

GB Community of Practice (CoP) on Humanitarian Innovative Finance (HIF)

HIF has the potential to contribute to a step change in resourcing in fragile and protracted situations - forging partnerships across sectors for new approaches and mobilizing resources beyond traditional humanitarian grants. This has been identified by practitioners, the World Economic Forum's Humanitarian and Resilience Investing (HRI) platform and, more recently, by the ODI report ***Humanitarian Innovative financing in fragile settings: Taking stock and charting the road ahead.***

A series of humanitarian organizations have done pioneering work in the HIF space. While difficult to quantify, there is a recognition that the amount of public funding currently allocated to enable such innovative mechanisms is unknown, but likely not above 0.1% of humanitarian ODA. In addition, humanitarian donors' investments and learnings in HIF appear fragmented and, for the most part, not very visible. On the public sector side, participants stressed the need to build the evidence base for what has been achieved through innovative finance in frontier markets over the past 10 years (impact achieved, widening of the resources base, efficiencies gained) to secure buy-in at leadership, organizational and political levels.

Replicating and scaling the HIF models that have demonstrated success and potential requires strategic and collaborative action. While individual organizations and collective fora have built models and momentum, significant gaps remain in terms of political and institutional support, coordinated effort and scale. This will require learning from each other and greater levels of information sharing. The CoP will bring together ***a wider range of donors and aid organizations*** in addition to the small number of already invested organizations who are more advanced on innovative financing and who collaborate in various formations, notably as part of the HRI initiative.

Specifically, the CoP would:

1. Act as a forum for information exchange to share lessons learned and best practices, create synergies and share opportunities related to HIF.
2. Share and discuss with a wider stakeholder group the established practices, definitions, and ambitions of HIF.
3. Discuss proposals for action, based on the follow-up to the recommendations of the ODI report.

In line with the 3.0 Grand Bargain guidance, this CoP will not try to 'solve' the issues of Humanitarian Innovative Financing, overcome political blockages, or work towards specific outcomes.

What is the [Humanitarian and Resilience Investing \(HRI\) Initiative](#)?

Launched in 2019 as an approach to unlock impact investing in frontier markets with the goal to measurably benefit and increase the resilience of at-risk and crisis-hit communities. The Initiative launched the [Network of Innovative Finance](#), a community of humanitarian and development organisations, donors, and DFIs working to address their internal organisational barriers to enable investments in frontier markets. The Network supports its members through community building, tool development, and leadership mobilization.

Process:

The CoP will gather policy and technical experts representing Signatories and other key stakeholders to share learning on specific topics. The participants of the HRI, supported by the Humanitarian Innovative Finance Hub (HIFHub), IMD and other knowledge partners, would act as driving force for the CoP.

The following meetings of the CoP are currently envisioned:

- 1st meeting convened by the GB Secretariat in December 2024 online. This meeting aims to present the ODI report and discuss its findings and recommendations.
- 2nd meeting convened by ICRC in February/March 2025 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in person with the possibility of connecting virtually. This meeting will allow country representatives to exchange and share learning around existing projects.
- 3rd meeting convened by the HIFHub in April 2025 online, focusing on blended finance in fragile settings.
- 4th meeting convened by the HRI in June 2025 online, to discuss plans to take forward the ODI recommendations across various platforms.

Members of the CoP are welcome to suggest and convene additional meetings and to contact the GB Secretariat