Request for Proposals (RFP)
Round 2

Global Innovations for Character Development

March 2019

I.   About Templeton World Charity Foundation

Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc. (The Foundation) was established in 1996 to serve as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to Big Questions of life and the universe, in areas of science, theology, philosophy, and human society. Sir John Templeton was interested in concepts that he referred to as "invisible realities", including (but not limited to) such examples as love, infinity, creativity, gratitude, intelligence, and purpose. He established the Foundation to foster rigorous scholarship and broad communications on such diverse topics in order to stimulate humility, curiosity, and enthusiasm for new discoveries. This is reflected in the Foundation's motto: "How little we know, how eager to learn."

Sir John believed that human flourishing results from the active learning and practice of specific character strengths: 'Wherever we find ourselves in life, whatever the circumstances, whatever habits may be influencing our decisions, we can transform each situation into a learning and growing experience. We can determine how to be the masters of our habits so that our habits can be useful servants to us'.[1]

He saw character development as the means by which to deepen knowledge and understanding of the human person, and to enhance human flourishing. Sir John's ultimate objective for character development was to help individuals become more spiritually prosperous; *he wanted people to be transformed* by what he perceived to be spiritual principles, and believed that the products of such spiritual prosperity would be personal, and relational, and lead to social, and economic prosperity. He wrote in the Foreword to *The Templeton Plan*, "It is my vision that more and more people worldwide will lead lives of happiness and usefulness, and prosperity if we work continuously toward spiritual growth and a better understanding of the virtues by which we should govern ourselves."[2]

II.   Explanation of Initiative

Building upon Sir John's vision, the aim of the Global Innovations for Character Development (GICD) initiative is to measurably transform lives through the cultivation of character strengths among individuals and communities. With some notable exceptions, the majority of current research into character development emanates from high income settings in North America, Western Europe and Asia. While the positive psychology movement has brought a global awareness to character development, there is a relative paucity of funding for specific research programmes that examine the contextual nature of character development as well as practical examples of scalable programs. The Foundation believes that there is an immense opportunity to both transform lives and advance the field through supporting character development initiatives in diverse contexts.

In March 2018 the Foundation launched an open Request for Proposals for projects to promote character development in Low and Middle Income countries worldwide and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In response to the RFP, the Foundation received 164 applications

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[1] J.M. Templeton, *Wisdom from the World's Religions*, 148

[2] J.M. Templeton, *The Templeton Plan,* 11

from 55 countries worldwide of which 14 were approved for funding. As part of Round 2 of the Global Innovations for Character Development initiative in 2019, the Foundation is offering funding for innovative, high quality research and implementation projects throughout eligible countries (see Appendix 1 for the full list).

Specifically, the Round 2 Request for Proposals (RFP) will fund:

1. **Formative research** that explores the process of character formation and local conceptualizations of character strengths.
2. The development, adaptation or validation of **tools** for measuring character development
3. The development and evaluation of scalable **interventions** aimed at promoting and fostering character strengths.

The Foundation aims to generate definitive evidence of the impact of promoting character strengths intrinsic to the specific cultural and contextual circumstances of these countries. In addition, we aim to build capacity amongst local researchers and provide a wide range of audiences with the evidence, knowledge and resources that will result in the cultivation of character strengths and related behaviors.

III.   What We Fund

The Foundation defines character strengths as "learned and learnable attributes, skills, or dispositions which enable individuals to live better, more fulfilling, and prosperous lives." The process of character development encompasses the development and nurturing of diverse aspects of character, often referred to as virtues, habits, soft skills, capabilities, and non-cognitive skills as encountered in diverse fields of study.

Due to this diversity, the Foundation has not provided a definitive list of character strengths. Examples of potential character strengths as identified by Sir John Templeton and others include: appreciation of beauty, awe, beneficial purpose, compassion, creativity, curiosity, diligence, empathy, entrepreneurship, forgiveness, future-mindedness, generosity, gratitude, honesty, hope, humility, humor, integrity, joy, kindness, love, optimism, perseverance, reliability, responsibility, self-regulation, selflessness, social responsibility, thrift, and wisdom. The foundation also strongly encourages applications with new thinking on character strengths not specifically identified here.

