



Adaptation Research Alliance

Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants

Date: October 2022

Summary

The ARA is excited to announce a funding opportunity for action and research entities to collaborate in order to unearth knowledge, ideas and opportunities for climate change adaptation in the Global South (you can find the [full list of countries included here](#)).

This funding opportunity is open to:

- ‘action’ entities, such as NGOs, cooperatives, governments or organisations facing burning climate change issues affecting local communities, and
- research institutions that can help respond to the most pressing needs of those affected by climate change in their local communities.

The total grant amount will be **15,000.00 GBP**, with an application due date of **December 12th 2022**. Both new applicants, who have never applied to the ARA Micro-grants, and applicants and grantees from the ARA’s Micro-grants Round 1 may apply.

Continue reading for more details on how to apply, and send your questions into micro-grants@adaptationresearchalliance.org **before November 3rd**.

Background to the ARA:

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a global collaborative effort consisting of over 150 members. We seek to catalyse increased investment and capacity for action-oriented research that supports effective climate change adaptation – primarily in developing countries – at the scale and urgency demanded by the science.

The ARA focuses on ensuring that increased ambition can be delivered through evidence-based action, recognising that practical action is required to minimise and avert loss and damage. We need a step-change on adaptation, which requires collaboration between government, business, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to prepare for climate risks, mobilise further action, and increase adaptation financing.

To learn more about the ARA and what our alliance aims to achieve, you can find the ARA Theory of Change and core values [on our website](#).

What are the Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants?

Following the first round of ARA Micro-grants, the ARA is funding a second round to unearth ideas and opportunities for adapting to climate change in local contexts in the Global South, linking action and research. It is critical to identify knowledge gaps and explore solutions to adapt to and build resilience against a changing climate. So too, is the need for solutions and ideas to be generated within local communities which are affected by climate change.

Floods, wildfires, crop failure, and climate change-related health issues are ever more present, and these interconnected issues will have a domino effect on migration, conflict, housing and more. To be able to effectively respond to these issues, grassroots communities need to be equal partners with policy and research stakeholders, in generating and applying knowledge and solutions that respond to their needs and priorities. This requires what the ARA calls 'radical collaboration', to connect diverse groups of action and research stakeholders, to:

1. understand the needs and stakeholders, and
2. identify opportunities for responding or generating further evidence.

These micro-grants seek to support this process – which is for diverse stakeholders (researchers, ordinary citizens, CSOs, decision makers, etc.) to co-create an understanding of the issue at hand and identify opportunities to further act.

What is the opportunity?

Successful applicants will be awarded up to 15,000.00 GBP to discover the needs and priorities from a grassroots perspective, that brings together action and research stakeholders. The actual period for micro-grant activities to be carried out will be 8 months (occurring in 2023).

The issue to be investigated should be identified and driven by action stakeholders, with those from research institutions being engaged to explore the issue further in collaboration with all action stakeholders. This could include identifying opportunities or needs for collecting more research, engaging with policy/decision makers, or taking stock of evidence and experiences from within the community experiencing the issue. In this way, the micro-grants will serve the following two purposes;

- They connect diverse groups of action and research stakeholders to co-create an understanding of the issue at hand.
- They act as an enabler and catalyst to produce relevant knowledge, as well as identify needs and opportunities for taking the next step in responding to a burning issue.

Application Process:

Applicants must complete [this application form](#) and submit it **before December 12th at 17h00 (South Africa time)** to micro-grants@adaptationresearchalliance.org

Please complete all sections of the application within the specified word limits. Please read the [FAQs](#), [micro-grant expenses guide](#) and [contract template](#) for further support to submit your application. Applications can be submitted in English, French and Spanish.

Initial clarification questions can be sent to micro-grants@adaptationresearchalliance.org by **November 3rd, 2022**, after which responses to all questions will be published on our website by the end of November.

A final announcement of successful applicants will be made in **February 2023**, and contracts should be in place by the end of **April 2023**.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must comply with the basic eligibility criteria below to be considered by the review panel:

- The proposal lead organisation must be based in the country/region in the Global South facing the burning issue under investigation.
- Proposals should involve a minimum of at least one research, and one action/grassroots entity.
- The research institution must be based in the country of the action/grassroots entity.
- Exploration of burning issues in the proposal and grant process should be driven by the needs of action stakeholders and supported by researchers.¹ Applications which do not involve both action stakeholders and research stakeholders will not be accepted.
- Proposals should incorporate one or all the [Adaptation Research for Impact Principles](#), and explicitly state how they will be implemented.
- Micro-grantees must be able to participate in the virtual Kick-off Meet and Greet (May 2023), Reflective Workshops (September 2023 and January 2024), and requested Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Engagements. Grantees are encouraged to attend the contracting and financial reporting workshops, to ensure they comply with budget and contracting protocol throughout the entirety of their grant.

¹ For example, through the action-research process the grantee may find that communication of existing research with relevant stakeholders is the necessary next step, or they may find that further research is required for farmers to understand how to increase the resilience of a particular crop in a specific context.

- The total value of the micro-grant should be 15,000.00 GBP or under.
- Applications must comply with the micro-grant expenses protocol document. Projects will be expected to comply with this protocol throughout the entirety of the grant period.
- The lead organisation bank account must be able to receive funds from foreign accounts. The entity receiving the funds will be responsible for contracting and expenses.
- Proposals can be submitted in the following languages: English, French or Spanish.
- Gender and social equity considerations must be explained in the proposal, and applicants must show how demographics (e.g., gender, age, ethnicity, etc) in the end-user community will be represented in the micro-grant team.
- Rates for project staff must be competitive per country and/or region.

