2025-26

# Annual Report

## Building for Impact at Scale

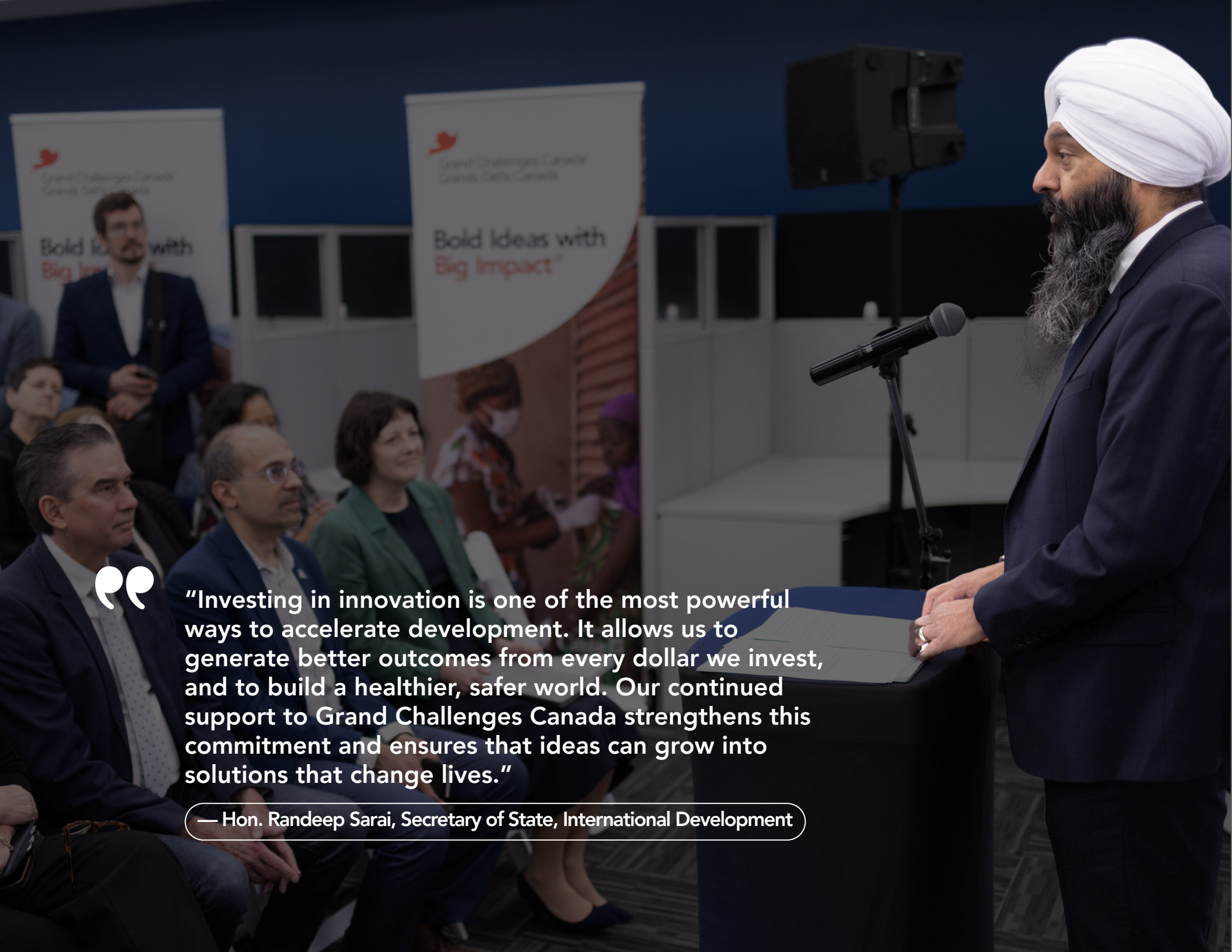
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Grands Défis Canada



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“Investing in innovation is one of the most powerful ways to accelerate development. It allows us to generate better outcomes from every dollar we invest, and to build a healthier, safer world. Our continued support to Grand Challenges Canada strengthens this commitment and ensures that ideas can grow into solutions that change lives.”

— Hon. Randeep Sarai, Secretary of State, International Development

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

# The value of innovation

As I look back on my time as Chair of Grand Challenges Canada, I have found myself reflecting less on any single milestone than on what these years have taught me.

I joined GCC believing deeply in the value of innovation. Now, more than ever, I know what becomes possible when bold ideas are given the opportunity to develop, when thoughtful risks are taken early, and when people stay committed long enough to see where those ideas can lead.

That belief has been reinforced again and again by the innovators I have had the pleasure to meet. Their courage, persistence and ingenuity remind us that meaningful change often begins long before success is visible.

For the Board, our role has been to help ensure that GCC can keep doing that work with both ambition and discipline. Stewardship means asking hard questions.

It means ensuring that decisions are grounded in evidence and learning, that resources are used responsibly, that risks are understood, and that the organization has the leadership, systems, and governance required to deliver.

But it also means protecting the space to be bold. Good governance should not make an organization timid. At its best, it gives people the confidence to take thoughtful risks because the foundations beneath them are strong.

Throughout my time with GCC, I have watched the organization grow in experience, capability and ambition. It has learned from success and setbacks, deepened its relationships, and built an extraordinary body of knowledge about what it takes for promising ideas to move from possibility toward lasting impact.

I am especially grateful to the Government of Canada, whose long-standing commitment has made this work possible. Canada did more than fund GCC. It helped create an institution willing to invest in ideas that others might not yet be ready to back.

The renewed commitment of $200 million over five years is both a vote of confidence and an important responsibility. It gives GCC a strong foundation for its next chapter.



*Secretary of State for International Development the Hon. Randeep Sarai visits KA Imaging in Waterloo during the event to announce GCC's replenishment in March 2026.*

As I prepare to end my tenure as Chair, I do so with enormous respect and gratitude for all those who make this work possible: my fellow Board members, GCC staff and leadership, our partners, and above all, the innovators whose determination gives this mission its meaning.

Serving this organization has been a genuine privilege and a source of deep personal enrichment. I leave with great confidence in GCC's mandate, in the institution built around it, and in the possibility that lies ahead. There is still so much to do. But I have seen enough to know what can happen when we are willing to invest in possibility.

**GUYLAINE SAUCIER**
*Board Chair, Grand Challenges Canada*

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

# Building for the future

This was a year of building. Our 2025-2030 strategy set an ambitious goal: to reach 700 million people with innovations that improve their lives by 2035.

That ambition is grounded in experience. Across more than 1600 unique innovations, we have seen what it takes to move from a bold idea to evidence, adoption and impact at scale — and how the right support at the right moment can unlock extraordinary growth.

StrongMinds shows what that can look like. When we first backed their group interpersonal therapy model, StrongMinds was working to make effective treatment for depression accessible to women in Uganda who otherwise had few options. We continued supporting the organization as it built evidence, strengthened its model and expanded.

It took StrongMinds nearly 12 years to reach its first million people. And a little over a year later, they're on track to reach the next million by the end of 2026.




Scale can look like overnight success. It rarely is. Innovations like StrongMinds take years of testing, learning and adapting, patient investment, strong partnerships and persistence through setbacks.

That experience helped shape our strategy. Over the past two years, we engaged hundreds of innovators, governments, partners, funders, and peer organizations to understand where needs and opportunities were emerging, where promising solutions faced barriers, and where we could make the greatest contribution.

What we heard reinforced the value of what we had built – and pointed toward what needed to come next.

The world still needs bold ideas and organizations willing to take thoughtful risks on them. We will continue to find promising solutions, back them early, and help them prove what is possible. But finding a solution that works is only the beginning.

Our strategy is about doing more to help those solutions go further: building the evidence and capabilities that innovators need; bringing together the right capital, partners and demand; and creating stronger pathways into the markets and systems that can sustain impact.

Canada's continued investment lets us back ideas that others may not yet be ready to support. It also helps us bring governments, philanthropies, multilaterals, investors and other partners together to help those ideas go further.

