



## APPLYING TO THE INNOVATING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUND

### Introduction

GIF is pleased to announce a dedicated call for applications for funding from innovators working on enabling the world's poorest to adapt and be more resilient to changing climate.

Innovation is urgently needed to build resilience to the increasing incidences of heat waves, droughts, floods, and extreme storms and adapt to high sea levels and less reliable rainfall. The greatest needs are within low-income countries and populations, whose exposure is greatest and coping capacity is often lowest.

Under the [Innovating for Climate Resilience Fund](#), GIF is backing a portfolio of solutions with the potential to deliver significant adaptation and resilience benefits to people living on less than \$5 a day. We currently welcome applications for investment in innovations that have the potential to address critical climate challenges for the most vulnerable population, have a credible case, ideally backed by evidence, of how the innovation can deliver adaptation and resilience, and have the potential to scale to bring benefits to millions of people.

For this open window, we welcome applications aligned with our [key thematic areas](#) that have the potential to create meaningful, long-term impacts. While we provide examples of the problems the innovations should address, we strongly encourage applicants to propose original, context-specific ideas that align with these themes.

Interested applicants are encouraged to review the funding guidance and submit their application before the window closes on **15 January 2025, at 23:59 GMT**.

### Pre-Application Checker Questions

*We will ask you the following questions, these are Yes/No Questions:*

#### **Thank you for your interest in applying to the Global Innovation Fund**

For this open call, we are seeking innovations that can deliver climate adaptation and resilience outcomes for people living on less than \$5 a day.

To be eligible for GIF funding, your innovation must meet our core investment criteria. This short form describes those criteria and includes some questions to help you decide if you are a good fit for our support before investing your time in preparing an initial application.

#### **1. Examples of innovation we support**

To bring our criteria to life and give you a better sense of what we are looking for, we'd like to show you some of the innovations we are already supporting. Each of these innovations has the potential to deliver climate adaptation and resilience outcomes at a significant scale.

### **Examples of A&R innovations**

#### **Innovation: Incremental Climate Adaptation Loans (Build Change)**

**Sector: Urban resilience**

**Stage: Pilot**

**Funding type: Grant**

Indonesia ranks among the top five countries globally with the highest exposure to heatwaves. Extreme heat can affect the health and livelihood of female entrepreneurs working from poorly designed homes.

Build Change is collaborating with one of Indonesia's largest microfinance institutions, KOMIDA, to develop and pilot loan products, underpinned by customised digital advisory services, to enable women making less than \$5 per day to adapt their homes to be more resilient to climate shocks, especially extreme heat.

Our pilot investment will test this approach across 50 branches and will enable 2000 women to improve their homes and protect their families from climate-related heat stress.

#### **Innovation: Proximity Designs (Enhancing Soil Health)**

**Sector: Agriculture & soil health**

**Stage 2: Test and Transition**

**Funding type: Grant**

Farmers in Myanmar are highly vulnerable to climate change, facing erratic rainfall, droughts, and flooding. The common practice of burning rice stubble depletes soil quality, leaving farmers even more exposed to climate shocks, and creates massive environmental health hazards.

Proximity Design's innovation is a microbial solution which breaks down crop stubble, returning organic matter to soils, enhancing soil health and increasing crop yields without resorting to open field burning.

Our investment will support Proximity Designs in delivering the No-Burn practice to 46,000 rice farmers in Myanmar. The long-term vision is to extend this solution to all rice farmers in the country while generating evidence to facilitate replication and uptake in other rice-growing regions worldwide.

#### **Innovation: Komunidad**

**Sector: Social Protection**

**Stage: Test & Transition**

**Funding type: Risk Capital (Debt)**

The Philippines faces an average of 20 tropical cyclones annually, along with frequent flooding, earthquakes, and other natural hazards. Its geographical and socio-economic conditions make communities especially vulnerable.

Komunidad equips local governments, businesses, and communities with early warning systems and weather data analytics to help them respond more effectively and efficiently to the urgent challenges of climate change.

Our investment will support Komunidad's deployment of decision-support tools, empowering stakeholders to respond more efficiently to climate risks, thereby advancing the government's disaster preparedness strategy and protecting the most vulnerable populations.

**Innovation: Boomitra**

**Sector: Agriculture**

**Stage: Test & Transition**

**Funding: Risk Capital (Convertible note)**

In many developing countries, agricultural lands are degraded leading to reduced crop yields and increased vulnerability to extreme weather events. Despite this, many marginalised smallholder farmers continue to use practices and chemical fertilisers which further degrade the soil. Regenerative agriculture can restore degraded land and sequester carbon in the soil. However, the shift to regenerative practices is hindered by limited awareness and high upfront costs.