Notably, The Foundation seeks to fund research into character strengths with an explicit moral and ethical dimension that can lead to personal and societal flourishing in all its dimensions (physical, economic, mental, and spiritual). To this end, the Foundation is specifically interested in proposals which:

- Focus on identification and promotion of culturally important character strengths;
- Evaluate the contribution of character strengths to social functioning, educational achievement, economic outcomes, health status etc.
- Focus on the promotion and fostering of positive character strengths (i.e. virtues) rather than on the mitigation of negative traits (i.e. vices) or on immoral or unethical behaviour;
- Aim to transform values and attitudes so that a group of people or society as a whole espouse, promote, and practice positive character development;
- Analyze the impact on an individual of voluntarily engaging in programs and interventions

that seek to serve and benefit others;
- Emphasize the merits of a particular character strength;
- Explore how the practice or presence of one character strength relates to the presence or practice of another in an individual;

Proposals may target individuals from infancy through to adulthood and innovations can be delivered through a diversity of platforms (schools, voluntary associations, private sector, religious communities, sports clubs, peers, parents & family members).

The Foundation aims to build global capacity for research and implementation of character development initiatives. Consequently, partnerships between local, regional and international researchers and practitioners are highly encouraged.

IV.   Types of Awards

Proof of Concept Awards

In this round, the Foundation aims to award up to **12 Proof of Concept (PoC) grants** of up to **USD $234,000** for projects of **24 months** in the following three categories:

1. Formative Research grants will be awarded for proposals which aim to better understand the process of character formation or to answer questions which can inform the development character development interventions in the future. These include ethnographic studies, systematic reviews, or landscape analyses.

Example:
- *Adaptation and application of the moral ecology framework to better understand the process of character formation in schools in Argentina*

2. Instrument Development grants will be awarded for proposals which aim to develop or adapt tools for measuring character strengths in novel contexts. In addition to outlining a robust, multi-stage evaluation strategy to demonstrate instrument validity, proposals should clearly identify the rationale for developing/adapting the proposed instrument, why it represents an improvement over existing instruments and articulate how the tool will contribute to the science and practice of character development.

Examples:
- *To create and validate culturally sensitive versions of the Situated Wise Reasoning Scale (SWiS) for use in Sri Lanka and the Philippines*
- *A Swahili language instrument for assessing character strengths among Kenyan youth*

3. Intervention Development grants will be awarded for the development and evaluation of innovations that promote and nurture character strengths. Proposals funded under this category are expected to demonstrate:
- Measurable improvements in knowledge, awareness, expression, and practice of character strengths among individuals in the target population. The Foundation strongly encourages proposals which also examine the impact of promoting character strengths on social, economic, health and related human development outcomes.
- The potential for achieving impact at scale. The Foundation seeks PoC proposals which

are acceptable to the target population, feasible to implement in a sustainable manner, and cost effective.

- Demand. The Foundation expects that the most successful innovations it funds will be scaled up through partnerships. To this end, proposals should also identify and where possible engage key stakeholders for whom the evidence and outcomes generated will be of interest (e.g. policy makers, funders, iNGOs).

Examples:
- *A program to promote gratitude and wellbeing from the perspectives of grade 5 children in Colombian school contexts*
- *Promoting agency, trust and hope for Incarcerated Barbadian adolescents through community engagement*
- *A school-based program to foster character strengths among youth in post conflict Sri Lanka*
- *Promoting the concept of Utu through a kids edutainment platform in East Africa*
- *A Mindfulness-based program to advance compassion and related virtues in young Filipino adults*

Proposals should include a well articulated research methodology and evaluation strategy. The Foundation expects the majority of proposals funded under this category will use a quasi-experimental (e.g. single group pre-post test, non-randomized controlled trials) or experimental (e.g. randomized controlled trial) design. Proposals which utilize a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation strategies are also welcomed.

The Foundation recognizes that achieving impact at scale is a long term game, and projects which achieve proof of concept may be eligible in future to apply for Transition to Scale (TTS) grants of up to USD $1 million through future funding rounds. These awards will be offered for innovations to promote and nurture character strengths which have an established, peer-reviewed evidence base, and are ready to achieve substantial impact at scale through widespread implementation.