The 15 years we've spent working alongside innovators have shown us what is possible when a bold idea gets the chance to prove itself. StrongMinds is one of the many reminders that an idea backed early and with the right support can go on to change millions of lives.

Our next chapter is about creating more of these possibilities — finding Bold Ideas with Big Impact®, and building the pathways for them to reach the people who need them most. That's the opportunity ahead. And we're ready to build it.



**KARLEE SILVER**
*Chief Executive Officer*
Grand Challenges Canada

# Our impact story




## 100M+

Reached through direct GCC investments

## 173M

People reached through direct investments and catalytic impact funds

## 1600+

Unique innovations supported

## 110

Implementing countries

WHAT WE DO

# Bold ideas. Greater possibilities.

A promising solution can change lives. But first, it needs the evidence, financing and partnerships to reach the people who need it.

Grand Challenges Canada backs bold, locally led innovations that address critical barriers to health and development. We combine capital with tailored support to help innovators test ideas, build evidence and overcome barriers to adoption and scale.

Our longstanding partnership with the Government of Canada, through Global Affairs Canada, anchors this work. Renewed support in March 2026 provides a foundation for continued investment alongside our global partners.

Our 2025–2030 strategy, Impact at Scale, builds on this experience, extending our role in connecting proven innovations with country demand, financing and pathways to sustained delivery.

This report shows that work in action: innovators improving lives, partnerships opening pathways to scale, and lessons helping us make better investments. Together with innovators, Canada and our global partners, we are working toward a world where innovation helps everyone thrive.



# Impact in numbers

## More than 100 million lives reached through direct investment. And counting.

### MEASURABLE RESULTS

**30M+**
lives improved through measurable health outcomes

**43%**
Female-led innovations

### LIVES SAVED & JOBS CREATED

**127K**
lives saved through measured mortality reductions

**57,000**
Jobs created in low- and middle-income countries

### A DIVERSE AND LOCALLY LED PORTFOLIO

**66%**
Locally-led innovations

**$2.60**
leveraged for every $ 1 invested by our anchor funder, Global Affairs Canada

This year, we passed a milestone 15 years in the making: innovations supported through GCC's direct investments have now reached more than 100 million people. Including the funds we've helped catalyze, the total is 173.6 million since 2010.

The people reached are those who were previously unserved or underserved by existing health systems. They include mothers whose pregnancy complications were caught early, children getting a healthier start in life, young women who can stay in school because they have menstrual health products, and families protected from preventable disease by safe sanitation.

We're deliberately conservative in how we count. Every person can be traced to a specific innovation we supported, and we assess the evidence of what changed for them, in lives improved and lives saved.

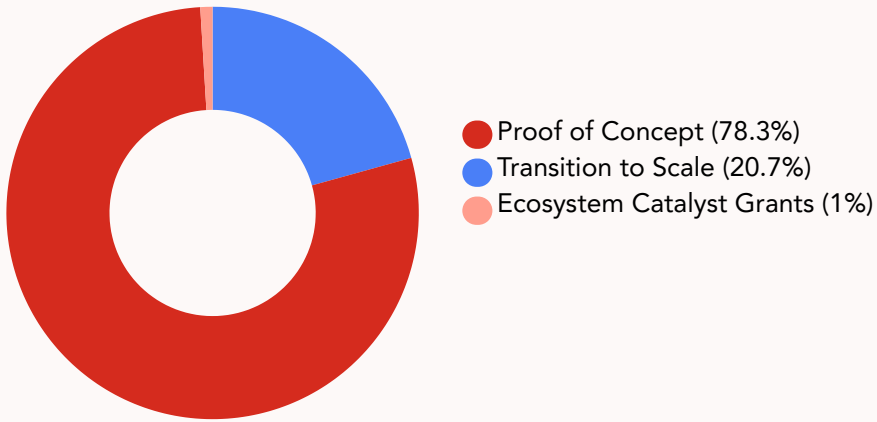
And the reach keeps growing. Nearly half of the people reached through our direct investments were reached after GCC's funding ended, as those innovations continued to scale.

MEASURING IMPACT

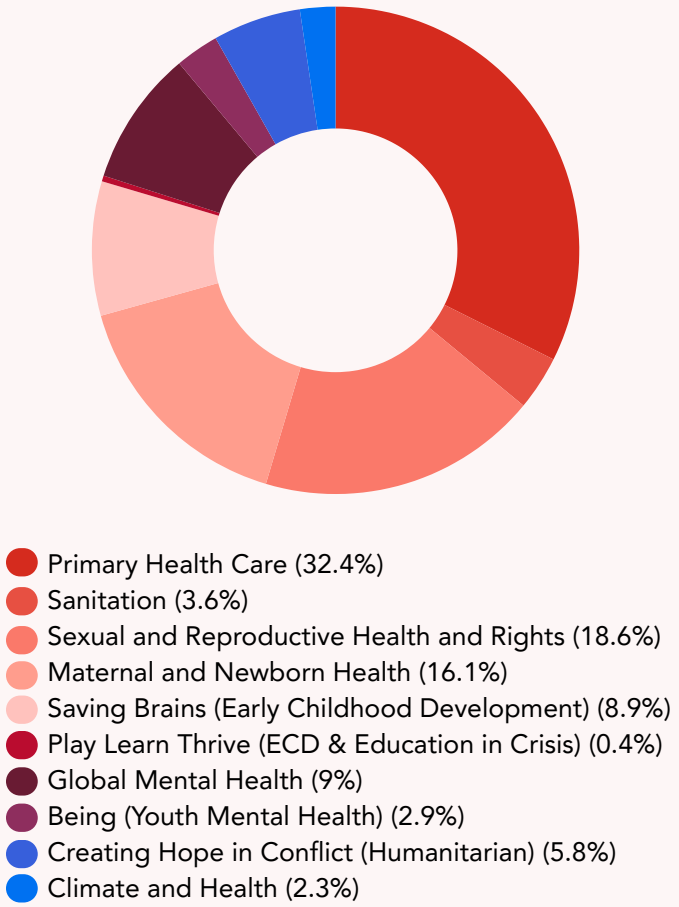
# Built on experience

From interpersonal group therapy for depression in Uganda to medical oxygen in Kenya and portable operating rooms for conflict zones, our portfolio spans more than 1,600 innovations across primary health care, maternal and newborn health, sexual and reproductive health, mental health, early childhood development, sanitation and humanitarian response. Our cumulative portfolio includes 1,310 unique innovations at Proof of Concept, 346 at Transition to Scale, and 16 supported through Ecosystem Catalyst Grants. Some of our partnerships span a decade or more, giving us deep insight into what it takes for innovations to succeed.

## UNIQUE INNOVATIONS BY STAGE




## INVESTMENTS (POC+TTS) BY PORTFOLIO



# The investments behind the impact

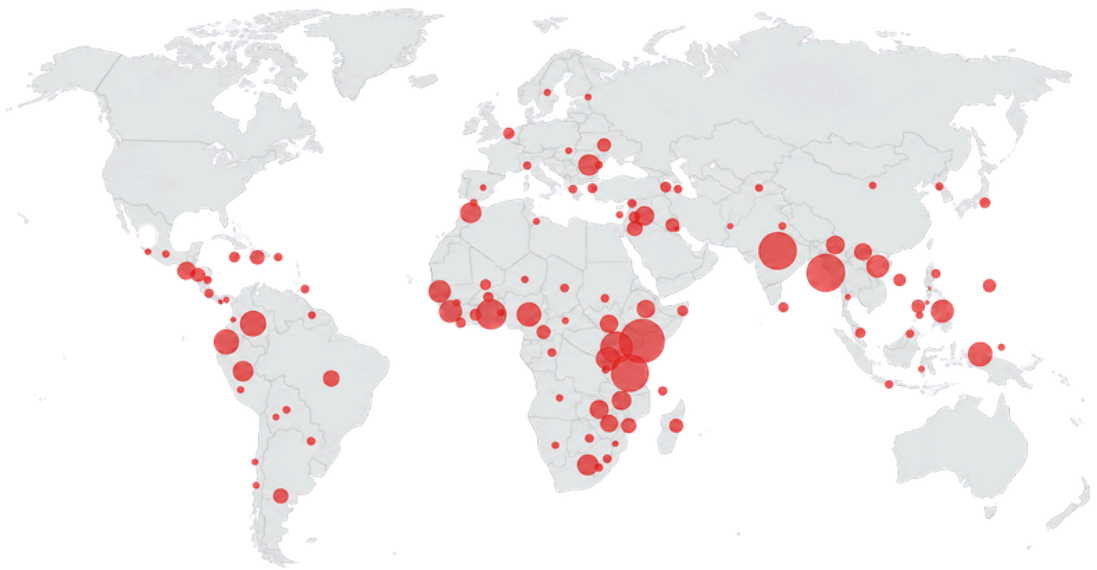
## Backing bold ideas across health and development

