

Humanitarian Innovation Programme - Call for proposals 2022

Innovation Norway is through the Humanitarian Innovation Programme (HIP Norway) looking for bold innovation projects, aiming to improve humanitarian action, that save lives, alleviate suffering, and sustain people's dignity. The 2022 call for proposals is now open. We welcome humanitarian UN agencies and Norwegian humanitarian organisations (NGOs) to apply.

We support innovation projects lead by humanitarian organisations where the expertise and technical know-how from the private sector have a role in solving humanitarian challenges. HIP Norway supports both early-stage innovation (Innovation Lab) and scaling of solutions that have proven to be successful at the pilot stage (Scaling grant scheme). Please see the requirements for both grant schemes at the bottom of the page.

HIP Norway is a grant and support mechanism, fully financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and administered by Innovation Norway.

Objectives and target group for the programme

The aim of HIP Norway is:

- Life has been saved, distress has been alleviated and human dignity has been safeguarded in humanitarian crises.
- People in need have received the necessary protection and assistance in line with humanitarian principles.
- In order to contribute to achieving the overall goal, HIP Norway will develop and scale innovative solutions that will contribute to smarter, better, more sustainable and cost-effective emergency aid.

The target group (s) for the projects supported through the programme are people affected by humanitarian crises.

Overall, HIP Norway is evaluated based on number of innovation partnership established, number of new solutions developed, successful pilots in humanitarian contexts, new innovative solutions being used that has a direct impact on end users, number of solutions that has contributed to smarter, better, more sustainable and/or more cost efficient response, and number of innovations that has been scaled up in a humanitarian context.

Who can apply?

- a) UN agencies with a humanitarian mandate
- b) Norwegian humanitarian organisations¹ with an international mandate

¹ The organisation must be registered at the Brønnøysund Register and have both an office in Norway and a Norwegian Board.

- c) Consortiums of multiple humanitarian organisations. In such collaborations, one organisation has to come from category a or b, other organisations can either come from these categories, or not, e.g. national NGOs etc.

HIP Norway mobilises and supports humanitarian-private partnerships. The humanitarian organisation/agency is the applicant and receiver of the grant.

HIP Norway encourages humanitarian organisations to collaborate on joint applications.

Focus areas

HIP Norway is looking for bold ideas that seek to improve resilience against natural disasters or improve humanitarian response in conflicts and disasters, specifically projects addressing issues related to:

- *Green humanitarian response*: Humanitarian organisations' efforts that contribute to more sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions within the humanitarian sector.
- *Health and sanitation*: Humanitarian organisations' efforts to ensure lifesaving basic health services, including prevention/control of pandemics, efforts within women's, children's and young people's health, sexual and reproductive health, mental health and psycho-social support, and the provision of facilities and services for the maintenance of hygienic conditions and the safe disposal of human waste.
- *Protection*: Humanitarian organisations' efforts that contribute to protecting people from violence, abuse and violation of international law due to humanitarian crises. Applications focusing on protection from sexual and gender-based violence are encouraged.
- *Innovative financing*: Innovative financing refers to a number of non-traditional mechanisms for raising additional funds for humanitarian and development assistance. This may be through innovations such as micro-contributions, impact bonds, public-private partnerships and market-based approaches/ business models.

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NOK 55,5 million is allocated to new innovation lab and scaling projects in 2022.

- Applications to the Innovation Lab scheme may range from NOK 4-6 million (or up to NOK 8 million for multiagency projects with three or more partnering organisations)
- Applications to the Scaling grant scheme may range from NOK 2-10 million

