UNDERSTANDING THE BARRIERS TO INCLUSION FACED BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES & OLDER PEOPLE IN WASH HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMING

HIF Humanitarian innovation fund | elrha

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) aims to improve outcomes for people affected by humanitarian crises by identifying, nurturing and sharing more effective and scalable solutions. We fund innovations that aim to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response.

Our new focus area on **Disability and Older Age Inclusion**[1] (DOAI), funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), will explore the barriers to and support opportunities for the inclusion of older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian response. We believe humanitarian innovation has much to contribute to this agenda and to generating a more effective and inclusive humanitarian response.

Older people and people with disabilities are diverse and have diverse lived experiences. However, older age and disability intersect with each other; we believe this intersection and potential commonalities in barriers faced warrant further exploration, and present significant potential to improve inclusion outcomes for a diverse range of people.

Whilst disability and older age is the predominant focus of this work, we recognise that disability and older age also intersect with other identity characteristics, such as gender, race, colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation, language, religion, health status, political or other opinion, national or social origin. This intersection can lead to compounding and distinct forms of discrimination that must be recognised in order to fully understand and address barriers to inclusion.

Our work on DOAI will be implemented in phases to ensure it builds on existing activity and expertise, and responds to challenges where there is genuine potential for innovation to make a valuable contribution. In this current and first phase, we have engaged with experts in the sector and formed a Technical Working Group to guide our work. Subsequent phases will include a Gap Analysis exercise to provide the evidence base, wider engagement and prioritisation to inform the DOAI focus area for 2020–23. The final phases of the work will focus on uptake, sharing what works and driving change.

For this first Innovation Challenge exploring DOAI, we will complement our existing **Gender–Based Violence (GBV)** and **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** focus areas. We are in the early stages of this work, so the focus of the Challenge will be on **Problem Recognition**.[2] Future phases are likely to expand to other stages of the innovation cycle and into additional focus areas beyond WASH and GBV.

This Handbook is focusing on the DOAI WASH Challenge.

To apply for the Challenge, fill out the Expression of Interest (EOI) via our Common Grants Application platform.
- Already have an account? Login to start an application.
- Don't have an account? Sign up to open an account and start an application.

1 Please see Glossary for further details about the DOAI focus area and abbreviation.

2 Read more about the 'Problem Recognition' stage in our Humanitarian Innovation Guide.

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THE PROBLEM

People with disabilities and older people can face a range of barriers when it comes to inclusion in humanitarian Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programming. This includes barriers to accessing services, and to meaningfully participating in needs assessments, programme design, implementation and evaluation. Barriers arise due to a range of factors, including a lack of accessible information, limited opportunities to provide feedback, a lack of training and capacity of humanitarian practitioners, un-standardised approaches to data collection, and an overall lack of resources allocated to humanitarian inclusion. Such factors contribute to a systemic lack of inclusion of older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian response, and a situation where their capacities and rights are often overlooked.

A rapid review[3] of existing WASH humanitarian programming found that there are specific themes that have a significant lack of evidence and understanding regarding people with disabilities and older people, including menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and incontinence. The review found most evidence of programmes that address physical barriers to inclusion, and a gap regarding organisational, attitudinal and communication barriers. Of the interventions reviewed, more focused on the inclusion of people with disabilities than on the inclusion of older people.

While there are standards for what inclusive WASH programming should look like (eg, ADCAP's "Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities"), as well as guidance on how to design inclusive WASH programmes (eg, UNICEF's Guidance on "Including Children with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action: WASH"), these are not being implemented in practice or are still under development, such as the IASC "Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action".

There could be a number of reasons for the low uptake of standards and guidance in the sector; practitioners' limited awareness or access to such guidance, a lack of incentives for uptake, or a lack of capacity or confidence to adopt guidance or implement to standards. The perception that designing inclusive WASH programmes require large budgets could also be a factor. It may be that existing guidance is simply incomplete or inappropriate for some, or does not provide ready-to-use solutions.

As a result, the aim of this Challenge is to build on existing evidence and insights to further understand the barriers to inclusion that people with disabilities and older people face in WASH humanitarian programming, so that more effective and inclusive WASH programmes can be developed.

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3 The rapid review will be available on Elrha's website shortly. It includes the review of existing WASH interventions and further elaborates on context and key findings for this focus area.

