

Call for Proposals 2025

*Investing in Community Climate
Resilience for a Healthier Future*



Addressing the impacts of **air pollution** and **extreme heat** through innovative adaptation and strengthening local community health systems in selected low- and middle-income countries.

Summary

Climate change poses the greatest health challenge of our time, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Extreme heat and air pollution, two of the most pressing climate-related threats, are linked to rising rates of illness, premature death, and strained health systems. By 2050, climate change could cause 14.5 million additional deaths and impose \$21 trillion in health costs. Vulnerable populations, including women, children, older adults, outdoor workers, and those living in poverty, are most severely impacted.

Foundation S' 2025 Climate Action & Health Resilience Grants Programme will support innovative, community-led solutions to strengthen resilience against the health effects of extreme heat and air pollution in LMICs. The programme prioritises projects rooted in local communities, led by women and young people, and designed to benefit the most vulnerable, notably women and children. Eligible initiatives may include strengthening community health systems, embedding innovative approaches such as AI or early warning systems, and applying scientific research to scalable, evidence-based solutions.

Funding of **€50,000–€100,000 per project per year** will be awarded for a **minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 months**. Proposals must allocate **at least 80% of budgets to local activities** and demonstrate sustainability, replicability, and alignment with government or municipal systems. Applications open on **30 October 2025** and are due via the **Cybergrants** platform by **28 November 2025, 23:00 CET**.

About Foundation S

Foundation S is the philanthropic arm of Sanofi. We catalyse collective philanthropic action to build healthier futures for generations to come by strengthening community health capabilities and engaging local stakeholders. Since its launch in 2022, Foundation S has empowered over **3 million people** through climate action and health resilience initiatives.

Our **Climate Action & Health Resilience Grants Program** directly funds local projects, empowering those on the front lines to develop adaptation solutions that work for their communities. Foundation S has declared its intention to invest 42 million euros by 2030 in Climate & Health projects.

Since 2023, **64 projects** are supported in **28 countries**, spanning projects that develop early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture, sanitation and hygiene, and more.

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Background



The challenge:

Facing the disproportionate impacts of extreme heat and air pollution on health in low- and middle-income countries.

Climate change is the greatest health challenge of our timeⁱ. Over 3.3 billion people live in regions highly susceptible to its impacts, the majority of these in low- and middle-income countries. By 2050, climate change could claim an additional 14.5 million lives, equivalent to one death every minute. The effects on human health are wide ranging and include increased vulnerability to infectious diseases due to changing environments contributing to greater spread of vectors and water- and food-borne infectious agents. Further impacts include food insecurity and extreme weather eventsⁱⁱ. This is expected to push at least 44 million people into extreme poverty by 2030ⁱⁱⁱ. Healthcare systems are predicted to face a \$1.1 trillion burden due to climate-induced impacts, leading to excess health costs of US\$21 trillion by 2050^{iv, v, vi}. Despite this, less than 0.5% of climate finance is focused on health^{vii}.

This call for proposals focuses on two key threats to health: **extreme heat** and **air pollution**, both of which further exacerbate the vulnerability of local communities in low- and middle-income countries to climate change and which have particular impacts on children and young people^{viii}.

Climate change is **intensifying heatwaves and prolonged excess heat**, leading to significant health impacts^{ix, x}. These include heat stress, exhaustion, and worsening of pre-existing conditions, resulting in increased morbidity and mortality. Heat-related deaths have doubled in the past two decades, with projections suggesting 1.6 million deaths by 2050 due to heatwaves^{xi}.

Extreme heat also affects mental health, with higher rates of hospitalisation and death among those with existing mental health conditions^{xii}. The impacts of extreme heat disproportionately affect vulnerable groups in poorer countries, including children, women, the poor, and the elderly. A study in The Gambia found a strong link between extreme heat exposure and adverse birth and health outcomes for pregnant women and their babies^{xiii}.

Additionally, extreme heat strains health systems by increasing emergencies, damaging facilities, challenging health workers, and raising maintenance costs^{xiv, xv}.

