

Testing, accelerating and **scaling** innovations to reduce poverty and inequality



The **Fund for Innovation and Development (FID)** supports innovations that will transform efforts to reduce poverty and inequality.

Through flexible grant funding, the FID enables innovators and researchers to test new ideas, experiment and build rigorous evidence of what works, and scale the most cost-effective and highest-impact solutions. The Fund takes a broad view of “innovation”, considering any solution that tackles poverty and inequality with strong potential to achieve development impact at scale in a less costly, faster, or otherwise more feasible way than existing approaches.

"There are many promising ideas for policies and programs that might alleviate poverty, but only by testing these rigorously can we identify those that actually work. Building evidence on how these ideas perform at a variety of levels of scale and across different contexts can help us learn from experience and develop durable solutions that are ready for widespread adoption. Innovation can be transformative, but it is a process that requires multiple steps and a flexible funding structure to reflect this and meet its potential."

ESTHER DUFLO

Development economist, Nobel laureate 2019



Mission

Meeting the challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require the timely deployment of a range of new solutions at different scales. Innovation will be the primary catalyst for ensuring that we make faster progress towards a fairer and more inclusive world. Across the world, new policies, programs and approaches are changing the ways in which governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations operate, with the aim of producing improvements in the welfare of the most vulnerable and doing so at scale. FID will act as a partner to innovators and researchers to promote solutions that are tailored to the needs of communities at a local scale but have the power to unlock improvements in the basic services to populations around the world.

Open and flexible, FID sees innovation as any solution:

- that tackles poverty and inequality
- with strong potential to achieve development impact at scale
- in less costly, faster, or otherwise more feasible ways than existing approaches



Drawing on the rigor of scientific evaluation and experimentation, FID will test and accelerate the deployment of innovative solutions with the potential to transform our approach to today's most pressing challenges.

Objectives



1

Encourage and facilitate

innovation, wherever it might come from



2

Support the scaling

and widespread deployment of the best solutions



3

Rigorously evaluate

new ideas through collaboration with the research community

What kinds of innovation are eligible for funding?

The Fund's view of innovation encompasses a wide range of solutions intended to improve the lives of the poor. This includes new approaches to improve delivery of essential goods and services, process or managerial innovations, improvements in public services that facilitate access and improve outcomes, as well as new technologies or new applications of existing technologies.

New "low-tech" approaches designed to be useful, sustainable and accessible and which can have a significant impact on the lives of the poorest will also be eligible. Whatever its dimensions, FID seeks to support **any innovation that more effectively or efficiently addresses poverty and inequality** around the world, with a specific focus on innovations targeting particularly acute problems of **marginalized populations**.

What? Where? Who?



Which sectors does FID fund?

FID will accept applications for innovations in any sector, but specifically encourages applications for innovations in **education, health, climate change, and gender equality**.



Who can apply to receive FID funding?

FID will accept applications from nearly any type of applicant (independently or in partnership with others), including: **research institutes, governments, NGOs, for-profit companies, working on initiatives in all low- and middle-income countries**. FID specifically encourages applications from consortia of multiple organizations.

Selection Criteria



Rigorous evidence of impact in improving the lives of people living in poverty (or a clear strategy for generating it)



Cost-effectiveness of the innovation



Potential for **scale, widespread adoption, and sustainability**

FID's funding for innovation

Stage 0 | Prepare

UP TO €50K

These grants support small projects in the development of proposals for Stage 1, 2 or 3 grants for promising applicants who otherwise would have less opportunity to obtain funding from a competitive fund.

Stage 1 | Pilot

UP TO €200K

These grants support the piloting of innovations that are post-prototype and are ready to be piloted in the real world to refine the basic model and establish the viability of the innovation at small scale.

Stage 2 | Test and Position for Scale

UP TO €1.5M

These grants support further testing and continued growth of innovations to assess the likelihood that they can achieve both impact and viability at a larger scale.

Stage 3 | Transition to Scale

UP TO €4M

These grants support the transition of rigorously validated solutions to widespread scaling, such as bringing a tested innovation to national scale or to new contexts, with the goal of eventually achieving widespread adoption in one or more countries.

Transforming Public Policy

UP TO €500K

These grants support the accelerated adoption of specific innovations that are intended to be highly catalytic for public policy transformations, or creation of a pipeline within public administrations to test and scale such innovations.

Capturing performance at multiple levels



At the Fund portfolio level

Social benefits of investments, estimated aggregate impact of all projects.

At the project level

What the grants recipients achieved, the impact achieved through the intervention.

At the ecosystem level

Ability to influence the international development landscape, demonstrating the value of funding evidence-based, public policy-oriented innovation.

Join us

We look forward to receiving your project proposals! FID will launch calls for proposals throughout the year to identify and select the most innovative and impactful solutions.

Write us →

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