

## Humanitarian Innovation Programme - Call for proposals 2021

**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 2021 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 and diffusion of solutions that have proven to be successful at the pilot stage (Scaling and Diffusion ). 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.

### Who can apply?

- UN agencies with a humanitarian mandate
- Norwegian humanitarian organisations\* with an international mandate

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

HIP Norway mobilises and supports humanitarian-private partnerships. The humanitarian organisation/agency is the applicant and receiver of the grant. Private companies cannot apply. Projects involving multiple partner organisations are encouraged. The lead applicant is the receiver of the grant and redistributes to project partners.

### What are we looking for

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

- *Cash transfer programming:* Humanitarian organisations' efforts to provide direct distribution of money rather than traditional relief items to people affected by crises.
- *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.
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**Call for proposals 2021:**

NOK 32 million is allocated to new innovation lab and scaling projects in 2021.

- 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 agency partners)
- Applications to the Scaling and Diffusion scheme may range from NOK 2-10 million

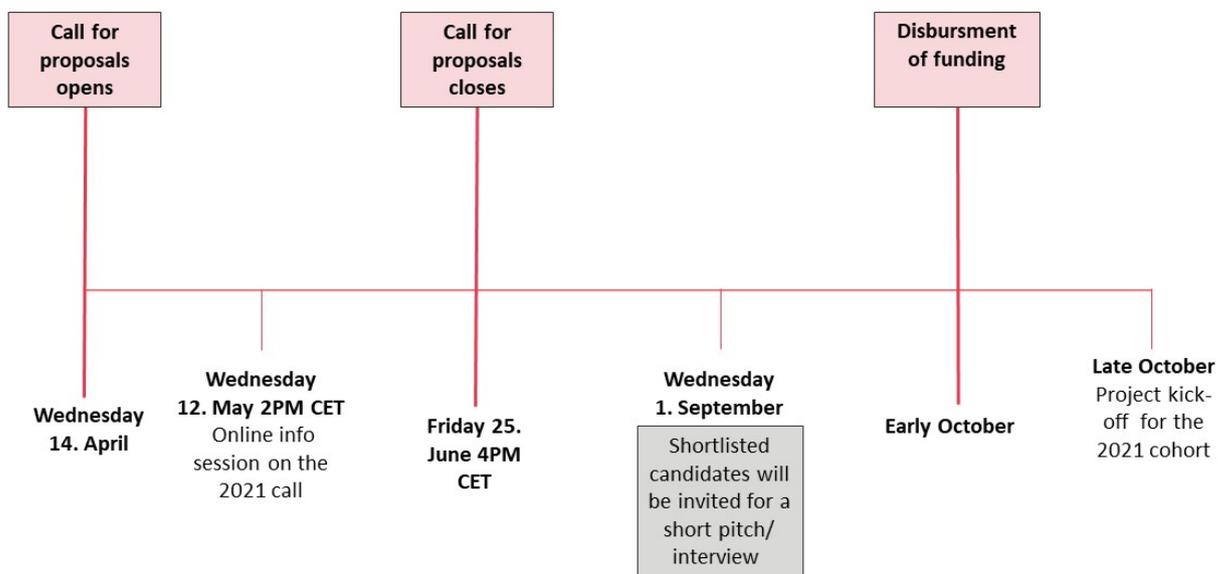
The total funding allocated for each grant scheme is subject to applications received.

**Call timeline and process:**

The application deadline is Friday 25 June, 4PMm CET.

Shortlisted projects will be invited to a 20-minute pitch/interview in front of an Innovation Norway panel on 1. September. 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. 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 2021**



## General requirements for both grant schemes

**Innovative:** The projects shall aim for transformational impact bettering the lives of people affected by humanitarian crises, develop more sustainable solutions and/or contribute to more cost-efficient utilization of humanitarian funds. Projects with a high degree 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.

**Direct impact for beneficiaries:** The projects shall impact people affected by crises/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.

**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 report on how the funds have been spent and the results of the project within two 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 the review of the project, including 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.