THE CHALLENGE

We're looking to understand the barriers to inclusion faced by people with disabilities and older people in WASH humanitarian programming: including needs assessments, programme design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We're looking to fund innovative projects that:

— are at the Problem Recognition stage of the innovation process.[4]

— are able to provide a comprehensive and developed understanding of the barriers to inclusion in humanitarian WASH programming faced by older people and people with disabilities.

— are able to articulate the identified barriers as opportunities for innovation for the humanitarian sector.

— focus on one or more specific humanitarian contexts; both in terms of geographic setting and phase of humanitarian response.[5]

Successful projects will also be expected to meet the following criteria:

APPROPRIATE METHODS

Projects should use appropriate research methods and tools that, to the extent it is possible, build on existing effective and safe approaches for participatory research. For example, projects could use design research methods such as those in our User-centred Design Guide.

PARTICIPATORY AND INCLUSIVE

Proposed research methods and tools should be inclusive to enable meaningful and safe participation of older people and people with disabilities, including enabling the participation of diverse disability constituencies.[6]

— Projects should also engage with WASH practitioners and humanitarian actors to understand any challenges and opportunities they perceive in

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4 Read more about the 'Problem Recognition' stage in our Humanitarian Innovation Guide.

5 We are open to projects in all humanitarian settings and phases of response.

6 Please see 'people with disabilities' in Glossary for further details.

designing and implementing suitable WASH programmes for older people and people with disabilities.

— Where relevant, projects may also consider engaging with carers and care-givers.

EVIDENCE-BASED

Projects should demonstrably build on existing evidence, guidance and good practice related to engaging effectively with older people and/or people with disabilities in humanitarian settings. Wherever possible, projects should use data from existing needs assessments to avoid duplication and consultation fatigue.

ETHICAL

Projects must robustly consider the ethical implications of their proposed activities and methods and how to mitigate any risks. Any barriers to the participation of people affected by crisis in the research should also be identified, as well as proposed strategies to address them. Projects must consider how they will gain independent ethical review and approval for working directly with older people and people with disabilities in their chosen setting. They must also pay due attention to ethical issues throughout the project's delivery. Please see our Humanitarian Innovation Guide and Ethics Framework for more information.

INTERSECTIONAL

Whilst projects may focus on people with disabilities and/or older people, they should also recognise the intersection between disability and age when exploring barriers faced and consider other identity characteristics as part of this.[7]

COLLABORATIVE

Projects must include at least one humanitarian actor as a partner, and, wherever possible, should develop meaningful partnerships with local organisations to support implementation; in particular, with local humanitarian actors and civil society groups (organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) and older people's associations (OPAs)). **Please note: applications that can demonstrate a meaningful and high quality partnership with a local organisation will be given a higher score on partnerships.**

7 See Glossary for a definition of 'intersectionality'.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

We are looking to fund a selection of diverse Problem Recognition projects in different humanitarian settings.

There is a **total budget of £150,000** available for this Challenge.

— From this, we envisage funding a selection of projects with varying budgets; **ideally in the range of £30,000 to £70,000 per project**.

— The projects will run for between **12 and 18 months** and the total duration should cover **both implementation and dissemination**.

The proposed budgets and timelines should align with the level of ambition of each individual project within the Challenge parameters. Each solution will be assessed on its own merit, value for money and potential for impact.

Please note that the grant amount requested at EOI stage can be indicative. Detailed budget plans will be requested at the full proposal stage.

DELIVERABLES

In response to this Challenge, applicants will be expected to deliver the following stages of work:

DEVELOP PROBLEM RECOGNITION RESEARCH METHOD

Further develop, adapt or tailor your proposed research method to support the development of a comprehensive understanding of:

— the barriers to inclusion in WASH programming experienced by older people and people with disabilities.[8]

— the extent to which existing WASH programmes address these barriers.

— the extent to which older people and people with disabilities currently have access to WASH services, and are meaningfully participating in needs assessments, and the design, implementation, and M&E of WASH programmes.[9]

— the impact of inclusion (or lack of inclusion) in humanitarian WASH programmes on older people and people with disabilities.

— the opportunities for inclusion and addressing barriers in WASH programming, with particular consideration for the capacities and rights of older people and people with disabilities.

UNDERTAKE RESEARCH IN CONTEXT

Carry out the research in one or more specific humanitarian settings. This stage is expected to involve data collection, analysis and formulation of findings.

GENERATE OPPORTUNITIES AND INSIGHTS

Articulate identified barriers as clear opportunities for the humanitarian sector to explore and inform the development of inclusive WASH programmes in a participatory way. Part of this could be highlighting areas for innovation.

