

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Hepatitis Fund awards US\$3.4 million  
For Global Campaign to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis  
As a Major Public Health Threat**

(Geneva, Switzerland. July 2020) The Hepatitis Fund (aka “EndHep2030”) announced grants totaling \$3.4 million in support of elimination of viral hepatitis as a major global health challenge. EndHep2030 is the only grant-making program dedicated exclusively to ending viral hepatitis.

In response to the EndHep2030 Call for Proposals, over 120 organizations from around the world submitted a proposal for funding consideration, a highly competitive process. Projects supported by this round of funding include developing sustainable national strategic plans to support hepatitis diagnosis, prevention, and treatment; increasing the availability of country-specific data to inform evidence-supported policy formation and implementation; building health system capacity to deliver integrated hepatitis testing, prevention and treatment services.

The funded projects fall into two areas: projects that produce data and financing models that support and promote national strategic hepatitis elimination plans, and pilot programs that demonstrate innovative and scalable ways to identify and test persons with viral hepatitis and link them to appropriate care, and break down systemic barriers.

Grantees include:

- The Center for Disease Analysis Foundation (United States) for its work to increase domestic and international investment for hepatitis elimination in Africa by providing up-to-date data and analyses that show regional and country-level disease burden, testing and treatment gaps and the impact of hepatitis B and C elimination.
- The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (United Kingdom) for its work to use crowdsourcing to solicit stories and infographics from the public, with a focus on people affected by or living with hepatitis B or C, in order to influence policy change in countries with a high burden of chronic hepatitis in Africa and Asia. The project aims to address two key problems – low public awareness of viral hepatitis and lack of high-level strategies targeting viral hepatitis.

- The WHO Collaborating Centre for Viral Hepatitis (Australia) for its work developing an operational manual that guides national approaches to collecting, utilizing and analyzing strategic hepatitis information. Epidemiological and programmatic data needs to be continually generated, collected, reviewed and interpreted in order for high burden countries to effectively plan, appropriately direct resources and monitor progress towards hepatitis elimination.
- The Association for Social Development (Pakistan) for its work to adapt primary care programs based in public hospitals to deliver hepatitis C testing and treatment in Punjab, Pakistan through the rural community health centers network.
- PATH Vietnam for its work to initiate community-based diagnosis, prevention and treatment for hepatitis B and C as part of primary care offered by the public health system of Vietnam.
- The Center for Global Health Services Delivery at the Columbia University of New York to develop a comprehensive M&E framework for project implementation and assessment and a corresponding training programme on the framework.
- University Teaching Hospital HIV AIDS Program (Zambia) for its work to accelerate hepatitis B diagnosis and treatment in Zambia by cultivating a core group of local hepatitis experts, increasing healthcare professional competency, and raising awareness among community health workers.

Please visit the Foundation’s website ([EndHep2030.org/grants](http://EndHep2030.org/grants)) for detailed descriptions of all grants.

### **About Viral Hepatitis**

Globally about 400 million people are chronically infected by viral hepatitis. Over 95% are cases related to hepatitis B or hepatitis C. A leading cause of death globally and primary cause of liver cancer, viral hepatitis causes 1.4 million deaths each year. While highly effective and affordable diagnostics, vaccine and treatments exist today, barriers such as lack of public knowledge about the scope of the disease, limited availability and coverage of diagnosis and prevention programs, and stigma surrounding the disease, keep countries from properly addressing hepatitis elimination.

Global response to viral hepatitis has been slow. There has been far less investment in hepatitis compared to other diseases with a similar public health burden, like TB and HIV. Additionally, few low- and middle- income countries have established national action plans that provide solutions for affordable and appropriate care and treatment for people living with the disease.

Wangsheng Li, Co-founder and Founding President of The Hepatitis Fund, stated: “We believe that the elimination of viral hepatitis is obtainable by 2030. Our funding will be the spark that will help speed up actions by countries in the planning and

implementation of their national elimination goals. These grants demonstrate how catalytic funding can encourage innovation, cultivate synergies, and stimulate strategic partnerships.”

### **About The Hepatitis Fund**

**The Hepatitis Fund** is a charitable grantmaking foundation registered in Switzerland. Co-founded by Charles Gore and Wangsheng Li, its predecessor was the EndHep2030 initiative, which was conceived as a direct outcome of a tripartite collaboration between WHO, USCDC and ZeShan Foundation. Initially set up as a sponsored project of the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (New York City), EndHep2030 was incubated by ZeShan Foundation. It is to date the only grant-making organization dedicated exclusively to ending viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030. Learn more at [endhep2030.org](http://endhep2030.org).

The Hepatitis Fund/EndHep2030 project has been funded by ZeShan Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, the CDC Foundation, the John C Martin Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, among others. EndHep2030 grants support organizations that are working to prepare and assist low- and middle-income countries with high hepatitis burdens reach targets for eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030, a UN SDG2030 goal.

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### **Useful resources:**

**World Health Organization:** [https://www.who.int/health-topics/hepatitis#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/hepatitis#tab=tab_1)

**World Hepatitis Alliance:** <https://www.worldhepatitisday.org/>

**US CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm>

**CDA Foundation:** <https://cdafound.org/>

**ENDHEP2030**  
**The Hepatitis Fund**

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A Swiss charitable foundation (CHE 309.456.081)