

Humanitarian Innovation Ecosystem Map

June 2025

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HUMANITARIAN ECOSYSTEM MAP GUIDANCE

INTRODUCING THE MAP

This ecosystem map is a high-level rapid snapshot of key entities that constitute the current Humanitarian Innovation Ecosystem as they relate to the innovation stages as laid out by the International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA).

The map is a representation of the current ecosystem and is not a recommendation of what an ecosystem should be. The map is not exhaustive of all actors within the ecosystem, but takes the approach of identifying the key categories of entities and identifying some of the most prominent actors in each. The map and table only cover entities that are working across regions or globally.

The scope of the research did not cover national or local level entities..

It is recommended that further research is carried out at the country level to capture local humanitarian innovation ecosystems. The map does not attempt to show the relationships or interdependence between the different ecosystem players. It represents what role the actor plays in the different stages of the innovation journey or in supporting the wider humanitarian innovation ecosystem (either directly, or from an adjacent ecosystem).

This map has been developed through rapid desk research and checked with key stakeholders who have a deep understanding of the system. For better readability, we recommend printing this document or using the zoom feature in your PDF reader.

NAVIGATING THE VISUAL MAP

The visual map is sliced into horizontal and vertical sections:

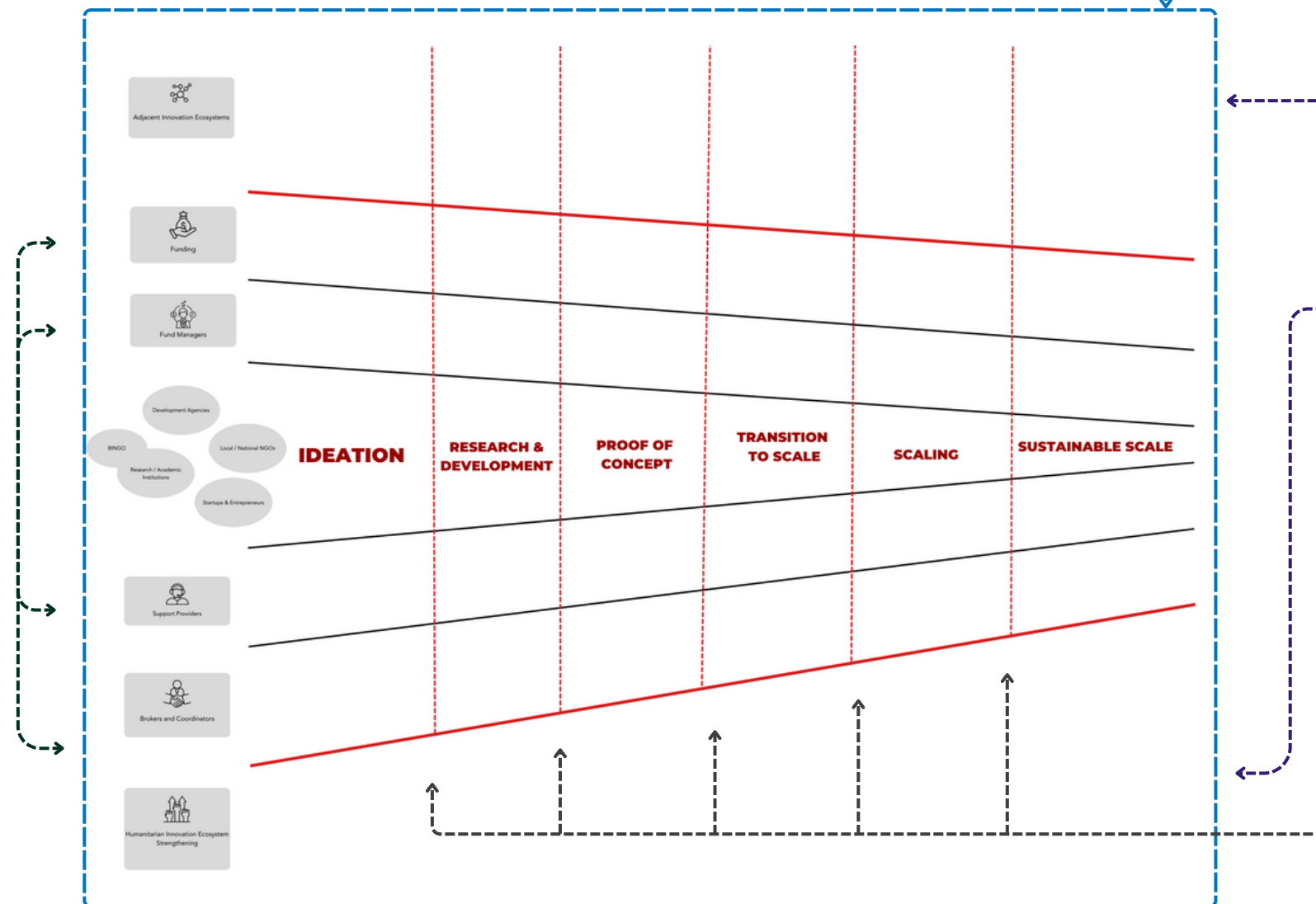
- the funnel that is laid out horizontally across the middle of the diagram represents an **innovation journey** as defined by IDIA, around which the map is built
- the second, third, fourth and fifth horizontal sections represent the primary categories that directly support humanitarian innovations through the innovation journey
- the vertical sections represent the **six distinct stages of the innovation journey** and house the **actors involved at each stage** in each of the categories of support

Actors within the Funnel

Actors have been grouped under four primary categories:

- Funders:** Those who provide the funding for or invest into humanitarian innovation initiatives
- Fund Managers:** Those who manage and invest funds on behalf of 'back donors'. They often provide other forms of support to the innovators (directly, or through partners) and can provide wider support to the humanitarian ecosystem
- Support Providers:** Those who provide innovation support through dedicated accelerator programmes/labs/incubators
- Brokers & Coordinators:** Those who act as brokers and/or coordinating bodies and mechanisms helping make connections, disseminate learnings and expertise on humanitarian innovation

The primary categories are represented on the left, with each category running across a horizontal section through the different stages of the journey. Primary categories are then divided into sub-categories highlighted with a distinctly coloured shape. Within each sub-category, entities are then provided with identifying numbers. The colours for each primary and associated sub-categories, names and numbers associated with each entity can be found in the visual map. The detail for each actor, i.e. the primary role, definitions, sub-category, number, thumbnails and how they map against the stages can be found in the information table on the next page.



Ecosystem Strengthening and Adjacent Ecosystems

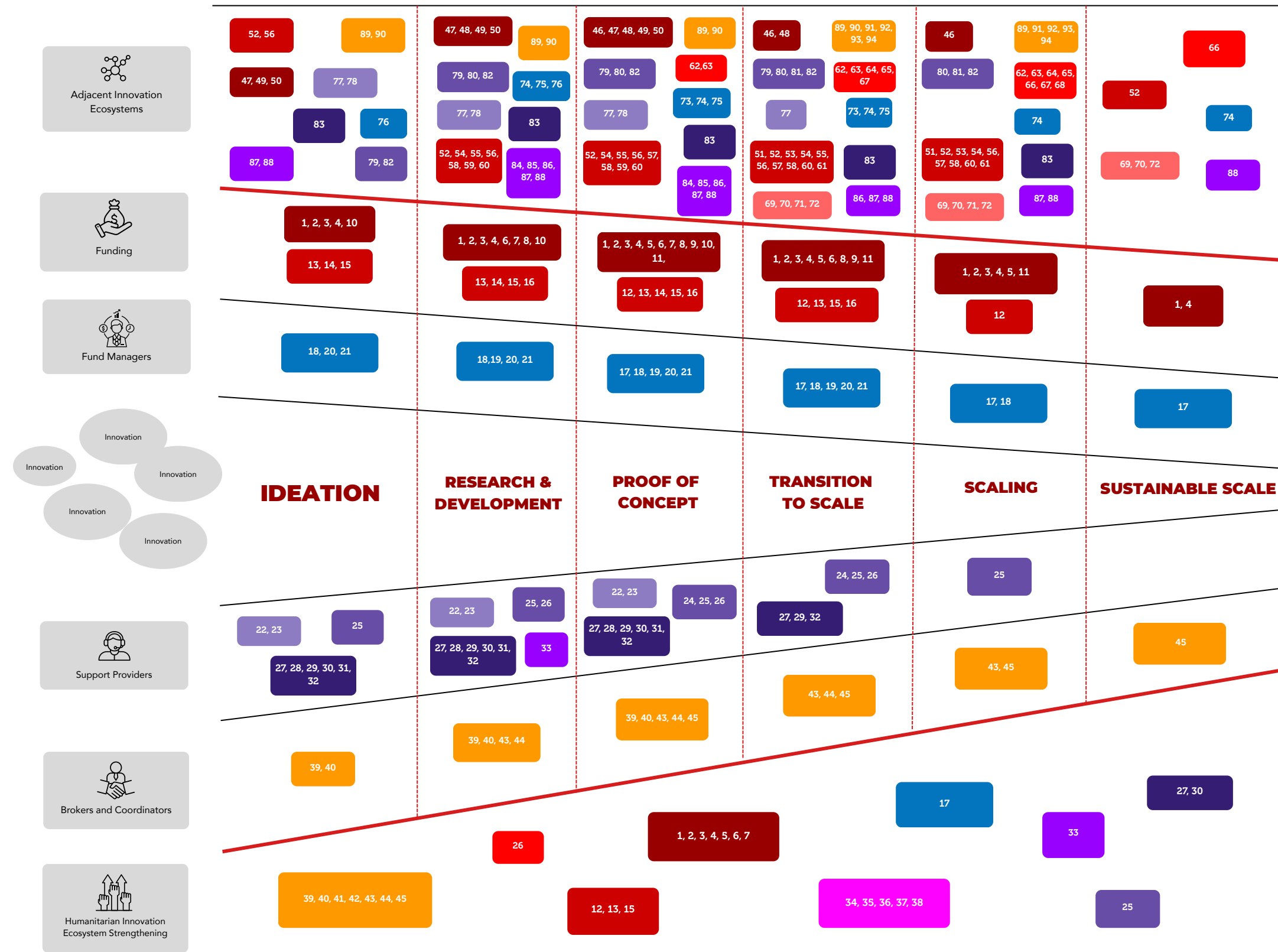
Above the funnel is the '**Adjacent Innovation Ecosystem**' category with entities in adjacent ecosystems that have provided some support to humanitarian innovation, even though it is not their primary focus. These are mapped against the stages in the funnel.

Below the funnel is the '**Humanitarian Innovation Ecosystem Strengthening**' category, showing entities that are specifically supporting the wider humanitarian innovation ecosystem. These are not mapped against the stages in the funnel, as they are focused on strengthening the wider system.

Stages of the innovation journey

Each innovation stage is demarcated by the vertical lines on the map.

