

Call for proposals

Else Kröner Fresenius Award for Development Cooperation in Medicine 2026

People with disabilities

This award acknowledges outstanding projects and the individuals responsible for these at organizations working to improve healthcare in countries with limited resources. Endowed with €250,000, this year's award will honor projects in the field of "people with disabilities."

People with disabilities have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments that, in interaction with other barriers, may hinder their full, effective, and equal participation in society.¹ People with disabilities face a wide range of challenges. These are often physical in nature, but also social and work-related. Many must battle stigma and prejudice, which all too often ultimately lead to a life of isolation.

The nominated project should be cost-effective and integrated into the existing healthcare structures so that it can be incorporated into the national healthcare system. It should serve as a model of how people with disabilities could be included in the national healthcare system, whether through health education and awareness-raising or by providing preventive and curative care services. Special consideration will be given to concepts that can be implemented across borders, such as harmonized inclusion guidelines or community-based rehabilitation programs.

Applications are welcome from successful, collaborative projects in politically stable countries listed by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). In addition to acknowledging the project's quality and innovative character, the award also celebrates the exceptional achievements and personal commitment of the individual responsible for the project. The nominated project should be implemented by local partners or in close cooperation with them and serve as a model for work in this field.

Please note the application guidelines. **The deadline for submitting nominations is March 15, 2026.**

The award ceremony will take place in Berlin on October 1, 2026.



Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung is a non-profit foundation dedicated to the funding and advancement of medical research and the support of medical-humanitarian projects. With an annual funding volume amounting to roughly 60 million euros it is currently the largest foundation in Germany that actively funds and supports medicine.

www.ekfs.de



Contact

Dr. Judith von Heusinger
Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation
Rathausplatz 3-7 | 61348 Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe | Germany
j.heusinger@ekfs.de | +49 6172 89 75 17

¹ See Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.