Similarly, **air pollution** is a major contributor to climate change and the greatest direct environmental threat to health. WHO estimates that 99% of the global population breathes air exceeding pollutant guideline limits^{xvi}. These pollutants cause numerous health complications, such as chronic and respiratory diseases, contributing to 8.1 million premature deaths annually^{xvii, xviii, xix, xx}.

Air pollution disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, particularly in low- and middle-income countries in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, with 90% of premature deaths caused by air pollution

occur in low- and middle-income countries^{xxi}. Poverty, urban migration, fossil fuel dependence, and weak policy levers exacerbate the problem.

There are significant interactions between extreme heat and air pollution. Many emissions causing air pollution also contribute to climate change through the enhanced greenhouse effect. Additionally, excessive heat increases the concentration of certain air pollutants, amplifying negative health impacts.



Community-led solutions are the key to challenging the negative impacts of extreme heat and air pollution on health

Amid this crisis, solutions that enhance the capacity of communities to prevent, protect and build resilience to the effects of extreme heat and air pollution are crucial. Rapidly reducing some forms of air pollution is feasible and can have an immediate impact on health as well as contributing to reducing climate change in the longer term. Similarly, measures to reduce the health impacts of extreme heat can make a significant contribution to increasing awareness, capacity and preparedness to reduce vulnerability to the health impacts of climate change more broadly.

The Global Conference on Climate and Health reaffirmed the critical importance of community-rooted practices in addressing the growing impacts of climate change on health. Foundation S recognises that those closest to the problem are also best positioned to drive effective solutions. Locally owned, context-specific action is not only more responsive to the unique vulnerabilities of communities but also more sustainable and empowering. Supporting such efforts requires significant investment in frontline initiatives that build both immediate protective measures and **long-term resilience within community health systems**, an enduring focus of Foundation S' climate and health resilience programme.

Innovation plays a pivotal role in strengthening these community-led responses. By leveraging new knowledge generated through science and research, communities can adopt transformative approaches that enhance their adaptive capacity and health outcomes. Equally essential is leadership of women and young people, as they are often at the forefront of community health and climate resilience efforts. Their lived experience, local knowledge, and leadership are indispensable to designing and implementing inclusive, effective, and equitable solutions. Together, locally owned action, scientific innovation, and the leadership of women and young people form the foundation of impactful, community-driven responses to climate and health challenges, core pillars underpinning this call for proposals.

1. Objective of the 2025 call for proposals

The Objective of the 2025 Climate Action & Health Resilience grants programme is to support the development and implementation of **innovative approaches** that have a strong potential to **strengthen local community health systems** to the most challenging **impacts of extreme heat and air pollution** in selected low- and middle-income countries, with a particular focus on **women and young people-led initiatives** and meeting the needs of **the most vulnerable such as women and children**.