Transition to Scale Awards

The Foundation is also offering one **Transition to Scale** grant of **USD $1 million over three years.** This award will be offered for a character development innovation with an established, peer-reviewed evidence base, that is ready to achieve substantial impact at scale through widespread implementation.

The Foundation believes that the route to sustainable impact at scale can take several forms. For some innovations, scale may be achieved via integration into existing services or programs, including government funding to sustain the service, or the uptake of the model by large established national or international non-governmental organizations. In the case of social enterprises, transition to scale comprises the formation of a workable operational model with proven capacity to grow. Transition to scale proposals should include a robust implementation evaluation framework to measure reach, effectiveness, extent of adoption and sustainability.

V. Evaluation Process & Timeline

All proposals submitted in advance of the application deadline will be assessed for eligibility, alignment and quality based on the requirements outlined in this document. Top ranked proposals will be submitted for external expert review. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to

respond to and modify their proposal in relation to reviewer comments prior to consideration by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The Foundation expects to notify shortlisted candidates by **November 1, 2019**. The anticipated start date for successful projects is **May 1, 2020.**

VI.   Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of significance, quality and team capacity. These criteria include the following dimensions:

- Alignment with donor intent
- Innovation
- Impact
- Potential for scale
- Methodological Rigour
- Evaluative Methodology
- Clarity and focus
- Realistic expectations
- Cost-effectiveness
- Expertise

Please see the *Proposal Guidance Document* for more information

All Transition to Scale grant proposals will be evaluated based on the above criteria, as well as:

- Strength of evidence base
- Strategic partnerships
- Potential for scale & sustainability

VII.   Eligibility Criteria

- The lead applicant (Project Director) must be affiliated with an institution based in one of the countries listed in Appendix 1. There are no restrictions on the affiliation of the co-PI or other collaborators, and collaborations between researchers from eligible countries and other parts of the world are strongly encouraged.
- Implementation of the project must take place in an eligible country listed in Appendix 1. This does not need to be the same country the lead applicant is affiliated with.
- A majority (50%+) of the budget must be spent on activities/personnel in an eligible country.
- The applicant can be a non-profit organization, academic institution, for-profit company or another recognized institution that is incorporated in an eligible jurisdiction and is capable of receiving and administering funding.
- Institutional overhead or indirect costs must be below 15% of the total grant budget.
- At this time, the Foundation is only able to consider proposals submitted in English.

Please note that the Foundation does not fund:

- Contributions to endowments, support for 'brick and mortar' buildings, or other capital projects.
- Long-term, repetitive support or operational support. Projects should be discrete and last no more than 24 months in the case of proof of concept projects and 36 months for transition to scale proposals.
- Work that already receives widespread, financial support from other sources.
- Work that is pseudo-scientific or is based on unreliable methodology.
- Projects with an exclusively historical focus.

VIII. Outputs

Grant awardees will be required to provide progress reports on an annual basis and a final report at the end of the project period.

Progress reports will consist of:
- a summary of work to date
- list of outputs produced according to the stated timeline
- statement of impact
- review of key challenges to date, and
- articulation of next steps.

Final reports will consist of:
- statement of impact and supporting materials (e.g. statistical analyses etc)
- list of outputs produced according to the stated timeline
- stories of transformation (individual or community level)
- post grant plans, and
- copies of any relevant dissemination materials (e.g. academic articles, posters, etc).

IX. Capacity Building

The Foundation aims to provide successful applicants with capacity building opportunities. This may include opportunities for partnerships and collaborations with leading experts in areas such as monitoring and evaluation, policy engagement or communications, and in-person opportunities for peer learning through participation in relevant conferences and convenings.

X. Application Process

Interested applicants should complete the online application form at https://webportalapp.com/sp/global_character_2 no later than **23:59 PST on 26 August 2019.** Further information on selection criteria and the application process may be found in the *Proposal Guidance Document.*

XI. Notification of Applicants

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified via the email provided on the application form. Unfortunately due to volume, we will not be able to provide individual feedback for unsuccessful applicants.

XII. Conditions of the Award

- Meets requirements as stated in the application form.
- Signed grant agreement by Grantee's governing body. Upon request we can provide sample terms and conditions.
- Satisfactory compliance with foundation's policy for anti-money laundering, countering and financing of terrorism which may require providing the organization's constitutive documents, financial statements, and other documentation requested to complete such checks.
- Ability to secure necessary research and ethical approvals for research from relevant institution(s).

