



UN GLOBAL PULSE SCALE ACCELERATOR

2023

Innovation and scaling are two sides of the same coin. With effective scaling, promising innovations can transcend the boundaries of prototypes and perpetual pilots to unlock their full potential for widespread change.



WHAT IS THE UN GLOBAL PULSE SCALE ACCELERATOR?

It is a UN System-wide service that acts as a structured programme for innovations to develop Scale Strategies and receive catalytic support (Scale Catalyst Grant) to implement the strategies. The Innovation Scaling Team at UN Global Pulse developed the Scale Accelerator based on a key finding from a [2022 UN System-wide research](#) - while there was growing recognition and enthusiasm for innovation within the UN System, there was a need to broaden support to encourage collaboration and equip the UN with capabilities to take promising innovations to their full potential.

WHO IS IT FOR?

This scale support service is open to colleagues across the UN System looking to maximise the potential of inclusive and sustainable innovations to respond to the complex needs of a rapidly evolving world.

IS OUR INNOVATION ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCALE ACCELERATOR?

To qualify as an innovation project, it must demonstrate: Delivering impact through the creation or adaptation of a product, service, process or system that adds new value by addressing an existing problem, exploiting an opportunity or responding to an anticipated need.

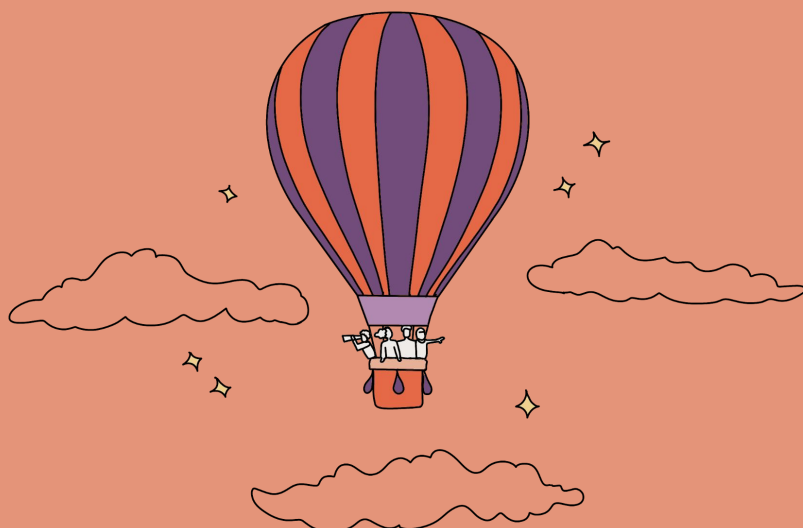
Innovations from across the UN System must fulfil all of the essential criteria below to be eligible to apply to join the Scale Accelerator's 2024 cohort:

Essential criteria

- ☐ Respond to the development pillar
- ☐ Involve one or more of these cross-cutting themes: Climate Change, human rights, gender equality/ women empowerment, diversity and inclusion
- ☐ Piloted at least once and able to provide evidence of positive outcomes

Desirable criteria

- ☐ Demonstrate collaboration with other stakeholders across the UN System
- ☐ Address challenges in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- ☐ Team operates in the Global South
- ☐ Team demonstrates gender equality, diversity and inclusion
- ☐ Able to demonstrate considerations for the incorporation of other areas from the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change (innovation, data, digital, behavioural sciences and strategic foresight) in the innovation and scaling processes





Scale Strategy Development Workshop Series

(All Participating Teams)

- Scale Readiness Assessment
- Scale Strategy Building
- Support in brokering collaborations where applicable.

Scale Catalyst Grant

(Selected Teams)

Two teams with the most well-defined Scale Strategies will be awarded approx. USD 60,000 each.

Strategic Mentoring & Technical Advice

(Selected Teams)

The two teams receive mentoring & technical advice for implementing their Scale Strategy using their Scale Catalyst Grant.

SCALE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

Eligible teams will undergo a Scale Strategy Development Workshop Series to help teams carry out gap analysis to:

- Understand how scale-ready their innovations are,
- Identify team and organisational requirements for scale, and
- Identify the value network required for the journey to achieve scale.

This gap analysis is necessary to:

- Create a scale vision (long term) and goal (immediate) for the innovation,
- Outline potential routes to scale that can be tested,
- Identify gaps between the current status of the innovations and their vision and goal, and
- Develop a plan for getting across those gaps (Scale Strategy).

The UN Global Pulse Innovation Scaling Primer ([Download the PDF version](#) or experience [the interactive version](#)) provides insights into some of the key areas that will be covered in the workshop series.

Participating teams will be supported with brokering for collaborations where applicable with stakeholders including those within the UN System and beyond (such as innovation ecosystems, academia, and public and private sectors).

SCALE CATALYST GRANT

Following the Scale Strategy Development Workshop Series, two teams with the most compelling Scale Strategy with well-defined scale visions, goals and clear plans for addressing their scaling gaps will receive a Scale Catalyst Grant (approximately USD 60 000 each team).

STRATEGIC MENTORING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE

Additional Strategic Mentoring and Technical Advice will also be provided to guide the implementation of their Scale Strategy.

WHEN IS IT?

The Scale Strategy Development Workshop Series will be held online in 6 half-day sessions, held over two weeks in February 2024. Scale Catalyst Grants will be awarded in April 2024.

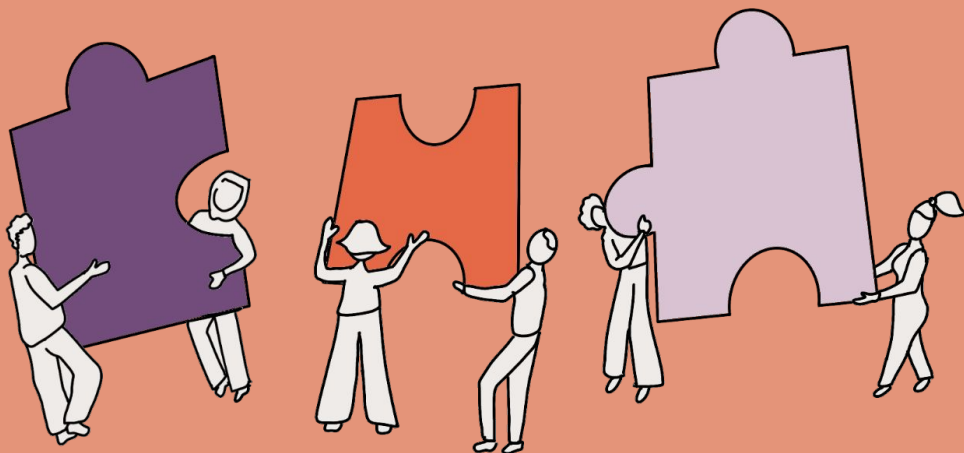
WHAT WILL OUR TEAM NEED TO COMMIT TO?

Participating teams must:

- Have 3 - 5 members working directly on the project, who will be able to commit time to the workshop series
- Aim to maximise the potential impact of their innovation and demonstrate its strategic alignment within the priority areas of their entity
- Provide intention from senior leadership to support their innovation towards scale

HOW DO WE FIND OUT MORE?

For queries or more information, please contact Patricia Loh, Senior Analyst (Innovation Scaling) at UN Global Pulse on patricia.loh@un.org



WE'RE READY! WHERE DO WE SIGN UP?

You can find the [online application form here](#). Please include links to any relevant supporting materials. Should you have any issues with sharing materials via the online form, please reach out to Patricia Loh (patricia.loh@un.org) directly