



UNIVERSITAS SUMATERA UTARA- SINGHEALTH DUKE-NUS GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE PILOT GRANT

Addressing Global Health Challenges in Asia Together

The **USU-SDGHI Pilot Grant** seeks to support and encourage interdisciplinary teams led by USU and SDGHI Faculty members to undertake Global Health projects that address pressing health challenges in Indonesia and in the region.

APPLY BY 3 OCTOBER 2025

Our Aims & Objectives

The SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute (SDGHI) and the Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) aim to address pressing challenges and develop future leaders in global health in Indonesia.

Through this joint grant call, we hope to encourage collaboration between both institutions resulting in substantial contributions to improving health outcomes and reducing the burden of disease by supporting evidence-based research and educational activities in Indonesia.

Grant Proposals

We invite interdisciplinary teams led by USU Faculty and SDGHI Faculty to submit grant proposals that meet the aims and objectives outlined above.

Proposals submitted must be aligned to any one or more of the following core areas of focus as they pertain to global health. Examples may be found in **Appendix A**.

- Policy
- Research
- Innovation
- Education
- Health System Enhancement

In evaluating proposals, priority will be given to submissions that meet a majority of the following criteria:

- Responds to pressing health challenges faced in Indonesia and/or low-or middle-income countries in Asia
- Is cross-disciplinary
- Shows potential for scale-up
- Shows potential for sustainability
- Provides an opportunity to collaborate and/or deepen a partnership between SDGHI and USU
- Include team members that are new to global health

Funding

In 2025, the funding available for this grant call is S\$100,000 from SDGHI and IDR1.2 billion from USU. For simplicity, an exchange rate of IDR12,000 / S\$1 is being applied. The following terms and conditions apply:

- Funding per project is limited to IDR 480 million/SGD 40,000. No indirect costs will be supported.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop projects requiring / apply for amounts below this maximum, so that more projects can be funded from the total available.
- The amount budgeted should be inclusive of any applicable taxes.
- Project duration should not exceed 36 months, unless a variation request for an extension is submitted and approved, for up to a maximum of 12 additional months.
- The grant may only be used for items included in the approved budget at the time of submission, unless a variation request is submitted and approved.
- All unexpended funds for the project must be returned to the funding agency (USU or SDGHI) within 2 months of project completion. Additional terms and conditions will be provided upon award of the grants.

Expenditure on Manpower (EOM)

Salaries for personnel needed to undertake project activities can be included e.g. Technicians, Research staff, or a Project Coordinator (capped at 15% of the total).

Note: Faculty salaries including Principal Investigator (PI) / Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)/ or Other Investigator(s) are **not fundable**.

Equipment (EQP)

Equipment purchases of more than IDR60million / SGD5,000, inclusive of prevailing applicable taxes, shall require additional approval.

Other Operating Expenses (OOE)

The following are allowable, provided they are directly relevant to the activities:

- Materials and consumables (laboratory, printing etc.)
- Consultancy services
- Local transportation (in Singapore and/or Indonesia)
- Postage, courier services, bank charges
- Publication and IRB fees (these must be included in the project budget)
- Payment to research participants (with proper records of payment)
- Capacity building or research activities (e.g. focus group discussions, workshops, seminars etc.), capped at 25% of the total budget.

Overseas Travel (OT)

The following are fundable only if travel is necessary for the project activities and must be in accordance with the host institution's travel policy:

- Return economy airfares
- Accommodation during periods of travel
- Subsistence allowance
- Local and overseas airport transfers
- Travel insurance
- Immigration related costs e.g. Visa application fee, resident permit, vaccinations/ medical check-ups

Note: Travel for scientific meetings and/or conferences, and any travel not related to the project is **not fundable**.

Expected Outcomes

Upon successful completion of research projects, applicants are expected to produce at least one scientific publication with USU/SDGHI affiliation. They may also be required to assist in writing about the project and/or sharing information about it through USU/SDGHI's communication platforms and channels.

Eligibility (For PI/Co-PI¹)

1. This grant is **only** open to all SDGHI and USU Faculty members.
2. Applicants who have previously received funding (completed projects) may still be considered if they apply for specific or new areas of interest. However, priority will be given to those who have not yet been awarded.
3. Applicants with ongoing projects² are **not eligible** to apply for a new grant (from the same funding source) unless their current project is completed or nearing completion (e.g. within six (6) months of the grant end date, including any approved grant extension).
4. Applicants may submit the same proposal up to two (2) times if the previous application was unsuccessful.
5. Applicants are not permitted to submit the same proposal to **multiple small grant programmes**³ within the same grant call period. However, proposals with different or new topics of interest submitted to different funding sources are allowed. This policy helps ensure fair and equitable distribution of funding and avoids possible duplicate funding.
[For example: Applicants cannot submit the same proposal to more than one small grant programme during the same grant call period (e.g., August 2025). However, they may submit a different proposal with a new topic to another funding source, even within the same period.]
6. The Review Committee may prioritise emerging research topics for further research in areas not already funded.

Application Process & Schedule

We encourage applicants to review the [USU-SDGHI Pilot Grant Evaluation Rubrics](#) to understand how applications are evaluated.

All proposals should be submitted using the [USU-HIGHISH Pilot Grant Application Form](#) and its supporting documents in a single PDF to rcc@usu.ac.id with the subject line "USU-SDGHI Pilot Grant Submission_Applicant Name"

27 August 2025	Start of Grant Call
3 October 2025	Close of Grant Call
October-November 2025	Review of Grant Proposals
December 2025 – January 2026	Announcement of Grant Recipients via email
January 2026 onwards	Issuance of Letter of Award (LOA) Proposed project start date

For Enquiries

For queries, connect with us at rcc@usu.ac.id

1. PI/Co-PI – Principal Investigator / Co-Principal Investigator

2. Funded by the same grant program

3. Small grant programmes managed by SDGHI (include Joint Grant with RCC partners) and SingHealth AMC/JOAM

Appendix A - Examples of topics under our core area of focus

Proposals submitted must align with at least one topic from our core areas of focus. Examples include the following:

- **Global Health, including health policy and systems:** This includes topics on health equity, the social determinants of health, population and preventive health, primary care access and uptake, and other neglected global health issues
- **Global Health Innovation:** Research that accelerates access to healthcare in Indonesia through novel programmes and technologies
- **Regulatory/Legal Frameworks:** Investigates the governance and regulation of health services, or the determinants of health, and the impact on health outcomes
- **Health Services and Systems Research:** This encompasses the organisation, delivery, and financing of healthcare services to improve their effectiveness
- **Disease Prevention and Surveillance:** Research on communicable and non-communicable disease surveillance, prevention, and control
- **Climate Change and Environmental Health:** Cross-disciplinary research on the impact of climate change and environmental issues on human populations, and solutions to better protect both ecosystems and human health
- **Education:** Includes the improvement or development of global health educational efforts, or assessments of the impact of existing training programmes

Applicants are discouraged from applying for pure clinical research with limited application to global health.