



# USAID-SKOLL INNOVATION INVESTMENT ALLIANCE

## OVERVIEW

In 2012, USAID 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 up to ten 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.



Provides economic, development, and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. The Innovation Investment Alliance is supported by USAID's Office of Innovation and Development Alliances (IDEA) Global Partnerships and Development Innovations Ventures teams. These teams bring an expertise in measuring development impact, scaling development innovations, and building partnerships with organizations committed to doing well by doing good.



Alleviates suffering, poverty, and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. Mercy Corps supports the identification, analysis, investment in and management of organizations in this program, and has an expertise in building and scaling innovations.

## MORE INFORMATION

The Alliance has committed to investing \$44.5 million in order to scale up ten social ventures over the next five years. Organizations are selected for funding directly from the pool of Development Innovations Ventures or Skoll Social Entrepreneur award winners. Interested organizations not currently working with DIV or Skoll may apply directly to DIV.

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