Selection Criteria

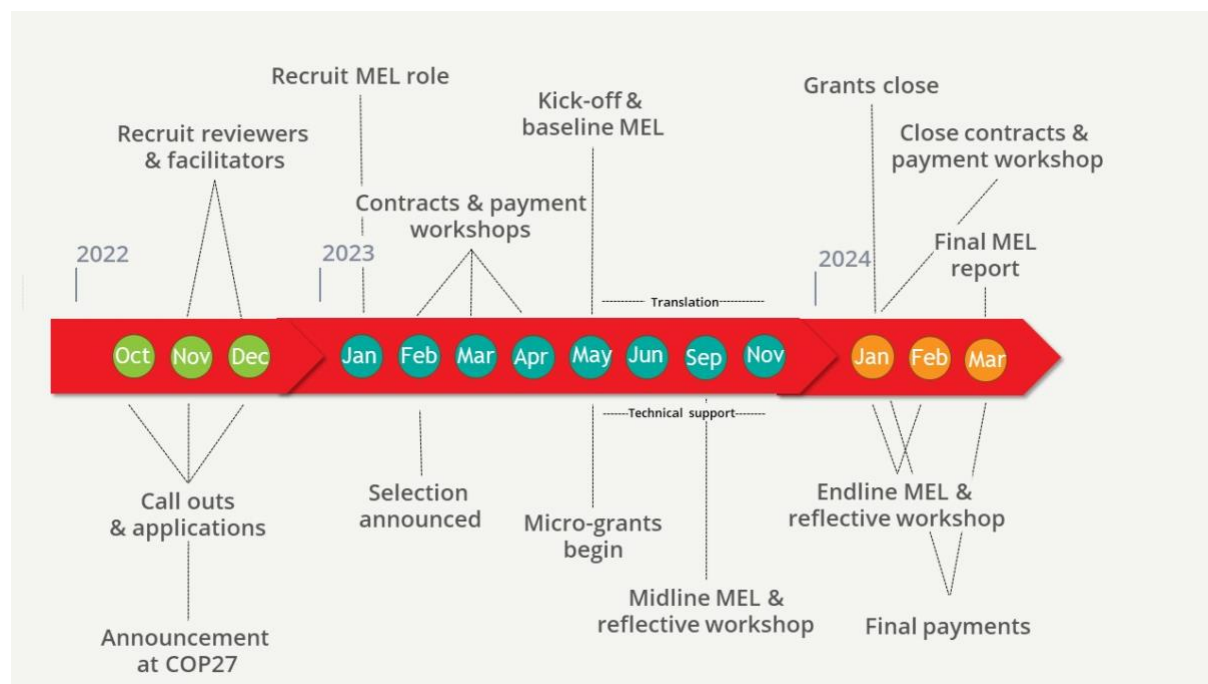
Eligible applications will be evaluated by independent reviewers based on the following criteria:

- The scope and ambition of the project must match resources and time available.
- Clear connection between action and research, and the value of both for investigating needs and opportunities in relation to the burning issue will be viewed favourably.
- Strong preference will be given to proposals led by non-research organisations in the Global South.
- Strong preference will be given to proposals with South-South collaborations (meaning all participating organisations are within the Global South).
- Burning issues must respond to specific needs and/or expressed demands of action stakeholders, for example affected grassroots communities or government stakeholders.
- Existing collaborations between action and research stakeholders will be viewed favourably, however applications which seek to develop new collaborations will be considered.
- Applications which indicate a vision for evolving and/or continuing micro-grant activities after the grant's end (whether it be sharing learning, growing an action to research relationship, applying for further funding) will be viewed favourably.
- Applicants should have gender diversity within the micro-grant team, including in leadership roles.

Requirements in subsequent stages

Successful grantees can expect to proceed through the following timeline. Applicants **must** be able to participate in the activities in **bold red** to be eligible to participate in this funding round.

- **October 2022** – ARA Micro-grant call out advertised
- **October to December 12th 2022**- Applications open for the micro-grants
- **November 3rd 2022** - Last day to send clarifying questions to the ARA
- **End-November** - Publication of Q&As on ARA Website
- **December 12th** - Applications close
- **February** - Announcement of official selection of organisations for funding
- **February to April 28th** - Contracting and initial up-front payment made
- **March 2023** - Contracting and Financial Reporting virtual inception workshop
- **May 1st 2023** - ARA Micro-Grant activities begin for 8 months
- **May 2023** - Kick off virtual meet and greet, and engagement in baseline MEL
- **September 2023** - Engagement in virtual midline MEL
- **September 2023** - Engagement in virtual midline reflective regional workshop
- **January 5th 2024** - Grant activities closed
- **January to February 2024** - Engagement in virtual endline MEL
- **January 2024** - Engagement in virtual endline reflective regional workshop
- **January 2024** - Contracting and Financial endline virtual workshop for grantees
- **January 5th to March 31st 2024** - Final payment



Thank you for considering this funding call. Please send any questions you have regarding the grant to:

micro-grants@adaptationresearchalliance.org by November 3rd, 2022. We look forward to receiving your proposal.