HUMANITARIAN ECOSYSTEM MAP



Key

- Institutional Donor
- Foundation & Philanthropists
- Social Impact Investors
- Private Equity and Venture Capital
- Fund Managers
- Local Innovator Focused Labs / Accelerators / Incubators
- International External Labs / Accelerators / Incubators
- International Internal Labs / Accelerators / Incubators
- Hybrid Support Organisations
- Research Support and Institutions
- Brokers & Connectors

HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION FOCUSED ENTITIES		ADJACENT INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM ENTITIES	
No.	Actor	No.	Actor
1	FCDO	46	ENABEL
2	NORWAY	47	GERMAN FFO
3	NETHERLANDS MFA	48	EU - HORIZON EUROPE
4	CANADIAN MFA	49	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
5	LUXEMBOURG	50	CZECH REPUBLIC MFA
6	SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	51	THE AUDACIOUS PROJECT
7	DG ECHO	52	BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
8	DENMARK	53	SKOLL FOUNDATION
9	FINLAND	54	MASTERCARD FOUNDATION
10	SPAIN	55	WELLCOME TRUST
11	FRANCE	56	MacARTHUR FOUNDATION
12	IKEA FOUNDATION	57	ACUMEN
13	CISCO	58	TELSTRA FOUNDATION
14	ARM	59	ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
15	FRITZ INSTITUTE	60	CITI FOUNDATION
16	PRUDENCE FOUNDATION	61	MULAGO FOUNDATION
17	GCC	62	MERCY CORPS
18	ELRHA/HIF	63	SAVE THE CHILDREN IMPACT VENTURES
19	GSMA	64	KOIS
20	DEC ENGINE 2 PROGRAMME	65	IMPACT INVESTMENT EXCHANGE
21	UNICEF VENTURE FUND	66	GLOBAL HEALTH INVESTMENT CORPORATION
22	CLIP	67	FINCA VENTURES
		68	LOMBARD ODIER
		69	AMAANAH CIRCLE
		70	AMBIT HEALTH VENTURES
		71	EPIC ANGELS
		72	ADJUVANT CAPITAL
		73	UNGP
		74	GIF
		75	UNFPA
		76	GIZ
		77	AFRILABS
		78	INKOMOKO
		79	NESTA
		80	MIT SOLVE
		81	HUMAN PLANET
		82	WFP INNOVATION ACCELERATOR
		83	WHO INNOVATION HUB
		84	FRONTIER TECH HUB
		85	ED TECH HUB
		86	GOOGLE
		87	INTELLECAP
		88	PATH
		89	IDIA
		90	UNIN
		91	DIGITAL X
		92	ASIA VENTURE PHILANTHROPY NETWORK
		93	AFRICA VENTURE PHILANTHROPY ALLIANCE
		94	IMPACT EUROPE

HUMANITARIAN ECOSYSTEM TABLE GUIDANCE

HOW TO USE THE INFORMATION TABLE

The information table provides all the data that has been collected and used in the visual presentation. The structure of the information follows the categorisation as per the visual map.

Actors have been grouped under four primary categories - Funders, Fund Managers, Support Providers and Brokers & Coordinators. There are sub-categories that further disaggregate the types of actors. Under each sub-category, there is a representative list of entities that play a notable role or make a sizable contribution to humanitarian innovation. It is important to note that the list of entities is not exhaustive. For each entity we have provided a short description in the form of a thumbnail. There are two sections to the table. The first section covers entities that are primarily focused on humanitarian innovation, whilst the second section holds the entities that are in adjacent ecosystems, and where their primary focus is not humanitarian innovation.

As you move across the table, the next section represents the six stages of the innovation journey, with a short description for each stage. Here we use a simple check mark to indicate if the entity plays a role in the different stages that correspond with the visual diagram on the previous page.

CAVEATS

We recognise that numerous actors play multiple roles within the humanitarian innovation ecosystem. In this map, we have presented actors according to their primary focus and role across the stages of the innovation journey funnel. The only exception is the roles actors play in the space of 'Humanitarian Ecosystem Strengthening', as this sits outside the funnel.

We know that there are vibrant local innovation ecosystems in multiple countries and regions. For the purpose of this exercise, we have taken a global view whereby we have not included actors who have a very local or single-country focus. We have included actors who provide services regionally and/or internationally.

We have been intentional in including actors and initiatives that are currently running or still exist, as opposed to past and/or completed initiatives. Therefore, you will not see previous key contributors such as USAID and DFAT Australia.

The information in the table has been collected through desk research and data available in the public domain. In some cases, where the information is unclear, we have made assumptions based on our own knowledge and understanding of the work the entity carries out. We have included a 'Rationale' column to capture some of our assumptions and thinking. As the exercise was time-bound, we have been unable to verify the information individually with the actors included in the map. However, please do get in touch with the Gray Dot Catalyst team (info@graydotcatalyst.com) to rectify any inaccuracies or omissions.

HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

List of actors who have a specific humanitarian innovation focus and mandate in the form of a strategy, allocated funding and/or a dedicated team.