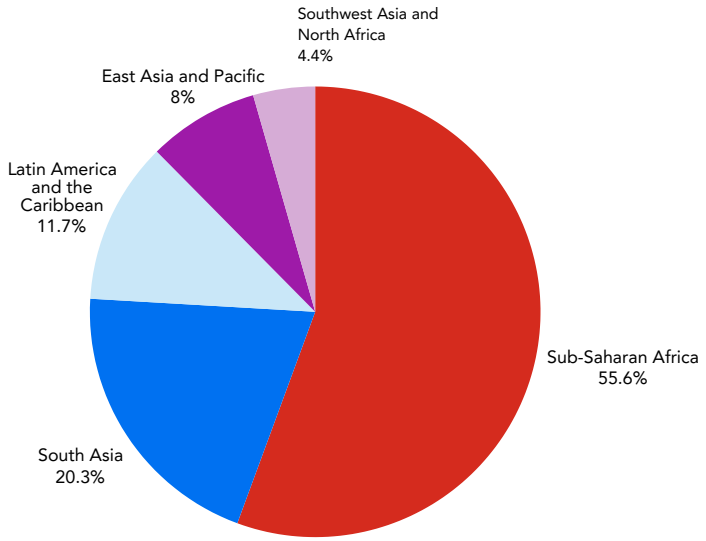
Grand Challenges Canada funds innovation where the need is greatest. Since 2010, the innovations we've supported have been implemented in 110 countries, focused on communities that health systems and markets have too often left behind.

More than half of the innovations we've funded (55.6%) work in Sub-Saharan Africa, and one in five (20.3%) in South Asia. Others reach communities across Latin America and the Caribbean (11.7%), East Asia and the Pacific (8%), and South West Asia and North Africa (4.4%). Thirteen percent are implemented in French-speaking countries.

Where an innovation is led matters as much as where it's used. Two-thirds of the innovations we support are locally led, by teams rooted in the communities they serve.

### GCC INVESTMENTS BY REGION





IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

# Bringing depression care within reach

## STRONG MINDS | UGANDA AND ZAMBIA



**75%**

**of clients experienced clinically significant reductions in depressive symptoms**

**1.6+ million**

**people reached**

Where mental health specialists are scarce, depression often goes untreated. StrongMinds trains community volunteers, health workers and teachers to deliver group interpersonal therapy, bringing effective care closer to the people who need it.

At around $20 per person, the approach has produced clinically significant reductions in depressive symptoms in 75% of clients. Studies have also found a 30% reduction in children's school absenteeism and a 16% increase in work productivity in participating communities.

### GCC's Catalytic Contribution

GCC has backed StrongMinds for nearly a decade, from early validation to a government-endorsed program approaching nationwide scale. Today, StrongMinds has reached over 1.6 million people in Uganda and Zambia and improved over 1 million lives.

More recently, GCC funding has helped StrongMinds navigate government adoption, working with Uganda's Ministry of Health toward handover to local government partners. StrongMinds now has agreements with seven district governments. A government-endorsed Mental Health Scorecard tracks the integration of group therapy across districts, supporting its incorporation into public services.

### Built for wider adoption

StrongMinds shows how an affordable, effective treatment can move beyond individual programs and toward routine care. GCC's catalytic role is to help build the capacity and partnerships that allow others to adopt and sustain it.

## IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

# Turning standards into better care

### SAFECARE | PHARMACCESS FOUNDATION

Preventing infections. Recognizing emergencies. Managing medication safely. Following up with patients. These everyday practices can make a life-changing difference.

SafeCare gives healthcare facilities a clear picture of how they are performing and a practical roadmap to improve. Its internationally accredited standards help teams identify gaps, take action and measure their progress.

Within the first year, 20% of sampled facilities demonstrated meaningful improvements in adherence to evidence-based care protocols.

### GCC's Catalytic Contribution

GCC has backed PharmAccess since 2019. After the reporting year, our fourth investment, signed in April 2026, brings our total support to CAD $3 million. Our investments have supported SafeCare's expansion across more than 2,000 facilities in Kenya, Tanzania, and Nigeria.

With GCC support, SafeCare has also developed Green Standards to help healthcare facilities adopt climate-adaptive practices. The initiative is now active in 27 countries overall.

### Taking the model into Asia

GCC's latest investment supports SafeCare's expansion into India and exploration of opportunities in Nepal and Bangladesh.

In India, PharmAccess will test a model in which 30 microentrepreneurs generate revenue by helping extend SafeCare to up to 222 healthcare facilities. This next phase will test a new pathway for bringing quality improvement to more providers.

By 2027, PharmAccess aims to reach an additional 2.8 million people and improve more than 223,000 lives through this next phase of implementation.



**7.8M**

**people reached to date**

**2000+**

**healthcare facilities supported to measure and improve the quality of care**

# Making innovation more equitable

Reaching people underserved by existing health systems requires innovations that respond to their realities. For GCC, equity shapes who we fund, whose priorities guide investment and how we help innovators address barriers to access.

## Investing in local leadership

**66% of innovations supported by GCC are locally led**, reflecting our commitment to backing teams rooted in the places where their innovations will be used. We are also examining how communities participate in designing and delivering innovations, and how their knowledge and priorities inform decisions.

## Shifting power

Advancing equity also means changing how GCC works: whose priorities guide our investments and who has the flexibility to make decisions. GCC is developing a power-shifting approach focused on two areas:

- **Power-shifting to innovation partners:** Giving partners in local innovation ecosystems a stronger role in identifying priorities and determining which solutions should be prioritized for funding.
- **Power-shifting to innovators:** Enabling experienced innovators to make project decisions and adapt to local needs as their work evolves.

GCC's Innovator Council reviewed these directions and endorsed efforts to advance trust-based funding. This work also advances our Adapt strategic direction by changing GCC's practices to support greater local decision-making.

## Ogow Health

### Local knowledge supporting scale



Ogow Health is achieving significant scale in Somalia with an easy-to-use digital immunization registry and alert system designed to support vaccination services in conflict-affected settings. Founded by Khalid Hashi, a social entrepreneur and member of Canada's Somali diaspora, Ogow was inspired by the challenges his grandmother faced in accessing healthcare in Somalia.

Its development involved research, engagement and consultation with more than 15,000 people across four regions. Hashi's understanding of the local context and relationships helped the team navigate a fragmented health system and bring stakeholders together around a shared health information system. Ogow illustrates the contribution Canadian diaspora communities can make to innovation: connecting knowledge and networks across countries, grounding solutions in community needs and helping them grow.

## Putting gender equality into practice

Gender can influence who accesses an innovation and who benefits, even when those differences are not immediately obvious.

GCC works with Kore Global to help innovators identify and address these disparities. Through assessment and tailored advisory support, teams develop practical strategies suited to their innovation and stage of growth.

The aim is to embed gender equality in how innovations are designed, delivered and sustained, helping teams reduce disparities and build more equitable, sustainable approaches as they scale.

