



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES

## Turning Bright Ideas into Global Solutions

[Development Innovation Ventures](#) (DIV) is USAID’s open innovation fund that invests in breakthrough solutions to some of the world’s toughest development challenges. DIV provides flexible grant funding to test new ideas, build evidence of what works, and scale solutions that could impact millions of lives at a fraction of the usual cost.

Built on the idea that game-changing ideas can come from anyone, anywhere, DIV accepts applications year-round from social entrepreneurs, nonprofits, private sector companies, government partners, and researchers, working across every sector and country in which USAID operates.

DIV uses a tiered, evidence-driven funding model to allow for risk-taking at early stages while mitigating risk at later stages, maximizing impact per dollar spent.

## Core Principles

DIV assesses applicants according to its three core principles:



### RIGOROUS EVIDENCE

We value rigorous evaluation of social impacts to assess what is working—and what isn’t.



### COST EFFECTIVENESS

We invest in solutions that can deliver more impact per dollar than other interventions.



### PATHWAY TO SCALE

We support solutions that can scale sustainably through the private or public sector.

## DIV BY THE NUMBERS

.....  
**\$197 MILLION** invested in innovative solutions

.....  
**277 GRANTS** awarded

.....  
**49 COUNTRIES**

.....  
**50% of INNOVATORS** are new partners for USAID

.....  
**99 MILLION+** lives improved by DIV innovations\*





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**17:1 SOCIAL RATE OF RETURN** per dollar of DIV’s funding\*

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\* Analysis of DIV’s early portfolio from: Kremer, Michael, et al. “Is Development Economics a Good Investment? Evidence on scaling rate and social returns from USAID’s innovation fund” (University of Chicago, 2021).

PHOTO: An Angaza pay-as-you-go solar customer shows off her affordable solar-powered lamp. Angaza used a Stage I DIV Award to test sales and scalability of a solar lamp design. © Angaza Design, Inc.

# Staged Funding

DIV provides small amounts of funding to help advance a variety of relatively unproven ideas and greater amounts to help scale proven solutions.

<b>STAGE 1</b>		<b>Pilot:</b> Up to \$200,000 to pilot innovations that are early in development and need real-world testing to understand user demand, social outcomes, and feasibility.
<b>STAGE 2</b>		<b>Test and Position for Scale:</b> Up to \$1.5 million to support impact evaluations, further market testing, or operational expansion of innovations that have already conducted successful pilot testing.
<b>STAGE 3</b>		<b>Transition to Scale:</b> Up to \$15 million to transition proven approaches to scale.
<b>Evidence Generation</b>		Up to \$1.5 million to evaluate widely-used approaches that lack sufficient evidence of causal impact and cost-effectiveness.

## Partner with Us

In partnership with USAID Missions and Bureaus, DIV:

- Amplifies strategic priorities and fills funding gaps for critical development challenges
- Supports the use of open innovation and evidence in Agency programming
- De-risks innovations for uptake into Agency activities and programs
- Expands support to new and local partners

**DIV HAS SUPPORTED INNOVATION IN 49 COUNTRIES SINCE 2010**



Learn more about DIV and apply: [usaid.gov/div](https://www.usaid.gov/div) | [divportal.usaid.gov/](https://divportal.usaid.gov/) | [div@usaid.gov](mailto:div@usaid.gov)