Primary Categories / Information					STAGES						SYSTEM STRENGTHENING	RATIONALE
Category	Sub Categories		Entity <i>Dedicated Humanitarian Innovation Focus</i>	Thumbnail	IDEATION	RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	PROOF OF CONCEPT	TRANSITION TO SCALE	SCALING	SUSTAINABLE SCALE		
FUNDERS Those who provide the funding for or invest into humanitarian innovation initiatives.	INSTITUTIONAL DONORS <i>They are one of the biggest contributors to humanitarian innovation</i>	1	FCDO	The FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) is the UK government's agency responsible for international development and foreign affairs. A key part of its work is to foster and support humanitarian innovation. The FCDO does this through funding and partnerships, including initiatives like the UK Humanitarian Innovation Hub (UKHIH)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		2	NORWAY	Significantly contributes to humanitarian innovation through its Humanitarian Innovation Programme (HIP Norway). They also support the Humanitarian Innovation Fund at Elrha.	X	X	X	X	X		X	Stages are mapped to their HIP programme
		3	NETHERLANDS MFA	The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is actively involved in supporting humanitarian innovation, both through direct funding and by fostering collaborations within the sector. This includes supporting innovation in areas like sustainable energy, life-saving information, and health.	X	X	X	X	X		X	
		4	CANADIAN MFA	The Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), through its various development aid programs, has been a significant contributor to humanitarian innovation funding. Specifically, the Canadian government has supported initiatives like the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) and GCC CHIC other programs that promote the development and testing of innovative solutions in the humanitarian sector.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		5	LUXEMBOURG	Luxembourg is actively involved in promoting innovation within humanitarian action, particularly through funding, partnerships, and the development of digital solutions. This includes supporting initiatives like the Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator (HIA) and establishing hubs for research and development in the field of humanitarian digitalisation.			X	X	X		X	
		6	SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) contributes to humanitarian innovation by supporting strategic partners to improve the quality, learning, and innovation within the humanitarian system. This includes strengthening locally-led humanitarian action and providing support for projects and partners that prioritise local leadership and co-identified solutions.		X	X	X			X	
		7	DG ECHO	DG ECHO, the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, actively contributes to humanitarian innovation funding. They support projects aimed at developing, testing, or changing products and services used in humanitarian operations, with a focus on improving efficiency and value for money. ECHO also encourages the use of digital tools and promotes a human-centric approach to digitalisation in humanitarian aid, and has supported innovative financing experiments		X	X				X	
		8	DENMARK	Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) actively contributes to humanitarian innovation through various means, including financial support, strategic partnerships, and promoting a culture of innovation within organisations. They prioritise innovation to improve the efficiency and impact of humanitarian action, with a focus on technology and data-driven solutions.		X	X	X				
		9	FINLAND	Finnish MFA support is focused on sectors with the greatest impact on saving lives and protecting livelihoods. These include sectors of focus in emergency response, Education in Emergencies and Emergency Livelihoods. MFA's humanitarian funding is channelled through UN organisations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and eligible Finnish NGOs			X	X				
		10	SPAIN	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). They work closely with the UNHCR Innovation Service to support innovation – be it funding, technical expertise, data, or other material and nonmaterial support – and generate mutual benefits.	X	X	X					They are one of the biggest contributors to UNCHR as a whole. They are a named partner on the Innovation Service website.
		11	FRANCE	The French MFA 2023-2027 Humanitarian Strategy sets out a commitment to increasing resources for French humanitarian aid and transforming how it is delivered to meet growing needs by offering flexible funding instruments and investing in humanitarian innovation. They also ran a Humanitarian Innovation call for projects (APIH - last call was in April 2024) through the Humanitarian and Stabilisation Operations Center (COHS) as an annual funding instrument, to encourage the establishment of high-impact underlying solutions that benefit the whole sector in order to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian action and emergency responses.			X	X	X			They are a named partner of the WFP Innovation Accelerator, but also seem to have run innovation calls and have funded projects in 2022 and 2023. Information on the 2024 cohort is limited - they were to be announced in Nov 2024 but can't find the information online.

Primary Categories / Information					STAGES							
Category	Sub Categories		Entity <i>Dedicated Humanitarian Innovation Focus</i>	Thumbnail	IDEATION	RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	PROOF OF CONCEPT	TRANSITION TO SCALE	SCALING	SUSTAINABLE SCALE	SYSTEM STRENGHTENING	RATIONALE
FUNDERS Those who provide the funding for or invest into humanitarian innovation initiatives.	FOUNDATIONS, PHILANTHROPISTS & ESG INITIATIVES	12	IKEA FOUNDATION	Under their Special Initaitaves and Emergency Relief they provide strategic philanthropy into the sector. They work through partners and invest in new ideas around climate action and support for vulnerable communities to create sustainable livelihoods			X	X	X		X	They are providing funding to scale initiatives using new financing models and mechanisms.
		13	CISCO	Connecting Communities in Need. They help local agencies and communities prepare for, respond to, and sustainably rebuild from crises. Fund NetHope	X	X	X	X			X	Mapped to NetHope and UNHCR Innovation Service
		14	ARM	Arm is a global compute platform delivering advanced solutions that allow the world's leading technology companies to unleash the unprecedented experiences and capabilities of AI. They are a partner of the UNHCR Innovation Service - providing funding and technical support.	X	X	X					Stages mapped the the support provided by the UNHCR Innovation Service as opposed to what the organisation does as a whole.
		15	FRITZ INSTITUTE	Mission to innovate solutions and facilitate the adoption of best practices for rapid and effective disaster response and recovery in communities around the world.	X	X	X	X			X	
		16	PRUDENCE FOUNDATION	Prudence Foundation is the community investment and philanthropic arm of Prudential plc. The Foundation builds financial well-being, and climate and health resilience for underserved Asian and African communities. Funder and host of the D-Tech Accelerator.		X	X	X				Funder and host of the D-Tech accelerator. Stages have been mapped against the D-Tech accelerator.
FUND MANAGERS Those who manage and invest funds on behalf of 'back donors'. They often provide other forms of support to the innovators (directly, or through partners) and can provide wider support to the humanitarian ecosystem.		17	GCC - CH IC	Grand Challenges Canada finds and invests in innovations that address global health and development challenges. Through the Creating Hope In Conflict programme, they identify and support groundbreaking solutions that engage the private sector and draw from the experiences of affected communities in order to significantly improve – and in many cases, save – the lives of vulnerable people affected by conflict. Their goal is to identify solutions that allow communities to respond more nimbly to complex emergencies and take steps to create better lives for themselves.			X	X	X	X	X	
		18	ELRHA/HIF	The Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) aims to improve humanitarian outcomes by identifying, developing, and sharing effective and scalable solutions. It's an independent grant-making program that funds innovation across all stages of the innovation process, from idea to scale. The HIF's portfolio includes diverse projects focused on areas such as health systems, mental health, inclusion, local leadership, and digital solutions.	X	X	X	X	X			
		19	GSMA	Innovation Fund for Humanitarian Challenges - the fund provides grants as well as additional non-financial and technical support to projects that leverage mobile and digital technology to pilot and scale solutions that address humanitarian challenges in low- and middle-income countries.		X	X	X				While they don't have a dedicated team any longer for Humanitarian Innovation, they still have a dedicated fund and strategy in place.
		20	DEC ENGINE 2 PROGRAMME	The DEC is a consortium of 15 UK aid charities that come together to raise funds and coordinate a response to overseas disasters. Through its Collective Initiative and Engine 2 funding, it provides its members an opportunity to innovate, whether by piloting new approaches to shared challenges or scaling up previously tested projects.	X	X	X	X				
		21	UNICEF VENTURE FUND	By consolidating expertise within the Office of Innovation, the Humanitarian Innovation Portfolio helps country offices understand and overcome barriers to successfully deploy solutions for children.	X	X	X	X				

