



Department of Health & Social Care

Dr Gail Marzetti
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Via Email

Thursday 29 January 2026

Dear Colleague,

We wrote to you in July 2025, to update you on changes to the NIHR's global health research (GHR) portfolio. We are pleased to share that three global health research funding calls will open in April 2026 for applications.

NIHR will focus new funding on research which addresses acute and chronic global health security threats in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Specifically, we will fund research on:

- Acute threats: this includes prevention, detection and response to infectious diseases, including those that cause epidemics or pandemics.
- Chronic threats: this comprises antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and infectious diseases of poverty.

We will particularly welcome applications within these areas and regions that focus on improving the ability of health systems to protect the health of the poorest and most vulnerable including maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.

In April 2026, the NIHR will launch a new annual thematic research call. This year's call will focus on late-stage trials and implementation research to tackle AMR. This call will offer different levels of funding, from smaller projects to larger programmes of up to £5 million. A more detailed call scope will be available prior to the call launch.

The NIHR will also resume two research capacity strengthening programmes:

- NIHR Global Health Research Professorships: supporting outstanding academics to work at professorial level
- NIHR Global Advanced Fellowships: supporting postdoctoral researchers to develop leadership skills and research expertise



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These programmes help train future research leaders in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, with a focus on acute and chronic health security threats as defined above. Both schemes will open for applications in April.

As the NIHR transitions to these new priorities and funding calls, other existing global health research programmes will close. The latest updates on new funding opportunities will be on the [NIHR website](#).

The NIHR's mission remains unchanged: to fund excellent research that improves health and wellbeing for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Gail Marzetti
DHSC Director of Science, Research & Evidence and NIHR Deputy CEO