



# UN GLOBAL PULSE SCALE ACCELERATOR

Scaling the impact of innovations across the UN and beyond

COHORT 2 - 2024





*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?

The Scale Accelerator is the **United Nations' programme for supporting UN teams in taking innovative solutions from pilots to widespread use**, ensuring that impactful ideas reach more people and communities.

It is a **UN system-wide service** that acts as a **structured programme for innovations to develop Scale Strategies** and receive financial support to implement their strategies.

The Innovation Scaling Team at UN Global Pulse developed the Scale Accelerator in response to a key finding from a [2022 UN system-wide study](#): while innovation was gaining recognition and enthusiasm within the UN system, broader support was needed to foster collaboration and equip teams with the capabilities to scale promising innovations to their full potential.

## Who is the programme for?

The Scale Accelerator is **open to colleagues across the UN system** who seek to harness the potential of inclusive and sustainable innovations to respond to the complex needs of a rapidly evolving world.

The **first cohort of the Scale Accelerator consisted of seven UN teams** working on a diverse mix of solutions, from process innovations to digital products and data-related services. **Read more about their experience here:** [Introducing the First Cohort](#).

# Is your innovation eligible to participate in the Scale Accelerator?

To qualify as an *innovation project*, it must **demonstrate impact by creating or adapting a product, service, process or system that adds new value**, either by addressing an existing problem, seizing an opportunity or addressing an anticipated need.

Innovations from across the UN system **must fulfil all the essential criteria below to be eligible to apply** to join the Scale Accelerator's second cohort:

## **Essential criteria**

- ✓ Respond to the development and/ or humanitarian pillars and actively engage the Global South;
- ✓ Involve one or more of these cross-cutting themes: climate change, human rights, gender equality/ women empowerment, diversity and inclusion;
- ✓ Has been piloted at least once and the team can provide evidence of positive outcomes;
- ✓ Team composition demonstrates gender equality, diversity and inclusion.

## **Desirable criteria**

- ✓ Demonstrates collaboration with other stakeholders across the UN system;
- ✓ Address challenges in Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
- ✓ Able to demonstrate considerations for incorporating other areas from the [UN 2.0 Quintet of Change](#) (innovation, data, digital, behavioural sciences and strategic foresight) in the innovation and scaling processes.

# What can you expect from the Scale Accelerator?



## Participation in the In-Person Scale Strategy Development Workshop Series

Selected teams will participate in the **Scale Strategy Development Workshop Series** to help teams carry out a gap analysis to:

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

This gap analysis is necessary to:

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

The [UN Global Pulse Innovation Scaling Primer](#) provides insights into some of the critical areas covered in the workshop series. You can download the [PDF version](#) or experience the [interactive version](#).

## Support for Brokering Possible Partnerships and Collaborations

Selected teams will receive support in brokering collaborations, where applicable, with stakeholders within the UN system as well as external stakeholders, including innovation ecosystems, academia and the public and private sectors.

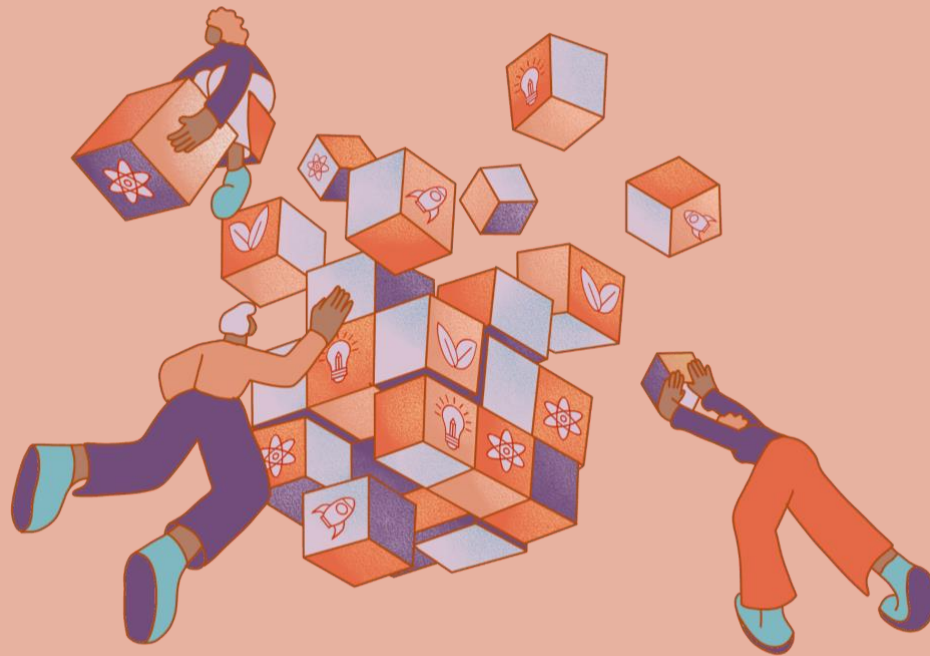
## Access to the Scale Catalyst Grant

*What is the Scale Catalyst Grant?*

Following the Scale Strategy Development Workshop Series, **two teams with the most compelling Scale Strategies will receive a Scale Catalyst Grant** (USD 60,000 for each team).

*Strategic Mentoring and Technical Advice*

For the two teams that receive the Scale Catalyst Grant, additional strategic mentoring and technical advice will also be provided to guide the implementation of their Scale Strategy.



## When and where is it?

The Scale Strategy Development Workshop Series **will be held in person from 11 to 14 November 2024 in Finland**. Scale Catalyst Grants will be awarded to the two selected teams in December 2024.

## What will your team need to commit to?

Participating teams must:

- Be composed of 3 people working directly on the project who can commit time to participate in the workshop series from 11 to 14 November 2024 in Finland.
- Aim to maximise the potential impact of their innovation while demonstrating alignment with organizational priorities.
- Have support and endorsement from their relevant supervisors / management to continue their scale journey.

## When does the call for applications open?

The call for applications will open on **Tuesday, 10 September 2024**. The deadline for applications is **24 September 2024 EST at midnight**.

## How do we find out more?

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Patricia Loh, Senior Analyst (Innovation Scaling) at [patricia.loh@un.org](mailto:patricia.loh@un.org)

**Info sessions about the Scale Accelerator Programme will be held on 17 September (07:00 - 07:45 CET) and 19 September 2024 (16:00 - 16:45 CET)**. Interested applicants are encouraged to attend. You can find a sign-up link and more information about the sessions on our social platforms the week of 09 September.