

CHALLENGE HANDBOOK

GBV TECH

INNOVATION CHALLENGE:

TECH-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO TACKLE
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN HUMANITARIAN
SETTINGS



Humanitarian
innovation fund

| **elrha**

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ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook provides information on the GBV Tech Innovation Challenge, a grant funding call for technology-based (tech-based) humanitarian-related Gender-based Violence (GBV) interventions. The Innovation Challenge has been designed by Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) in consultation with the humanitarian community. This handbook outlines the relevant information required for potential applicants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank all those who contributed to the development of this Innovation Challenge, including members of our [GBV Technical Working Group](#).

This Innovation Challenge is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ABOUT ELRHA AND THE HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION FUND

We are [Elrha](#). A global organisation that finds solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation. We are an established actor in the humanitarian community, working in partnership with humanitarian organisations, researchers and innovators to tackle some of the most difficult challenges facing people all over the world.

Our [Humanitarian Innovation Fund \(HIF\)](#) aims to improve outcomes for people affected by humanitarian crises by identifying, nurturing and sharing effective and scalable solutions. Our HIF portfolio of more than 200 projects has driven the understanding of what successful innovation looks like, and what it can achieve for the humanitarian community.

ABOUT OUR INNOVATION CHALLENGES

Our Innovation Challenges are a competitive mechanism to award grant funding. We work with the humanitarian community to identify and prioritise key humanitarian problems. We then design Challenges that support teams to address these problems through innovation, sharing what they learn with their communities and the wider sector.

Alongside direct funding, we also provide non-financial support to our grantees: facilitating peer-to-peer learning and delivering training via external and in-house experts.

OUR SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN GBV INNOVATION

The HIF supports the development and scaling of promising humanitarian innovations that address priority problems and respond to the needs of communities affected by crises. In 2015, we identified GBV as an area of focus in which innovation may play an important role in improving humanitarian action. Globally, an [estimated one in three women](#) will experience physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime. In emergency settings, where stresses are heightened and social protection and response capacities are weakened, GBV can be even more prevalent. Whether triggered, enabled or exacerbated by conflict and disaster, GBV is [rooted in gendered power inequalities](#).

GBV in humanitarian settings is [a life-threatening issue](#). It undermines dignity, causes immense pain, and is a threat to equality and development around the globe. Despite this, the issue of GBV in emergencies has too often been overlooked during times of crisis, or [not considered to be a humanitarian need](#).

In line with our strategic commitment to target the most pressing issues in the sector and to ensure that humanitarian innovation is evidence-based and problem-led, we commission robust gap analyses. These provide comprehensive overviews of the key issues, gaps and priorities within our different areas of focus. Based on this well-evidenced understanding of problems, we then explore where innovation has the potential to contribute to the solutions and, ultimately, to improve outcomes for people affected by crises. Our first GBV Gap Analysis Report was [published in 2016](#), with a [second in 2021](#).

Following these reports, we have funded research and innovation addressing GBV through specific grants (for example, [funding innovative GBV monitoring and evaluation approaches](#)), through cross-theme grants linking GBV to our work on the inclusion of people with disabilities and older people, as well as our work on water, sanitation and hygiene, and through non-thematic innovation-stage grants such as Accelerating the Journey to Scale.

ABOUT THIS CHALLENGE

This Innovation Challenge looks to identify and support promising tech-based interventions relevant to GBV programming within humanitarian settings

Tech is increasingly accessible and prevalent, often transforming the way we live. The availability of tech and the embracing of technological innovation is dramatically changing the way aid agencies can provide assistance. New and emerging technologies can enable earlier, faster and potentially more effective humanitarian action. There are many opportunities for tech to improve protection, mitigate risks and respond to GBV – whilst also offering great opportunities for improved GBV service provision, reach and response quality.