Primary Categories / Information				
Category	Sub Categories		Entity <i>Dedicated Humanitarian Innovation Focus</i>	Thumbnail
SUPPORT PROVIDERS Those who provide innovation support through dedicated accelerator programmes/labs/incubators	LOCALLY FOCUSED LABS / ACCELERATORS / INCUBATORS	22	CLIP	The Community-Led Innovation Partnership (CLIP) is a collaborative programme that brings together a group of like-minded humanitarian innovation actors to explore how communities can be placed at the heart of humanitarian response
		23	RESPONSE INNOVATION LAB	Convenes stakeholders for ecosystem building, and to use a collaborative, evidence-based, and localised approach to empower the humanitarian innovation system.
	INTERNATIONAL EXTERNAL LABS / ACCELERATORS / INCUBATORS	24	WFP - HIA	HIA aims to support technology-powered solutions addressing pressing challenges faced by vulnerable populations and humanitarian actors. The platform supports selected ventures and solution providers with financial, technical, and methodological support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator and its partner ecosystem.
		25	HIP NORWAY	Through the Humanitarian Innovation Programme (HIP Norway), HIP Norway provides funding and support to develop, test, and scale new solutions that improve humanitarian action, save lives, alleviate suffering, and sustain people's dignity. It also mobilises and supports humanitarian-private partnerships.
		26	SAFE STEPS D-TECH	D-Tech (Disaster Tech) aims to protect and save human lives and livelihoods before, during or after natural disaster events. It refers to new technology or existing technology, used innovatively, to improve resilience against natural disaster events.
	INTERNATIONAL INTERNAL ACCELERATORS / INCUBATORS	27	AIRBEL	AIRBEL designs, tests and scales life-changing products and services to solve the challenges people face in crisis-affected communities
		28	UNHCR - INNOVATION SERVICE	UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) provides humanitarian innovation funding through various channels, including the Refugee-led Innovation Fund and other thematic funds focused on areas like digital innovation, data innovation, and climate action. These funds support projects that leverage technology, data, and climate-related solutions to improve humanitarian response. The Innovation Service nurtures a culture of innovation at UNHCR by offering a structured model to identify, pilot, accelerate, and scale sustainable solutions that deliver lasting positive change for and with refugees.
		29	ICRC	Inspired - innovation means many things. It means applauding creativity and learning from experience; harnessing technological advancements, re-designed products, and improved processes; and engaging in new types of partnerships and financing.
		30	IFRC	The IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) is actively pursuing innovation in humanitarian action through various initiatives, including digital transformation, financial mechanisms, and capacity building for National Societies. This includes initiatives like the Solferino Academy, 510, RED Social Innovation
		31	IOM INNOVATION FACILITY	IOM Innovation Facility creates an enabling environment to collaborate, ideate and develop innovative solutions that can transform the way we address migration challenges.
		32	MSF INNOVATION UNIT	Accelerating humanitarian health innovation. The MSF Sweden Innovation Unit sources, supports and drives innovations across the organisation to improve access to quality healthcare for people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare. To do this, they focus on three, often interrelated, topics: digital health, process innovation and planetary health.
	HYBRID SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS Organisations that are working equally across research, innovator support and innovation funding	33	UKHIH	An independent humanitarian innovation initiative, broking and facilitating high-impact accelerated innovation collaborations, bringing together researchers, humanitarian responders, donors, companies and local communities. With scientists and innovators working together, they bring creative and innovative thinking into humanitarian responses and policies.

