

CREATING HOPE IN CONFLICT:

A HUMANITARIAN
GRAND CHALLENGE

Photo Credit: GETTY IMAGES / ICRC / OU, Ed, 2011, Makhmour, ICRC-supported primary health-care centre. Laboratory personnel at work, V-P-IQ-E-01080.

THE CHALLENGE

In the Syrian conflict, a crisis in its 9th year, 5.5 million people have fled and over 11 million people remain with humanitarian and protection assistance needs. In Yemen 24.3 million people lack access to basic essentials. Armed violence hinders the delivery of life-saving assistance around the world, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan and Libya. As the length and complexity of armed conflicts increase, humanitarian needs are growing and the humanitarian system needs to find new ways to support people affected by conflict. We need new solutions that respond to the needs of vulnerable, inaccessible communities – yet, less than one per cent of humanitarian aid is focused on investing in the innovations necessary to reach them.

THE SOLUTION

The U.S. Agency for International Development, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the Government of the Netherlands, and Grand Challenges Canada are partnering on *Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge*. Through this Grand Challenge, we seek to support groundbreaking, local solutions that will improve the provision of humanitarian assistance in order to significantly improve and save the lives of vulnerable people affected by conflict. We seek innovations that have the potential to create wider changes within the humanitarian sector in order to provide: safe water and sanitation; energy; life-saving information; and health supplies and services to help conflict-affected people. Funding of up to \$250,000 for seed innovations, and up to \$3,000,000 for Transition To Scale innovations is awarded, as well as ongoing support, mentorship, access to networks, resources, and the chance to collaborate with other innovators working on similar challenges.

THE APPROACH

Innovations must involve input from the affected communities they seek to serve, and preference will be given to locally-led solutions. By mobilizing local and international organizations, academics, private sector companies, and foundations, and through a combination of funding, capacity-building services, and research, the Humanitarian Grand Challenge seeks to support:

- People living in areas with active conflict
- People who are internally displaced by conflict
- Refugees

We seek innovations that focus on people who are particularly vulnerable in conflict-affected humanitarian crises. This includes people who are particularly vulnerable due to their gender, sexuality, religion, age, or income; people with disabilities, chronic health conditions; as well as people who are stateless, minorities, or unable to evacuate to safety.

Apply today: bit.ly/HGC-RFP.

