



# THE GSMA INNOVATION FUND

FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION

November 2021

# Session agenda

07:00 - 07:10

Welcome and introduction by the GSMA

07:10 - 07:30

Introduction to the GSMA Innovation Fund for  
Climate Resilience and Adaptation

- Fund objectives
- Role of digital, mobile and MNOs
- 3As – Adapt, Anticipate and Absorb
- How to submit a strong pitch application
- Fund sector overview

07:30 - 07:40

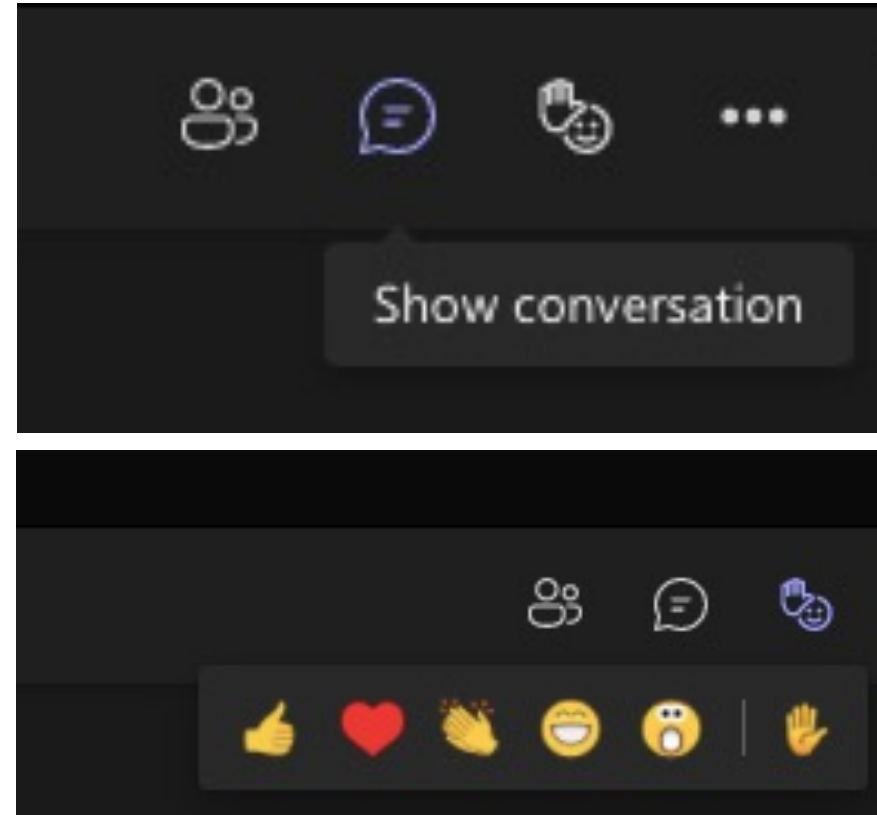
Eligibility and answering FAQs

- Funding and other support available
- Eligibility criteria
- Application process, including key dates and resources

07:40 - 08:00

Q&A

- Please don't hesitate to ask questions in the **conversation/chat panel** throughout the webinar. The team will address them as soon as possible.
- If you have any issues, just 'raise your hand' or flag it in the conversation/chat panel.



# Philippe Bellordre

*Head of Operations and GSMA Innovation Fund*

Mobile for Development, GSMA

# The GSMA in numbers



**1987**

The GSMA was founded



**12**

offices worldwide



**93.8m**

lives impacted through Mobile for Development



**2016**

we're the first sector to commit to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



GSMA Membership:

**750+ 400**

mobile operators companies in the broader ecosystem



Nearly **200,000**

attendees worldwide come to our MWC and Mobile 360 Series events



Connecting **23,000**

industry experts through InfoCentre2



**10.1bn+**

cellular connections worldwide (including IoT)



**5.2bn+**

unique mobile subscribers



**\$600bn**

annual 5G contribution to global economy in 10 years



**75%**

of the global fixed broadband market is represented by GSMA members



Over **600**

meetings in the past year amongst the GSMA Working Groups

# About Mobile for Development



We drive innovation in digital technology to reduce inequalities in our world.



