



# DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES

## Awards in the Health Sector

**Development Innovation Ventures (DIV)** is USAID's open innovation program that supports breakthrough solutions to the world's toughest development challenges. Through its evidence-driven funding model, DIV impacts millions of lives at a fraction of the usual cost. Specifically, DIV:

- Offers tiered funding to pilot, test, and scale the most promising innovations in global development, taking calculated risks to maximize taxpayer resources.
- Develops and applies rigorous evidence to determine what works to improve development outcomes.
- Supports promising ideas from a broad range of partners, including social entrepreneurs, nonprofits, private companies, government partners, and researchers across every sector and country in which USAID operates.

### WHAT WE LOOK FOR

		
<b>Rigorous Evidence</b> We value rigorous evaluation of social impact to assess what is working—and what is not.	<b>Cost-Effectiveness</b> We invest in solutions that deliver more impact per dollar than other interventions.	<b>Potential for Scale</b> We support solutions that can scale sustainability through the private and/or public sectors.

### SNAPSHOT OF OUR GLOBAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Innovations in global health—from optimizing the delivery of lifesaving vaccines to improving malaria prevention strategies—have substantially reduced mortality and improved wellbeing. Across all of the activities that DIV supports in the health sector, it works to empower efficient local governments, thriving civil societies, and vibrant private sector actors to ensure better health outcomes.

**Learn more about DIV:** visit [www.usaid.gov/div](http://www.usaid.gov/div) or contact [div@usaid.gov](mailto:div@usaid.gov)

Updated March 2023

Photo Credit: Living Goods

### **Dimagi Inc.: Piloting and Testing CommCare to Strengthen Frontline Worker Service Delivery**

**India || Stage 1 (2010): \$99,624 || Stage 2 (2012): \$996,424 || Stage 2 (2020): \$1.5 million**

Frontline workers play an essential role in providing preventative and treatment-based care for billions of people around the world. A typical frontline worker in India cares for more than 1,000 people, often keeping records with just pen and paper, which carries a high potential for error. In response, social enterprise Dimagi developed CommCare, an adaptable mobile data collection and service delivery platform that works in low-resource settings. With early support from DIV, Dimagi piloted and tested the platform in India. A subsequent DIV award enabled Dimagi to develop the evidence base for CommCare and build core functionalities, which prepared it to support frontline workers now working with 100 million households in 130 countries. As of 2022, more than [90 peer-reviewed studies](#) demonstrated CommCare's impact on frontline programs. In 2020, Dimagi received a third DIV award to evaluate a new artificial intelligence feature designed to proactively identify and prioritize high risk clients, increase diagnostic accuracy, detect outbreaks, and improve care delivery in remote areas.

### **Living Goods: Empowering Entrepreneurs to Save Lives Door to Door**

**Kenya || Stage 3 (2016): \$4.85 million**

Millions of children die each year from treatable conditions such as pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria due to poor access to basic health care. Living Goods provides mobile technology, training, supervision, and compensation to community health workers to deliver care to the doorsteps of their neighbors in Kenya and Uganda. A randomized controlled trial showed that the Living Goods model reduced under-five mortality by 27 percent and stunting by seven percent in Uganda. Building on this rigorous evidence base, DIV supported Living Goods to scale the model to Kenya and launch partnerships to replicate it. As of early 2023, Living Goods has supported more than 11,000 community health workers to deliver care to over 8.5 million people across Kenya and Uganda. As it continues to scale, it will provide technical assistance to governments to build sustainable community health systems.

### **Maisha Meds: A Digital Approach for Targeted Malaria Treatment**

**Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania || Stage 2 (2019): \$1,607,821**

Many pharmacies and clinics in East Africa regularly face stock-outs or supply substandard drugs. Meanwhile, many people use unnecessary and often low-quality drugs without first testing to confirm a diagnosis. Maisha Meds provides inventory management software to pharmacies that enables them to better manage inventory to reduce stock outs and grow their businesses. Maisha works to improve access to affordable, high-quality medicines and increase testing prior to treatment. With DIV support, Maisha and the University of California, Berkeley, conducted a randomized controlled trial in Kenya to study how delivering provider incentives, patient subsidies, or a combination of the two could impact malaria case management. The trial found a 300 percent increase in appropriate malaria case management when compared to the control group. The results demonstrated that Maisha's platform can incentivize appropriate care, save patients money, and limit the overuse of unnecessary drugs. With the help of DIV, Maisha expanded from 200 to 1,200 health facilities and is now scaling the platform to reach more than 500,000 patients across 5,000 facilities in three countries.

### **Rescue.co: Scaling Pre-Hospital Care Services and Systems Throughout Kenya**

**Kenya || Stage 2 (2022): \$1.5 million**

Kenya has no official emergency hotlines and the services available are not interconnected. As a result, people with health emergencies must find their own way to an appropriate facility. Rescue.co operates a cloud-based ambulance dispatch service to connect Kenyans to rapid and reliable emergency assistance. With support from DIV, Rescue.co will study the impact of its service on mortality and morbidity rates, expand its service area, develop public sector partnerships, and adapt the service for scale. Rescue.co has reduced the average time to reach medical treatment from 162 minutes to 18 minutes. Under this award, Rescue.co expects to serve 1.2 million more people, support 10,000 dispatches per year, and demonstrate to policy makers across the continent that its emergency service model is scalable.

### **Johns Hopkins University: The Cholera Hospital Based Intervention for 7 day (CHoBI7) Trial**

**Bangladesh || Stage 2 (2015): \$1,499,578 || Stage 2 (2020): \$1.5 million**

Diarrhea causes 1.3 million deaths per year, due in part to a lack of proper handwashing with soap and water. Johns Hopkins University has partnered with the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh, to develop a low-cost intervention to target this issue in urban areas. In a mobile health program entitled "Cholera Hospital-Based Intervention for 7 days" (CHoBI7), households receive training from a health worker, chlorine tablets, a bottle of soapy water, a handwashing station, a safe water container, and weekly messages to reinforce proper hygiene and water treatment behaviors. With a 2015 DIV Stage 2 grant, Hopkins conducted an evaluation of the CHoBI7 program and found it significantly lowered 12-month diarrhea prevalence and stunting. With a follow-on DIV Stage 2 grant, Hopkins is evaluating the effectiveness of a more scalable version of the model that the Government of Bangladesh is interested in supporting. At an estimated cost of \$2 per diarrhea episode averted, CHoBI7 offers a cost-effective solution to improve health and wellbeing.