STAGES						SYSTEM STRENGTHENING	RATIONALE
IDEATION	RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	PROOF OF CONCEPT	TRANSITION TO SCALE	SCALING	SUSTAINABLE SCALE		
Defining and analysing the development problem and generating potential solutions through horizon scanning of existing and new ideas	Further developing specific innovations that have potential to address the problem	When the intellectual concept behind an innovation is field-tested to gain an early, 'real-world' assessment of its potential	When innovations that have demonstrated small-scale success develop their model and attract partners to help fill gaps in their capacity to scale	The process of replicating and/or adapting an innovation across large geographies and populations for transformational impact	The wide-scale adoption or operation of an innovation at the desired level of scale / exponential growth, sustained by an ecosystem of actors	System strengthening practices - investments in strengthening or changing the humanitarian system itself.	
X	X	X					
X	X	X					
		X	X				
X*	X*	X*	X	X		X	*Mapped to their Innovative Procurement initiatives
	X	X	X				
X	X	X	X			X	IRC have been involved in the innovations are a lead or partner in some form. In 2025, they are moving to source ideas and innovations from outside of IRC as well.
X	X	X					
X	X	X	X			X	
X	X	X					
X	X	X	X				
	X					X	

ADJACENT INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Includes actors who do not have a specific humanitarian innovation focus but have made tangible investments in humanitarian innovations.

Primary Categories / Information					STAGES						SYSTEM STRENGTHENING	RATIONALE
Category	Sub Categories		Entity Wider Innovation Focus	Thumbnail	IDEATION	RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	PROOF OF CONCEPT	TRANSITION TO SCALE	SCALING	SUSTAINABLE SCALE		
FUNDERS Those who provide the funding for or invest into humanitarian innovation initiatives.	INSTITUTIONAL DONORS	46	ENABEL	ENABEL, the Belgian Development Agency, plays a significant role in promoting humanitarian innovation by supporting organisations and initiatives that address global challenges. They do this through various mechanisms, including their Innovation Hub, which scouts and supports scalable social innovations, and by providing financial and technical support to innovators. ENABEL also actively seeks to identify and support digital social innovations, particularly through the Wehubit program, which has evolved into a multi-sectoral scaling facility.			X	X	X			
		47	GERMAN FFO	Germany, through its Federal Foreign Office (MFA), has significantly increased its humanitarian aid budget, particularly since the 2015 Syrian refugee crisis, and is actively involved in humanitarian innovation.	X	X	X					Contribute to the WFP Innovation Accelerator, doesn't specify humanitarian innovation per se. The amount of contribution is not obvious.
		48	EU - HORIZON EUROPE	Horizon Europe, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation, contributes to humanitarian innovation through various initiatives. It provides funding for technological innovation in humanitarian assistance, supports research on new business models, and offers prizes for affordable high-tech solutions.		X	X	X				
		49	AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	Austrian Development Agency seeks to ensure that sustainable development works to the benefit of all people in Africa, Asia, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe. They contribute to innovation through the WFP Innovation Accelerator	X	X	X					Contribute to the WFP Innovation Accelerator and the Kofi Annan Award through the accelerator. Doesn't specify humanitarian innovation per se
		50	CZECH REPUBLIC MFA	The Czech Republic has committed CZK 165 million for humanitarian funding in 2025. They support and contribute to the WFP Innovation Accelerator programme as one of the partner governments.	X	X	X					Contribute to the WFP Innovation Accelerator, doesn't specify humanitarian innovation per se. The amount of contribution is not obvious.
	FOUNDATIONS & PHILANTHROPISTS	51	THE AUDACIOUS PROJECT	The Audacious Project is a funding initiative that encourages the world's greatest changemakers to dream bigger; by supporting changemakers shape their ideas into viable multi-year plans and launch them to the world alongside visionary philanthropists. They have supported humanitarian innovations such as Humanitarian Open Street Map and the Global Education Movement				X	X			
		52	BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION	The Gates Foundation's approach to humanitarian innovation is multifaceted, encompassing research, development, funding, partnerships, and market-based solutions, all aimed at improving lives and creating a more equitable world	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		53	SKOLL FOUNDATION	Investing in social entrepreneurs and other social innovators who together advance bold and equitable solutions to the world's most pressing problems.				X	X		X	More entrepreneur-focused, however, a potentially influential voice. Part of IDIA
		54	MASTERCARD FOUNDATION	The Mastercard Foundation works with visionary organisations to empower young people in Africa and Indigenous youth in Canada to access meaningful, dignified, and fulfilling work		X	X	X	X			Big investments have been made in entrepreneurship, which may or may not be innovation-focused per se. However, have been a big player making sizeable contributions. Also part of IDIA.
		55	WELLCOME TRUST	Wellcome aims to help researchers and organisations translate promising ideas into practical solutions for health challenges. Wellcome's innovation strategy is aimed at making a significant impact on human health by supporting scientific breakthroughs and developing solutions to global health challenges. They continue to invest in research and innovation to address urgent health needs and improve the lives of people around the world.		X	X	X			X	
		56	MacARTHUR FOUNDATION	The MacArthur Foundation boldly invests in creative solutions to critical challenges, sparking hope for our future.	X	X	X	X	X			