There are enormous benefits in bringing tech to GBV programming, but there can also be significant risks. Access to and use of tech often perpetuates and follows existing inequalities meaning the benefits are not evenly distributed, and tech can actively deepen exclusion if access isn't considered upfront. On top of this, tech is increasingly a component of GBV itself as there are specific features of digital spaces that create a conducive context for violence, with Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence (TFGBV) a global concern. Considering this, there's a pressing need for humanitarian actors to comprehend how TFGBV manifests in humanitarian settings. Tech-based GBV solutions must therefore build upon the extensive and solid foundation of ethical standards and protocols of the GBV community, while meeting digital safety and privacy standards.

As outlined by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), tech has the potential to support and strengthen humanitarian GBV programming in a number of ways, including through:

- Increasing access to services
- Amplifying positive social norms
- Facilitating service delivery and enhancing quality
- Streamlining data collection and research analysis
- Combating technology-facilitated GBV

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS WE ARE LOOKING TO SUPPORT

This Innovation Challenge is for piloting tech-based interventions relevant to GBV humanitarian programming, which have the potential to be scaled in the future. By tech-based we mean relating to and dependent on the practical use and application of technology.

Beyond the tech focus, this Challenge takes a broad framing to allow for the most promising GBV-related tech innovations to be supported. Applications must however be able to present the relevance of their intervention to at least one of the 26 priority gaps identified in our [2021 Gap Analysis Report](#). Some examples of gaps which may be relevant to tech-based interventions include:

Risk Mitigation:

- Women and girls insufficiently engaged when identifying risks, developing mitigation plans and monitoring implementation
- Lack of community ownership of risk mitigation activities

Response:

- Lack of sustained support for those providing essential Psychosocial Support (PSS) and GBV case management services
- Lack of coverage and survivor-centeredness of formal and informal legal and justice services, especially in remote locations

Prevention:

- Lack of understanding and capacity to ensure that prevention programming is built on evidence-based behaviour change theory, and addresses social norms change at institutional and systemic levels
- Lack of attention to GBV experienced by adolescent girls

It is essential that ethics, safety and privacy are [baked into GBV tech-based interventions from the outset](#) and are maintained throughout. The protection and privacy risks of anyone you collect data with, on, and from must be at the heart of your approach to ensure you do not put any communities at risk. You must pay ongoing attention to actual and potential ethical issues throughout your project, and plan how to mitigate against harm.

Any data storage and sharing must comply with relevant data regulations for the country you are operating in and any policies of the lead coordinator (such as governments or lead agencies). All data handling must be done in an ethical manner, with the informed consent of those involved.

Your approach should also be suitable for your chosen setting(s). This requires a robust understanding of the local culture and relationships between and within communities affected by crises, humanitarian actors, representative organisations, governments and other stakeholders.

THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE

There will be a cohort selected of up to four grantees. There is up to **£150,000** available for each chosen grantee. In addition to this financial support, HIF offers non-financial innovation management support drawing on relevant materials, including those in Elrha's [Humanitarian Innovation Guide](#).

The grantee delivery window for this Challenge runs from **January 2024 to May 2025**. Grantees therefore have **up to 17 months** of funded project delivery time. This time should cover all relevant project activities, including monitoring and evaluation. We are unable to offer any project extensions to these grants, so applicants should be conservative in their planning and leave space where possible to allow for flexibility should changes or delays occur.

Please note the grant management process including verbal and written reporting operates exclusively in English.

EXPECTED ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES FOR GRANTEES

- During the course of the grantee delivery window grantees will be expected to pilot a tech-based intervention at significant scale within a humanitarian setting. The targeted scale of the pilot should weigh up ethics and the stage of the innovation process against the desire to demonstrate the innovation's impact.
- As part of the Full Proposal stage of the application process, applicants will need to submit a detailed Workplan and Budget outlining the actions they will take over the 17 months of the grantee delivery window.
- The selected grantees will then need to report against their Workplan and provide updates on their project's achievements via formal Interim Reports and a Final Report. This will involve reporting on outcomes and outputs delivered, including the number of people who have benefitted from the project, how these people have benefited and how the intervention compares to existing alternatives.
- We see a HIF grant as the start of a journey together. During the grantee delivery period, grantees will need to produce a Scale Plan, outlining how they will scale their project after the grant closes. After the 17-month grant delivery window, grantees will then be invited to provide periodic updates on project developments.

