

FROM CRISIS TO RESILIENCE

GOAL HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION FUND

Innovating to Overcome Humanitarian Crisis

WHAT IS THE GOAL HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION FUND

Since 1977 GOAL has responded to most of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian crises. GOAL's response has always been centred on working with communities and local actors to meet immediate needs, committing to working towards longer-term solutions for populations facing poverty, exclusion, and crisis.

Through this work GOAL has developed important innovative solutions for reducing the impact of humanitarian crisis including for effective response to infectious disease outbreak, reducing malnutrition and food insecurity, measuring, and building resilience, among others. As most marginalised populations in the world face increasing threats from global trends in climate change, depletion, and exploitation of natural resources, forced displacement, conflict, rapid unplanned urbanisation, and infectious disease outbreak, now more than ever there is a need to innovate new solutions to enable not just the survival but the thriving of populations at risk from humanitarian crises.

The GOAL Humanitarian Innovation Fund has been established by GOAL to foster innovations which can be brought to scale to reduce and ultimately overcome humanitarian crisis.

HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION FUND PARTNERS

The GOAL Humanitarian Innovation Fund is designed as a dynamic collaborative process through which strategic partners can engage and provide support to foster innovations which have the potential to enable marginalised populations to overcome humanitarian crisis.

The Innovation Fund is a vehicle for strategic partners who are passionate about innovation and how innovation can be applied to overcome humanitarian crisis it seeks to maximise the potential of innovation to transform Crisis to Resilience. Partners from across the full spectrum of society are invited to engage including private sector business, philanthropists, trusts and foundations, civil society organisations, academic institutions, and government organisations. Strategic Partners to the Innovation Fund can engage in a number of ways:

- Contribute funding to the Innovation Fund
- Provide technical support, guidance, mentorship to innovators
- Support prioritised Innovations Themes agreement together with the GOAL Programme Innovation Lab including sitting on the selection committee for innovation fund applications
- Engage directly in the development of innovations

The Innovation Fund will be managed by the GOAL Programme Innovation Lab under the direction of a multi stakeholder steering committee established within GOAL and Strategic Partners.

GOAL will collaborate with reputable academic and research institutions throughout the development of programme innovations particularly during the validation stage.

It is important that GOAL innovations have potential to achieve change at scale for the communities we support.



SELECTED INNOVATIONS FOR 2024

COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH EMERGENCY EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE SYSTEM

GOAL UGANDA

Enhancing health crisis response in Mirriah district with a digital platform and community engagement.



ENERGY TRANSITION IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SCALE FISHERIES IN COLOMBIA

GOAL COLOMBIA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COLGAS AND FUNDACIÓN CAPITAL

Introducing sustainable energy solutions to reduce CO2 emissions and costs in Colombian fisheries, scaling a successful pilot.



TOKEN TAP DIGITAL REMOTE MONITORING TOOL FOR WATER SYSTEMS

GOAL UGANDA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRACTICA FOUNDATION

Improving rural water system sustainability with a digital tracker for the TokenTap prepayment mechanism.



TACKLING VACCINE AND MEDICAL SUPPLY CHALLENGES: DRONE DELIVERY PROGRAM FOR IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN SOUTH SUDAN

GOAL SOUTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YO' CARE SOUTH SUDAN

Piloting medical drones for efficient vaccine and supply delivery to remote areas in South Sudan.



PREVIOUS INNOVATION FUND AWARDEES



LUCKY IRON FISH

GOAL UGANDA

Addressing anemia in Uganda with a low-cost product and a sustainable delivery model

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PROMOTING CLIMATE RESILIENT URBAN SANITATION THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

GOAL SIERRA LEONE

Converting waste to cooking gas to improve urban sanitation and reduce environmental impact by developing local biogas bags and business models for marginalized communities.

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TOKEN TAP FOR HANDPUMPS

GOAL UGANDA

Coin-operated handpump system to ensure financially sustainable water access and maintenance without subsidies.

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ZIM MEN CONNECT

GOAL ZIMBABWE

Improving rural water system sustainability with a digital tracker for the TokenTap prepayment mechanism.

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HARNESSING NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR BETTER AND MORE INFORMED LAND AND RISKS GOVERNANCE

GOAL HAITI

Using risk mapping, satellite imagery, and drones for better land management and emergency response in Haiti.

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WHAT INNOVATIONS WILL BE SUPPORTED

GOAL defines innovation as a new perspective or process that leads to solutions that respond to an important challenge. For GOAL that important programme challenge is a world beyond humanitarian crisis. An innovation must have characteristics or intended uses that are new, or which provide a significant improvement over what was previously used by the organisation.

For an innovation to be supported it must be more than just a good idea, it is something that has the potential to influence change at scale and can be replicated by others facing similar or related challenges.

Innovations will be considered across 3 stages of development.

IDEATION – Initial concept visioning which directly responds to the challenge of overcoming humanitarian crisis, and which has potential to scale. The ideation stage will include documenting the innovation into a useable format such as a guidance manual, a tool or an application etc., to ensure that the idea is fully described.

VALIDATION – Humanitarian Innovations must be rigorously validated to ensure they achieve their intended purpose. This will often initially be by piloting the innovation and testing its functionality. An innovation may also be recognizing something unique or different about a current programme approach. In either case, the Innovation Fund will work to capture evidence that an innovation is effective. This process will be carried out together with the GOAL MEAL (Monitoring Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) team and Research Oversight Committee as appropriate.

SCALING –The Innovation Fund will provide strategic support to enable innovations to reach scale and also support wider dissemination through international events, preparation of communication materials, advocating for the adoption of innovations with stakeholders etc.