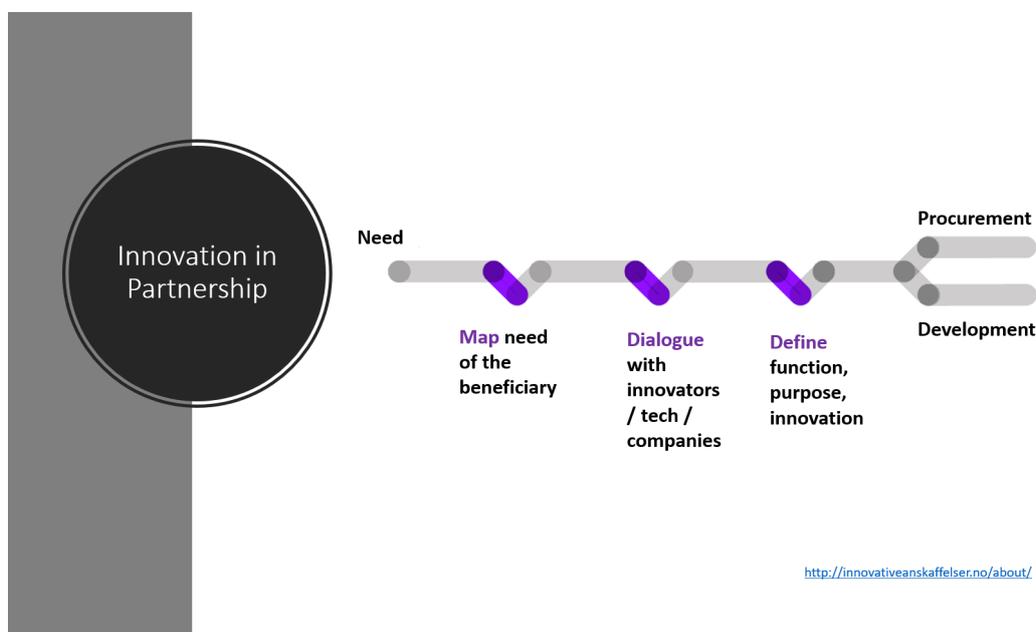
# Requirements for the Innovation Lab

The Innovation Lab supports early stage innovation projects. The funding is milestone based in two phases, phase 1 with 30% of the total grant going towards a thorough needs assessment and the process of reaching a humanitarian-private partnership. The remaining 70% of the grant will be disbursed at phase 2, once all milestones listed below are met, and goes towards the development and piloting of an innovative solution.

## Process and milestones

Milestones shall cover:

- **Needs assessment:** gaining a true understanding of the humanitarian challenge the project is approaching, including beneficiary engagement
- **Market dialogue:** an open dialogue with innovators and companies for inputs and discussions on approach and technology: is there already a suitable solution in the market? Or is there a need to develop something new?
- **Define function and purpose of the innovation:** an open, innovative and competitive process / procurement should ask for function rather than feature. 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.



## Financing and project costs

Applications to the Innovation Lab grant scheme may range from NOK 4-6 mill (or up to NOK 8 mill for multiagency projects with three or more agency partners). The grant can cover up to 100% of approved project costs. Disbursement of the grant for phase 1 (30%) will take place upon receipt of the signed acceptance letter and request for disbursement. Disbursement of the grant for phase 2 (70%) will take place when an open, innovative and competitive procurement has been conducted and an agreement with a private sector partner has been signed.

### Project costs that can be included are:

- 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 (included externals / consultants)
- Other expenses related to doing 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.

## Requirements for the Scaling and Diffusion grant scheme

The Scaling and Diffusion grant scheme supports the first uptake and scaling of solutions that have been successfully piloted / reached proof of concept.

Scaling processes vary, depending on the context of diffusion, and applications should identify potential route(s) to scale that will be explored in the project.

### **Financing: Matching with private capital**

Applications for the Scaling and Diffusion grant scheme may range from NOK 2-10 million. The funding granted from HIP Norway must be matched 1-1 with private capital. The private capital can come from sources such as 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 diffusion and scaling of the solutions, 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.

### **Project costs**

Project costs that can be included in the grant received by the humanitarian organisation:

- Purchasing the innovative solution
- Costs related to implementation and diffusion (such as travel costs, capacity building in the field - max 30% of total project cost)
- Administrative costs, maximum 7% of the total grant, or as defined in the framework agreement with the Government of Norway.

## **Other mandatory attachments to the application**

### Scaling and diffusion plan

The applications 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
- Budget
- Identification of risk and risk management e.g. relevant regulations, other barriers to scale

### 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.