



Alex at The Main Chemist has helped DIV grantee Maisha Meds to iterate its malaria medication reimbursement programs and suggested significant improvements. Credit: Maisha Meds

DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES

Turning Bright Ideas into Global Solutions

[Development Innovation Ventures](#) (DIV) is USAID’s tiered-evidence, open innovation grantmaking program. DIV provides flexible funding to innovators and researchers to **test promising ideas, build evidence of what works** to substantially improve development outcomes, and **scale highly cost-effective solutions** to improve millions of lives.

Built on the belief that game-changing ideas can come from anyone, anywhere, DIV accepts applications year-round from social entrepreneurs, nonprofits, private sector companies, government partners, and researchers—across every sector and country in which USAID operates. Grantees are selected through a highly competitive process based on their proposal’s evidence of impact, cost-effectiveness, scalability, and financial sustainability.

Inspired by the venture capital model, DIV invests in a portfolio of projects, providing small grants to advance and test promising innovations and larger grants to help scale proven solutions. DIV uses a rigorous, evidence-driven approach to ensure each dollar invested generates the greatest possible social impact.

Core Principles



EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

We value rigorous evaluation of social impacts to assess what is working—and what isn’t.



COST EFFECTIVENESS

We invest in solutions that can deliver more impact per dollar than other interventions.



PATHWAY TO SCALE

We support innovations that can scale sustainably through the private or public sector.

DIV BY THE NUMBERS

\$260 MILLION
invested

327 GRANTS
awarded

53 COUNTRIES
of implementation

100 MILLION
lives improved*

17:1
SOCIAL RETURN
ON INVESTMENT
per dollar*

* Analysis of DIV’s early portfolio from: Kremer, Michael, et al. “Is Development Economics a Good Investment? Evidence on scaling rate and social returns from USAID’s innovation fund” (University of Chicago, 2021).

Staged Funding

DIV provides small amounts of funding to help advance promising ideas and greater amounts to help scale proven solutions.



Stage 1: Pilot

Up to \$200,000 to pilot innovations that are early in development and need real-world testing to understand user demand, social outcomes, and feasibility.



Stage 2: Test and Position for Scale

Up to \$1.5 million to support impact evaluations, further market testing, or operational expansion of innovations that have already conducted successful pilot testing.



Stage 3: Transition to Scale

Up to \$15 million to transition proven approaches to scale.



Evidence Generation

Up to \$1.5 million to evaluate widely used approaches that lack sufficient evidence of causal impact and cost-effectiveness.

Partner with Us

In partnership with USAID Missions and Bureaus, DIV:

- Amplifies strategic priorities and fills funding gaps for critical development challenges
- Supports the use of open innovation and evidence in Agency programming
- De-risks innovations for uptake into Agency activities and programs
- Expands support to new and local partners

**DIV HAS SUPPORTED INNOVATION
IN 53 COUNTRIES SINCE 2010**

Learn more about DIV and apply: [usaid.gov/div](https://www.usaid.gov/div) | divportal.usaid.gov | div@usaid.gov