Boomitra is advancing global carbon removal through an AI-powered soil carbon marketplace that uses remote sensing technology. By offering farmers the opportunity to earn income through carbon credits, Boomitra incentivizes the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices, improving livelihoods, soil health, and climate resilience.

Our investment will support the company to scale its impact, reaching more smallholder farmers, and improving their incomes, while building climate resilience.

## **2. Assessing your innovation**

*We are now going to ask some questions about your innovation. Your answers will be used to help you work out if your innovation is likely to meet our criteria.*

### **1. Operating in a developing economy**

**Firstly, does your innovation operate in a developing economy?**

GIF is committed to reducing poverty and enhancing resilience for people in developing economies. We do not fund projects operating in developed countries. If you are unsure whether your target country qualifies, please consult the list defined by the OECD here.

*Does your innovation operate in developing economies? Y/N*

### **2. Improving the lives of people in poverty**

**Secondly, is your innovation focused on improving the lives of people living in poverty?**

To be eligible for GIF funding it is not sufficient to be simply operating in a developing economy; your innovation must be focused on improving the lives of people living on less than \$5 a day, particularly those most impacted by climate change. Despite this requirement, we receive many applications from organisations which are operating in developing economies but are not focused on improving the lives of the poor as a primary purpose. Businesses or projects focused on fashion, design, media, or the arts, for example, unless these are focused on improving the lives of people in poverty, these would not meet our criteria for investment.

*Is your innovation principally focused on improving the lives of people living in poverty?*  
Y/N

### **3. Enhancing Climate Adaptation and Resilience**

#### **Thirdly, is your innovation designed to enhance climate adaptation and resilience outcomes for the most vulnerable populations?**

Your solution should have a clear impact on the adaptive capacity of highly vulnerable populations, such as smallholder farmers, coastal communities, or informal urban settlements. We are seeking innovations that strengthen the ability of these populations to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, reduce vulnerability to climate-related risks, and build long-term resilience.

*Does your innovation specifically aim to increase climate adaptation and resilience outcomes for the most vulnerable populations? Y/N*

### **4. A differentiated solution**

#### **Fourthly, is your innovation new and differentiated from other solutions?**

As an innovation fund, we prioritise novel and transformative solutions that go beyond “business as usual”. Whether it is a policy change, new business model, product, or service, your solution must be clearly differentiated from current solutions. It should demonstrate a unique approach that adds tangible value to climate adaptation and resilience efforts. If your approach is one which is already widely practiced, it will likely not meet our investment criteria.

*Is your proposal for an innovation that is new and differentiated from other solutions already out there? Y/N*

### **5. Improves upon alternatives**

#### **Do you have credible evidence that your innovation can improve on alternative solutions?**

So, your innovation is novel, focused on adaptation and resilience, and aims to alleviate poverty in a climate-vulnerable developing country. Now comes the crucial question: will it make a difference?

You must have a strong and credible case for how your innovation can improve upon alternatives. Is your approach likely to be more impactful, more cost-effective, more efficient, or better aligned with the needs of climate-vulnerable populations? Ideally, this case would be backed by evidence, either from other initiatives, the wider literature, or evidence that you have gathered yourself.

*Do you have credible evidence that your innovation can improve on alternative solutions? Y/N*

## 6. Potential to Scale

### **Does your climate innovation have the potential to scale and benefit millions of people living in poverty?**

The ability to scale is an important investment criteria for GIF. We seek innovations that can transform the lives of large numbers of climate-vulnerable people often living in poverty. Your innovation should have a clear pathway to scale, whether through commercial expansion, government adoption, market influence, or replication by other actors.

For early-stage innovations, our funding can support you to prove out scalability, but a vision of what scale could look like and a plan for how to get there is essential. It is important that your scaling strategy includes how your innovation will be sustainably financed to support its growth and expansion.

Please note that if your innovation will only scale to a small number of people confined to a specific geographical area, it will likely not meet our scalability criteria.

*Do you have a clear vision of how scale can be achieved, including how scale can be sustainably financed? Y/N*

## 7. Backed by a strong team

### **Lastly, does your team possess a deep understanding of the local realities and the skills needed to ensure your innovation succeeds?**

We seek teams that demonstrate a deep understanding of the context in which they are operating, including the specific needs, priorities, and challenges faced by climate-vulnerable communities living in poverty. Your team and partners should have a strong track record, and the skills needed to position your innovation for long run success.

