



**Hear  
the World  
Foundation**

a Sonova Group initiative

# **Frequently Asked Questions: Application process for program funding**

Are you interested in applying with Hear the World Foundation? Before you begin the application, review the below checklist to see if you have accounted for these items. If you have, we look forward to receiving your application.

- Sufficient understanding of what it takes to provide audiological services
- A trained professional with experience in audiology as part of the project team
- Plan for management and accountability of the project
- Designated spaces or locations which are appropriate for conducting audiological procedures.
- A protocol planned for the service(s) which will be provided
- Referral pathway for children requiring further health and medical services.
- Plan for continuous training and capacity building
- Network with other healthcare professionals

Please reach out to [funding@hear-the-world.com](mailto:funding@hear-the-world.com) should you require further assistance.

# Contents

## 01 Application process information

## 02 Our funding approach and focus areas

## 03 Types of support

- Hearing care solutions
- Audiological equipment
- Financial support
- Expertise through volunteering

# 01

## Application process information

### What is the application process?

HTWF application process for funding is divided into two application phases:

#### Short application:

The short application form is available on HTWF website and can be completed and submitted between September 1st and 30th by interested applicants who meet our funding criteria. We will carefully review all submitted short applications and inform you in 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 who reach the second round will be given access to the full application form by email. Interviews will also be held with applicants. After careful review and due diligence by the Foundation's executive team, the independent advisory board and the foundation board, the board will decide in March which projects HTWF will support.

### When is the application deadline?

The short application must be submitted until September 30th. The deadline for the full application will be communicated to applicants.

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

Applicants who submitted a full application are informed in March whether the Foundation will support their project or not.

### Can I edit the application form several times?

Yes. You may save your project and work on it again at your convenience before finally submitting it, by clicking on "SAVE AND EXIT". Please note that there is also an auto-save taking place while you edit the form and navigate through the form. However, note that after the submission of the application you cannot edit your application form anymore.

### Do I receive a confirmation of receipt after having submitted my application?

Yes. If submission was successful, you will see a Thank You page and you will additionally receive an automated confirmation email. We recommend that you include these email addresses in your safe sender list so that you do not miss any communications from us: [noreply@projects.hear-the-world.com](mailto:noreply@projects.hear-the-world.com), [messaging@projects.hear-the-world.com](mailto:messaging@projects.hear-the-world.com), [funding@hear-the-world.com](mailto:funding@hear-the-world.com).

### Can I invite a collaborator to fill out the application form?

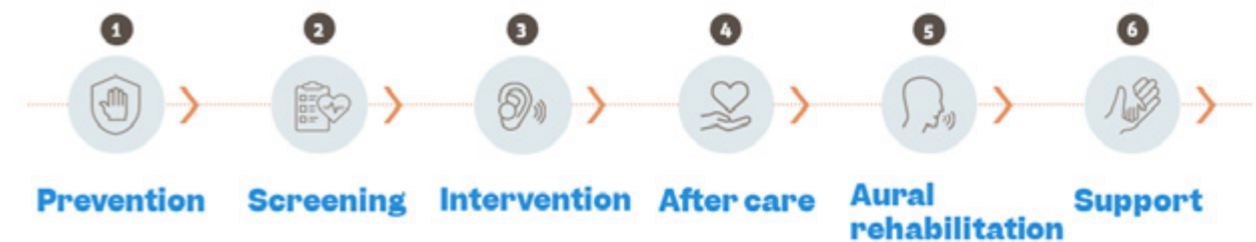
Yes. If you wish to invite a collaborator to fill out your application, please click on "MANAGE INVITATIONS" on the left side of the platform. Then select "INVITE A CONTRIBUTOR", add the email address of the contributor and select the sections they should be able to fill out. As a final step, please click on "INVITE THIS CONTRIBUTOR". The contributor will receive an email, inviting them to set up an account and fill out the selected sections.

# 02

## Our funding approach and focus areas

### The Hearing Health Value Chain

Since 2006, 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. To achieve this aim, we collaborate with and fund local aid organizations. Our guiding principle is the “Hearing Health Value Chain”, which covers 6 areas in audiology care, as shown in the image below.



Institutional readiness is key to ensuring sustainable hearing healthcare:

**Capacity building:** Expertise, Training, Equipment, Infrastructure, Processes

### 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 communication support 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.

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

- 1) Raising awareness
- 2) Enabling access
- 3) Training and capacity building

When completing the application, please select at least one of the above focus areas in line with the support you are requesting. 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 the full application form. While the program 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.

### Why is “Prevention of hearing loss” a funding priority?

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 campaigns in their service offering.

### Why is “Provision of hearing care to children” a funding priority?

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:

- A. Screening
- B. Diagnostics
- C. Hearing aid fitting
- D. Follow-up & Aftercare
- E. Speech Therapy / Communications Training
- F. Cochlear Implants

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

### Why is “Professional training” a funding priority?

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

### Is it required that the program works across all pediatric age groups?

It is not required to offer services to all pediatric age groups. We recognize that programs may require time and experience to scale their reach. However, it is important that programs have a holistic approach that defines where the different elements are offered and how families can access them. When it comes to offering screening/diagnostic programs for newborns versus children, the skills required for testing are vastly different between age groups. Testing newborns require a different technical skillset and protocol, and therefore, we recommend that the program has experience and success with audiological service delivery for children first, before targeting newborns.

