



**HEAR
THE WORLD
FOUNDATION**

a Sonova Group initiative

Frequently Asked Questions Application Process for Program Funding in 2022

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How and when can I submit an application to the Hear the World Foundation (HTWF)? What kind of projects will be supported? What kind of support can applicants expect? What are the definitions of certain expressions used in the forms?

This document answers these and other relevant questions to assist applicants with the preparation and punctual submission of applications

Please reach out to info@hear-the-world.com should you require further assistance.

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Application process information

What is the application process?

The HTWF application process for funding is divided into 2 application phases:

Initial application:

The application form is available on the HTWF website and can be filled out and submitted by interested applicants meeting our funding criteria between September 1st and 30th 2021.

We will carefully review all submitted initial applications and inform you mid-October whether your application has been shortlisted. In case of a positive evaluation, we will contact you and ask you to submit a full application

Full application:

Applicants that reach the second round are given access to the full application form through email.

After a careful vetting and due diligence through the Foundation's executive team, independent advisory board and foundation board. The board decides by the end of March 2022 which projects the HTWF will support.

When is the application deadline?

- The initial application" must be submitted until September 30th,2021, 23.59 CET.
- The "Full application" must be submitted until November 8th 2021, 23.59 CET.

When will the final decision be made whether a project is supported by the HTWF or not?

Applicants that submitted a full application are informed by the end of March 2022 whether the Foundation will support their project or not.

Can I edit the initial application form several times?

No. After the submission of the initial application you cannot edit your initial application form anymore.

Can I edit the full application form several times?

Yes. Please consider that you are only able to submit the content when all boxes are filled out – even though with only an “xy” for the moment. After that you can still follow the link in your email and edit your application form.

Can I go back and forward in the application form?

We don't recommend you use your browser's “back” button, but if you do, always click the “SAVE AND CONTINUE” button at the bottom of the page.

Do I receive a confirmation of receipt after having submitted the initial and full application?

Yes.

Initial application:

If submission was successful, the applicant will see the Thank You page and will additionally receive an automated confirmation email.

Full application:

If submission was successful, the applicant will receive an automated confirmation email. The applicant will still have the option to continuously process the application until the deadline of the full application is reached. All applicants who have by then submitted a complete application will receive an official automated confirmation email that additionally informs them about the further process.

What can I do when I get an error message when submitting the application materials?

If you receive an error message in the application procedure, please try to:

- Clear the browser cache and all browsing history, and then attempt the submission again.
- If you are using Firefox, Safari, or Chrome, you can use that browser's native “privacy mode” (this is basically the same as above, because the “privacy mode” in these browsers doesn't store any cache or history on the local PC).
- If possible, attempt submitting the application from a different computer.
- If possible, attempt to submit the application using a different Internet connection (i.e. a connection hosted by a different Internet service provider).

02

Our funding approach and focus areas

The Hearing Health Value Chain

Since 2006, the Hear the World Foundation has been committed to improving the quality of life and promoting equal opportunities for children with hearing loss. We strive to develop sustainable programs in low and middle income countries, with the potential for replication and scaling up in other regions within the country, serving as a model for audiological care. To achieve this aim, we collaborate with and fund local aid organisations. Our guiding principle is the «Hearing Health Value Chain»:

Hearing Health Value Chain



Steps towards sustainable hearing health care



Institutional readiness to enable sustainable hearing health care

What are “Focus Areas” or funding priorities?

We focus on programs based on a holistic approach consisting of the core components of the Hearing Health Value Chain. Every single step is essential for children with hearing loss to communicate better, be socially integrated and improve their quality of life. To achieve these ambitious goals, we support local partners to build capacities in terms of expertise, training, equipment use and process-oriented work.

The HTWF preferably supports comprehensive projects that cover as many focus areas as possible. Our four focus areas are:

- 1) Provision of hearing care to children,
- 2) professional training,
- 3) prevention of hearing loss,
- 4) programs for parents and families.

In the application, you have to select at least one of the above focus areas for which you are requesting support. Depending on the focus area(s) of your project, additional questions will need to be answered in the full application form.

While the program in itself does not need to offer all elements of the hearing health value chain, the application needs to specify and define where and how the different elements are offered and integrated in the program to ensure a holistic approach.

