Frequently Asked Questions
Application Process 2020/21
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 applications@hear-the-world.com should you require further assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
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Project team
- Linda Deflorin (Project lead)
- Elena Torresani
- Louise Sen
- Carole Widmer
- Laura Meng
- Diego Büchi (Graphic Design)
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01 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 all interested applicants.

**Full application:**
After the review and examination of the initial applications through the Foundation’s independent advisory board, applicants that reach the second round are given access to the full application form through email.

The advisory board of the Foundation reviews and rates all full applications. Based on this, the board decides which projects the HTWF will support.

When is the application deadline?
- The Initial application” must be submitted until January 10, 2020, 23:59 CET.
- The “Full application” must be submitted until February 9, 2020, 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 at the beginning of April 2020 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 (save) 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 (February 9th, 2020) 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).
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Project types and focus areas
What is meant by a long-term partnership (3 – 5 years)?
The HTWF aspires to develop long-term partnership with the goal of setting up comprehensive programs to provide audiological care (diagnostics, hearing solutions, follow-up care and auditory verbal therapy) in countries with gaps in this area. For existing partners the HTWF has a time horizon line of 3 – 5 years. New projects partners are initially limited to a maximum of 2 years.

What is meant by a short-term innovative project (12 – 24 months)?
With short-term innovative projects, lasting from 12 – 24 months, we target projects that create added value in the domain of hearing health by means of an innovative approach or a new technology. An example of an innovative project is the development of an app for non-professionals to conduct hearing screenings (for more information please visit #SouthAfrica).

What are “Focus Areas” or funding priorities?
The HTWF preferably supports comprehensive projects that cover as many focus areas as possible. Our four focus areas are:
1. programs for children,
2. professional training,
3. prevention of hearing loss,
4. programs for parents and families.
For more information please visit: https://www.hear-the-world.com/en/foundation/our-focuses
In the application, you have to select at least one of the above focus areas for which you are requesting support. You are also allowed to select multiple/all focus areas. Depending on the focus area(s) of your project, additional questions will need to be answered in Step 2.

What is meant by the focus area “programs for children”?
The foundation has a special focus on projects benefiting children with hearing loss, as 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

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 their work and 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 support primary ear care as well as prevention campaigns.

What is meant by the focus area “Programs for parents and families”? Parents play an important role in the speech development of their children. Therefore, we fund initiatives that enable parents to support their children in their speech development.
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Types of Support

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

- Financial support
- Hearing care solutions
- Professional support to build local capacity through teaching, consulting and other onsite support
Financial support

What are requested funds for non-audiological equipment and infrastructure from HTWF?
Non-audiological equipment and infrastructure are for instance office equipment (e.g. computers, printers) or remodeling a room into a speech therapy space.

What are funds for other needs from the HTWF?
“Other needs” are for instance expenses for travel/transportation, VAT/customs, prevention campaigns or sponsoring of a scholarship.

What are requested funds from the HTWF?
Funds by the HTWF can be requested for various expenses, such as: staff salaries, training, audiological equipment (e.g. audiometers, otoscope, OAEs), non-audiological equipment, travel, scholarships, prevention campaigns or import costs (e.g. customs or taxation because not all countries accept free of charge donations).

Please calculate the total sum of ALL costs listed above. The HTWF typically doesn’t make pure financial contributions of more than 50’000 CHF per year, depending on what additional technological requests you have.

Please note: Excluded from this cost calculation are hearing aids, cochlear implants, wireless microphone systems and batteries!
What are requested types and quantities of hearing technology 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.

Please note: Don’t state a specific product nor a cost calculation.

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.

What are requested types and quantities of other audiological instrumentation from the HTWF?

With other audiological instrumentation or technological equipment we mean for instance audiometers, tympanometers or otoscopes. If you request other audiological instrumentation please state the precise product name and the effective market costs.

Please note that we have partnerships with the following brands (Otometrics, Audioscan, HearX) for preferential rates.
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

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.

If you want to learn more about the SONOVA volunteer program and see examples of previous volunteer missions please visit our website. Or watch our movie about an employee assignment in Haiti on YouTube.