## Support that strengthens the whole innovation

Gender equality support extends beyond the design of a service or product. It considers leadership, employment, partnerships and how teams measure results. This helps innovators anticipate disparities and build a response into their everyday practices.

When teams begin with limited gender integration, GCC provides targeted support to help them strengthen their approach as they scale.



# SurgiBox

### Putting a gender lens on surgical access

SurgiBox's SurgiField is a portable, battery-powered sterile surgical environment that fits into a backpack, supporting safer surgery in conflict-affected settings.

Working with our partners at **Kore Global**, the team examined how gender affects access to surgical care. It conducted a gender analysis, introduced sex-disaggregated data into its monitoring plans, and developed a strategy to reduce disparities.

Planned actions include training community health workers to recognize when women need surgical care and make referrals, addressing cultural barriers through women's health education, and helping surgical teams provide gender-sensitive care.

SurgiBox shows how applying a gender lens can reveal barriers and strengthen an innovation's approach, even when its technology appears relevant to everyone.

# Made in Canada

## Canadian Innovation, Worldwide Impact

Canadian innovators are championing global impact with bold and groundbreaking ideas. Nearly 1 in 5 innovations in our portfolio is Canadian-led. Since 2010, we've invested in 348 Canadian-led innovations from 39 cities in 10 provinces and territories, reaching millions of people in more than 70 countries.

Notable examples include Fiona Sampson, who leads the equality effect, a systems-model improving access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence in Kenya; Dr. Daisy Singla, a senior scientist at Sinai Health who is leading scale-up of EMPOWER, equipping health-workers in India to deliver evidence-based mental healthcare; and Dr. Roopan Gill, who co-founded Vitala Global Health which is revolutionizing access to safe abortion care across the Americas.



### Responding to outbreaks

When an Ebola outbreak strikes, delays in setting up treatment facilities can cost lives. Through a GCC Proof of Concept investment, **Chantal Trudel and her team at Carleton University's Abilities Living Laboratory** in Ottawa are contributing to the Infectious Disease Treatment Module, developed through a partnership led by WHO and the World Food Programme.

The team's work includes a transparent treatment barrier that helps clinicians provide care while reducing exposure to infection and allowing patients to see caregivers and family members. The module has undergone simulation exercises in Ghana and Uganda, helping partners prepare to deliver safer, more humane care during outbreaks.




*Secretary of State for International Development the Hon. Randeep Sarai visits KA Imaging in Waterloo in March 2026.*

## Canadian ingenuity, global reach

Developed from University of Waterloo research, **KA Imaging**'s portable X-ray technology helps detect tuberculosis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases in underserved communities. GCC backed the idea with a CAD $100,000 seed grant in 2012, followed by a CAD $1 million convertible loan in 2016 to support regulatory approval and market testing.

Today, its Reveal™ 35C is used in Canadian hospitals and deployed across nine countries, with more than 35,000 scans performed.

In 2025, KA Imaging's technology also helped capture the first medical X-ray in space—a striking milestone for Canadian innovation developed to expand access to diagnostics here on Earth.

### 348 Canadian innovations

Grand Challenges Canada has invested in 348 Canadian led innovations, representing nearly 1 in 5 innovations in our portfolio

### 70+ countries

Canadian innovations have reached millions of people in over 70 countries who would not otherwise have had access to similar supports.

### Innovators from coast to coast

We have invested in Canadian innovators across 10 provinces and territories and 39 cities.

# Our Strategy in Action



# Impact at Scale: Our 2025-2030 Strategy

Reaching 700 million people by 2035 requires bold ideas, evidence that they work and pathways for their wider adoption. GCC's 2025–2030 strategy, Impact at Scale, builds on our support for early-stage innovation while strengthening our role in helping proven solutions overcome barriers to scale. Four connected strategic directions guide this work: evolving our capabilities, supporting innovators, aligning partners and resources, and putting evidence and learning to use.

## ADAPT

**Strengthening our platform for greater impact**

Strengthen our platform. Invest in the people, capabilities and systems that make GCC more effective, agile and responsive.

## CONNECT

**Sharing learning & insights**

Connect knowledge, people and opportunities. Turn evidence and experience into insights that inform policy, influence decisions and bring partners together to advance impact.




## ACCELERATE

**Investing for impact**

Help promising innovations go further. Invest where capital, expertise and support can unlock the greatest impact, from testing bold ideas to preparing proven solutions for scale.

## CHOREOGRAPH

**Partnerships for action**

Build the conditions for scale. Work with governments, funders and other partners to align demand, evidence, financing and delivery systems around proven innovations.

# Adapt: Strengthening our platform for greater impact



ADAPT

# Building an organization ready for scale

## Reaching 700 million people will take more than doing more. It will take working differently.

Reaching 700 million people by 2035 will take more than ambition. It will require us to work differently — building on 15 years of experience while strengthening the people, systems and capabilities needed to deliver impact at a much greater scale. This year, we began making those changes.

### Bringing our expertise together

In October 2025, GCC introduced a new organizational structure to better connect our work across the innovation journey — from identifying and investing in bold ideas to helping proven solutions overcome barriers to adoption and scale.

The changes also strengthen our ability to work beyond individual investments, bringing together expertise in financing, partnerships, policy and learning to tackle challenges that no single innovator can solve alone.

### Putting learning to work

GCC has a wealth of experience to draw on. But reaching our next level of impact means being more deliberate about what we learn from it — and what we do with that knowledge.

We established a dedicated Policy, Learning and Reporting function to bring evidence and experience into investment decisions, innovator support and partnerships. Its policy framework and learning agenda are explored in the Connect section.

The goal is to put those insights to work across GCC — shaping our investments, strengthening our support for innovators and informing how we work with partners — while sharing what we learn to help others make better decisions.

### Modernizing our systems

We're also undertaking a multi-year digital transformation to simplify how we work, make better use of our data and improve the experience of innovators seeking and managing GCC funding.

Better systems will help us make more informed decisions, reduce administrative burdens and spend more time on the work that matters: supporting innovators and helping promising solutions grow.

ADAPT

# Helping innovators put AI to work

69% of respondents to GCC's innovator survey expressed interest in using emerging AI technologies in their innovations. Alongside that interest, innovators identified a need for practical support to understand where AI could be useful and how to apply it.

This year, GCC piloted AI technical assistance and venture support with a small group of innovators. Through practical learning and tailored advice, we helped teams explore applications relevant to their work while testing which forms of support enable adoption and what barriers remain.

## Building skills around real needs

Working with **TruePoint,** GCC assessed AI use among Saving Brains and Play Learn Thrive innovators and used the findings to shape a practical masterclass. Held in February 2026, it brought together more than 70 innovators.

Follow-up support offered one-to-one sessions to help teams apply specific AI tools to everyday tasks. This connected learning with challenges innovators were already working to solve.

Among the participating organizations, Fundação Faculdade de Medicina began exploring how AI could support expansion of its early childhood development model from 24 to 800 municipalities. That expansion remains an ambition being explored, illustrating how teams are considering AI's potential to support scale.

## Testing tailored technical support

GCC also developed **AI Momentum**, a short, intensive sprint involving six innovators, supported by technical advisers from Makerere AI Health Lab in Uganda and Palindrome Data in South Africa. Teams received help identifying suitable applications, defining technical and data requirements, troubleshooting, and developing a roadmap for next steps.

The sprint also tested whether this concentrated support could help innovators move from experimentation to practical adoption.

Early results included AI-powered dashboards and stronger capacity to apply AI to the performance and cost-effectiveness of innovations. These experiences are informing how GCC develops its support as innovators' needs evolve.

## AI in practice: Weerwi

Developed by the Dakar Institute of Technology, Weerwi provides menstrual health information in Senegal through WhatsApp, a mobile app and a website. Through AI Momentum, GCC provided technical advice that helped the team improve chatbot performance and generate automated insights to refine the platform.

## Bringing mental health and AI together

GCC partnered with McKinsey Health Institute and Google Health to develop the Mental Health and AI Field Guide, helping innovators and service providers explore AI's role in community-based mental health care.

