CREATING HOPE IN CONFLICT: A HUMANITARIAN GRAND CHALLENGE

INVITATION FOR INNOVATION IDEAS FOR TRANSITION TO SCALE FUNDING

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ABOUT US

Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge (CHIC) is a partnership of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the Government of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Global Affairs Canada, with support from Grand Challenges Canada.

HGC's aim is to identify, fund and accelerate ground-breaking solutions that are local[1] or engage the local communities and draw from the experiences of affected communities to significantly improve and save, the lives of vulnerable people affected by conflict.

To date, CHIC has distributed CAD $29 million that has funded 73 innovations, including 56 seed and 17 TTS innovations, in over 20 conflict-affected countries. This funding was leveraged by the innovators to mobilize an additional CAD $44.4M funding that increased their reach and impact.

In the past five years, HGC-supported innovators have reached to over 3 million people and directly improved the lives of close to 300,000 people in conflict-affected communities. To review innovations that have been funded by HGC in previous years, please visit humanitariangrandchallenge.org/innovations

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:

CHIC is looking for innovation ideas for its Transition to Scale (TTS) program with funding ranging from $300,000 CAD up to $1.5 million CAD for 12 – 24 months. We focus on supporting people who have been affected by conflict with particular focus on the hardest to reach.

We are interested in innovations suitable for both camp and/or non-camp settings. We encourage innovations that focus on the needs of women and girls, and people who are socially marginalized because of their gender, sexuality, religion, age or income, as well as people with disabilities, minorities and people who are stateless. We support innovations that strengthen local institutions, civil society organizations, and service suppliers. Preference would be given to innovations that are locally owned or locally led[2] with majority of the management and governance comprising of people from the affected communities.

Our order of preference in terms of relevant populations are:
1. Non-displaced people (i.e. people in conflict zones)
2. Internally displaced persons
3. Refugees

WHO CAN SHARE THEIR IDEA?

To be eligible for the Transition-to-Scale funding, you must:
- Be an innovator from a conflict affected country or serving people affected by conflict, internally displaced persons, or refugee populations.
- Have a bold idea with big impact potential that aligns with one or more of the focus areas of the Humanitarian Grand Challenge listed above.
- Have achieved proof of concept with sufficient evidence of the effectiveness and feasibility of your innovation.
- Have a plan for scaling up and sustaining the innovation.
- Have considered the ethical, social, environmental, and gender equality implications of your innovation.

Preference will be given to innovations that are locally owned or locally led with majority of the management and governance comprising of people from the affected communities.

AREAS OF FOCUS FOR OUR FUNDING:
The following describes the types of barriers we seek to address and the types of solutions we are interested in:

Access to Energy
Innovations that enable more equitable and affordable access to climate-smart solutions and/or renewable energy products or services for the most vulnerable populations affected by conflict.
- Public sector energy is inaccessible and private sector renewable energy solutions can be unaffordable for the most vulnerable people in conflict-affected settings.
- Without sustainable business models, new energy systems lack adequate maintenance and fall into disrepair. This creates ineffective service provision.
- New solutions are needed that focus on aspects such as equitable service delivery, sustainable revenue models, and/or improved subsidy models to better meet energy needs of the most vulnerable populations.

