.
4. **Evidence-based strategies** to prevent the reintroduction of infectious diseases.
5. **Community-centred approaches** to disease elimination.



Is the topic of my advocacy initiative eligible?

If you are choosing to submit a proposal to launch an advocacy initiative to advance the elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases, Vector Borne Diseases or Climate Sensitive Diseases in the Western Pacific Region, your project should aim to address one or more of the following themes:

1. **Local or regional-led advocacy initiatives** to raise awareness for the elimination of infectious diseases.
2. **Advocacy for policy change and/or resource allocation**, to increase commitment from local/national/regional policymakers.
3. **Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** for disease elimination.
4. **Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) campaigns** including e.g. media campaigns, educational initiatives, and workshops.

Are multiple applications from an institution allowed?

Organisations are welcome to submit more than one proposal however, only one application will be selected per institution.

Can I apply in partnership with another institution?

Yes, provided that both institutions fall within the categories of eligible institutions and at least one is based in, and operates from, the eligible countries list provided above.

I am a Pacific Island national working on disease elimination outside the region, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, any Pacific Island national whose proposal aligns with the call for proposals is welcome to apply even if they are based outside the eligible countries list.

I am from an institution that is not based in one of the eligible countries listed, can I still apply?

Applicants based in institutions outside the eligible countries list may apply, however, nationals applying from within or outside eligible countries listed will be prioritised. list and their proposal is related to the elimination of infectious diseases in the Western Pacific Region.

I am not presently employed by or affiliated with an organisation, can I still apply?

Applicants must be part of an organisation or affiliated with an organised initiative. Awards will not be granted to individuals.

AWARDS STRUCTURE

How many grants are being awarded and for how much?

GLIDE is awarding up to a total of 10 grants to successful applicants. Up to five grants of up to USD\$30,000 to conduct formative research and up to five grants of up to USD\$10,000 towards advocacy initiatives aimed at advancing the elimination of infectious diseases in the Western Pacific.

If my application is selected, how will the monetary amount for the grant be determined?



The granted amount will be determined based on the project's submitted budget in the application submitted and after consultation with GLIDE. The final amount, as well as details on how it will be allocated, will be cited in the partnership agreement.

What is the awards process?

Applicants are invited to submit their proposals via GLIDE's Falcon Awards Application Portal for review and evaluation. Awardee selection will be determined through a two-stage process. In the first stage, proposals are assessed for eligibility and fit; a shortlist of 20 projects will then be recommended to a Jury of Global health experts. In the second stage, the Jury will then recommend up to 10 projects with the highest scores across predefined selection criteria to GLIDE for final approval.

What is the timeline for the award selection and project delivery?

- Open for submissions - 25th of March, 2024
- Close for submissions - 29th of April, 2024
- Announcement of winners - End of May, 2024
- Project Presentations - September, 2024
- Delivery of Final Report - December, 2024

APPLICATION PROCESS

What information do I need to include in my application?

All information regarding your application can be found on [Falcon Awards webpage](#), including an "Application Guidelines" document which sets out what should be included in your proposals all proposals must be submitted via the Falcon Awards Application Portal which can also be found on the webpage.

When and how do I submit my proposal? How will I know that my application has been received?

You can submit your research proposal at any point during the application window between March 25 – April 29, 2024. All applications must be submitted via the Falcon Awards Application Portal. An email confirming receipt of your proposal will be sent to your email address following your application. Please note, that any application received via any other method will not be considered.

If I need to make changes to my original proposal what should I do?

The application portal allows for submissions to be saved and edited at a later date. If you have already submitted your application and need to make changes within the application window, please contact FalconAwards@glideae.org for support. Applications may not be edited after April 29, 2024.

I'm having trouble submitting my proposal, what should I do?

If you are having trouble with the online application process you can email FalconAwards@glideae.org.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

How will I know if I have been selected to receive a Falcon Award?



Once your application has been reviewed and selected, a member of the Falcon Awards team will contact you to confirm your successful application and schedule a kick-off meeting in June 2024 to establish the partnership. During this meeting, you will be asked to present your project to GLIDE and your fellow awardees.

When will the funds be disbursed?

GLIDE will disburse the allocated funds in full upon signing the Partnership Agreement.

What are the reporting requirements?

Winners of the Falcon Awards are required to submit updates upon request of the Falcon Awards team.

If I am applying to conduct formative research, what are the expectations for the final research paper?

Final research reports must be submitted in the following format:

- **Abstract:** Indicate the purpose and objective of the research, the hypothesis that was tested, or a description of the problem being analysed or evaluated.
- **Methods:** Describe the study period, setting and location, study design, study population, data collection and methods of analysis used.
- **Results:** Present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings and/or outcomes of the study. Please disaggregate data by age and gender where possible and summarize any specific results.
- **Conclusions:** Explain the significance of your study's findings and/or outcomes for climate and health and the future implications of the results.

If I am applying to launch an advocacy initiative, what are the expectations for the final report?

Final reports for advocacy initiatives must be submitted in the following format:

- **Background:** Summarize the purpose, scope and objectives of the initiative, project, or policy.
- **Description:** Describe the initiative, project, or policy period, setting and location, structure, key population (if applicable) and activities and interventions undertaken in support of the initiative, project or policy.
- **Lessons learned/impact:** Present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings and/or outcomes of the initiative, project, or policy. Include an analysis or evaluation of lessons learned, best practices, and/or impact of the advocacy activity. Please summarize any specific results that support your lessons learned and best practices.

Is there a word limit for the final report?

The final reports can be any length. There are no restrictions on word count, number of figures or amount of supporting information.

When will I need to submit the results of my project?

Winners are expected to deliver their final reports by guidance provided by GLIDE within 6-months of signing the Partnership Agreement.



How will the final report be utilised?

The final reports will be disseminated by GLIDE to its network to advance knowledge and inform disease elimination strategies for the Western Pacific Region.

What other awardee commitments are expected besides the final report?

Aside from the final report, successful applicants will be expected to:

- Join a (virtual) kick-off call to present their projects and meet other awardees
- Prepare presentations on project progress (upon request)
- Prepare a two-page synthesis of the final report
- Prepare a final presentation based on project outcomes
- Attend an in-person event in Brisbane in September 2024, potentially:
 - The Regional COR-NTD meeting on September 25-26, 2024
 - The Southern Cross Australasian Travel Medicine and Tropical Medicine Conference, September 27-29, 2024

I still have questions, who can I reach out to?

For any other queries, you can email FalconAwards@glideae.org.