PRIORITY INNOVATION THEMES

GOAL has identified three priority themes under the Innovation Fund including:

- **Health:**The Innovation Fund will support innovations that increase capacities to respond to health crisis including outbreak of infectious disease and maternal and newborn health particularly in fragile and conflict affected contexts. This also includes innovations relating to improved WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) and nutrition.
- **Resilience:** Applying a resilience lens to humanitarian response is key to supporting affected populations move beyond crisis. The Innovation Fund will prioritize innovations that can help progress the ambition of Crisis to Resilience. Especial priority will be given to innovations contributing to RIO Markers about Climate change mitigation (i.e. reductions in or absorption of greenhouse gas emissions) and/or Climate change adaptation (including climate risk mitigation and vulnerability reduction).
- **Digital technology solutions:**The Innovation Fund will support innovative digital technologies that can reduce suffering and loss from humanitarian crises (e.g., Early Warning Response Systems (EWRS), public health surveillance).

These solutions should enhance preparedness, anticipatory action, emergency response, and capacities to address health crises, particularly in fragile contexts. They should also improve food and nutrition security, strengthen the resilience and quality of health, nutrition, and WASH services, and enable sustainable, climate-resilient food production.



EXAMPLES OF WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED:

- Theoretical research, or purely lab-based activities that are not linked to implementation of a specific proposed real-world pilot or demonstration project.
- Innovations that involve supporting a political candidate or party.
- Innovations where the primary purpose is to support the broader innovation ecosystem, such as incubators, accelerators, or other innovation funds.
- Innovations involving any product or activity deemed illegal under applicable laws or regulations or subject to internationally agreed phase-outs or bans as defined in global conventions and agreements.
- Any activity endangering wildlife or present a risk to the environment.
- Innovations that involve production or use of luxury goods, soliciting prostitution or engaging in human trafficking, terrorist activity, or use of prohibited drugs, gambling, and pornography.



The innovation fund will follow a staged funding approach. This means, making a smaller allocation to unproven innovations at the ideation and pilot stage and allocating larger amounts for innovations demonstrating strong evidence of success through rigorous impact evaluations. The aim of the Innovation Fund is to support innovations to transition through the stages of ideation and piloting to validation and scaling as shown in Table 1 below. This means that each application should identify which stage or stages of development the innovation is at. Table 1. Selection Criteria

Table 1. Selection criteria for each stage of development of an innovation.

CRITERIA / STAGES	Ideation & Pilot Up to 30,000 Euro	Validation From 20,000 up to 75,000 Euro	Scaling From 50,000 up to 120,000 Euro
STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	At this point innovations are at an early stage of development, however, there must have a credible plan for how it can be developed and tested in a real-world setting.	In this stage the innovation has already shown promise of success at a small scale, and there is some information on the operational, social, and financial viability which needs to be solidified before it scales.	At the scaling stage, the innovation should have a clear evidence base and a credible plan for scaling to reach a large number of people which is logistically, politically, and financially feasible.
EVIDENCE	Provide any relevant evidence or research findings that demonstrate why the innovation is needed, such as evidence of demand or interest in the innovation. We do not expect that strong evidence already exists to prove the value of the innovation, but we do need a clear rationale for why the innovation could have a greater impact or be more cost-effective than existing approaches.	Provide a clear rationale for why the innovation could have a greater impact on a scale than other approaches. For innovations with a commercial pathway to scale, this will include measures of customer demand and willingness to pay. For public sector or hybrid pathways to scale provide prior evidence from pilot level implementation.	The innovation already has evidence of impact, cost-effectiveness, and implementation feasibility or market viability in at least one context. Or provide evidence that the innovation is being taken up by stakeholders in one specific context.
POTENTIAL TO SCALE	The innovation has the potential to be politically and logistically feasible at scale or has the potential to scale commercially as evidenced by future users' willingness to pay.	The innovation has the potential to be politically and logistically feasible at scale, with demonstrable interest from the public or private sector scaling partners.	There are credible plans to advance the innovation towards scale including how it can be sustainably financed. This includes a vision of how the innovation can achieve further scale with a view to reaching a large number of people in the long term if successful.
USE OF FUNDS	Activities at the ideation and pilot stage are likely to include testing core assumptions around operational, social, and financial viability. This could include initial research and development, introducing innovation to target users, assessing user demand and willingness to pay, and documenting social outcomes and costs of documenting and disseminating the innovation. E.g., Evidence Documentation, pilot models, implementation toolkits, guidance manuals, tools, databases, among others.	Activities at the validation stage are likely to include support for continued growth or for generating rigorous evidence on whether the innovation can achieve social impact and demonstrate the effectiveness of the innovation in at least one context. E.g., Impact evaluations, cost effectiveness studies, learning papers, in house research papers.	Activities at the scale stage are likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with partners who will help scale the innovation beyond our support (e.g., investors, country governments, etc). • Investment may also be used for adapting and expanding innovations to different contexts. • Assessing ways to drive cost-effectiveness while scaling. E.g., External evaluations, external implementation proof, external implementation research papers.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The following graphic sets out the process for application, award, and implementation for the Innovation Fund. There will be at least one round of funding per year. Successful applications will be decided upon by a selection committee made up of the GOAL Programme Innovation Lab and Strategic Partners.

The role and profile of the selection committee members will be clearly defined and agreed upon by the GOAL Programme Innovation Lab in consultation with Strategic Partners.



GOAL

To make an application to GOAL's Humanitarian Innovation Fund, please visit

www.goalglobal.org/innovation