*Does your team possess a deep understanding of the local realities and the skills needed to ensure your innovation succeeds? Y/N*

**We recommend that you only apply if you can answer all the above questions with **yes**. GIF receives a large number of applications, so we can only follow up with applicants who match the criteria.**

## **Main Application Form**

1. Please enter your full name.
2. Please enter your email address.
3. What is the name of your organisation?
4. In which year was your organisation established?
5. If your organisation has a website, please enter the URL here.
6. What is your Organisation Type?
  - a. For profit
  - b. Not for profit
  - c. Academic institution
  - d. Government or multilateral agency
  - e. Other
7. What is the location of your organisation's headquarters?
  - a. Dropdown menu of countries

***The following questions allow us to collect some simple data on your organisation and plans for your innovation.***

8. **What is the size of your team?**
  - a. I'm the only team member
  - b. Less than 5 people
  - c. 5 to 20 people
  - d. Over 20 people
9. **What is the planned reach for Your innovation? (How many people do you foresee impacting at scale?)**
  - a. My family, A school or local community
  - b. A city or multiple cities
  - c. A region in a single country
  - d. Country or multiple countries
10. **What is the economic demographic your innovation targets? (How would you describe the target population?)**
  - a. People Living on less than \$2 PPP per day
  - b. People Living on less than \$5 PPP per day
  - c. People living on \$6 - \$20 PPP per day
  - d. People living on more than \$20 PPP per day
11. **How did you hear about this funding opportunity?**
  - a. Previously applied to GIF
  - b. From GIF's newsletter, the Innovator
  - c. LinkedIn
  - d. Informed by friend or colleague
  - e. Recommendation from another funder or investor
  - f. Recommended by GIF staff member

**Thank you. In the next section, we will ask you a few more questions about where you operate.**

12. In which country does your Innovation operate?

- a. Dropdown menu of countries

13. In which sector does your Innovation operate?

- a. Agriculture
- b. Civil society
- c. Communications and connectivity
- d. Conflict prevention and resolution/peace and security
- e. Disaster preparedness, prevention, and response
- f. Education
- g. Energy generation and supply
- h. Environmental protection
- i. Financial services and inclusion
- j. Gender equality
- k. Governance and accountability
- l. Health
- m. Industry (including manufacturing and construction)
- n. Livelihoods, employability, and labour market development
- o. Migration and refugees
- p. Nature resource management, including fisheries, forestry, mining
- q. SMEs, business development and entrepreneurship
- r. Social protection/poverty alleviation
- s. Taxation and public finance
- t. Trade policy and facilitation
- u. Travel, transport and tourism
- v. Water and Sanitation
- w. --Other --

**The next questions will address your funding needs.**

14. Please tell us what stage of funding you are applying for.

- a. Pilot
- b. Test & Transition
- c. Scale
- d. I don't know yet
- e. It's just an idea at this stage

15. Do you know what kind of funding you need? (GIF uses a range of different funding instruments including grants, equity and debt. If you are unsure at this stage, please select "not sure yet" and we will discuss this with you should we move forward with your application.)

- a. Grant
- b. Equity
- c. Debt
- d. A mix
- e. Not sure yet

16. How much funding do you need? (Please provide a number in US Dollars, ensuring it falls within the funding limits for different [stages of funding](#).)

***We will now ask you some questions about your Innovation.***

*When you reply, please note the character limit is set to 1500 characters (including spaces) per question.*

**17. Target Population**

Please tell us about the people your innovation intends to benefit, and the climate related hazards they face. Note that GIF only supports work that benefits people living on less than \$5 a day, so this group should account for a significant proportion of your target population. Climate hazards may be acute shocks, such as flooding, extreme temperatures, rising sea levels, cyclones, and storms, or chronic issues such as declining or intermittent rainfalls. In your response, please describe the severity and frequency of the hazard and the ways in which your target population is affected. You should also highlight whether certain groups within your target population are more vulnerable to or impacted by climate hazards than others.

**What is your Target Population?** (Please tell us about your target population for your innovation, the climate-related hazards they face, and the impact these hazards have on their lives. (Character Limit: 1500))

**18. Innovation**

GIF describes innovation as any solution that has the potential to improve the lives of the poor in developing countries more effectively than existing approaches. An innovation may be, for example, a product, service, business model or policy practice. Your answer to this question should describe what your innovation is, its key features, and how it works. In your response, please explain how your innovation differs from and improves upon existing adaptation solutions addressing the climate related hazards experienced by your target population. Note that if your solution is an approach which is already established and widely used, it will likely not meet GIF's innovation criteria.