Health supplies and services
- Innovations that address barriers related to inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and healthcare workers' skills and limitations of existing disease surveillance and response. Health care facilities are under-resourced, vulnerable to attack, lack adequate equipment maintenance and have limited access to health care management technology. Assistive technologies that support people with disabilities are not available.
- Healthcare workers – both formal and informal - may require capacity strengthening support to address new and different diseases and injuries that occur in humanitarian settings.
- New solutions are needed to address limitations in the surveillance of and response to communicable and non-communicable diseases (including mental health issues) in conflict-affected settings.
- We are particularly interested in health-related solutions that consider the intersections of climate change and health (e.g., use of renewable energy, reduction/safe disposal of medical waste).
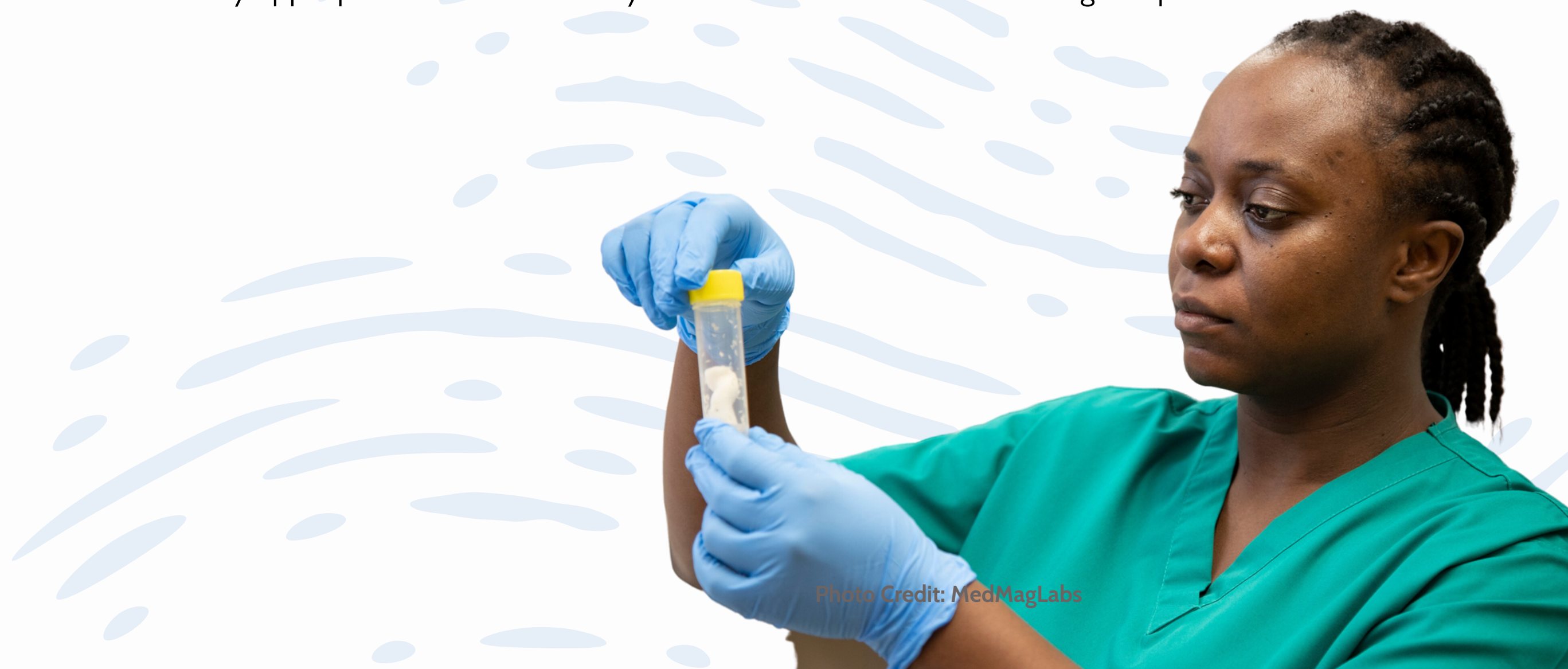
Life-saving information
Innovations that improve reliability and safety of critical or lifesaving information and/or improve two-way communication:
- Access to reliable and safely transmitted critical or "lifesaving" information is a prevalent challenge in conflict-affected settings.
- Appropriate two-way communication between affected communities and humanitarian responders is often difficult to achieve, which can lead to mistrust and frustration with the overall response.
- Solutions are needed to enable more timely/reliable access to critical information, while ensuring adequate data security and privacy measures are in place to protect the most vulnerable.
- Solutions that better integrate the voices, opinions and feedback of affected communities into all stages of humanitarian response efforts.
- While we are interested in solutions that incorporate the use of artificial intelligence and/or machine learning, we are particularly interested in solutions that demonstrate sufficient consideration and application of do no harm principles into the use of such technologies.[3]

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Innovations that target a complete lack of basic services and/or target maintenance and service issues for lack of access to safe water and poor systems of waste disposal, especially human waste, including innovations that provide solutions to fecal sludge management, water scarcity, water system maintenance, Cholera response, and water quality testing.
- Innovations that are at the intersection of WASH and GBV (gender-based violence) and provide services that are inclusive, and are sensitive to gender issues for women, and address barriers for people with disabilities and improve provision of culturally appropriate and contextually relevant WASH services will be given preference.

Photo Credit: MedMagLabs

SHARE YOUR IDEA

Applications for HGC's Transition-to-Scale Funding are by invitation only and are reviewed on a rolling basis.

If you have a great innovation idea to share, please fill out the short form located at http://gcc.fluxx.io. To be considered, applicants MUST submit their idea using the form provided. Existing users should login to their account and new users must register for an account by clicking Create an account.

Note: If you have applied for funding in the past, you already have an account. Please do not submit a new request if you already have an account. If you do not remember your password, you can reset it and gain immediate access to the Portal. Simply click on Reset or create password.

We will review the forms on a rolling basis and will reach out only to select innovations to engage in the full application process. There is no deadline; however, we encourage innovators to share their ideas as soon as they can as resources are finite.

Please visit https://humanitariangrandchallenge.org/tts-faq/ to find answers to frequently asked questions regarding submission of innovation idea and/or the full application process that follows. If you have any inquiries that are not addressed in the FAQ or require assistance with submitting your ideas, please contact hgc.tts@grandchallenges.ca

Endnotes

[1] Local means an innovation that is designed and implemented by people who are from the community or closest to the communities where the innovation in being implemented. GCC quantifies it as, majority of the governance and leadership of an innovation to be from or have lived experience in the community.

[2] A locally owned innovation is defined as an innovator team whose leadership and governance teams are comprised of a majority of individuals who self-identify as being part of the conflict-affected community they are reaching and who are based in or around the conflict-affected region. A locally led innovation is defined as an innovator team where at least one person in senior management position identifies as being from the conflict-affected community they are seeking to reach. This may also include individuals that are part of the diaspora.

[3] Harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence for humanitarian action: Opportunities and risks
https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/harnessing-the-potential-of-artificial-intelligence-for-humanitarian-action-919