# 03

## Types of Support

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

- Hearing technology from the Sonova product portfolio (hearing solutions and wireless microphone technology)
- Audiological equipment
- Financial resources
- Professional support to build local capacity/ know-how through teaching, consulting and other onsite and remote support

## Sonova technology

### What type of hearing solutions can be requested?

Hearing solutions such as hearing aids (including bone conduction hearing systems) and wireless microphone systems (Roger systems) can be requested. For every hearing aid, accessories and warranty will be provided. Batteries are provided subject to availability. Only Sonova brands will be funded (Phonak, Unitron, Hansaton and Bruckhoff).

Apart from hearing aids, you can also request Cochlear Implants (CI), by the Sonova brand Advanced Bionics. Every CI includes the implant (internal part), the sound processor (external part), accessories, warranty and batteries (subject to availability).

Please note: Do not indicate a cost calculation, only the number of devices required.

# Audiological equipment

## What type of audiological equipment can be requested?

HTWF is working with industry leaders to support its partners with audiological equipment. Our supporters are Inventis ([www.inventis.it](http://www.inventis.it)), Audioscan ([www.audioscan.com](http://www.audioscan.com)) and Path Medical ([www.pathme.de](http://www.pathme.de)).

For the short application, you will be asked to indicate what kind of audiological equipment you need (e.g., OAE screening, ABR diagnostic). You will be able to choose from a list.

Please note: Do not indicate a cost calculation, only the number of devices required.

For the full application, you will be asked to select the audiological equipment devices you wish to receive from a list of options. You will be provided with a detailed list of options and specific requirements. Please read the instructions carefully and complete the form accordingly.

# Financial resources

If you wish to request a financial donation, you will be asked to add cost items within six categories in the pre-populated template:

- Health Infrastructure & Non-diagnostic equipment
- Personnel
- Training
- Operational Costs
- Administrative Costs
- Other

## What cost items can be included under the category “Health infrastructure & Non-diagnostic equipment”?

In this section, please fill in costs for:

- Health Infrastructure: long-term infrastructure/maintenance repairs to enhance quality of audiological site where services are delivered
- Non-diagnostic audiological equipment devices: laptops, calibration/maintenance of hearing equipment, ear mold equipment, etc.

Example of Cost Item Description: Sound proofing of a [XX] square meter room in a clinic.

## What cost items can be included under the category “Personnel”?

In this section, please fill in salary costs of staff working on the project (audiologist, ENT, speech therapist, nurse, administrative staff, consultant). Please list each position on a separate line and indicate each personnel function, number of hours per week allocated to project and hourly rate.

Example of Cost Item Description: Audiologist, [XX] hours per week, CHF [XX] hourly rate.

## What cost items can be included under the category “Training”?

In this section, please fill in costs for any training courses you want your staff to attend. Those include training costs of volunteers and professionals (courses, workshops, webinars, certified training programs).

Example of Cost Item Description: Physical workshop of [XX] hours on diagnostic held [XX] times a year in [City, Country] for [XX] attendees.

## What cost items can be included under the category “Operational Costs”?

In this section, please fill in operational costs that are critical to support the success of the project. These can include costs for Project Marketing & Communications, Project Advocacy, Travel & Transportation, Monitoring & Evaluation.

Example of Cost Item Description: Advocacy and prevention of hearing loss poster campaign: [XX] leaflets.

## What cost items can be included under the category “Administrative Costs”?

In this section, please fill in administrative costs such as IT/Telco, Rent, Utilities, Legal/ Finance/Tax, Import costs/Customs fees. Please note that administrative costs will only be covered within a reasonable share of total budget.

Example of Cost Item Description: Communication - Mobile Phone Credit for [XX] staff.

If applicable, you may add additional cost items in the Other section.



# Support and capacity building through training and volunteering

## What is the training and volunteering program of Sonova?

Besides financial and technical support, HTWF also offers professional expertise in the form of webinars, eLearning modules, training programs, and onsite and remote volunteer work performed by Sonova Group employees. The goal is to build up local capacity and knowledge, support the professionalization of your organization and increase your organization's visibility.

### Possible areas of engagement include:

- Upskilling and fine tuning of audiological know-how
- Supporting screenings and fitting campaigns to fill short-term capacity gaps
- Strategizing support and consulting on business planning
- Optimizing administrative processes
- Communications and marketing support

### Some more information:

- Volunteers can support your project for five days on site and travel on weekends. Remotely, volunteers can support your project for up to seven days.
- There are no costs on your side for hosting volunteers.
- As we work with volunteers from Sonova Group, HTWF will not fund costs for other volunteer groups.