



# USAID-SKOLL INNOVATION INVESTMENT ALLIANCE

## OVERVIEW

In 2012, USAID's U.S. Global Development Lab and the Skoll Foundation partnered to launch the USAID-Skoll Innovation Investment Alliance to influence systems-level change by supporting proven, transformative, and innovative organizations to reach scale. With the support of Mercy Corps, the Innovation Investment Alliance will invest in approximately eight organizations across a range of sectors and geographies by providing grants and other forms of financing. The Innovation Investment Alliance will measure, analyze, and share findings from partners to influence broader change within communities aiming to solve pressing global challenges.

## THE REQUIREMENTS

Organizations are selected for funding at the recommendation of USAID and the Skoll Foundation.

Funded organizations must meet the following conditions:

- **Systems-level change:** Look beyond immediate problems and apply resources in new ways to address underlying causes and effect wide-spread, positive transformation
- **Scalability:** Have the ability to reach millions of people and/or cover a significant geography within five years
- **Impact:** Address a significant development challenge such as poverty, conflict, or climate change
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Generate an acceptable cost/benefit ratio relative to other solutions addressing similar development challenges
- **Entrepreneurial leadership:** Be led by an experienced social entrepreneur
- **Sustainable:** Capable of operating without future funding from the Innovation Investment Alliance
- **Proven:** Demonstrate evidence linking the innovation to impact
- **Location:** Operate in USAID- and Skoll-eligible geographies



## THE PARTNERS

The partners believe that collaboration between government, foundations, and enterprise are fundamentally important to solving the world's most pressing challenges. Each partner brings a distinct perspective and expertise to the Innovation Investment Alliance:



Drives large scale change by investing in, connecting, and celebrating social entrepreneurs and the innovators who help them solve the world's most pressing problems. Skoll brings an expertise in identifying and cultivating social entrepreneurs.



The U.S. Global Development Lab (The Lab) increases the application of science, technology, innovation, and partnerships to achieve, sustain and extend USAID's development impact to help hundreds of millions of people lift themselves out of extreme poverty. The Innovation Investment Alliance is supported by The Lab's Center for Transformational Partnership.



Empowers people to survive through crisis, build better lives and transform their communities for good. Mercy Corps brings its experience in developing field-based programming in over 40 countries and investing in disruptive start-ups to the selection, evaluation and management of organizations selected for funding.

## MORE INFORMATION

The Alliance has committed to investing \$44.5 million in order to scale up approximately eight social enterprises. Organizations are selected for funding directly from the pool of U.S. Global Development Lab or Skoll Social Entrepreneur award winners.

For any other questions, comments, or media inquiries, please contact:

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