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



Implemented by



# GSMA Innovation Fund Rounds

- The GSMA Innovation Fund supports and helps scale innovative digital solutions for the underserved.
- The GSMA has 10 years of experience running innovation funds on a multitude of topics within Mobile for Development.

## ROUND 1

### MOBILE INTERNET ADOPTION & DIGITAL INCLUSION

Support solutions that address digital inclusion barriers, i.e., affordability, accessibility, digital skills, safety and security

## ROUND 2

### ASSISTIVE TECH

Driving digital inclusion for people with disabilities.

## ROUND 3

### DIGITAL URBAN SERVICES

Driving urban services with socio-economic & environmental/ climate impact. Focus on energy, water, sanitation, plastics and waste management.

## ROUND 4

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION

Supporting climate resilience and adaptation solutions for low-income and vulnerable communities.

# The GSMA Innovation Fund for **Climate Resilience and Adaptation**

The GSMA Innovation Fund for Climate Resilience and Adaptation (“the Fund”) will provide grants and additional support to for-profit small and growing enterprises that leverage digital technology, to deliver climate resilience and adaptation solutions for vulnerable communities.



The GSMA Innovation Fund for Climate Resilience & Adaptation is funded by UK aid from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and is supported by the GSMA and its members.



# How can digital solutions help?

We are already seeing the widespread effects of climate change everywhere around us.

Earlier this month, global leaders collaboratively attempted to work towards the 1.5 C target.

The IPCC AR6 report alerts all of us that even with 1.5 C increase we are looking at widespread socio-economic and environment challenges. These include:

- Temperature fluctuations;
- Sea-level rise;
- Loss of bio-diversity;
- Destabilising of ecosystems; and
- Risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth.

All these impacts are maximised with socio-economic vulnerabilities in LMICs.

Through this fund, we are attempting to help, and work with, vulnerable communities in these markets to use digital technology to be more resilient and adapt to these challenges.

# **Introduction to the GSMA Innovation Fund for Climate Resilience and Adaptation**

# Why are we focusing on climate resilience and adaptation?



# Overview:

## Climate Resilience and Adaptation

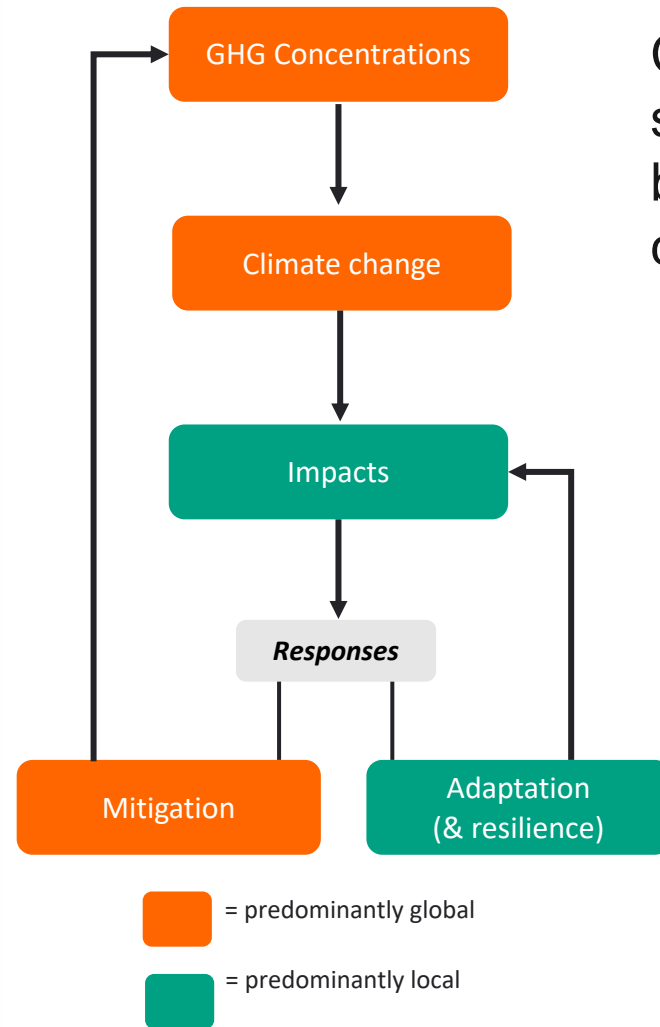


Figure 1: Responses to climate change, mitigation vs. adaptation & resilience

Climate resilience and adaptation solutions are defined as those that help build individual, community or institutional capacities to:

- **Adapt** to multiple, long-term and future climate change risks;
- **Anticipate** and reduce the impact of climate variability and extremes through preparedness and planning; and/or
- **Absorb** (i.e. face and manage) adverse conditions, emergencies or disasters

# What are we looking for?



## The GSMA Innovation Fund will seek to demonstrate:

- How innovative digital technology (with a focus on mobile), can increase the capacity of low-income and vulnerable communities to adapt to, anticipate and/or absorb climate-related shocks or stresses;
- What business or partnerships models are required for innovative digital solutions to be adopted sustainably and at scale;
- What additional socio-economic, commercial and environmental/climate impact can be achieved by using digital solutions to build climate resilience and adaptation solutions; and
- What role mobile operators and other technology companies can play in scaling these business models and how they can make their role commercially sustainable.

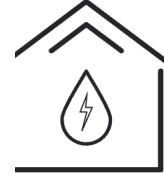
# Types of projects we might see:

Please note **this is not a restrictive list**. It is purely a set of examples helping us to understand the 'types' of projects we might see.



## Supporting and enhancing livelihoods

- precision agriculture, pay-as-you-go farming equipment, sustainable fisheries, weather forecasting, digital marketplaces



## Resilient households and cities

- reducing food waste, climate-smart appliances, water management solutions, urban resilience planning



## Climate hazard information and advice

- early warning systems, real-time flood monitoring, fire detection



## Nature-based solutions

- forest management and restoration, payment for ecosystem services, nature-based infrastructure



## Insurance and other financial services

- Index insurance, climate risk modelling, digital loans

# If you ask us – ‘What we expect to see in the application’?

- Who do they target?
- How does climate change impact their target customer or community? What are their vulnerabilities, now and in the future?
- What other systemic challenges must you consider when delivering/designing your solution?
- How does your solution address these vulnerabilities?
- What kind of tech do you use, and why?
- What kind of partnerships are critical to your success?
- What factors have led to sustainability and scale?

# What we expect to see in the application

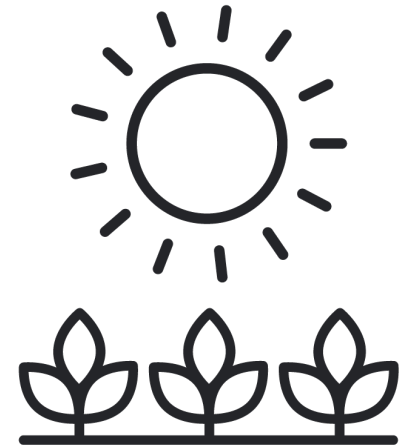
- Who do they target?
  - Tell us **who** specifically will use and/or benefit from the solution, and **why** this population is identified as vulnerable.
  - Give us details about the population, location & what types of climate risks they are prone to.
  - Provide evidence from any report/article/research clearly siting sources.





# What we expect to see in the application

- How does climate change impact their target customer or community? What are their vulnerabilities, now and in the future?
  - Highlight in **which ways** the the targeted population is **impacted by climate change** both now and in the future, including the **severity** and **time sensitivity** of these impacts
  - Provide a bit more context to **why** the target **population is less able to adapt** or **cope** with climate change related changes or dependencies needed for solutions to work
  - Always back your statements with robust data or evidence



# What we expect to see in the application

- What other systemic challenges must you consider when delivering/designing your solution?
  - Understanding about the political and regulatory environment around your solution.
  - Considering the vulnerable population, are there any other challenges you'll consider when designing the solution. These could include **The pandemic situation, digital literacy, security.**



# What we expect to see in the application

- How does your solution address these vulnerabilities?
  - Clear articulation on how the solution will address the specific vulnerability faced by users and/or local communities
  - Understanding of how the solution will provide one or more of the 3 As (adaptive, anticipatory and absorptive capacity) to the community
  - Explaining clearly how the model could be scaled/replicated, and will generate data & learning.
  - Understand how the solution is accessible to vulnerable populations (including low-income groups)



# What we expect to see in the application

- Use of Technology
  - Clearly explaining what kind of tech you propose to use and why you want to use these.
  - Understand how critical the tech solution is for this project
  - What plans you have to work with a Mobile Network Operator (MNO) in the market.



