



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung



**Global
Disability
Fund**



Resilient & Inclusive Cities Hub

Small scale grants for innovative solutions.

Open Call

1st May 2025



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Purpose of the Call

The Resilient and Inclusive Cities Hub hosted by the [Global Disability Fund](#) is launching a call for small scale innovation solutions for inclusive and sustainable cities. The call is open to INGOs, OPDs, Development Banks, UN Agencies, Academia with demonstrable experience in inclusive and resilient cities with focus on persons with disabilities.

The purpose of this call is to select a small number of programs with a 1-year implementation (5 programs with a budget envelope of around USD 200k each).

The programmes will have to focus on developing small scale innovative solutions in the context of disability inclusive and resilient cities. These innovative solutions will transcend technological advancements, emphasizing holistic strategies to meet the diverse needs of all residents, including persons with disabilities. The proposals selected should focus on one of the areas indicated below:

1. New Regulatory and Policy Models

Innovative policy frameworks are essential for fostering inclusivity and resilience. These include, but are not limited to:

- Adaptive policy frameworks: designed to evolve with urban dynamics, ensuring that the emerging needs of persons with disabilities are met.
- Person-centred regulations: prioritizing individual needs and preferences, ensuring accessibility without creating barriers.

2. Creative Funding Mechanisms

Financing inclusive urban projects requires innovative approaches, such as, but not only:

- Participatory budgeting: ensuring that funds are allocated to initiatives that directly benefit persons with disabilities.
- Mobilization of private sector investments: encouraging funding for disability-inclusive infrastructure and services.

3. Innovative service delivery approaches

Service delivery to ensure accessibility and efficiency can be changed through, but not only:

- Integrated services models: combining different sectors such as, among others, health, education, social protection to create a cohesive support system.
- Personalized services: utilizing data-driven insights to tailor services to individual needs.

4. Cost-effective solutions to urban and climate change challenges

Affordable strategies and low-cost innovations can address accessibility gaps, including, but not only:



- Behavioural insights for inclusion: applying social sciences to design inclusive public spaces that naturally encourage accessibility.
- Low-cost innovations: affordable assistive technologies that improve independence and participation in urban life.
- Technology for accessibility and resilience: disaster preparedness tools and accessible early warning systems.

Overall Process

Interested organizations will need to submit the template and budget attached by **the 1st of June 2025 to globaldisabilityfundcalls@undp.org** Proposals will then be evaluated and scored by a panel of 5 independent experts against the criteria set out in this call. Selected proposals will begin in the second quarter of 2025. Please note that organizations that have not received funding by the Global Disability Fund before will need to undergo a due diligence process.

Who can apply?

The following organizations can apply for funding:

1. INGOs (International Non-Governmental Organizations)
2. National Civil Society Organizations
3. OPDs (Organizations of Persons with Disabilities)
4. Development Banks
5. UN Agencies
6. Academia

These organizations will need to demonstrate their expertise in working within the domain of disability inclusive and resilient cities including:

Experience in programmes in cities Applicants should highlight their involvement in urban development projects that prioritize inclusion and resilience

Expertise in designing innovative solutions Organizations should demonstrate their capacity to create novel approaches to urban challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

Application of technology to inclusion Applicants should showcase expertise in the use of technology to enhance urban inclusivity including implementation.

Application requirements

Applicants will be required to develop a proposal using the template in **Annex 1&2**. Proposals will need to demonstrate both scalability and possibility of replication in other cities.

Requirements:

- **Rationale for selected focus of innovation and city selection:** A clear explanation of how RICH funding will promote disability inclusion through the proposed innovative solution and the expected potential for scaling up and replication. A clear rationale for the choice of geographic scope, focus and potential impact/benefit for persons with disabilities.
- **Technical Content:** Proposals must demonstrate a strong understanding of disability inclusion and urban resilience principles and practices. They should showcase how these concepts are integrated into the project design and implementation.
- **Innovation:** Proposals must explain clearly the innovative elements of the solution proposed and its cost effectiveness.
- **Multistakeholder collaboration:** Programs should show meaningful engagement and consultation with OPDs including at the design stage. Programs should also be designed in partnership or collaboration with local city government.

Selection Process

Proposal selection will be based on a two-tier evaluation approach:

- 1) Initial screening by the Hub Secretariat for eligibility as per the call criteria and requirements.
- 2) Technical review and scoring by the selected external panel of experts based on the agreed criteria.

Eligibility

Proposals will be initially filtered according to the below criteria:

- **Applicant Expertise:** Must be an organization with demonstrated experience on inclusion, innovation and inclusive and resilient cities. The organization will also have to demonstrate expertise in managing UN or similar grants.
- **Consultation of organization of persons with disabilities:** The proposal must be designed in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.
- **Start Date:** Proposals should be ready to commence in the second quarter of 2025.
- **Budget Details:** Proposals should include detailed budget breakdowns adhering to the USD 200K cap per project, outlining how the funds will be allocated across different activities.

- **Completion and timely submission of the proposal:** The completed template must be submitted no later than the **1st of June 2025 to globaldisabilityfundcalls@undp.org**
- **Geographic Scope:** Given the limited funding, proposals should target one urban city/municipality level. Applicants should clearly define the geographic scope of their project, including the specific urban area to be targeted and the rationale for their selection.

Technical Review Criteria

The panel of independent experts will assess the proposal based on the following criteria.

Problem Identification and relevance of results: Proposals should clearly identify the specific problem they aim to address, particularly the challenges faced by people with disabilities taking into account their intersecting identities, and the expected results.

Intersectional approach: Proposals should encompass comprehensive strategies that address the diverse needs of persons with disabilities and take into consideration their intersecting identities in urban environment. An intersectional approach in urban environments recognizes that persons with disabilities are not a homogeneous group and that their experiences are shaped by multiple, intersecting identities among other gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, race, sexuality, and religion.

Innovative solutions: Propose innovative approaches that move beyond traditional methods, utilizing creative regulatory models, funding strategies, and flexible service delivery. Ensure adaptability to evolving urban dynamics and the diverse needs of persons with disabilities.

Technology integration (if relevant): Incorporate cutting-edge technologies to enhance accessibility and improve quality of life.

Universal design: Focus on creating solutions that benefit all city residents, including those with disabilities. This includes accessible infrastructure, transportation, and public spaces.

Participatory design: Involve persons with disabilities directly in the innovation process, ensuring solutions are truly inclusive and meet real needs.

Cross-sector collaboration: Foster partnerships between government, industry, and disability organizations to generate new knowledge and tools for inclusive urban development.

Adaptive solutions: Develop innovations that can flexibly address various types of disabilities, such as mobility, visual, hearing, and cognitive impairments.

Data-driven approaches: Utilize smart city technologies and data analytics to identify and address accessibility gaps in urban environments.

Scalability and replicability: Create solutions that can be replicated and scaled across different urban contexts, maximizing impact.

Grant Amounts and Duration

This call is aimed at strategically selecting around 5 proposals for an average amount of USD 200K each. Programs are expected to run for up to 12 months.

Timeframe

Activity	Date
Launch of the call	1 st of May 2025
Submission of proposals	1 st of June 2025
Scoring of proposals	25 th June
Communication on selected proposals from Co Chairs	28 th June
Preparation of documents for transfer ¹	July-August 2025
Transfer of Funds	July- August 2025
Formal Launch of programs	July-August 2025

¹ Please note for organizations that have not received funds from the Global Disability Fund before a due diligence process will be undertaken.