ASSESS METHOD

Appraise the effectiveness of the research method and tools used.

8 Applicants are expected to consider the range of activities included in WASH programming (eg, access to safe water, access to basic sanitation facilities, and support of good hygiene practices).

9 We ask applicants to propose a suggested research focus and accept that this may not include all stages of programming. However, we expect applicants to reflect on the implications barriers in one stage of programming may have on other phases.

DISSEMINATE FINDINGS

Share the key opportunities and insights from the research and the appraisal of your method, in clear and accessible format(s).
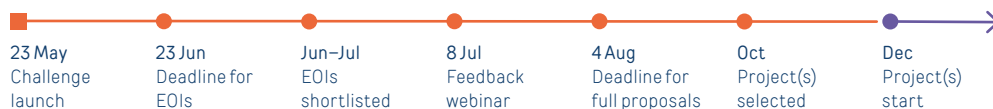
— The format for dissemination is open for applicants to decide but should be accessible and appropriate for target audiences, and easy for other practitioners to learn from, use and/or adapt to different humanitarian settings.

— We would expect applicants to consider open-access, peer-reviewed paper(s) as one possible output in order to add findings to a formal body of trusted evidence.

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The projects selected for funding will be required to **report on their progress** via written reports, verbal conversations or possible monitoring visits. Details on the reporting requirements and timings will be shared at the contracting stage, as well as details of our safeguarding and whistle-blowing policy, procedures and feedback mechanisms.
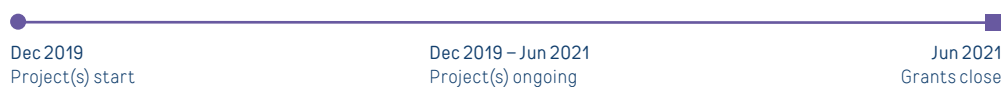
CHALLENGE TIMELINE

APPLICATION (2019)

23 May	23 Jun	Jun–Jul	8 Jul	4 Aug	Oct	Dec
Challenge launch	Deadline for EOIs	EOIs shortlisted	Feedback webinar	Deadline for full proposals	Project(s) selected	Project(s) start

23 May 2019
Challenge launch

The Challenge launches on 23 May 2019. The deadline for expressions of interest (EOIs) is 23 June 2019 at 23:59 BST. Apply via the Common Grants Application platform.

Jun–Jul 2019
EOIs shortlisted

EOIs will be reviewed against the criteria outlined in this Handbook. Shortlisted projects will be notified in the week commencing 1 July 2019.

8 Jul 2019
Feedback webinar

Shortlisted projects will receive top line feedback via a group webinar on 8 July 2019. There will be two webinars (AM/PM UK time) to suit different time zones. **Attending the webinar is mandatory for qualifying for the full proposal stage.**

4 Aug 2019
Full proposals

All shortlisted projects will be invited to submit full proposals. The deadline for full proposals is 4 August 2019 at 23:59 BST. Full proposals are reviewed by independent technical reviewers and their feedback is given to the HIF's independent Funding Committee. For further details on funding decisions and processes, please see our governance information. The final project selection is made by our Funding Committee.

Oct 2019
Project(s) selected

Successful projects will be announced in early October 2019. Contracting is expected to last six to eight weeks.

PROJECT PHASE (12–18 MONTHS)

Dec 2019	Dec 2019 – Jun 2021	Jun 2021
Project(s) start	Project(s) ongoing	Grants close

Dec 2019
Project(s) start

The projects are expected to start in early December 2019, with a kick-off workshop organised by us in the week commencing 20 January 2020.

Dec 2019–Jun 2021
Project(s) ongoing

Grantees will have between 12 and 18 months to carry out their projects. **The total duration of projects should cover implementation and analysis of findings, as well as a dissemination phase.** All projects need to be completed by June 2021 – including dissemination activities.

YOUR APPLICATION

To apply for this Challenge, register via our Common Grants Application platform accessible from the DOAI WASH Challenge webpage.

In filling out the Expression of Interest (EOI) online, you will be expected to provide the following:

— Indicative funding requested from the HIF. At the EOI stage, we only require an estimate of the total amount. Successful applicants will be able to update this amount in the full proposal stage, and will be expected to provide a detailed budget and project plan.

— Brief details on your team and anticipated partners who will work on this project.

