

DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES



PHOTO: OFF-GRID ELECTRIC

USAID's open innovation program to test and scale **breakthrough solutions** to any global development challenge. DIV empowers anyone, anywhere to propose an idea at any time.

HOW DO WE DEFINE INNOVATION?

Innovation is a **creative solution** to any global development problem. Innovation can be a product, technology, service, or application of a business or delivery model. To date, DIV has supported:

- A system that converts human waste into drinkable water and energy
- Mobile apps for alternative credit scoring and access to loans
- Access to affordable glasses and vision care
- An education model that teaches to skill level, not age or grade
- Trained rats that detect tuberculosis
- A portable refrigerator that requires no energy
- A drone to transport temperature-sensitive medical samples
- Innovative financing models tied to outcomes (including a development impact bond)

WHAT WE LOOK FOR



RIGOROUS EVIDENCE

We value rigorous evaluation methods to assess what is working and what is not.



COST-EFFECTIVENESS

We invest in solutions that deliver maximum impact with every dollar.



PATHWAY TO SCALE

We support solutions for long-term expansion and sustainability, via the private and/or public sectors.

HOW TO APPLY

Anyone can apply at any time. Visit www.USAID.gov/DIV to submit an online application. If successful, you will proceed with a more thorough evaluation process. We review applications on a rolling basis.

FUNDING STAGES

We use a tiered funding model to test new ideas and scale up proven innovations.

STAGE 1

PROOF OF CONCEPT

(up to \$200,000)

Stage 1 grants test a solution's feasibility in a developing country context. Stage 1 innovations are early in their implementation and need testing to understand user interest, impact, and feasibility.

STAGE 2

TESTING AND POSITIONING FOR SCALE

(\$200,000 to \$1,500,000)

Stage 2 grants test and strengthen a solution's business or delivery model. Stage 2 innovations should demonstrate rigorous evidence of causal positive impact, or use the funding to build such evidence — from a randomized controlled trial, for example.

STAGE 3

SCALING

(\$1,500,000 to \$5,000,000)

Stage 3 grants support partnerships to scale the innovation to a new context or to demonstrate potential for replication. The funds must leverage additional external funding or partnerships.

In addition to tiered funding, DIV offers separate [evidence grants](#), providing up to \$1,500,000 for research and evaluations that generate rigorous evidence of a solution's impact, cost-effectiveness, and potential for expansion.

OUR IMPACT

DIV-supported innovations have directly impacted more than **30 million lives.**



Each **\$1** from DIV has helped mobilize **\$4.60** in external funding.



Since 2010, DIV has invested **~\$106 million** in **190+ innovations** across **46 countries**

KEY TERM

Lab Leverage: is a program performance indicator for the U.S. Global Development Lab that captures commitments of funding and in-kind resources from a range of external non-USAID partners investing in shared development goals when working jointly with the Lab on a partnership, program or activity. The Lab's leverage performance indicator includes: all cost-share contributions (from both public and private sector partners); all other contributions (from the private sector; the public sector; and other U.S. government agencies); and gifts (from foreign governments, private organizations, and individuals).