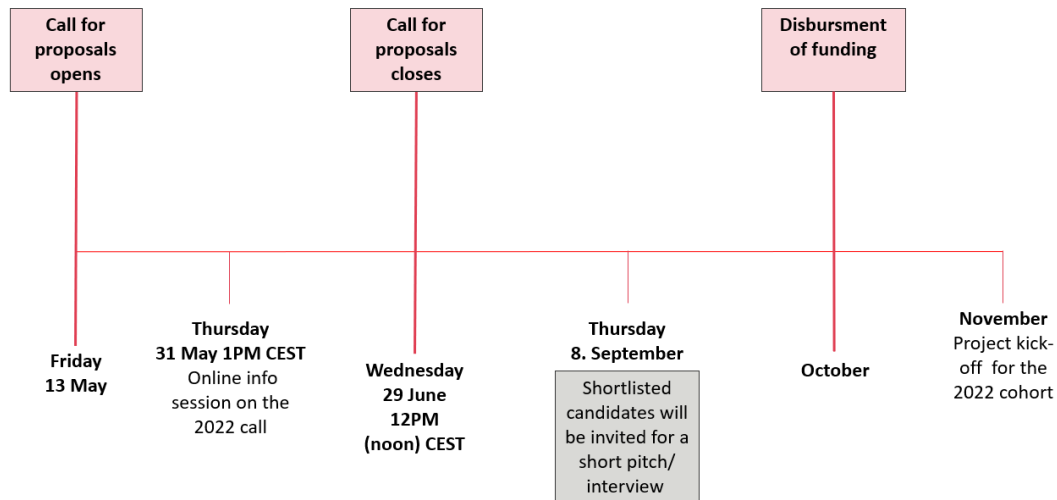
The total funding allocated for each grant scheme is subject to applications received.

Call timeline and process

The application deadline is Wednesday 29 June, 12PM CEST (Noon).

Shortlisted projects will be invited to a 20-minute pitch/interview in front of an Innovation Norway panel on Thursday 8. September 2022. All applicants are encouraged to mark this date in their calendars. Shortlisted candidates will receive 3-5 questions about their project in advance and will be given 10 minutes to respond to those questions during the pitch. There will also be 10 minutes for follow-up questions from the panel. We ask that relevant leadership is represented at the pitch; head of department/ section/ country office or similar.

Application process Humanitarian Innovation Programme 2022



General requirements for both grant schemes

Innovative: The projects shall aim for transformational impact, bettering the lives of people affected by conflict and disasters, develop more sustainable solutions and/or contribute to more cost-efficient utilization of humanitarian funds. Projects with a high level of innovation will be prioritised.

Humanitarian-private partnerships: The applicant must describe how the private sector is contributing, or will contribute, to the innovation project.

Impact and inclusiveness: The projects shall impact people affected by conflict and natural disasters. The applicant must describe expected involvement of affected people in the innovation process and how they may be impacted by the outcome.

Scalable solutions: The projects shall aim for scaling, which refers to the process of replicating and/or adapting an innovation across large populations and geographies for transformational impact.

Leadership commitment: The projects must ensure leadership commitment and sufficient resource allocation within the organisation(s).

Sustainability: The projects will be considered across the three dimensions of sustainability; social, environmental and economic effect, as well as the handling of risks related to cross cutting issues; including human rights, gender equality, anti-corruption, climate and the environment.

Humanitarian principles: The projects shall be conducted in accordance with the humanitarian principles; humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independency.

Knowledge transfer: The projects must conduct and take part in activities for the sharing of knowledge with other organisations that engage in humanitarian response to ensure broader learning outcomes for the sector.

Sourcing of products and solutions: The projects must ensure a transparent and competitive procurement process.

Projects' length: The projects' maximum length is two years from the grant letter has been signed.

Reporting: All grant recipients are required to present Innovation Norway with a financial and narrative report on how the funds have been spent and the results of the project within three months after the project is completed. The report should also present a brief executive summary of the project.

The grant recipient is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the project, including conducting an evaluation of the solutions and the results, in line with the organisation's results framework methodology.

Project advisory groups: In order to lessen the burden of reporting, provide support and ensure progress in the projects, Innovation Norway will take part in the projects' advisory groups.

Surveys: Surveys are conducted on a regular basis to evaluate Innovation Norway. The grant recipient is expected to answer any such survey initiated by Innovation Norway or by any Norwegian Ministry.

