

Chief Development Strategy Officer Global Innovation Fund

INTRODUCTION

This document should be read in conjunction with the information on the Global Innovation Fund's website: www.globalinnovation.fund

The Global Innovation Fund (GIF) is recruiting a Chief Development Strategy Officer. Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and serving as a member of the executive team, the CDSR will:

- Provide strategic guidance to GIF investment team to ensure that GIF investments are deeply grounded in theory, evidence, and practice in international development;
- Oversee a team of professionals investing in innovations that have the potential to scale via government or civil society to improve the lives of millions of poor people;
- As a member of a high performing executive team, ensure that GIF is a dynamic, efficient and highly effective organisation that continually learns from experience, and continually improves policies, procedures and outcomes;
- Communicate the GIF mission and vision externally, including with current and future partners and networks and act as an ambassador for GIF.

This role may be based in either London or Washington, DC. Women and citizens of the Global South are particularly encouraged to apply.

The organization

GIF is a non-profit innovation fund headquartered in London. GIF invests to accelerate evidence-based innovation that improves the lives of poor people. GIF uses rigorous evidence and development economics to identify and invest in high-impact early-stage enterprises situated in the funding gap between angel and later-stage investors in private equity and development finance. GIF supports efforts to de-risk high impact innovations scaling via the public sector, or public-private partnerships, and to rigorously demonstrate their cost effectiveness. Both strands of work are of equal importance to GIF and both are grounded in a fundamental commitment to open innovation; great ideas can come from anywhere.

Launched in September 2014, GIF is supported by financial partners including the governments of Australia, Canada, Sweden, UK, and USA. The Omidyar Network was a founding funder, and GIF also has funding partnerships with Unilever, the South African Department of Science and Technology, and the Indian Rural Electrification Corporation, as well as a partnership with the Commonwealth to implement the Commonwealth Innovation Hub (cominnowealth.org).

Since 2014, GIF has backed 40 innovations and reached 28 million people. By 2029, we expect to improve the lives of 83 million people and generate \$5 billion in social value. GIF generates this value with a highly disciplined investment process that is

grounded in a proprietary method for predicting and measuring impact called Practical Impact Assessment. GIF strives to be innovator driven, tapped into market needs, and focused on impact, ESG, gender and commercial considerations.

GIF's commitment to being part of the bridge between entrepreneurs and development finance challenges us to be creative and to seek the partnerships that drive creativity, dynamism, and collaboration. GIF's unique hybrid model reflects our dual mission: to invest in innovations that improve the lives of the poor, and to demonstrate how bringing evidence and the power of the private sector to bear can create new solutions to persistent development problems.

In our work with all innovators, whether private, public, or in civil society, GIF defines 'innovation' broadly to include new business models, policy practices, technologies, behavioural insights, or ways of delivering products and services that benefit the poor in developing countries, in short any solution that has potential to address an important development problem more effectively than existing approaches.

GIF is global in breadth and scope: open to solutions across sectors and countries and from any type of organisation, including social enterprises, for-profit firms, non-profit organisations, researchers, and government agencies. GIF supports innovations based on a judgment of their impact, potential to scale, rigorous metrics of success, and the quality of their teams.

Although some projects GIF supports provide financial returns to GIF, it also provides grants and technical assistance, with every project designed to support a public good through either public or private vehicles.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Chief Development Strategy Officer (CDSO)

The Global Innovation Fund seeks an experienced leader for its investment activities. The CDSO is the primary responsibility holder for ensuring that grants and investments brought forward for consideration are deeply grounded in the best evidence and practice of economic development. Because rigorous evidence of impact is at the heart of GIF's mission and mandate, the CDSO should both be conversant with and committed to the application of rigorous analytical techniques to measure and assess impact.

All grants and investments made by GIF are assessed for their potential for impact, scale, and sustainability. The judgement, experience, and training of the CDSO are a critical input to this assessment, in concert with the input of GIF's Chief Analytics Officer and Chief Investment Officer, as well as other members of the executive team. Thus, the CDSO is effective as a teacher, a mentor, and a collaborator.

The CDSO advises and supports all investors at GIF to develop the theory of change and the economic understanding of a potential deal, and as such has significant experience and expertise living in and working on developing country contexts. The CDSO manages and coaches directly those investors that make grants to support innovations that scale through the public sector or civil society. Thus, The CDO is a

strong believer in the role of the private sector and entrepreneurship, both for-profit and non-profit, in the realisation of development outcomes.

As a member of the leadership of the fund's investment team the CDSO will:

1. Support and lead efforts to develop, articulate and implement the fund's investment processes within the framework of the fund's bylaws, in particular as chair of the Development Review Committee, a sub-committee of GIF's Investment Committee, with delegated authority to test whether potential grants or investments meet GIF's impact mandate.
2. Support and lead efforts to develop, articulate, and implement the fund's investment strategy in collaboration with the CEO including budget allocations, strategic follow-on investments, moving partners through investment life-cycle stages, and advocating for success stories.
3. Guide team members with judgement on deals sourcing, right-sized due-diligence, and active portfolio management.
4. Support and lead efforts to conceptualize and shape priorities that ensure cross-team integration among teams working on risk capital investments, grants, advocacy and communication campaigns, and business development.
5. Manage a small and potentially growing team of impact investors that source and complete excellent investments for the fund, consistent with the fund's mandate and ambitious goals.
6. Provide coaching and give and seek feedback while measuring and holding people accountable. Support employee development and recognize achievement and lessons learned.
7. Engage with external stakeholders as a key leader of the Global Innovation Fund, advancing and explaining our mission and expanding our supporter network.
8. Advocate for the fund's model, approach, and particular partners.
9. Serve as a member of the senior leadership team of the fund and as a high-profile ambassador for our work and mission.

EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS DESIRED

The ideal candidate brings many of the following attributes to the position:

1. A dozen-plus years' experience in the field of development, with a track record of increasing responsibility, strategic vision, and authority
2. Proven leadership record in sourcing, financing, supporting and scaling commercially viable institutions and/or cost-effective public sector programs that contribute to social outcomes
3. Experience with evidence-based decision-making and social impact evaluation
4. Deep conceptual understanding of development economics and associated analytical frameworks
5. Experience and aptitude as a leader managing teams and developing talent
6. Significant duration of on-site professional experience working in the developing world (South Asia and/or Sub-Saharan Africa) a must
7. Strong network of people and organizations with whom GIF can partner to achieve transformative change
8. Top tier analytic, strategic thinking, and leadership skills
9. Humility, integrity, and thoughtful stewardship of resources

- 10. A deep interest in mentoring and guiding junior team members
- 11. A sense of humour

SRI Executive are acting as our search partners with this role.

Please apply at gif-cdso@sri-executive.com.