2. Priorities for funding

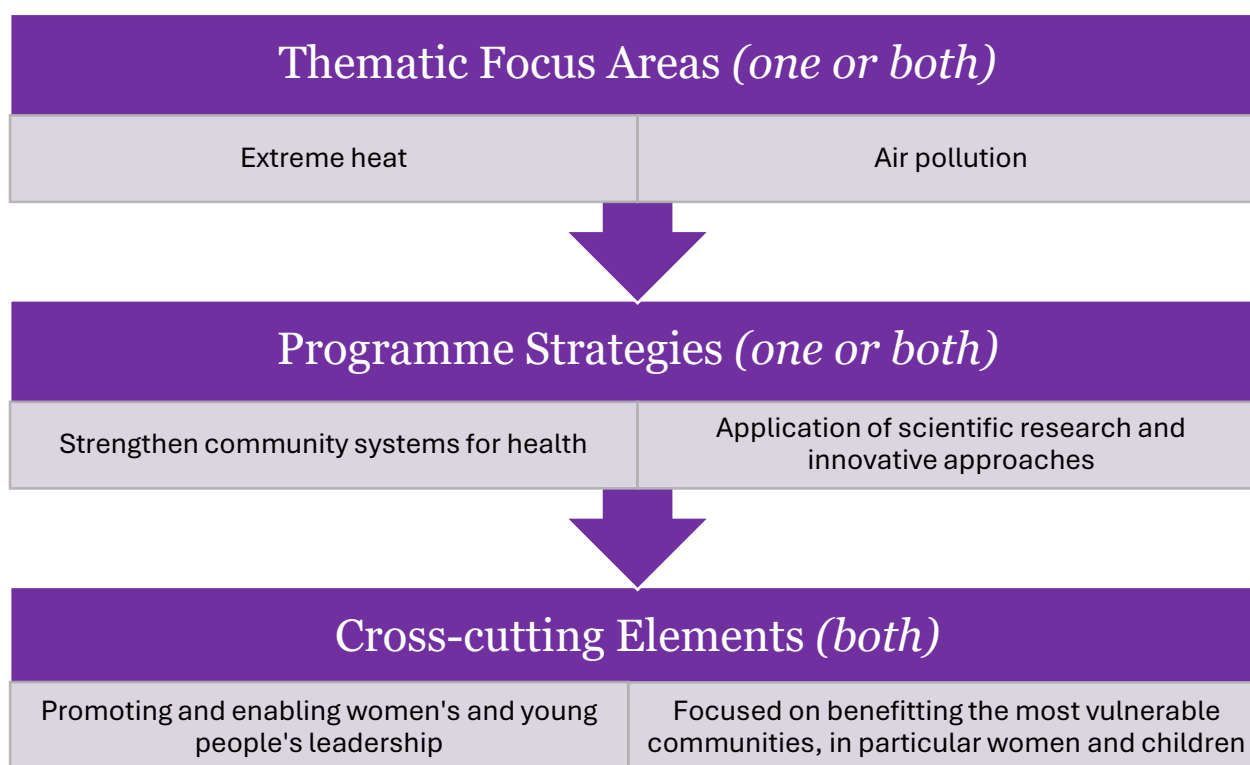
For the 2025 call for proposals, Foundation S will fund proposals that are informed and implemented by communities and that address both the current and future impacts of extreme heat and air pollution on community health. This will be achieved through strengthening community systems for health and the application of scientific research and innovative approaches. Successful proposals will focus on community preparedness, awareness, resilience and community action in relation to the health impacts of extreme heat and air pollution and will be underpinned by women's leadership and a focus on those most vulnerable to the impacts.

Proposals must focus on the **current and future health impacts of extreme heat, air pollution, or both on vulnerable groups especially women and children**.

In relation to the core thematic focus areas, proposals should adopt one or both of the following strategies:

- **Strengthening community systems for health** to address and mitigate the impact of extreme heat and air pollution. Support community health systems to anticipate, understand and address the impacts of extreme health and air pollution. This can include building in the risk of heat and pollution to care and treatment, addressing occupational exposure to health care workers themselves, and planning for acute increases in demand for health care services as a result of extreme heat and pollution events.
- **Leverage scientific research and innovative approaches including artificial intelligence** with strong potential to accelerate community-led responses and enhance their impact and sustainability through scalable and evidence-based community solutions to extreme heat and air pollution. This could be through community engagement in research and problem solving, early warning systems, building community understanding of the problems and solutions, and learning from community solutions. Insights from these innovations can also be used to support community led advocacy with authorities.

In all cases proposals must demonstrate how they will promote and enable **women's and young people's leadership** in the community responses (for instance through women- and young people-led community organisations) and how they will **benefit those most vulnerable** to the impacts of these core focus areas (through organisations focused on vulnerable groups such as women and children). The figure below summarises this guidance.



3. *What we are looking for*

Successful proposals will be aligned with the following approaches:

- **Proposals that directly support local efforts** to address extreme heat and/or air pollution.
- **Projects developed, implemented, and led by community-based organisations** to help vulnerable communities adapt to the health impacts of extreme heat and/or air pollution.
- **Innovative local solutions**, mature or not, that have the potential to be impactful and deployed at larger scale.
- **Projects that include an embedded research component.** This can include, but is not limited to, generation of community driven data collection or analysis, quantitative health outcomes achieved, monitoring and evaluation systems, and the potential for sustainability and replicability.
- **Projects that incorporate a strategy to strengthen local capacity** for long term resilience and community health system strengthening. This includes but is not limited to the appropriate transfer of knowledge, expertise and applicable resources as they pertain to the programme, particularly when the applicant is not a local organisation.
- **Projects with partners that can provide complementary funding**, expertise, data quality control, evidence analysis, sustainability and replication.