The guide brings together practical examples, video explainers and tools examining how AI can support training and supervision, strengthen task-sharing approaches and expand access to evidence-based care.

The partnership brings complementary expertise into a shared resource that encourages thoughtful, responsible application of AI across the wider sector.

## Building capacity within GCC

GCC also established an internal AI Ambassadors Group to explore practical applications, share experience and test how AI could support the organization's work.

Together, these activities are helping GCC build experience in AI adoption, strengthen the support available to innovators and identify practical lessons to share more widely. Our focus is on developing the capabilities needed to use these tools responsibly and effectively in pursuit of impact at scale.





# Accelerate: Investing for Impact

ACCELERATE

# Investing from bold idea to lasting scale

Every innovation that changes millions of lives begins with an idea someone was willing to back. But turning that idea into lasting impact takes more than a single investment.

The right capital, at the right moment, can change how far an innovation goes. GCC provides different forms of financing and tailored support as innovations develop — from early grants that help test promising ideas to loans, equity and other financing approaches that help proven solutions grow.

Our role is to take thoughtful risks, strengthen innovators' ability to succeed and mobilize capital that might otherwise remain out of reach. Not every risk will pay off. That's the nature of backing ideas early. What matters is learning from each one, and staying with the solutions that prove themselves.

In 2025–26, that approach helped new ideas get off the ground, supported established innovations to expand and demonstrated how catalytic financing can unlock resources for greater impact.

## This year at a glance

- **29 new proof-of-concept investments**, which test whether a bold idea works
- **18 new Transition-to-Scale investments**, which pair capital with hands-on support to help proven innovations grow
- **2 loans repaid in full,** demonstrating how repayable capital can support innovation and return funds for future investment



ACCELERATE

# Big impact begins with bold ideas

## Backing promising ideas early, when the potential is great, but the evidence is still emerging

Before an innovation can grow, it must first be tested.  Our Proof of Concept investments give innovators the opportunity to test new approaches, build evidence and discover what works.

This year, we backed 29 new Proof of Concept innovations, including new investments through Being, our youth mental health initiative.

Among them: Project Thabiti, creating safe spaces for young people in Tanzanian schools; and Bailemos Juntos, using salsa dancing to strengthen family relationships and prevent violence in Colombia.

We also supported Hemafuse, a handheld device developed by Sisu Global Health that helps clinicians recover and reuse a patient's own blood when donor supplies run short.

We made our first seven investments in Play Learn Thrive, supporting innovative approaches to early learning and development for children affected by crisis.

### Sense International Kenya

For children with deafblindness, conventional classrooms can present enormous barriers to learning. In Kenya's crisis-affected communities, Sense International Kenya is developing a new approach that connects early therapy with inclusive, play-based education.

The innovation brings together trained teachers, accessible learning materials, digital tools and support for caregivers, helping children too often excluded from education gain access to learning and development opportunities.

**Want to learn more about the innovations in our Play Learn Thrive portfolio? Scan the QR code to see the lookbook!**



ACCELERATE

# Helping good ideas go further

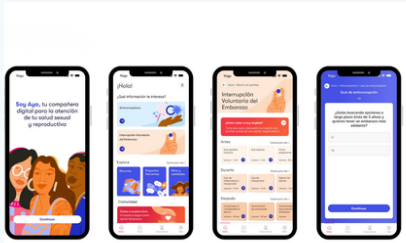
## Proving an idea works is just the beginning.

Even when an innovation has demonstrated results, reaching more people brings new challenges — from securing financing to strengthening teams and entering new markets. GCC's **Transition to Scale** investments combine flexible capital and tailored support to help innovators overcome these barriers. In 2025–26, we made 18 new investments, including four follow-on investments in particularly promising innovations.



### Be Girl | Equity-linked financing for growth

Since GCC's first investment in 2018, Be Girl has sold more than one million menstrual products and expanded access to menstrual health education. In 2025–26, GCC invested an additional USD $500,000 — a $450,000 SAFE note and $50,000 in technical assistance — to strengthen its team, develop a multilingual digital platform and pilot its approach in Zimbabwe.



### Vitala Global | Expanding into new markets

GCC has provided CAD $1.7 million to develop and scale Vitala Global's Aya Contigo, a confidential digital platform supporting medication abortion and contraception in jurisdictions where a legal framework exists. Current TTS funding supports expansion in rural Venezuela and Guatemala, alongside work to strengthen Vitala's business model, organizational capacity and readiness for new markets.



### Hayat | Securing government investment

In Pakistan, Aga Khan University's Hayat platform helps frontline health workers improve maternal and child healthcare. GCC has provided CAD $2 million in Transition to Scale funding. A randomized controlled trial found that communities using Hayat achieved over 90% coverage for skilled birth attendance and full childhood vaccination. Two provincial governments have committed funding to expand the platform, supporting its integration into public health services.



### Bandebereho | Building the case for adoption

In Rwanda, Bandebereho works with fathers to promote positive parenting and gender equality. A six-year follow-up of a randomized controlled trial found sustained reductions in intimate partner violence, depressive symptoms and substance use. As of March 31, 2026, GCC had provided CAD $1.5 million, including Transition to Scale funding, to support RWAMREC's work as it partners with government to integrate the program into Rwanda's national community health system.

ACCELERATE

# Catalytic capital: making more possible

## Taking risks, unlocking capital and helping bold ideas go further

A promising innovation doesn't always fit the financing available to it. Some need early grants to prove a concept. Others need patient investment to strengthen their business, expand into new markets, or attract larger investors. GCC uses grants, debt, equity and outcomes-based financing to help bridge those gaps.



### Altech

In 2022, GCC invested $1.5M in loan and grant funding to help this pay-as-you-go solar company build a local assembly line in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Within a year, Altech raised USD $18M from impact investors and development banks. It repaid our loan in full in late 2025.



### Jacaranda Health

GCC first backed Jacaranda Health in 2015 with a repayable grant to help develop its maternal healthcare model in Kenya. After meeting agreed growth and impact milestones, Jacaranda repaid its remaining loan in November 2025, demonstrating how catalytic financing can support innovation and return capital for future investment.

By taking risks that conventional investors may not be ready to accept, we can help unlock additional financing and support innovations on their path to scale. This year, our investments showed what that looks like in practice: loans repaid, new investors brought in, financing deals kept on track and new approaches tested to pay for measurable results.

### Investing in pathways to scale

Alongside direct investments, GCC has backed impact funds that finance health innovations—from malaria diagnostics and cholera vaccines through the Global Health Investment Fund, to technologies addressing women's and children's health through Cross-Border Impact Ventures, and healthcare businesses through Transform Health Fund. These investments continue to contribute to our cumulative impact.

These vehicles bring together capital, investment expertise and networks that can help companies grow. GCC's experience as an investor—and in helping incubate CBIV—has informed our thinking about scale: the financing and support an innovation needs can extend across several organizations and stages of development.

This experience informs Choreograph: connecting partners, financing and country demand to strengthen pathways to scale. Hewatele's story on the following page shows how GCC's direct investment and support to an impact fund came together at a critical moment.

ACCELERATE

# Hewatele: Unlocking capital for oxygen

## How GCC's patient investment and willingness to absorb risk helped keep local oxygen production on track

A newborn struggling to breathe. A child with pneumonia. A patient needing emergency surgery. All depend on medical oxygen. In parts of Kenya, shortages and high transport costs have put that essential care out of reach.

Hewatele brings supply closer to patients. It produces oxygen at or near public hospitals and uses a "milkman model" to deliver it to surrounding facilities on regular routes. GCC has backed Hewatele since 2017, beginning with a loan to help it expand across several Kenyan counties. In 2023, GCC provided convertible-note and grant financing within a US$20 million blended-finance package to build a liquid oxygen facility near Nairobi.

When other financing was delayed, the deal was at risk of collapsing. GCC maintained its position as the lender bearing the greatest risk, while equity investors provided guarantees.

