

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.



RECENTLY SUPPORTED INNOVATIONS

Harnessing new technologies for better and more informed land and risks governance. (GOAL Haiti)

It facilitates the integration of risk mapping and satellite imagery into rapid response management. The innovation aims to utilise the technology brought by drones at the communal and departmental level, to inform key systems (Early warning and response systems, land management, infrastructure, etc.)



TokenTap for Hand Pumps (GOAL Uganda & Practica Foundation)

It is a coin-operated prepayment mechanism to access water. It is a low-cost and low-tech innovation for handpumps and doesn't require power or a phone network.

This innovation promises a financially sustainable central service model that will enable preventative maintenance and rapid repairs based on guaranteed revenue collection.



Zim Men Connect (GOAL Zimbabwe)

Informative and interactive smartphone application for boys and men to access to information on Gender Based Violence (GBV), including referral pathways.

This innovation will improve access to information and services, as well as reduce the number of cases that go unreported due to the stigma faced by male survivors of GBV.



Promoting Climate Resilient Urban Sanitation - Homebiogas (GOAL Sierra Leone)

It is a technology whereby organic matter, including human waste, can be fed into the bag technology to produce methane gas that can be used for cooking or respond to agricultural needs. The innovation is to test this technology in hard-to-reach areas to produce cooking gas and develop its business model.

This innovation has the potential to reduce poverty, deforestation, and greenhouse gas emissions from uncontrolled decomposition of waste, thus contributing to climate-resilient urban communities.



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).



- **Technology:** The Innovation Fund will embrace new technologies that have the potential to sustainably reduce suffering and loss resulting from humanitarian crisis. GOAL recognizes that new technologies in digital and information management, healthcare, farming etc have transformed the lives of a large portion of the world's population over the past 100 years and the rate of change is accelerating. The introduction of new technologies could create new potential risks for our increasingly global society. However, GOAL also recognizes the very positive progress achieved through technology and the potential it offers to reduce the impact of humanitarian crisis. To progress this, GOAL will increase its support to innovation related to new technologies and develop new strategic partnerships with technology companies, academic and research institutions and other relevant partners who have shared values with GOAL on the application of technology to overcome humanitarian crisis.



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.

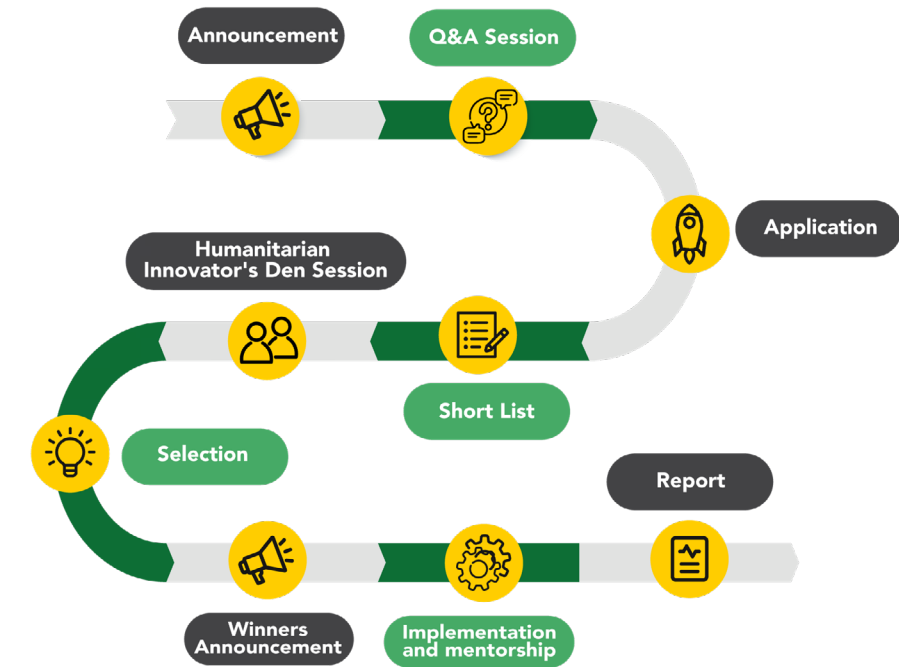
Table 1. Selection Criteria

CRITERIA / STAGES	IDEATION & PILOT UP TO 20,000 EURO	VALIDATION FROM 20,000 UP TO 35,000 EURO	SCALING FROM 35,000 UP TO 50,000 EURO
STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	Innovations at an early stage with a credible plan for development and testing in a real-world setting.	Innovations that have shown promise at a small scale and require further evidence of operational, social, and financial viability.	Innovations with a clear evidence base, ready for scaling to reach a larger number of people, and with sustainable financing plans.
EVIDENCE	Provide relevant evidence or research findings that demonstrate the need for the innovation and its potential impact.	Present a clear rationale for the innovation's greater impact compared to existing approaches, supported by evidence from pilot-level implementation or customer demand.	Showcase evidence of the innovation's impact, cost-effectiveness, and implementation feasibility or market viability in at least one context.
POTENTIAL TO SCALE	Demonstrate the potential for political and logistical feasibility at scale or commercial scalability based on future users' willingness to pay.	Show potential for political and logistical feasibility at scale, with demonstrable interest from public or private sector scaling partners.	Provide credible plans for advancing the innovation towards scale, including sustainable financing options and a vision for reaching a large number of people in the long term.
USE OF FUNDS	Activities include testing core assumptions, research and development, introducing the innovation to target users, assessing user demand, and documenting social outcomes.	Activities focus on continued growth, generating rigorous evidence of social impact, and demonstrating effectiveness in at least one context.	Activities involve working with partners for scaling, adapting and expanding the innovation to different contexts, and assessing cost-effectiveness during scale-up.

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.



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

www.goalglobal.org/innovationfund