- **Proposals that emphasise synergy with local municipalities/government-led efforts** as an essential part of capacity building and sustainable responses to climate impacts on health.

Applicants which have not been already supported in previous funding cycles will be prioritised.

Given the significant number of submissions we receive, **we are unable to provide individual feedback for projects that were not selected.**

4. Eligibility criteria

a) Profile of applicants

The following categories of organisation are eligible for funding under this call for proposals:

- **Community based organisations** (organisations that are based in the local district/area/region where the intervention will be implemented and where the impacts of climate change are apparent)
- **Local NGOs**, networks of civil society organisations with a local, sub-national or national reach
- **National, regional, international NGOs** demonstrating local community involvement at all levels of the project (from strategy to implementation)

b) Geographical focus

This call for proposals is focused on programmes in the following countries. Applicant organisations must be based in the country for which they are applying:

- **Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Zimbabwe.
- **Asia:** Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan.

c) Focus of budget expenditure

A minimum of **80% of the proposed budget** must be directly allocated to activities carried out within the local area of implementation.

*Foundation S is **not** able to support the following:*

- Government or governmental institution-led projects.
- Political organisations, campaigns, and activities.
- Religious organisations or groups whose activities are sectarian in purpose.
- Organisations that discriminate on the basis of race, gender & gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, age, national origin, veteran's status, or disability.
- Projects that directly influence or advance Sanofi's business, including the purchase, utilisation, prescribing, pricing, reimbursement, or recommendation for payment for its products.

- Payment of expatriate staff or headquarter staff based in countries not involved in the implementation of the Foundation S funded project.
- Mitigation programs and initiatives (CO2 reduction, carbon sequestration, energy solutions such as biofuels, clean cooking fuels etc.).
- Purchase of vehicles or construction of public buildings.
- Activities or organisations that are in breach with internationally recognised UN standards, including but not limited to Human Rights, Health Safety & Security, Labor rights, Anti Bribery and Corruption, Environment & Climate change, etc.
- Basic or clinical research projects, including clinical trials, outcomes research or other pharmaceutical studies.
- Purchase of supplies or equipment unrelated to a specific project or programme.

5. Application review process and timeline

The proposal submission and review will follow a multi-step process as shown below*:



*Please note that these dates are subject to change at the discretion of Foundation S.

6. Project duration

Foundation S will support projects with a **minimum duration of 12 months and a maximum duration of 24 months**. In most cases funds will be awarded for an initial 12-month period, with a 12-month extension for projects performing adequately.

Foundation S reserves the right to make a 2-year commitment from the outset for exceptional applications, based on the technical and organisational evaluation of candidates.

7. Budget

Funding of **minimum 50 000€ and maximum 100 000€ per project per year** is available.

8. How to apply

Applicants must submit their **concept note** in English or French and complete the required organisational information through Foundation S' online **Cybergrants** platform found at:

https://www.cybergrants.com/sanofi/foundationS_CCH_concept

Requests for clarifications should be sent to the following email address **by 7th November 2025**:

Climate-Health_FoundationS@sanofi.com

Responses to all questions will be published on our website (<https://www.foundation-s.sanofi.com/en>) **by 14th November 2025**.

9. Submission deadline

All concept notes must be submitted to **Cybergrants** before **23:00 CET on Friday 28 November 2025**. The submission portal opens **30 October 2025**.



The climate crisis demands urgent action, but also presents an opportunity to reimagine community health systems. Through this call for proposals, Foundation S invites innovative organisations to join us in building climate-resilient communities where the most vulnerable are protected from the health impacts of extreme heat and air pollution. Your ideas and leadership can transform lives and create models for sustainable health solutions worldwide. We look forward to becoming partners in resilience, embracing innovative ideas and initiatives to create a meaningful community impact.