This enabled Transform Health Fund—an impact fund GCC had also backed—to step in with US$10.5 million in bridge financing, keeping construction on track.

Designed to produce at least 20 tonnes of medical oxygen daily, the facility will expand local supply and help make oxygen more reliable and affordable.

GCC's willingness to absorb risk, alongside its earlier investment in the fund, helped keep that expansion moving.

To date, GCC's investment in Hewatele has contributed to reaching nearly 100,000 people, improving more than 63,000 lives and saving 32,000 lives. Behind those numbers are patients who need oxygen—and health workers who need it there when every breath counts.



> **"GCC's approach is to act as first-mover capital, absorbing the risk and unlocking the conditions that enable broader and more sustained impact."**
>
> — Impact Investment Initiative for Global Health

ACCELERATE

# Financing results that last

## Testing how outcomes-based financing can sustain essential services

A toilet alone does not deliver safe sanitation. It takes regular use, reliable waste collection and a service that can keep operating. For innovators, securing funding for that ongoing work can be as challenging as developing the solution. GCC is experimenting with outcomes-based financing to address this gap: linking payments to measurable results and testing whether these approaches can attract funding to sustain services over time.

### Learning through investment

These investments test how financing can support the continued delivery of essential services. Fresh Life shows how funding tied to results can attract additional philanthropic partners; SOIL explores a pathway involving government and multilateral funding. Both remain experiments in sustainability. Through them, GCC is building experience relevant to Impact at Scale: supporting innovators while working with partners on the financing conditions needed for lasting impact.



## SOIL

### Testing a pathway to public financing

SOIL provides climate-resilient sanitation services in underserved communities in Haiti. Building on earlier support, GCC invested $745,000 through a results-based grant in FY2025–26, alongside $1.7 million in outcome funding from multilateral and national partners, supporting expansion to 4,700 households.

The investment tests a pathway toward sustainable service delivery through a first-of-its-kind government-funded, outcomes-based sanitation contract in Haiti.

## Fresh Life

### Funding the service, rewarding the results

In dense urban communities without sewers, conventional sanitation infrastructure can be difficult to extend. Fresh Life offers another approach: toilets that collect waste in sealed containers, supported by regular collection. GCC has invested CAD $2 million through PoC and TTS funding to support its growth.

The financing challenge is keeping the service running. With funding from GCC and the Osprey Foundation, Fresh Life launched a model in 2024 that pays for results—including toilets in active use and waste collection—rather than simply funding installation. Within a year, funding commitments doubled, with the Waterloo Foundation and Coca-Cola Foundation joining. Fresh Life is working toward public-system integration and, ultimately, dedicated funding in county budgets.



ACCELERATE

# Supporting innovation for lasting impact

## Backing approaches that address critical barriers to health and development.

GCC backs innovations that address critical barriers to health and development, helping innovators test and grow their approaches. We track progress during our investment and follow up after funding ends to understand whether supported innovations continue operating and reaching people. Together, these insights help us understand what enables impact to last.

INNOVATOR SPOTLIGHT

### SmartStart South Africa

**2026 Skoll Foundation Awardee**

In underserved communities across South Africa, SmartStart addresses a critical gap in access to affordable early learning. Its social franchise model equips underemployed community members to establish early learning enterprises in their homes and local spaces. Training, coaching and peer networks help them provide learning opportunities while creating local livelihoods.

GCC supported SmartStart from 2019 to 2022 to help scale this approach. Working with government and other partners, SmartStart has since grown into South Africa's largest early learning network.



**15,000**
Early learning programs

**160,000**
Children reached each week

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

### Fundación Fútbol Más

**2026 Laureus Sport for Good Award**

In Ecuador, violence in school communities was identified as a critical barrier to young people's mental health and wellbeing. Through the Being initiative, GCC is funding **Fundación Fútbol Más** to respond through football and play, helping young people build social and emotional skills and supportive relationships.

The investment reflects the **Being Initiative's** approach to preventing mental ill health and promoting wellbeing: supporting locally led innovations that respond to the specific drivers identified in each country.

In 2026, Fútbol Más received the **Laureus Sport for Good Award,** recognizing its broader international work using sport to promote inclusion and mental wellbeing.

Want to learn more about Being's innovations? Scan the QR code to see our lookbook!



# Choreograph: Aligning partners and capital to enable scale



CHOREOGRAPH

# Partnerships for action

## Connecting innovation, country priorities and capital for lasting impact

Proven innovations need more than funding to grow. They need demand from governments, a route into health systems and financing that can sustain their delivery.

That is the purpose of **Choreograph**, one of the four directions in GCC's 2025–2030 strategy. Our ambition to reach 700 million people by 2035 requires us to bring partners together to strengthen the systems through which effective innovations are adopted, financed and sustained.

This year, GCC advanced two complementary strands of work: building multilateral partnerships that connect innovation with country priorities, and convening philanthropic leaders and other partners around the financing and coordination needed for scale.

### Multilateral partnerships: connecting innovation with demand

Multilateral institutions work with governments to shape and finance national health priorities. GCC's partnerships aim to connect proven innovations with those priorities and the support needed for wider adoption.

#### Formalizing collaboration with the Global Fund

GCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**. The partnership focuses on identifying country demand, aligning innovation pipelines with Global Fund country allocations and catalytic initiatives, and addressing barriers to adoption. Joint convenings, including on climate and health, are exploring how innovations can be supported and sustained at scale.

#### Global Financing Facility

GCC's collaboration and advocacy since 2023 helped position innovation as a core pillar of the **Global Financing Facility's** TRANSFORM 2030 strategy, launched in November 2025. Work on a strategic partnership framework aims to connect innovations ready for scale with country-led investment priorities.

#### Equipping governments to scale innovation

Through an Ecosystem Catalyst Grant, GCC funded the development of the **World Health Organization**'s *Scaling innovations in public health systems: guidance and toolkit*. Launched in February 2026 and informed by government users and expert consultation, it provides practical guidance to help governments lead the adoption and scaling of innovations.

CHOREOGRAPH

# Building a new platform for scale

Even a proven, promising health innovation can stall before it reaches the people who need it. Many hit a wall just as they're ready to scale, because they need three things at once: financing to expand, expert support to build their capability, and access to the markets and health systems that will buy and use them. Too often, these sit with different organizations, on different timelines, with no one connecting them. Without all three, even the strongest ideas can falter.

Across the global health ecosystem, many organizations are working to close these gaps, but too often in parallel rather than together. Gavi recognized this fragmentation early and saw an opportunity to build a shared approach across organizations, convening partners to design something more coordinated. In June 2025, GCC made a founding pledge to develop a new scale-up platform. At Davos in January 2026, 500 Global joined, and together we announced our ambition to mobilize up to US$300 million.

Now, we're building it: a global blended finance platform with two complementary windows. A catalytic window, managed by GCC, will provide flexible capital such as performance-based grants, debt, guarantees, and technical assistance to move proven innovations toward commercial readiness and adoption at scale.

A commercial window, managed by 500 Global, will invest equity and quasi-equity to enable that scale, bringing in private capital that otherwise wouldn't be there. Both windows will be supported by an ecosystem of partners to validate demand, connecting these innovations to national health systems and procurement pathways.

Together, we're working to replace fragmented efforts with a coordinated system that gets proven innovations to the people who need them. Like good choreography, that takes partners moving in step toward a shared purpose, with room for others to join along the way.




*Chief Strategy & Partnerships Officer Rahul Chandran announces GCC's commitment at a June 2025 panel at the Global Summit: Health and Prosperity Through Immunization in Brussels.*

## CHOREOGRAPH

# Mobilizing philanthropy for scale

### Connecting flexible capital with country demand and pathways to lasting impact

Philanthropic capital can help innovations build evidence, overcome barriers to adoption and attract further investment. Realizing that potential requires coordination: connecting funders with country priorities, delivery partners and longer-term financing.