— Brief details about your Problem Recognition project including:

  ☐ an overview of the problem and the context

  ☐ the barrier(s) you plan to explore

  ☐ approach to implementation (method)

  ☐ a rough outline of intended activities and deliverables

  ☐ details about possible setting(s) for implementation.

If invited to develop your EOI into a full proposal, you will be expected to adapt and expand on the EOI and answer a few additional questions about your plans for implementation, evaluation and dissemination.

For the full list of requirements and details about the application process, please register via the Common Grants Application platform.

— Already have an account? Login to start an application.

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GLOSSARY

Where a reference is given, these definitions are taken in whole from the source document.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility means ensuring that people with disabilities are able to have access to the physical environment around them, to transportation, to information such as reading material, to communication technology and systems on an equal basis with others. Accessibility requires forward thinking by those responsible for the delivery of private and public services to ensure that people with disabilities can access services without barriers.[10]

— Elrha understands this definition to be relevant and applicable for both people with disabilities and older people.

— See also 'reasonable accommodation'.

BARRIERS

Factors that prevent a person from having full and equal access and participation in society. These can be environmental, including physical barriers (such as the presence of stairs and the absence of a ramp or an elevator) and communication barriers (such as only one format being used to provide information), attitudinal barriers (such as negative perceptions of older people or people with disabilities) and institutional barriers (such as policies that can lead to discrimination against certain groups). Some barriers exist prior to the conflict or natural disaster; others may be created by the humanitarian response.[11]

DISABILITY AND OLDER AGE INCLUSION (DOAI)

As a focus area for Elrha, DOAI is used in this context solely as an abbreviation of the full title. Within this title, we uphold that older people and people with disabilities are diverse and have diverse lived experiences, but that older age and disability do intersect with each other. We believe that this intersectionality and the potential commonalities in barriers-faced warrant further exploration.

INCLUSION

Inclusion means a rights-based approach to community programming, aiming to ensure persons with disabilities have equal access to basic services and a voice in the development and implementation of those services. At the same time, it requires that mainstream organisations make dedicated efforts to address and remove barriers.[12]

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10 CBM. (2017) "Disability-Inclusive Development Toolkit".

11 ADCAP. (2018) "Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities".

12 IFRC. (2015) "All Under One Roof, Disability-inclusive shelter and settlements in emergencies", p. 10.

INNOVATION

Humanitarian innovation can be defined as an iterative process that identifies, adjusts and diffuses ideas for improving humanitarian action. See more in our Humanitarian Innovation Guide.

INTERSECTIONALITY

This means the interaction of multiple factors, such as disability, age and gender, which can create multiple layers of discrimination, and, depending on the context, entail greater legal, social or cultural barriers. These can further hinder a person's access to and participation in humanitarian action, and more generally, in society.[13]

OLDER PEOPLE

Older people are a fast-growing proportion of the population in most countries, but are often neglected in humanitarian action. In many countries and cultures, being considered old is not necessarily a matter of age, but is linked to circumstances, such as being a grandparent or showing physical signs of ageing, such as white hair. While many sources use the age of 60 and above as a definition of old age, 50 years and over may be more appropriate in many of the contexts where humanitarian crises occur.[14]

OLDER PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATIONS (OPAs)

OPAs are innovative community-based organisations of older people, aimed at improving the living conditions for older people and for developing their communities. OPAs utilise the unique resources and skills older people have, to provide effective social support, to facilitate activities and deliver services.[15]

ORGANISATIONS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (OPDs)

OPDs are usually self-organised organisations where the majority of control at board level and at membership level is with people with disabilities. The role of an OPD is to provide a voice of their own, on all matters related to the lives of people with disabilities.[16]

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.[17]

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13 ADCAP. (2018) "Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities".

14 Ibid.

15 HelpAge. (2009) "Older people in community development".

16 CBM, (2017) "Disability-Inclusive Development Toolkit".

17 UN CPRD. "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Article 1 – Purpose".

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodation means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.[18]

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

A collective term for programmes that focus on (1) ensuring access to safe water, (2) ensuring access and use of basic toilets and ways to separate human waste from contact with people and (3) nurturing good hygiene practices, especially handwashing with soap. While each is a separate field of work, they each depend on the presence of the other.

18 UN CPRD. "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Article 2 – Definitions".

WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR EOIs!

Apply for the Challenge via our Common Grants Application platform by 23 June 2019 at 23:59 BST.

For any questions that are not covered by this Challenge Handbook, please email us at hif@elrha.org, referencing 'DOAI WASH Challenge' in the subject line.