

# INNOVATION FUND

Game-Changing Programs, Life-Changing Results



Clean water saves lives, but what if the water table is too deep for a conventional hand pump? This was the problem young Annie faced in her village in Malawi before the testing of a newly-designed pump. Now she is able to easily pump water from a depth of 217 feet.

Jesus came that we might have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10). Support from generous donors enabled World Vision to provide life-giving water to Annie, her family, and her community. Together, we took a risk on a potentially game-changing innovation—a better pump. Now that pump is being tested in several African countries with low water tables.

## Betting on a Better Future

This type of progress is occurring through investment in World Vision's research and development accelerator: the Innovation Fund.

From 2011 to 2016, the fund launched 22 pilot projects in more than a dozen countries, releasing a wave of new poverty-fighting tools for efforts encompassing Christian discipleship, water, health, economic empowerment, child protection, and emergency relief. With a long-term presence in over 1,600 program areas in nearly 100 countries, World Vision is strongly positioned to test, replicate, and scale promising new approaches.

## Retooling for the Hardest Places

With extreme poverty on the retreat to countries struggling with war, insecurity, and limited governance, World Vision's Innovation Fund is expanding its efforts to apply new methods and technologies for development work. The next phase will take place in some of these fragile contexts, and successful projects will be scaled to address the most urgent humanitarian needs.

Examples of recent projects include:

- A mobile health program that has spread to 16 countries, with over 6,000 community health volunteers using phone-based software for diagnosis and mother-child health coaching
- A training program for emergency relief staff in interfaith relations that has been replicated across Africa and is easing the disaster recovery process in mixed-religion areas
- A mobile banking program for rural microfinance that is being scaled up in eight countries using tablets with added functionality
- A rural "Amber Alert" system in Uganda to protect children from child sacrifice kidnapers

## How the Fund Works

The Innovation Fund operates with three basic guidelines:

1. Invest in multiple innovation concepts at differing stages of development, spreading the risk of failure and opportunities for success
2. Seek maximum scalability, replicability, and leverage
3. Give investors (donors) the final decision on where to invest the fund's resources



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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## The World Vision Advantage

As one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations, World Vision is committed to supporting innovation that eliminates abject poverty. Our more than 46,000 staff members serve millions of people annually. Our signature development model, the Area Development Program (ADP), provides a consistent seedbed for planting new ideas and replicating them in many contexts. For those we serve, innovation is an essential element of continuous improvement.

## Advancing New Ideas

The goal of the Innovation Fund is to accelerate innovation by providing the *risk capital* needed to try new poverty-alleviation ideas. On an annual basis, the fund solicits proposal concepts from World Vision national offices. These concepts must be:

- New, or proposed for testing by World Vision for the first time
- Of major importance to our work or extending our reach
- Transferable to many contexts
- Replicable and scalable
- High-leverage in terms of impact-to-cost
- Able to demonstrate measurable results
- Sustainable after World Vision leaves a community

A grant committee, comprised of donors who state an intention to provide \$500,000 or more over five years, typically selects three to five projects per year. Each project runs for an average of two years.



## Geographic Focus

With the number of preventable child deaths dropping by nearly half over the past 20 years, the Innovation Fund is focusing its next phase on countries where extreme poverty and suffering persist. Initial targeted countries include Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

## Join Us

In his parables, Jesus commends stewards who take wise risks. The Innovation Fund welcomes philanthropic stewards who understand the importance of wise risk for God's Kingdom on behalf of those in the world's most difficult places.

For more information on the Innovation Fund, please contact your World Vision representative.



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