Through Choreograph, GCC is working to build those connections. Our experience backing innovations grounds this work in the practical barriers innovators face as they grow. We are exploring how partners' capital, expertise and relationships can support shared pathways to adoption—linking philanthropic funding with government demand and, over time, multilateral financing.

GCC's engagement extended to the **Africa Health Research and Innovation Funders Forum** in Cape Town, the **AVPN Annual Conference** in Hong Kong, the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting** in Davos and the **International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA)** meeting in Kenya.

These relationships form part of our broader effort to connect philanthropic funding with country demand, public-sector delivery and, over time, multilateral financing. The aim is to align partners around shared priorities and the practical conditions innovations need to achieve sustainable scale.

### Laying the groundwork for collective action

This year, GCC laid the foundation for a series of philanthropic convenings in 2026, designed to bring partners together around shared thematic and geographic priorities grounded in country demand.

This includes working with several partners as we develop Nexa, our climate and health innovation challenge. Through this work, we are exploring how complementary capital, expertise and relationships can support locally led innovations and create stronger pathways to adoption and lasting impact.

CHOREOGRAPH

# Aligning with partners for greater impact

## Connecting flexible capital with country demand and pathways to lasting impact

At the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, GCC co-hosted a roundtable with Secretary Hillary Clinton and major philanthropic funders. Participants highlighted philanthropy's importance in scaling innovation, alongside the need to overcome fragmented funding and better align with government priorities.

GCC also helped lead CGI's Innovative Finance Working Group, bringing together 100+ participants to explore how catalytic capital can attract investment and support sustainable business models.

A joint GCC–CGI climate and health session brought together leaders from multiple sectors, including the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Governor of Hawaii, and emphasized locally led innovations with pathways to scale. GCC also announced a commitment on the Leaders Stage to launch a global climate and health innovation challenge.












*GCC at CGI: co-hosting a philanthropic roundtable with Secretary Hillary Clinton; engaging climate and health leaders, including Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew; and announcing a commitment to launch a global climate and health innovation challenge.*

# Connect: Sharing learning & insights



CONNECT

# Learning for impact

## Using evidence and experience to shape how innovation is supported, financed and adopted.

Our ambition to reach 700 million people by 2035 requires us to learn across our investments and use that knowledge to improve the conditions for innovation to succeed.

That is the purpose of **Connect,** one of the four directions in our 2025–2030 strategy. By bringing evidence into policy dialogue, sharing practical lessons, and connecting partners around what we learn, we aim to influence the decisions that determine whether effective innovations reach more people.

This year, GCC created a dedicated **Policy, Learning and Reporting** function to advance that work. It brings together learning across our portfolio with a clearer focus on how those insights can inform our investments, support innovators and contribute to the wider sector.

The team prepared GCC's first policy framework, bringing together a 2026–2028 learning agenda, thought-leadership priorities, and strategic positioning.

The learning agenda strengthens our knowledge base and fosters an organization-wide culture of learning. It provides a focus for examining experience across our investments and using findings to inform how we plan and support innovation.

We also intend to use this knowledge to convene and influence: contributing practical insights to policy discussions and exploring ways to improve the flow of funding to innovators.

### Shaping how impact is financed

GCC is using its experience in innovative finance to help improve how the wider sector funds impact. This year, we joined the OECD Advisory Council on Outcomes-Based Financing and supported an OECD study launched in June 2025.

The study explores how funders can incorporate financing tied to measurable results into their existing operations, helping build shared principles and practical guidance for wider adoption.



## Connecting innovators and expertise

Learning is also part of the support GCC provides to innovators. Access to learning expertise and opportunities to connect with peers helps Transition to Scale innovators exchange experience as they navigate growth.

Our portfolio learning activities bring innovators and support partners together around specific challenges, generating insights that can inform both the support innovators receive and GCC's understanding of impact, scale and sustainability.



## Learning from Saving Brains

Drawing on 15 years of **Saving Brains,** GCC initiated a retrospective to examine what enables early childhood development innovations to achieve scale and become integrated into systems.

Led by TruePoint, GCC's early childhood development learning support platform, the first phase focused on identifying scaling patterns among high-performing innovations. A second phase engages a selected group of innovators directly to understand their journeys, the factors that enabled scale and the roles played by governments and other stakeholders.

The work is underway. Its purpose is to distil lessons that can inform GCC's approach and contribute to the wider understanding of how effective innovations grow.

## Learning from local contexts

Within our Play Learn Thrive portfolio, TruePoint brought five locally based organizations together over seven weeks to explore how place-focused support could better serve innovators. The work highlighted the importance of tailoring support to innovators' priorities, readiness and local context; understanding surrounding relationships and policy; and grounding engagement in trust and mutual respect. These lessons contribute to GCC's broader understanding of how to provide locally rooted, responsive support.

## Sharing evidence from humanitarian innovation

Within the Creating Hope in Conflict portfolio, GCC worked with Gray Dot Catalyst to publish Beyond Data: Communicating Evidence for Humanitarian Innovations. Drawing on THRIVEGulu and Ogow Health's experiences, the guide helps innovators pair evidence with storytelling and communicate complex information clearly.

We also published case studies on the Sentinel Project for Genocide Prevention and the Siraj project's work on digital resilience in Yemen. These examine the challenges and opportunities encountered by innovations addressing misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, sharing practical insights for funders and implementers.

# Stewardship



OUR EVOLUTION

# Built to think differently

What if we could invest in global health and development in ways that reached further, delivered greater value and created lasting change? That question helped shape the creation of Grand Challenges Canada.

With support from the Government of Canada, GCC was established to take a different approach: investing in innovation with the potential to grow well beyond an initial investment. Rather than focusing solely on individual projects, we set out to back bold ideas — and the people and organizations capable of turning them into solutions that could improve millions of lives.

We began by supporting early-stage innovations, helping innovators test ideas and build evidence of what works. But we learned that proving an innovation works is only the beginning. Innovators also need capital, expertise and support to strengthen their organizations and prepare for growth. That learning led us to expand our model to include Transition to Scale.

Fifteen years of experience have taught us something else: even the most effective innovations can struggle to reach the people who need them. The barriers often extend beyond the innovation itself, involving financing, demand, procurement and the systems through which solutions are delivered.

Our 2025–2030 strategy builds on those lessons. We continue to identify critical barriers to progress and invest in innovations at different stages of development. But we're also working with partners to test new approaches that bring together different forms of capital, expertise and demand to achieve outcomes at a population level.

This requires GCC to evolve, too. We're strengthening our capabilities, developing new partnerships and business models, and changing how we work. We're applying the same willingness to experiment, learn and adapt that has guided our investments to the wider challenge of getting effective innovations to scale.

At a time when needs are growing and resources are under pressure, we have an opportunity to rethink what we can achieve together. No single organization can overcome the barriers to scale alone. But by combining our experience, resources and capabilities, we can find new ways to bring effective solutions to the people who need them.

GCC was created to challenge conventional approaches to development. We're still doing that today — and we're inviting others to join us. **Together, we can turn bold ideas into lasting impact on a scale that none of us could achieve alone.**



# Management discussion & analysis

GCC's experience shows that early, flexible investment can help promising innovations build evidence, attract partners and reach more people. It also shows that effective solutions can stall when financing, government adoption and delivery systems do not keep pace.

Our 2025–2030 strategy, *Impact at Scale*, responds to both findings. We are building on our support for early-stage innovation while strengthening the partnerships and pathways that help proven solutions achieve lasting impact.

## Impact beyond our investment

Innovations supported through GCC's direct investments have cumulatively reached more than 100 million people. Approximately 46% of that reach occurred after GCC funding ended, as innovations continued to grow.

This continued reach is an important indication of GCC's catalytic contribution. Early support can help innovators demonstrate results, strengthen their models and position themselves for subsequent financing and adoption.

Continued reach does not, on its own, establish that every innovation is financially sustainable, but it provides evidence that the benefits of our investments can extend beyond the funding period.

## Addressing barriers to scale

A bold idea and convincing evidence do not automatically lead to sustained financing or adoption. Many innovators still struggle to secure the government or private-sector support needed to expand after GCC funding ends.

