



Humanitarian and Development Finance Innovation Challenge

CALL FOR IDEAS

Connecting Research, Practice, and Capital
for Real-World Impact

An innovation programme aligned with the Humanitarian
and Development Finance Forum.

WHY

This Challenge Exists

Humanitarian and development finance continue to generate strong research, pilots, and policy discussions. Yet many solutions struggle to move from concept to implementation.

Gaps in funding readiness, institutional alignment, and operational feasibility often prevent promising ideas from achieving real-world impact.

This Challenge was created to address that disconnect by surfacing implementable ideas and connecting them directly with institutions capable of piloting, funding, and scaling them.

Programme Overview

FORMAT

Curated Call for Ideas and Live Presentations

DURATION

Half-Day Programme

LOCATION

Minaretein, Education City, Qatar

THEME

Humanitarian and Development Finance

WHAT

Makes This Programme Distinct

This programme is designed as a problem-first, implementation-focused innovation forum.

It prioritizes feasibility, funding alignment, and institutional readiness over competition or rapid prototyping.

Participants engage in structured dialogue with funders, practitioners, and policymakers to refine ideas within real-world constraints and explore pathways toward piloting and scale.

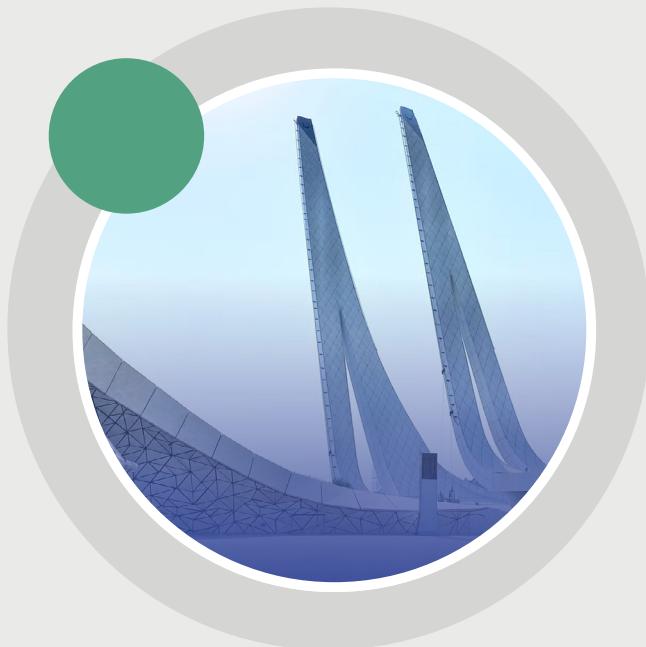
THE

Call for Ideas

The Challenge invites researchers, practitioners, and sector professionals from the MENA and Southeast Asia regions to submit ideas addressing key challenges in humanitarian and development finance, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected contexts.

Aligned with the Humanitarian and Development Finance Forum, the Innovation Challenge connects academia, practice, and philanthropy to turn credible ideas into implementable initiatives that advance inclusion, resilience, and measurable impact.





WHO Should Participate

- **Academics and Researchers**
- **Humanitarian and Development Practitioners**
- **Policy Professionals**
- **Individuals active within non-profit, waqf, or development finance ecosystems**

Eligibility Applicants must be based in, or primarily working in, the MENA and Southeast Asia regions.

Submission Overview

Submissions should include:

- Problem statement
- Why the problem persists
- Scale and impact
- Proposed solution
- Estimated cost to build or pilot
- Supporting slides (up to 12 slides)

Shortlisted teams will be invited to present their ideas live to funders and ecosystem stakeholders as part of the programme.

Awards and Strategic Opportunities

Top 3 performing teams will be formally recognised.

Further recognition details will be announced soon.

Opportunities may include:

- Up to **US\$100,000 investment** through the HASAN VC Accelerator
- Fast-track admission into Accelerator Cohort 4
- Investor introductions and fundraising preparation
- Access to HASAN VC Venture Capital Certification Programmes

What Happens After the Challenge

The Challenge is designed as a starting point.

Selected ideas may progress into:

- Structured refinement
- Incubation pathways
- Engagement with aligned funders and institutions

KEY DATES and Next Steps

FEBRUARY 10

2026

CALL FOR IDEAS LAUNCH

MARCH 12

2026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

APRIL 21

2026

PROGRAMME DATE (TENTATIVE)

Venue

Minaretein, Education City, Qatar

Further details will be shared through official programme channels.

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Click here to apply today



CONTACT

Dr. Dalal Aassouli
daassouli@hbku.edu.qa

Shoyusuf Shomansur
shoyusuf@hasan.vc