

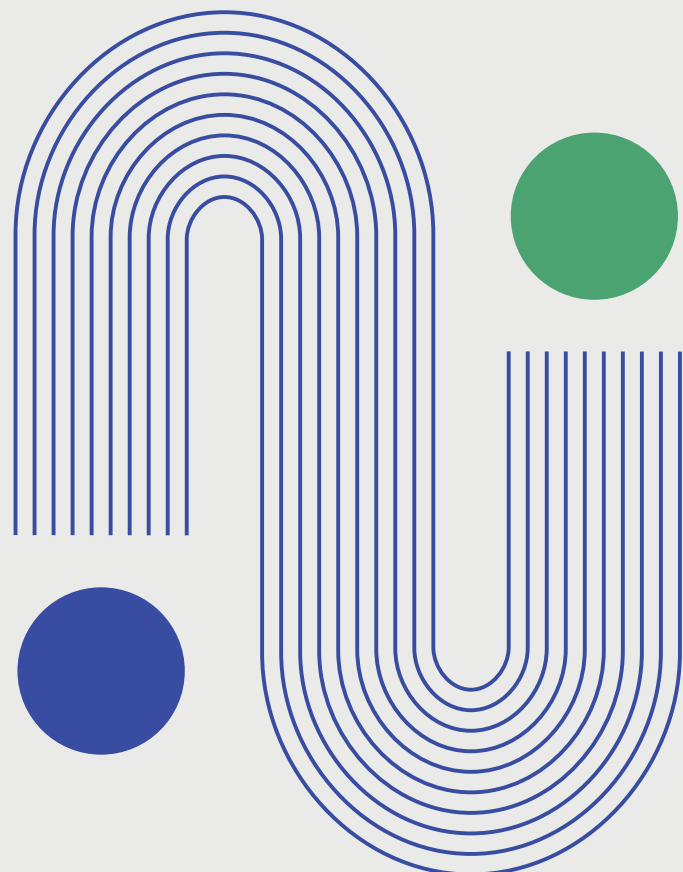


# Humanitarian and Development Finance Innovation Challenge

— **CALL FOR IDEAS** —

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

An innovation program 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.

## Program Overview

### FORMAT

Curated Call for Ideas and Live Presentations

### DURATION

Half-Day program

### LOCATION

Minaretein, Education City, Qatar

### THEME

Humanitarian and Development Finance

## WHAT

# Makes this Program Distinct

This program 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

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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 program.

# AWARDS

## and Strategic Opportunities

**Top three performing teams will be formally recognised.**

Additional recognition details will be announced soon.

Opportunities and awards include:

- Cash Prizes of **QAR 15,000** for first place, **QAR 10,000** for second place and **QAR 5,000** for third place.
- Up to **US\$100,000** investment opportunity through the HASAN VC Accelerator.
- Fast-track admission into HASAN VC Accelerator Cohort 4.
- Flights and accommodation for three finalist teams (one representative from each team).
- Direct access to high-level judges and industry leaders.
- A highly focused competition format featuring only three finalists, ensuring increased visibility and engagement opportunities.
- Investor introductions and fundraising readiness support.
- Access to HASAN VC Venture Capital Certification Programs.
- Membership in the HASAN VC startup, founder, and investor community.
- Access to the HBKU startup, founder, and investor network.
- Dedicated mentorship from HASAN VC and HBKU experts.

## Judging Panel

- **Ghanim Al Sulaiti**, Chief Executive Officer, Enbat Group
- **Akber Khan**, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Al Rayan Investment
- **Mana Mohammad Al-Ansari**, Chief Economic Empowerment Officer, Education Above All
- **Umar Munshi**, General Partner, HASAN.VC

## 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

**AUGUST 31**

2026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**DECEMBER 9**

2026

PROGRAM DATE

**Venue**

Minaretein, Education City, Qatar

Further details will be shared through official program channels.

# APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Click here to apply today



## CONTACT

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