Primary Categories / Information					STAGES							
Category	Sub Categories		Entity Wider Innovation Focus	Thumbnail	IDEATION	RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	PROOF OF CONCEPT	TRANSITION TO SCALE	SCALING	SUSTAINABLE SCALE	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING	RATIONALE
FUNDERS Those who provide the funding for or invest into humanitarian innovation initiatives.	FOUNDATIONS & PHILANTHROPISTS	57	ACUMEN	They focus on investing in transformational companies, building sustainable markets and preparing leaders with the tools they need to create a more just and inclusive future			X	X	X			
		58	TELSTRA FOUNDATION	Work collaboratively with young people, researchers, non-profits, educators, parents, and carers to improve the digital future of children and young people across Australia. Focus is on technology for social good. Main funder for Humanitech		X	X	X	X			Don't invest outside of Australia, but a big funder of Humanitech therefore have included in adjacent.
		59	ROCKEFLLER FOUNDATION	We are a philanthropic foundation that promotes the well-being of humanity by finding and scaling solutions that advance opportunity and reverse the climate crisis.		X	X					Part of IDIA.
		60	CITI FOUNDATION	The Citi Foundation recognises the role philanthropy plays in catalysing change to address some of society's most pressing challenges, from food insecurity to homelessness and more. Through their Global Innovation Challenge, they provide innovative community organisations with the support to pilot or scale new offerings and development models that deepen community impact. They also contribute to the WFP Innovation Accelerator		X	X	X	X			They run their own Global Innovation Challenge and have contributed to the WFP Innovation Accelerator
		61	MULAGO FOUNDATION	Mulago finds and funds high-performance organisations that tackle the basic needs of the very poor.				X	X			Have supported a CHIC innovation team founder through one of their programmes.
	SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTORS	62	MERCY CORPS	Mercy Corps Ventures invests in and catalyses venture-led solutions to increase the resilience of underserved individuals and communities			X	X	X			
		63	SAVE THE CHILDREN IMPACT VENTURES	Invest in innovative projects and companies making a transformative impact for children			X	X	X		X	
		64	KOIS	KOIS create innovative finance mechanisms and use impact investing & fund management to scale financing solutions.				X	X			
		65	IMPACT INVESTMENT EXCHANGE	Pioneers in impact investing and global leaders in sustainability, transforming the financial system to empower women, the environment, and underserved communities in the global market.				X	X			
		66	GLOBAL HEALTH INVESTMENT CORPORATION	Through investments in life sciences and healthcare technology companies, they accelerate the development and accessibility of products with the potential to improve global public health and health equity, and generate sustainable financial returns.					X	X		
		67	FINCA VENTURES	FINCA Ventures is an impact investing initiative of FINCA International which builds on over 35 years of experience creating a global microfinance network that delivers financial access at scale				X	X			
		68	LOMBARD ODIER	Swiss Private bank that was a co-sponsor of the first-ever Humanitarian Impact Bond.					X			

Primary Categories / Information					STAGES						SYSTEM STRENGHTENING	RATIONALE
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FUNDERS Those who provide the funding for or invest into humanitarian innovation initiatives.	PRIVATE EQUITY / VENTURE CAPITAL / ANGEL INVESTORS	69	AMAANAH CIRCLE	Singapore based healthtech fund that has invested in one of the innovators who are part of the CHIC portfolio.		Further developing specific innovations that have potential to address the problem	When the intellectual concept behind an innovation is field-tested to gain an early, 'real-world' assessment of its potential	When innovations that have demonstrated small-scale success develop their model and attract partners to help fill gaps in their capacity to scale	The process of replicating and/or adapting an innovation across large geographies and populations for transformational impact	The wide-scale adoption or operation of an innovation at the desired level of scale / exponential growth, sustained by an ecosystem of actors	System strengthening practices - investments in strengthening or changing the humanitarian system itself.	
		70	AMBIT HEALTH VENTURES	Ambit Health Ventures is an early-stage healthcare venture capital firm. They invest in digital health innovations that are advancing healthcare for all by backing visionary founders with capital, strategic guidance, and connections.				X	X	X		
		71	EPIC ANGELS	The largest female-only angel network in APAC, investing in early-stage startups in Asia across all verticals.				X	X			
		72	ADJUVANT CAPITAL	Invest in the most promising public health technologies and ensure they are made accessible to those who need them most. Majority of their investment activity is built upon commercialising technologies that have demonstrated safety and efficacy in humans, with the goal of accelerating the availability of the most impactful medical innovations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.				X	X	X		
FUND MANAGERS Those who manage and invest funds on behalf of 'back donors'. They often provide other forms of support to the innovators (directly, or through partners) and can provide wider support to the humanitarian ecosystem.		73	UNGP	As the Secretary General's Innovation Lab, UN Global Pulse supports responsible and inclusive innovation across the UN system. The UNGP Accelerator programme aims to turn promising innovative ideas into real-world impact at scale, ensuring that exceptional UN-led pilots reach more communities through adaptable delivery models and future-fit strategies.			X	X			X	
		74	GIF	Global Innovation Fund (GIF) invests in the development, rigorous testing, and scaling up of new products, services, business processes, or policy reforms that are more cost-effective than current practice and targeted at improving the lives of the world's poorest people.		X	X	X	X	X		
		75	UNFPA	UNFPA supports innovations addressing the health and well-being of women and young people, prioritizing efforts to end unmet needs for family planning, preventable maternal deaths and gender-based violence		X	X	X				
		76	GIZ	GIZ provides tailor-made, cost-efficient and effective services for sustainable development.	X	X					X	They run an internally focused innovation accelerator and therefore have classified them as a fund manager. They are a named partner of the WFP Innovation Accelerators and are also part of the IDIA.
SUPPORT PROVIDERS Those who provide innovation support through dedicated accelerator programmes/labs/incubators	LOCAL INNOVATOR FOCUSED LABS / ACCELERATORS / INCUBATORS	77	AFRILABS	AfriLabs unites 500+ innovation hubs across 53 African countries to empower entrepreneurs with the skills, funding, and networks they need to scale. Through programs and initiatives with their global partners, they provide resources that turn groundbreaking ideas into market-ready solutions. By fostering policy advocacy, cross-border collaboration, and investor engagement, AfriLabs is unlocking Africa's innovation potential and shaping the next generation of tech-driven businesses.	X	X	X	X				
		78	INKOMOKO	Inkomoko empowers Micro and Small Entrepreneurs across Africa, including refugees, through capacity building, access to finance, market linkages, and advocacy. As the largest lender to refugees in Africa, they provide affordable financing to businesses, fueling growth, job creation, and improved livelihoods.	X	X	X					Included them as they are a recipient of funding from the funders we've noted in the map.