This gap is a central focus of our strategy. Alongside support to individual innovators, GCC is strengthening its work with governments, funders, investors and implementation partners to address the conditions that enable adoption.

Our work with Insight Health Advisors in Kenya has tested approaches that engage the wider innovation ecosystem. Such experience is helping inform how GCC connects innovation with demand, financing, and delivery, and how partners can work together to sustain effective solutions.

## Navigating a changing environment

Funding pressures, conflict, economic insecurity and climate-related health threats create challenges for innovators and the communities they serve. These conditions can disrupt delivery and make sustained financing harder to secure.

GCC's response emphasizes locally led innovation, flexible support and closer coordination with partners.

Our priority is to help innovators respond to their contexts while building the evidence, relationships and financing pathways needed for lasting impact.

## Learning & adapting

GCC draws on evidence and experience across its portfolio to improve investment decisions and share practical lessons with others. Research on scale, sustainability and value for money helps us examine what works, for whom, and under what conditions.

Local needs assessments have informed the design of initiatives in youth mental health, early childhood development and climate and health.

Emerging technologies also require a responsive approach. In recent surveys, 69% of innovators expressed interest in using artificial intelligence. During the year, GCC piloted technical assistance and venture support with a small group of innovators to explore how AI could support their work. These pilots provide a basis for learning about its practical value and responsible use.

## Learning from innovator feedback

Feedback from innovators helps us assess whether our support meets their needs and where we can improve.

In our latest Annual Innovator Satisfaction Survey, **97% of respondents reported high satisfaction**. Innovators particularly valued GCC's willingness to take risks on untested ideas, build trusting relationships, and provide support beyond funding.

The survey also found that:

- 96% felt comfortable sharing honest feedback with GCC.
- 90% felt funding matched their needs.
- 85% felt GCC's support reflected their local context.
- 78% found reporting processes smooth.
- 69% found GCC's support helpful in overcoming barriers to scale.

These findings reinforce the value of our approach while highlighting areas for further attention, particularly the barriers innovators face as they seek wider adoption and opportunities to make reporting easier.

## A new chapter for the Indigenous Innovation Initiative

As of March 31, 2026, the Indigenous Innovation Initiative (I3) concluded its incubation period with Grand Challenges Canada and began the next chapter of its journey as an independent Indigenous-led organization.

While at GCC, I3 developed a growing network of Indigenous innovators, supporting 22 Seed and three Transition-to-Scale innovations in over 70 communities across Turtle Island.

I3's work has always been rooted in culture, relationship, and self-determination, and it will now continue forward as an independent Indigenous-led organization.

STEWARDSHIP

# Financial Overview

Our financial model is designed to direct resources toward innovation and impact while maintaining the capabilities and controls required to deploy them responsibly. View the latest audited financial statements on our website: **grandchallenges.ca/about-us/accountability**

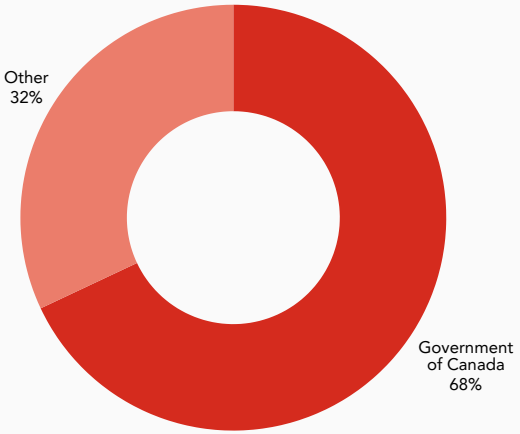
## Where our funding goes

Total expenditures for FY25-26 amounted to $64.08 million, reflecting a 6.6% decrease from the previous year. Program-related expenses dominated the budget, accounting for $58 million or 91% of total spending. Overhead costs, including personnel (Indirect Staff), materials, and strategic advisory services, totalled $6 million or 9%.




## Where our funding came from

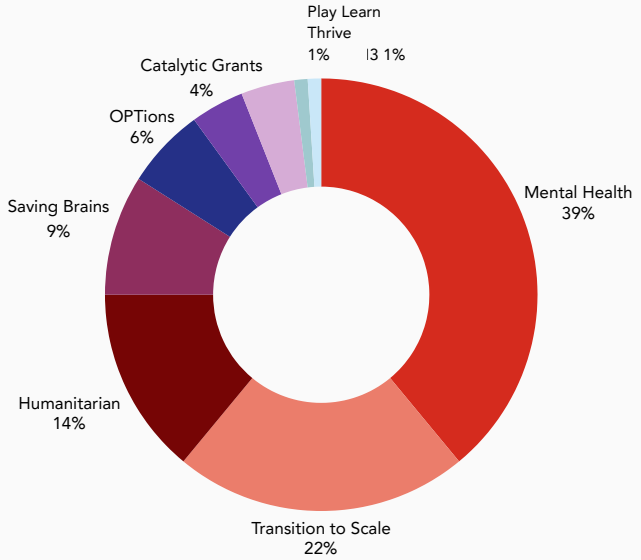
Grand Challenges Canada continues to receive funding from diverse revenue sources, reaching up to $66.3 million in FY25-26. Over 68% of this funding came from the Government of Canada, with the remaining 32% sourced from other partners, mainly Fondation Botnar, the UK's Department of Health and Social Care, the UK's FCDO, and LEGO Foundation.




## Program funding breakdown

In FY2025-26, program investments totalled CAD $40.2 million:

- Mental Health (39%)
- Transition to Scale (22%)
- Humanitarian (14%)
- Saving Brains (9%)
- OPTions (6%)
- Catalytic Grants (4%)
- STARS (4%)
- Play Learn Thrive (1%)
- Indigenous Innovation Initiative (I3) (1%)



# Looking ahead

## More pathways to impact.

Our ambition is to **reach 700 million people through innovation by 2035**. Our 2025–2030 strategy, *Impact at Scale*, sets the direction. We will continue backing bold, locally led ideas early, while doing more to help proven solutions overcome the barriers that prevent them from reaching people.

## Connecting innovation with demand

Effective solutions need a route into the systems people rely on. We will deepen our work with governments, funders, investors, and delivery partners to connect proven innovations with demand, financing, and pathways to adoption.

This means bringing different forms of capital together and helping partners coordinate their efforts around shared outcomes. The goal is to create the conditions for effective innovations to become part of everyday services and sustained investment.

## Investing in climate and health

Climate and health is a key priority for GCC's next chapter. Through Nexa, we will build on our experience backing locally led innovation to help communities and health systems respond to growing climate-related health threats.

Our focus will be on supporting bold ideas, strengthening evidence and connecting promising solutions with the financing and partnerships needed for lasting impact.




*GCC CEO Karlee Silver and Science for Africa Foundation CEO Tom Kariuki announce a joint commitment to launch a new climate and health innovation initiative at the Clinton Global Initiative in September 2025.*

## Helping innovators put AI to work

Artificial intelligence is creating new possibilities for global health innovation. But its speed and complexity can make it difficult for innovators to identify useful applications and put them into practice.

This year, GCC's AI Momentum and AI Masterclass pilots tested practical technical assistance and venture support, helping participating innovators improve tools, generate insights and build their capacity to apply AI to their work.

We will build on these early lessons to strengthen our support for responsible AI adoption, grounded in innovators' needs and the realities of the communities they serve. That means helping teams assess where AI can add value, develop the skills to use it effectively and address questions of safety and equity as they grow.

## Achieving more together

The Government of Canada, through Global Affairs Canada, remains the anchor partner in this work. Renewed support in March 2026 provides a foundation for the next chapter, alongside the contributions of our global funding and implementation partners. Our progress depends on innovators and the communities they serve: their ideas, expertise and determination to make things better.

Together, we will keep backing that ingenuity and building the pathways that help it reach further. The ambition is measured in millions. Its meaning is found in each life changed.





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