TIMELINE



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be deemed eligible for this Challenge, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **The project team is relevant to humanitarian action:**
 - The Lead Organisation is a legally registered entity
 - The Lead Organisation is a humanitarian actor OR applicant can evidence the project will be delivered in partnership with at least one humanitarian actor
- **The project team is relevant to the GBV Tech Innovation Challenge:**
 - The Lead Organisation has GBV-related expertise OR the applicant can evidence the project will be delivered in partnership with at least one organisation with GBV-related expertise
 - The Lead Organisation has tech-related expertise OR the applicant can evidence the project will be delivered in partnership with at least one organisation with tech-related expertise

Note: at Expression of Interest stage, partnerships do not have to be formalised with an MoU or equivalent, but any organisation(s) you list to satisfy the above mentioned criterion should be those you intend to partner with. At Full Proposal stage you will need formalised partnerships

- **The project is relevant to humanitarian action:**
 - The intervention is applicable to complex humanitarian emergencies including: complex conflicts, complex protracted crises and acute responses
 - The project aims to benefit crisis-affected populations, inclusive of refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities
- **The project is relevant to the GBV Tech Innovation Challenge:**
 - The project is a pilot of a tech-based intervention
 - The project is relevant to at least one of the 26 gaps identified by Elrha's [2021 GBV Gap Analysis Report](#)
 - The proposal shows an understanding of the risks (both ethical and otherwise) associated with piloting this intervention
 - The project is within the stated budgetary and delivery time parameters (up to: £150,000 and up to 17 months between January 2024 and May 2025)

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Eligible applications to this Challenge will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Strong alignment with the objectives of the Challenge**
 - The potential for the project to be expanded to and/or replicated in, multiple humanitarian settings
 - The degree to which the project is suitable for the chosen pilot setting(s)
- **High quality innovation design & process**
 - The degree to which the project is considered different to, and an improvement on, existing alternatives
 - The degree to which the project team displays meaningful consideration (and where suitable, accommodation) regarding the engagement and [participation](#) of the populations the project is designed to support, and/or the people the intervention is designed to be used by
 - The degree to which local actors are involved in project delivery, and when involved are reasonably compensated
- **Good potential for impact in the humanitarian sector**
 - The potential of the project to achieve measurable positive change regarding GBV prevention, mitigation or response within a humanitarian setting, as well as the rigorousness of plans to measure this
- **Demonstrates feasibility and value for money**
 - The degree to which the required capabilities are accounted for in the project team
 - The degree to which the project's plans are deemed achievable and represent good value for money
- **Comprehensive consideration of ethics and other risks**
 - The degree to which the project team has displayed meaningful consideration (and where suitable, mitigation) regarding potential risks and [ethical](#) issues related to its activities

APPLICATION AND DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Step 1: Expression of Interest applications must be submitted online using the Common Grants Application system before the deadline of 16:00 BST on 27 June 2023. Please note that we are unable to accept applications that are submitted late or those that are not submitted through the [Common Grants Application system](#) (for example, being sent via email). Applicants are advised to submit well in advance of the deadline time to mitigate the risk of any technical issues.

Step 2: Elrha staff will review applications to ensure they are complete and meet the Eligibility Criteria for this Challenge.

Step 3: Complete and eligible applications will then be invited on 13th July 2023 to submit a Full Proposal.

Step 4: Full Proposal applications must be submitted online, using the link that will be provided to successful Expression of Interest applicants, before the deadline of 10th August 2023. As with the Expression of Interest stage please note that we are unable to accept Full Proposal applications that are submitted late or those that are not submitted through the Common Grants Application system (for example, being sent by email). Applicants are advised to submit well in advance of the deadline time to mitigate the risk of any technical issues.