Primary Categories / Information					STAGES						SYSTEM STRENGHTENING	RATIONALE
Category	Sub Categories		Entity Wider Innovation Focus	Thumbnail	IDEATION	RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	PROOF OF CONCEPT	TRANSITION TO SCALE	SCALING	SUSTAINABLE SCALE		
SUPPORT PROVIDERS Those who provide innovation support through dedicated accelerator programmes/labs/incubators	INTERNATIONAL EXTERNAL LABS / ACCELERATORS / INCUBATORS	79	NESTA	Nesta designs, tests, and scales new solutions to address society's challenges, including humanitarian crises. They focus on areas like participatory AI, collective crisis intelligence, and AI safety for humanitarian tools. Nesta also emphasises collaborative innovation and working with frontline organisations to develop effective solutions.	X	X	X	X			X	
		80	MIT SOLVE	Provide a comprehensive support program, including mentorship, pro bono resources, and connections to MIT's innovation ecosystem. They also provide cash prizes that vary depending on the challenge they are running.		X	X	X	X			Included them as they are a recipient of funding from the funders we've noted in the map.
		81	HUMAN PLANET	Design and finance bold solutions for climate, development, healthcare, and humanitarian challenges by integrating strategic advisory with innovative finance to mobilise outcomes globally, sustainably, and at scale. A global impact accelerator designed to support humanitarian projects.				X	X			
		82	WFP INNOVATION ACCELERATOR	The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales high-impact innovations to disrupt hunger.	X	X	X	X	X			
	INTERNATIONAL INTERNAL ACCELERATORS / INCUBATORS	83	WHO INNOVATION HUB	Born from WHO's transformational commitment in the Department of Digital Health and Innovation, the WHO Innovation Hub works to activate the entire innovation ecosystem towards the development and scaling of health innovations for all.	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	HYBRID SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS Organisations that are working equally across research, innovator support and innovation funding	84	FRONTIER TECH HUB	The Frontier Tech Hub works with UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) staff and global partners to understand the potential for innovative tech in the development context, and then test and scale their ideas.		X	X				X	
		85	ED TECH HUB	Global research partnership, whose goal is to empower people by giving them the evidence they need to make decisions about technology in education. Use a Sandbox approach to generate real-time evidence for scaling impactful EdTech interventions		X	X				X	
		86	GOOGLE	Every day at Google, they aim to make the world's information universally accessible and useful. In moments of crisis, this mission is even more critical as people turn to Google for help.Google Impact Challenge, Google Crisis Response		X	X	X				
		87	INTELLECAP	Building enabling ecosystems and channelling capital to create and nurture a sustainable & equitable society across Asia and Africa. Start-up Wave is their incubation programme, and they have advisory and support for investment across all stages.	X	X	X	X	X			
		88	PATH	PATH has scaled more than 120 health technologies in over 70 countries with government, community and private sector partners.They connect local innovators and decision-makers with our global network of partners to develop responsive, human-centered solutions to health challenges. Along the way, people build skills to fill new health care and technology jobs. Local innovators develop and find markets for brilliant health solutions. Communities, countries, and economies thrive.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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BROKERS AND COORDINATORS Those who act as brokers and/or coordinating bodies and mechanisms helping make connections, disseminate learnings and expertise on humanitarian innovation		89	IDIA	IDIA is a unique collaboration platform that brings together the senior leadership from the innovation teams, labs and departments of some of the world's leading development agencies. Its mission is to actively promote and advance innovation as a means to help achieve sustainable development.	Defining and analysing the development problem and generating potential solutions through horizon scanning of existing and new ideas	Further developing specific innovations that have potential to address the problem	When the intellectual concept behind an innovation is field-tested to gain an early, 'real-world' assessment of its potential	When innovations that have demonstrated small-scale success develop their model and attract partners to help fill gaps in their capacity to scale	The process of replicating and/or adapting an innovation across large geographies and populations for transformational impact	The wide-scale adoption or operation of an innovation at the desired level of scale / exponential growth, sustained by an ecosystem of actors	System strengthening practices - investments in strengthening or changing the humanitarian system itself.	
		90	UNIN	UNIN is an informal, collaborative community of UN innovators interested in sharing their expertise and experience with others to promote and advance innovation within the UN System.	X	X	X	X			X	
		91	DIGITAL X	Digital X exists to make scaling digital solutions across borders faster, easier, and safer. An emergent priority for UNDP is to scale up what already works, reduce duplication, and improve coordination across development actors. This is why Digital X supports scaling digital solutions from not only UNDP, but also from UN agencies, social enterprises, private sector, nonprofits, NGOs, universities, and more.				X	X			
		92	ASIA VENTURE PHILANTHROPY NETWORK	A network of 600+ members across 33 markets that is increasing the flow of financial, human, and intellectual capital from around the world into the social sector in Asia				X	X		X	
		93	AFRICA VENTURE PHILANTHROPY ALLIANCE	Bridging the gap between pure charity and pure business models by utilising philanthropic capital to de-risk social investments and consequently crowd in additional private capital that can fund and scale impact-focused initiatives across Africa.				X	X		X	
		94	IMPACT EUROPE	Impact Europe is a unique network of impact capital providers along the full continuum of capital (foundations, impact funds, banks and financial institutions, corporate impact actors, public funders) that enables impact. They unite 350 capital providers (foundations, impact funds, banks and financial institutions, corporate impact actors, public funders) and social innovators of all sorts – from household names to emerging new players.				X	X		X	