Evaluation criteria

Dimension	Criteria	Evaluation		
		Meets criteria	Partly meets criteria	Does not meet criteria
1. Level of innovation	The solution represents something completely new or exists in other sectors but is new in the humanitarian sector.			
2. Impact (including evidence from pilot-testing for scaling applications)	The innovation project will impact people affected by humanitarian crises: they receive help for things they have not received help before, or they will receive better and more efficient help. The project addresses an identified problem/need that many people/organisations experience (i.e. many people would want to implement a solution to the problem).			
3. Enabling environment and organizational readiness	The project is strategically rooted within the organisation(s) and with managers from the involved offices / units. The project group has the roles, functions, technical expertise and institutions necessary to undertake the project. The organisation has made clear plans for how to develop and implement the project.			
4. Inclusiveness	Members of affected populations are an integral part of the project team, from the needs assessment through to scale.			
5. Technological feasibility	The proposed project/solution is technologically feasible. The proposed project/solution represents an appropriate use of the technology for the specific humanitarian context.			
6. Partnerships	Innovation Lab: The project seeks expertise from and cooperation with the private sector to solve the given challenge and shows a willingness to carry out such a process (needs analysis, open market dialogue and a competitive procurement process). The application clearly defines where the private sector can contribute to the project but is open to who their partner may be. Scaling: The innovation has been developed in a humanitarian-private innovation partnership. The innovation is planned scaled through a humanitarian-private partnership. The partnerships in the project contribute to private sector capacity and know-how benefitting humanitarian response.			
7. Scaling potential	The organisation clearly aims to scale the solution to reach more people, new geographical areas, or new organisations. They have a plan for how to continue the project after the HIP Norway project period. The project is sustainable and has a learning potential for the sector. The vision of the project is in strategic alignment with organisational priorities.			

Requirements for the Innovation Lab grant scheme

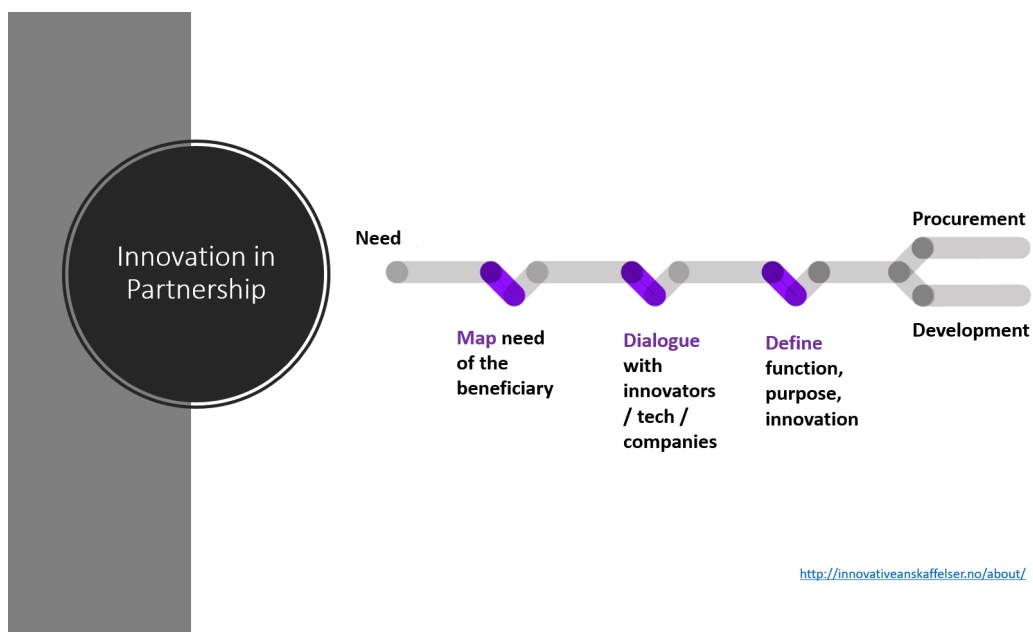
The Innovation Lab supports early-stage innovation projects. The funding is milestone based with two phases:

- Phase 1 is 30% of the total grant and is distributed as the project signs with Innovation Norway.
- Phase 2 is 70% of the grant and will be disbursed once an open, innovative and competitive procurement has been conducted and an agreement with a private sector partner has been signed.