What is meant by the focus area “Provision of hearing care to children”?

At the core of our activities lies the provision of hearing care to children who otherwise would not have access to hearing solutions: Hearing is key for their development and social integration. In turn, this focus area includes several aspects such as:

1. Screening
2. Diagnostics
3. Hearing aid fitting, maintenance and repair of hearing aids
4. Auditory Verbal Therapy
5. Cochlear Implants

In the application you have to select at least one of the above aspects for which you are requesting support. You are also allowed to select multiple/all focus areas.

Depending on the aspect(s) of your project, additional questions will need to be answered in the full application form.

What is meant by the focus area “Professional training”?

To ensure a long-term and sustainable support, the HTWF sets the highest standards in terms of quality of the work carried out on site in clinics and therefore invests highly in local capacity building.

What is meant by the focus area “Prevention of hearing loss”?

Studies show that 60% of all hearing loss in children could have been avoided through prevention. We therefore strongly encourage partners to include primary ear care and prevention campaign in their service offering.

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Types of Support

The HTWF gives children with hearing loss new prospects for their future by offering:

- **Financial resources**
- **Hearing solutions from the Sonova product portfolio**
- **Professional support to build local capacity through teaching, consulting and other onsite support**
- **Audiological equipment**

Financial resources

What are requested funds for infrastructure?

In this section please fill in costs for sound proofing of rooms, remodeling a room into a speech therapy space and similar.

What are funds for equipment needs?

In this section please fill in costs for laptops, desks and any diagnostic equipment that does not fall under audiological equipment.

What are requested funds for operational costs?

In this section please fill in costs for VAT/customs, meals, communications, office disposables, transport etc.

What are requested funds for salaries?

In this section please fill in costs for salaries of clinic staff (Audiologists, ENT, speech therapist etc).

What are requested funds for trainings?

In this section please fill in costs for any training courses you want your staff to attend.

Please note: Do not include this cost calculation hearing aids, cochlear implants, wireless microphone systems and batteries but list them separately (see section Hearing Solutions).

Hearing solutions

What are requested types and quantities of hearing solutions from the HTWF?

Hearing instruments (Sonova brands only will be funded: Phonak, Unitron, Hansaton, Bruckhoff) are hearing aids (incl. bone conductor) and wireless microphone systems.

Quantity of hearing instruments indicate the amount of the selected technology. Cochlear Implants can be requested from the Sonova brand Advanced Bionics.

Please note: Don't state a cost calculation but fill in number of devices needed only.

What are quantities of batteries from the HTWF?

Please indicate requested quantity of batteries in number of units. For this purpose, enter the number of battery packages requested for the project (per year and total). Minimum quantity of batteries (1 unit) equals a package containing 60 single batteries.

Audiological equipment

What are requested types and quantities of audiological equipment?

The HTWF is working with industry leaders to support our partners with audiological equipment at favorable conditions. Our supporters are Inventis (<https://www.inventis.it/>), Audioscan (<https://www.audioscan.com/>) and Path Medical (<https://www.pathme.de/>).

As part of the full application, you will receive a link with a survey to clarify your audiological equipment needs. Please make sure to read carefully the instructions in the link and fill out the form accordingly. If you need audiological support to fill the form properly please let us know and we will have one of our Sonova volunteers support you.

Expertise through volunteering

What is the Volunteering program of SONOVA?

Besides financial and technical support, the HTWF also offers professional expertise in the form of volunteering work by employees from Sonova Group for building up local capacity or to support the local team to fill a short-term capacity gap. This can be done through teaching, consulting and other onsite support through experts.

Possible areas of engagement range widely:

- Audiological and technical support (trainings, hearing screenings, fitting of hearing instruments, etc.)
- Administrative support (setting up databases, organize stock etc.).
- Screening campaign support with large skilled workforce needs
- Marketing and communications support
- Photo and Videography
- Strategic business consultancy

Some more information:

- Volunteers usually can support your project for five days on the ground and travel on weekends.
- Preferably we do not send single volunteers but groups of at least two volunteers
- Sonova covers all the costs of the volunteers (flights, hotels, meals etc.). Thus no additional costs occur on year end for your project.

Please note that because we work with Volunteers from Sonova Group, the HTWF will not fund costs for sponsoring of other volunteer groups.