# What we expect to see in the application

- What kind of partnerships are critical to your success?
  - Clearly list your partners and the role they would play in the project.
  - Highlight why this partnership is required.
  - Share clearly the status of the partnership and any other detail of the partner organisation.



# What we expect to see in the application

- What factors have led to sustainability and scale?
  - You can clearly explain the potential / desired outcomes of the solution
  - How you will measure these outcomes throughout the life of the project
  - How would you ensure the project is sustainable beyond the life of the grant



# Eligibility



# Eligibility criteria for the Innovation Fund

## Key eligibility criteria:

1. Start-ups, small to medium sized private sector companies, and social enterprises;
2. Can demonstrate the long-term sustainability and scalability of the innovation beyond the lifespan of the grant; and
3. Have active users and revenue in at least one eligible market.

The following types of organisations will not be eligible to apply to the Innovation Fund: **Governments (or appointed government agencies); Mobile Network Operators; University or academic organisations; Start-up accelerators and incubators.**

### Geography:

Africa, South Asia and South East Asia, Pacific Islands, The Caribbean, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Western Balkans; *some exclusions apply – see Terms and Conditions.*



# Eligibility criteria for the Innovation Fund

## Matching contribution:

1. Applicants must provide a matching contribution of at least 25% of requested grant amount between £100,000 to £150,000. For instance, if an applicant is requesting £100,000 from the Fund, a contribution of at least £25,000 from other sources is required.
2. Applicants must provide a matching contribution of at least 50% of requested grant amount between £150,001 to £250,000. For instance, if an applicant is requesting £200,000 from the Fund, a contribution of at least £100,000 from other sources is required.

*Matching contributions must be secured and evidenced as such by the time final proposals are submitted and must then be used towards the proposed project and spent in full across the 15 to 18 month project cycle.*

# Support provided to grantees through the Innovation Fund

## Support provided to grantees will include:



- Grant funding between £100,000 - £250,000 to support projects over 15 to 18 months;



- Bootcamp (a programme of expert-led sessions and targeted networking) and regular online clinics on topics such as product or service improvement, human-centred design and usability testing;



- Learning exchange opportunities with other grantees and networking opportunities with other GSMA partners; including the recently launched Adaptation Research Alliance;



- Monitoring and evaluation support to evidence socio-economic impact and promote product improvement;



- Facilitation of relationships with mobile operators and public sector organisations where relevant; and

- Opportunity to increase visibility and raising profile to potential investors and partners through profiling in GSMA publications, social media and events.

# Innovation Fund key dates

**9 Nov 2021**

## **OPEN OF APPLICATIONS**

Fund announced during COP26; Release of Terms & Conditions; Applicants will have ~9 weeks to submit a pitch via an online form.

**9 Jan 2022**

## **APPLICATIONS CLOSE**

The pitch submission stage closes at 23:59 UTC on 9 January 2022.

**Feb - May 2022**

## **PROPOSAL STAGE**

Shortlisted applicants submit a full project proposal including:

- Project proposal;
- Project implementation plan; and
- Budget.

**June 2022**

## **PANEL STAGE**

Independent panel of experts ('Fund Panel') will appraise proposals based on the submitted material as well as recommendations from the GSMA and the Fund Manager

**Sep 2022**

## **PROJECTS COMMENCE**

Successful grantees will begin project implementation.

# Q&A

- Review Terms and Conditions, FAQs and apply: [www.gsma.com/ClimateFund](http://www.gsma.com/ClimateFund)
- For questions, contact us at: [GSMAIF@gsma.com](mailto:GSMAIF@gsma.com)



The GSMA Innovation Fund for Climate Resilience & Adaptation is funded by UK aid from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and is supported by the GSMA and its members.



The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK and Swedish governments' official policies.