1. Process and milestones

The Innovation Lab grant scheme is built around the framework of innovative/ innovation-friendly procurement. The milestones for the Innovation Lab are:

- **Needs assessment:** gaining a thorough understanding of the humanitarian challenge the project is seeking to address, including engagement of affected people.
- **Market dialogue:** an open dialogue with innovators and companies for inputs and discussions on approach and technology: does a suitable solution already exist? Or is there a need to develop something new?
- **Define function and purpose of the innovation:** an open, innovative and competitive procurement process should ask for function and performance rather than describing a final solution in detail. It should be open enough to allow for new and potentially unknown solutions to the problem at hand.
- **Development / procurement:** a formal process resulting in a development partnership with a private partner or procurement of an innovation / new solution.



2. Project costs

The grant can cover up to 100% of approved project costs.

- Purchasing of defined deliverables from private sector engagement, including material and technology investment in prototypes for piloting purposes

- Up to 30% of total innovation project costs for personnel dedicated to the project (including external consultants)
- Other expenses related to conducting the needs assessment, market dialogue and field testing, e.g. travel cost and training
- Indirect administration costs of up to 7% of total project costs or as stipulated in the Framework Agreement between the grant recipient and the Government of Norway.

3. Project application content

- What is the humanitarian challenge?
- What is innovative about this project?
- What are the activities and milestones?
- What is the target group and what will be the direct impact for people affected?
- What is the growth potential for scale?
- What capacity and knowledge are you seeking from your private sector partnership(s)?

4. Mandatory attachments to the application

- Monitoring and evaluation framework
- Overview of the internal and external resources and expertise that will be included in the project team

Requirements for the Scaling grant scheme

The Scaling grant scheme supports the first uptake and scaling of solutions that have been successfully piloted and reached proof of concept in at least one humanitarian setting. Projects that have previously received support through the Innovation Lab will have an advantage in the competition for the Scaling grant scheme.

The Scaling grant scheme funds project that are either in *transition to scale* or that are looking to *scale sustainably*. When a project is in *transition to scale*, organisations can apply for support for the implementation of an innovative solution and the development and testing of different routes to scale. This opportunity is for projects that are rigging their innovations for a larger scale in the very near future.

When a project is working towards *sustainable scale*, organisations can apply for support to scale an innovative solution to significantly reach a larger population. This may be through expanding to another organisation, more humanitarian operations or to other geographies.

1. Financing: Matching with private capital

The funding granted from HIP Norway must be matched 1-1 with private capital. The private capital must originate from private sources and be directly allocated to the project. Sources that qualify as private capital are investment funds, philanthropic funding, shareholders within the private company partner(s), loans etc.

The objective of public-private matching of funds is to increase overall funding to the innovation and explore further innovative financing mechanisms within the humanitarian sector.

The grant and match funding shall cover costs related to scaling of the solution, including

procurement and/or implementation of the solution, as well as testing of route(s) to scale in search of a viable and sustainable scaling model.

2. Project costs

Project costs that can be covered by the grant:

- Purchasing the innovative solution
- Costs related to implementation and diffusion (such as travel costs, capacity building of staff and affected people)
- Up to 30% of total innovation project costs for personnel dedicated to the project (included external consultants)
- Indirect administration costs of up to 7% of total project costs or as stipulated in the Framework Agreement between the grant recipient and the Government of Norway.

3. Project application content

- What is the humanitarian challenge?
- What is innovative about this project?
- What are the activities and milestones?
- What will be the direct impact for beneficiaries?
- What is the growth potential for scale?
- What is being gained by the private-humanitarian partnership?

4. Mandatory attachments to the application

- Evidence of proof of concept: Please provide documentation of a successful proof of concept along with the application to the Scaling grant scheme.
- Scaling plan: The application should define potential route(s) to scale that will be explored during the project period. The scaling plan should also include:
 - Value creation model(s) that will be tested, in search of long-term sustainability of the solution, such as; a business model, livelihood models, circular economy or other
 - Identification of risk and risk management e.g. relevant regulations, other barriers to scale
- Overview of the internal and external resources and expertise that will be included in the project team
- Partnership agreement: A partnership agreement between the humanitarian organisation and private companies must be signed and attached to the application. The agreement should include relevant information such as distribution of IPR, costs and income.
- The monitoring and evaluation framework
- Confirmation of 1-1 matched private funding