

# Water Innovation Engine

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WATER INNOVATION  
ENGINE



# The Water Innovation Sector

- ◆ Globally more than 2.4 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation and 1.8 billion lack access to safe drinking water, which causes millions of avoidable deaths annually.
- ◆ Global coordination of innovation within the water sector is poor, relative to other sectors, which is limiting:
  - ◆ The scaling of breakthrough water innovations and the benefits they bring to the poor
  - ◆ Progress on SDG6 and other global goals.

# The High Level Panel on Water

- ◆ Leaders from eleven nations came together under the United Nations High-Level Panel on Water in 2016. The UN Secretary General and the President of the World Bank Group convened this panel to draw attention and energy to water and sanitation challenges and opportunities.
- ◆ The High Level Panel recommended in its September 2016 Call to Action an **increased focus on innovation** as a critical means of achieving our goals for water access, quality, and reliability.
- ◆ Creative breakthroughs urgently needed in service delivery, data collection, and improving policies and regulations.

# The Water Innovation Engine: Origin

- ◆ In response to the High Level Panel's Call to Action, Australia commissioned a scoping study by Result For Development.
- ◆ This study called for the establishment of a Water Innovation Engine, to encourage coordination and investment in water sector innovation.
- ◆ A Launch Committee was formed whose members include the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the World Bank, and the Rockefeller Foundation.
- ◆ The Water Innovation Engine will bring together governments, corporations and philanthropists with a commitment to funding the innovations that will help us to deliver SDG6 and the other water-related SDGs.

# The Water Innovation Engine: How it Works

- ◆ The Water Innovation Engine will be governed by a Steering Committee comprised of core funders and co-sponsors, subject experts, developing country experts, and the implementing partners.
- ◆ The Engine began its work with a challenge to **improve water data for decision-making by farmers.**
- ◆ **A sustainable, equitable urban sanitation** is planned.
- ◆ Further activities and challenges will be taken on by implementing partners as resources become available.

# The Water Innovation Engine: Early Progress

- ◆ The Water Innovation Engine will formally be launched in September at UN World Leaders Week.
- ◆ Two implementing partners have been selected:
  - ◆ **The Global Innovation Fund**, a non-profit hybrid investment fund headquartered in London, is leading the water data for farmers initiative and is managing the secretariat of the Engine.
  - ◆ **Grand Challenges Canada**, a challenge fund facility based in Toronto, is leading the Engine's urban sanitation initiative.

# Opportunities to Lead the Debate

- ◆ Anchor seed capital is being provided by Australia. This will be announced at World Leaders Week in September.
- ◆ Capital raising of an initial US\$25 million is now underway to support innovations to scale.
- ◆ Funding Partners will have the opportunity to join the Steering Committee that will drive forward the global agenda for water innovation and to lead the development of new investment themes. Funding opportunities include:
  - ◆ Core Partners who will contribute to the core budget of the Water Innovation Engine.
  - ◆ Initiative Partners who will fund one or more specific challenges.
  - ◆ Participating Funding Partners who contribute to the core budget but not at the Core Partner level.
- ◆ The Steering Committee is also seeking knowledge and technical partners to contribute to its work.

# Thank you and key contacts



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