Step 5: External Technical Reviewers will independently assess each Full Proposal against the Assessment Criteria. Scores from this stage will be used to create a shortlist of applicants.

Step 6: Individual [HIF Funding Committee](#) members – drawing on their expertise in humanitarian innovation and informed by the comments and scores of our Technical Reviewers – will independently review each shortlisted Full Proposal. The Committee will then meet to jointly review strong-scoring projects and to make final decisions on which projects to fund.

Step 7: Applicants selected by the Funding Committee will be notified at the start of October 2023 and we will begin our Due Diligence process and contracting. This usually takes 8–12 weeks. Once this stage is completed, projects can commence activities. The expected grantee project start date is 3rd January 2024.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Expression of Interest applications must be made online using the [Common Grants Application platform](#). The platform is only available in English. A copy of the questions can be found below:

About You

1. Organisation Name
2. Organisation Type
3. Organisation City
4. Organisation Country
5. Lead contact prefix
6. Lead contact other/given name
7. Lead contact family name
8. Lead contact job title
9. Lead contact landline
10. Lead contact email
11. Mobile number
12. How did you hear about this call for proposals?

Project

1. Project Title
2. Project Summary (300 Character Limit)
3. Total Funding Requested from the HIF (GBP)
4. Project Country
5. Duration
6. Start Date
7. Innovation Stage
8. Context
9. Type of Disaster
10. Phase of the Crisis
11. Target Populations
12. What sector of humanitarian response are you focusing on?
13. What technical area are you working in?
14. Principal Investigator #1 first name
15. Principal Investigator #1 last name
16. Principal Investigator #1 email
17. Principal Investigator #1 Organisation
18. Principal Investigator #2 first name
19. Principal Investigator #2 last name
20. Principal Investigator #2 email
21. Principal Investigator #2 Organisation
22. Legal and/or grants point of contact first name
23. Legal and/or grants point of contact last name
24. Legal and/or grants point of contact email

Eligibility for this Challenge

1. Please outline the project team's relevance to humanitarian action (1500 Character Limit)
2. Please outline the project team's expertise in humanitarian GBV programming (1500 Character Limit)
3. Please outline the project team's expertise in tech (1500 Character Limit)
4. Which of the 26 Gaps outlined in [Elrha's 2021 GBV Gap Analysis](#) is your project relating to?
5. Please outline how this project is relevant to humanitarian action as defined by this Challenge? (1500 Character Limit)
6. Please outline the project, including details on the tech-based GBV intervention that will be piloted and how this relates to this Innovation Challenge (2000 Character Limit)
7. Please give a brief description of some of the risks (both ethical and otherwise) associated with piloting this intervention in your chosen setting(s), and how you will mitigate them (1500 Character Limit)

Feedback

1. Was having the Challenge Handbook accessible in French, Spanish and Arabic in addition to English beneficial to you? (If yes please specify which language(s) were of use)

Supporting Documents

1. Please provide evidence that the Lead Organisation is a legally registered entity

FULL PROPOSAL FORM

Full Proposal applications must be made online using the Common Grants Application platform. The specific link will be made available to eligible applicants following a review of the Expressions of Interests applications. The platform is only available in English. A copy of the questions can be found below:

About You

1. Organisation Name
2. Organisation Type
3. Organisation City
4. Organisation Country
5. Lead contact prefix
6. Lead contact other/given name
7. Lead contact family name
8. Lead contact job title
9. Lead contact landline
10. Lead contact email
11. Mobile number
12. How did you hear about this call for proposals?

