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).