XIII. Inquiries

Inquiries should be directed to character@templetonworldcharity.org

Appendix 1

List of Eligible Countries

ABW	Aruba	ETH	Ethiopia	MNE	Montenegro
AFG	Afghanistan	FJI	Fiji	MNG	Mongolia
AGO	Angola	FSM	Micronesia, Fed.	MOZ	Mozambique
ALB	Albania		Sts.	MRT	Mauritania
ARG	Argentina	GAB	Gabon	MUS	Mauritius
ARM	Armenia	GEO	Georgia	MWI	Malawi
ASM	American Samoa	GHA	Ghana	MYS	Malaysia
ATG	Antigua and	GIN	Guinea	NAM	Namibia
	Barbuda	GMB	Gambia, The	NER	Niger
AZE	Azerbaijan	GNB	Guinea-Bissau	NGA	Nigeria
BDI	Burundi	GNQ	Equatorial Guinea	NIC	Nicaragua
BEN	Benin	GRD	Grenada	NPL	Nepal
BFA	Burkina Faso	GTM	Guatemala	NRU	Nauru
BGD	Bangladesh	GUY	Guyana	PAK	Pakistan
BGR	Bulgaria	HND	Honduras	PAN	Panama
BHS	Bahamas, The	HRV	Croatia	PER	Peru
BLR	Belarus	HTI	Haiti	PHL	Philippines
BLZ	Belize	IDN	Indonesia	PNG	Papua New Guinea
BOL	Bolivia	IND	India	PRI	Puerto Rico
BRA	Brazil	JAM	Jamaica	PRY	Paraguay
BRB	Barbados	JOR	Jordan	PSE	West Bank and
BTN	Bhutan	KAZ	Kazakhstan		Gaza
BWA	Botswana	KEN	Kenya	ROU	Romania
CAF	Central African	KGZ	Kyrgyz Republic	RUS	Russian Federation
	Republic	KHM	Cambodia	RWA	Rwanda
CHL	Chile	KIR	Kiribati	SEN	Senegal
CHN	China	KNA	St. Kitts and Nevis	SLB	Solomon Islands
CIV	Côte d'Ivoire	LAO	Lao PDR	SLE	Sierra Leone
CMR	Cameroon	LBN	Lebanon	SLV	El Salvador
COD	Congo, Dem. Rep.	LBR	Liberia	SOM	Somalia
COG	Congo, Rep.	LBY	Libya	SRB	Serbia
COL	Colombia	LCA	St. Lucia	SSD	South Sudan
COM	Comoros	LKA	Sri Lanka	STP	São Tomé and
CPV	Cabo Verde	LSO	Lesotho		Principe
CRI	Costa Rica	MAF	St. Martin (French	SUR	Suriname
CUW	Curacao		part)	SWZ	Swaziland
CYM	Cayman Islands	MAR	Morocco	SXM	Sint Maarten
DJI	Djibouti	MDA	Moldova		(Dutch part)
DMA	Dominica	MDG	Madagascar	TCA	Turks and Caicos
DOM	Dominican	MDV	Maldives		Islands
	Republic	MEX	Mexico	TCD	Chad
DZA	Algeria	MHL	Marshall Islands	TGO	Togo
ECU	Ecuador	MKD	Macedonia, FYR	THA	Thailand
EGY	Egypt, Arab Rep.	MLI	Mali	TJK	Tajikistan
ERI	Eritrea	MMR	Myanmar	TKM	Turkmenistan

TLS   Timor-Leste
TON   Tonga
TTO Trinidad and Tobago
TUR   Turkey
TUV   Tuvalu
TUN Tunisia
TZA   Tanzania
UKR   Ukraine
UGA   Uganda
URY   Uruguay
UZB   Uzbekistan
VCT   St. Vincent and the
Grenadines
VEN   Venezuela, RB
VGB   British Virgin
Islands
VIR   Virgin Islands
(U.S.)
VNM   Vietnam
WSM   Samoa
XKX   Kosovo
ZAF   South Africa
ZMB   Zambia
ZWE   Zimbabwe