

Specialist evaluation of Global Innovation Fund's Innovating for Gender Equality Initiative

11 August 2023

1. Introduction

The Global Innovation Fund (GIF) is seeking a consultant to carry out a specialist evaluation of its Innovating for Gender Equality Initiative to understand progress and assess the viability and effectiveness of the Sub-Fund, building on the evaluation carried out in October 2021.

2. Background

GIF is a \$200m non-profit innovation fund that accelerates evidence-based social innovations and business models that will improve the lives of millions of the world's poor. GIF uses flexible instruments including grant, debt, equity and quasi-equity to invest in the piloting, rigorous testing and scaling of innovations. GIF uses staged financing and grant and investment sizes range from USD 50,000 to 15 million. GIF aims to support a portfolio of innovations that collectively open up opportunities and improve lives for hundreds of millions of people across the developing world.

GIF believes that the best ideas for solving some of the world's most critical problems can come from anyone, anywhere. Through grants and risk capital investments, GIF supports breakthrough solutions to global development challenges from social enterprises, for-profit firms, non-profit organisations, researchers, and government agencies. GIF has a portfolio of over 60 investments in sub-Saharan Africa, South and South-East Asia.

GIF is a registered charity of England & Wales and is the sole member of a U.S. foundation incorporated in Washington, D.C. and registered as a US 501(c)3 (public charity). GIF has offices in London, Washington DC, Singapore and Nairobi. GIF is funded by FCDO, USAID, SIDA, DFAT, Global Affairs Canada and the Department of Science & Technology of South Africa.

In 2018, the Global Innovation Fund (GIF) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) partnered on a new fund that would specifically and exclusively focus on finding and funding scalable innovations to transform unequal gender relations and empower the world's poorest women and girls. The Innovating for Gender Equality fund, managed by GIF, fills a gap in the global landscape at the intersections of gender equality, innovation and impact-first financing.

GIF is building a portfolio of gender-transformative innovations to tackle gender inequality by promoting shared power, women's control of resources, and increased agency of women and girls so that they can make decisions and pursue their own goals free from violence

and retribution. This portfolio seeks to contribute to shifting the structures that make gender equality possible.

In October 2021, Altamont Group carried out a [review](#) of the first three years of GIF's Innovating for Gender Equality Initiative to understand impact, outcomes, opportunities for growth, quality and scope of the partnership (including comparison to similar initiatives in the market); and specific opportunities created by the partnership, for example emerging themes of the portfolio.

3. Scope of Work

The specialist evaluation will build on the evaluation carried out in October 2021 and look at the work carried out under the GAC-GIF partnership since then as well as assess the viability and effectiveness of GIF's Innovating for Gender Equality Sub-Fund.

4. Evaluation Questions

The evaluation should look to answer the following questions:

1. Progress of the Programme - Sub-Fund Performance and Investment Quality
 - a. Investments
 - i. What is the number and nature of deals considered under the Sub-Fund criteria since October 2021?
 - ii. What is the nature of the innovations supported under the Sub-Fund since October 2021?
 - iii. How many people are expected to be reached and what impacts are the new innovations expected to achieve?
 - iv. How well does the gender portfolio demonstrate alignment with GIF gender framework, demonstration of high impact and focus on innovation?
 - b. Partnerships
 - i. What is the nature of the partnerships GIF has entered into under the Sub-Fund since October 2021?
 - ii. How do these partnerships support the broader adoption of lessons learned within the GAC-GIF partnership across the investment community?
 - c. Sharing Learnings
 - i. What materials have been developed to share and advance the lessons learned from the GAC-GIF partnership?
 - ii. How has the partnership with GAC influenced GIF's work (taking into consideration feminist principles of investment making and GIF's gender toolkit)?
 - iii. What role does GIF play in the ecosystem more broadly and what has GIF done to influence the field?

2. Viability and Effectiveness of Innovating for Gender Equality Sub-Fund
 - a. Who are the GLI investors and gender equity grant-makers that hold similar goals and/or achieve similar outcomes as GIF's Innovating for Gender Equality Sub-Fund? How does GIF's approach to finding, measuring and investing in gender equality differ?
 - b. What is the Innovating for Gender Equality Sub Fund's value proposition?
 - c. Which donors or funders are most aligned with GIF's gender agency framework and sub-fund goals, and how have they recently demonstrated this commitment?
 - d. How were the recommendations from the October 2021 evaluation implemented?

5. Timetable

A proposed timeline for the activities is as follows:

Date (2023)	Deliverable
11 th August	RFP Published
27 th August	Proposals submitted
28-31 st August	Review
8 th September	Contract finalised
September-October	Data collection and analysis
30 th October	Draft Report
17 th November	Final Report

6. Budget

The budget for this work is 25,000 Canadian Dollars.

7. Proposals

All proposals should be sent to ie@globalinnovation.fund by 23:59 BST on 27th August 2023.