**Please describe your innovation, including how it works and how it differs from alternative solutions?** (Character Limit: 1500)

**19. Business / Operating Model**

Please describe how you enable your innovation to reach your target population, the delivery mechanisms or distribution channels that you use. If you are using a commercial model, please describe how revenues are generated, the prices charged, your supply chain (if applicable), and the extent to which revenues cover your costs. If you are using a non-profit model, please describe how your innovation is delivered, the costs involved, and the role of any partners. Please include a reference to how your innovation is inclusive and accessible for vulnerable populations.

**What is the business or operating model you use to deliver your adaptation and resilience innovation to your target population?** (Character Limit: 1500)



## 20. Scale

GIF seeks innovations which have the potential to scale and benefit millions of people. please describe the pathway you think offers the best prospects for scale, the market or policy conditions which are in place which give you confidence in this pathway, and the status of the plans and partnerships required for scaling. Please make clear how your business or operating model may change over time to accommodate greater scale. It is crucial that there is clarity on how the innovation will be financed at scale. Note that if your vision for success is limited to impacting only your local community, then your application would Likely not meet GIF scale criteria.

**What is your vision for how your innovation will scale?** (Character Limit: 1500)

## 21. Benefits to you target population

Your answer should describe the type and magnitude of adaptation and resilience outcomes your innovation can achieve and the evidence you have to support your claim that your innovation can deliver these benefits. GIF is open to a range of different outcomes, including those related to livelihoods, health and wellbeing, agency, and reduced exposure or vulnerability to climate hazards. With respect to evidence, your answer may draw from your own work on this innovation, from other initiatives or the wider literature on climate adaptation and resilience. You should refer to how you track the impact of your innovation and the impact metrics which are most important to you. note that GIF's criteria on evidence differ according the an innovation's maturity, please consult the [guidance on funding stages](#) to inform your answer.

**Please describe the benefits your innovation brings for your target population, with a particular emphasis on the climate adaptation and resilience outcomes for people living on less than \$5 a day. What evidence do you have that your innovation can deliver these benefits?** (Character Limit: 1500)

## 22. Progress to Date

Please tell us about the progress you have made in developing, testing and scaling your innovation, including how many people have benefitted from your innovation to date. commercial innovations should reference the value of revenues secured from their innovation and investment raised to date.

Thereafter, please explain how GIF funding will enable you to build on this progress. GIF seeks innovations which may struggle to access other sources of capital and which will use our investment to put in place more of the conditions required for an innovation to succeed at scale. This could be testing new operational models, investing in growth or generating rigorous evidence of impact. A good answer to this question will give us a clear sense of where you are now, your objectives for the future and how our funding can help move your innovation further along its scaling trajectory.

**What progress have you made to date and what would you hope to achieve with GIF funding?** (Character Limit: 1500)

## 23. Please describe why your organisation and team is best placed to ensure that this innovation succeeds in delivering climate adaptation and resilience outcomes?

(Explain how your organisation's purpose, experience, and track record positions you for success. Highlight the relevant skills and expertise of key team members that

demonstrate their ability to navigate the challenges of implementing your solution in the target context.

Emphasize previous successes in similar contexts and how your organisation's partnerships, technical capabilities, or knowledge contribute to achieving long-term, sustainable impact.)

**24. If you have a video which describes your innovation, please provide the link here (optional)**

If you have a video which explains the problem you are trying to address, how your innovation works and your primary goals in the context of climate adaptation and resilience, you are welcome to share it here.

This is entirely optional, and it is not expected that applicants create a video solely for the purpose of supporting their application to GIF.

**25. Do we have your permission to share your application with our partner organisations? – Yes/No**

**26. By submitting your application, you acknowledge that you've read the investment privacy notice & terms & conditions, and agree to them. (Please see the links here for the [Investment Privacy Notice](#) and our [Application Terms & Conditions](#).) – I accept**

**NB:** This document is provided to help you review the application questions in advance as you prepare your application. Please note that applications will only be accepted through our website: <https://globalinnovationfund.typeform.com/to/NpdNNiKt?typeform-source=www.globalinnovation.fund>

Please review our funding guidelines before you begin your application here: <https://www.globalinnovation.fund/apply-for-funding>