

Dear SIOP Africa Friends and Colleagues,

In order to streamline collaborative projects with SIOP Africa and to provide guidance to partners who would like to implement projects in Africa. The local teams can have the option to seek SIOP Africa's input and assessment when evaluating the strength and viability of potential partnerships. This means that when considering entering into partnerships, especially those with significant operational implications, the local teams have the freedom to reach out to SIOP Africa for their expert opinion and insights or to use the document to ensure that this is a mutually beneficial project.

All potential partnerships will require completion of this document which will then be assessed by the SIOP Africa board. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month and board documents are sent out the preceding Friday, so please be sure to send your completed documents by 16h00 central African time (CAT) the Thursday before the first Wednesday of the month.

SIOP Africa appreciates that collaboration is essential if we are to improve survival of childhood cancer and alleviate suffering for children and adolescent with cancer in Africa. Please feel free to engage with us should you have any points of discussion or any queries.

We recommend that team members from both the local setting and the potential partners complete this document together.

These are the principles that should guide such projects to ensure that global partnerships are based on ethical principles, are equitable and mutually beneficial.

1. **Prioritisation of local needs:** Ensure that the agenda for paediatric oncology in Africa is driven by the specific needs and challenges faced by local communities. Tailor research, treatment protocols, and healthcare strategies to address prevalent cancers and healthcare disparities within the region.
2. **Cultivation of local expertise:** promote training and professional development of African paediatric haematology/oncology professionals, researchers and healthcare workers to build local capacity and reduce dependency on foreign expertise.
3. **Equitable Partnerships:** collaborate with non-African counterparts and institutions on the basis of mutual respect and equality. Ensure that partnerships are built on shared objectives, with an emphasis on the benefit to African patients and the local healthcare system.
4. **Respect for cultural sensitivities and development of cultural competence:** recognise and respect cultural norms, traditions and beliefs that may influence healthcare decisions in African communities.
5. **Advocacy for affordable access:** work to negotiate fair pricing for cancer drugs and treatment technologies, ensuring affordability for patients and healthcare systems in Africa. Advocate for the development of locally produced, cost-effective alternatives.
6. **Participatory Research:** engage local communities in the research process, ensuring that studies are culturally sensitive, ethical and address local priorities. Encourage African researchers to lead studies that are relevant to their region.

7. **Transparency and accountability:** maintain transparency in financial transactions and resource allocation. Establish mechanisms for accountability to ensure that funds and resources are used effectively and efficiently.
8. **Advocacy for Policy Change:** advocate for policy changes at the national and international levels to support paediatric oncology in Africa. This includes policies related to healthcare funding, drug pricing, and intellectual property rights.
9. **Networking and knowledge Sharing:** foster networks and collaborations with other African countries and regions to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices. This can help create a unified voice in advocating for paediatric oncology initiatives.
10. **Long-term sustainability:** develop strategies and plans that prioritise the long-term sustainability of paediatric oncology programmes in Africa. This includes building infrastructure, training local healthcare providers, and securing funding beyond short-term projects.
11. **Community Involvement:** involve patients, survivors, families, and local communities in decision-making processes. Ensure that their voices are heard, and their needs are considered.

Consideration of this principles can help maintain a strong focus on local priorities while benefitting from international collaborations in ways that empower the local agenda for paediatric cancer care in Africa.

1	A formal request should be sent to SIOP Africa President, copied to the Secretary-General
2	Please describe how the project goals are aligned with the strategic goals of SIOP Africa.
3	Please describe the plan for exchange of skills and knowledge between the potential partners
4	Please describe the various roles that team members will play. Please delineate clearly issues of participation and local ownership.
5	Please describe the sustainability plan for the project.
6	Please describe clearly what measures will be put in place to ensure that the project does not put an unmanageable burden on the local team members and host institutions. Please address time and resources specifically.
7	Please list which countries will be included in the project. It is recommended that teams from Francophone, Lusophone and Anglophone countries be included.
8	Please describe any presentations, posters, reports or publications that are planned from the project. Authorship should be representative of the region involved and should include African authors as first and or last author, with fair representation of team members.
9	Please describe clearly what measures will be put in place to ensure that the project comply with the local cultural sensitivity, local laws and ethical considerations.