Project

1. Project Title
2. Project Summary (300 Character Limit)
3. Total Funding Requested from the HIF (GBP)
4. Project Country
5. Duration
6. Start Date
7. Innovation Stage
8. Context
9. Type of Disaster
10. Phase of the Crisis
11. Target Populations
12. What sector of humanitarian response are you focusing on?
13. What technical area are you working in?
14. Principal Investigator #1 first name
15. Principal Investigator #1 last name
16. Principal Investigator #1 email
17. Principal Investigator #1 Organisation
18. Principal Investigator #2 first name
19. Principal Investigator #2 last name
20. Principal Investigator #2 email
21. Principal Investigator #2 Organisation
22. Legal and/or grants point of contact first name
23. Legal and/or grants point of contact last name
24. Legal and/or grants point of contact email

Assessment Questions

1. Please outline how this project is relevant to humanitarian action as defined by this Challenge? (1500 Character Limit)
2. Which of the 26 Gaps outlined in Elrha's 2021 GBV Gap Analysis is your project relating to?
3. Please outline the project, including details on the tech-based GBV intervention that will be piloted and how this relates to this Innovation Challenge (2000 Character Limit)
4. Please outline the potential for your project to be expanded to and/or replicated in multiple humanitarian settings? (2000 Character Limit)
5. Please outline why your project should be considered suitable for the chosen setting(s) (2000 Character Limit)
6. Why should your project be considered innovative? How is it different to, and significantly an improvement on, existing alternatives? (2000 Character Limit)
7. Please outline your approach to participation for this project, specifically the extent to which the populations the project is designed to support and/or the people the intervention is designed to be used by have and/or will be engaged in its planning and design (2000 Character Limit)
8. What impact do you expect to achieve regarding GBV prevention, mitigation or response within a humanitarian setting by the end of the grantee delivery period? Please reference at least one of the Gaps identified in Elrha's 2021 GBV Gap Analysis and list expected outcomes, with accompanying narratives. (3000 Character Limit)
9. How many people do you aim to reach as end-users and/or how many people do you aim to benefit via the project during the grant period if your application was successful? Please outline your projected reach of target groups benefiting from this innovation, disaggregated by gender and include a description of how these numbers were derived (2000 Character Limit)
10. Please outline the project team's relevance to humanitarian action (1500 Character Limit)
11. Why is your project team well placed to successfully implement this project? Please include any relevant expertise your team has regarding GBV programming or tech (3000 Character Limit)
12. What steps have you taken to ensure your project plan is achievable and represents good value for money? (2000 Character Limit)
13. Please outline the potential ethical issues related to your project and what steps you have taken or will take, including the safeguarding of women and girls, and gaining any formal ethical approval if applicable (3000 Character Limit)



Supporting Documents

1. Budget (template will be provided)
2. Workplan (template will be provided)
3. Risk Matrix (template will be provided)
4. Partnership agreements for any partners required to ensure the project team meets the requirements of this Challenge (humanitarian actor, GBV expertise, tech expertise). For example, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) or similar.

GLOSSARY

Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

A humanitarian crisis which occurs in a country, region, or society where:

- there is a total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from civil conflict and/or foreign aggression, or;
- an international response is required which goes beyond the mandate or capacity of any single agency, or;
- the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) assesses that intensive and extensive political and management coordination is required.

Gender-based Violence (GBV)

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (ie, gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private.

Humanitarian Actor

Humanitarian actors include a wide range of organizations, agencies and inter-agency networks that combine to enable international humanitarian assistance to be channelled to the places and people in need of it. They include UN agencies, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Humanitarian Coalition member agencies, military institutions, local government institutions and donor agencies. The actions of these organisations are guided by the key humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality.

Innovation Challenge

Innovation Challenges are a competitive mechanism to award grant funding.

Pilot

A pilot is an initial small-scale implementation that is used to prove the viability of a project idea.

Tech-based Intervention

A project relating to and dependent on the practical use and application of technology.

Tech (Digital Technology)

The branch of scientific or engineering knowledge that deals with the creation and practical use of digital or computerised devices, methods or systems

WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR APPLICATION!



Submit your Expression of Interest via our [Common Grants Application](#) platform by **27 June 2023 at 16:00 BST**

For any questions that are not covered by this handbook, the [Challenge webpage](#) or our [Application Guidance](#) page, please email us at hif@elrha.org, referencing 'GBV Tech Innovation' in the subject line.



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