

"Grand Challenges Israel"

Promoting solutions for global health and food security challenges in developing countries

About the program

Israel is proud to join the global "Grand Challenges" initiative and launch its own "Grand Challenges Israel" program. Grand Challenges Israel is dedicated to supporting technological and innovative solutions to challenges in global health and food security in developing countries, and is inspired by Grand Challenges Canada. The "Grand Challenges in Global Health" initiative was launched by The Bill and Melinda Gates foundation in 2003, and fosters scientific and technological innovation to solve key health problems in the developing world. GCI is operated by The Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) within the ministry of economy, in collaboration with MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This program is part of Israel's contribution to global efforts in the field of international development and cooperation, along with an effort to introduce Israeli innovation to this new, challenging and growing market.

Within the GCI framework, grants of up to 500,000 NIS (~140,000 USD) and up to 90% of the projects approved budget will be offered to promising proposals by Israeli researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs. The grants will be dedicated to the proof of concept and development of the product/innovation in areas of global public health and food security.

Israel has a reputation for its entrepreneur spirit and technological capabilities, traditionally these qualities have been focused on the developed countries. GCI will provide a suitable framework for channeling and introducing Israeli innovative technology and services to this new, challenging and growing market of the developing countries.

This initiative reflects Israel's commitment to share its knowledge and experience to inspire and support fellow nations in their struggle with development challenges, and constitutes a meeting point between Israeli development diplomacy and technological entrepreneurship. It is yet another representation of the December 2012 United Nations approved Israeli-led resolution on Entrepreneurship for Development.

Topics that will be considered for Funding

Innovators and entrepreneurs are welcome to submit their proposals for the development of technological solutions in all relevant areas of global health and food security, such as:

Global health

- Accessibility of health services
- Vector control
- Pregnant women and newborn's health
- Point of care diagnostics
- Medical devices
- Public and community health
- Mental health

- Water treatment
- Sanitation

Food security

- Post-harvest treatment
- Irrigation under arid conditions
- Improved varieties
- Advanced agriculture

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants are researchers, entrepreneurs, small and medium sized companies (up to 100 employees), research institutions and NGOs situated in Israel.

In light of the complexity of the business environment in developing countries, the OCS and MASHAV (through its embassies and missions around the world) will operate to assist interested applicants and grantees to form partnerships with suitable partners from developing countries. This kind of cooperation is important for the successful development and implementation of suggested projects, and such connections will award applicants higher rating in the consideration process of their proposal.

To apply, applicants are requested to submit (via email or website) an executive summary (in English) and a 2 minutes long video of the applicants explaining their idea.

For further details and information, please contact:

<http://www.grandchallenges.org.il> or by e-mail: Grand.Challenges@tnufa.org.il

Final deadline for submission of proposals: March 31st 2014

The agencies operating the program:

- **The Office of the Chief Scientist**, Israeli Ministry of Economy-
<http://www.moital.gov.il/madan>
- **MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation** within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs- <http://www.mashav.mfa.gov.il/>