About Foundation S - The Sanofi Collective

Foundation S, Sanofi's philanthropy engine, seeks to create healthier futures for generations to come. Through a *Think & Do Tank* approach, Foundation S aspires to amplify innovation and collaboration as well as support concrete actions to improve the lives of people in vulnerable communities, in 4 commitment areas:

- Fighting childhood cancer, with our legacy initiative My Child Matters
- Increasing health resilience of climate vulnerable populations around the world
- Contributing to sleeping sickness elimination by 2030 and leveraging innovative partnerships to treat the most vulnerable communities.
- Expanding humanitarian donations with a focus on displaced populations and long-term impact

See more on: www.foundation-s.sanofi.com

ⁱ Campbell-Lendrum D, Neville T, Schweizer C, Neira M. "Climate change and health: three grand challenges". *Nature Medicine* 29 (2023). <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-023-02438-w>

ⁱⁱ Campbell-Lendrum D, Neville T, Schweizer C, Neira M. "Climate change and health: three grand challenges". *Nature Medicine* 29 (2023). <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-023-02438-w>

ⁱⁱⁱ The World Bank (2024). The Cost of Inaction: Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/dc174fac-f341-440e-b22b-cbc34a29cdae/content>

^{iv} Romanello, M., di Napoli, C., Green, C. & Et al. The 2023 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: the imperative for a health-centred response in a world facing irreversible harms. *The Lancet* (2023). [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(23\)01859-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)01859-7)

^v World Economic Forum (2024). Quantifying the impact of climate change on human health: Impact Report.

^{vi} The World Bank (2024). The Cost of Inaction: Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.

^{vii} World Health Organization (2023). Climate change and health, Report by the Director-General. Executive Board, 154th Session. https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB154/B154_25-en.pdf

^{viii} Squires E, Whiting L, Petty J (2024) Effects of climate change on the health of children and young people. *Nursing Standard*. doi: 10.7748/ns.2024.e12308

^{ix} World Health Organization. The synergies of heat stress and air pollution and its health impacts (2025). <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/B09369>

^x Global Heat Health Information Network. Heat & Health (2024). <https://ghhin.org/heat-and-health/>

^{xi} World Health Organization (2025). WHO's "Beat the Heat" initiative making strides to protect workers and event participants from extreme heat and related environmental hazards. <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-06-2025-who-s-beat-the-heat-initiative-making-strides-to-protect-workers-and-event-participants-from-extreme-heat-and-related-environmental-hazards>

^{xii} Massazza, A. The growing problem of how extreme heat damages mental health. *Carbon Brief* (2024). <https://www.carbonbrief.org/guest-post-the-growing-problem-of-how-extreme-heat-damages-mental-health/>

^{xiii} Bonell A & al, "Environmental heat stress on maternal physiology and fetal blood flow in pregnant subsistence farmers in The Gambia, west Africa: an observational cohort study". *The Lancet* 6:12. 2022. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(22\)00242-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(22)00242-X)

^{xiv} Global Heat Health Information Network. Heat & Health (2024). <https://ghhin.org/heat-and-health/>

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- ^{xv} Naser K, Haq Z, Naughton BD. “The Impact of Climate Change on Health Services in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematised Review and Thematic Analysis”. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2024 Apr;21(4):434. <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/21/4/434>
- ^{xvi} World Health Organization. 2025. How air pollution is destroying our health. <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/how-air-pollution-is-destroying-our-health>
- ^{xvii} Climate and Clean Air Coalition. Short-lived climate pollutants and health. <https://www.ccacoalition.org/content/short-lived-climate-pollutants-and-health>
- ^{xviii} Climate and Clean Air Coalition. 1 in 8 deaths now attributed to air pollution globally. <https://www.cleanairfund.org/news-item/hei-global-air-pollution-report/>
- ^{xix} World Health Organization. (2025). How air pollution is destroying our health. <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/how-air-pollution-is-destroying-our-health>
- ^{xx} World Health Organization. (2025). The synergies of heat stress and air pollution and its health impacts. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/B09369>
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