



Strategic “Hunting” for Innovations for Social Impact Fund (Development Innovation Ventures)

Project Title	Strategic “Hunting” for Innovations for Social Impact Fund (Development Innovation Ventures)
Project Summary	Development Innovation Ventures - the U.S. Global Development Lab’s open innovation fund sourcing innovations year-round, from anyone, anywhere, in any sector - needs your help finding the next breakthrough solution in development.
Country	United States
Agency	Agency for International Development
DoS Office	N/A
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	4

Project Description

Are you interested in scouring the globe for the next breakthrough innovation in development (from the comfort of your dorm room)? Do you want to learn more about the most cutting-edge ideas in international development and the organizations producing and scaling them? If so, this just might be the e-internship for you...

The U.S. Global Development Lab’s Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program wants you. With over 150 innovations supported with over \$70 million in USAID funding over the past five years, DIV has a large, diverse, and truly inspiring portfolio - ranging from off-grid energy start-ups in India to “behavioral nudges” to improve community health worker performance in rural Africa. We need your help “hunting” for applicants to build our pipeline.

See "Additional Information" below for specific activities.

Desired Skills Interests

Skill

Data analysis
Database
Independent
Research
Communication Skills
Analytical Writing
Economic Analysis
Flexibility
Google Docs

Additional Information

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON E-INTERNSHIP

Specific e-internship activities may include:

Scouring the interwebs to learn about high-potential organizations, innovators, and researchers as well as strategic sourcing partners, such as intermediaries (accelerators and incubators) and other funders (impact investors, etc.).

Creating and updating a database of organizations.

Writing concise briefs outlining what the organization does, what the innovation is, and why it might be a high-potential applicant based on the DIV selection criteria of rigorous evidence of impact, cost-effectiveness, and potential scale.

You name it! We want a creative, proactive intern who will propose his/her own ideas for sourcing the next breakthrough development solution!

What we're looking for: A creative, proactive, self-motivated intern, passionate about the role of innovation and evidence in driving change in international development. Ideally, has a background in economics and ability to read academic papers and policy briefs describing the evidence base (both impact and cost-effectiveness) of a particular innovation.

What you'll get: An opportunity to work with an incredibly talented team at USAID, with expertise in areas like deal sourcing and testing, innovator support, impact evaluation, and pay-for-performance financing. A healthy dose of inspiration from the innovators in our portfolio. A sense of accomplishment as you contribute to finding the next breakthrough solution in development. What more could you ask for?

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON DIV

USAID's Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program is an open competition founded on the principle that the next breakthrough development solution can come from anyone, anywhere. DIV seeks to bring in new ideas for solving problems facing millions around the world and to increase the accountability of these ideas for delivering more impact, for less money, with greater potential for sustainable scale. DIV strategically tests these ideas, gathers evidence of what works, finds failures quickly and cheaply, without long-term commitments, and continues to support only proven solutions.

DIV applies three pillars across its portfolio: evidence of impact, cost-effectiveness, and scale, informing how new ideas are selected and supported. Since DIV's founding in 2010, it has provided over \$70 million in catalytic funding for more than 150 innovations across 9 sectors and over 40 countries around the world.

The DIV model is designed to help us advance what works while avoiding long term investments in what doesn't. DIV blends best practice due-diligence strategies in its exciting new development approach that turns bright ideas into bold results: the DIV model includes tiered funding to manage risk; research approaches from economics to test for impact and cost-effectiveness; and development expertise from nonprofits and government.

DIV's tiered-funding model, inspired by venture capital, invests comparatively small amounts in relatively unproven concepts, and continues to support only those that prove they work. We support innovations across three stages, with applicants welcome to apply at any stage:

- Stage 1: Proof of Concept/Initial Testing (\$25,000 to \$150,000 per project)
- Stage 2: Testing and Positioning for Scale (\$150,000 to \$1,500,000)
- Stage 3: Transitioning Proven Solutions to Scale (\$1,500,000 to \$15,000,000)

For more information, check out our websites - www.usaid.gov/div and www.divportfolio.org - and follow us on Twitter @GlobalDevLab #DIVUSAID.

Language Requirements

None